

Okaloosa County News Release

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Joint Land Use Study Interim Draft Report Released

FORT WALTON BEACH FL – The Interim Draft Report of the Tri-County Joint Land Use Study has been released and is available for public review and comment. This provides the public their first look at the findings, analysis and recommendations for each affected municipality and county in the 3-county area. The study is the first of two Federally-funded efforts assisting local communities in planning for the possible mission impacts as a result of the Base and Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decisions to relocate the U.S. Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and establish the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Joint Training Site on Eglin Air Force Base.

The Joint Land Use Study is a program that is designed to encourage cooperative land use planning between military installations and the surrounding communities so that future community growth and development are compatible with the training or operational missions of the installation. It also seeks ways to reduce the operational impacts on adjacent land. The JLUS program encourages communities and the military to study the issues in an open forum, taking into consideration both community and military viewpoints. Recommendations in a study are used to guide local jurisdictions in the development and implementation of land development controls. The intent of the controls is to ensure that future public and private development around the military installation will be compatible with both the military mission and the development needs of the community.

The full text of the document can be found at http://webgis.co.okaloosa.fl.us/jlus/docs/Interim_Draft_Eglin_JLUS_report.pdf. Additionally, copies of the document are available at any public library in any of the Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, or Walton County library systems.

For more information, contact Jeff Fanto, Growth Project Coordinator, at jfanto@co.okaloosa.fl.us, or by calling 850-609-3014. "We want the comments soonest so we can address those identified issues prior to the next release of the draft document in a couple of weeks," said Fanto.

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