

Military Brief

An Armed Services Update

Courtesy of:
TEAM Santa Rosa Military Affairs Committee (MAC) &
TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council

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F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to Bring Area Jobs

The Limited Record of Decision (ROD) was released February 6, 2009 setting the stage for delivery of the first increment of 59 aircraft to Eglin AFB beginning in 2010 per the BRAC 2005 recommendation. \$350million in Military Construction (MILCON) will be awarded to ready the base for the new training mission. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is underway and due for completion by September 2010 to determine the basing location for the second increment of 48 aircraft. The site selection has been narrowed to five Air Force and Air National Guard Bases, including Eglin AFB. The JSF training mission will potentially result in an increase of 4,885 military, contractors and dependents at Eglin AFB. The total economic impact to Okaloosa County and surrounding areas is estimated to be \$6.0 billion. □



7th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Groundbreaking for the 7th Special Forces Group move from Fort Bragg, NC to Eglin AFB was held on March 6, 2009. The move is part of the BRAC 2005 recommendations. \$350million in MILCON will be awarded to ready the base for the move. Actual deployment will occur between March and September 2011. All construction is on schedule. Some 8,000 military and dependents will be arriving in the area. □

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KC-X Tanker Contract

The Air Force KC-X Tanker contract was awarded to Northrup Grumman EADS in February 2008. Mobile, AL was selected to be the assembly site for Northrup Grumman EADS bringing thousands of high paying jobs to Southeast AL and Northwest FL. The Air Force decision to award the contract to Northrup Grumman EADS was challenged by Boeing which resulted in a re-bid of the tanker contract. On February 24, 2010, the Air Force released a revised Request for Proposal (RFP) to Boeing and Northrup Grumman EADS. On March 8, 2010 Northrup Grumman withdrew their bid citing their position that the RFP heavily favored Boeing. EADS will bid on the contract and is looking for a U.S. partner before the July 9, 2010 deadline to submit a proposal. The contract is estimated to be worth in excess of \$40 billion and directly and indirectly employ 48,000 workers nationwide. □

479th Flying Training Group (USAF) Activation at NAS Pensacola


The 479th Flying Training Group (USAF) was activated at NAS Pensacola on October 2, 2009 as part of the 2005 BRAC decision to relocate all Combat Systems Operator training from San Antonio to Pensacola. Three squadrons were involved in the move. More than 400 students will be trained annually at the base. □

Northwest Florida Delegation to Visit Washington DC

Representatives of the five NW FL counties will be in Washington DC in May for meetings and briefings from congressional and pentagon leaders on defense and related economic issues. The purpose of the annual trip is to maintain our relationships with decision makers and to express our strong support for the military presence in our area. According to the Haas Center at the University of West Florida, the military presence represents 35% of our local economy. □

JPATS at NAS Whiting Field

NASWF has commenced conversion of its T-34C "Turbo Mentor" trainers to the new JPATS T-6B "Texan II". The first T-6B's arrived in August 2009. By 2013, all 150 T-34C aircraft will be phased out and with over 150 new T-6B trainers. The JPATS trainer, used by both the Navy and Air Force, more closely resembles the flight characteristics of advanced fighter aircraft currently in use. □

 **WHITING AVIATION PARK** After six years of negotiations between the Navy, NAS Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County, a Limited Access Use Agreement was executed. Now, future tenants in Whiting Aviation Park will have limited use of the taxiways and runway at NAS Whiting Field. This first-of-its-kind agreement for the Navy is a win that further buffers the base from residential encroachment while bringing good jobs to the county. TEAM Santa Rosa and the county are now working recruiting tenants. □

Emerald Coast Honor Flight

The Emerald Coast Honor Flight is part of a national effort to take WWII veterans to Washington DC to see their memorial at no cost to them. Five flights involving more than 500 WWII veterans from the 1st Florida Congressional District have already occurred. The next flights will depart from Pensacola Regional on April 14, 2010 and from NW Florida Regional in Okaloosa County on May 5, 2010. If you know of a WWII veteran that would like to go on an upcoming flight or if you would like to become involved in the program, contact Cinnamon Holderman at 939-4050. □

May is Military Appreciation Month

This year, Robin Punyko, Manager for Gulf Power in Milton, has agreed to serve as Chairperson for the month long event. This is the community's opportunity to let our military know how much their service to our community and to our nation are appreciated. For more information or to become involved, contact Robin at 429-2401. □

The Mission of the TEAM Santa Rosa Military Affairs Committee is to support, protect and enhance the value, efficiency and sustainability of the military bases and outlying landing fields and their missions as well as the interests of military families in Santa Rosa County and the region.