
MEETING NOTES
FROM
PUBLIC KICK-OFF MEETING

FOR THE
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE/POINSETT ECR
2016 JOINT LAND USE STUDY
OCTOBER 26, 2015
6:30 P.M.

The Kick-Off meeting convened at about 6:30 p.m. Information boards and handouts were provided to for the public.

George McGregor, the local JLUS Project Manager welcomed the public and recognized local elected officials in attendance. George gave the public some background on the Joint Land Use Study efforts previously undertaken in the Sumter area related to Shaw Air Force Base (Shaw AFB) and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range (Poinsett ECR) and then introduced Tyson Smith, from White & Smith Planning and Law Group, whose firm is leading the consulting team performing the current Joint Land Use Study, which will encompass both Shaw AFB and Poinsett ECR.

Tyson introduced other members of the consulting team: Vagn Hansen, from the Charlotte office of Benchmark Planning and Doug Allen from the Richmond office of Marstel-Day, briefly describing each firm's role in the project.

The consulting team gave a slide presentation (posted at www.sumtershaw-jlus.org/project-materials/), which covered the following background information related to the project and the resulting written JLUS report.

- The history of JLUSs being conducted around the country in military communities to identify potential conflicts and ways of resulting conflicts between military and civilian uses of land;
- The types of land use “encroachment” that can occur between a military installation and the lands in its vicinity; specifically including the manner in which a military installation may have impacts on the community surrounding it and in which a community can have impacts on the military;
- The seven “areas of concern” the Planning Commission identified in Sumter/Sumter County as areas to be evaluated as part of the 2016 JLUS, including:
 - Urban growth



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- Rise of low-density residential
 - Energy compatibility & availability conflicts
 - Spectrum encroachment
 - Airspace management
 - The F-35 and Shaw's changing mission
 - Noise;
 - The stakeholders that would be interviewed to ensure that the consulting team had a complete picture of the nature and type of land use trends and patterns that are emerging, as well as the anticipated operations at Shaw AFB and Poinsett ECR;
 - The JLUS Study Area, within which the team and committees will focus their attention during the study;
 - The primary deliverables for the JLUS process, which the public would subsequently be asked to comment on, including:
 - Land Use Compatibility Assessments
 - Public Input and Surveys
 - Draft and Final JLUS Reports
 - The three (3) phases of the JLUS process used to complete the JLUS and arrive at a final written report; including:
 - Evaluation of Existing Conditions
 - Land Use Compatibility Assessments
 - Implementation Options
 - Land use compatibility assessments that would be performed were described, with examples of similar assessments recently completed by this consulting team at Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort during its 2015 Joint Land Use Study;
 - The potential areas of implementation that could be recommended to the committees and presented to the public for feedback; including:
 - Interagency coordination
 - Public Outreach
 - Business and Economic Development
 - Training and Mission Strategies
 - Land Conservation Efforts
 - Planning
 - Guidelines
 - Regulations
 - The team then conducted a live polling exercise, asking those in attendance to indicate the views of various initial areas of interest, including:
 - About 25% knowing someone working at Shaw AFB or Poinsett ECR.
 - A majority being familiar with the types of training that is occurring at the bases.
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- Getting information about the base from a variety of sources, including traditional media, social media, word of mouth, and general community discussions.
 - Communication between the community and the Air Force was seen as generally positive among attendees; though some were unfamiliar with how those communications occur.
 - Training at the installations was seen as important or very important among those giving input.
 - Those in attendance generally support the Air Force's ongoing presence in the region.
 - Most perceive the significance of the economic contribution the Air Force makes on the community.
 - Support was generally strong but somewhat mixed for continuing to take necessary steps to ensure the ongoing economic impact of the Air Force in the area.
 - Noise associated with aircraft, gunfire, and amplified voice was reported to be heard variously off-base and transportation impacts were noted.
 - The frequency of noise events or other impacts from the bases varied according to where attendees lived or worked in the community.
 - The estimation of the impact of the bases on property values varied.
 - Some participants, but not all, were aware that an EIS had been performed to evaluate the impacts of bring an F-35A fleet to Shaw AFB; though many did not know the current status.

Doug Allen from Marstel Day explained the public awareness efforts being made throughout the project, including:

- A project Website (www.sumtershaw-jlus.org)
- A Facebook page
- Hardcopy and downloadable brochures
- Public Survey (online and hardcopy), open until 12/31/15

Tyson then opened the floor for additional public comment. None was received.

Tyson informed those in attendance that the next public meeting likely would be held in the spring of next year and would include getting public feedback on initial findings and land use compatibility assessments. About 9 members of the public were in attendance, in addition to local staff.