



The Response

A Newsletter of the U.S. Department of Defense
Office of Economic Adjustment

Celebrating achievements in Defense economic adjustment, base reuse and compatible use

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Coming Up...

Association of Defense Communities 2007 Annual Conference, Miami Beach, FL, July 28–31,

www.defensecommunities.org

2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference, Orlando, FL, July 30–August 3,
www.sustainingmilitaryreadiness2007.com

President's Economic Adjustment Committee, Public Benefit Conveyance Working Group, August 24th, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., GAO Building

Next issue of *The Response*, October 2007

Welcome to The Response

Welcome to the first issue of *The Response*, a quarterly newsletter from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). The newsletter will highlight accomplishments in Defense economic adjustment, military base reuse and compatible use surrounding active military installations. The newsletter will provide a window into the activities of the OEA and its partners, share information on best practices and lessons learned, and celebrate achievements of current and former Defense communities.

We hope that this newsletter will reach the past, present and future customers of the Office of Economic Adjustment, including Local Redevelopment Authorities, growth management organizations, communities with active military installations, Military Department partners, the Presi-

dent's Economic Adjustment Committee partner agencies, public interest groups and others interested in base reuse, economic adjustment and compatible use.

The newsletter title, *The Response*, calls attention to the need for local communities, States, Federal agencies and the military departments to work together to respond to the ever changing Defense environment. This first issue will focus on interagency and intergovernmental cooperation.

The newsletter will be available on the OEA website under "What's New" and can be downloaded in pdf format.

All are welcome and encouraged to submit ideas for newsletter topics. Please send ideas to oeanewsletter@wso.whs.mil.

Strengthening Interagency Partnerships: The President's Economic Adjustment Committee

The Defense Economic Adjustment Program (DEAP) has existed under various authorities since the mid 1960s. Executive Order 12788, amended by President George W. Bush in 2005, establishes the DEAP and the President's Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC). According to the 2006 EAC "Report to the President", "the EAC provides coordinated Federal economic adjustment assistance to substantially and seriously affected communities, businesses, and workers from the effects of major Defense base closures, realignments, and Defense contract-related adjustments." The EAC also assists State and local governments in preventing the encroachment of civilian communities from impairing the operational utility of military installations.

The 22 Federal agencies that make up the EAC, which is chaired by the Secretary of Defense and co-Vice chaired by the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce with Executive Direction and staff support from the Office of Economic Adjustment, meets to coordinate activities, share information and ensure an effective response to significant Defense program changes. Through formal interagency forums and informal cross-agency staff coordination, the EAC member agencies seek to assist affected States and locales as needed.

For example, the Military Departments and the Public Benefit Conveyance (PBC) sponsoring agencies met on June 12, 2007 to exchange information on their respective programs and coordinate review and approval of PBC requests at locations affected by Base Realignment and Closure.

The benefits of the EAC go beyond coordination at the agency headquarters level. One excellent example of interagency cooperation has been the response to the planned military expansion on the island of Guam. The Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior's the Office of Insular Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, and other Federal agency partners, both at the headquarters and regional level, and the Government of Guam are working together to address the complex challenges facing Guam as the military presence increases on the island.

Additional information about the Economic Adjustment Committee, including the 2006 Report to the President and Executive Order 12788, as amended, may be found on the OEA Website at www.oea.gov.

New Frontiers in Planning for Community and Military Compatibility: The R-2508 Special Use Airspace Complex Joint Land Use Study

How do one State, six counties, three military installations, several Federal agencies, and a diverse group of stakeholders come together to plan for the future land use of a rapidly growing region of critical importance to military training and operations? The R-2508 Special Use Airspace Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) seeks to do just that.

The R-2508 Special Use Airspace and Military Operations Area supports Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake and Fort Irwin National Training Center. The R-2508 Complex covers 20,000 square miles above portions of six Southern California counties, including Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Tulare counties.

Though local and State governments have been working with the military to encourage compatible land use planning around military installations for over 30 years through Joint Land Use Study and related programs, the R-2508 complex posed a new challenge to the military and its neighboring communities. With its sheer size, multiple affected political jurisdictions, complex network of low-level flight corridors, restricted airspace, and specialized training requirements, a new approach to compatibility planning was required. The R-2508 Complex became the first JLUS to focus specifically on airspace and flight corridors.

Kern County Supervisor John McQuiston and Special Projects Division Chief Lorelei Oviatt were two of the early champions of the JLUS effort for the high desert region of Southern California. Also key to the effort were Dwight Deacon at Edwards AFB, Tony Parisi at NAWS China Lake and Ray Marler at Fort Irwin NTC, who were able to identify and communicate the challenges faced by the installations from incompatible land use. With assistance from OEA, the R-2508 JLUS coalesced through pro-

ject management and coordination from the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research staff Terry Roberts, Ned McKinley and Julia Lave-Johnston.

Kern County Special Projects Division Chief Lorelei Oviatt explained that both the community and the military must have "a real passion and commitment to develop practical solutions" for a Joint Land Use Study to succeed. Creating a "comprehensive, inclusive outreach" program that provides opportunities for all stakeholders, including property owners, realtors, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, recreational land users, Building Industry Associations and others, to come together to "be part of the solution" is also key to successful outcomes, says Oviatt.

Oviatt stresses the importance of an engaged elected leadership and of leveraging existing relationships among local jurisdictions and the military installations. Kern County was "fortunate to have just concluded a 12-year process to develop a habitat conservation plan" with the six counties participating in the R-2508 JLUS, so those existing relationships allowed the group to "talk about the real issues" and ensure that each advisory committee meeting was productive.

Though the R-2508 JLUS is not yet complete, it has already made a difference to encourage compatible land use planning. For example, Kern County requested Cooperating Agency status on the Environmental Impact Statement for solar energy development in the region, given the potential for glare and high structures to negatively impact operations at Edwards AFB and China Lake NAWS. Such actions demonstrate the ability of local governments to address difficult challenges.

For more information on the R-2508 JLUS and other compatible use efforts by the State of California, visit <http://www.cajlus.com>.

Behind the Scenes: Spotlight on the OEA Grants Administration Unit

Ever wonder what happens to an OEA grant application once it has been submitted? Ever wonder who answers all those questions about eGrants that Project Managers can't answer? Well, the wonderful members of the Grants Administration Unit, or GAU, probably have something to do with it. Sue Traylor, Cassie Kramer, Nancy Brown and Simone Stephens are responsible for the administration of all the grants that OEA awards.

Always willing to help, responding to requests with deliberate speed, and quick with a kind word or a laugh, the GAU assists the OEA Project Managers and Directors with grants policy, grant accounting, eGrants operations, and other important tasks.

The GAU is located in the Arlington, Virginia offices of OEA, though you're more likely to encounter them through eGrants in cyberspace!

Planning for Military and Community Compatibility in California

In 2006, the State of California released "The California Advisory Handbook for Community and Military Compatibility Planning." An effort led by the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), with assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment, the handbook was developed through an unprecedented state-wide effort of local government leaders, military personnel, local planners, State and Federal agencies, representatives of interest groups and local community residents working together to produce a guide to help ensure compatibility between military installations and nearby communities. The Handbook is available for download at

http://www.opr.ca.gov/military/handbook/Complete_Advisory_Handbook_2006.pdf.

The Handbook serves as a companion to a series of Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS) underway at several military installations around the State.



GAU Team (Left to Right):
Cassie Kramer, Simone Stephens,
Sue Traylor and Nancy Brown