



Naval Air Station Jacksonville Installation Visit and Stakeholder Workshop



The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) continued its Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR) engagement series with a two-day site visit and stakeholder workshop on September 23rd and 24th, 2025. We were thrilled to be joined by Jose Mauricio Castro, the grant manager from the Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), the agency funding this project. The visit included a briefing with Captain Ryan Dexter, Commanding Officer, and representatives from Navy Region Southeast, followed by a regional stakeholder workshop convening partners from Clay County, the City of Jacksonville, utility providers, and state and federal agencies. The goal was to identify risks, vulnerabilities, and community-based resilience strategies to support the long-term mission assurance of NAS Jacksonville and the surrounding areas.

NAS Jacksonville serves as a major operational and logistical hub for the U.S. Navy, supporting anti-submarine and surface warfare, electronic reconnaissance, battlespace surveillance, fleet readiness, and naval healthcare services. The installation also provides logistical support for Triton unmanned aircraft systems based at Naval Station Mayport. Key facilities include the Fleet Readiness Center, NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center, and Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Mission-critical assets span across power, road, and bridge networks, shorelines, airports (OLF Whitehouse and Cecil), and external natural gas systems. Electricity was identified as a significant vulnerability, prompting JEA to conduct grid hardening and microgrid feasibility studies. Water is supplied through on-site wells with backup connections to JEA, while wastewater discharge alternatives must be identified by 2032 to comply with state regulations. Natural gas is provided through TECO's privatized system, with additional dependencies on steam, compressed air, and marina infrastructure currently undergoing improvements.



Workshop discussions identified erosion, extreme rainfall, heat, and fire risk near OLF Whitehouse as top shocks. Ongoing stressors include transportation congestion, particularly along Roosevelt Boulevard and Blanding Boulevard, urban growth around OLF Whitehouse, UAV operations, light pollution, aging infrastructure, and pressures on affordable housing. Participants also noted encroachment and incompatible land use as growing threats to both mission assurance and community resilience. The installation faces several single points of failure, including reliance on external power substations and critical roadway corridors, such as U.S. 17.

Community discussions highlighted NAS Jacksonville's role as one of the region's largest civilian employers, with extensive economic and emergency management interdependencies across Duval and Clay Counties. Emergency response coordination involves multiple fire stations, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies; however, evacuation and access routes remain constrained due to flooding in adjacent neighborhoods, such as Murray Hill, Kingsley, and Bellaire. Regional partners, including the City of Jacksonville, Clay County, and the St. Johns River Water Management District, shared ongoing resilience efforts such as shoreline stabilization, conservation land acquisitions, and updates to land development regulations.

Participants emphasized the need for a unified study area that encompasses both terrestrial and airspace assets to assess risk better and improve coordination across installations. Follow-up actions include continued data collection and gap analysis, engagement with JEA and utility providers, coordination with Bradford County on rail infrastructure, and development of a regional vulnerability assessment. These efforts will inform upcoming Steering and Technical Advisory Committee meetings as the MIRR project advances toward actionable resilience strategies for NAS Jacksonville and the broader Northeast Florida region.

