



Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review Site Visit & Workshop

Camp Blanding Joint Training Facility



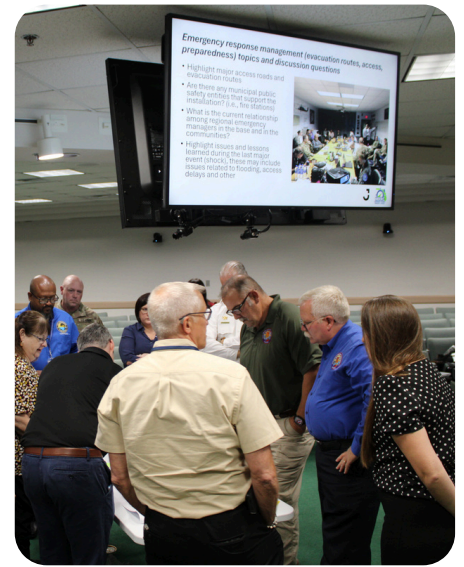
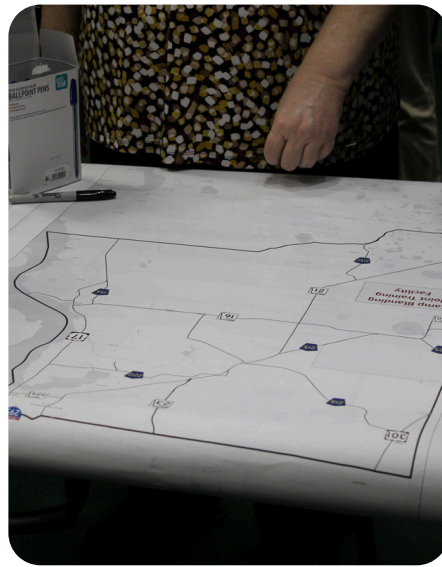
As part of the Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR), NEFRC and Jacobs Solutions hosted a site visit at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center and a Stakeholder Workshop at the Clay County Administration Building. The primary goal of the MIRR process is to identify risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities of concern that impact mission readiness that can be mitigated through investments and solutions outside the fenceline.

Installation Site Visit & Tour

The day began with an installation debrief from Colonel Hopkins, the installation's commanding officer, and other leadership personnel from the facility. Camp Blanding was highlighted as a state-owned property with federal cooperation and one of only a few Level II Garrison Training Centers nationwide. With 73,000 acres of training space (with 26% being wetlands) and over 50 live and non-live fire ranges, the installation supports up to 500,000 personnel annually, serving not only the National Guard but also other military branches, federal agencies (FBI, DHS, FEMA), state agencies, local public safety (law enforcement, Fire/Rescue, etc.), and multinational partners.

The installation's primary mission is supporting ground maneuver training, while secondary missions include supporting national security objectives, responding to disasters, and contributing to programs that serve Florida and the nation. Some challenges identified include hurricanes, protecting wildlife inside their Wildlife Management Area, and extreme heat or wildfires, encroachment issues due to development, power supply redundancy, and impacts to trust fund revenue streams.





Stakeholder Workshop

The workshop focused on identifying key risks and vulnerabilities affecting both the installation and Clay County. Flooding, storm impacts, and development and land use were highlighted as a top concern. The flooding of Black Creek leads to the surrounding roadways frequently closing, even during tropical storms. Stormwater systems with a lack of capacity and dam issues further underscore the urgency of addressing stormwater and flooding challenges.

Emergency management and public safety were also emphasized. Clay County's Emergency Operations Center is under consideration for expansion. It serves a critical role as a backup facility for NAS Jacksonville and the Navy hospital. Fire and law enforcement capacity is increasingly strained, with Station 25 (located at Camp Blanding) at full capacity and seeking funding to build Station 16. There is a growing demand for an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting unit to support Camp Blanding and nearby airports. Communication gaps between the county and installation systems also remain a barrier to effective coordination.

Infrastructure and growth pressures are compounding these issues. The county relies on four separate power providers and Seminole Electric for generation, creating coordination and redundancy challenges. Critical transportation corridors such as State Roads 23, 301, and 17, as well as rail corridors beginning in Bradford County, were noted as essential to maintaining mission readiness and regional mobility. Rapid development, particularly north of SR16 and around Lake Asbury, is increasing demand on public services and raising concerns about long-term encroachment on the installation mission.

Participants emphasized the importance of land acquisition programs as a resilience tool to protect compatible land use and buffer training activities, along with carefully defining study area boundaries to ensure planning efforts capture the full scope of risks and opportunities. While some resilience planning has been completed, implementation remains limited. Participants noted that a Sentinel Landscape designation could help align land use, conservation, and military readiness priorities moving forward.

For more information on this project visit our website: [www.https://www.nefrc.org/mirr](https://www.nefrc.org/mirr)