

Northeast Florida Regional Council
Military Installation Readiness Review



Assessing Vulnerability:

A Comprehensive Look at the Impacts of Water, Wind, Fire, and Land Management in Northeast Florida

JUNE 2026



Contents

1	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Purpose or Approach	1-4
2	Regional Context	2-1
3	Installation-Specific Vulnerabilities.....	3-1
3.1	Camp Blanding Joint Training Center	3-1
3.2	NAS Jacksonville and OLF Whitehouse	3-1
3.3	NS Mayport.....	3-1
3.4	MCSF Blount Island	3-1
4	Water Vulnerability Assessment	4-1
4.1	Extreme Rainfall and Flooding	4-1
4.2	Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge.....	4-1
4.3	Water Supply and Resource Management.....	4-2
5	Wind and Severe Weather Vulnerability.....	5-1
5.1	Hurricanes and Tropical Storms.....	5-1
5.2	Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, and Downbursts.....	5-1
5.3	Future Wind Risk.....	5-2
6	Wildfire and Land Management Vulnerability.....	6-1
6.1	Wildfire Risk.....	6-1
6.2	Prescribed Fire as a Best Practice	6-1
6.2.1	Land Management and Encroachment.....	6-1
7	Case Studies and Best Practices	7-1
7.1	Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP)	7-1
7.2	Mutual Support Agreements	7-1
7.3	Water Resource Coordination	7-2
7.4	Installation Infrastructure Resilience.....	7-2
8	Local Applicability	8-1
8.1	Transportation and Infrastructure	8-1
8.2	Housing and Workforce Stability	8-1
8.3	Environmental Stewardship.....	8-2
8.4	Emergency Management Coordination	8-2
9	Potential Benefit for the Communities of the ECF MIRR.....	9-1
9.1	Enhanced Regional Coordination	9-1
9.2	Improved Infrastructure Resilience.....	9-1
9.3	Economic Stability	9-1



9.4	Environmental and Community Benefits.....	9-2
9.5	Long-Term Readiness and Sustainability	9-2
10	Conclusion	10-1
11	References	11-1

Figures

Figure 1-1. Regional Context Map Illustrating Northeast Florida Infrastructure and Resilience Planning Areas.....	1-3
Figure 3-1. Aftermath of a Crane Collapse at the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) Blount Island Marine Terminal on August 13, 2008, Following a Microburst Storm Event.	3-2
Figure 4-1. Historical Sea Level Rise at the Mayport Tide Gauge	4-2
Figure 9-1. The Regional Resilience Action Plan Emphasizes Coordinated Planning among Infrastructure, Environmental, and Military Stakeholders throughout Northeast Florida	9-2



1 Introduction

Northeast Florida is home to a strategically significant network of military installations that support national defense operations, regional economic activity, emergency response coordination, and military training missions. The Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR) focuses on four primary installations: Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (JTC), Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville including Outlying Field (OLF) Whitehouse, Naval Station (NS) Mayport, and Marine Corps Support Facility (MCSF) Blount Island. Together, these installations support thousands of active-duty personnel, reservists, civilian employees, contractors, and military families while contributing billions of dollars annually to the regional economy.

However, Northeast Florida faces an increasingly complex set of environmental, infrastructure, and land-use challenges that threaten long-term military readiness and community resilience. Climate-related hazards such as sea level rise, storm surge, extreme rainfall, wildfire, and extreme heat are becoming more frequent and severe (NOAA n.d.; Jacobs 2026). Simultaneously, continued urban growth, infrastructure strain, transportation congestion, incompatible development, and environmental regulatory pressures are increasing operational vulnerabilities across military and civilian systems.

The geographic characteristics of Clay and Duval Counties make the region especially vulnerable to these stressors. Coastal facilities such as NS Mayport and MCSF Blount Island face exposure to storm surge, tidal flooding, erosion, and saltwater intrusion (Sweet et al. 2022). Inland facilities such as Camp Blanding JTC and OLF Whitehouse are increasingly susceptible to wildfire, extreme heat, and land-use encroachment (FDACS n.d.; Jacobs 2026). Meanwhile, NAS Jacksonville occupies a critical transitional zone along the St. Johns River where water-related hazards, transportation vulnerabilities, and regional growth pressures converge.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP) identifies resilience as a regional imperative requiring coordinated planning among local governments, military partners, state agencies, utilities, transportation organizations, and environmental stakeholders (NEFRC 2024). The RRAP emphasizes the importance of integrated resilience planning, infrastructure adaptation, environmental stewardship, and intergovernmental coordination to reduce long-term vulnerabilities and strengthen regional readiness.

This white paper examines the intersecting impacts of water, wind, wildfire, and land management on military installations and surrounding communities within Clay and Duval Counties. Drawing upon the Northeast Florida MIRR Technical Memorandum on Hazards and Threats, stakeholder workshops, regional resilience planning documents, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) planning efforts, and other resilience studies, this paper evaluates current vulnerabilities and identifies best practices and strategies that can improve military readiness and regional resilience.

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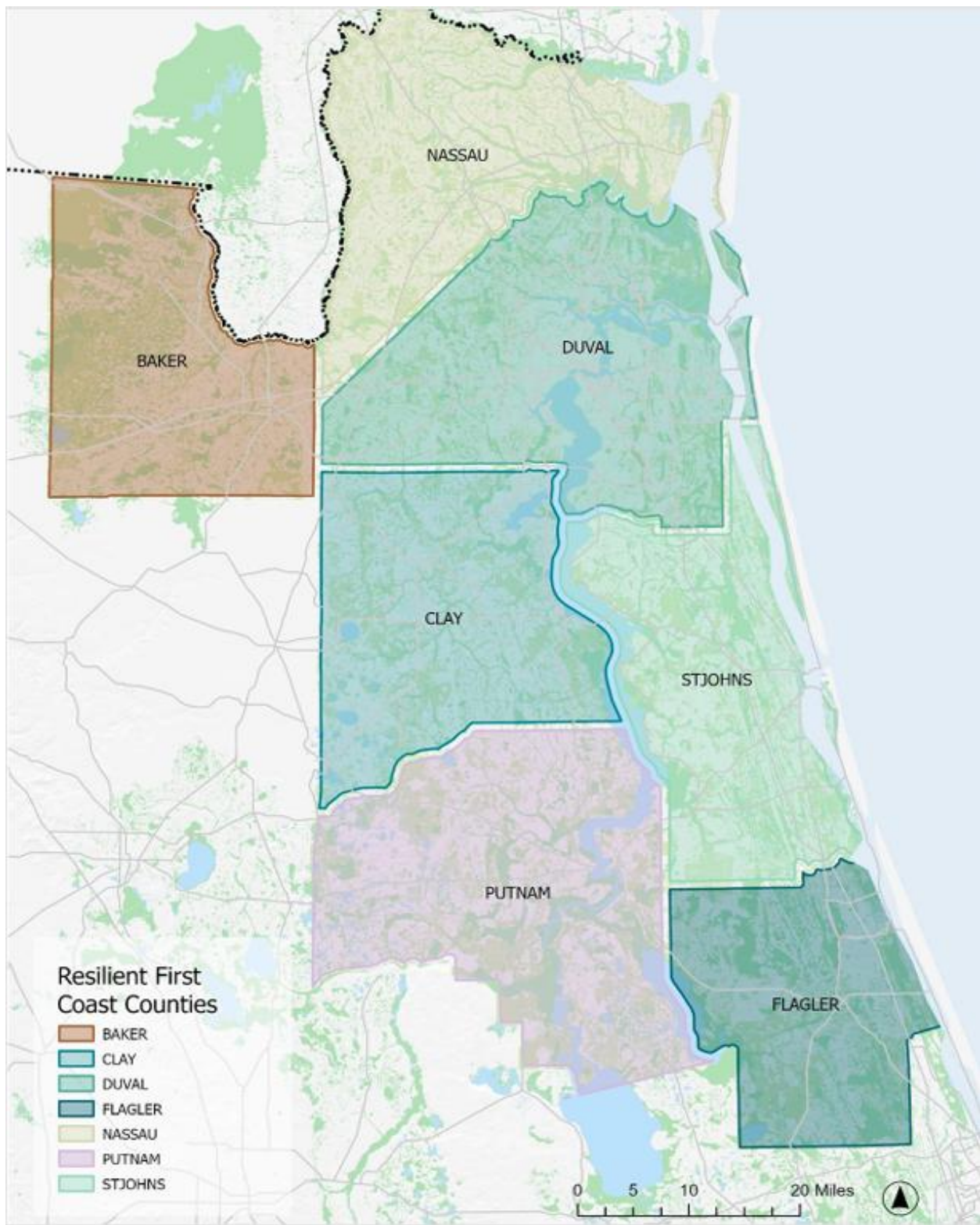
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Figure 1-1. Regional Context Map Illustrating Northeast Florida Infrastructure and Resilience Planning Areas



Source: Northeast Florida Regional Council Regional Resilience Action Plan (2024)



1.1 Purpose or Approach

The purpose of this white paper is to assess the primary environmental and land management vulnerabilities affecting military installations in Northeast Florida and evaluate how these hazards influence mission readiness, infrastructure reliability, emergency response capabilities, and long-term community resilience. While military installations are the primary focus of this assessment, the analysis recognizes that installation readiness is closely connected to the resilience of surrounding civilian systems. Transportation infrastructure, utilities, housing availability, environmental resources, and emergency management systems all contribute to the operational effectiveness of military missions throughout the region.

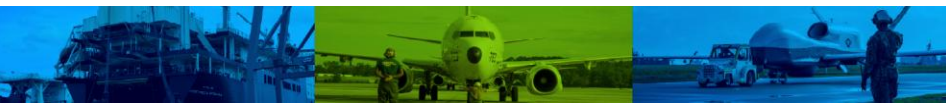
This paper is designed to support ongoing resilience planning efforts associated with the Northeast Florida Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR). The analysis synthesizes technical findings, planning documents, hazard assessments, and regional resilience initiatives into a policy-oriented framework intended for planners, local governments, military stakeholders, infrastructure providers, and regional partners. Rather than treating environmental hazards as isolated issues, the paper examines how overlapping risks interact to create cascading impacts across interconnected systems. This integrated planning perspective is increasingly important as Northeast Florida continues experiencing rapid population growth, climate-related hazards, and infrastructure pressures. The paper also explores regional adaptation strategies, interagency coordination opportunities, and best practices that can support long-term resilience planning.

The approach used in this assessment is based on the framework established by the Northeast Florida MIRR process and the Unified Resilience Assessment methodology. The analysis incorporates:

- Review of the MIRR Hazards and Threats Technical Memorandum;
- Review of stakeholder workshop findings and Technical Advisory Committee presentations;
- Regional resilience planning documents including the Northeast Florida Regional Resilience Action Plan;
- Climate and hazard projections from NOAA, the National Weather Service (NWS), and the Florida Flood Hub;
- Water resource planning efforts from SJRWMD;
- Relevant military resilience and climate adaptation literature;
- Existing hazard mitigation and emergency management strategies.

The analysis focuses on four primary vulnerability categories:

1. Water-related vulnerabilities;
2. Wind and severe weather hazards;
3. Wildfire and land management challenges;
4. Land-use and encroachment pressures.



Assessing Vulnerability: A Comprehensive Look at the Impacts of Water, Wind, Fire, and Land Management in Northeast Florida

The paper further evaluates how these hazards affect critical infrastructure systems such as transportation networks, communications systems, utilities, stormwater infrastructure, potable water supply, and military training operations.



2 Regional Context

Northeast Florida is one of the fastest-growing regions in the state, and that growth is placing increasing pressure on infrastructure systems, natural resources, and military operations. Population increases throughout Clay and Duval Counties have accelerated demand for roads, utilities, housing, schools, and emergency services. As development expands outward from Jacksonville and surrounding municipalities, military installations are facing increasing encroachment concerns and land-use compatibility challenges. These growth pressures intersect with climate-related hazards to create compound vulnerabilities that affect both military readiness and civilian resilience.

The MIRR Technical Memorandum identifies several major categories of shocks and stressors affecting regional military installations, including extreme rainfall and flooding, sea level rise and tidal flooding, storm surge, extreme heat, extreme wind events, wildfire, transportation congestion, infrastructure redundancy limitations, and land development pressures (Jacobs 2026). Many of these hazards are already producing measurable impacts across the region, particularly during severe storm events and periods of prolonged rainfall. In addition to environmental hazards, social and economic stressors such as housing affordability, childcare access, and workforce availability also influence long-term installation resilience and mission readiness.

Importantly, many of these risks are interconnected and can amplify one another during hazard events. Sea level rise increases the severity of storm surge and tidal flooding, while extreme heat and drought conditions can worsen wildfire potential and increase electricity demand. Transportation interruptions caused by flooding or storm debris may delay emergency response and limit access to military installations during critical operations. Because of these interdependencies, regional resilience planning must consider the cumulative and cascading impacts of environmental, infrastructure, and land-use vulnerabilities rather than addressing each issue independently.



3 Installation-Specific Vulnerabilities

3.1 Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

Camp Blanding JTC is particularly vulnerable to wildfire, extreme heat, and utility redundancy limitations. The installation maintains extensive forested lands that support both military training and ecological management. Prescribed fire operations are a critical component of wildfire mitigation and habitat maintenance. However, increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns may increase future wildfire potential.

The installation also faces utility redundancy challenges. According to the MIRR Technical Memorandum, Camp Blanding relies on a single electrical substation and lacks redundant external potable water and wastewater connections. These limitations could create operational disruptions during severe hazard events.

3.2 NAS Jacksonville and OLF Whitehouse

NAS Jacksonville is exposed to multiple overlapping risks including extreme rainfall, riverine flooding, severe wind events, transportation congestion, and land-use encroachment. The installation's proximity to the St. Johns River increases flood exposure during hurricanes and extreme rainfall events.

NAS Jacksonville also faces operational constraints associated with airspace congestion and light pollution around OLF Whitehouse. Night-vision helicopter training operations require dark-sky conditions, yet continued suburban growth and incompatible lighting threaten mission capability.

The installation additionally relies on a single critical fiber communication connection shared with NS Mayport, creating a potential communications vulnerability.

3.3 NS Mayport

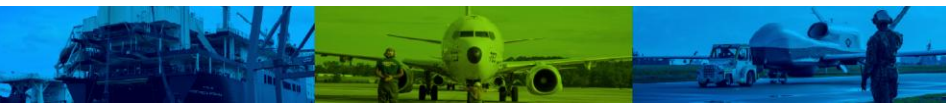
NS Mayport is one of the most vulnerable installations in the region due to its coastal location. Sea level rise, storm surge, tidal flooding, erosion, and saltwater intrusion present significant long-term risks.

The MIRR Technical Memorandum notes that portions of nearby A1A are projected to experience sea-level-rise-related impacts by approximately 2035. Flooding of transportation corridors could reduce access to the installation during emergency events.

NS Mayport is also highly exposed to waterspouts, hurricanes, nor'easters, and severe thunderstorms. Historic events such as Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Milton demonstrate the installation's vulnerability to coastal flooding and wind impacts.

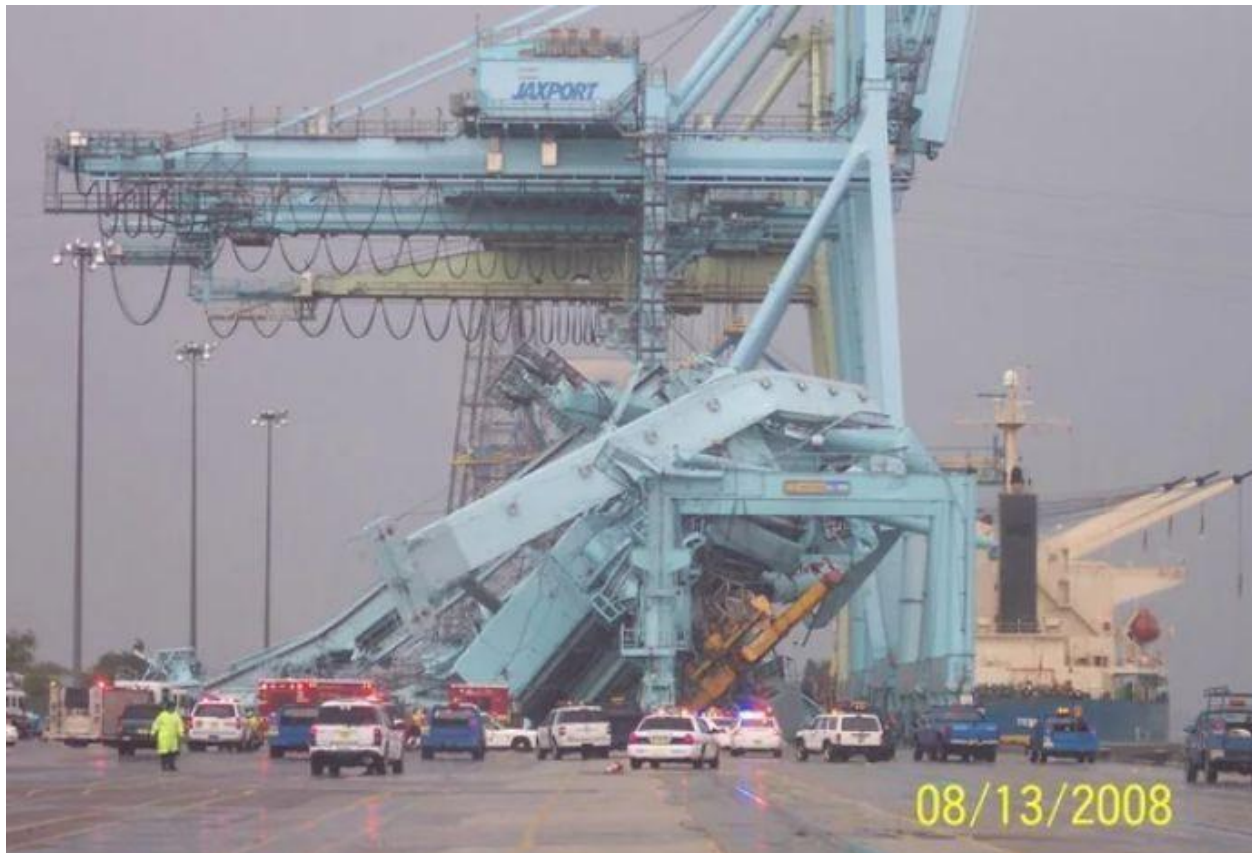
3.4 MCSF Blount Island

MCSF Blount Island is highly vulnerable to storm surge, flooding, transportation disruptions, and severe wind impacts. The facility relies heavily on Heckscher Drive as its primary access route, representing a significant redundancy concern.



The 2008 gantry crane collapse at the nearby Jacksonville Port Authority during a severe thunderstorm illustrates the potential vulnerability of maritime and industrial infrastructure to extreme wind events (Figure 2).

Figure 3-1. Aftermath of a Crane Collapse at the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) Blount Island Marine Terminal on August 13, 2008, Following a Microburst Storm Event.



Source:: Ships Nostalgia n.d.



4 Water Vulnerability Assessment

Water-related hazards represent some of the most significant long-term threats to military readiness in Northeast Florida. These hazards include extreme rainfall, flooding, sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, saltwater intrusion, and increased strain on water supply systems.

4.1 Extreme Rainfall and Flooding

Northeast Florida has experienced increasingly intense rainfall events over the last several decades, creating substantial challenges for both military installations and surrounding communities. Jacksonville recorded its wettest summer on record in 2024, receiving approximately 36.9 inches of rainfall in just three months (McCormick 2024). These extreme rainfall events routinely overwhelm existing stormwater systems, resulting in roadway flooding, drainage failures, erosion, and property damage. Low-lying areas throughout Duval and Clay Counties are particularly vulnerable due to aging infrastructure and expanding impervious surfaces associated with regional growth.

Military installations throughout the region are vulnerable to these impacts because transportation access, communications systems, and utility infrastructure often depend on interconnected regional networks. Flooded roadways can delay personnel movement, restrict emergency access, and interrupt logistics operations that support mission readiness. Flooding may also damage electrical systems, communications infrastructure, and stormwater facilities located on or near installation property. In some cases, recurring flooding can reduce the operational lifespan of infrastructure assets and increase long-term maintenance costs.

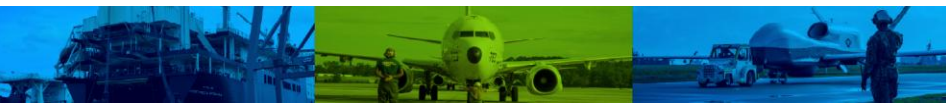
The Northeast Florida Regional Resilience Action Plan emphasizes the importance of regional stormwater coordination, infrastructure upgrades, and floodplain management to address increasing rainfall intensity (NEFRC 2024). Recommended strategies include expanded use of green infrastructure, flood-resilient transportation planning, wetland preservation, and upgraded drainage systems. Nature-based solutions such as restored floodplains and living shorelines can help absorb excess stormwater while also improving water quality and ecosystem health. These strategies are increasingly important as climate projections indicate that Northeast Florida will continue experiencing more frequent heavy precipitation events in the coming decades.

4.2 Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge

Sea level rise presents a chronic and escalating threat to coastal military infrastructure. NOAA tide gauge data from Mayport indicate approximately 11 inches of sea level rise since 1930, with accelerated increases projected through 2050 and beyond (Figure 3).

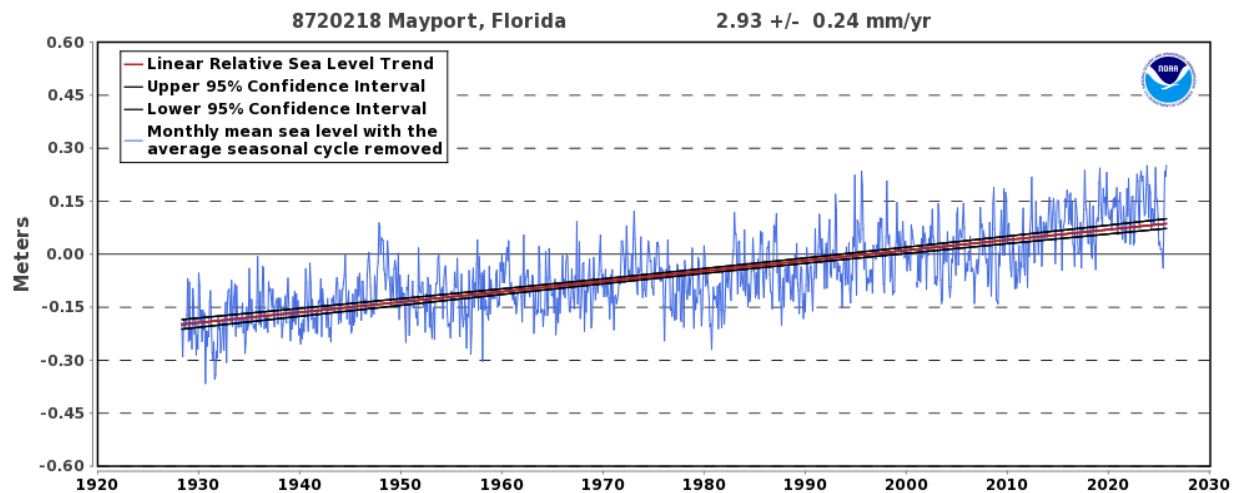
The Florida Flood Hub and NOAA projections estimate approximately 1 to 1.2 feet of sea level rise by 2050 under intermediate scenarios. These increases will amplify tidal flooding, reduce stormwater drainage efficiency, and intensify storm surge impacts.

NS Mayport and MCSF Blount Island are particularly vulnerable. Storm surge associated with Hurricane Irma produced record flooding along the St. Johns River system, including flooding near the Buckman Bridge and tributaries throughout Duval County.



Sea level rise also threatens regional water supply systems through saltwater intrusion into the Floridan aquifer. Since all installations rely on the aquifer for drinking water, protecting groundwater quality is a major regional concern.

Figure 4-1. Historical Sea Level Rise at the Mayport Tide Gauge



Source: NOAA Climate.gov

4.3 Water Supply and Resource Management

SJRWMD has identified several long-term water resilience initiatives relevant to military readiness, including:

- The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project;
- Aquifer recharge projects;
- Water conservation programs;
- Regional reclaimed water initiatives;
- Hydrodynamic flood and salinity modeling.

These efforts are important because future regional growth and climate stressors are expected to increase competition for water resources.

Water management strategies also play an important role in emergency preparedness. Flood modeling, aquifer protection, and coordinated regional planning help installations and communities better anticipate future risks.



5 Wind and Severe Weather Vulnerability

Extreme wind events are a defining hazard for Northeast Florida. The region faces threats from hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, thunderstorms, downbursts, waterspouts, and nor'easters.

5.1 Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

NOAA estimates that hurricanes pass within approximately 50 nautical miles of the Northeast Florida region every 13 years, while major hurricanes occur within that range approximately every 40 years (NOAA n.d.). Although Northeast Florida has avoided a direct major hurricane landfall in recent decades, storms such as Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, Idalia, Helene, and Milton have demonstrated the region's vulnerability to indirect impacts including storm surge, flooding, high winds, and prolonged power outages. These storms have repeatedly stressed transportation systems, emergency management operations, and utility infrastructure throughout Clay and Duval Counties.

Wind damage associated with hurricanes can disrupt power systems, communications infrastructure, port operations, transportation networks, and aviation activities. Hurricanes additionally produce compound hazards through storm surge, inland flooding, debris impacts, and erosion. Coastal installations such as NS Mayport and MCSF Blount Island are especially vulnerable because critical infrastructure is located near tidal waterways and low-elevation coastal zones. Inland facilities such as NAS Jacksonville and Camp Blanding may also experience operational disruptions from wind damage, flooding, and extended utility outages.

The MIRR Technical Advisory Committee presentations highlighted several important lessons learned from recent storm events, including the importance of hardening critical infrastructure, maintaining redundant communication systems, and protecting transportation access routes (Jacobs 2026). Expanding mutual aid agreements and improving emergency coordination between military installations and local governments were also identified as key resilience priorities. Future resilience planning efforts will likely require additional investments in backup power systems, resilient building standards, and infrastructure adaptation measures capable of withstanding more intense storms.

5.2 Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, and Downbursts

Severe thunderstorms occur frequently in Northeast Florida and can generate damaging straight-line winds, tornadoes, and downbursts.

One of the most significant historical examples occurred in 1997 when a downburst traveling along the St. Johns River produced a recorded 106-mile-per-hour wind gust at NAS Jacksonville. The event damaged aircraft, hangars, trees, utilities, and infrastructure.

Similarly, the 2008 microburst event that collapsed cranes at Blount Island illustrates the vulnerability of industrial and maritime infrastructure to severe convective weather.

Because these storms can develop rapidly and occur outside hurricane season, installations must maintain year-round preparedness.



5.3 Future Wind Risk

Research indicates that while the total frequency of tropical cyclones may remain relatively stable, storm intensity is expected to increase due to warming ocean temperatures.

Future resilience planning should therefore prioritize:

- Infrastructure hardening;
- Resilient building standards;
- Backup power systems;
- Communication redundancy;
- Improved evacuation and continuity planning.



6 Wildfire and Land Management Vulnerability

Wildfire represents a growing hazard for inland portions of Northeast Florida, especially within Clay County and western Duval County.

6.1 Wildfire Risk

Camp Blanding JTC maintains extensive wildland areas that are naturally fire-adapted ecosystems and support a wide range of military training activities. According to installation leadership and MIRR stakeholders, prescribed burning serves multiple critical functions including military training support, wildfire mitigation, habitat management, ecological restoration, and water resource protection (Jacobs 2026). Because the installation contains large areas of forested and undeveloped land, proactive vegetation management is essential for reducing fuel loads and preventing catastrophic wildfire conditions.

The Florida Firestorm of 1998 demonstrated the region's vulnerability during prolonged dry conditions and remains one of the most significant wildfire events in state history (FDACS n.d.). Although Northeast Florida's humidity generally reduces the frequency of large wildfires compared to western states, changing climate conditions and prolonged heat events may increase future wildfire potential. Increased drought stress, invasive vegetation, and expanding development near wildland areas may further complicate wildfire management efforts.

Wildfires can damage utilities, close transportation corridors, degrade air quality, and disrupt military training operations. Smoke impacts may additionally reduce pilot visibility and interfere with aviation training exercises conducted at installations such as NAS Jacksonville and OLF Whitehouse. Large wildfire events can also place additional strain on regional emergency response systems by requiring coordinated firefighting resources and evacuation planning. As regional development continues expanding into rural and forested areas, wildfire preparedness will become an increasingly important component of long-term resilience planning.

6.2 Prescribed Fire as a Best Practice

Camp Blanding's prescribed fire program represents a regional best practice in proactive land management.

Controlled burns reduce fuel loads, improve ecosystem health, and minimize the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire events. Prescribed fire also supports threatened and endangered species habitat management while improving forest resilience.

The MIRR process highlighted prescribed burning as one of the most effective long-term wildfire mitigation strategies available to the region.

6.2.1 Land Management and Encroachment

Land-use compatibility is essential to military readiness. Encroachment pressures continue to increase around military installations due to rapid urban growth.

Key land management concerns include:



- Incompatible residential and commercial development;
- Light pollution affecting aviation training;
- Transportation congestion;
- Habitat protection requirements;
- Airspace congestion;
- Infrastructure expansion pressures.

OLF Whitehouse is particularly vulnerable to light pollution associated with suburban growth. Red obstruction lighting on towers and new development can interfere with night-vision goggle training operations.

Regional coordination between military installations, local governments, planning agencies, and utility providers is therefore essential to balancing growth and mission compatibility.



7 Case Studies and Best Practices

The vulnerability issues affecting Northeast Florida cannot be addressed solely through emergency response or isolated infrastructure projects. Instead, resilience planning requires sustained coordination across jurisdictional boundaries and integration between military and civilian planning efforts. Successful resilience strategies increasingly emphasize long-term adaptation, redundancy, interagency collaboration, and nature-based solutions that provide multiple community benefits simultaneously. The following case studies and best practices illustrate how regional coordination and proactive planning can strengthen both military readiness and community resilience.

7.1 Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP)

The Northeast Florida Regional Resilience Action Plan provides a strong framework for integrated resilience planning across jurisdictions.

The RRAP emphasizes:

- Regional collaboration;
- Infrastructure adaptation;
- Hazard mitigation planning;
- Nature-based solutions;
- Community resilience;
- Coordinated emergency response.

One of the most important themes within the RRAP is that resilience challenges are interconnected across jurisdictional boundaries. Transportation systems, utilities, flood risks, and economic systems all function regionally.

The MIRR process aligns closely with this regional resilience philosophy by encouraging collaborative planning between military and civilian stakeholders.

7.2 Mutual Support Agreements

The MIRR Technical Advisory Committee identified mutual support agreements as a major opportunity for strengthening regional resilience.

Examples include:

- Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs);
- Mutual Aid Agreements;
- Memoranda of Understanding;
- Shared emergency response protocols.

Potential areas for expanded coordination include:



- Emergency management;
- Fire response;
- Water and wastewater support;
- Utility restoration;
- Transportation coordination;
- Communications redundancy.

These agreements can improve mission assurance while reducing costs and increasing operational efficiency.

7.3 Water Resource Coordination

SJRWMD's ongoing regional water planning efforts provide an important example of long-term resilience planning.

Projects such as aquifer recharge, reclaimed water expansion, and hydrodynamic modeling demonstrate how scientific planning can support both civilian and military resilience.

7.4 Installation Infrastructure Resilience

Military installations nationwide increasingly incorporate resilience measures such as:

- Backup power systems;
- Microgrids;
- Redundant communications systems;
- Elevated infrastructure;
- Flood barriers;
- Hardened facilities.

Northeast Florida installations can continue expanding these resilience measures to reduce operational disruptions during hazard events.



8 Local Applicability

The vulnerabilities identified in this assessment have direct implications for communities throughout Clay and Duval Counties.

Military installations are deeply interconnected with surrounding civilian systems. Roads, utilities, ports, housing markets, schools, and emergency response systems all support military operations.

As a result, regional resilience planning benefits both military readiness and community sustainability.

8.1 Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation vulnerabilities are especially important locally because military installations throughout Northeast Florida rely heavily on regional roadway networks, bridges, ports, and utility corridors. Flooding, storm surge, congestion, and roadway damage can isolate installations and surrounding neighborhoods during emergency events. Critical transportation corridors such as A1A near NS Mayport, Heckscher Drive serving Blount Island, and Roosevelt Boulevard serving NAS Jacksonville are all vulnerable to flooding, congestion, and storm-related disruptions. These corridors support not only military readiness but also evacuation operations, freight movement, and daily commuting throughout the region.

Transportation disruptions can significantly affect installation access, emergency response operations, and continuity of mission-critical activities. In coastal areas, sea level rise and recurrent tidal flooding may gradually reduce roadway reliability and increase maintenance demands over time. Inland flooding associated with extreme rainfall can similarly disrupt mobility and damage infrastructure assets. Because many transportation systems are interconnected, failures at a single location may produce cascading impacts throughout the broader regional network.

Investments in resilient transportation corridors and redundant access routes will support both military operations and civilian evacuation needs. Regional resilience planning efforts increasingly emphasize infrastructure hardening, improved drainage systems, elevated roadways, and coordinated transportation planning. Strengthening transportation resilience can also improve economic stability by protecting freight movement, commuter access, and port operations during severe weather events. Long-term coordination among military installations, transportation agencies, and local governments will therefore remain essential for maintaining regional mobility and readiness.

8.2 Housing and Workforce Stability

Housing affordability and childcare availability were repeatedly identified during stakeholder workshops as significant readiness concerns.

Communities that provide stable housing, quality schools, childcare access, and transportation options are better positioned to support military personnel retention and workforce resilience.



8.3 Environmental Stewardship

Local governments also play an important role in preserving compatible land uses near installations. Coordinated zoning, lighting regulations, conservation efforts, and growth management policies can reduce encroachment conflicts while supporting long-term economic development.

8.4 Emergency Management Coordination

Regional emergency management coordination is another major area of local applicability.

Military installations frequently support disaster response operations during hurricanes and other emergencies. Strong relationships between installations and local governments improve emergency communication, resource sharing, evacuation planning, and recovery operations.



9 Potential Benefit for the Communities of the ECF MIRR

The Northeast Florida MIRR process presents a major opportunity to strengthen resilience throughout the broader region.

9.1 Enhanced Regional Coordination

One of the most important benefits of the MIRR effort is the creation of stronger partnerships among:

- Military installations;
- Local governments;
- Regional planning organizations;
- Utilities;
- Emergency managers;
- Environmental agencies;
- Transportation organizations.

These partnerships improve information sharing and support coordinated resilience investments.

9.2 Improved Infrastructure Resilience

The identification of infrastructure vulnerabilities helps prioritize investments in:

- Flood mitigation;
- Utility redundancy;
- Transportation resilience;
- Communications systems;
- Water resource protection.

These improvements benefit both military and civilian populations.

9.3 Economic Stability

Military installations are major economic drivers in Northeast Florida. Protecting installation readiness helps preserve regional employment, business activity, and economic stability.

Reducing vulnerability to environmental hazards also lowers long-term recovery costs associated with disasters.



9.4 Environmental and Community Benefits

Many resilience strategies provide environmental co-benefits, including:

- Improved water quality;
- Habitat protection;
- Reduced wildfire risk;
- Enhanced stormwater management;
- Preservation of natural floodplains.

Nature-based solutions and coordinated land management can improve ecosystem health while simultaneously reducing hazard exposure.

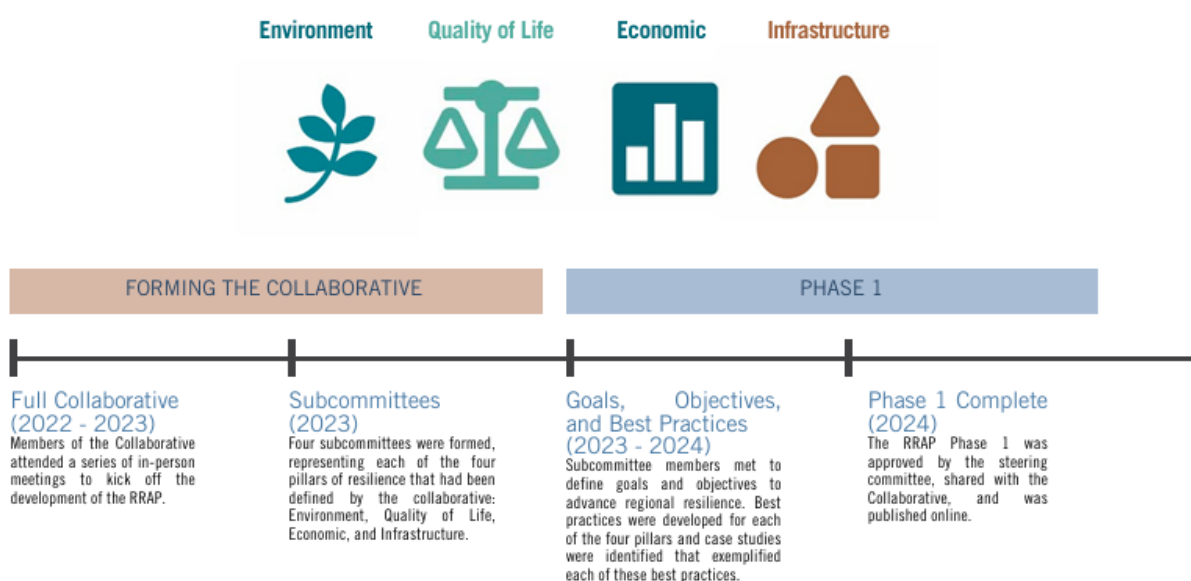
9.5 Long-Term Readiness and Sustainability

Ultimately, resilience planning supports both mission assurance and community sustainability.

The hazards facing Northeast Florida are complex and interconnected, but proactive planning, regional collaboration, and strategic investment can significantly reduce vulnerabilities (Figure 4).

The MIRR process provides a framework for ensuring that military installations and surrounding communities remain prepared for future environmental, infrastructure, and land-use challenges.

Figure 9-1. The Regional Resilience Action Plan Emphasizes Coordinated Planning among Infrastructure, Environmental, and Military Stakeholders throughout Northeast Florida



Source: NEFRC Regional Resilience Action Plan (2024)



10 Conclusion

Northeast Florida's military installations operate within a rapidly changing environmental and development landscape that is becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. Climate-related hazards, infrastructure limitations, rapid regional growth, and environmental pressures are collectively reshaping how military readiness and community resilience must be planned for in the coming decades. As these stressors intensify, resilience planning will require not only infrastructure adaptation but also stronger regional coordination and long-term policy integration across military and civilian systems. Water-related hazards, extreme wind events, wildfire risk, and land-use pressures collectively threaten infrastructure systems, transportation networks, natural resources, and operational readiness.

Camp Blanding JTC, NAS Jacksonville, OLF Whitehouse, NS Mayport, and MCSF Blount Island each face unique but interconnected vulnerabilities. Coastal facilities are increasingly threatened by sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, and flooding, while inland installations face wildfire risk, extreme heat, and development pressures.

The Northeast Florida MIRR process and Regional Resilience Action Plan demonstrate the importance of integrated regional planning and collaborative resilience strategies. Effective resilience planning requires coordination among military installations, local governments, utilities, transportation agencies, environmental organizations, and community stakeholders.

Key priorities moving forward include:

- Expanding infrastructure redundancy;
- Strengthening transportation resilience;
- Protecting water resources;
- Enhancing emergency management coordination;
- Managing land-use compatibility;
- Supporting prescribed fire and ecological management;
- Investing in resilient infrastructure systems;
- Expanding mutual support agreements.

By proactively addressing these vulnerabilities, Northeast Florida can strengthen military readiness, protect critical infrastructure, improve community resilience, and support sustainable regional growth.



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