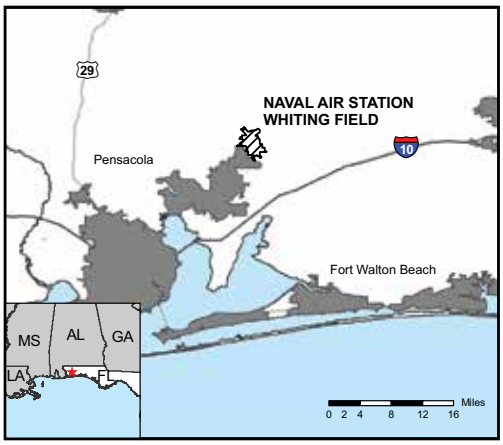
U.S. NAVY :

NAS WHITING FIELD : FLORIDA

Part of a strong military presence in Florida's Northwest Panhandle, Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field's mission is to train nearly 2,000 students annually to safely fly helicopters and airplanes. The air station provides all helicopter pilot training for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and 60% of all primary pilot fixed-wing training. At the North and South Fields, which are being directly buffered through REPI efforts, more than 400 flights are launched a day with an aircraft taking off or landing every eight seconds during normal flight operations.



A majority of the land surrounding NAS Whiting Field is used for agriculture, forestry, or other open spaces, which are all compatible with the installation's operational integrity. Strong support from Santa Rosa County, the state of Florida, and The Nature Conservancy led to the acquisition of protective easements within designated high-priority Accident Potential Zones and high-noise areas extending directly from the runways.

REPI easements help shield the air station from noise complaints and ease community safety concerns, while also protecting working lands and boosting the local economy. The military presence in Santa Rosa County provides an additional 15,000 direct and indirect jobs and a total economic impact of approximately $856 million. Additionally, recent acquisitions will be used for off-road recreation, with a long-term aim of connecting over nine miles of public non-motorized paved trails. Parts of the land will also provide valuable habitat for a number of rare species.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Brings together new partners to coordinate with existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Preserves working lands, local character, and recreational opportunities

MILITARY

- Protects off-installation air operations, helicopter, and night flying capability that generates noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents lost training days and reduces the need for less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth

For more information about REPI, please see <http://www.repi.mil>.

Helicopter training at NAS Whiting Field (bottom) is ideally situated for the Navy's offshore missions (top).

KEY PARTNERS

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Santa Rosa County
- Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
- The Nature Conservancy

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

» Acres preserved:
3,171

» Transactions conducted:
28

» Partner cost share:
51%

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Community Plans & Liaison Officer
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