



U.S. NAVY :

NAS PENSACOLA : FLORIDA



Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola is the initial training base for all Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators and Naval Flight Officers. It is also the advanced training location for most Naval Flight Officers and home of the famous Blue Angels demonstration squadron. This “Cradle of Naval Aviation” sits along the Gulf Coast, providing access to overwater ranges. But its location just southwest of Pensacola city limits also leaves it susceptible to expanding urban growth.



As one of the earliest REPI projects, NAS Pensacola partnered with Escambia County for the Navy’s first transaction using the REPI authority. The county acquired a plantation adjacent to the installation’s airfield, with the Navy receiving a restrictive easement to permanently prevent incompatible land uses. The plantation is within the airfield

accident potential zone, where planned residential development would have severely impacted NAS Pensacola’s important aviator training mission.

This project highlights the partnership’s concerted coordinated planning efforts, while the preservation of the plantation meets the goals of a Joint Land Use Study among the county, air station, and the county’s comprehensive plan. The county also passed an Airfield Environs Overlay ordinance to ensure that any future development applications are reviewed for compatibility with NAS Pensacola’s safety zones and buffers. The buffered land can now be used for public recreation and open space, benefiting the military and public alike.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Brings together new partners to coordinate with existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Maintains local character
- Provides recreational opportunities

MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents workarounds that would have otherwise limited training capacity
- Reduces lost training days



The Blue Angels demonstration squadron performs a maneuver over NAS Pensacola (top). In 2010, the air station deployed a pollution response unit to protect the environmentally sensitive grass beds from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Escambia County

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **48**
- » Transactions conducted: **1**
- » Partner cost share: **62%**
- » Project status: **Completed**

CONTACT

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