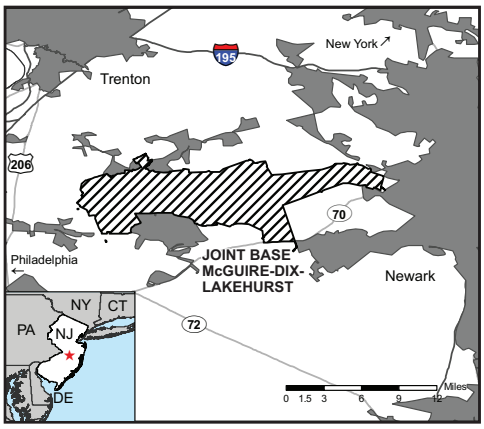
U.S. AIR FORCE - U.S. ARMY - U.S. NAVY :

JOINT BASE McGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST : NEW JERSEY

Located in central New Jersey's pinelands, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is a tri-Service installation that combines McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix, and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst. However, outward growth from the greater New York and Philadelphia regions could impact air operations and training across the Joint Base. This includes training on the Assault Landing Zone site for transport aircraft, air transportation of troops, equipment, and supplies, and other joint operations and training exercises.



To ensure compatible land uses around the base, plans call for protecting a two-mile buffer that will preserve remaining open space and agricultural lands. Burlington and Ocean Counties and the state of New Jersey are helping to conserve lands that would threaten the military mission if developed, particularly within and around the Accident Potential Zones of the base's runways. These lands will also expand a nearby wildlife area, providing habitat for a state-listed snake species while preventing light pollution. Preserving a dark night sky for transport aircraft pilots to train at landing in assault zones with night-vision goggles is vital for replicating combat conditions.

Of note in this project was one property that contains a cranberry bog and its highly valued natural resources. Additionally, protection of nearby lands helps preserve working farmlands, freshwater tributaries to the Toms River, and recreational uses in the area, while also maintaining the pinelands ecosystem.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands
- Supports existing regional planning objectives
- Provides habitat for wildlife

MILITARY

- Preserves off-installation night flying capability through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Improves operational safety
- Provides for multi-Service missions and future mission growth

Airmen set up security measures at the Air Mobility Warfare Center (top). The first C-17 lands on a new Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) runway protected by buffering (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Burlington County
- Burlington County Farmland Protection Program
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Pinelands Commission
- Ocean County
- State of New Jersey

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

» Acres preserved:
5,971

» Transactions conducted:
37

» Total funds expended:
$29.3 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

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