Providing critical access to Gulf of Mexico air ranges, Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) New Orleans’ multiple readiness missions require training pilots on several aircraft, including helicopters, from multiple Services. The air station also maintains readiness 24 hours a day, seven days a week to launch in support of the Department of Homeland Security and coastal rescue operations. The base allows for overwater operations, live weapon firings and urban close-air-support environments. Its proximity to the Gulf also reduces time to get to critical oil production facilities and saves precious minutes for search and rescue operations.

As part of its efforts, NAS JRB New Orleans partnered with the Trust for Public Land and Plaquemines Parish, to protect one of its most active runways from a planned 600-home subdivision nearby. Investment in infrastructure to support land development and hurricane evacuation is making nearby land more valuable and therefore desirable. Developing the subdivision would have threatened to curtail aviation training at the base because of noise and safety concerns, thereby threatening its viability.

With flight operations expected to remain level or increase in coming years, the installation is protecting an essential economic driver for a New Orleans region still looking to recover from hurricane devastation. Not only does the project protect the base, itself a community asset, but the land will also provide an opportunity for a new Parish-managed park for the public to enjoy.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**
- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Use Land Study to better coordinate planning efforts among various government entities

**MILITARY**
- Protects live-fire artillery, maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant amounts of noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents the loss of training days and the use of less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-Service missions

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