

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Joint Land Use Study Policy Committee**

#### **Meacham Airport**

**4201 North Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas**

**Monday, April 16, 2007**

**1:30 p.m.**

Chairman Chuck Silcox, Council Member, City of Fort Worth, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., by introducing himself and thanking everyone for coming. Gary Robinson, Administrative Coordinator, City of Westworth Village, made a motion to approve the meeting summary of the January 22, 2007, Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ron Sauma, City of Benbrook, and the meeting summary was approved unanimously.

Chief Paul W. Murray, Fire Chief, Navy Fire and Emergency Services, was asked to give an overview of the ways in which the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth works with local municipalities and other taxing entities to handle emergency situations at and around NAS. He explained that the base has two ways in which it supports area fire departments. One is called a mutual aid agreement which means that the base or the city comes to the aid of the other when requested. The second type is an automatic agreement, meaning that the base or city may come to the aid of the other immediately if a situation of danger is observed; in this arrangement, no 'request' must be made to trigger action.

The City of Fort Worth and the Westworth Village have both mutual aid and automatic assist agreements in place. Reciprocal agreements are also in place with Tarrant County, the Tarrant County Firefighters Association, and Lockheed. The Cities of White Settlement and River Oaks have approached NAS about working with the City of Benbrook to support the base during its air shows. Chief Murray explained that the base has an excellent relationship with the City of Fort Worth because land around the east gate is virtually landlocked. Thus when Fort Worth's dispatch broadcasts an emergency, both Fort Worth's Station 18 and the base's fire department are dispatched simultaneously.

At the base, according to Chief Murray, various training programs are in place, including crash fire rescue utilizing foam units, structural firefighting, confined space rescue and flat water rescue. Mike Sims, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments, noted that Tarrant County Community College has some cross-over firefighting training and that the mobile aircraft training at the base could actually occur at other places.

Council Member Sauma said that he would prefer that the City of Benbrook's mutual aid agreement be direct with NAS, rather than being through Tarrant County as it is today. He asked Chief Murray to meet with the Benbrook's fire chief. Chairman Silcox said that the base and Fort Worth are likely to have expertise and equipment that the smaller cities do not. He asked Rachel Wiggins, Senior Transportation Planner, NCTCOG to put together a list of mutual aid agreements that are in place between NAS JRB and the surrounding communities.

Chief Murray said that in the 1950s, federal law was passed to assist communities through HAZMAT planning, and that plans for firefighting and emergency medical services are now to be pulled together as provided for through the 2006 Defense Appropriations Bill. On a national level, he said, unions are trying to block military bases from entering into mutual aid agreements with cities, although this is not the case in Fort Worth. He said this situation should be observed closely because the base needs the support of local fire departments. According to Chief Murray, Fort Worth has the best chemical spills unit in the U.S. and could be of tremendous support should such an incident occur here.

Linda Pavlik, one of the DFW Advisors team members, presented a summary of the public comment that has taken place to date based on the two public meetings that were held on April 2 and April 3, 2007. Of the approximately 23 persons commenting, support for NAS JRB, Fort Worth, has been overwhelming. Only two persons talked about air-traffic related noise, whereas about seven persons expressed specific and unwavering support for the 'sound of freedom.' Several persons said they are concerned about air quality and emissions from the planes as well as pollution of Lake Worth's waters. There has been a general understanding of how encroachment threatens the base and as well recognition of construction-related issues.

A majority of the comments were responsive to the presenters' request for assistance in understanding the best ways to communicate with area residents and businesses. Ms. Pavlik noted that numerous tools should be utilized for getting the word out about the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), including direct mail; newspaper; reaching out to apartment managers and residents; reaching out to military organizations; working with Neighborhood Associations; utilizing a website for the timely sharing of information; billboards, and creating an advocacy group.

Ms. Wiggins presented two maps; one showing dots of persons' opinions about noise generated by the base and one showing dots of persons' opinions about where transportation improvements are needed. She explained that she had added dots to the maps per comments made following the public meetings, that were made in writing and email or by phone. Chairman Silcox requested that copies of these maps be distributed showing city boundaries. (See the attached maps.) Mr. Sims said that the comments related to transportation improvements were not just because of base traffic, but because of traffic in general.

The Policy Committee discussed how to improve attendance at the public meetings, and the consultant was urged to develop 'a sense of urgency' in all communications with the public. All committee members will receive copies of communication pieces and Chairman Silcox will be asked to sign-off on them before they are distributed.

James Falvo, DFW's team project manager, presented an updated study schedule for 2007. Key activities included were consultant tour of NAS JRB, June; consultant meeting with Builders and Realtors, June; consultant meeting with base officials, July; Study Report preparation, July-September; draft due, August 20, 2007; Policy Committee review of draft report, September; City Council meetings, September; Final Report, October. He said that the draft report would not be presented to city councils until the Policy Committee has approved it.

Mr. Sims said that during the next round of public meetings, the presentation would include detailed recommendations regarding zoning changes, strengthening building codes and other aggressive positions to protect the base from encroachment. He said that staff recommends holding joint City Council/public meetings in each community. Chairman Silcox said he wants to encourage uniformity in what actions councils will take in the future. Carter Burdette, Council Member, City of Fort Worth, said the Policy Committee can expect concerns about land use restrictions from realtors and builders because they will know what the consequences will be and will be able to analyze the economics. Chairman Silcox questioned 'where the line should be drawn,' so that too much unrestricted growth is not allowed. Mr. Falvo said he does not want the report to be done in a 'vacuum' and that feedback is needed from cities, so that there is 'ownership' of the JLUS.

Vicki Mikel, Assistant City Manager, City of Lake Worth said 'guiding principles' are needed to determine how certain criteria are weighted in importance. Chairman Silcox commented that real estate sales contracts should carry disclosure statements when the property is located near the base.

Mr. Sims asked for direction from the Policy Committee on how aggressive the consultant should be in analyzing various land use restrictions for areas within the base's clear zone and noise contours. Chairman Silcox, Vicki Mikel, Assistant City Manager, City of Lake Worth; Mr. Robinson, and Council Member Sauma posed questions about how to structure the consultant's work as well as how to understand the exact criteria that is utilized in any Base Realignment and Closure initiative. Mr. Sims emphasized that the JLUS will be seeking compatible land uses, and 'win-win' situations for all.

Ms. Wiggins asked staff members for the various partners in attendance to track their time and efforts on this project, so that both can be recorded as in-kind services. She asked that other cities host a future meeting of the Policy Committee.

Ed McLaughlin, a retired Air Force colonel and a Fort Worth resident, spoke during the public comment part of the meeting. Having been involved with Fort Worth in the BRAC of the 90s, Mr. McLaughlin said that BRAC criteria changes every time and urged the Policy Committee not to take a 'soft approach' to the study because to do so, would likely result in the base closing.

## **Attendees**

### Elected Officials and Military Officers Present




Chuck Silcox	Councilmember	City of Fort Worth
Robert Armstrong	Mayor	City of Sansom Park
Carter Burdette	Councilmember	City of Fort Worth
Gunnar Rasmussen	Councilmember	City of White Settlement
Ron Sauma	Councilmember	City of Benbrook
Lt. Keith Morris	Air Traffic Control Facility Officer	NAS JRB Fort Worth
Chief Murray	Fire Chief	Navy Fire & Emergency Svcs.

### Others Present

Mrs. Armstrong		City of Sansom Park
Randy Brown	Public Works Director	City of White Settlement
Wayne Burt		City of White Settlement
Anne Cozart	District Liaison	State Rep. Charlie Geren
Gregg Dawson	Director of Emergency Preparedness	NCTCOG
Jim Falvo	Consultant	DFW Advisorsm Ltd. Co.
Marvin Gregory	Director of Public Works	City of River Oaks
Angie Highland	Acting Airport Director	City of Fort Worth
Jodi Jenkins	Consultant	Pavlik and Associates
Renee Lamb	Director of Transportation Services	Tarrant County
Michael Mallonee	Transportation Planner	NCTCOG
Ed McLaughlin	Retired Air Force Colonel	Citizen of Fort Worth
Vicki Mikel	Assistant City Manager	City of Lake Worth
Cathy Morris	Administrative Analyst	City of Benbrook
Linda Pavlik	Consultant	Pavlik and Associates
Gary Robinson	Administrative Coordinator	City of Westworth Village
Mike Sims	Senior Program Manager	NCTCOG
Randy Skinner	Planning Manager	Tarrant County
Dennis Statler	Airfield Manager	NAS JRB Fort Worth
Jesse Torres	Planning Manager	City of Fort Worth
Rachel Wiggins	Senior Transportation Planner	NCTCOG

Comments received during public meetings, April 2007

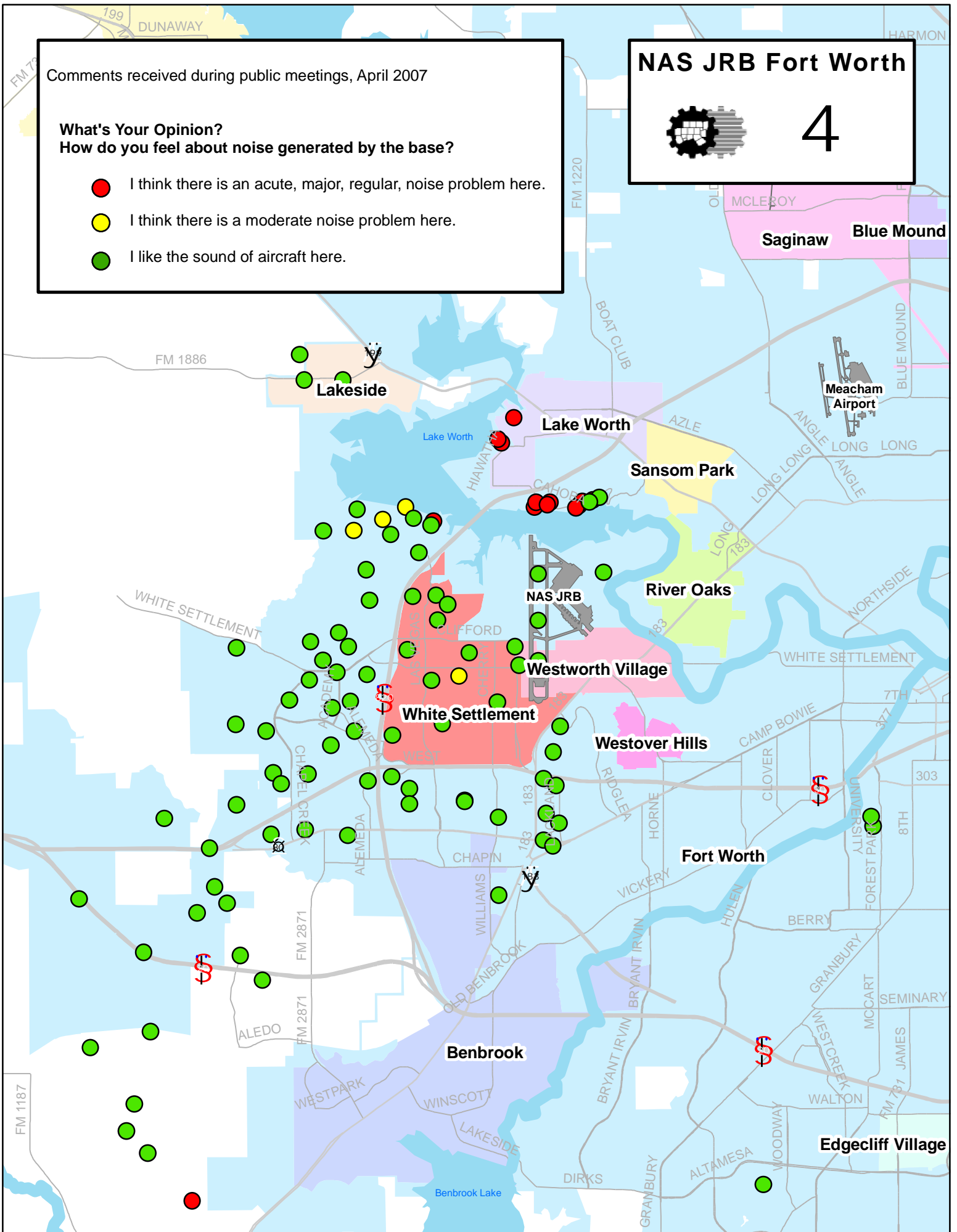
**What's Your Opinion?**  
**How do you feel about noise generated by the base?**

-  I think there is an acute, major, regular, noise problem here.
-  I think there is a moderate noise problem here.
-  I like the sound of aircraft here.

**NAS JRB Fort Worth**






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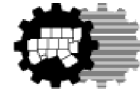
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**What's your opinion?**

**Where are transportation improvements needed?**

-  I think there is a transportation safety issue here.
-  I think there is a transportation congestion issue here.
-  I think there is a transportation signal issue here.

**NAS JRB Fort Worth**



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