



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

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HUD Grant Sustains Momentum, Coordination Efforts Around Fort Worth Base

Livable military communities project focuses on housing, retail, transportation improvements

Nov. 5, 2010 (Arlington, Texas) – The Naval Air Station Fort Worth, Joint Reserve Base, civilian and military residents, and local businesses will benefit from the \$640,000 Sustainable Community Challenge Grant awarded recently by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The grant provides funding for studies that further work already undertaken by local governments around the base. Local officials voluntarily formed the Regional Coordination Committee to preserve and promote the military mission at NAS Fort Worth, JRB while also allowing for compatible growth and development in surrounding communities.

Work on the HUD-funded studies will start in January 2011, and the public is invited to participate and give input throughout the entire process. Study findings will identify opportunities to improve transportation, revitalize communities, improve housing and retail options, enhance economic competitiveness, preserve military operations, and coordinate policies, planning and investments.

“NAS/ JRB Fort Worth has a long and unique relationship with the surrounding communities,” said Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12). “This grant will ensure this relationship continues to prosper over the next decade. By qualifying for this grant, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has demonstrated that when local leaders collaborate they produce positive results.”

Formerly Carswell Air Force Base, NAS Fort Worth, JRB has been an integral part of the community for almost 70 years. The installation is now home to US Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Texas Air National Guard units and employs over 11,000 active duty Guard and Reserve and civilian personnel. The \$1.3 billion annual impact is important to the local economy and the North Central Texas region, and the military mission of the installation is significant to national defense.

The study results will help local leaders establish policies and plans compatible with military missions that also improve livability and sustainability for military members and civilians. One of the first studies will assess potential benefits and burdens of moving military retail and housing from the base to surrounding communities. Potential sites where military housing and retail could be jointly developed will also be identified.

The two-phase transportation study will focus on short- and long-term transportation improvements. Signal re-timing and synchronization could immediately reduce congestion. To develop longer-term alternatives like bicycle/pedestrian facilities, access to transit and mixed-use developments, future economic development opportunities and growth of the region will be considered.

A third study will establish a model building code that will increase energy efficiency and mitigate aircraft noise.

The Sustainable Community Challenge Grant program was an unprecedented collaboration between HUD and the US Department of Transportation (DOT) to connect housing, employment and economic development with transportation and infrastructure improvements in order to create more livable and sustainable communities. From among 583 eligible applicants, the NCTCOG project, focused on NAS Fort Worth, JRB and surrounding communities, was one of only 42 projects selected to receive funding.

The city of Dallas received more than \$2.2 million from the HUD-DOT grant program for land acquisition and planning at four sites that will be part of a workforce housing project near public transit.

About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 240 member governments including 16 counties, 170 cities, 24 school districts and 30 special districts.

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