



Meeting Summary

**NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee
October 16, 2023
1:30 p.m.**

**Westworth Village City Hall
311 Burton Hill Rd
Westworth, TX 76114**

The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NAS JRB Fort Worth) Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) convened at 1:30 p.m. on October 16, 2023. The meeting was hosted by the City of Westworth Village.

Voting Members in Attendance

Mike Coleman, Chair, City of Westworth Village
Councilmember Dr. Larry Marshall, Vice Chair,
City of Benbrook
Jeff James, Treasurer, City of White Settlement
Dan Chisholm, Secretary, City of River Oaks
Jack Adkison, City of River Oaks
Stacey Almond, City of Lake Worth
Councilmember Michael D. Crain, City of Fort
Worth
Councilmember Macy Hill, City of Fort Worth
Councilmember Brian Libbey, City of Westworth
Village
Councilmember Laura Mackey, City of
Benbrook
Councilmember Paul Moore, City of White
Settlement
Councilmember Gary Stuard, City of Lake
Worth

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Jennifer DeWitt, The Office of Representative
Craig Goldman
Ann Elias, White Settlement Chamber of
Commerce
Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
Ricky Langton, Camp Carter YMCA
Kit Marshall, Greater Fort Worth Association of
REALTORS
Capt. Mark McLean, NAS JRB Fort Worth
Audra Mead, White Settlement Area
Chamber of Commerce
Maj. Gen. Kevin Pottinger, Texas Military
Preparedness Commission
Brinda Rhodes, White Settlement Area
Chamber of Commerce

Maritta Sumner, Governor’s Committee to
Support the Military

Others Present

Robert Agostino, Group Holdings Aviation
Wade G. Chappell, BC Collaborations
Wes Cloud
Phil Dupler, Trinity Metro
Jaclyn Gates, Group Holdings Aviation
Col. Benjamin Harrison, 301st Fighter Wing
James Hoelke, Lockheed Martin
Doug Howard, City of Benbrook
Tucker Maberry, Pavlik and Associates
Dillon Maroney, Tarrant County Precinct 4
LaMonica McGlothurn, Trinity Metro
Stephen Murray, City of Fort Worth
James Myrick, City of River Oaks
Dan Novak, Westworth Village
Robert Nunley, City of White Settlement
Amelia Owre, NAS JRB Fort Worth
T.J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth
Roger Peimann, Fort Worth Air Power Council
CMSgt Jonathan Rapelje, 301st Fighter Wing
Ed Spurlin
Faron Young, Mayor, City of White Settlement

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Jackie Castillo
Jessica Cordova
Paul Paine
Kyle Roy
Amanda Wilson

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of July 17, 2023 Meeting Summary (Action)
4. Challenge Coin Presentation
5. Air Operations and Airshow Brief
6. Community Noise Mitigation Program (Endorsement of Comments to OLDCC)
7. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update
8. FY2022 Department of Defense Economic Impact Report
9. JLUS Update
10. Staff Reports, Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG
 - Defense Community Safety and Security Committee Update (Drone Enforcement), Paul Paine, NCTCOG
 - Transportation Project Implementation Update, Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
 - Scheduling Update
 - Media Alerts
 - Correspondence
 - Attendance Report
11. Public Comments

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

Chair Mike Coleman called the Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

Item 2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting with committee and audience member introductions.

Item 3. Approval of July 17, 2023 Meeting Summary (Action)

The motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Councilmember Michael Crain. Dan Chisolm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4. Challenge Coin Presentation

The Chair introduced Capt. Mark McLean, Commanding Officer of NAS JRB Fort Worth. A challenge coin was presented to Capt. Mark McLean on behalf of the RCC for his meaningful contributions to the RCC mission. Capt. Mark McLean expressed appreciation, announced his retirement, and said he would transfer command to Capt. Beau Hufstetler in mid-November. After his retirement, Capt. McLean will remain in Fort Worth and work as a pilot for American Airlines. He hopes to continue his participation with the RCC.

In his remarks, Capt. McLean addressed the base's continuing need to have the support of the community. He believes the RCC's continued support is vital to sustaining the base's mission. He also gave special thanks to retired Community Planning Liaison Officer Ed Spurlin, who was in attendance.

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Item 5. Air Operations and Airshow Brief

The Chair stated that the base will host an airshow on April 13-14, 2024. Scheduled presenters LCDR Tom Kuhrt and Will Husky were both unavailable, so Capt. Mark McLean provided the briefing.

The airshow will be called “Wings Over Cowtown,” and the Blue Angels will perform. For reference, he said a recent Blue Angels air show in Lincoln, Nebraska, 300,000 people attended. Capt. McLean said he expects about 100,000 people to attend Wings Over Cowtown, with an average of 2.5 individuals per vehicle. Paul Paine, NCTCOG Senior Program Manager, is coordinating with local law enforcement and first responders to provide event support.

At the last airshow hosted by the base in 2016, Capt. McLean said parking was at capacity, and another base recently had to close their entrance early due to capacity. Therefore, he said parking on the base will be made available for the 2024 airshow, but priority will be extended to those with the proper credentials. There will be three entry control points: the main gate at Pumphrey Road, the east gate located off Meandering Road, and the commercial gate adjacent to Lowe’s Home Improvement, which will cater to bus and air show performer traffic. For attendees that cannot access the base, Ridgmar Mall has about ,5000 parking spaces available. Ridgmar will also be utilized as a pickup and drop off location for shuttles to and from the base, but these plans are not yet finalized.

Community engagement events outside of the airshow were discussed because the Blue Angels traditionally participate in publicity events to promote the military and connect with the community. The Blue Angels typically visit a children’s hospital and three schools. Capt. McLean encouraged members to submit suggestions. In addition, the Blue Angels will appear at two social events. One is a mandatory social event held on a Friday where all air show performers attend, and activities would include crowd interaction, autographs, and media outreach. NAS JRB will try to schedule this free event off the base at a location such as the Fort Worth Stockyards, Sundance Square, or Dickey’s Arena. The second event is usually held on Saturday evening with the aim of bringing the community back out, and Capt. McLean asked the RCC to consider possible locations for this event. There will also be flights for two key community influencers, such as an athletic director or superintendent from a major school district, an individual who helps with military recruitment, or media personnel.

Regarding emergency services, Capt. McLean mentioned another need for RCC support. NAS JRB does not have enough staff to handle crowd control or respond to an emergency occur during the air show. He said Paul Paine is working with local emergency planners to better understand the numbers needed. There is sufficient fire and EMS coverage, but RCC members are invited to send any of their fire department’s engines to the airfield. The City of Fort Worth will provide police officers to assist with crowd control. The Navy Criminal Investigate Service (NCIS) is working with the FBI, Regional Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and other federal law enforcement partners to ensure resources are available to monitor gate access. During the airshow, the base will monitor and remove drones from the temporarily restricted airspace as necessary. Mass casualty and active shooter drills are also being planned, and one drill was already conducted with the City of White Settlement. Plans are also being made to patrol Lake Worth and police marine areas and highway access points.

Paul Paine asked for a brief overview of the giant voice system on base to help others understand how it works. Capt. McLean explained about the base’s loudspeaker system. Dan Kessler,

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NCTCOG Assistant Director of Transportation, added that the Regional Transportation Committee voted to appropriate \$250,000 to support air show operations. Since the show is free, there can be no charge for parking or transportation, and the majority of the funds are reserved for the possible use of a charter bus service. However, the financial subsidy may not be necessary if Trinity Metro is able to provide buses from Ridgmar Mall to the base.

Item 6. Community Noise Mitigation Program (Endorsement of Comments to OLDCC)

Amanda Wilson discussed the Community Noise Mitigation Program (CNMP) and sought endorsement of comments to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). On Aug. 16, 2023, OLDCC published a Forecast Notice of Funding Opportunity Notice. The notice described the proposed rules for application submittals, program requirements, and application scoring criteria. Because OLDCC asked for comments by Oct. 13, 2023, the Friday prior to the RCC meeting, NCTCOG staff drafted and submitted comments on behalf of the RCC in conjunction with the RCC technical subcommittee and RCC officers, who reviewed the comments in advance. In lieu of seeking formal RCC action, staff are seeking endorsement of these comments, which were provided with the RCC agenda last week. Amanda said it is unclear when OLDCC will issue the actual notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), although the website still indicates the NOFO will be issued on Nov. 3, 2023.

The purpose of the CNMP is to help reduce the impact of fixed wing aviation noise on covered facilities such as hospitals, daycares, schools, and facilities serving senior citizens or private residences. To qualify for assistance, impacted facilities must be either within one mile of a military installation or within the 65 dB and higher noise contour, and the local community must prioritize facilities with the highest noise levels. Eligible activities include sound attenuation for habitable rooms, such as replacing windows and doors, and covered facilities must be experiencing indoor noise averaging at least 45 dBs over the course of a 24-hour period. The window and door treatments that the program will fund need to achieve a 45 dB level indoors in the 65-69 and 70-94 dB noise contours, and in the 75+ dB noise contour a reduction of 10-30 dB. Program funding of \$75 million is available nationwide, of which \$18.75 million is set aside for guard and reserve bases. Of that \$18.75 million, \$5 million is reserved for bases where military mission has transitioned to a new type or model of aircraft after Jan. 1, 2019. There is a 10% local match required by the proposer, and funds must be expended within five years.

Amanda noted the arrival of the F-35 aircraft at NAS JRB next year provides an opportunity for the RCC to consider applying for the program. Therefore, staff are planning an RCC workshop for November. The Chair asked for clarification about when the RCC can expect to receive a response to its comments, and Amanda said OLDCC's current timeline to release the NOFO by Nov. 3 suggests a response will be provided then. Dan Kessler added that NCTCOG has performed an extensive analysis of nearly 10,000 parcels for residences, public institutions, schools, and churches that fall within the base's noise contours. The technical subcommittee has noted both benefits and drawbacks to pursuing program funding. He said NCTCOG could operate the program but would need to hire additional staff. The Chair commented that program funding seems insufficient. Councilmember Brian Libbey asked if property owners would need to be contacted, and Amanda said it would depend on how the program is structured in Tarrant County. The Chair wondered if school districts could provide the match, and Amanda said staff would be seeking guidance on this question at the workshop.

A motion to endorse the staff comments was made by Councilmember Gary Stuard, and the motion was seconded by RCC Secretary Dan Chisholm. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update

Capt. McLean said the Base Change of Command ceremony would occur on Nov. 16, and invited RCC members to attend. He also addressed a possible government shutdown but said essential base operations will continue even if Congress does not pass a Continuing Resolution before Nov. 17.

Training detachments were also discussed. In October, a detachment was brought to Fort Worth along with twelve T-45s. The T-45 is a training aircraft used by the Navy and Marine Corps in Kingsville, TX and Meridian, Mississippi, and it has a louder noise signature. It is anticipated they will return in April, and the chief of naval air education and training and succeeding commander would like to regularly access NAS JRB Fort Worth for training in the future. In addition, the AP-129 aircraft is planned to arrive at the end of October or November with the Electronic Attack Reserve Squadron. More Navy and Marine detachments are expected in the future.

Capt. McLean discussed the Israel conflict and its impact to military operations. There is no new and specific credible threat and conditions have not changed on the base. He added that the base has suspended their Trusted Traveler Program and now requires all vehicle passengers to provide identification. Recently, a drill weekend occurred on the base. All drilling units were scheduled, so the base opened five lanes for incoming traffic. Upwards of 5,000 reservists passed through the gate, and 6,000 to 7,000 reservists are expected this weekend. These have been unusually high-traffic weekends for the base.

In his parting remarks as commanding officer, Capt. McLean wished to outline his short- and long-term concerns. 1) Construction by the Texas Department of Transportation will impact the base's day-to-day operations, so he hopes there will be early and transparent dialogue. 2) The base has authority to capture UAS (drones) flown over the fence line but lacks authority beyond it. NCTCOG has worked with local legislators and law enforcement on the issue but flight safety remains a concern. As the metropolitan area continues to grow, it is incumbent that the RCC educate the community on the impact of UAS. The current UAS flight authorization process is confusing, so RCC members are encouraged to post a new educational flyer in city offices and online.

The Chair questioned what is the maximum height a drone can fly and what is the penalty for unauthorized flight. Capt. Mclean responded 400 feet is the maximum height, and Amelia Owre, CPLO for NAS JRB Fort Worth, explained the penalty is a misdemeanor. She said a new instant authorization system is scheduled to be implemented in the near future. Capt. McLean added the goal is to work towards a result where the FAA has given authority to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to utilize resources in and around the infrastructure. An information paper has been sent to the Pentagon and shared with the FAA. Concerns from the base and other naval air stations are well received and understood. Dan Kessler said regulators will soon have the capability to remotely identify UAS.

Item 8. FY2022 Department of Defense Economic Impact Report

Kyle Roy presented a summary of an annual report of a state-by-state analysis issued by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The report summarizes contract and payroll data that state and local officials can use to assess the region's dependence on defense spending and gain insight into the resiliency of communities. In FY22, Texas ranked second with \$58 billion

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in total defense spending, and first in contract spending. Nationwide, Tarrant County ranked first in contract spending with \$18.6 billion, and Dallas County ranked fifth. The top defense contractors in Texas were Lockheed Martin, McKesson, L3Harris Technologies, Bell, and Boeing, all important businesses in the North Texas region. The counties of Tarrant, Dallas, Collin and Hunt accounted for 67% of contract spending in the entire state of Texas. In terms of personnel spending, Texas ranked third with \$12.1 billion. Dallas and Tarrant Counties account for \$791.1 million of personnel spending. Dan Kessler added that the economic report numbers reflect the impact the defense industry has in North Texas, especially Tarrant County. It supports and emphasizes the mission of the RCC and the relationships with the base and the defense industries in and around the area.

Item 9. JLUS Update

Amanda Wilson with NCTCOG discussed updates regarding Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS). NCTCOG is working to create an Inventory of Compatibility Actions to document every single action that the cities and the county have taken to support compatibility in response to the JLUS. The inventory will eventually be posted online in a map-based format made available to the general public, OLDCC, and the Department of Defense. NCTCOG is working with Amelia Owre and others on developing an application for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI). The focus of the REPI Program is the preservation of open space. REPI facilitates the process of working with landowners and partners to protect the development rights of open lands located near the base.

Also, NCTCOG is working with the Federal Emergency Management Administration on a Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) Direct Technical Assistance project. Through the program, FEMA will provide expert assistance on the community's stormwater issues, especially to help capture debris before it enters the stormwater system that goes under the base in White Settlement and then floods onto the golf course located in Westworth Village. This often results in flooding the base. A meeting has taken place with the FEMA team who works with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and engineering consultants will be brought in to assess the issue. The program does not provide funding, but the program could lead to a FEMA BRIC grant in the future. Amanda said she will send electronic communication to all city managers to request participation in the next few meetings. The starting point will be a needs assessment to understand the needs of the community. Meetings will be conducted virtually every two weeks. The consultants will conduct an onsite visit in late fall or early 2024.

Finally, Amanda presented a recent project submitted to the online Development Review Tool:

- Fort Worth: Project 167—The project is a requested zoning change from a commercial classification to a light industrial classification for the purpose of adding a small data center to the current property use. The property is currently used for corporate offices and logistics purposes and is located at 3800 Southwest Boulevard and 3825 Benbrook Highway. The parcel ID is 34410-BR. The parcel falls within the 70 dB Noise Contour and the Accident Potential Zone (APZ) II of NAS JRB Fort Worth. A letter was provided to the city stating the proposed action is consistent with Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) recommendations. Industrial uses are generally compatible in the 70 dB noise contour and APZ II, but the property owner should coordinate with city staff and the base on any new construction to ensure recommended sound attenuation and maximum floor to area ratio measures are taken in office areas or any areas where the public is received. Comments and votes from RCC members and their delegates supported the staff assessment.

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Item 10. Staff Reports, Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

- **Defense Community Safety and Security Committee Update:** Paul Paine explained this new committee grew out of the need for collaboration on safety among the base, Lockheed Martin, and the surrounding communities. The committee is comprised of approximately 50 members from the local law enforcement community, defense industry, public safety agencies, and security professionals. He highlighted recent efforts to educate the community about new laws regarding UAS safety and flight authorization. In addition, he said the group is involved in preparations for the 2024 Wings Over Cowtown Airshow. The base is coordinating this effort, which will serve as a framework to apply toward future events.
- **Transportation Project Implementation Update:** Dan Kessler provided updates on several projects:
 - **Meandering Road:** Right of way acquisition is expected to begin in January 2024. The City of Fort Worth is the lead administrative organization alongside River Oaks. In November, the Fort Worth City Council will be asked to approve an extension to the agreement between the City and TxDOT as well as an agreement with Lamb-Star Engineering. The extension will allow the project to continue with design. Construction is not expected to begin for about one year and will not interfere with the airshow.
 - **State Highway 183:** TxDOT will hold an open house on Oct. 24 to discuss SH 183, River Oaks Blvd., and Alta Mesa Blvd. A large part of the presentation will focus on the SH 183/Pumphrey interchange. It is imperative that there is community input.
 - **Cowtown BBQ and Knights of Columbus:** Approximately 4.5 acres have been acquired at the former Cowtown BBQ site. Current negotiations are underway for NCTCOG to acquire adjacent property owned by the Knights of Columbus. The half-acre property lies inside the Clear Zone. Once accomplished, the property will belong to the City of White Settlement. All fences and property lines will then be reconfigured to ensure all land within the Clear Zone is vacant.
- **Scheduling Update:** The next RCC meeting will take place Monday, Jan. 24, 2024. A workshop on the Community Noise Mitigation Program is planned for November.
- **Media Alerts:** Included in the packets.
- **Correspondence:** Included in the packets.
- **Attendance Reports:** Included in the packets.

Item 11. Public Comments

NCTCOG will present a short program at the next Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, to highlight the relationship between the RTC and the RCC. It will include a short video about the Strategic Parcel Acquisition Program. Capt. McLean, the Chair, and the RCC officers have been invited to participate in the presentation.