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**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**NEFRC's MIRR Kickoff Event Launches Innovative Vision to Safeguard Northeast Florida's Military and Community Infrastructure**

**Jacksonville, FL**— In a powerful demonstration of regional collaboration, military strength, and long-term planning, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) launched its long-anticipated Military Installation Readiness Review (MIRR) on April 22, 2025. Northeast Florida is home to several unique and strategically located military installations; including Naval Station Mayport, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island and Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. This event brought together military leadership, local elected officials, engineers, planners, resilience professionals, and community stakeholders, all driven by a shared purpose: to secure the future of Northeast Florida's military installations and strengthen the relationship with surrounding communities.

Jacobs Solutions Inc. will lead the MIRR, which will be conducted in partnership with the Northeast Florida Regional Council. The MIRR aims to advance mission assurance and community environmental protection efforts related to these installations and pinpoint risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities that may impact the military's mission readiness.

The event began with a call to action from NEFRC Chief Executive Officer Beth Payne, followed by remarks from several key leaders in Northeast Florida, including U.S. Representative John Rutherford, Jacksonville Councilmember Nick Howland, NEFRC President and Clay County Commissioner Jim Renninger, and Florida's Chief Resilience Officer Dr. Wesley Brooks. Each speaker emphasized the strategic value of the Region's installations and the urgency of enhancing their resilience against growing environmental and infrastructure threats.

**The Mission: Ensuring Military Readiness from Beyond the Fence Line**

Although Northeast Florida is the last Florida region to undertake the MIRR process, it benefits from a solid foundation of regional collaboration and a history of successfully addressing resilience challenges. With Jacobs Solutions Inc. leading technical efforts, this MIRR aims to identify natural hazards and their impact on military readiness and propose innovative solutions that enhance mission assurance and community resilience.

Over the next 18 months, the project will assess how factors such as flooding, traffic congestion, land encroachment, aging infrastructure, and single-point utility failure affect the installations.

**What's at Stake: Infrastructure, Readiness, and Community Safety**

Commanding officers from each installation provided an overview of their installation missions and accounts of their bases' challenges, including eroding shorelines, dependency on single power sources, water quality issues, and outdated infrastructure. At NS Mayport, environmental protections are critical to mission success, as the installation experiences numerous flooding events each year. Blount Island



faces shoreline loss and water intrusion that threatens electrical systems, while Camp Blanding's 73,000-acre training grounds must deal with wildfire risks and endangered habitats.

### **Community Resilience = National Defense**

The MIRR process recognizes that military installations must have strong support and relationships with the surrounding communities. Therefore, the project will evaluate the infrastructure and needs outside the installations; this includes roads, utilities, housing, and vital protective habitat. On April 22, local leaders discussed issues such as affordable housing, education access, transportation, flood mitigation, and regional supply chain challenges. With input and assistance from the Resilient First Coast Collaborative, innovative solutions may address these issues.

### **What's Next**

With the kickoff complete, the MIRR team will begin data collection, vulnerability assessments, and stakeholder interviews. A Technical Advisory Committee, composed of subject matter experts across relevant disciplines, and a Steering Committee, consisting of military and civic leaders, will guide the project's next phase. The aim is to create a prioritized, fundable list of physical, natural, social, and economic infrastructure improvements and recommendations that address local needs and national security.

As Northeast Florida faces a future of rapid growth and escalating climate risks, the MIRR presents a unique opportunity to build a stronger, safer, innovative, and more interconnected region.

### **About NEFRC**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is a dynamic network of local governments addressing issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries—from emergency preparedness and transportation to economic development and environmental resilience. An independent regional government agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties, continues to enhance the quality of life for Northeast Florida residents by addressing economic development, emergency preparedness, resiliency, and community <https://nefrc.org>

### **About Jacobs**

Jacobs Solutions Inc. is an American international technical professional services firm. The company provides engineering, technical, professional, and construction services, as well as scientific and specialty consulting in resilience, sustainability, and climate action for a broad range of clients globally, including companies, organizations, and government agencies. <https://www.jacobs.com/consulting-advisory/resiliency>

For more information about the Northeast Florida Regional Council and its initiatives, visit [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org).

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