

Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Policy Committee Meeting #1

Project: Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Date/Time: 8/22/08 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Location: Conference Room, 3rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Elmendorf

Reporter: Nicole McCullough, WHPacific

Participants:

Emerson Krueger, MSB PM
Mark Mayo, Director, MSB Planning and Land Use Department
Nicole McCullough, WHPacific
Kelly Singh, WHPacific
Colonel Doehl, 176 AK Air National Guard

Col Chris Pike, ALCOM, Elmendorf AFB
Richard Vickery FAA ATREP
Col Mark Chance, Elmendorf AFB
Danny Barnett, Elmendorf AFB
Jamie Spell, Elmendorf AFB

Meeting Summary: The meeting began with a presentation by Emerson Krueger about the goals, objectives and purpose of a JLUS, a review of the factors that impact military bases, roles of the Office of Economic Adjustment, Military and Matanuska-Susitna Borough, background of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough JLUS and potential outcomes.

Mark Mayo then spoke about how the JLUS provided a good opportunity for the military and the Borough to work together. He described the rapid growth of the borough and the great number of civilian aircraft. He said, to date, there appear to just be a handful of issues and with careful planning it is hoped it can stay that way. He described the development occurring at Point McKenzie including the new prison, rail line, port and ferry. He also mentioned unexploded ordnances at the former Susitna Gunnery Range in Point MacKenzie.

Nicole provided a summary of the current status of the study. She described the steps of the plan and showed an illustration of the planning area. Colonel Doehl offered comments on the legend and clarified the distinction between Army and Air National Guard Landing Zones. Danny Barnett provided a map that illustrates the restrictions around the “elephant cage” on Elmendorf AFB. He said that within a one mile radius of the facility, requests for development must go through Washington D.C. The base commander can grant permission for development project requests between one and two miles. It appeared that the port at Point MacKenzie was outside the two-mile radius.

The group discussed issues including the concern with recreation users in the Nelchina Plateau area and potential low flying aircraft. Emerson brought up the concern expressed at the Glacier View Bible Church about communication between military and civilian aircraft. Col. Chance and Col. Doehl talked about frequency 122.9 as the general aviation frequency and the emergency frequency 121.5. During hunting season, the area can be very congested.

The group also discussed the impact of aircraft on caribou during calving season. Emerson stated there has apparently been some work on this topic that will be referenced in the study.

Someone mentioned that it would be very good if the military were informed of special events that could impact the airspace such as fly-in pancake breakfasts, etc. These events can increase flights by a factor of ten. Minimal coordination with the military during these events would help them avoid high-traffic times and locations.

Emerson asked if the committee agreed with the study area, which as proposed, would be limited to the areas of the Borough where military operations occur such as refueling exercises in the eastern part of the Borough or landing zones around Point McKenzie. The general consensus was that this was appropriate.

Col Doehl asked if there were rules when someone could construct a new airfield in the Borough. Mark said there were not.

Richard Vickery talked about his role at the FAA and said that they monitor civilian air patterns. He is the military liaison for FAA.