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Contact: Kenajawa Woody
Title: Communication Specialist
Phone: 904-279-0880
Email: kwoody@nefrc.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Northeast Florida Regional Council Secures Over \$1 Million in Federal Funding for Military Resilience Initiative

Jacksonville, FL – The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$1,009,099 in federal funds from the Department of Defense's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. This funding will support the development of a Military Installation Resilience Review and Implementation Action Plan (MIRR) aimed at enhancing military readiness and response to natural and human-made hazards while directly addressing future conditions that require longer-term planning, mitigation, and investment.

In partnership with key stakeholders, this comprehensive 19-month initiative, which will run from September 2024 to March 2026, leverages local and national expertise to identify and incorporate military installations' resilience needs and fully integrate those needs into regional resilience planning. The installations included in this study are Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Blount Island Marine Corps Support Facility, and Camp Blanding Joint Training Facility.

"This project represents a significant step forward in strengthening the resilience of our military installations and the communities they serve," said Fara Ilami, Regional Resiliency Manager of the NEFRC. "By actively engaging military commanders, municipal and county governments, economic development organizations, and the State of Florida, utilizing previously developed regional tools and plans, best practices, and qualitative data. Through these efforts, we are fostering collaboration that will pay dividends in terms of readiness and response."

Key phases of the project will include an initial resilience assessment, modeling of impacts and threats, formulation of recommendations and implementation plan, and development of a final report that will be widely disseminated. Additionally, the project will encompass base and community engagement, an emergency preparedness exercise, and the establishment of community partnerships.

To further enhance the project, the NEFRC plans to leverage additional funds from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, in partnership with the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative. This collaboration explores nature-based solutions that can complement military operations while providing ecological benefits. Proposed solutions may include living shorelines and other innovative strategies, with a thorough feasibility review undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders.

A kickoff meeting will be held in the coming weeks to inform stakeholders about the project; more details to follow.

For more information about the NEFRC's Military Installation Resilience Review, please contact Fara Ilami, Regional Resiliency Manager, FIlami@nefrc.org



The NEFRC is an independent, regional government agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. We are committed to fostering collaborative solutions for regional issues affecting the communities of Northeast Florida. Through strategic planning, community engagement, and partnerships, NEFRC enhances the quality of life and promotes sustainable development across the region. For more information about the Northeast Florida Regional Council, visit www.nefrc.org.

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