

Fort McCoy Joint Land-Use Study 09-27/2011 Public Meeting Comments

Would you like to make a written suggestion on how to improve compatibility between Fort McCoy and the surrounding community. If so please feel free to use this form.

Strengths

- Support strength of local, state, and federal elected officials.
- Continued improvements to Fort McCoy facilities such as small arms range.
- The Fort has brought diversity to the area.

Weaknesses

- Uncertainty of funding of Fort – fluctuation of civilian and military staff make it difficult to forecast business growth.
- Lack of political collaboration (state/federal) between Volk Field/Fort McCoy. Work together for funding.
- Military operations limit access and opportunity for sharing or development opportunity on Post.
- Reduces use of surrounding land.
- Environment is not suited to current and future conflicts (Middle East – Desert)
- Old WWII facilities and cost to maintain.
- Fort lost demobilization – why?
- Too many temp jobs.
- So far no benefit for local township.

Threats

- Lack of community, business, local, and state/federal officials in support of the Fort. All must be unified with BRAC forthcoming. Start the process of information flow as to BRAC – 2015 comes fast.
- Federal budget reduction.
- Military pull back.
- Role of reservists in future conflicts – changes due to current + or -
- Forest fires and natural disasters.

*Get more community involvement in this process. This should not be just the Fort McCoy strategic planning process. Committee should have a voice here too.

09/27/2011 FORT MCCOY JOINT LAND USE STUDY PUBLIC MEETING SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Good schools
- Mutual aid agreements for emergency response (among communities and with Fort McCoy)
- Good utilities and infrastructure
- Economic impact of Fort
- Fort is relatively welcoming to public
- Fort helps train emergency services, State Patrol Academy
- Challenge Academy (statewide)
- Employment at Fort McCoy
- Premier training facility in country
- Veterans' access to Fort amenities
- Recreation
- Workforce
- Work ethic
- Non-residential land next to Fort
- (Buffer) – existing comprehensive plan and zoning – protect it
- Long history – long time part of community
- Good relationship – Fort McCoy and communities
- Reliable local businesses
- Buy-local attitude and program
- Good communities for raising families
- Excellent highway connections
- Proximity to Volk Field
- VA hospital
- Attraction of Department of Defense (DOD) dollars
- Protection of endangered species
- Environmental programs at Fort (stream restoration, etc.)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Fort is good economic development recruitment tool
- Fort raises area's profile by attracting high-level officials
- Fort is resource that attracts customers from all over Nation and World
- Fort is only training facility for certain units in 100s of miles
- Fort is adaptable to new configurations
- Close proximity of Volk Field, opportunity for joint training
- Fort McCoy airport – opportunity to expand
- Joint training between Fort McCoy and civilian emergency responders

STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve communication between Fort and civilian communities
- JLUS planning effort
- Land use regulations (zoning, etc)
- Outreach and P.R. from Fort McCoy
- Include Fort McCoy in land use boards

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of continuity between Fort McCoy and Monroe County Emergency Planning
- No control of nonmilitary vehicle traffic through the Fort
- Unzoned towns
- Lack of a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
- Possible increase in rail traffic thru Fort due to sand mining
- Location of power lines
- Interstate separates training areas
- Noise
- Vibration
- Transient population problematic for schools
- Department of Defense (DOD) payments for incoming students – is it adequate?

THREATS

- Budget (DOD budget is decreasing, but don't know how much)
- BRAC
- Agriculture could be threatened by aviation
- Residential and commercial encroachment
- Transmission lines
- Sand mining near Fort
- Temporary buildings
- State and local budgets decreasing
- Target for terrorism
- Dependence on fossil fuels
- Increased population – more development pressure
- Woodlands surrounding Fort are fragmented
- Endangered species can limit operations at Fort

STRATEGIES TO MINIMIZE WEAKNESSES AND THREATS

- Communication – maintain JLUS momentum after plan is completed
- Implementation of plan – both by Fort McCoy and communities – both JLUS and existing plans
- Emergency response planning – local – federal
- Disclosure of real estate near Fort (noise, esp.)