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Community survey examines military-community relationship

Nearly 700 people responded to a PPACG survey to gauge community-military partnerships and identify areas where things are working well, as well as issues that need to be improved. The survey is part of the Joint Land Use Study. PPACG won a grant from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment to conduct the study, which examines land-use issues related to military installations in close proximity to counties, cities, and towns.

The survey, which was open April 8 – June 14 and widely distributed in the community, was an opportunity for citizens in the four-county study area to help guide the direction of the study by identifying specific issues.

Several common themes emerged:

- A majority of respondents think the community and military installations are working together well.
- Noise and/or vibration, and use of airspace were the top two issues respondents identified, though 67 percent and 86 percent, respectively, did not find these to be a problem.
- Respondents said development of alternative energy on installations is a positive for the community.
- 69 percent of respondents said that when they moved into their homes, they knew a military installation was a neighbor and there could be land-use impacts.
- Results validated a number of issues JLUS staff had heard about from community groups, individual citizens, and military partners, such as stormwater runoff from new development and noise from various training activities.
- Survey respondents also identified a new issue, keeping the New Santa Fe Trail open where it crosses Air Force Academy property.

As a result of this community input, JLUS staff has formed two additional [working groups](#). Visit the [PPACG website](#) to review the [full survey results](#).

About the Joint Land Use Study

The Colorado Springs Regional Joint Land-Use Study will promote long-term land use compatibility between local military installations and surrounding communities through the promotion of comprehensive community planning, particularly in regards to specific issues identified by the installations, local government staff and officials, and the community.

The study includes:

- A detailed land use assessment for areas surrounding the installations affecting El Paso, Pueblo, Teller, and Fremont counties

- An inventory of compatibility challenges within the study area
- An assessment of regional growth trends around the installations
- Specific recommendations to promote compatible land use

About the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

The Pikes Peak region's 16 local governments join together in PPACG to collaborate on issues that cross political boundaries and to reach solutions that benefit the entire region. PPACG's primary focus is regional planning in transportation, aging issues, and air and water quality.

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