
21. ACTION ITEMS TO BETTER POSITION THE VOLK FIELD REGION TO SUPPORT AN INCREASED MISSION AT VOLK FIELD



ACTION ITEM 1

Form a Long-Range Planning Committee consisting of officials from Volk Field, local units of government, state and federal representatives.

A committee with officials from Volk Field and area local governments should be created to deal with Land Use, Social and Economic issues related to Volk Field. An on-going committee of this type will strengthen communication between the base and surrounding communities. At a minimum it is recommended that the committee consist of members from the Village of Camp Douglas, the Town of Orange, Juneau County and Volk Field, as well as Camp Williams. This Long-Range Planning Committee should discuss, analyze and assist in the implementation of the action items outlined in this plan.

ACTION ITEM 2

The Long-Range Planning Committee should investigate participation in the Department of Defense Joint Land Use Study Program.

The Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment administers a grant program for "Joint Land Use Studies" if the Secretary of Defense determines that encroachment of a community on a military base will likely disrupt the continued operation of the military base. The purpose of the study is to ensure that future public and private investment around a military base is compatible with the development plans of local communities and do not interfere with the mission of the military facility. The grant program has the expectation that participants in the study adopt and implement the study recommendations.

ACTION ITEM 3

The Long-Range Planning Committee should investigate state legislative actions that impact Volk Field's operations.

The recommended committee or another organization should pursue working with state government representatives to pass a state law that would restrict development around existing military

reservations. This option should be reviewed and considered carefully by the committee and local governments, as it could result in diminished local control with regard to land use decisions.

ACTION ITEM 4

The Long-Range Planning Committee should investigate land acquisition, property exchange, and purchase of development rights to accommodate Volk Field's existing and future operations.

Additional land around the Volk Field Military Reservation could be acquired or secured by purchase, property exchange or the purchase of development rights.

ACTION ITEM 5

The Long-Range Planning Committee should work with local units of government to adopt or amend comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

Participating with local units of government, such as the Town of Orange and the Village of Camp Douglas, and the towns surrounding the Hardwood Bombing Range as they develop comprehensive plans is a method of reducing future encroachment on the Volk Field. Through cooperation with local governments and residents they can work together with Volk Field to develop locally accepted and adopted land management policies.

In order to ensure the long-term viability of Volk Field, it is imperative that communities immediately adjacent to Volk Field have zoning and land use controls in place. State funding to accomplish comprehensive planning rewards selected municipalities by funding up to 50 percent of the cost of plan preparation. The grant program looks favorably on multi-jurisdictional applications, so it could be possible for the six towns and two villages of northern Juneau County to submit a joint application. An additional funding source could be the Department of Defense Joint Land Use Study Program.

ACTION ITEM 6

The Long-Range Planning Committee should investigate and evaluate the existing transportation network that serves Volk Field.

The recommended committee should review the existing transportation network and identify future transportation needs for Volk Field. For example, some possible considerations could be whether an additional/modified Interstate 90/94 exit is required or whether additional rail access is needed to accommodate future missions at the base.

ACTION ITEM 7

The Long-Range Planning Committee should examine the issue of housing in the area.

It is recommended that the Planning Committee evaluate the future housing needs of Volk Field in the event of a mission increase. This report has demonstrated that housing expansion opportunities exist in the region. However, it would be important for the committee to evaluate the location, type of housing (single-family, multi-family, rental), size of housing, and income level of future residents. This information could be shared with local governments, developers, and realtors to ensure that the framework is in place to adequately meet future housing needs.

ACTION ITEM 8

The Long-Range Planning Committee should remind BRAC officials of the limited presence of installations in the Midwest.

It is recommended that the low concentration of military installations in the Midwest compared to other regions in the Nation be stressed strongly to members of Congress, Pentagon officials and the President. Only 3.4 percent of Military personnel are located in the Midwest while 18.6 percent of the Nation's population resides in the Midwest.

ACTION ITEM 9

The Long-Range Planning Committee should implement the plan action items.

It is recommended that the Long-Range Committee review and evaluate all the action items discussed. The committee should prioritize the action items and develop an action plan to accomplish the items selected for implementation.