

D. Paul Sommerville, Vice Chairman  
March 20, 2012  
Marine Corps Air Station – F35B

Good Evening:

Thank you all for coming. I am Paul Sommerville. I represent District 7 on Beaufort County Council. District 7 will become District 2 as a result of the 2012 re-districting and will include MCAS in its entirety.

Tonight's meeting is a collaborative effort between Beaufort County and MCAS and an extension of the longstanding partnership between us. Periodic updates to our community from MCAS are appropriate and necessary to inform the citizens of Beaufort County how MCAS is performing its mission and its efforts to address any citizen concerns where possible.

Beaufort County is proud to support our nation's safety and peacekeeping efforts.

- MCAS Beaufort currently contributes \$615 million to Beaufort County's economy each year, and the military combined has a \$1.2 billion impact on the local economy. Eight-thousand ancillary civilian jobs are attributable to this economic impact
- The relationship between the civilian and military communities in Beaufort County is unparalleled. Our history and culture are enmeshed. Many of our fathers, sons and daughters and finest civic leaders are active duty or retired military. We want this good relationship to continue.
- Beaufort County has worked in partnership with the Department of Defense to ensure the operations of MCAS are protected from encroaching development through land acquisition and conservation easement partnerships. Beaufort County, through its Rural and Critical lands Program has partnered with the USMC to preserve nearly 2500 acres at a cost of nearly \$30 million dollars split 50/50 between Beaufort County and the USMC. The County was the first local government body to partner with the federal government in this way for the protection of a Marine Corps facility.
- Beaufort County has served as a prototype by the federal government for military friendly policies. This will be in the County's favor when future BRAC's make base closure decisions.

The purpose of this evenings meeting is to describe and explain current MCAS flight operations and will include, among other things, safety and mission. We will also discuss the current AICUZ.

There is no planned presentation on the future AICUZ because work on it has not yet been completed. Work has begun on the new AICUZ and it will be presented in public meetings, probably in late summer or early fall.

There is no planned presentation tonight on the F-35B because there is no new information at this time. When new information becomes available on the F-35B project, public meetings will occur.

The format for this evening's presentation will be as follows:

LTC Alvarez, Director of Operations and an active pilot, LT Hyland, Public Affairs Officer and Russell Byrd, Community Plans and Liaison Officer will make a prepared presentation. Following the presentation, any unanswered questions will be addressed in a Q & A session. If time does not permit the MCAS staff to answer all questions, there are comment sheets available for any of you who have additional questions. Please put your contact information on the sheet and your question will be responded to by MCAS staff.

Thank you. I now turn the program over to LTC Alvarez, LT Hyland and Mr. Byrd.