



KEY WEST MARATHON ISLAMORADA KEY LARGO

THE CITIZEN
The Florida Keys Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1976
ELECTRONIC EDITION
[Subscriber Login](#)
[Buy Today's Paper](#)
[Subscribe Now](#)
Why Subscribe?
Subscribers ONLY
FREE Archive Search

CURRENT NEWS

CLICK HERE! **See The People's Choice For BEST BANK**

Wed, Oct 31, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST



Dymond Avel, fourth grade, Gerald Adams Elementary

Seven Day Forecast

- [Upper Keys Weather](#)
- [Middle Keys Weather](#)
- [Lower Keys Weather](#)

- [NWS Key West Homepage](#)
- [Tropical Weather Information](#)



Tropical Storm Noel
5 Day Forecast Track
Provided by National Weather Service



NEWS
[Current Stories](#)
[Mile Markers](#)
[Crime Reports](#)

OPINION
[Editorials](#)
[Commentary](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)
[Citizen's Voice](#)
[Cartoons](#)

SPORTS
[Today in Sports](#)
[Columns](#)

BUSINESS
[This Week](#)
[Business Briefs](#)
[Bottom Line](#)
[Columns](#)
[Real Estate Net](#)

KEYS LIFE
[Lifestyles](#)
[Homes](#)
[Kudos](#)
[Columns](#)
[Announcement](#)
[Guidelines](#)

THE ARTS
[Features](#)
[Columns](#)
[Theater Reviews](#)

PHOTO GALLERY
[View Photos](#)

County gives Navy voice on growth

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Citizen Staff

Monroe County is considering a comprehensive plan change that would allow the Navy greater input on proposed development around its air station. The amendment, however, does not call for the county to sign off on a controversial change to the flight path maps for loud jet fighters.

The Development Review Committee on Tuesday will review Senior Planner Clarence Feagin's proposal for land-use maps to "include compatibility criteria and guidelines affecting land-use decisions near" Naval Air Station Key West, and for a Navy representative to serve as a non-voting member of the county Planning Commission. The Navy already has a representative who sits on that board full time, but the change would formalize the process.

"The procedure allows [Naval Air Station] Key West to provide comments on proposed land-use decisions adjacent to or near the military installation," the proposal reads. "The types of land-use decisions to be reviewed and commented on by NAS Key West are limited to changes to the comprehensive plan or land development regulations affecting density, intensity or use of land."

The state Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which regulates development in Monroe County, requires state and local governments to cooperate and exchange information about proposed development in areas around military bases so neighborhoods are not affected by noise or put at risk in the event of a plane crash. The state does not require local governments to sign off on Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) maps, which dictate jet fighter flight paths.

"DCA is requesting we do this," said County Commissioner Dixie Spehar, who represents the neighborhoods around the Boca Chica base. "This basically complies with Florida statutes. This is not an adoption of the AICUZ."

The recent change to the jet noise and danger zone maps has stirred controversy among residents in the Lower Keys, as the flight path was shifted away from the upscale community of Key Haven and not away from any other communities. Residents have challenged the change, saying it was done without the Navy conducting the proper environmental impact study. They also

Find your piece of Paradise!
305-292-3889

KEYS REAL ESTATE

KEYS JOBS

LOWER KEYS

MIDDLE KEYS

UPPER KEYS

Florida Keys Business Directory

Storm Central

Florida Keys

COLUMNS
[Business](#)
[Commentary](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Keys Life](#)
[Food](#)
[Sports](#)

OBITUARIES
[Death Notices](#)

CLASSIFIEDS
[View Classifieds](#)
[Submit Classified Ad](#)

COMMUNITY
[Local Links](#)
[Around the Keys](#)

GOVERNMENT
[Local, State & Federal Links](#)

ABOUT US
[Our History](#)
[Our Staff](#)
[Keys Media Guide](#)
[Advertising Rates](#)
[Employment Opportunities](#)



Daily news for Key West and the Florida Keys



THE CITIZEN
Missed your paper today?
 For redelivery or account credit, call us in Key West at (305) 292-7777 Option 4, in Marathon call

charge the Navy brought in the much louder F-18A Super Hornet in 2002 without receiving the input of the neighbors or conducting a noise study.

Neighbors have said jet noise has increased, with some saying it has become unbearable, in the past year to two years.

"They are asking the Navy to tell them what to do," Geiger Key resident Russ Scavelli said of the county. "If the county adopts what the Navy is saying, they will have property owners filing lawsuits about loss of property values. I will be one of them."

Navy base officials contend the AICUZ changes reflect a long public process that began in 2000 and involved open meetings and discussions with Monroe County planners. Capt. J.R. Brown, base commander, provided a timeline of events at a meeting last week designed to answer residents' questions about the AICUZ and jet noise.

Brown argued the recent noise complaints may have been generated from an increase in training at the air station in 2006 and 2007. Active hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005 reduced the number of training flights in September and October, as seven storms brushed the Florida Keys during those two years. The 2005 hurricane season also damaged the base and limited training there.

The number of flights this year is below 2004 and 2003 levels, according to information provided by the Navy.

"This is a very good amendment," Navy base spokesman Jim Brooks said. "It's good for the Navy. It's good for the county. And it's good for the health, safety and well being of the residents. There is responsibility on both sides."

tohara@keysnews.com

Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007

More News Stories

- Headline:** [City sued over AIDS housing density](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[Street dispute talks resume](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[Accident closes the Stretch](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[Storm diverts cruise ships to Key West](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[County gives Navy voice on growth](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[The maze that Mingo built](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007
[Moped driver dies in crash](#)
 Published on Wednesday, October 31, 2007



CITIZEN'S VOICE

"The man with the homophobic sign at Fantasy Fest was exercising his freedom of speech — albeit...
[Get the whole story](#)

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1873 The Virginius, flying the American flag, was captured by the Spanish off the southern coast of...
[Get the whole story](#)

WEBCAMS IN PARADISE

It doesn't get any better than this
 Watch the sunset from Mallory Square or enjoy a virtual Margarita at Sloppy Joe's.
[Check out our Keys Web Cams.](#)

SEARCH OUR ARCHIVES

Search our [archives](#) for past stories using keywords, publication date, or author.



KEYS LODGING

From 5-star resorts to scenic camp ground, you'll find it all in our [guide to lodging.](#)



PHOTO GALLERY



Check out the Photo Gallery Weekly for New Keys Photos!
[Click here to view photos](#)

VISITING THE KEYS?