

## **Show Your Support for Beaufort's Joint Strike Fighters!**

The Department of Defense last month released its draft Environmental Impact Statement and suggested that MCAS Beaufort receive 3 operational and 2 training squadrons when the F-35B arrives in 2014. This investment of technology will mean a significant economic investment in our region and further secure MCAS Beaufort against future base closure rounds.

We ask that you show your support for the DOD's recommendation either by attending a June 22 public meeting at the Beaufort Holiday Inn and submitting your comment there, or by sending in a comment either online or via mail. Details of all of these options are below.

Please visit [www.f35beaufort.com](http://www.f35beaufort.com) or [/www.facebook.com/f35beaufort](https://www.facebook.com/f35beaufort) for more details!

Beaufort's public listening session will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on June 22 at the Holiday Inn in Beaufort:

- At this meeting you will have an opportunity to write and submit your comment in support of the F-35B and MCAS Beaufort.
- You don't have to stay from 4 to 7 p.m., so we ask that you stop in to show your support
- The session is a drop-in and will feature several stations with information on the F-35B, its design, the impact, and noise issues
- The public meeting also will feature an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter cockpit simulator!

Online comments will be accepted through July 12 and can be submitted by going to:

<http://www.usmcjsfeast.com/Comments.aspx>

Written comments also will be accepted through July 12 and can be mailed to:

USMC F-35B East Coast Basing EIS

P.O. Box 56488

Jacksonville, FL 32241-6488



## **Operation Facts:**

- MCAS Beaufort will receive 88 F-35B high-tech, fighter-attack jets
- The base will receive 3 operational squadrons and 2 training squadrons
- The squadrons will arrive in 2014

## **Operation Impacts:**

- It will strengthen MCAS Beaufort's position against future closure
- It will mean more than \$350 million in new construction
- It will create more than 4,000 construction-related jobs
- It will create more than 200 full-time civilian jobs
- It will add to the region's competitiveness as aeronautics/defense industry hub
- The potential pilot training for partner countries could increase tourism

## **Dollars and Cents\*:**

- In 2009, MCAS Beaufort contributed \$615 million to the local economy
- In 2009, the military (MCAS, Naval Hospital Beaufort, Parris Island) contributed more than \$1 billion to the region's economy

\* From the "Economic Impacts of the Military in Beaufort County" by Dr. Donald L. Schunk

## **Additional Talking Points**

- The F-35B and prosperity of MCAS Beaufort will mean jobs for our community
- The arrival of the F-35B at MCAS Beaufort will secure a more than \$1 billion Defense-based industry in Beaufort County.
- All aspects of our community and economy ranging from the small businessman to tourism, housing and education are dependent on the successful deployment of the F-35B to MCAS Beaufort and the public's support of the Air Station's mission.