SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

September 11, 2023; 2pm ET

Theme and Speakers
Theme: OLDCC Military Installation Resilience Review: South Florida
Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison, GA Sea Grant (CRRAWG Work Group Lead)
Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) and Christina Miskis (CMiskis@sfrpc.com) – South Florida Regional Planning Council
Rick Miller (rmiller@pharosmissioncritical.com) – South Florida Defense Alliance
SERPPAS Updates - Addie Thornton

Discussion
- South Florida Military Installation Resilience Review – Rick Miller, Christina Miskis, & Isabel Cosio Carballo
  - Featured 4 installations in South Florida: South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility, U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) – Miami/U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), Homestead Air Reserve Base, and Naval Air Station Key West.
    - All four installations provide vital services
  - The core of the effort took about 16 months and wrapped up in July of 2023; the last two months have been spent working on the final report
  - It is just as important to identify what the installation is doing well, as it is to identify problem areas
  - One of the challenges faced was the perception that the community did not need to be involved “behind the fence line”; the study has helped strengthen civil-military engagement and integration
  - The four installations are regionally interdependent and nationally important, which is why the study was approached at a regional level
    - The area is adjacent to the largest contiguous test and training range in the Continental U.S. over the Gulf of Mexico, making it critical for weapons testing
    - Also important for communications
  - Every part of the process was focused on connecting back to the installation mission (Does this deliver or help the military deliver on what it is required to do?)
Stakeholder engagement was integral to the process, both within the military and the community. A “boots on the ground” approach was taken to the study to better understand the perceived vulnerabilities in a real-world context. Assets were assessed for vulnerabilities and then scored to prioritize which issues to tackle first. Guideline and tools were developed as part of the process that can be used long after the study is done.

Recommended projects for each installation fell into various categories:
- South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility: Joint Participation Agreements, Shoreline Protection, Roadway Improvements, and Resilient Utilities
- USAG-MIAMI/SOUTHCOM: Resilient Utilities, ROW Improvements, Attainable Housing, and Resilience Hub
  - Required working with community partners to come up with creative solutions
- Homestead Air Reserve Base: Joint Participation Agreement, Transit & Transportation, Power Utilities, Water & Wastewater Utilities, Natural Infrastructure, and Land Management
- Naval Air Station Key West: Joint Participation Agreement, Shoreline Stabilization & Security, Resilient Utilities, Stormwater Infrastructure, Roadway Improvements, and Attainable Housing & Resilience Hub

Next Steps
- Vital to continue the community-military partnership by creating a stakeholder group
- There are plans for 6, 8 and, 12 month milestones to keep the process on track

Discussion
- Q: Are there any examples of some MIRR funded projects that have come out of the process?
  - A: Since the study is just now wrapping up no projects have been started yet but several dozen projects have been recommended that cover short, mid, and long terms.
- Q: Have you identified a funding source to support the ongoing stakeholder group?
  - A: We will be having a conversation about that with our project manager at the DoD to see what funds are available.
- Q: Could you explain the idea of a Resilience Hub further?
  - A: There has been an agreement reached to do a public/private housing project on FAA owned land near the SOUTHCOM facility to support the military workforce. The resilience hub is a network of locations like these in vulnerable or challenged communities that offer community services. The idea is that these will become a natural point of integration and connection to county and/or city emergency services in times of crisis.
- Q: How many of the projects recommended for each location had previously been identified by a local plan or CIP?
  - A: There were already existing “global” issues that the communities were aware of (e.g., beach erosion) and the study was able to identify specific areas of need and give more tailored recommendations. The issues were already known but the study was able to provide more detail from a military perspective.
The next work group meeting will be Monday, October 16th, at 2pm EST.