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The Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Partner Agencies, Announce Joint Land Use Study Planning Grant

INDIANAPOLIS—The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Radius Indiana and the Indiana Office of Defense Development (IODD) today announced a \$200,000 planning grant has been awarded from the Department of Defense to commission a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The grant will be used to study NSA Crane and the compatibility of its growth with the surrounding counties.

A JLUS is funded by the Department of Defense to make recommendations for land use agreements between a defense installation and its surrounding communities. OCRA, Radius Indiana and the county governments involved in the study will also contribute financial support. NSA Crane occupies parts of Daviess, Greene, Martin, Lawrence and Sullivan counties.

“The collaborative effort of the Joint Land Use Study process benefits both the installation and the communities involved,” said Bill Davis, Executive Director at the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. “This process seeks the best possible future for the local communities and the installation.”

“With procurements of more than a billion dollars in products and services annually, salaries and benefits of \$326.6 million per year in the Radius Indiana region alone, and more than \$2 million a day poured into Indiana’s economy, NSA Crane is an economic powerhouse for this region,” said Becky Skillman, President/CEO of Radius Indiana. “We have worked closely with Crane to ensure it remains viable for both defense and national security, as well as the economic benefits it provides to the region.”

“The Joint Land Use Study process challenges the participants to design strategies to protect the public’s health, safety and welfare, as well as our current and future military operational capacities,” added Duane Embree of the Indiana Office of Defense Development.

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann oversees the Indiana Office of Defense Development and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. OCRA’s mission is to promote community prosperity to strengthen Indiana’s economy by providing capacity-building solutions to assure ready, marketable, and competitive communities for economic growth. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit www.in.gov/ocra.

Radius Indiana is a regional partnership representing the counties of Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington in south central Indiana. Its mission is to lead regional collaboration by leveraging the diverse assets of Southern Indiana to drive attraction, retention and expansion of business, thereby increasing employment and investment opportunities and quality of life within the region.

The Indiana Office of Defense Development focuses on growing Indiana's defense sector by promoting the defense assets located in Indiana. IODD will develop goals and strategies in the three key areas of installations, industry and innovation.