

## 6. USE OF EMPORIA-GREENSVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AS A PRACTICE FIELD FOR NAVY PROP PLANES

Chairman Jones indicated that he's been contacted by a group of his constituents that would like to speak to the Board regarding concerns that they have with use of the Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport as a practice field for Navy prop planes.

For those who may not be aware, the U.S. Navy has recently prepared and released to the public a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental effects that may result from the Navy's proposal to conduct regular, scheduled E-2C/D Hawkeye and C-2A Greyhound Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) operations at either Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport or at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). Under the proposal, these twin engine, turboprop aircraft would conduct up to 20,000 FCLP passes annually at the selected field. The Navy has not identified a preferred site in this EA.

The Navy has scheduled two public meetings to provide information and to obtain public comment on the Draft EA. These meetings will be conducted as informal open house sessions, providing members of the public the opportunity to ask questions of Navy representatives as well as the opportunity to comment in writing on the Draft EA. The first meeting will be conducted September 25 at the Golden Leaf Commons at the Greenville County government complex at 1300 Greenville County Circle, Emporia, Va. The second will be conducted September 27 at the visitor's center at WFF. Both meetings will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If the Navy selects Emporia, it would enter into a 1 year lease with nine 1 year options. The Navy contemplates resolving its carrier jet OLF requirements within that 10 year time frame.

Use of either of these 2 sites will reduce the regional OLF capacity shortfall presently reported by the Navy. For that reason, this proposal is to the advantage of the communities opposed to the carrier jet OLF. However, the Navy's plan is limited to no more than 10 years of operations, after which the OLF controversy is projected to have been resolved with the construction of a new OLF.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**