



# NEWS RELEASE

## United States Air Force

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### **Air Force transfers final property remaining at former Myrtle Beach AFB**

SAN ANTONIO, TX. – Military ownership of former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base ended yesterday when the Air Force transferred the final 2.4 acres of the former base to Horry County. A formal ceremony commemorating the transfer is scheduled for October 27, 2010 at the Base Recreation Center.

“Myrtle Beach Air Force Base has a long, proud history of service to our nation,” said Robert Moore, Director of the Air Force Real Property Agency. “Since closing the base has completely transformed itself. It now serves the Myrtle Beach community, providing it with a new commercial air terminal, over 1,200 homes, more than 300,000 square feet of commercial space, health care facilities, and multiple park and recreation facilities.”

The former base consisted of 3,937 acres and has been transferred to the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, Horry County, and several other organizations. Redevelopment includes an International Airport, The Market Common urban village, residential development and other commercial facilities. Tenants include the American Red Cross, Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Allied Healthcare.

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Myrtle Beach Air Force Base was established in 1940 as a World War II training base and was also used for coastal patrols during the war. After the war it was a front-line USAF base in the Cold War, Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War of 1990. The 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Day Wing/Tactical Fighter Wing, based there from 1956 – 1993, deployed squadrons in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, with major service in Lebanon, Germany, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

“Since the announcement of Myrtle Beach’s closure, we have been working with our partners at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, Horry County, and the City of Myrtle Beach to achieve our mutual goal of transferring this former military property for beneficial reuse,” said Cathy Jerrard, BRAC Environmental Coordinator. “With the transfer of this final parcel, all of the former Myrtle Beach AFB is in the hands of the local community.”

Although the Air Force will no longer be a landowner at Myrtle Beach, it will be actively involved for years to come to complete the environmental cleanup. Remedy optimization has been implemented at several sites under the long-term Performance Based Contract awarded in 2008. To date the Air Force has spent \$60.1 million to clean up a variety of environmental sites. Of the original 192 sites in the Installation Restoration Program, only 16 remain open.

The Air Force Real Property Agency is responsible for remediation and property transfer at 40 former Air Force installations throughout the U.S. under the Base Realignment and Closure program. At the height of the BRAC process, AFRPA managed 87,000 acres, or about 137 square miles of property. In the two decades since the first BRAC round in 1988, the agency has

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transferred 89 percent, or more than 116 square miles of land – twice the area of Washington, D.C. – back to communities for public use. Throughout the transfer process, the Air Force remains committed to protecting human health and the environment.