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### 633d Air Base Wing

Setting the Standard

In Air Supremacy



Aerial shot of LAFB

Protection of the natural resources under its stewardship is an integral part of the Air Force mission. This brochure highlights some of the important natural resources found on JBLE-Langley in the hope that it will foster general interest in and awareness of their values.

### *Did you know...*

In 1969, the Air Force National Resources Activity was reassigned from the Office of the Inspector General (Assistant for Natural Resources) to the Office of the Director, Civil Engineering, HQ USAF. An Assistant for Natural Resources position was established for coordinating all Air Force natural resources programs, such as forestry, fish and wildlife conservation, air and water pollution, noise, soil management, solid wastes, pesticide problems, and bird/aircraft strike hazards (BASH). The following year, the Directorate of Civil Engineering was designated the OPR for all Air Force environmental protection matters. Previously, CE shared this responsibility with the Air Force Surgeon General. To increase the effectiveness of the pollution control programs and to upgrade the importance of environmental considerations, the late General Guy H. Goddard (Director of Civil Engineering, 1968-1971) established the Environmental Protection Group in July 1970. This was the forerunner of today's Environmental Division in the Office of The Civil Engineer.

### **JBLE-Langley**

For more information, contact the Civil Engineering, Environmental Flight, Natural Resources Section at  
(757) 764-1090

## *JBLE—Langley*

### *633CES/CEIE*



### *Natural Resources*

In 1916 Langley Airfield was established as a government-sponsored aviation research and development center under an agreement between the Army, Navy, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). JBLE-Langley is now the oldest continuously active air base in the United States.

In 1948, the United States Air Force was created and Langley Airfield became Langley Air Force Base. Since that time Langley has become part of . Joint Base Langley Eustis and home to the Air Combat Command Headquarters and the 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing. About 12,000 active personnel are stationed at JBLE-Langley.

Langley AFB wishes to conserve the soil, water, landscapes, wetlands, wildlife, and outdoor recreational assets as essential elements of the Natural Resources Program. There are many ways to enjoy and appreciate the abundant amount of flora and fauna, including those listed in this brochure. Take time to learn about the many available avenues for enjoying the natural resources at Langley Air Force Base.

### **Shellbank Area**

The Shellbank Area is the southwest area of Langley that also includes the B-52 Memorial. The memorial is located by Langley's front gate and is excellent place to watch local wildlife.

The B-52 debuted in 1965 and continues to be the backbone in bombing planes for the U.S. Air Force. The Shellbank area is a prime spot to observe the wildlife and the serene environment here on the base.



### **Native Flora**

There are over 100 different species of floral known to occur at JBLE-Langley. The Trumpet flower, shown to the right, is one of the many colorful flowers that are scattered across the base.



### **Native Fauna**

Native wildlife includes a wide variety of game and fur-bearing species, small mammals, raptors, waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. The Chesapeake Bay attracts a variety of wildlife to the Langley Area. Twelve species of protected, or candidate, birds, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants have been identified to potentially occur within a 50-mile radius of the base.

**Osprey** (right)  
**Heron** (below)  
Birds and airplanes share the air in and around Langley Air Force Base.



**A Speckled Turtle** (above) relaxes on a log in the reservoir at Bethel Park.

### **Indigenous Wildlife**

- \* Eagles
- \* Deer
- \* Cottontail
- \* Blue Crabs
- \* Scallops
- \* Oysters
- \* Fin Fishes
- \* Herons
- \* Blue Jays
- \* Seagulls
- \* Mallards/Ducks
- \* Ospreys
- \* Mockingbirds
- \* Red-winged Black-birds

### **Bethel Park**

Bethel Park is a 284-acre park that provides facilities for the public to enjoy. Base



improvements over the years have included upgrading piers, adding picnic shelters, recreational trails, and the FAMCAMP. Fishing, boating, and picnic areas with

stunning views of the reservoir are all entertainment opportunities that are available to the community. At the Dickman Recreational Area, located at Bethel Park, one can take a boat out to admire the native forest and shrub species while observing the indigenous wildlife. In 2004, an estimated 40,000 people utilized the Bethel Park area.



### **Boardwalk**



A 1680 foot boardwalk was built in 1992 through one of Langley's wetland areas. Local Boy Scouts along with other volunteers donated time and energy to create the boardwalk to be a place

where people can convene to enjoy nature. The 60,000 square foot marsh that surrounds the boardwalk was created in 1987 to replace other wetlands that had been filled at other locations on Langley. The marsh is home to many variations of wildlife including the Blue Heron and the Fiddler Crab. The tidal waters rise twice a day to fill the area.

