

**TRANSPORTATION CLAIMS TO FAME**



**First Coast Expressway**  
Connecting I-10 to I-95



**2 CSX Rail-lines**



**Clay County Port**  
St. Johns River Frontage



**2 Airports in Clay**  
12 Regional

# Aviation and Defense

**70K**

Acre premier installation for the Florida National Guard.

**3K**

Annual military retirees enter local civilian

**2400**

Acre general aviation airport with 5,044 ft and 4,899 ft runways.

**2 MI**

From NAS Jacksonville.

## OUR POINTS OF PRIDE:



### A-Rated School District

JH & HS Career and Technical Education program offers 35 specialties with students earning approx. 2,000 nationally recognized industry certifications each year.



### Highest population growth projections

in the region over next 15 years. Population growth projections are 4x that of



**Labor costs are 15 to 30% lower** in Clay County vs. Jacksonville MSA



## JJ Harris, President of Economic Development

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Immediately south of Jacksonville along the western banks of the St. Johns River, Clay County has all the amenities of a major metro area. Clay is home to a variety of industries, technical businesses, and numerous business parks. North Florida's newest interstate, the First Coast Expressway (FCX), is currently under construction and will connect I-10 in Duval to I-95 in St. Johns. New business development is already under construction along the path of the FCX.

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Clay County's rich military history and the continued regional concentration of U.S. Armed Forces operations in Northeast Florida provide both opportunities and resources for the growing aerospace and defense cluster in Clay County. The large number of technically skilled military personnel that exit or retire from service each year supply Clay County firms with a dedicated and highly skilled aerospace and defense workforce. Among the highly trained personnel who exit the military each year, 3,000 choose to stay and work in the Northeast Florida region.

Clay County is home to unique development sites that are ideally suited to aerospace and defense industries, offering airstrips and hangar space. Reynolds Park is a 1,700 acre industrial park with a private runway, served by rail and water connections. Keystone Airpark is a general aviation airport with two runways and adjacent commercial/industrial parcels.

Naval Air Station Jacksonville is one of the Navy's finest and fastest growing installations. It is the recipient of the 2012 Presidential Excellence Award and 2013 Commander, Navy Installations Command Excellence Award. It is the largest Navy base in the Southeast Region and third in the nation. As a master air and industrial base, Naval Air Station Jacksonville supports U.S. and allied forces specializing in anti-submarine warfare and training of the best aviators in the world.

One of the defining features of Clay County and Northeast Florida is the heavy concentration of military facilities and assets employing over 50,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel regionally. The military has long had a significant presence in Clay County (dating back to WWII).

One active military installation remains in Clay County. Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is a 70,000 acre training site and it is the premier installation for the Florida National Guard. The base also serves other military services and local, state and federal agencies.

## TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

Company	Employees
Parallon Business Solutions	1,700
Orange Park Medical Center	1,500
St. Vincent's Clay	1,200
WalMart	1,014
bestbet Orange Park	600
VyStar Credit Union	365
Vac-Con, Inc.	300
Life Care Center of OP	273
Kindred Hospitals, N. FL	245
Vallencourt Construction Co.	250

## COUNTY INCENTIVES

### Economic Development (Tax Increment Grant)

Targets commercial projects that add to the tax base, project new employment in excess of 10 direct, full-time equivalent employees and makes at least a \$1M capital investment.

### Manufacturing Equipment Capital Investment Grant

An incentive designed for relocating companies that invest at least \$1M in manufacturing equipment at the Clay County business location.

### Regulatory Relief

The Clay County government focuses on remaining very pro-business and supportive through fast-track permitting and approvals for job creating economic development projects.

### Large Employer Retention Grant

An incentive designed to retain large employers (over 100 employees) in Clay County.

### Industrial Development Revenue Bonds

Tax exempt bonds to finance the expansion or relocation of industrial development.

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