



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release – 58-12
September 6, 2012

NAVY REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The U.S. Navy has 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.

Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress is the single, local FCLP outlying landing field supporting two major naval air installations, Naval Air Station Oceana and Naval Station Norfolk Chambers Field. NALF Fentress lacks the capacity to support all FCLP training requirements under all operational conditions. As a result FCLP training for E-2 and C-2 aircraft is routinely conducted at NALF Fentress during late night and early morning hours (from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). Additionally, the training capacity shortfalls that result from having only one local facility to support two major naval air stations can require the use of alternative FCLP equipped airfields out of the local area.

Public input is very important in order for the Navy to fully understand community concerns and relevant issues. Individuals interested in the project are encouraged to provide their comments on the document within the public comment period from September 06 to October 05, 2012.

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AIRFIELD USE EA-2-2-2-2

A printed copy and an electronic copy of the Draft EA for public review have been placed in

- Richardson Memorial Library at 100 Spring Street, Emporia, Virginia 23847
- Emporia-Greensville Regional Library at 139 Airport Drive, Emporia, Virginia 23847
- Chincoteague Island Library at 4077 Main Street, Chincoteague Island, Virginia 23336
- Eastern Shore Public Library at 23610 Front Street, P.O. Box 360, Accomack, Virginia 23301

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The Draft EA is also available online at:

https://portal.navfac.navy.mil/portal/page/portal/navfac/navfac_ww_pp/navfac_navfacmidlant_pp/midlant_ps/environmental_norfolk/tab3987837

Comments may be emailed to: NAVFAC ML_PAO@navy.mil or may be mailed to:

E-2/C-2 FCLP Operations EA Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Attn: Code EV21VC
6506 Hampton Boulevard, Building A
Norfolk, VA 23508

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 Greensville County government complex at 1300 Greensville 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.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media outlets requiring additional information should contact Mr. Ted Brown, USFF Public Affairs, at (757) 836-4427 or via email at theodore.brown@navy.mil.