

District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-P, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715. E-mail address: maria.e.delatorre@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Establishment of New and/or Modification of Existing Military Operations Areas Near Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the establishment of new and/or modification of existing Military Operations Areas (MOAs) near Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will serve as a cooperating agency on this EIS.

DATES: All written scoping comments should be postmarked by November 20, 2000. Public scoping open houses will be held to receive oral and/or written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS on October 23, 2000, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the Cape Hatteras High School, Highway 12, Buxton, North Carolina; October 24, 2000, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the Northside High School, 7860 Free Union Church Road, Pinetown, North Carolina; October 25, 2000, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the East Carteret High School, 3263 Highway 70, Beaufort, North Carolina; and October 26, 2000, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, 203 South Front Street, New Bern, North Carolina.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, statements and/or questions regarding scoping issues should be addressed to: Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, (Code BD33KK), 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, Virginia, 23511.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kelly Knight, telephone (757) 322-4886, fax (757) 322-4894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Establishment of new and/or modification of existing MOAs is required to provide military aviators with more realistic training opportunities. The purpose of this action is to eliminate required administrative airspeed reductions so that aircraft can maintain tactical flight profiles, and create additional SUA in order to optimize existing aviation training. Military aviators using existing SUA in the MCAS Cherry Point area are required to reduce airspeed to 250 knots or less prior to entering non-SUA below 10,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) and when transiting from one non-contiguous SUA to another. This airspeed reduction requires aircrews to initiate speed reduction prior to departing existing SUA, thereby terminating their tactical profile. This greatly diminishes training value due to decreased realism in tactical flight profiles and restricted tactical approach options, which require the repetition of non-tactical maneuvers during training. Second, expansion of SUA over land is desired to accommodate critical aircrew training requirements that do not require the use of restricted airspace such as air combat maneuvers, formation flight, air intercepts, staging and packaging of multiple aircraft strikes, and a larger acquisition area for simulated weapon systems delivery. These objectives cannot be met through non-SUA actions due to the space requirements to accommodate such operations and restrictive procedures inherent in Airspace for Special Use development and utilization.

Seven MOA alternatives have been identified so far, four individual MOA alternatives and three combination MOA alternatives, for consideration in the EIS. The individual MOA alternatives include: (1) Establishment of the Core MOA at a proposed location east of MCAS Cherry Point and extending from Cape Lookout north to Portsmouth Island and overlying the Cape Lookout National Seashore; (2) establishment of the Mattamuskeet MOA at a proposed location located northeast of MCAS Cherry Point and overlying portions of Pamlico, Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties and the Lake Mattamuskeet and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuges; (3) establishment of the Cherry MOA at a proposed location northwest of MCAS Cherry Point and overlying portions of Craven, Pamlico, Beaufort and Hyde counties; and (4) modification of the

Pamlico B MOA located northeast of MCAS Cherry Point and overlying the Pamlico Sound and portions of Carteret, Hyde and Dare counties. Unlike the first three proposed MOAs, Pamlico B is an existing MOA the use of which would be modified by lowering its base altitude from 8,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) to 3,000 feet MSL. All other existing dimensions would remain unchanged. The proposed floor for any MOA alternative under consideration is 3,000 feet above ground level. In addition to these four individual MOA alternatives, three combination MOA alternatives have been identified. They include: (1) Core and Mattamuskeet MOAs, (2) Core and Cherry MOAs, and (3) Core and Pamlico B MOAs. The No Action Alternative, which would neither establish new nor modify existing MOAs, will also be analyzed in this EIS.

Environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to, the effects on wildlife and threatened and endangered species, public lands and waters, civilian aviation, public health and safety, recreation, and community noise.

The Marine Corps will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the extent of issues to be addressed, and identifying significant issues related to this action. Public scoping meetings will be held as noted in the Dates section of this notice. These meetings will be advertised in area newspapers.

Marine Corps representatives will be available at these meetings to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern to the public. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are encouraged to take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS. Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comment on scoping issues in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the commentator believes the EIS should address. Written statements and/or questions regarding the scoping process should be mailed by November 20, 2000 to: Commander, Atlantic Division (Attn: Code BD33KK), Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23511.

Dated: September 25, 2000.

Elsie L. Munsell,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy,
(Environment and Safety).*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the West Coast Introduction of the MV-22 Tilt-Rotor Aircraft to Third and Fourth Marine Aircraft Wings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the West Coast introduction of the MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft to the Third and Fourth Marine Aircraft Wings.

DATES: All written comments must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Seven public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral and/or written comments from agencies and interested individuals on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS.

1. October 25, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at The Desert Inn, 44219 Sierra Highway, Lancaster, California;

2. November 1, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the County Administrative Center, 940 Main Street, Room 211, El Centro, California;

3. November 2, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Yuma Main Library, Auditorium, 350 Third Avenue, Yuma, Arizona;

4. November 6, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Torrey Pines High School, Lecture Hall, 3710 Del Mar Heights Road, San Diego, California;

5. November 7, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at San Clemente High School, Little Triton Theater, 700 Avenida Pico, San Clemente, California;

6. November 8, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Mira Mesa High School, Auditorium, 10510 Reagan Road, San Diego, California;

7. November 9, 2000, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Doug Gilkey, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190; telephone 619-532-3348, fax 619-532-2469, email gilkeyde@efdswn.navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MV-22 aircraft, known as the Osprey, represents a new technology in military aviation. This aircraft utilizes tilt-rotary technology to enable it to operate like a rotary-wing aircraft and a fixed-wing aircraft. The MV-22 will replace the aging CH-46 and CH-53 rotary-wing aircraft. In December 1999, the Department of the Navy completed an EIS for introduction of the MV-22 to the Second Marine Aircraft Wing supporting Fleet Marine Force training and operations at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The proposal being evaluated in this EIS is the basing and operation of seven squadrons of MV-22 aircraft in the Third Marine Aircraft Wing and two squadrons of MV-22 aircraft in the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing. The primary mission of the MV-22 in the Third and Fourth Marine Aircraft Wings will be to support Fleet Marine Force training and operations at MCB Camp Pendleton; accordingly, alternatives to be considered in the EIS are all aviation facilities within the operational radius of the MV-22 from MCB Camp Pendleton.

This proposal includes construction and/or renovation of facilities to accommodate the aircraft, and associated equipment and personnel. Also, the proposal includes the use of existing and potentially new outlying fields and other landing areas, as well as existing and potentially new airspace for military aircraft in support of both military training and operations.

The Marine Corps is currently evaluating all DoD West Coast installations to develop reasonable MV-22 siting alternatives. To date, five installations have been identified as potential receiving sites: Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Camp Pendleton, MCAS Miramar, MCAS Yuma, Naval Air Facility El Centro, and Edwards Air Force Base. Application of screening criteria will identify a range of reasonable alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIS and other siting alternatives may be considered as appropriate.

Environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS include: geological resources, biological resources, water resources, noise, air quality, land use compatibility, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice,

public health and safety, transportation/circulation, aesthetics, utilities, hazardous materials and solid waste.

The Marine Corps will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the extent of issues to be addressed, and identifying the significant issues related to this action. The Marine Corps will hold public scoping meetings as noted in the Addresses Section of this notice. These meetings will be advertised in area newspapers.

Marine Corps representatives will be available at these meetings to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern to the public. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are encouraged to take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS. Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comments on scoping issues in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the commentator believes the EIS should address.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2000, and mailed to: Commander, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190 (Attn: Mr. Doug Gilkey).

Dated: September 30, 2000.

Duncan Holaday,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy,
(Installations and Facilities).*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New