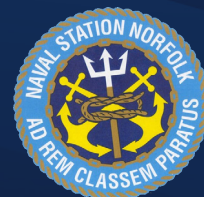




Environmental Assessment for
Home Basing of the
**MQ-25A STINGRAY CARRIER-BASED
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM**
at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia



Public Meeting Fact Sheet



Open House Public Meeting Schedule

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday May 20, 2025	Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library 111 W. Ocean View Ave Norfolk, VA 23503	4-6 p.m

This public meeting is an opportunity to learn about the project and provide comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment.

Please visit the project website for more information or to provide comments.



Proposed Action

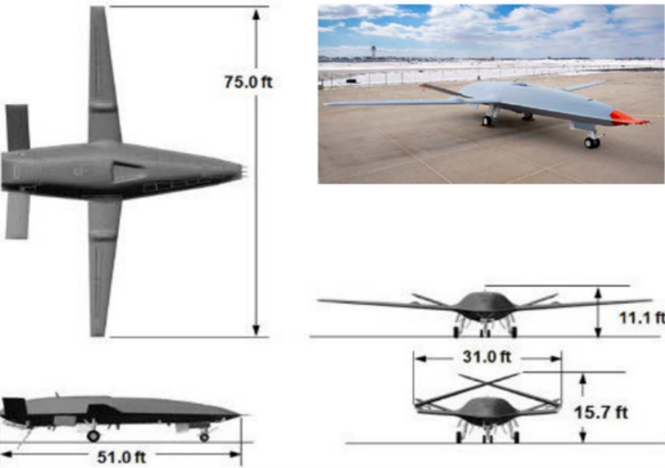
What is the Navy proposing?

The Navy proposes to home base and operate a new MQ-25A Stingray Carrier-Based Unmanned Aircraft System squadron at Naval Station Norfolk.

Why is the Navy proposing this action?

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to enhance aircraft carrier capability and flexibility by adding a new unmanned aircraft that provides aerial refueling and reconnaissance capabilities.

MQ-25A Stingray Air Vehicle - Primary Characteristics



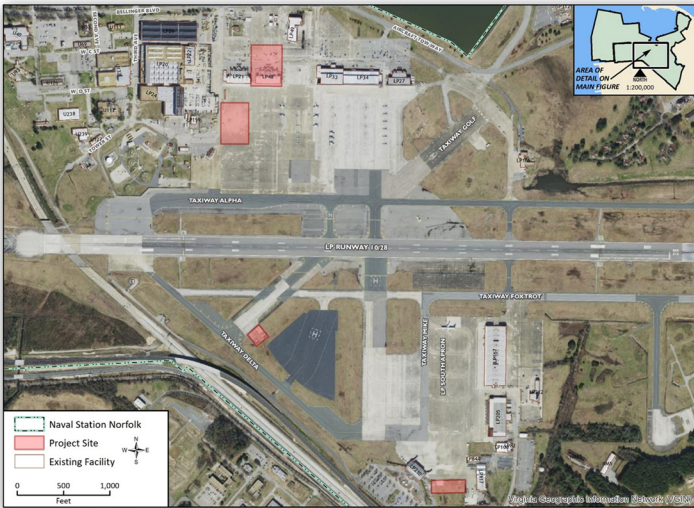
Where would the Proposed Action take place?

The proposed home base location for the Stingray on the East Coast is Naval Station Norfolk. The Proposed Action does not establish new airspace, training ranges, or airfields.

When would the Proposed Action be implemented?

- **2026 - 2029:** proposed facility construction and renovation.
- **2029 - 2031:** command transition.
- **2032 - 2035:** phased occupancy of the facilities by aircraft and personnel.

Proposed Action Component	Number/Value
Stingray Squadrons	1
Stingray Aircraft	20
Total annual Stingray operations	960
Total annual maximum escort aircraft operations	2,880
Total annual operations- all aircraft (Percent increase*)	3,840 (+6%)
Personnel	+600
Facility Construction/Renovation (square feet)	86,000
Key: * = Change from baseline All numbers/values estimated/approximate	



Proposed Action Location Map
(Chambers Field at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia)

MQ-25A Stingray

The Stingray would integrate an unmanned aerial system into the carrier air wing. The Stingray would be the Navy's first carrier-based unmanned aircraft to function primarily as a mission refueling air vehicle. This would extend the combat range of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, the EA-18G Growler, and the F-35C Lightning II jet aircraft. The Stingray would also provide a secondary recovery tanking capability (refueling close to carrier), as well as reconnaissance capabilities.

Environmental Analysis

What are the findings of the environmental analysis?

The Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse effects to the human and natural environment. Because potential effects were considered to be negligible or nonexistent, the following resources were not evaluated in detail in the Draft EA: land use, geological resources, visual resources, hazardous materials and wastes, surface waters, emergency services, airspace designations, infrastructure, and socioeconomics. The Draft EA analyzed eight resource areas in detail. The results of the detailed analyses are summarized below.



Airspace and Public Safety

- No significant effects to Airspace and Public Safety.
- The Stingray is the latest generation of unmanned aircraft systems.
- Stingray pilots would undergo extensive training prior to controlling actual flights.
- Mishap rates for large military unmanned aircraft systems are low and comparable to manned fighter aircraft.
- An air traffic radar system or escort aircraft would provide required "detect and avoid" capability.
- No changes to Clear Zones or Accident Potential Zones.
- Flight paths would be similar to those currently flown.



Transportation

- No significant effects to transportation.
- Temporary increase in traffic during construction (2026-2029).
- Minimal increase in commuter traffic on West Bay Avenue (Gate 4) and I-564 (Gate 3A).



Cultural Resources

- No significant effects to cultural resources.
- Adverse effects to historic properties are not anticipated.
- Consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is ongoing.
- Tribal engagement is ongoing.



Water Resources

- No significant effects to water resources.
- Construction would occur on previously developed/disturbed land.
- Land management practices would be used to control erosion and sedimentation.
- Small area of wetlands and floodplains may be minimally affected during construction.



Biological Resources

- No significant effects to biological resources.
- Negligible effects to habitat and vegetation or the species that depend on them.
- Not likely to adversely affect the tricolored bat.
- Small increase in bird/wildlife aircraft strike risk.
- No effects to other threatened or endangered species.



Noise

- No significant effects from noise.
- No perceptible change to baseline noise.
- Stingray combined with maximum escort aircraft operations would result in an estimated 0.3 decibel day-night noise level increase.
- Stingray is quieter than most aircraft at Naval Station Norfolk.



Air Quality

- No significant effects to air quality.
- Emissions increase would be minimal and below applicable regulatory limits.

NEPA Process and Public Involvement

Please provide your comments and we appreciate your input.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

- NEPA requires federal agencies to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.
- NEPA considers the environmental effects of proposed projects through a comprehensive environmental analysis.

How to review a copy of the Environmental Assessment

- Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment are available at the following libraries:
 - » Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library
 - » Tidewater Community College/Virginia Beach Joint Use Library
- The Draft EA may also be viewed on or downloaded from the Navy's website:
<https://www.nepa.navy.mil/MQ25-East>

30-day Public Comment Period Starts
May 8, 2025

Public Information Meeting
May 20, 2025

**We
are here**

30-day Public Comment Period Ends
June 7, 2025

Final Environmental Assessment
Anticipated Fall 2025

Navy Decision
Anticipated Fall 2025

HOW TO COMMENT

Provide your comments **TODAY** by:



Filling out a comment form and placing it in the comment box.

Provide your comments by **MAIL**, postmarked no later than **June 7, 2025** to:



Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Atlantic
Attn: Navy MQ-25A Project Manager (Code EV22DS)
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23508

Submit your comments **ONLINE** via the project website:



www.nepa.navy.mil/MQ25-East



Comments must be submitted electronically or postmarked by June 7, 2025 to be considered in the Final Environmental Assessment.