

## **Appendix D: Coastal Consistency Determination**

This page intentionally left blank.

**FEDERAL AGENCY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT  
CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

**INTRODUCTION**

This document provides the State of Florida with the Department of the Navy's (Navy) Consistency Determination under Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, and 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 930, subpart c, for the proposed Advanced Helicopter Training System (AHTS) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field, Santa Rosa County, Florida (Figure 1). The information in this Consistency Determination is provided pursuant to 15 CFR part 930.39.

**REGULATORY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The CZMA, codified in 16 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) section 1451 et seq., established a comprehensive regulatory scheme for effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone and its natural resources. The CZMA encourages coastal states and provides a mechanism for them to develop, obtain federal approval for, and implement a broad-based coastal management program.

CZMA section 307 provides that federal agency activities shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. Section 307 applies to federal agency activity in a state's coastal zone and also to federal agency activity outside the coastal zone, if the activity affects a land or water use in or natural resources of the coastal zone. Federal agency activity includes activity performed by a federal agency, approved by a federal agency, or for which a federal agency provides financial assistance. Such activity, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative, must be demonstrated to be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's coastal management program, unless full consistency is otherwise prohibited by federal law (per 15 CFR part 930.32, "consistent to the maximum extent practicable"). Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1453, the term "coastal zone" specifically excludes "lands the use of which is by law subject solely to the discretion of or which is held in trust by the Federal Government, its officers or agents." Therefore, the coastal zone excludes NAS Whiting Field.

The State of Florida developed the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), which was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1981. The FCMP consists of a network of 24 Florida statutes, administered by multiple state agencies and water management districts. The FCMP includes enforceable policies that ensure the wise use and protection of the state's water, cultural, historic, and biological resources; minimize the state's vulnerability to coastal hazards; ensure compliance with the state's growth management laws; protect the state transportation system; and protect the state's proprietary interest as the owner of sovereignty submerged lands.

After review of the FCMP, the Navy determined policies that may be applicable to the proposed action and then conducted an "effects test" to determine whether the proposed action would have a reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on the state's coastal uses or resources. After conducting the effects test, the Navy determined that the proposed action may result in reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on Florida's coastal uses or resources. More specifically, the Navy determined that the proposed action operations would generate air emissions and noise with potential to affect coastal zone resources. The proposed facilities construction

on the military installation has potential to indirectly affect coastal zone resources. Therefore, the Navy has prepared this consistency determination.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION**

The Navy proposes to modernize the rotary-wing and tilt-rotor integrated pilot production training program at Training Air Wing Five located at NAS Whiting Field and its associated Navy Outlying Landing Fields (NOLFs), in Florida, by implementing the AHTS. The AHTS would involve the replacement of TH-57 Sea Ranger training helicopters, replacement of existing ground based training systems (i.e., simulators), an increase in operational training tempo, changes in operational tactics based on a new curriculum, construction of new facilities, and an increase in personnel.

The TH-57 would be replaced with a similar commercially available helicopter. As the specific commercial helicopter has not yet been selected, the new helicopter is referred to as the TH-XX. A surrogate helicopter, the Eurocopter UH-72 Lakota, is used to analyze the potential impacts from the TH-XX. The existing TH-57 helicopters would be replaced with 130 TH-XX helicopters. Training Air Wing Five would progressively transition to the TH-XX at a rate of 30 to 36 aircraft per year beginning in 2021, with the transition to be complete in the 2025 timeframe. The older TH-57 helicopters would gradually be retired during the transition period.

All TH-XX flight operations would be conducted at existing airfields and within airspace currently utilized by Training Air Wing Five. The total number of flight training hours would increase by approximately 22 percent. Proposed flight training with the TH-XX and Ground Based Training System includes helicopter familiarization, basic and radio instruments, and basic warfighting skills. Basic warfighting skills involve the following: energy management, night vision devices, terrain flight, formation flight, confined area and pinnacle landings, external load vertical replenishment operations, search and rescue with hoist, and shipboard operations. Flight patterns, altitudes, and airspeeds for training operations with the TH-XX would remain similar to those currently conducted with the TH-57. The new curriculum will include additional flight training operations that involve night vision devices, night formation flying, and search and rescue, skill sets identified as training gaps by Fleet helicopter pilots. The newer AHTS training syllabus would provide the right mix of virtual and actual training to maximize student pilot training. Nine additional simulators would be added to the Ground Based Training System in support of the TH-XX.

During the transition, both the TH-57 and TH-XX support, infrastructure, and maintenance actions would be required to continue meeting the student training needs of Training Air Wing Five. As the TH-XX increase in number, the TH-57 systems and support would diminish until the transition is complete.

Implementing the AHTS would require an increase of 33 military personnel and contractors. The AHTS would also require development of facilities and infrastructure to support the necessary training, maintenance, and operational requirements. Two temporary and two permanent facilities would be constructed for the new helicopter maintenance hangars and supporting ground-based training systems within the approximately 47-acre project area shown in Figure 2.

### **P-288 – AHTS Temporary Maintenance Hangar**

The proposed temporary hangar would be a commercially-available tension fabric structure. Construction would include a 52,534 square foot (SF) concrete pad with utility connections to support installation of a tension fabric structure and temporary trailers for crew, equipment, and administrative

space for temporary use at Whiting Field South. The tension fabric structure would be located north of the existing aircraft parking apron located on the west side the existing hangar Building 1406 (Figure 2). The hangar would accommodate 30 helicopters. The structures would include full fire suppression and fire alarm throughout. This project would also provide new utility lines and connections to existing electrical, water, sewer, and communications utilities. The estimated construction period would be from January through November 2020. Once the permanent aircraft maintenance hangar is constructed, the tension fabric structure would be removed from the site and the utility systems and concrete pad would be secured/abandoned in place.

### **NF 18-1783 - Temporary Ground Based Training System Structure**

The proposed temporary Ground Based Training System would be a 15,000 SF temporary, relocatable, pre-engineered structure that would be installed on a concrete pad. The project would also include two temporary and relocatable administrative, breakroom, and restroom trailers totaling approximately 1,440 SF. The new structures would require connections to the existing electrical, water, sewer, communications, and telephone utilities that would be incorporated into the existing base infrastructure. The Ground Based Training System facility would be located on an empty lot on the corner of USS Long Island Street and USS Ranger Street (Figure 2). The building would accommodate up to eight simulators and eight briefing spaces. The estimated construction period would be from fall 2019 through summer 2021. Following construction of the permanent AHTS facility, the temporary Ground Based Training System improvements would be removed from the site and the utility systems would be secured/abandoned in place.

### **P-286 – AHTS Aircraft Maintenance Hangar**

The proposed permanent hangar would be an approximately 166,000 SF AHTS-compliant Type I aircraft maintenance hangar consisting of high bay space, crew and equipment space, administrative space, and data network areas. The project would include the extension of the aircraft parking apron near the hangar. The AHTS hangar would be designed to support the 130 new helicopters. Site improvements would include grading, pavements, curbs, sidewalks, fencing, landscaping and signage. Mechanical utilities include new water, sanitary sewer, and storm water collection systems. Electrical utilities include new primary and secondary systems, communication systems, and site lighting. Built-in equipment includes a floor-level fire suppression system in the maintenance bays. P-286 would be located along the flight line (Figure 2) and would involve the demolition of Buildings 1406, 1454, 2977 and, 2978. The estimated construction period would be from the fall of 2022 through the spring of 2025.

### **P-282 – AHTS Flight Simulator Facility**

The proposed AHTS Flight Simulator Facility would be 52,052 SF operational trainer facility to accommodate 18 TH-XX flight trainers (12 Level 7 and 6 Level 6) and the associated support space. Construction would include a two-story steel frame building with a reinforced concrete structural slab with a pile foundation. The facility would include spaces for brief/de-brief, instructors, simulator maintenance, and administrative support. The facility would include fire protection, environmentally controlled HVAC system, electrical and mechanical utilities, parking lot, and site improvements. The project would demolish Building 3005 (34,776 SF) and renovate 2,928 SF of Building 2946 by relocating existing simulators and converting the space back to classrooms. P-282 would be located in the corner of USS Enterprise Street and USS Lexington Circle (Figure 2). The estimated construction period would be from fall 2024 to summer 2025.

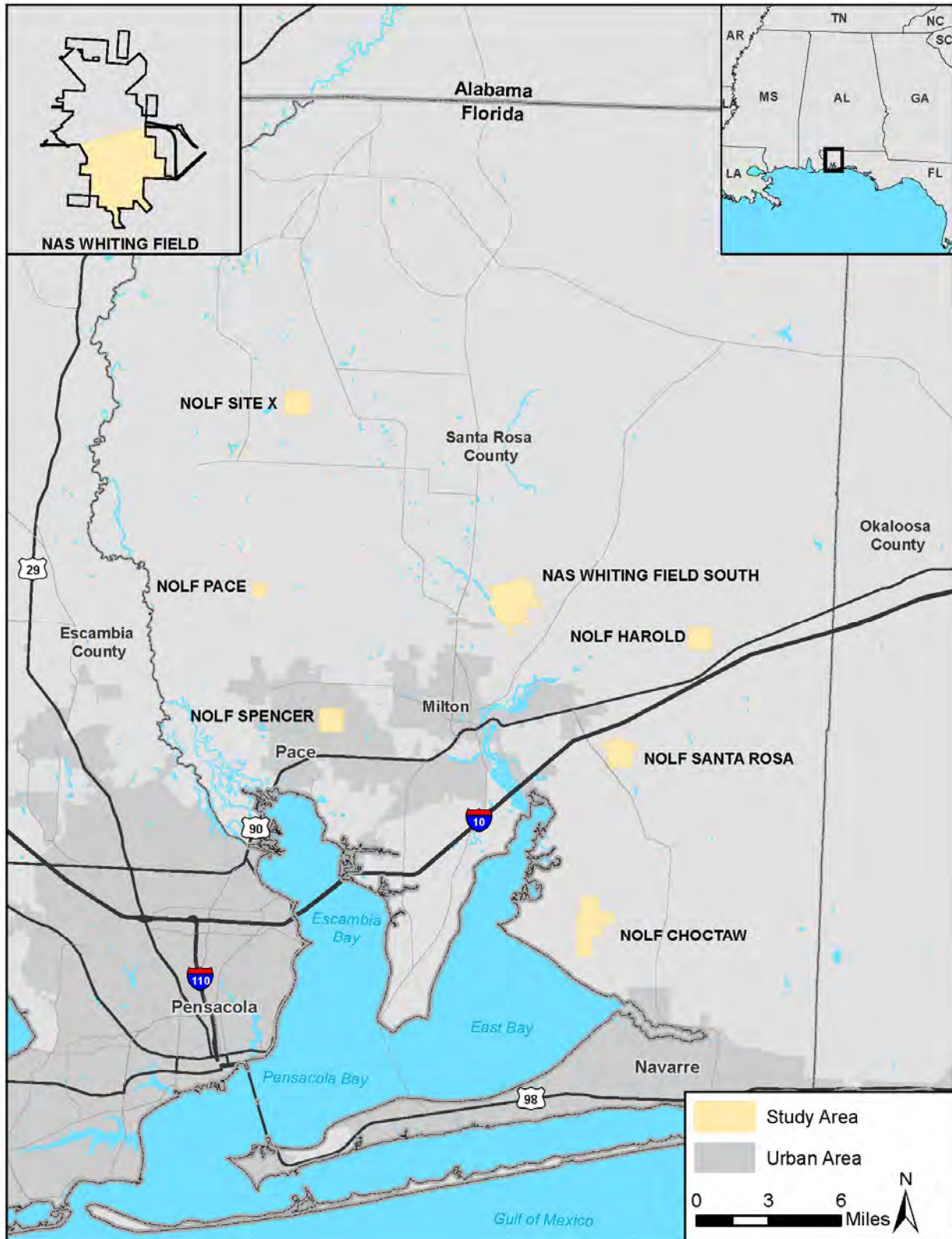


Figure 1: Project Location Area

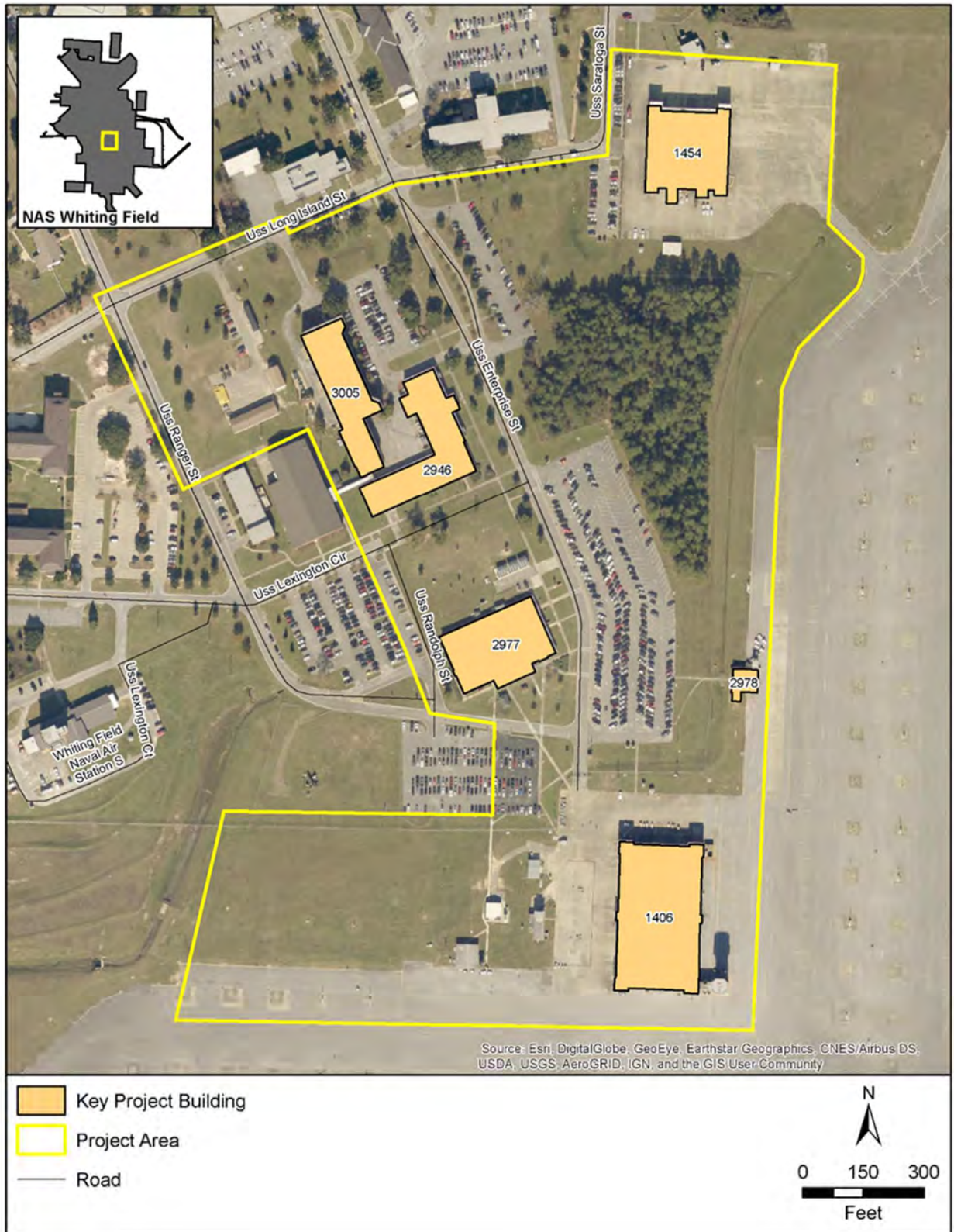


Figure 2: AHTS Project Area

## **FEDERAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW**

The FCMP is composed of state statutes, which constitute the enforceable policies of the Coastal Management Program. Statutes addressed as part of the FCMP consistency review that are not applicable to the proposed action are discussed in Table 1. Enforceable policies that are applicable to the proposed action are analyzed below. As described in the consistency evaluation, the Navy has determined that modernization of rotary-wing and tilt-rotor integrated pilot production training program by implementing the AHTS at NAS Whiting Field and its NOLFs would be either fully consistent or consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the applicable enforceable policies of the FCMP.



**Table 1: Florida Coastal Management Program Enforceable Policies Not Applicable to the Proposed Action**

<i>Florida Statute</i>	<i>Legal Scope</i>	<i>Consistency Evaluation</i>
Chapter 161 <i>Beach and Shore Preservation</i>	Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within Department of Environmental Protection to regulate construction on or seaward of the state's beaches.	The proposed action would not include construction within or adjacent to any beach or shoreline and would not affect beach and shore management, specifically as it pertains to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Construction Permit Program</li> <li>• Coastal Construction Control Line Program</li> <li>• Coastal Zone Protection Program</li> </ul>
Chapter 163, Part II <i>Growth Policy; County and Municipal Planning; Land Development Regulation</i>	Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest.	The proposed action would not affect local (municipal or county) government comprehensive plans because it would not affect public health, safety, comfort, good order, appearance, convenience, law enforcement, fire prevention, general welfare, concentration of population on the land, public facilities and services, or natural resources.
Chapter 186 <i>State and Regional Planning</i>	Details state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water use, land development, and transportation.	The proposed action would not affect Florida state- or regional-level planning requirements and would not have a negative effect on state plans for water use, land development, or transportation.
Chapter 252 <i>Emergency Management</i>	Provides for planning and implementation of the state's response to, efforts to recover from, and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters.	The proposed action would not have an effect on the ability of the state to respond to or recover from natural or man-made disasters and would not affect evacuation procedures or food-control procedures.
Chapter 253 <i>State Lands</i>	Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property of this state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands.	Construction associated with the proposed action would occur entirely within NAS Whiting Field property. No state lands would be disturbed during the construction of temporary and permanent facilities and, therefore, would not be affected.

<i>Florida Statute</i>	<i>Legal Scope</i>	<i>Consistency Evaluation</i>
<p>Chapter 258  <i>State Parks and Preserves</i></p>	<p>Addresses administration and management of state parks and preserves.</p>	<p>The proposed action would not impact the administration or management of state parks and preserves. Proposed TH-XX training flights would follow the existing course rules currently used for TH-57, which overfly the following state parks and preserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course rules for NOLF Site X overfly the Escambia River State Wildlife Management Area.</li> <li>• Course rules for NOLF Harold overfly the Blackwater River State Park.</li> <li>• Course rules for NOLF Santa Rosa overfly the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area, the Blackwater River State Park.</li> <li>• Course rules for NOLF Choctaw overfly the Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve, Yellow River Wildlife Management Area, Yellow River Marsh State Preserve Park, and the Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area.</li> </ul>
<p>Chapter 259  <i>Land Acquisitions for Conservation or Recreation</i></p>	<p>Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands.</p>	<p>The proposed action would not have an effect on the acquisition of environmentally endangered and outdoor recreation lands.</p>
<p>Chapter 260  <i>Florida Greenways and Trails Act</i></p>	<p>Authorizes acquisition of land, planning, and management of a statewide system of greenways and trails for recreational and conservation purposes</p>	<p>The proposed action would not have an impact on the acquisition of land, planning or management of the statewide greenways and trails system.</p>

<i>Florida Statute</i>	<i>Legal Scope</i>	<i>Consistency Evaluation</i>
<p>Chapter 267  <i>Historical Resources</i></p>	<p>Addresses management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.</p>	<p>The proposed action would not affect the management or preservation of the archaeological resources of the State of Florida, as there are no known archaeological resources within the Area of Potential Effects. In the unlikely event that previously unrecorded archaeological sites were encountered during the construction, the Navy would stop work in the immediate area and follow Standard Operating Procedure 5, Inadvertent Discoveries, per the installation's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan. This process includes stopping the work and securing the area, and evaluating the site for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, affected American Indian tribes, and other interested parties, pursuant to the implementing regulation of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800), other applicable federal laws, and Department of Defense and Navy regulations.</p> <p>The proposed action would not affect the management or preservation of the architectural resources of the State of Florida because the five buildings proposed for demolition and one building to be partially renovated were determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP. In addition, the noise environment for the NRHP-eligible NAS Whiting Field Historic District would not change; noise impacts for buildings at the NOLFs that have not been evaluated for the NRHP would remain the same or increase, but the increases would be below 65 dB DNL (day-night average sound level). There are no eligible architectural resources within the affected environment at NOLFs Pace, Site X, Santa Rosa, and Choctaw.</p> <p>The proposed action would not affect traditional cultural properties because there are no known traditional cultural properties at NAS Whiting Field or the NOLFs.</p>
<p>Chapter 288  <i>Commercial Development and Capital Improvements</i></p>	<p>Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.</p>	<p>The proposed action would not have an effect on commercial development or capital improvements.</p>

<i>Florida Statute</i>	<i>Legal Scope</i>	<i>Consistency Evaluation</i>
Chapter 334 <i>Transportation Administration</i>	Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration.	The proposed action would not have an impact on the state's transportation administration policies.
Chapter 339 <i>Transportation Finance and Planning</i>	Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system.	The proposed action would not have an effect on the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system.
Chapter 375 <i>Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Lands</i>	Develops comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose means to meet the identified needs.	The proposed action would not impact the state's development or evaluation of multipurpose outdoor recreation plans.
Chapter 377 <i>Energy Resources</i>	Addresses regulation, planning, and development of energy resources of the state.	The proposed action would not have an impact on the development of Florida's energy resources.
Chapter 380 <i>Land and Water Management</i>	Establishes land and water management policies to guide and coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.	<p>The proposed action would not have an impact on the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State lands with regional (i.e., more than one county) concerns</li> <li>• Areas of Critical State Concern</li> <li>• Areas with approved state resource management plans</li> </ul> <p>The proposed action does not provide for, or affect changes to, coastal infrastructure or require state funds for infrastructure planning, designing, or construction.</p>
Chapter 381 <i>Public Health, General Provisions</i>	Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system.	The proposed action does not involve the construction of an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system. Construction activities associated with the proposed action are governed by regulations established in the Navy Safety and Occupational Health Program and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. NAS Whiting Field and its NOLFs are restricted from public access.
Chapter 388 <i>Mosquito Control</i>	Addresses mosquito control efforts in the state.	The proposed action would not affect mosquito control efforts of the State of Florida.

<i>Florida Statute</i>	<i>Legal Scope</i>	<i>Consistency Evaluation</i>
Chapter 553 <i>Building Construction Standards</i>	Provides a mechanism for the uniform adoption, updating, amendment, interpretation, and enforcement of a single, unified state building code, to be called the Florida Building Code. Obtain a permit from the appropriate enforcing agency.	The proposed action would not affect the Building Construction Standards of the State of Florida. The Navy would coordinate for all applicable permits as required by law.
Chapter 597 <i>Aquaculture</i>	Establishes public policy concerning the cultivation of aquatic organisms.	The proposed action would not affect aquaculture.

## Florida Coastal Management Program Enforceable Policies Applicable to the Proposed Action

### Chapter 373 – Water Resources

This statute addresses sustainable water management; the conservation of surface and ground waters for full beneficial use; the preservation of natural resources, fish, and wildlife; protecting public land; and promoting the health and general welfare of Floridians. The state’s policy manages and conserves water and related natural resources by determining whether activities will unreasonably consume water; degrade water quality; or adversely affect environmental values (such as protected species habitat, recreational pursuits, and marine productivity).

The proposed action would be conducted in a manner consistent with Chapter 373. The proposed action would not unreasonably consume water, degrade water quality, or adversely affect environmental values. Potable water consumption at NAS Whiting Field would not be expected to significantly increase as a result of the increase of 73 people (33 personnel and 40 family members). The proposed action does not involve the use of groundwater. There are no wetlands within or adjacent to the project area where facility development would occur. Potential impacts on nearby surface waters from sedimentation associated with construction activities would be minimized by the use of appropriate best management practices (BMPs), and all applicable regulatory requirements and stormwater permits (e.g., Environmental Resources Permit) would be obtained prior to any construction activities.

The Navy has determined that the proposed action would be fully consistent with Florida’s Water Resources policy.

### Chapter 376 – Pollution Discharge Prevention and Removal

This statute provides a framework for the protection of the state’s coastline from spills, discharges, and releases of pollutants. The discharge of pollutants into or upon any coastal waters, estuaries, tidal flats, beaches, and lands adjoining the seacoast of the state is prohibited.

The statute:

- Provides for hazards & threats of danger and damages resulting from any pollutant discharge to be evaluated
- Requires the prompt containment and removal of pollution; provides penalties for violations
- Ensures the prompt payment of reasonable damages from a discharge

All required permits would be procured for the proposed action, and established procedures for transport, storage, and handling of hazardous materials would be followed. The Navy does not anticipate the discharge of any pollutants upon surface or ground waters. In the event of a spill, a written Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan would be followed. BMPs would be incorporated to avoid impacts on water quality.

The Navy has determined that the proposed action would be fully consistent with Florida’s Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Removal policy.

### Chapter 379 – Fish and Wildlife Conservation

This statute establishes the framework for the management and protection of Florida’s wide diversity of fish and wildlife resources. It is Florida’s policy to conserve and wisely manage these resources. Particular attention is given to those species defined as being endangered or threatened.

One candidate species for federal listing, the gopher tortoise, is known to occur within the area of the proposed action. The gopher tortoise is currently exposed to ongoing air operations at NAS Whiting Field and its associated NOLFs. There would be no significant change in noise contours associated with the proposed increase in airfield operations and ambient noise levels would not significantly increase. Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, no effects to threatened and endangered species would occur. The Navy will continue to manage gopher tortoise actions in accordance with the Candidate Conservation Agreement (revised December 2012). The proposed action has the potential to impact other wildlife species from noise associated with the proposed construction activities. However, wildlife populations in the vicinity of the proposed construction sites are currently exposed to elevated noise associated with aircraft and general military industrial use. In addition, the demolition and construction activities would occur in a highly developed area, generally devoid of wildlife. As a result, indirect impacts from construction noise are expected to be minimal because the ambient noise levels within the vicinity are high under existing conditions and would be unlikely to substantially increase by the relatively minor and temporary nature of the proposed demolition and construction. Construction activities would not further threaten the existence of any protected species or result in the loss of any critical/sensitive habitats.

The increased helicopter training tempo would expose wildlife to increased overflights and would create an increase in the potential for bird/animal aircraft strike hazard (BASH) incidents. The Navy would reduce impacts to wildlife by continuing to implement the BASH Plan which minimizes aircraft risks from potentially hazardous wildlife strikes, and, in turn, protects wildlife from aircraft strikes. The plan establishes methods to decrease the attractiveness of the airfield/nearby areas to birds and animals, and provides guidelines for dispersing birds and animals when they compromise the safety of operations on the airfield.

The Navy has determined that the proposed action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation policy.

#### **Chapter 403 – Environmental Control**

The statute establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state. Those policies most relevant to the proposed action include air and water pollution, pollution prevention, and ecosystem management.

The proposed action would be conducted in a manner consistent with Chapter 403. The proposed action would comply with applicable regulations for air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste management, pollution prevention, and ecosystem management. The Navy would coordinate for all applicable permits as required by law.

The proposed action has the potential to increase emissions of criteria pollutants associated with construction and flight training operations. The region is currently in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Changes in construction emissions are not considered significant. Changes in mobile emissions would contribute to regional emission totals; however, would not be large enough, at the emission levels estimated, to result in the area being designated as nonattainment. No significant impacts would occur, and Santa Rosa County would remain in attainment for all criteria pollutants.

The proposed action includes implementation of appropriate BMPs for erosion and sediment control for facility construction at NAS Whiting Field, along with practices to prevent spills if petroleum products are temporarily stored on site during construction. The proposed action would not significantly affect fish, wildlife, or critical habitats. Surface waters of the state would not be significantly affected by the project.

Construction and demolition activities are not anticipated to degrade the water quality or affect beneficial uses of surface water or groundwater resources.

The Navy has determined that the proposed action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with Florida's Environmental Control policy.

#### **Chapter 582 – Soil and Water Conservation**

This statute provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion. It is Florida's policy to preserve natural resources; control and prevent soil erosion; prevent floodwater and sediment damages; and further the conservation, development, and use of soil and water resources, and the disposal of water. Land use policies are evaluated in terms of their tendency to cause or contribute to soil erosion or to conserve, develop, and use soil and water resources on site or in adjoining properties.

The construction activities associated with the proposed action have the potential to result in soil erosion. BMPs for reducing soil erosion are included in the NAS Whiting Field Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which was developed in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Chapter 582 of the Florida Statutes. BMPs would be implemented during demolition and construction activities to minimize direct and indirect adverse impacts due to soil loss from erosion, and to stabilize soils once construction is completed. Construction activities would result in an increase of approximately 6.5 acres of impervious surface; however, BMPs would be implemented to reduce or eliminate stormwater that may carry non-point source pollutants to nearby surface waters.

The Navy would be fully consistent with Florida's Soil and Water Conservation policy.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Navy has reviewed the FCMP and reviewed the proposed action for how and to what degree the activities in or near the coastal zone could affect Florida's coastal uses and resources. The Navy determined that the proposed action may have an effect on a coastal use or resources of Florida's coastal zone. The Navy would reduce the impacts on coastal zone uses and resources by adhering to the BMPs included in the proposed action.

The Navy has determined that the proposed action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the applicable enforceable policies of the FCMP.



## **Farak, Amy M CIV USN USFFC (US)**

---

**From:** Stahl, Chris <Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 15:18  
**To:** Farak, Amy M CIV USN USFFC (US)  
**Cc:** State\_Clearinghouse  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] State\_Clearance\_Letter\_For\_FL201906258634C\_Construct An Advanced Helicopter Training System (AHTS) At Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Santa Rosa County, Florida.

August 13, 2019

Amy Farak  
Department of the Navy  
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250  
Norfolk, Virginia 23551

RE: Department of the Navy - Construct an Advanced Helicopter Training System (AHTS) at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Santa Rosa County, Florida.  
SAI # FL201906258634C

Dear Amy:

Florida State Clearinghouse staff has reviewed the original proposal as well as the additional riprap placement site under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has reviewed the proposed project and noted that based on the information provided, 1. Cleanup – The proposed construction area shown in Figure 2 of the document includes two (2) locations with engineering/institutional controls for soil contamination. These controls require maintenance and yearly inspection of the impervious surfaces. There is also an active petroleum cleanup site. A Map Direct link to the site is provided below. This is a web map provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

<https://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/?map=6cdfd4ca39254088af09dcc108f5b590>. 2. ERP – The project description states that wetlands will not be impacted. The project may require DEP authorization for the treatment of surface water runoff. The applicant is advised to contact the NWD stormwater engineer for further permitting guidance. 3. Potable Water /Wastewater - The proposed project at NAS Whiting Field may require potable water and wastewater collection system permitting depending on how the work is accomplished. Consultation with the department is recommended to determine if potable water and collection system permitting is needed for the various phases of development. 4. Any significant noise resulting from training activities effecting Blackwater Heritage State Trail users may need to need to be mitigated.

If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are

encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Based on the information submitted and minimal project impacts, the state has no objections to the subject project and, therefore, it is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed plan. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (850) 717-9076.

Sincerely,

*Chris Stahl*

Chris Stahl, Coordinator  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3800 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 47  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400  
ph. (850) 717-9076  
[State.Clearinghouse@floridadep.gov](mailto:State.Clearinghouse@floridadep.gov)

