



Press Release

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-4427
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy Begins Draft Environmental Assessment for East Coast Home Basing of MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial System

The Navy is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the establishment of facilities and functions to support the East Coast home basing and maintenance of the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (Triton UAS) at one of three locations: Naval Air Station Key West in Florida; Naval Station Mayport in Florida; and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Wallops Flight Facility on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The Proposed Action would provide facilities and functions to operate and maintain the Triton UAS on the East Coast. The Triton UAS is an unmanned, unarmed, remotely controlled aircraft employed to enhance maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities as part of the Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force. Under the Proposed Action, the Navy plans to establish a launch and recovery site for four home based Triton UAS aircraft and support an operational-level maintenance hub for up to four additional aircraft undergoing maintenance actions (up to eight aircraft total). The East Coast home base location would be a permanent duty station for up to 400 personnel plus family members, and support rotational deployments of personnel and aircraft outside the continental United States. Military construction projects in support of the home basing would begin in fiscal year 2017.

The Triton UAS is a multiple-sensor unmanned aircraft that is about 48 feet long with a wingspan of about 131 feet. Triton will conduct operations over water, with most operations occurring over international waters 12 miles or more offshore. The mission of the Triton is to provide persistent maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data collection to the fleet, providing both tactical and strategic mission capabilities.

The public will be invited to review and comment on the Draft EA during a 30-day public review period, which is scheduled to begin in late June.

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