



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy Releases Draft Environmental Assessment for Aircraft Transition at NAS Oceana; Schedules Public Meetings

The Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts from transitioning the remaining F/A-18A/C/D Hornet aircraft operated by Fleet squadrons based at NAS Oceana to the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, and retiring the F/A-18A/C/D Hornet aircraft operated by the Fleet Replacement Squadron. The transition involves an approximate one-for-one aircraft replacement. The majority of aircraft based at NAS Oceana transitioned to the Super Hornet over a decade ago as part of a separate proposed action, and are currently conducting flight training operations at NAS Oceana and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress.

The Navy will hold two public meetings to provide information and solicit comments on the Draft EA. The meetings will be conducted using an open house format with informational displays and materials available for public review. There will be no formal presentation. Navy staff will be present to answer general questions on the proposed transition and the Draft EA. The meetings will provide identical information and the same Navy representatives will be at both meetings.

Both meetings are scheduled to occur between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The first meeting will take place Tuesday, August 29, at the Columbian Club, 1236 Prosperity Road, Virginia Beach, Va. The second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30, at the Hickory Ruritan Club, 2752 Battlefield Boulevard S., Chesapeake, Va.

The Draft EA may be viewed at www.oceanastrikefighter.com or at one of the following public libraries:

Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach
Oceanfront Area Library, 700 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach
Great Neck Area Library, 1251 Bayne Drive, Virginia Beach
Princess Anne Area Library, 1444 Nimmo Parkway, Virginia Beach
Windsor Wood Area Library, 3612 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach
Wahab Public Law Library, 2425 Nimmo Parkway, Judicial Center, Bldg 10B, Virginia Beach
Chesapeake Central Library, 298 Cedar Road, Chesapeake
Greenbrier Library, 1214 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake

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NAS OCEANA EA-2-2-2-2

During the 30-day Draft EA review period from August 16 through September 15, 2017, the public can provide comments in four ways: 1) submit written comments at the public meetings, 2) speak with the stenographer at the public meetings, 3) submit comments electronically on the project website www.oceanastrikefighter.com, or 4) mail comments to NAS Oceana EA Project Manager (Code EV21/TW), Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic, 6506 Hampton Boulevard Norfolk, Va. 23508.

In September 2015, the Navy began preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this action. During the development of the EIS, the Navy found that the Proposed Action would have no significant environmental impacts; therefore, the Navy is re-designating the environmental planning analysis to an EA consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act. This is because Super Hornet flight training is nearly identical to Hornet flight training. Consequently, there will be little to no change to the type and quantity of flight training operations at NAS Oceana and NALF Fentress as a result of this proposed transition.

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