

Appendix B Agency Correspondence

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Appendix B, Agency Correspondence

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0433

April 4, 2012

Mr. Ken Berg
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Pacific Coast Ecoregion
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503-1273

Dear Mr. Berg:

Enclosed is a copy of the Biological Assessment (BA) for the Expeditionary Electronic Attack Squadron Realignment and Transition at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA, for your review and concurrence. The proposed project is to realign and transition up to four expeditionary VAQ squadrons from EA-6B Prowler aircraft to EA-18G Growler aircraft, add up to 11 EA-18G Growler aircraft to the fleet replacement squadron (FRS), increase the number of aircrew, officers, and enlisted personnel stationed at the installation, and modify certain facilities at Ault Field to provide more space for the new personnel and proper configuration for the new aircraft.

Each expeditionary VAQ EA-18G Growler squadron would consist of five aircraft and the existing FRS (VAQ-129) would gain additional aircraft. In order to maintain expeditionary VAQ capability, the squadrons must transition to the EA-18G Growler by 2015. To achieve this, the Navy is proposing that the EA-6B squadrons remain operational at NAS Whidbey Island and transition to the EA-18G beginning in 2012 at a rate of about one squadron per year through 2014.

NAS Whidbey Island does not currently have adequate hangar space, flight line electrical distribution systems, or capacity in the flight simulators to support up to four EA-18G Growler squadrons. As a result, the proposed action also includes expansion of the flightline electrical distribution system and construction, renovation, or modification of several facilities and functions including: Hangar 10 (Building 2699), Flight Simulator Building (Building 2593), and Hangar 12 (Building 2737).

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Ser N44/0433
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The Navy concludes that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The Navy concludes that the project will have "no effect" on the bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). We request your concurrence with our effect determination. Please direct any written response and any additional inquiries regarding the Biological Assessment for the project to Jackie Queen, at NAS Whidbey Island Public Works Department, 1115 W. Lexington Street Building 103 Oak Harbor, WA 98278 or by phone at (360)257-5320.

Sincerely,



A. CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Program Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1. Biological Assessment



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503



In Reply Refer To:
01EWWF00-2012-I-0188

MAY 25 2012

Allison Crain, Installation Environmental Program Director
Department of the Navy
Naval Base Whidbey Island
ATTN: Jackie Queen
3730 North Charles Porter Avenue
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278

Dear Ms. Crain:

Subject: Expeditionary Electronic Attack Squadron Realignment and Transition, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington

This is in response to your April 4, 2012, letter requesting our concurrence with your determination that the proposed action in Oak Harbor, Island County, Washington, would “not likely adversely affect” federally listed species. A photocopy from your transmittal document(s) describing the proposed action is enclosed.

Specifically, you requested informal consultation pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) for the federally listed species identified below (only those species that have been checked are addressed in this consultation request (See Enclosure).

☒ Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Based on the information provided in and/or with your cover letter and any additional information, we have concluded that effects of the proposed action to the above-identified federally listed resources would be insignificant and/or discountable. Therefore, for the reasons identified in the enclosures to this letter, we concur with your determination that the proposed action is “not likely to adversely affect” the above-identified federally listed resources. This letter and its enclosures constitute a complete response of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to your request for informal consultation.

This concludes consultation pursuant to the regulations implementing the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402.13). This project should be re-analyzed if new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not

considered in this consultation. The project should also be re-analyzed if the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to a listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this consultation, and/or a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by this project.

Our review and concurrence with your effect determination is based on the implementation of the project as described. It is the responsibility of the Federal action agency to ensure that projects that they authorize or carry out are in compliance with the regulatory permit and/or the ESA, respectively. If a permittee or the Federal action agency deviates from the measures outlined in a permit or project description, the Federal action agency has the obligation to reinitiate consultation and comply with section 7(d).

If you have any questions about this letter or our joint responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, please contact the consultation biologist identified below, of this office.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation Biologist(s):

☒ Nancy Brennan-Dubbs (360 / 753-5835)

Sincerely,



Ken S. Berg, Manager
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

Enclosures

Appendix 1 Checklist(s)

cc:

☒ WDOE, Bellevue, WA (R. Padgett)

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE**

**MARBLED MURRELET AND MARBLED MURRELET CRITICAL HABITAT
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
SECTION 7 INFORMAL CONSULTATION CONCURRENCE RATIONALE**

Project Name: Expeditionary Electronic Attack Squadron Realignment and Transition, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island,

MARBLED MURRELET CRITICAL HABITAT

- ☒ The proposed project, including indirect effects, will not occur within marbled murrelet critical habitat.

DIRECT EFFECTS

Nesting Marbled Murrelets

The project will not result in the destruction or modification of suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat and

- ☒ The project is more than 0.25 mile from suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat and does not include blasting, low-elevation (< 500 ft) aircraft operations, impact pile driving, or other activities that could produce sound above 92 dB. Thus, nesting marbled murrelets and their young are extremely unlikely to be exposed to project stressors (sound and visual disturbance) while on the nest or in the nest stand. Therefore, the effects of the proposed action to nesting marbled murrelets would be insignificant and discountable.

Foraging

- ☒ The proposed project is not expected to result in sound pressure levels that would measurably affect marbled murrelets. Therefore, effects to marbled murrelets would be insignificant.

Turbidity and Other Environmental Contaminants

- ☒ The proposed project is not expected to release or introduce environmental contaminants into or adjacent to the aquatic environment in concentrations that would measurably effect marbled murrelets. Therefore, effects to marbled murrelets via direct exposure or uptake of contaminants will be insignificant.

INDIRECT EFFECTS

Disturbance (Foraging)

- ☒ The indirect effects associated with operation of the completed action and use of the facility are not expected to result in sound pressure levels above background; therefore, disturbance of marbled murrelets is not anticipated to be measurable. Thus, effects to marbled murrelets would be insignificant.

Contaminants

- ☒ Operation of the proposed action and use of the facility are not expected to release or introduce contaminants into the aquatic environments at concentrations that may result in measurable effects to marbled murrelets via their prey species. Therefore, these effects to marbled murrelets are insignificant.

Consulting Biologist: Nancy Brennan-Dubbs
FWS Project Biologist

Date: May 23, 2012

Concurrence approved by: Madha L. Jensen
Federal Activities Branch
Supervisor

Date: 5/25/12

Note: The rationale expressed in this informal section 7 checklist represents our current understanding of the effects of some commonly permitted federal actions to marbled murrelet. This document does not express all possible rationale for insignificant or discountable effects to marbled murrelet. This document is subject to change at any time due to the collection of new information or the need to clarify our rationale. However, any future changes to this concurrence rationale document would not be expected to necessitate reinitiation on previously completed consultations. Please see the "reinitiation" paragraph of the cover letter for a discussion of reinitiation triggers.

1.3 Project Description

NAS Whidbey Island is located in Island County, Washington, on Whidbey Island in northern Puget Sound (Figure 1-1). The air station is in the north-central part of the island, adjacent to the town of Oak Harbor; and is divided into four distinct parcels: Ault Field, Lake Hancock, Outlying Landing Field Coupeville, and the Seaplane Base. The proposed action would occur at Ault Field, the training and operational center of NAS Whidbey Island. The remaining three parcels would not be affected by the proposed action and are therefore not discussed further.

NAS Whidbey Island has supported the expeditionary VAQ community for more than 30 years. It is currently home to VAQ squadrons operating the EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler, maritime patrol squadrons and a reserve squadron operating the P-3 ("Orion"), fleet air reconnaissance squadrons operating the EP-3E ("Aries"), a C-9 squadron, and H-60 search-and-rescue helicopters.

The Navy proposes to realign and transition up to four expeditionary VAQ squadrons from EA-6B Prowler aircraft to EA-18G Growler aircraft; add up to 11 EA-18G Growler aircraft to the fleet replacement squadron (FRS); increase the number of aircrew, officers, and enlisted personnel stationed at the installation; and modify certain facilities at Ault Field to provide more space for the new personnel and proper configuration for the new aircraft.

The EA-18G Growler is a variant of the F/A-18F ("Super Hornet") strike-fighter aircraft, equipped with the same electronic weapons systems as the EA-6B Prowler. The primary types of mission training and readiness requirements for the EA-18G Growler are nearly identical to those for the EA-6B Prowler.

The EA-6B Prowler airframe is approaching the end of its service life. Failure to replace the EA-6B Prowler legacy aircraft by 2015 would affect combat readiness, potentially resulting in interruptions to operations and accruing costs for service-life extension of the aircraft. The proposed action is needed to provide sustainable and rapidly deployable electronic attack capability to overseas land bases in the interest of national security. The EA-18G are airborne electronic attack aircraft capable of suppressing enemy air defenses in support of strike aircraft and ground troops by interrupting enemy electronic activity and obtaining tactical electronic intelligence within the combat area. As the nation's only operational airborne electronic attack assets, these very unique Navy aircraft and their highly trained flight crews are low-density-high demand strategic national assets that have and continue to provide an essential umbrella of protection to U.S. and coalition ground forces while on deployment.

Building Facilities

The proposed action would provide the facilities and functions necessary to retain the expeditionary VAQ mission at NAS Whidbey Island and to realign and transition up to four expeditionary VAQ squadrons from EA-6B Prowler aircraft to EA-18G Growler aircraft. Each expeditionary VAQ EA-18G Growler squadron would consist of five aircraft; each existing EA-6B Prowler squadron includes four aircraft. In addition, the existing FRS (VAQ-129) would gain additional aircraft. In order to maintain expeditionary VAQ capability, the squadrons must transition to the EA-18G Growler by 2015. To achieve this, the Navy is proposing that the EA-6B squadrons continue to operate at NAS Whidbey Island and transition to the EA-18G beginning in 2012 at a rate of about one squadron per year through 2014.

NAS Whidbey Island does not currently have adequate hangar space, flight line electrical distribution systems, or capacity in the flight simulators to support up to four EA-18G Growler squadrons. An environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508); Navy procedures for implementing NEPA (32 CFR 775); and the Chief of Naval



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0614

May 10, 2012

Washington Department of Ecology
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
Northwest Region
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Dear Geoff Tallent:

The United States Navy is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the potential impacts of a proposed action which involves the transition of up to four EA-6B "Prowler" squadrons and related personnel to EA-18G "Growler" squadrons and potentially up to 11 EA-18G aircraft to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA. To comply with Subpart C of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 15 CFR 930 and Coastal Zone Management Act §307(c)(1), the Navy is submitting a Coastal Zone Consistency Negative Determination (CCND) for Federal Facilities (enclosure (1)).

The transition involves increasing the number of aircrew, officers, and enlisted personnel stationed at the installation; and modifying certain facilities at Ault Field to provide capacity for the new personnel and proper configuration for the new aircraft. All facilities will be constructed in previously disturbed or grass covered areas and this proposed action will not alter the shoreline.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the Navy has determined that implementing the action alternative is not reasonably likely to affect use or natural resources, with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. The Navy requests your concurrence with our finding for a Negative Determination in accordance with CZMA and its implementing regulations.

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Ser N44/0614

May 10, 2012

To aid in your review, a copy of the CCND is included. For questions or additional information please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, (360)257-5320, or e-mail jackie.queen@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Crain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allison" and last name "Crain" clearly distinguishable.

ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Program Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Determination of Consistency
 2. Project vicinity of VAQ Expeditionary
 Squadron realignment and transition at NAS
 Whidbey Island, WA
 3. Proposed infrastructure development around
 Ault Field for VAQ Expeditionary Squadron
 realignment and transition at NAS Whidbey
 Island, WA

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, NAVY REGION, NORTHWEST

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
COASTAL CONSISTENCY Negative DETERMINATION
Environmental Assessment for Expeditionary Electronic Attack
Squadron Realignment and Transition
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
Oak Harbor, Washington

[May 10, 2012]

Proposed Federal Agency Activity

To comply with Subpart C of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Consistency Regulation, 15 CFR 930 and Coastal Zone Management Act §307 (c) (1), as amended, the Department of Navy (Navy) is requesting concurrence on a Coastal Consistency "Negative Determination" for this action. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is responsible for implementing Washington's program and is the lead agency that the Navy is requesting concurrence for activities undertaken by a Federal Agency and requiring Federal concurrence (United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)).

The Navy is proposing the realignment and transition of the expeditionary electronic attack squadrons (Expeditionary VAQ squadrons) at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NAS Whidbey Island), Oak Harbor, Washington. The Navy proposes to transition up to four EA-6B "Prowler" squadrons and related personnel to EA-18G "Growler" squadrons; add up to 11 EA-18G Growler aircraft to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS); increase the number of aircrew, officers, and enlisted personnel stationed at the installation; and modify certain facilities at Ault Field to provide capacity for the new personnel and proper configuration for the new aircraft. The purpose of this action is to maintain Expeditionary VAQ capability at NAS Whidbey Island and is needed to provide sustainable and rapidly deployable electronic attack capability to overseas land bases in the interests of national security.

An ongoing Environmental Assessment analyzes the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of the alternatives on land use and coastal zone management; threatened and endangered species and other biological resources; water resources; noise; air quality; cultural resources; the regional economy; and environmental management. Navy has submitted a Biological

Enclosure(1)

Coastal Consistency Determination

VAQ EA
NAS Whidbey Island

This Coastal Consistency Negative Determination is submitted under CZMA and its implementing regulations, and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5090.1C, "Navy Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual."

Analysis of Enforceable Policies

Shoreline Management Act

The Shoreline Management Act designates preferred uses for protected shorelines and provides for the protection of shoreline natural resources and public access to shoreline areas. Protected shorelines include marine waters, streams with greater than 20 cubic feet per second of mean annual flow, lakes 20 acres or larger, upland areas that extend 200 feet landward from the edge of these waters, and wetlands and floodplains associated with any of these waters. Construction associated with the proposed activity would not occur within any protected shoreline as defined by the Shoreline Management Act. Further, the proposed activity will not interfere with public access to any shoreline areas. Therefore, the proposed activity would have no effect on a use or natural resources covered by this policy.

State Environmental Policy Act

The State Environmental Policy Act requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the project. The potential environmental consequences of the proposed activity are being reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act. State and local agencies will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed activity during the public review period of the Final EA. Consequently, a separate State Environmental Policy Act review is not required for the project.

Clean Air Act

The CAA is the primary federal statute governing the control of air quality. The CAA designates six pollutants as "criteria pollutants" for which National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been established to protect public health and welfare.

Coastal Consistency Determination

VAQ EA
NAS Whidbey Island

Ocean Resource Management Act

The Ocean Resource Management Act regulates the lease of tidal or submerged lands. The proposed activity does not include any activities within Washington's tidal or submerged lands; therefore, the proposed activity would not be applicable to uses or natural resources covered by this policy.

Washington Coastal Management Program Consistency Review		
Statute	Scope	Consistency
Shoreline Management Act	Designates preferred uses for protected shorelines. Provides for the protection of shoreline natural resources and public access to shoreline areas.	NO EFFECT Construction associated with the proposed activity would not occur within any protected shoreline as defined by the Shoreline Management Act. Further, the proposed activity will not interfere with public access to any shoreline areas.
State Environmental Policy Act	Requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the project.	NOT APPLICABLE The potential environmental consequences of the proposed activity are being reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act. State and local agencies will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed activity. Consequently, a separate State Environmental Policy Act review is not required for the project.
Clean Air Act	The federal Clean Air Act defines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities for	NO EFFECT The project is within an attainment area for all National Ambient Air Quality

Coastal Consistency Determination

VAQ EA
NAS Whidbey Island

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, the proposed federal activity is not reasonably likely to affect use or natural resources; therefore, the Navy requests your concurrence with our finding for a Negative Determination in accordance with CZMA and its implementing regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allison Crain".

ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Program Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer



Project Vicinity
VAQ Expeditionary Squadron Realignment and Transition
at NAS Whidbey Island Washington



- Project Area
- Construction
- Runway and Airfield Surface Area
- Building
- NAS Whidbey Installation Area

Proposed Infrastructure Development Around Ault Field
VAQ Expeditionary Squadron Realignment and Transition
at NAS Whidbey Island Washington

Enclosure(3)



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

June 12, 2012

Allison Crain
Installation Environmental Program Director
Department of the Navy
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
3730 N. Charles Porter Avenue
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278

**Re: Federal Consistency/Negative Determination
Expeditionary Electronic Attack Squadron Realignment and Transition, Naval Air
Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Island County, Washington**

Dear Ms. Crain:

The Department of Ecology, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program received your Coastal Zone Consistency Negative Determination for the proposal to realign and transition the expeditionary electronic attack squadrons at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

Upon review of this proposal, Ecology concurs with your negative determination and assessment that the proposed action will have no effect upon Washington State coastal resources.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7129.

Sincerely,

Erik Stockdale, Unit Supervisor
Northwest Regional Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

ES:rrp:cja

cc: Jackie Queen, U.S. Navy

e-cc: David Pater, Ecology
Loree' Randall, Ecology

Incoming
JUN 14 2012



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0830

June 18, 2012

Mr. Nicholas Vann
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Department of Community Development
P. O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Mr. Vann:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulation, 36 CFR 800, the U.S. Navy requests your comment on a proposed expeditionary electronic attack squadron (VAQ) realignment and transition at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor, WA. This action will have No Adverse Effect to historic properties.

The Navy proposes to retain its expeditionary VAQ mission at NAS Whidbey Island and, in doing so, will transition EA-6B "Prowler" squadrons and related personnel to EA-18G "Growler" squadrons. This action will include construction and demolition at Ault Field.

Currently, there are three EA-6B expeditionary VAQ squadrons and one EA-18G Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) located at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy is preparing an Environmental Assessment for this undertaking that will address three alternatives and a No Action Alternative. The action alternatives are as follows:

a. Alternative 1. The three expeditionary squadrons at the installation would be transitioned from EA-6B aircraft to EA-18G aircraft and six EA-18G aircraft would be added to the FRS.

b. Alternative 2. The three expeditionary squadrons at the installation would be transitioned from EA-6B aircraft to EA-18G aircraft, a fourth expeditionary squadron consisting of five EA-18G aircraft would be added to the Fleet, and six EA-18G aircraft would be added to the FRS.

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c. Alternative 3. The three expeditionary squadrons at the installation would be transitioned from EA-6B aircraft to EA-18G aircraft and 11 EA-18G aircraft would be added to the FRS.

Each of the action alternatives will increase the number of airplanes and personnel stationed at NAS Whidbey Island. Some modification of facilities would be necessary to provide capacity and proper configuration for the new EA-18G squadrons and additional FRS aircraft. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no additional personnel located at the installation and no facility modifications.

Enclosure (1) is a figure showing the facility modifications that would occur under the three action alternatives. These modifications include:

a. Alternative 1

(1) Demolition of four auxiliary buildings (R-42, R-55, R-56, and 2705).

(2) Relocation of two auxiliary buildings (2893 and 2894) from their current locations between Buildings 2699 and 2642 (Hangar 8) to an as yet unidentified, but previously disturbed area, between Buildings 2699 and 2737 (Hangars 10 and 12 respectively).

(3) Construction of an approximately 32,500-square-foot addition to Building 2699 (Hangar 10) that will likely connect to Building 2642 (Hangar 8).

(4) Construction of an approximately 9,200-square-foot addition, with a covered walkway, for Building 2593 (Flight Simulator Building).

b. Alternative 2. Alternative 1 plus construction of an approximately 25,200-square-foot addition to Building 2737 (Hangar 12) would be constructed.

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June 18, 2012

c. Alternative 3. Alternative 1 plus an approximately 4,300-square-foot addition to Building 2737 (Hangar 12) would be constructed.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this undertaking is shown in enclosure (2). Of the ten buildings included in the action alternatives, four have been previously evaluated and determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Reference Log # 012610-05-USN). These include 2593 (Flight Simulator), 2642 (Hangar 8), 2699 (Hangar 10), and 2737 (Hangar 12). Buildings 2705, 2983, and 2894 do not need evaluations as they are less than 50 years old, built in 1986, 2006, and 2006 respectively. Buildings R-42, R-55, and R-56 are temporary buildings and are not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ault Field has four historic properties: Hangars 1, 5 and 6, and the base theater. Hangars 1 and 5 are adjacent hangar 12 and are within the APE. Hangar 1 is scheduled for demolition in FY14 and all action alternatives assume that it will be demolished. Mitigation for that action was included in the memorandum of agreement regarding demolition activities signed between your office and the Navy on June 2, 2010. Hangar 6 and the theater are outside the APE for this action.

Under Action Alternative 2, the proposed addition to the northeast end of Hangar 12 would be approximately 25,200 square feet and would be visible in views from or of the rear of Hangar 5. Under Action Alternative 3, the proposed addition to the northeast end of Hangar 12 would be approximately 4,300 square feet and would be almost entirely screened in views from, or toward the rear of Hangar 5 by the northeastern doorway for Hangar 12.

The Navy has concluded that Action Alternatives 2 and 3 would have No Adverse Effect on Hangar 5 because the setting of this building has not been identified as contributing to the significance of this building and because changes to the setting, which would only be visible from, or toward the rear of the hangar, would not affect those architectural design qualities that make it eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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Ser N44/0830
June 18, 2012

The APE for this proposed undertaking is in an area of NAS Whidbey Island that is not sensitive for archaeological resources. In case of inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains or other archaeological resources during construction, the Navy will notify the appropriate tribal governments and Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation as to the treatment of the remains and/or archaeological resources per applicable laws.

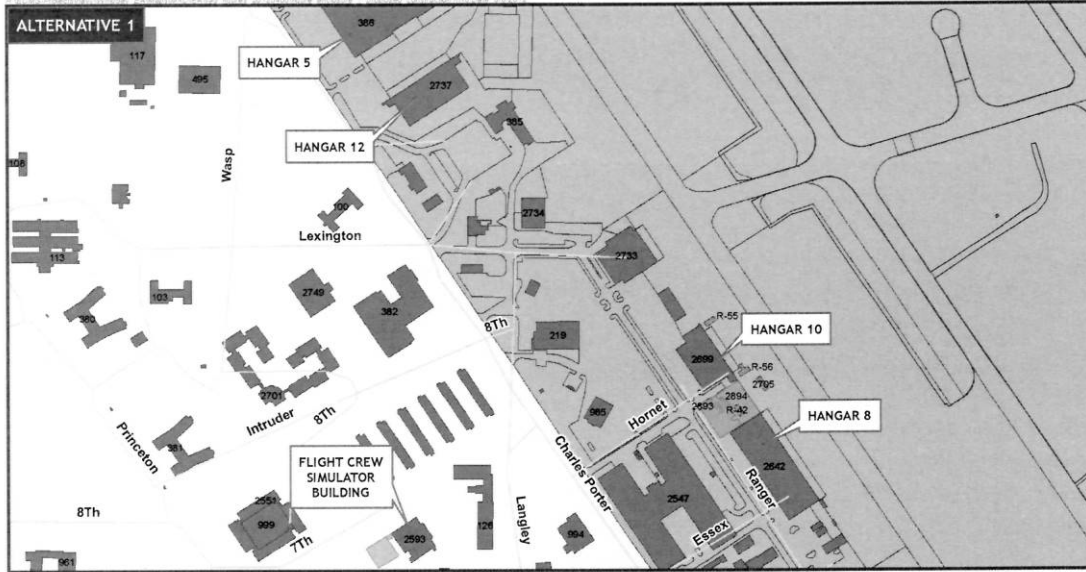
We look forward to receiving your comment. Please direct additional inquiries to Mr. Larry Moore, Cultural Resources Manager, at (360)257-6780 or email lawrence.moore1@navy.mil.

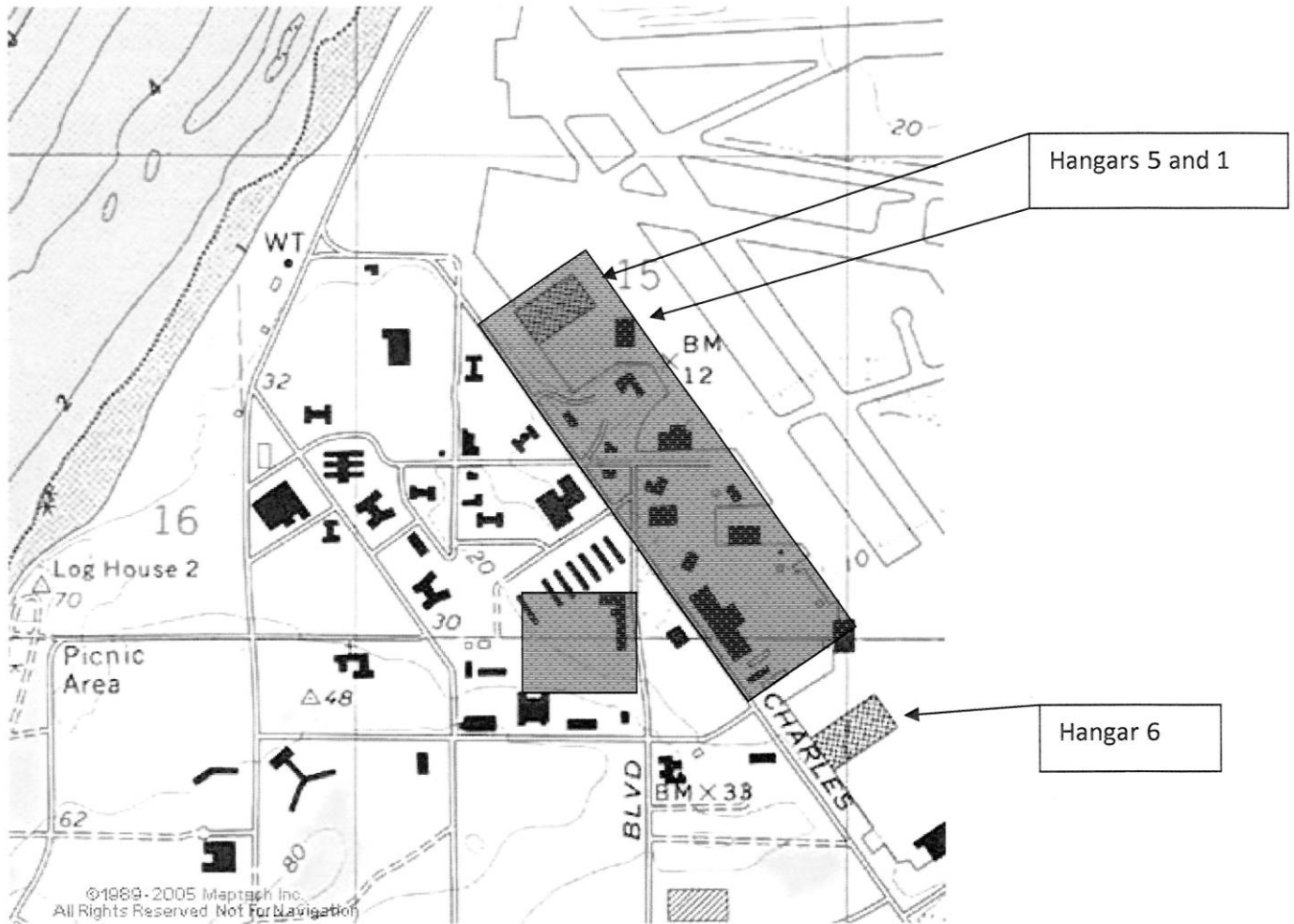
Sincerely,



ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Programs Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Figure showing the various Action Alternatives
2. Map showing the APE





Area of Potential Effect is shown in light red. Reference is USGS Oak Harbor 7.5 map.



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343
(360) 586-3065 • Fax Number (360) 586-3067 • Website: www.dahp.wa.gov

July 3, 2012

Ms. Allison Crain
Installation Environmental Programs Director
U.S. Navy
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
3730 North Charles Porter Avenue
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-5000

In future correspondence please refer to:
Log: 070312-04-USN
Property: NAS Whidbey Island – Ault Field
Re: Proposed Expeditionary Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) Realignment

Dear Ms. Crain:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The above referenced project has been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. My review is based upon documentation contained in your communication.

First, I agree with the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as described in your consultation letter. I also concur that each of the proposed alternatives for new construction and non-historic structures will have "NO ADVERSE EFFECT" on National Register eligible or listed historic and cultural resources. I would appreciate being notified of the designated Alternative once it is selected. If additional information on the project becomes available, or if any archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, please halt work in the area of discovery and contact the appropriate Native American Tribes and DAHP for further consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Vann
Historical Architect
(360) 586-3079
Nicholas.Vann@dahp.wa.gov

cc: Larry Moore



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0874

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Tom Wooten
The Samish Indian Nation
P.O. Box 217
Anacortes, WA 98221

Dear Chairman Wooten:

Subject: NAVY'S REALIGNMENT AND TRANSITION OF THE
EXPEDITIONARY ELECTRONIC ATTACK (VAQ) SQUADRONS
AT NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) WHIDBEY ISLAND IN OAK
HARBOR, WA

Pursuant to the Navy's policy for American Indian/Alaska Native tribal government-to-government consultation, I would like to extend the opportunity to review the proposed action and to evaluate whether you believe there would be a potential to significantly affect tribal treaty harvest rights or cultural resources resulting from the implementation of the proposed action. A description of the proposed project is provided in enclosures (1) and (2).

Based upon the current scope of the proposed action, the preliminary assessment is that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is in an area of NAS Whidbey Island that does not contain archaeological sites that are listed, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and is considered not sensitive for archaeological resources. However, the Navy seeks your input in order to identify any historic properties that are of religious and cultural significance, protected tribal resources, or tribal rights or interests in Indian land within, or in the vicinity of, the APE for the proposed project that may be affected by this undertaking.

The Navy respectfully requests that you respond via written correspondence, and if appropriate, include map(s) showing the potentially affected area(s) and resources, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

5090
Ser N44/0874
June 27, 2012

If you would like to initiate government-to-government consultation, please provide the name(s) and title(s) of the tribal officials to contact to coordinate our first meeting. The Navy looks forward to discussing your questions and concerns about this proposed project.

If you have further questions or concerns, or require information regarding the proposed undertaking, please contact our Cultural Resources Program Manager, Mr. Lawrence Moore, at (360)257-6780 or lawrence.moore1@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Programs Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Description of Proposed Undertaking
2. Diagram of various components of
the Action Alternatives

Copy to:

Ms. Christine Woodward, Tribal Natural Resources
The Samish Indian Nation
P.O. Box 217
Anacortes, WA 98221

Ms. Jackie Ferry, Tribal Cultural Resources
The Samish Indian Nation
P.O. Box 217
Anacortes, WA 98221



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0873

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Brian Cladoosby
The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11404 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257

Dear Chairman Cladoosby:

Subject: NAVY'S REALIGNMENT AND TRANSITION OF THE
EXPEDITIONARY ELECTRONIC ATTACK (VAQ) SQUADRONS
AT NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) WHIDBEY ISLAND IN OAK
HARBOR, WA

Pursuant to the Navy's policy for American Indian/Alaska Native tribal government-to-government consultation, I would like to extend the opportunity to review the proposed action and to evaluate whether you believe there would be a potential to significantly affect tribal treaty harvest rights or cultural resources resulting from the implementation of the proposed action. A description of the proposed project is provided in enclosures (1) and (2).

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Sincerely,



ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Programs Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Description of Proposed Undertaking
2. Diagram of various components of
the Action Alternatives

Copy to:

Ms. Emily Hutchinson, Tribal Attorney
The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11404 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257

Mr. Larry Campbell, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Cultural Resource Protection Office
11430 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO :

5090

Ser N44/0875

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Jennifer Washington
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
25944 Community Plaza
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Chairman Washington:

Subject: NAVY'S REALIGNMENT AND TRANSITION OF THE
EXPEDITIONARY ELECTRONIC ATTACK (VAQ) SQUADRONS
AT NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) WHIDBEY ISLAND IN OAK
HARBOR, WA

Pursuant to the Navy's policy for American Indian/Alaska Native tribal government-to-government consultation, I would like to extend the opportunity to review the proposed action and to evaluate whether you believe there would be a potential to significantly affect tribal treaty harvest rights or cultural resources resulting from the implementation of the proposed action. A description of the proposed project is provided in enclosures (1) and (2).

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5090
Ser N44/0875
June 27, 2012

If you would like to initiate government-to-government consultation, please provide the name(s) and title(s) of the tribal officials to contact to coordinate our first meeting. The Navy looks forward to discussing your questions and concerns about this proposed project.

If you have further questions or concerns, or require information regarding the proposed undertaking, please contact our Cultural Resources Program Manager, Mr. Lawrence Moore, at (360)257-6780 or lawrence.moore1@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



ALLISON CRAIN
Installation Environmental
Programs Director
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Description of Proposed Undertaking
2. Diagram of various components of
the Action Alternatives

Copy to:

Mr. Scott Schuyler, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
25944 Community Plaza
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Mr. Jon-Paul Shannahan, Natural Resources
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
25944 Community Plaza
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

From: jackie ferry [mailto:jferry@samishtribe.nsn.us]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 13:49
To: Moore, Lawrence E CIV NAVFAC NW, PRW4
Subject: Realignment and Transition of the Expeditionary Electronic Attack (VAQ) Squadrons

Hi Larry,

At this time, we have no cultural resources concerns with this project. If you'd prefer a mailed letter response, please let me know.

Thanks,

Jackie

Cultural Resources, Samish Indian Nation

P.O. Box 217, Anacortes, WA 98221

O: 360-293-6404 | M: 360-770-7784