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Environmental Assessment for
2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon
United States Coast Guard
Sector Field Office Fort Macon
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

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Executive Summary

ES. 1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] §§ 4321 et seq.); the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive 023-01, *Implementation of NEPA*; and Coast Guard Commandant Instruction (COMDTINST) 5090.1, *U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy*.

This EA evaluates the environmental effects of the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) proposal to recapitalize hurricane-damaged facilities (Proposed Action) and its alternatives. The information and analysis contained within this EA will determine whether implementation of the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on the environment, requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If no significant impacts would occur, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be appropriate.

ES. 2 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

This EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives. In accordance with NEPA and CEQ regulations, this EA considers one alternative, the Preferred Action Alternative, for implementing the Proposed Action. This alternative was developed based on planning factors developed by the USCG to identify potential sites and actions that would meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need. All viable alternatives must satisfy the planning factors to the greatest extent practicable; those that did not were eliminated from further consideration. The No Action Alternative is also evaluated, as required by CEQ regulations and COMDTINST 5090.1. Full descriptions of the Preferred Action Alternative and No Action Alternative are provided in **Section 2.3**.

Further, the USCG determined that the Technical Resource Areas requiring in-depth evaluation within this EA are: *Soils; Climate and Air Quality; Noise; Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW); Water Resources; Biological Resources; Floodplains and Coastal Zone Resources;* and *Cultural Resources*. Existing conditions for these Technical Resource Areas at and in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon are described in **Section 3.0**. The Proposed Action's potential impacts on them are discussed in **Section 4.0**. Technical Resource Areas not expected to experience meaningful effects and, therefore, not evaluated in this EA include: *Land Use and Zoning; Socioeconomics* (including *Environmental Justice, Local Economy, Housing, Community Service and Medical Facilities, Recreational Facilities, Emergency Response Services,* and *Schools*); *Utilities; Geography and Topography;* and *Transportation*. The rationale for dismissing these resources from evaluation in the EA is described in **Section 3.2**.

ES.3 Background

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has prepared this EA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts from constructing a new Multi-Mission Station Facility (hereafter referred to as the Multi-Mission Building [MMB]); demolishing selected existing onshore facilities; and permanently homeporting an 87' coastal patrol boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon. Collectively, these activities constitute the Proposed Action evaluated in this EA. Construction of the MMB would replace multiple onshore buildings at Station Fort Macon that were

damaged during Hurricane Florence in September 2018, including the Station Building. Personnel and functions at Station Fort Macon would be relocated to the new MMB upon its completion, and the selected onshore facilities would be demolished. The 87 CPB would be relocated from USCG Base Portsmouth (Virginia) and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon to remedy the current absence of patrol boats in the Sector North Carolina area of responsibility (AOR).

ES.4 Purpose and Need

The *purpose* of the Proposed Action is to bring Station Fort Macon to Final Operating Capability (FOC) by providing onshore and vessel assets that meet USCG, Sector North Carolina, and Station mission requirements and capabilities.

The Proposed Action is *needed* to bring Station Fort Macon to FOC and address a shortfall in available functional and operational onshore facility space, as well as insufficient vessel basing. Currently, station personnel must operate out of facilities that are temporary or do not meet USCG-prescribed hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements, and are much smaller than the space required by the USCG Shore Facilities Standards Manual. Additionally, Station Fort Macon must rely on 87 CPBs temporarily assigned from other USCG districts to maintain the required coverage for search and rescue operations and other activities reliant on that type of vessel. Failure to meet USCG-prescribed facility and vessel requirements would increase Station Fort Macon's vulnerability to adverse weather events and similar types of natural disasters, and further hinder the Station's operational readiness and response.

ES.5 Description of the Proposed Action

The USCG's Proposed Action consists of three primary components: 1) construct and operate a new, 30,780-gross square foot (GSF) MMB; 2) demolish existing facilities at Station Fort Macon that do not meet USCG resistance and resiliency requirements, and remove temporary office trailers at the station, following completion of the proposed MMB; and 3) permanently homeport an 87-foot CPB at Station Fort Macon. The Proposed Action would meet applicable USCG requirements for vessel homeporting and onshore facilities and bring Station Fort Macon to FOC.

The three Proposed Action components are discussed below.

ES.5.1 Multi-Mission Station Building

The proposed MMB would be a three-story, steel-framed structure that would provide space for station operations, office/administrative functions, command and communications center, medical/dental clinic, general berthing, dining, fitness center and locker rooms, engine and small boat maintenance, weapons and ammunition storage, and associated general storage. Approximately 1,972 GSF of space would be allocated in the new MMB to support personnel and operations associated with the 87' CPB that would be homeported at Station Fort Macon as part of the Proposed Action.

Construction of the new MMB would include all necessary site work, including vegetation clearing, grading, compacting, and installation of buried connections to existing utility systems. The new MMB would be built on a reinforced concrete slab with deep foundation piles to adequately support the slab and building structure. The building would have a footprint of less than 1 acre. The ground floor would be elevated above the 100-year flood level to prevent or minimize potential impacts from flooding induced by storms or other adverse

weather events. Parking for the privately owned vehicles (POVs) of personnel assigned to the new MMB would be provided in existing parking areas at Station Fort Macon.

ES.5.2 Facility Demolitions

Following the relocation of Station personnel to the new MMB, the Station Building, Prevention Building/ Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building would be demolished. The Proposed Action would demolish 17,252 GSF of existing facilities at Station Fort Macon. The facility demolitions would adhere to established demolition practices and procedures. Prior to demolition, existing hazardous substances in these facilities, if present (e.g., asbestos-containing materials [ACM], lead-based paint [LBP], and polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs]) would be identified, segregated, removed by licensed contractors, and transported to permitted facilities outside the station for disposal. The remaining building structure and components would then be dismantled and disposed of at a permitted facility outside the Station in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements. Recyclable and/or salvageable components would be segregated and removed to the extent possible during demolition of the facilities. It is anticipated that the majority of debris generated from demolition of these facilities would be categorized as non-hazardous solid waste.

Following the completion of each building demolition, the underlying site would be graded to achieve positive drainage and mimic the contours of the surrounding area. The site would then be planted with native vegetation or maintained in a permeable condition to meet the applicable stormwater management requirements and minimize demand for ongoing facility maintenance at the station. This additional open space would also aid in managing, distributing, and dispersing any future storm-induced flooding that could occur at the station.

ES.5.3 87’ CPB Homeporting

An 87’ CPB would be relocated from USCG Base Portsmouth (Virginia) and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon to fulfill Sector North Carolina’s requirement for this type of vessel. The permanently homeported 87’ CPB would tie up at Station Fort Macon’s existing visiting ship mooring along its working waterfront. Approximately 1,972 GSF of space would be allocated in the proposed MMB to support berthing, storage, office/administrative functions, and equipment maintenance and repair associated with the 87’ CPB. No new in-water berthing facilities or onshore support facilities would be constructed. POV parking for personnel associated with the 87’ CPB would be provided in existing parking areas at Station Fort Macon.

Permanently homeporting the 87’ CPB at Station Fort Macon would increase the number of personnel assigned to the station by approximately 8 to 10.

ES.6 Alternatives Considered

NEPA, CEQ regulations, and COMDTINST 5090.1. require all reasonable alternatives to be explored and objectively evaluated. The USCG identified one reasonable action alternative that is carried forward. Therefore, this EA analyzes the Preferred Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative.

ES.6.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed MMB would not be built and operated, demolition activities would not occur and an 87’ CPB would not be permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon. Activities and operations at the Station would continue as they currently do. USCG personnel would continue to work in sub-

optimal facilities which do not meet functional space requirements nor prescribed hurricane resiliency and resistance standards. The failure to permanently relocate an 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon would result in long-term strain on resources in the USCG's Fifth District (D5) and Seventh District (D7). Under the No Action Alternative, Station Fort Macon would continue to operate at Interim Operating Capability (IOC), and the lack of suitable vessels and onshore facilities would continue to hinder the Station's operational readiness and response.

While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, this alternative is retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14[d]). The No Action Alternative reflects the *status quo* and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

ES.6.2 Preferred Action Alternative

The Preferred Action Alternative would implement the primary components of the Proposed Action described in **Sections ES.5.** The proposed MMB would be built and operated on a site near Station Fort Macon's working waterfront to provide accessibility and maintain operational efficiencies. To provide space for the MMB, the Station Building would be demolished prior to construction. Once the MMB is operational, the remaining three buildings (Prevention Building/ Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building) would be demolished. Following the completion of construction and demolition activities, an 87' CPB would be relocated from Base Portsmouth and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon.

The Preferred Action Alternative fulfills the planning factors developed by the USCG; therefore, this alternative satisfies the Proposed Action's purpose and need and is retained for analysis in this EA. It would meet applicable USCG requirements, and bring Station Fort Macon to FOC.

ES.7 Agency and Public Involvement

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6), this EA is subject to public involvement. Agencies, organizations, and members of the public with a potential interest in the Proposed Action were invited and encouraged to participate. The USCG published and distributed the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period, which was announced by a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *Carteret County News-Times*. Substantive comments received on the Draft EA during this 30-day review period will be addressed in the Final EA.

Interagency and intergovernmental coordination is a federally mandated process for informing and coordinating with other governmental agencies regarding Federal proposed actions. CEQ regulations require intergovernmental notifications prior to making any detailed statement of environmental impacts. A complete list of Federal, state, and local agencies consulted for this EA can be found in **Section 9.0**. Information and comments received from these agencies have been addressed in this EA as appropriate.

Native American tribes were also invited to participate in the NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 processes in accordance with EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. Two federally recognized tribes were invited to consult on this EA: Catawba Indian Nation, and Tuscarora Nation Tribal Government. Copies of relevant tribal correspondence are provided in **Appendix B**.

ES.8 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences

A summary of the environmental impacts of each alternative is provided in **Table ES-1**. The analysis assumes that best management practices (BMPs) included as standard provisions of USCG contracts and developed during Federal planning processes would be employed to avoid or minimize significant adverse effects on the environment. A complete list of BMPs for each technical resource area analyzed in this EA are described in **Section 4.5**. Implementing BMPs would ensure that the Proposed Action would avoid significant impacts or reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Effects by Alternative

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Soils	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to soils from ground disturbances during construction and demolition. No impacts from operation of the MMB or homeporting.
Air Quality and Climate	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** on air quality due to the potential for increased air emissions and dust generation from demolition and construction activities. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** from 87' CPB emissions during its use for USCG operations and missions. No impacts from operation of the MMB.
Noise	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from noise generation by construction equipment. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** from the permanent addition of the 87' CPB to the existing noise environment. No impacts from operation of the MMB.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste	***Long-term, potentially significant adverse impact*** from continual use of degraded facilities resulting in increased vulnerability to hazardous conditions.	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** due to the use of hazardous materials, potential generation of hazardous wastes, and the potential for spills and releases during construction and demolition. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the potential use, handling, or storage of HTMW during operation of the MMB. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the potential for spills or releases from homeporting the 87' CPB.
Non-hazardous Solid Waste	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the generation of construction and demolition debris. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from homeporting due to new wastes generated from an increase in personnel and the addition of a new vessel. No impacts from operation of the MMB.

Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Effects by Alternative

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Water Resources	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to surface waters during construction and demolition from erosion, sedimentation, and potential release of hazardous materials. ***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to stormwater, floodplains, and coastal resources from a temporary increase in impervious surfaces during construction and demolition. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impacts*** from construction and operation of a new facility in the 100-year floodplain. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** on water quality from utilization of the 87' CPB. No impacts to wetlands from construction or demolition. No impacts to surface waters, stormwater, wetlands, or coastal resources from operation of the MMB. No impacts to stormwater, wetlands, floodplains, or coastal resources from homeporting of the 87' CPB.
Biological Resources	No impact	***Short-term, negligible adverse impact*** to terrestrial wildlife and aquatic wildlife and habitat due to construction and demolition disturbance and sedimentation. No impact to terrestrial habitat from construction and demolition. No adverse effects to T&E species from construction and demolition. No impacts to biological resources from operation of the MMB or homeporting of the 87' CPB.
Cultural Resources	No impact	No adverse effects to archaeological or architectural resources from demolition, construction, operation of the MMB, or homeporting of the 87' CPB.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACM	asbestos-containing material
AEC	Areas of Environmental Concern
AOR	area of responsibility
AST	aboveground storage tanks
BCC	birds of conservation concern
BMP	Best Management Practice
BUI	boating under the influence
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAMA	Coastal Area Management Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGC	Coast Guard Cutters
COMDTINST	Coast Guard Commandant Instruction
CO	carbon monoxide
CPB	Coastal Patrol Boat
CRC	Coastal Resources Commission
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
D5	Coast Guard Fifth District
D7	Coast Guard Seventh District
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel scale
DCM	North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
DEMLR	North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DWR	North Carolina Division of Water Resources
EA	Environmental Assessment

EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISA	Energy Independence and Security Act
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESCP	Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan
ESQD	explosive safety quantity distance
FCD	Federal Consistency Determination
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOC	final operating capability
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRC	Fast Response Cutter
FY	fiscal year
GHG	greenhouse gas
GSF	gross square foot
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HQW	High Quality Waters
HTMW	hazardous and toxic materials and wastes
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
IOC	interim operating capability
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LBP	lead-based paint
LID	low-impact development
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MMB	Multi-Mission Building
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCAC	North Carolina Administrative Code
NCDEQ	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

NCNHP	North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAA	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
O_3	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PM	particulate matter
POV	privately owned vehicle
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SAR	search and rescue
SFO	Sector Field Office
SFSM	Shore Facilities Standards Manual
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
SQG	Small Quantity Generator
T&E	threatened and endangered

TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
US	United States
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USDOT	US Department of Transportation
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	volatile organic compound
WLB	seagoing buoy tender
WLIC	inland construction tender
WOUS	Waters of the US

1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the proposal by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to recapitalize hurricane-damaged facilities by constructing a new Multi-Mission Station Facility (hereafter referred to as the Multi-Mission Building [MMB]) and demolishing four existing onshore facilities; in addition to the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot coastal patrol boat (87' CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). Construction of the MMB would replace multiple onshore buildings damaged during Hurricane Florence in September 2018 at Station Fort Macon, including the Station Building. Personnel and functions at Station Fort Macon would be relocated to the new MMB upon its completion, and the four existing onshore facilities would be demolished. The 87' CPB would be relocated from Base Portsmouth (Virginia) and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon to remedy the current absence of patrol boats in the Sector North Carolina area of responsibility (AOR).

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] §§ 4321 et seq.); the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive 023-01, *Implementation of NEPA*; and Coast Guard Commandant Instruction (COMDTINST) 5090.1, *U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy*.

1.2 Background

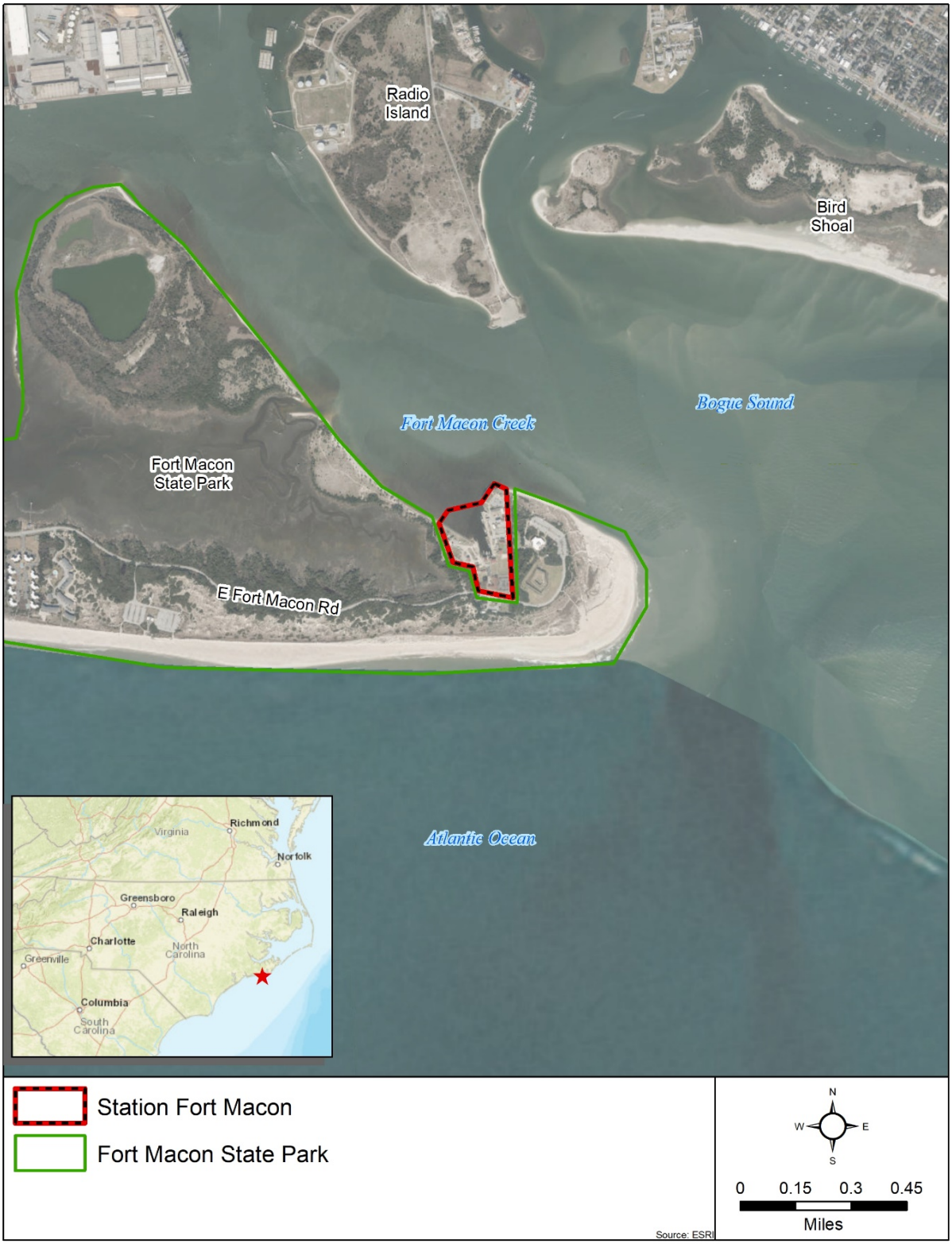
1.2.1 Station Fort Macon

Station Fort Macon is in Carteret County along the Bogue Sound in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (**Figure 1-1**). The 27-acre station is adjacent to Fort Macon State Park and the historic Fort Macon, a Civil War-era fort that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Station Fort Macon is operated by Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon under the direction of USCG Sector North Carolina. Sector North Carolina's AOR encompasses the coastal region, ports, and federally navigable waterways along 3,375 miles of the state's coastline between the Virginia and South Carolina borders. The sector is part of the USCG's Fifth District (D5), which encompasses 156,000 square miles of navigable waterways extending from northern New Jersey to the North Carolina-South Carolina border (USCG, 2020).

Sector North Carolina's primary missions include Search and Rescue (SAR); Marine and Recreational Boating Safety; Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security; Marine Environmental Protection; Aids to Navigation; and Maritime Law Enforcement (USCG, 2017). In addition to Station Fort Macon, SFO Fort Macon includes the following shore units: Industrial Support Detachment, Facility Engineering, USCG Housing, Base Fort Macon, Aids to Navigation Team Fort Macon, Electronic Support Detachment Fort Macon, Material Augmentation Team Fort Macon, and a Base Exchange.

Figure 1-1: Regional Location of Station Fort Macon



Station Fort Macon is staffed by 32 active-duty personnel and 14 reservists (USCG, 2013a) Four Coast Guard Cutters (CGCs) are permanently homeported at Base Fort Macon, as described below.

Two 154-foot SENTINEL-Class Fast Response Cutters (FRCs), each with a 24-person crew. **Photo 1**: CGC *Bernard C. Webber* (Miami Beach, Florida) (USCG, 2016).

The CGC *Elm*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender (WLB), with a crew of 48. **Photo 2**: A 225-foot WLB, the CGC *Spar* (Kodiak, Alaska) (USCG, 2016).

The USCG's oldest active CGC, the CGC *Smilax*, a 100-foot inland construction tender (WLIC) with a crew of 13 to 15. **Photo 3**: CGC *Smilax* (USCG, 2020).

Figure 1-2: Station Fort Macon

1.2.2 Hurricane Damage

Hurricane Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane in September 2018 near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, which is approximately 74 miles southwest of Station Fort Macon. The hurricane produced a storm surge of 9 to 13 feet and record-setting rainfall totals exceeding 30 inches in some locations. Wind gusts of 105 miles per hour were recorded at Fort Macon. The State of North Carolina reported 42 fatalities and preliminary damage estimates of $16.7 billion (NWS, 2020a; NWS, 2020b).

Photo 4: An 87' CPB, the CGC *Crocodile* (St. Petersburg, Florida) (USCG, 2016)

As a result of Hurricane Florence, Station Fort Macon sustained extensive damage, particularly to the Station Building, Prevention Building (also known as the Boathouse), Racquetball Building (also known as the Gym or Fitness Center), and Medical/Dental Building (**Figure 1-2**). Storm damage to these facilities included loss of roof shingles and exterior siding, water leaks and flooding of interior spaces, including saturated upstairs berthing areas due to roof leaks and first floor flooding due to failure of exterior doors and damaged door jams, and associated water damage to interior finishes (e.g., drywall, ceiling tile, carpet/flooring, furniture), electrical systems (e.g., lighting, wiring), and mechanical equipment (e.g., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] equipment and associated duct work). Due to the extensive damage and the subsequent development of mold throughout the building, the Station Building was condemned, and personnel and operations were relocated to temporary facilities, consisting of one double-wide office trailer and two single-wide office trailers. As a result, there is a shortfall in necessary space for station personnel and operations, as prescribed in COMDTINST M11012.9, *USCG Shore Facilities Standards Manual (SFSM)*.

While a number of the damaged buildings at Station Fort Macon were repaired and have been re-occupied (i.e., the Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building), these facilities do not meet USCG-prescribed hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements (USCG, 2020). Under current conditions, Station Fort Macon is currently operating at an Interim Operating Capability (IOC), which hinders the Station's operational readiness and response, and increases its susceptibility to facility damage from future adverse weather events.

1.2.3 Coastal Patrol Boat Relocation and Permanent Homeporting

The Marine Protector Class 87' CPB is an improved version of the 82-foot Point-class patrol boats formerly used by the USCG (**Photo 4**). The 87' CPBs carry a crew of up to 11, have a top sustained speed of 25 knots, and displace 91 tons when fully loaded. The USCG operates 73 vessels in this class to perform search and rescue (SAR), law enforcement, fishery patrol, drug interdiction, illegal immigrant interdiction, and homeland security operations up to 200 miles offshore (USCG, 2016).

Currently, there are no 87' CPBs assigned to the Sector North Carolina AOR. Rather, SAR coverage in Sector North Carolina is provided with patrol boats from northern portions of USCG D5 (i.e., areas north of North Carolina) as well as the Seventh District (D7). USCG D7 extends south from the North Carolina-South Carolina border and includes Florida's Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, as well as Puerto Rico. This situation results

in imbalanced and inefficient patrol boat coverage and severely limits D5's ability to maintain SAR coverage in the southern AOR, including areas in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon.

Station Fort Macon serves as the principal location for 87' CPBs temporarily deployed to Sector North Carolina from D7 and northern D5. Temporarily deployed 87' CPBs at Station Fort Macon dock at the Station's visiting ship mooring (**Figure 1-2**). A feasibility study prepared in 2013 identified Station Fort Macon as a possible permanent homeport location for an 87' CPB in Sector North Carolina (USCG, 2020b)

In addition to the need to permanently homeport an 87' CPB in Sector North Carolina, the permanent relocation of an 87' CPB from USCG Base Portsmouth (Virginia) is required to support the planned strategic port loading of other USCG vessels at that base. Permanently homeporting an 87' CPB from Base Portsmouth at Station Fort Macon would meet the need for 87' CPB coverage in Sector North Carolina while resolving the potential for interference with the planned strategic port loading at Base Portsmouth. The permanent homeporting of an 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon would also resolve Sector North Carolina's lack of coverage by coastal patrol boats; support the sector's and Station Fort Macon's mission objectives; and relieve demand for temporarily deployed 87' CPBs from D7 and northern D5 (USCG, 2020b).

1.3 Purpose and Need

The *purpose* of the Proposed Action is to comply with USCG functional space, hurricane resilience, and operational requirements in accordance with the USCG SFSM (COMDTINST M11012.9). The Proposed Action would bring Station Fort Macon to Final Operating Capability (FOC) by providing the necessary facilities and vessels to meet mission readiness and response and resiliency requirements.

The Proposed Action is *needed* to address a shortfall in available functional and operational onshore facility space, as well as insufficient vessel basing. Currently, station personnel must operate out of facilities that are temporary or do not meet USCG-prescribed hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements, and are much smaller than the space required by the USCG SFSM. Additionally, Station Fort Macon must rely on 87' CPBs temporarily assigned from other USCG districts to maintain the required coverage for SAR operations and other activities reliant on that type of vessel in the southern Sector North Carolina AOR. Failure to meet USCG-prescribed facility and vessel requirements would increase Station Fort Macon's vulnerability to adverse weather events and similar types of natural disasters, and further hinder the Station's operational readiness and response.

1.4 Scope of the EA

This EA evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental, cultural, socioeconomic, and physical effects of implementing the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives. A detailed description of the Proposed Action is provided in **Section 2.2**. The USCG developed seven planning factors (described in **Section 2.3.1**) to identify potential alternatives that would meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need. Alternatives were eliminated from further consideration when they did not meet one or more of these planning factors (see **Section 2.3.2**). In accordance with NEPA and CEQ Regulations, this EA considers two alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action: Preferred Action Alternative and No Action Alternative, as described in **Section 2.3**. The No Action Alternative is also evaluated, as required by CEQ Regulations and COMDTINST 5090.1.

In accordance with CEQ Regulations, the USCG conducted internal and external scoping, including coordination with pertinent regulatory agencies, to "identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (40 CFR Part 1506.3), narrowing the discussion of these issues in the statement [EA] to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere" (40 CFR Part 1501.7(a)(3)). This approach is consistent with NEPA and CEQ Regulations.

Through this process, the USCG determined that the Technical Resource Areas requiring in-depth evaluation within this EA are: *Soils, Air Quality and Climate, Noise, Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW), Non-Hazardous Solid Waste, Biological Resources, Water Resources, and Cultural Resources*. These Technical Resource Areas are described in **Section 3.0** and in **Section 4.0**. Technical Resource Areas not expected to experience meaningful effects and, therefore, not evaluated in this EA include: *Land Use and Zoning, Socioeconomics (*including *Environmental Justice, Local Economy, Housing, Community Service and Medical Facilities, Recreational Facilities*, *Emergency Response Services, and Schools*), *Utilities, Geology and Topography*, and *Transportation*. The rationale for dismissing these resources from evaluation in this EA is briefly discussed in **Section 3.2**.

1.5 Regulatory Framework

This EA has been prepared in accordance with NEPA, CEQ Regulations, DHS Management Directive 023-01, and COMDTINST 5090.1. The information and analysis contained in this EA will serve as the basis for the USCG's decision-making process for the Proposed Action.

The primary legislation affecting the decision-making process associated with this Proposed Action is NEPA. NEPA requires that Federal agencies consider potential environmental consequences of their proposed actions. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed Federal decisions with public input. The CEQ was established by NEPA for the purpose of implementing and overseeing Federal policies as they relate to this process. The CEQ issued *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA* (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) in 1978. These regulations specify that an EA be prepared to:

- Briefly provide sufficient analysis and evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A FONSI is the "decision document" that closes the EA process when no unavoidable significant impacts are identified;
- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary; and
- Facilitate the preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

Further, to comply with other applicable environmental regulatory requirements (e.g., Endangered Species Act [ESA], National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA], Clean Water Act [CWA], etc.) and assess potential environmental impacts on resources addressed by those requirements, the NEPA process for the Proposed Action includes a thorough examination of relevant environmental issues. Information regarding Federal, State, and local regulations and requirements, as well as Executive Orders (EOs) and USCG- and DHS-specific regulations, applicable to the Proposed Action and associated Technical Resource Areas are presented in **Sections 3.0** and **4.0**, as appropriate.

1.6 Agency and Public Involvement Process

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6), this EA is subject to public involvement. Consideration of the views and information provided by all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision-making. Agencies, organizations, and members of the public with a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low-income, and disadvantaged groups, are encouraged to participate. A record of public involvement, agency coordination, and Native American consultation associated with this EA is provided in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**. A complete list of agencies and individuals consulted during preparation of this EA is included in **Section 9.0**.

1.6.1 Public Review

The USCG, as the proponent of the Proposed Action, published and distributed the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period, as announced by a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in *Carteret County News-Times*. The Draft EA was made available for public review online. Substantive comments received during the 30-day Draft EA review period will be addressed in the Final EA. An additional public review period will be held for the Final EA and Draft FONSI. If it is determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would result in significant environmental impacts, the USCG will either not implement the Proposed Action, or will publish in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS.

1.6.2 Agency Coordination / Consultation

Interagency and intergovernmental coordination is a federally mandated process for informing and coordinating with other governmental agencies regarding Federal proposed actions. CEQ Regulations require intergovernmental notifications prior to making any detailed statement of environmental impacts. This coordination also fulfills requirements under EO 12372 (*Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*; superseded by EO 12416, and subsequently supplemented by EO 13132), which requires Federal agencies to cooperate with and consider state and local views in implementing a Federal proposal.

Federal agencies consulted for this EA include the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and US Department of Transportation (USDOT). State and local entities consulted include the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); North Carolina Ports Authority; State Environmental Review Clearinghouse; North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM); North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP); North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (DEMLR); North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation; Fort Macon State Park; Carteret County Department of Planning and Inspections; Carteret County Department of Parks and Recreation; Carteret County Department of Shore Protection; Carteret County Soil and Water Conservation District; and the Atlantic Beach Department of Planning, Zoning, and Inspections.

Responses were received from the USEPA, USACE, Carteret County Department of Planning and Inspection, North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, and Fort Macon State Park, and have been addressed in this EA as appropriate. A copy of relevant correspondence and agency responses can be found in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

1.6.3 Native American Consultation

In accordance with EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (2000), the USCG has invited two federally recognized Indian tribes, the Catawba Indian Nation and the Tuscarora Nation, to participate in the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes as Sovereign Nations based on their potential ancestral ties to the Proposed Action area. Copies of relevant tribal correspondence are provided in **Appendix B**.

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2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and COMDTINST 5090.1 require all reasonable alternatives to be explored and objectively evaluated. The Proposed Action is described in detail in **Section 2.2**. This EA presents a detailed analysis of two alternatives to the Proposed Action: the Preferred Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative, which are described in **Section 2.3.1**. The alternatives development and screening process established by the USCG to evaluate viable alternatives is discussed in **Section 2.3.1**. Detailed descriptions of the No Action Alternative and Preferred Action Alternative are provided in **Section 2.3.1**. Alternatives were eliminated from further consideration when they did not meet one or more of the USCG's planning factors (**Section 2.3.2**).

2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action evaluated in this EA consists of three primary components: 1) construction and operation of a new MMB, 2) demolition of four existing facilities that do not meet USCG resistance and resiliency requirements, and 3) permanent homeporting of an 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon (**Figure 2-1**). These components are discussed in **Sections 2.2.1**, **2.2.2**, and **2.2.3**, respectively. Construction of the new MMB and the proposed facility demolitions are anticipated to begin in 2023 and be completed by 2025.

2.2.1 Construct and Operate a New Multi-Mission Building

The proposed MMB would be a three-story, approximately 30,780-gross square foot (GSF) facility that would provide space for station operations, office/administrative functions, command and communications center, medical/dental clinic, general berthing, dining, fitness center and locker rooms, engine and small boat maintenance, weapons and ammunition storage, and associated general storage. The proposed MMB would be located near Station Fort Macon's working waterfront (**Figure 2-1**) to provide accessibility and maintain operational efficiencies with waterfront activities. The site of the proposed MMB primarily consists of maintained lawn, although a portion also overlaps the existing Station Building, which is unoccupied due to hurricane damage (see **Section 1.2.2**).

The new MMB would be staffed by approximately 22 USCG personnel. Approximately 1,972 GSF of space would be allocated in the new MMB to support personnel and operations associated with the 87' CPB that would be homeported at Station Fort Macon as part of the Proposed Action (see **Section 2.2.3**).

The new MMB would consist of a steel-framed structure built on a reinforced concrete slab. Deep foundation piles would be used as necessary to adequately support the slab and building structure. The building would have a footprint of less than 1 acre. The ground floor would be elevated above the 100-year flood level to prevent or minimize potential impacts from flooding induced by storms or other adverse weather events (floodplains are discussed in **Sections 3.4.1.4** and **4.3.1** of the EA).

Appropriately sized heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment would provide climate control to finished interior spaces. Construction of the facility would include all necessary site work, including vegetation clearing, grading, compacting, and installation of buried connections to existing utility systems (e.g., water/sewer, electrical, data/communications) currently serving Station Fort Macon.

Figure 2-1: Proposed Action Area

Interior finishes in the new MMB would include gypsum board partition walls, paint, floor tile/carpet, acoustical suspended ceiling tiles, and all necessary plumbing, lavatory, electrical, and lighting fixtures.

Existing open areas at Station Fort Macon would be used to temporarily store and stage construction materials and equipment and provide parking for construction workers' privately owned vehicles (POVs). POV parking for USCG personnel assigned to the new MMB would be provided in existing parking areas at the Station.

The new facility would be designed in accordance with applicable USCG criteria to ensure a consistent and coherent architectural character while meeting resiliency and resistance requirements. Because construction of the new MMB would disturb more than 5,000 square feet of land, the facility's design would incorporate low impact development (LID) measures to the maximum extent technically feasible in accordance with Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). The incorporation of such features would maintain the site's pre-development hydrology to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater generated by the new facility.

Station personnel working in existing hurricane-damaged facilities and temporary office trailers at the Station would be relocated to the new MMB upon its completion, and temporary office trailers would be dismantled and removed from the Station by the leasing company using towing vehicles and existing roads. Once operational, the new MMB would enable Station Fort Macon to achieve FOC by supporting station operations and mission requirements under normal conditions as well as during, and immediately following adverse weather events.

2.2.2 Demolish Existing Station Facilities

The Proposed Action would demolish 17,252 GSF of existing facilities at Station Fort Macon that were damaged during Hurricane Florence. Facilities identified for demolition consist of the Station Building, Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building (**Figure 2-1**). These facilities were repaired following the hurricane and are currently occupied by Station Fort Macon personnel and functions, but do not meet USGC SFSM or hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements (**Section 1.2.2**).

Facility demolitions at Station Fort Macon would adhere to established demolition practices and procedures. Prior to demolition, existing hazardous substances in these facilities, if present (e.g., asbestos-containing materials [ACM], lead-based paint [LBP], and polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs]) would be identified, segregated, removed by licensed contractors, and transported to permitted facilities outside the Station for disposal. The remaining building structure and components would then be dismantled and disposed of at a permitted facility outside the Station in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. Recyclable and/or salvageable components would be segregated and removed to the extent possible during demolition of the facilities. It is anticipated that the majority of debris generated from demolition of these facilities would be categorized as non-hazardous solid waste.

The Station Building would be demolished prior to beginning construction of the new MMB. The sequence for demolishing the remaining facilities has not been determined. To minimize logistical concerns and disruption of ongoing station operations, it is anticipated that the facilities would be demolished individually rather than simultaneously. Workers, vehicles, and equipment would access the facilities via existing roads

and transportation infrastructure on and outside the Station; no temporary roads or access paths would be constructed.

Following the completion of each building demolition, the underlying site would be graded to achieve positive drainage and mimic the contours of the surrounding area. The site would then be planted with native vegetation or maintained in a permeable condition to meet the applicable stormwater management requirements and minimize demand for ongoing facility maintenance at the Station. This additional open space would also aid in managing, distributing, and dispersing any future storm-induced flooding that could occur at the Station.

2.2.3 Permanently Homeport an 87' Coastal Patrol Boat

Under the Proposed Action, an 87' CPB would be relocated from Base Portsmouth and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon to fulfill Sector North Carolina's requirement for this type of vessel. The permanently homeported 87' CPB would dock at existing visiting ship mooring along its working waterfront (**Figure 2-1**). The visiting ship berthing is equipped with fully functional fenders, cleats for mooring lines, shore ties for electricity, potable water, fire protection, sewage, internet, and phone service connections, and does not require additional upgrades to accommodate a permanently homeported 87' CPB. No construction of new or additional in-water or onshore support facilities would be required.

As noted in **Section 2.2.1**, approximately 1,972 GSF of space would be allocated in the proposed MMB to support berthing, storage, office/administrative functions, and equipment maintenance and repair associated with the 87' CPB. POV parking for personnel associated with the 87' CPB would be provided in existing parking areas at Station Fort Macon.

Permanently homeporting the 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon would increase the number of personnel assigned to the Station by approximately 8 to 10, bringing the total number of personnel at the station to 56.

2.3 Alternatives Considered

NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and COMDTINST 5090.1 require all reasonable alternatives to be explored and objectively evaluated. Alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief summary of the reasons for their dismissal. For the purpose of this analysis, an alternative is considered "reasonable" if it would meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need. "Unreasonable" alternatives that would not meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need were dismissed from further consideration and evaluation in this EA.

2.3.1 Planning Factors and Alternatives Development

The USCG developed and applied the following seven planning factors to screen and evaluate possible alternatives that would meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need. The USCG identified that a suitable alternative must meet the following criteria:

1. Comply with USCG functional space, hurricane resilience, and operational requirements in accordance with the USCG SFSM (COMDTINST M11012.9).
2. Be consistent with other existing uses at the Station, while minimizing construction and lifetime operating costs to the extent possible.

3. Avoid substantial modification or reconfiguration of existing facilities, and/or the acquisition of new or additional land.
4. Would not disrupt station personnel and operations, or impair or preclude the use of existing, viable station facilities or functions.
5. Reduce the footprint of facilities at the Station in accordance with USCG facility management requirements by consolidating similar or related functions into a single or smaller number of facilities, and/or removing facilities that are redundant, undersized, outdated.
6. Support strategic port loading or similar planning initiatives at USCG bases or stations.
7. Avoid potential impacts on sensitive environmental resources, such as wetlands, floodplains, and threatened and endangered species to the extent practicable.

Of the five alternatives screened during this process, only one alternative was determined to be viable and carried forward for further analysis (see **Section 2.3.2**). The No Action Alternative is also evaluated as required by CEQ regulations.

Table 2-1 summarizes the conformance of each alternative to the seven planning factors. For more detailed information on the alternatives eliminated during this process, refer to in **Section 2.3.2**.

Table 2-1: Summary of Alternatives Considered

Action Alternative	Planning Factors[1]					
	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative	Construct and Operate MMB at Different Location	Develop New MMB and Standalone 87' CPB Support Building	Utilize Existing Station Buildings and Develop Standalone 87' CPB Support Building	Homeport 87' CPB at Station Wrightsville Beach
Planning Factor 1: Complies with USCG SFSM	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**
Planning Factor 2: Consistent with other Station uses	**NO**	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**YES**
Planning Factor 3: Avoids substantial facility modification	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**
Planning Factor 4: Does not disrupt station personnel / operations	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**
Planning Factor 5: Reduces facility footprint	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**	**YES**

Table 2-1: Summary of Alternatives Considered

Action Alternative	Planning Factors[1]					
	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative	Construct and Operate MMB at Different Location	Develop New MMB and Standalone 87' CPB Support Building	Utilize Existing Station Buildings and Develop Standalone 87' CPB Support Building	Homeport 87' CPB at Station Wrightsville Beach
Planning Factor 6: Supports strategic port loading and planning initiatives	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**
Planning Factor 7: Avoids impacts on sensitive environmental resources	**YES**	**YES**	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**

Note(s):

1. Green shading indicates that the Alternative met the Planning Factor; red shading indicates that the Alternative did not meet the Planning Factor.

2.3.1 Evaluated Alternatives

2.3.1.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed MMB would not constructed, the existing inadequate facilities would not be demolished, an 87' CPB would not be permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon, and current operations would continue. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, it is retained for analysis in this EA to provide a comparative baseline against the Proposed Action, as required by the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

Under the No Action Alternative, Station Fort Macon would continue to operate at IOC, and the lack of suitable vessels and onshore facilities would continue to hinder the Station's operational readiness and response and the USCG's ability to carry out its mission requirements. Further, the failure to permanently homeport an 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon would result in long-term strain on resources in D7 and D5, as well as interfere with the planned strategic port loading initiative at Base Portsmouth.

2.3.1.2 Preferred Action Alternative

The Preferred Action Alternative would implement the primary components of the Proposed Action described in **Sections 2.2.1** through **2.2.3**. This is the USCG's Preferred Alternative because it best meets the needs of Station Fort Macon, as reflected in the planning factors identified in **Section 2.3.1**. This alternative provides many advantages, including but not limited to:

- Compatible with existing uses at the Station and would not require substantial modification or reconfiguration of existing spaces;
- Complies with USCG operational, readiness, and resilience requirements;
- Reduces the footprint of facilities at the Station by consolidating similar functions; and
- Located in an area with minimal or no impacts on sensitive environmental resources.

2.3.2 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

The USCG eliminated the alternatives discussed below because they did not meet one or more of the planning factors presented in **Section 2.3.1**.

2.3.2.1 Construct a Multi-Mission Building at a Different Location on Station Fort Macon

The USCG considered siting the proposed MMB within the current location of the Station Building and Prevention Building/Boathouse following demolition of these facilities. This site would be consistent with other existing uses along the waterfront. However, this location is already flood-prone, and would make the new facility more susceptible to adverse impacts from storm-induced flooding. This would require the incorporation of additional resiliency measures, which would increase construction and operating costs. It would also require the temporary relocation of USCG personnel and functions currently occupying the Prevention Building/Boathouse, which would be disruptive to station personnel and operations during construction.

The USCG also considered siting the MMB at the southern end of the open grassland area. However, this location would move the facility too far away from waterfront operations and result in operational inefficiencies. Thus, this alternative would not meet Planning Factors 2, 4, and 7, and was removed from further consideration.

2.3.2.2 Develop a New Multi-Mission Building and 87' Coastal Patrol Boat Support Building

The USCG considered constructing a new standalone building to support 87' CPB operations separately from the proposed MMB. Renovation of the Racquetball Building was also considered, but would have required substantial modifications. However, both of these options were deemed operationally inefficient, would result in increased operational costs over the life of these facilities, and would not meet USCG facility management requirements prescribed in the SFSM (COMDTINST M11012.9). As such, this alternative would not meet Planning Factors 2, 3, and 5, and was removed from further consideration.

2.3.2.3 Utilize Existing Buildings and Develop 87' Coastal Patrol Boat Support Building

The USCG considered rehabilitating the condemned Station Building; modifying the Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building; and developing a new standalone building to support the 87' CPB personnel and operations. However, this option would fail to consolidate similar or related functions into a single facility, and result in excessive repair and operational costs that exceed replacement costs for these facilities. In addition, the required temporary relocation of personnel and functions in each occupied facility to be rehabilitated would result in further disruption of station personnel and functions.

Therefore, this alternative would not meet Planning Factors 2, 3, 4, and 5, and was removed from further consideration.

2.3.2.4 Homeport the 87' Coastal Patrol Boat at Station Wrightsville Beach

The USCG considered permanently homeporting the 87' CPB at Station Wrightsville Beach (USCG, 2017). However, this space-constrained station would require substantial facility improvements and disruptions to existing facilities to accommodate this vessel and personnel Therefore, this alternative would not meet Planning Factors 1, 3, and 4, and was removed from further consideration.

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3.0 Affected Environment

3.1 Introduction

This section describes the current baseline conditions for resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action at and in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and COMDTINST 5090.1, this section focuses only on resources that would be potentially affected by the implementation of the Proposed Action. **Section 4.0**, ***Environmental Consequences***, identifies potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the identified project alternatives on each of the resources discussed in this section.

3.2 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

The CEQ recommends agencies "identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (40 CFR § 1506.3), narrowing the discussion of these issues in the [EA] to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere" (40 CFR § 1501.7(a)(3)). **Table 3-1** lists the Technical Resource Areas considered for evaluation in this EA, and identifies those analyzed in this EA or provides the rational for resources that were dismissed from further analysis.

Table 3-1: Technical Resource Areas Evaluated in this EA

Technical Resource Area	Analyzed in Detail in this EA?	If Yes, EA Section If No, Rationale for Elimination
Socioeconomic Environment		
Land Use and Zoning	No	Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no potential to change or effect on existing land uses or zoning on or in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon. The Proposed Action would be implemented on a previously disturbed site that is entirely within Station Fort Macon's boundaries, and would be similar to and compatible with other existing administrative and operational support functions at the Station. While the proposed MMB would be built in the northern portion of the grassland area currently used as a helicopter landing pad periodically, it would be contained to the northern portion of this area to allow sufficient open area to the south. Additionally, other open areas would remain available at the Station to support helicopter landings. Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no potential to disrupt, interfere with, or prevent the continued operation of existing land uses outside the Station. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on land use and zoning, and was dismissed from further analysis in this EA.

Table 3-1: Technical Resource Areas Evaluated in this EA

Technical Resource Area	Analyzed in Detail in this EA?	If Yes, EA Section If No, Rationale for Elimination
Local Economy, Housing, Community Service and Medical Facilities, Recreational Facilities, Fire, Rescue, and Police Services, Schools	No	The Proposed Action would have no or negligible adverse impacts on local community resources, and negligible beneficial impacts on the local economy. Personnel increases associated with the Proposed Action at Station Fort Macon (approximately 8 to 10 new personnel) would be negligible in the context of the Town of Atlantic Beach and adjacent communities. An increase in 8 to 10 new personnel would have no potential to have meaningful beneficial or adverse effects on the local economy or the demand for housing and community services such as schools, community services, first responder services, health care, and recreational facilities. Although construction of the proposed MMB would likely eliminate an outdoor sand volleyball court, this use could be re-established in other existing open areas at the Station. Construction and demolition activities under the Proposed Action would likely have a beneficial effect on the local economy from increased spending by contractors on supplies, equipment, lodging, and meals; however, these effects would be small in the context of the Atlantic Beach community and would cease upon the completion of these activities. Execution of the construction and demolition projects by qualified contractors and adherence to applicable safety practices would prevent or minimize the potential for injuries requiring medical treatment or emergency response services. Thus, these topics were dismissed from further analysis in the EA.
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	No	Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* and EO 13045, *Protection of* Children require Federal agencies to evaluate a proposed action's potential effects on Environmental Justice communities of concern and on children. Station Fort Macon is not located in or near Environmental Justice communities of concern, which include minority and/or low-income populations. While the Station is adjacent to Fort Macon State Park, where unusually high concentrations of children could potentially be present, activities in the Proposed Action would occur at a distance sufficient to ensure that children would not be exposed or adversely affected. Activities in the Proposed Action are typical of common construction and demolition projects that occur with relative frequency in urbanized areas and would not generate particularly unusual effects that could adversely impact the general public on or outside Station Fort Macon. Thus, in accordance with EOs 12898 and 13045, the Proposed Action would have no potential to disproportionately affect Environmental Justice communities of concern or unusually high concentrations of children. These topics were dismissed from further analysis in the EA.
Utilities	No	Existing utility systems at Station Fort Macon have sufficient capacity to support construction and operation of the Proposed Action. Utilities supporting the proposed MMB would connect to existing systems at the Station. Utilities serving facilities proposed for demolition would be removed or abandoned in place in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. The demolition of older facilities at the Station and the installation of newer, more efficient electrical and plumbing systems in the proposed MMB would likely help to reduce demand on utility systems serving the Station. Thus, this resource was dismissed from further analysis in the EA.

Table 3-1: Technical Resource Areas Evaluated in this EA

Technical Resource Area	Analyzed in Detail in this EA?	If Yes, EA Section If No, Rationale for Elimination
Physical Environment		
Geology and Topography	No	Construction of the proposed MMB would likely require the installation of foundation piles extending to bedrock to support the new building's foundation. However, no noteworthy or unique geologic strata or features underlying Station Fort Macon have been documented; therefore, the installation of foundation piles would not damage or destroy such features. As such, there would be no adverse impacts on geology from the Proposed Action. Topography at Station Fort Macon is relatively flat, and no unique or noteworthy topographic features would be disturbed or altered by the Proposed Action. The sites of buildings proposed for demolition under the Proposed Action would be regraded to achieve positive drainage and mimic surrounding topography at the Station. The site of the new MMB is previously disturbed and would be regraded to provide a level building site and achieve positive drainage. Thus, the Proposed Action would have no adverse effects on topography. These resources were dismissed from further analysis in the EA.
Soils	Yes	See **Sections 3.3.1** and **4.2.1**.
Air Quality and Climate	Yes	See **Sections 3.3.2** and **4.2.2**.
Noise	Yes	See **Sections 3.3.3** and **4.2.3**.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste	Yes	See **Sections 3.3.4** and **4.2.4**.
Non-Hazardous Solid Waste	Yes	See **Sections 3.3.5** and **4.2.5**.
Natural Environment		
Surface Water	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.1.1** and **4.3.1.**
Stormwater	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.1.2** and **4.3.1**.
Wetlands	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.1.3** and **4.3.1**.
Floodplains	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.1.4** and **4.3.1**.
Coastal Resources	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.1.5** and **4.3.1**.
Biological Resources	Yes	See **Sections 3.4.2** and **4.3.2.**
Cultural Resources		
Cultural Resources	Yes	See **Sections 3.5** and **4.4**.

Table 3-1: Technical Resource Areas Evaluated in this EA

Technical Resource Area	Analyzed in Detail in this EA?	If Yes, EA Section If No, Rationale for Elimination
Transportation		
Traffic and Transportation	No	The Proposed Action would have no or negligible effects on traffic and transportation at Station Fort Macon and the Atlantic Beach community. Short-term increases in construction- and demolition-related traffic, and long-term increases in traffic associated with personnel increases at the Station under the Proposed Action (approximately 8 to 10 new personnel) would be small and within the capacity of the existing transportation network. Construction- and demolition-related traffic would be distributed throughout the Proposed Action's approximately two-year implementation phase beginning in 2023, but generally would remain small and within the capacity of the local transportation network and cease upon the completion of those activities. POV parking for 87' CPB personnel, as well as construction and demolition workers, would be accommodated in existing parking areas at the Station; construction- and demolition-related vehicles would also park on the project sites as space and safety considerations allow. Thus, this resource was dismissed from further analysis in the EA.
Vessel Traffic and Navigation	No	The Proposed Action would have no impact on vessel traffic and navigation. Construction or modification of in-water facilities to accommodate the permanently homeported 87' CPB would not be required, as existing facilities are already able to accommodate visiting cutters. The operation of the homeported 87' CPB, and the construction and demolition of onshore facilities under the Proposed Action, would have no potential to disrupt or interfere with vessel traffic and navigation at Station Fort Macon. Thus, this resource was dismissed from further analysis in the EA.

3.3 Physical Environment

This section describes the existing physical environment of Station Fort Macon and the surrounding area, including soils, climate and air quality, ambient noise, HTMW, and non-hazardous solid waste.

3.3.1 Soils

Soils are unconsolidated materials overlying bedrock or other parent material. Soil characteristics such as structure, elasticity, strength, shrink-swell potential, and erodibility contribute to the ground's capability for supporting construction. Soils are typically described in terms of their complex type, slope, physical characteristics, and relative compatibility or constraining properties with regard to particular construction activities and types of land use.

The majority of the Station is underlain by soils classified as either Corolla-Urban land complex soils or Newhan-Urban land complex soils, 0 to 8 percent slopes (**Figure 3-1**). Urban land complex soils are those that have been altered, covered, graded, or filled to support urban development and other human activities. These soils are moderately to excessively drained (USDA NRCS, 1987). Areas of the Station covered by asphalt, concrete, buildings, or other impervious surfaces (e.g., pavement), including the proposed facility demolition and MMB construction sites, are underlain by urban land complex soils.

Beach and coastal land consisting of sand underlie less than 1 percent of the Station's land area (**Table 3-2**). None of the soils underlying Station Fort Macon are classified as prime or unique farmland, nor are they

considered hydric (i.e., soils that are permanently or seasonally saturated by water and considered a potential indicator of wetlands).

Table 3-2: Select Soil Characteristics

Soil Type	Acres	Prime Farmland	Hydric	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Landform / Description
Corolla-Urban land complex	18.11	No	No	No	Moderately well drained soil with a depth to water table of 18 to 36 inches and depth to bedrock of more than 80 inches.
Newhan-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	1.37	No	No	No	Excessively drained soil with depths to water table and bedrock of more than 80 inches.
Beaches, coastal	0.08	No	No	No	Poorly drained beach sand prone to flooding, with 0 to 6 inches depth to the water table.
Total Acres	**19.56**				

3.3.1 Climate and Air Quality

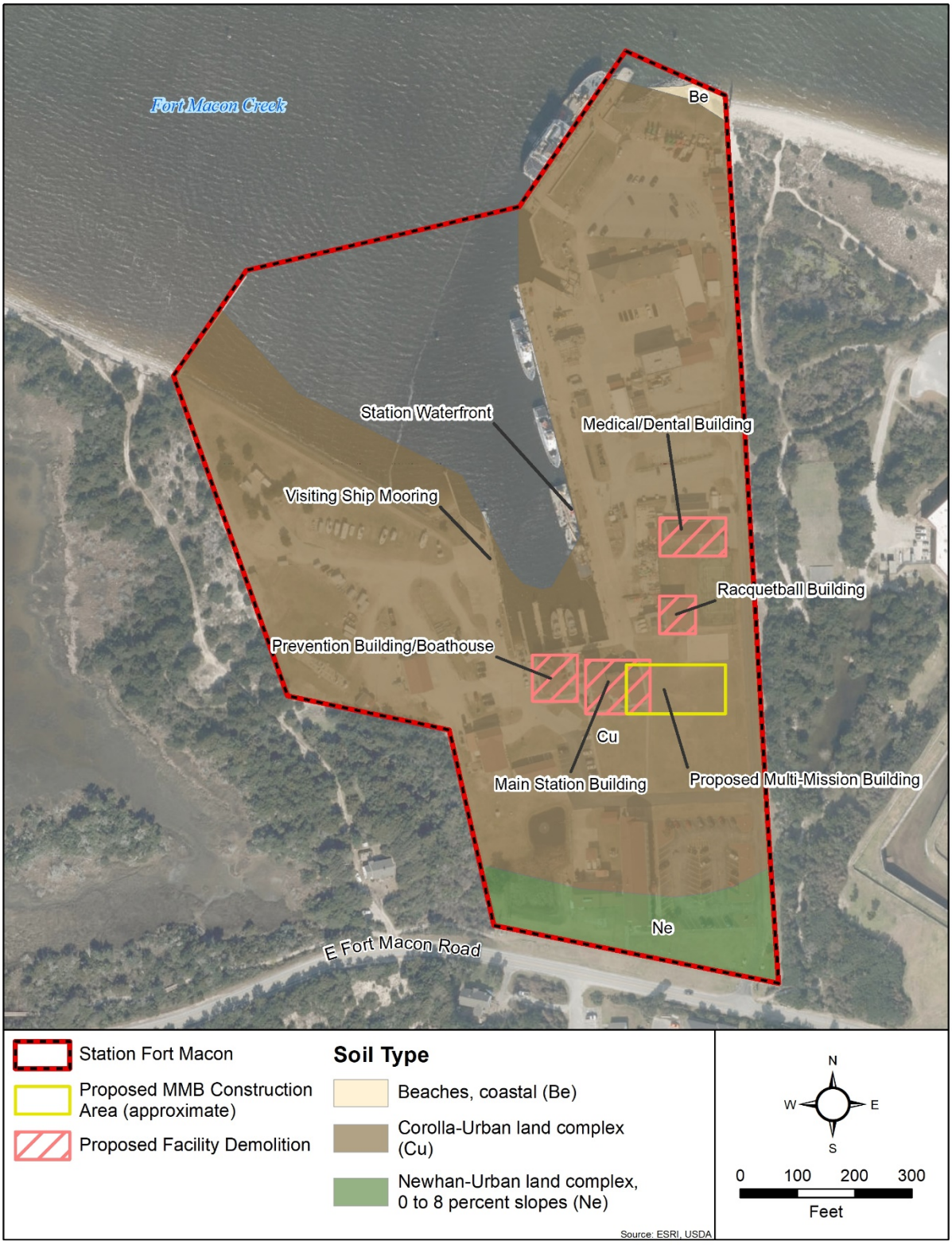
3.3.1.1 Ambient Air Quality

Ambient air quality is characterized by the concentrations of certain airborne pollutants present in a particular area. The Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended, authorizes the USEPA to establish primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The primary and secondary NAAQS are established for six "criteria pollutants" as listed under Section 108 of the CAA: carbon monoxide (CO); lead (Pb); nitrogen dioxide (NO_x); ozone (O_3); particulate matter equal to or less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM_{10}) and equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$); and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).

Areas that conform to the NAAQS for all criteria pollutants are designated "in attainment." Those that exceed the NAAQS for one or more criteria pollutants are designated as "nonattainment" areas. Areas for which attainment status has not been determined are designated as "unclassifiable.". The General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W) requires Federal agencies to prepare a General Conformity Determination to determine the potential for their proposed actions to contribute to the further degradation of air quality in nonattainment areas. Exceptions to this requirement include projects that would have insignificant (or *de minimis*) increases in emissions, and transportation projects addressed by the Transportation Conformity Rule.

Station Fort Macon is located in Carteret County, which is designated as in attainment for all NAAQS. Therefore, the Proposed Action is exempt from General Conformity Rule, and the preparation of a General Conformity Determination is not required.

Figure 3-1: Soils at Station Fort Macon



Section 112 of the CAA authorizes the USEPA and local governments to regulate 186 types of toxic and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), such as benzene, asbestos, naphthalene, toluene, and xylenes. Minimal concentrations of HAPs are typically present in the ambient air; however, their toxicity may pose a threat to public health even at low concentrations (USEPA, 2018). Under the CAA, the USEPA established New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) to minimize emissions of criteria pollutants and HAPs. NESHAPs primarily apply to "stationary sources," which are emission sources that have a fixed location (e.g., fuel-burning boilers and generators, entire facilities/plants), as opposed to "mobile sources," which are emission sources that have the capability to move from one location to another (e.g., motor vehicles, trains, airplanes).

A "major source" is defined by the USEPA as stationary sources, or groups of stationary sources, with a potential to emit more than 100 tons per year of any criteria pollutant, 10 tons per year of any HAP, or 25 tons per year of any combination of HAPs. Major source facilities are required to obtain a Title V operating permit, which specifies limits on the concentrations and quantities of pollutants that the source may emit. Station Fort Macon is not designated as a major source and therefore, is not required to maintain a Title V operating permit.

Sensitive receptors are those who are at a higher risk of health impacts from air pollution. These include, but are not limited to, asthmatics, children, and the elderly, as well as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, and childcare centers. Potentially sensitive air quality receptors at Station Fort Macon include berthing for USCG personnel (i.e., dormitories) and the medical/dental clinic. No residences, health care facilities, schools, or other sensitive receptors are present in the immediate area outside the Station's boundaries. However, individuals sensitive to air pollution may be occasionally present at Fort Macon State Park adjacent to the Station.

3.3.1.2 Climate

The climate of Atlantic Beach, and thus Station Fort Macon, is characteristic of a warm coastal beachfront. Average annual precipitation is 57 inches, higher than the national average of 38 inches per year, and average low and high temperatures during winter and summer months are 33- and 87-degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. The average annual humidity is 72 percent. The Atlantic Beach area receives an average of 1 inch of snowfall per year (US Climate Data, 2020).

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) include water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. GHGs are regulated under Section 202 of the CAA, which establishes fuel efficiency and renewable fuel standards on light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles. The USEPA also regulates GHGs through mobile source emission standards and operating permits issued under Title V of the CAA.

North Carolina has developed a Clean Energy Plan that aims to reduce statewide GHG emissions by 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and attain carbon neutrality by 2050 (NCDEQ, 2020c). As of 2017, the electric power sector produced the most GHG emissions in North Carolina (35.1 percent), followed by the transportation sector (32.5 percent) and the industrial sector (12.3 percent) (NCDEQ, 2019). Overall GHG emissions in North Carolina declined by 23.7 percent between 2005 and 2017.

3.3.2 Noise

Noise may be defined as unwanted or objectionable sound. Noise is typically any sound that is undesirable due to its interference with communications or other human activities, or adversely affects hearing. Noise may be intermittent, continuous, or impulsive. Human response to noise varies depending on the sound pressure level, type of noise, distance from the noise source, sensitivity, and time of day.

Sound is composed of tiny fluctuations in air pressure. Sound is characterized by its amplitude (how loud it is), frequency (pitch), and duration. The perception of sound within the range of human hearing can vary in intensity by over 1 million units. A logarithmic scale, known as the decibel (dB) scale, is used to quantify sound intensity and to compress the scale to a more manageable range.

The human ear does not hear all frequencies equally. The A-weighted decibel scale (dBA) is used to reflect the selective sensitivity of human hearing. The human range of hearing amplitude extends from 0 dBA to 120 dBA, with 0 dBA representing the threshold of normal human hearing and 120 dBA representing the threshold at which an individual begins to experience pain.

The USEPA recommends a human average exposure limit for environmental noise of 70 dBA over a 24-hour period or 75 dBA over an 8-hour period (USEPA, 1974). The USCG *Safety and Environmental Health Manual* (COMDTINST M5100.47) recommends 86 dBA as the maximum noise level that watercraft may generate while operating at full speed at a distance of 50 feet from a receptor (PWIA, 2006). Primary sources of noise at the Station include ships, small boats, and onshore vehicles and support equipment (e.g., light-duty trucks, small tractors/towing vehicles, cranes, hoists, pneumatic and electrical power tools). Sound from persistent winds and waves also contributes to the ambient noise environment at and around the Station. The noise ordinance for the Town of Atlantic Beach prohibits actions that result in loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises (Ord. No. 99-04-06, § I, 4-19-99), but does not establish a specific threshold above which noise levels are restricted or prohibited. The construction, demolition, and alteration of buildings in the town is allowed seven days a week between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Noise sensitive receptors are facilities or land uses that may experience an increased degree of annoyance or disruption from elevated or persistent noise levels. Such receptors may include hospitals, schools, churches, daycare facilities, and nursing facilities, as well as residential areas. Berthing facilities for USCG personnel may be considered a noise sensitive receptor at Station Fort Macon. Fort Macon State Park, which includes an education center, museum, and picnic area, is a noise sensitive receptor adjacent to the Station. A private residence is directly across East Fort Macon Road from the Station's southern boundary.

3.3.3 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Wastes

Hazardous materials are defined at 49 CFR 171.8 as "hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, marine pollutants, elevated temperature materials, materials designated as hazardous in the Hazardous Materials Table (49 CFR 172.101), and materials that meet the defining criteria for hazard classes and divisions" in 49 CFR 173. Hazardous wastes are defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) at 42 USC §6903(5), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, as "a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (a) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (b) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or

otherwise managed." The production, importation, use, and disposal of specific substances posing a risk to human health, such as ACM, LBP, and PCBs, is regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.). The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) also maintains a list of regulated hazardous substances identified in Federal regulations and has developed numerous standards to maintain worker safety and prevent injury and illness when dealing with HTMW. In addition to threatening human health and well-being, the improper release of or exposure to hazardous materials and wastes may also threaten wildlife, plants, fish, and their habitats, soil systems, and water resources. Localized conditions such as soil, topography, water resources, and climate may affect the extent of contamination from or exposure to hazardous substances.

Hazardous materials used and stored at Station Fort Macon include fuels and lubricating oils, chlorinated solvents and other solvents/degreasers, paints and thinners, antifreeze, and acids. Generally, activities requiring the use of hazardous materials also generate corresponding quantities of hazardous wastes. Hazardous materials and wastes are managed at Station Fort Macon and on all Coast Guard vessels in accordance with RCRA and the *Coast Guard Hazardous Waste Management Manual* (COMDTINST M 16478.1B). The Station maintains and adheres to a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan (USCG, 2019) to prevent and manage accidental releases of petroleum products and other hazardous materials.

Hazardous materials used, and hazardous wastes generated at Station Fort Macon are stored in Building OV2, which is approximately 600 feet northeast of the Station Building. Flammable substances were previously stored in portable lockers located throughout the Station. Two such lockers were formerly located in the Station Building but were removed when the facility was condemned. Remaining portable lockers throughout the Station are currently empty.

Station Fort Macon is registered with the USEPA as a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) of hazardous waste in accordance with RCRA, meaning that it generates more than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) but less than 1,000 kilograms (2,205 pounds, or 1.1 tons) of hazardous waste per month (USEPA, 2020). SQGs may accumulate up to 6,000 kilograms (13,228 pounds, or 6.6 tons) of hazardous waste on-site for up to 180 days (or up to 270 days if the shipping distance to a disposal facility is greater than 200 miles). Hazardous wastes generated at Station Fort Macon are collected by a licensed contractor and disposed of at a permitted facility outside the Station.

Pyrotechnics and explosives are stored in Buildings OI4, approximately 800 feet northeast of the Station Building, and MA1, approximately 300 feet northwest of the Prevention Building/Boathouse. A 100-foot Explosive Safety Quantity Distance (ESQD) arc is maintained around these facilities to maintain appropriate standoff distances from other facilities and uses (USCG, 2013a). None of the facilities or sites involved in the Proposed Action are located within the 100-foot ESQD arcs associated with these buildings.

Multiple aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) are used at the Station to store gasoline, diesel fuel, used oil, oily water, and similar substances. A 500-gallon oily water AST, 500-gallon gasoline AST, and 1,000-gallon diesel fuel AST are located less than 50 feet west of the Racquetball Building. Gasoline and diesel fuel dispensers (one of each) are located along the waterfront bulkhead immediately north of the Station Building (USCG, 2019).

Although no surveys have been conducted to confirm the presence or absence of ACM, LBP, and/or PCBs in the Station Building, Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building, along with the other buildings slated for demolition, such hazardous substances may occur at Station Fort Macon.

3.3.4 Non-Hazardous Solid Waste

Non-hazardous solid waste at Station Fort Macon is generated, stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and applicable COMDTINST regulations. Solid waste generated at the Station includes construction and demolition debris, as well as recyclable materials such as aluminum cans, paper, glass, plastic, scrap metal, cardboard, scrap wood, used batteries, and spent fluorescent lamps. All solid waste is stored at the Boat Haul-Out Facility, located between the ISD Office and Engineering Building, near the pier, as well as the Aids to Navigation Storage and Formation area, located along the waterfront (USCG, 2013b).

Solid waste is collected by licensed private contractors and transported to the local County-managed landfill. Recyclable materials are also transported to an off-site recycling facility. Carteret County contracts with G.D.S. Republic to operate solid waste convenience and recycling centers in the county (JD News, 2019).

3.4 Natural Environment

This section describes the existing natural environment within and surrounding Station Fort Macon, including biological resources, water resources, and coastal resources.

3.4.1 Water Resources

Water resources in this analysis include surface water, wetlands, floodplains, and the aquatic environment. The CWA is the primary Federal regulation that addresses surface waters and wetlands (also referred to as "waters of the US" [WOUS]), and includes provisions that regulate water quality standards and the discharge of pollutants. The term "WOUS" has broad meaning under the CWA and incorporates deep water aquatic habitats, special aquatic habitats, and navigable waters. Section 404 of the CWA authorizes USACE to regulate impacts to WOUS, by issuing permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material. Section 401 of the CWA gives states the authority to regulate proposed federally permitted activities that may result in a discharge to water bodies, including wetlands. Although WOUS include navigable waters, these waters are not regulated within the CWA; instead, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 authorizes USACE to ensure activities do not adversely affect the navigability or other uses of navigable waters.

3.4.1.1 Surface Water

Station Fort Macon is located along Bogue Sound, a shallow water body north of Bogue Banks that separates the barrier island and the mainland of Carteret County. Fort Macon Creek, a tributary of Bogue Sound, immediately borders the Proposed Action area to the north. Bogue Sound is incorporated within the White Oak River Basin, Hydrologic Unit 03020106, which lies in the outer coastal plain of North Carolina, and also includes portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (USCG, 2013a). Both Fort Macon Creek and Bogue Sound are also classified as estuarine wetlands (see **Section 3.4.1.3**).

All surface waters in North Carolina are assigned a primary classification by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources (DWR). These classifications are used to identify uses or special characteristics for which surface water bodies should be protected, and carry minimum protection rules and water quality standards (NCDEQ, 2020b). Bogue Sound and Fort Macon Creek are classified as Class SA, which are tidal saltwaters used for commercial shellfishing, and are also protected for primary and secondary recreational uses. The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries evaluates water quality to determine whether Class SA waters should be open to shellfishing (NCDMF, 2020a). All Class SA waters are also listed as High Quality Waters (HQW), a classification which protects waters rated as "excellent" based on biological, physical, and/or chemical characteristics (NCDEQ, 2020b).

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify and list waters which do not meet water quality standards for specified pollutants or substances. Waters not meeting the established thresholds are considered to be impaired, and State agencies are required to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the applicable pollutants to bring the listed water into compliance. States must assess their waters every two years, and submit the list of impaired waters, also known as an Integrated Report, to the USEPA for approval. The portion of Bogue Sound extending from Newport River (west of the Proposed Action area) to Fort Macon Creek was included in the 2018 Integrated Report and Final 303(d) List. This water is listed as impaired for exceeding established sanitary criteria for a shellfish growing area (i.e., the water is not approved for shellfish growing or harvesting) (NCDEQ, 2018). Based on these evaluations and impaired listing, shellfish growing is prohibited in Fort Macon Creek and nearby areas of Bogue Sound (NCDMF, 2020b). These waters are not listed as impaired under any other criteria.

3.4.1.2 Stormwater

Due to the level topography at the Station, stormwater collects in small, localized pools and infiltrates into the soil. Stormwater that collects on impervious surfaces, including the wharves and piers, discharges into Fort Macon Creek (USCG, 2013a). The Station is not currently covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, although SFO Fort Macon holds a NPDES permit for industrial areas. By Congressional mandate, the Station is not permitted to increase impervious surfaces. The North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (DEMLR) within the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) manages the State's NPDES Construction Stormwater Program, and issues permits for construction. Under this program, construction that disturbs more than 1 acre of land is regulated by a NPDES General Permit, and permittees must develop and implement an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (ESCP) as a condition of approval (NCDEQ, 2020e).

Construction projects in the coastal zone must also comply with specific coastal stormwater rules codified in 15A North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 2H .1019. These rules affect non-residential development activities in the coastal counties that either add more than 10,000 square feet of built-upon area, or disturb more than 1 acre of land (USCG, 2013b). These rules are incorporated within the DEMLR Post-Construction Program, which protects surface waters from runoff following development. Further, construction activities that would disturb 5,000 square feet or more of land would be subject to requirements established in Section 438 of the EISA, which dictates that the pre-development hydrology of a project site must be maintained. This can be achieved by incorporating green infrastructure/LID features in the project design.

3.4.1.3 Wetlands

EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the beneficial values of wetlands. Wetlands are an important natural system because of the diverse biological and hydrologic functions they perform. They are defined as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands are protected as a subset of WOUS under Section 404 of the CWA, and as such, the USACE is responsible for permitting discharges to or fill of wetlands.

The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping identifies the surrounding surface waters (Fort Macon Creek and Bogue Sound) as regulated wetlands, with a classification of estuarine subtidal (USFWS, 2019a). These wetlands contain estuarine and marine deepwater habitats, and may house typical estuarine species such as red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) and Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) (Cowardin, Carter, Golet, & LaRoe, 1979). Due to a characteristic unconsolidated bottom, however, Fort Macon Creek lacks stable surfaces to support substantial vegetation growth and aquatic species.

The shoreline extending along the peninsula to the west of Station Fort Macon is bordered by an estuarine intertidal wetland (USFWS, 2019a). This wetland may also contain the same types of species and habitats as the rest of Fort Macon Creek, but is distinguished by an irregularly flooded water regime, whereas the rest of the Fort Macon Creek is continually submerged. This shoreline, while still tidal, is flooded less than once daily.

With the exception of small areas of estuarine and marine wetlands occurring along the shoreline (0.12 acre), no wetlands occur at Station Fort Macon (**Figure 3-2**).

3.4.1.4 Floodplains

FEMA maintains maps of flood inundation zones for development restrictions and insurance requirements. EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires Federal agencies to consider action alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible developments for any proposed action in a floodplain, or if avoidance is infeasible, to design or modify the proposed action to minimize potential harm to the floodplain.

The entirety of Sector Fort Macon and nearly all of the surrounding areas are within the 100-year floodplain with a base elevation of 7 feet (FEMA, 2020) (**Figure 3-3**). The Station is therefore subject to FEMA flood zone regulations, which limit development within the floodplain. Additionally, Carteret County maintains its own flood regulations, which requires that all new construction be elevated above the regulatory flood elevation level (Carteret County Code of Ordinances, 2003).

3.4.1.5 Coastal Resources

The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) enables states to implement federally approved coastal programs to protect coastal areas in conjunction with environmental, economic, and human health. Federal lands are excluded from State-designated coastal zones; however, Federal actions occurring under the CZMA require completion of a Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) to determine consistency, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management program. North Carolina's coastal zone is managed under the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 (CAMA). The State's coastal zone encompasses 20 counties, including Carteret County. CAMA

also created the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC), which establishes policies for North Carolina's Coastal Management Program, designates areas of environmental concern (AECs), and adopts rules for coastal development in those areas (NCDEQ, 2020d).

AECs are areas of natural importance that may either be easily destroyed by erosion or flooding, or that provide valuable environmental, social, economic, or aesthetic values. Bogue Sound is categorized as a part of the estuarine and ocean system AEC. This AEC contains four components: public trust areas, estuarine waters, coastal shorelines, and coastal wetlands. The coastal shoreline includes "all lands within 75 feet of the normal high-water level of estuarine waters" (NCDEQ, 2020f). Station Fort Macon falls within this boundary, and is therefore also subject to enforceable policies relevant to this AEC.

The CRC requires that less than 30 percent of the AEC be developed; over 30 percent of the AEC on Station Fort Macon is developed with impervious surfaces, and is therefore considered to be non-conforming with CAMA regulations. Any development projects occurring at Station Fort Macon would be classified as redevelopment by the CRC, provided that the amount of impervious area does not increase, and the project is compliant with the applicable regulations to the maximum extent practicable (USCG, 2013a).

To demonstrate compliance with CAMA and other applicable AEC regulations, the USCG submitted an FCD to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Coastal Management (DCM) on 1 May 2020 (**Appendix C**). The NCDEQ's review is ongoing.

3.4.1 Biological Resources

This section describes the biological resources potentially present at or near Sector Fort Macon, including vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered (T&E) species.

3.4.1.1 Terrestrial Environment

Vegetation

The terrestrial habitat at Station Fort Macon is representative of a developed area with human disturbance and altered lands. Vegetation at Station Fort Macon is limited to areas of maintained lawn, which includes the site of the proposed MMB and areas adjacent to the Medical/Dental and Racquetball Buildings, and ornamental trees and shrubs. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) has developed a conservation planning tool which identifies the relative conservation priority of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and ranks areas based on their ecological importance (NCNHP, 2020a). A query of this tool revealed that approximately half of Station Fort Macon is identified as impervious surface, while most of the remaining area is unranked, suggesting that the Station has little to no terrestrial ecological value. However, patches of grassland occur along the western border of the Station next to Fort Macon State Park (NCNHP, 2020b). The coastline adjacent to the Station consists of sand dunes covered with sparse stands of sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*). Surrounding Station Fort Macon is the Fort Macon State Park, which is covered by dense thickets of wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*), eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) (NC State Parks, 2020).

Figure 3-2: Wetlands and Waterways at Station Fort Macon

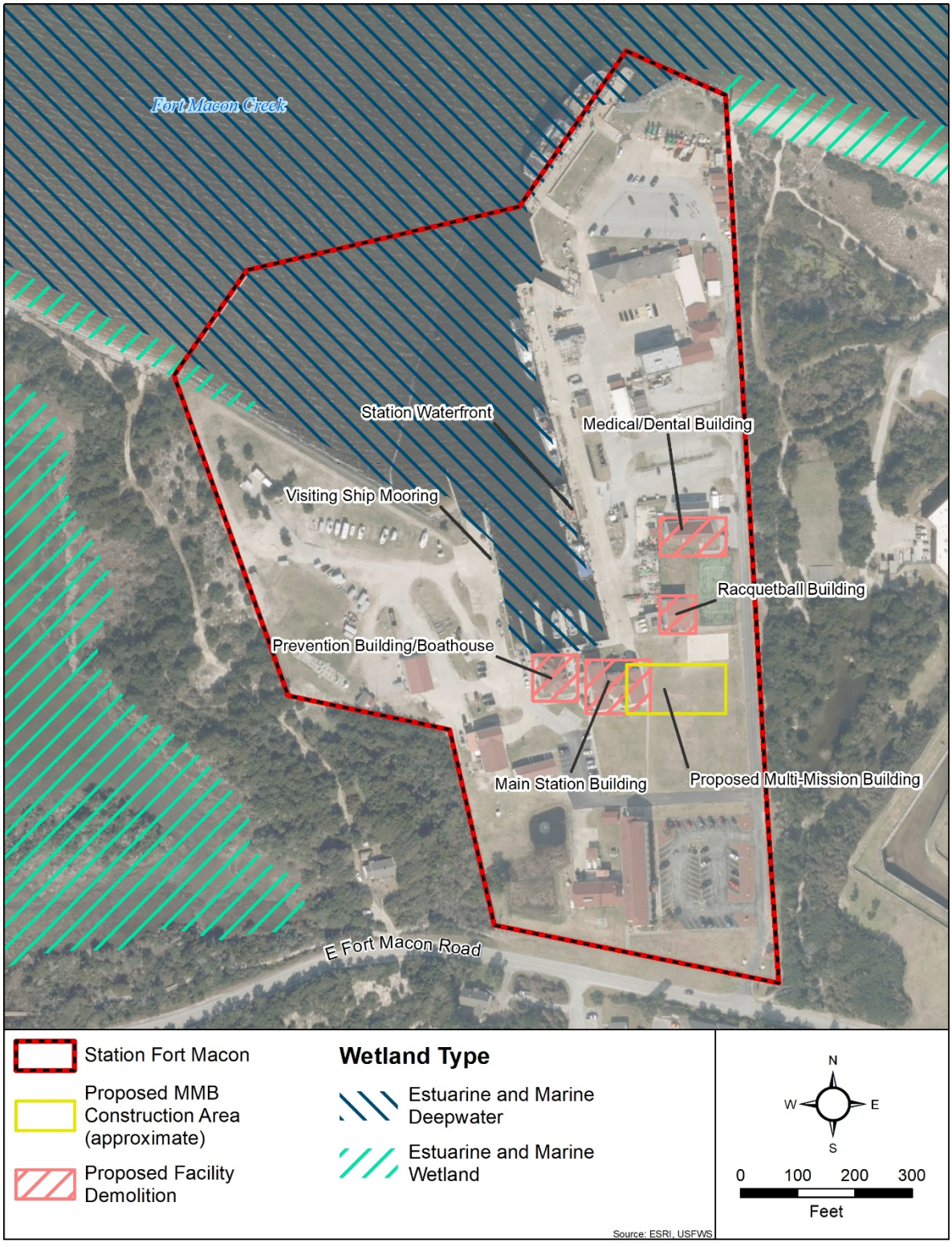
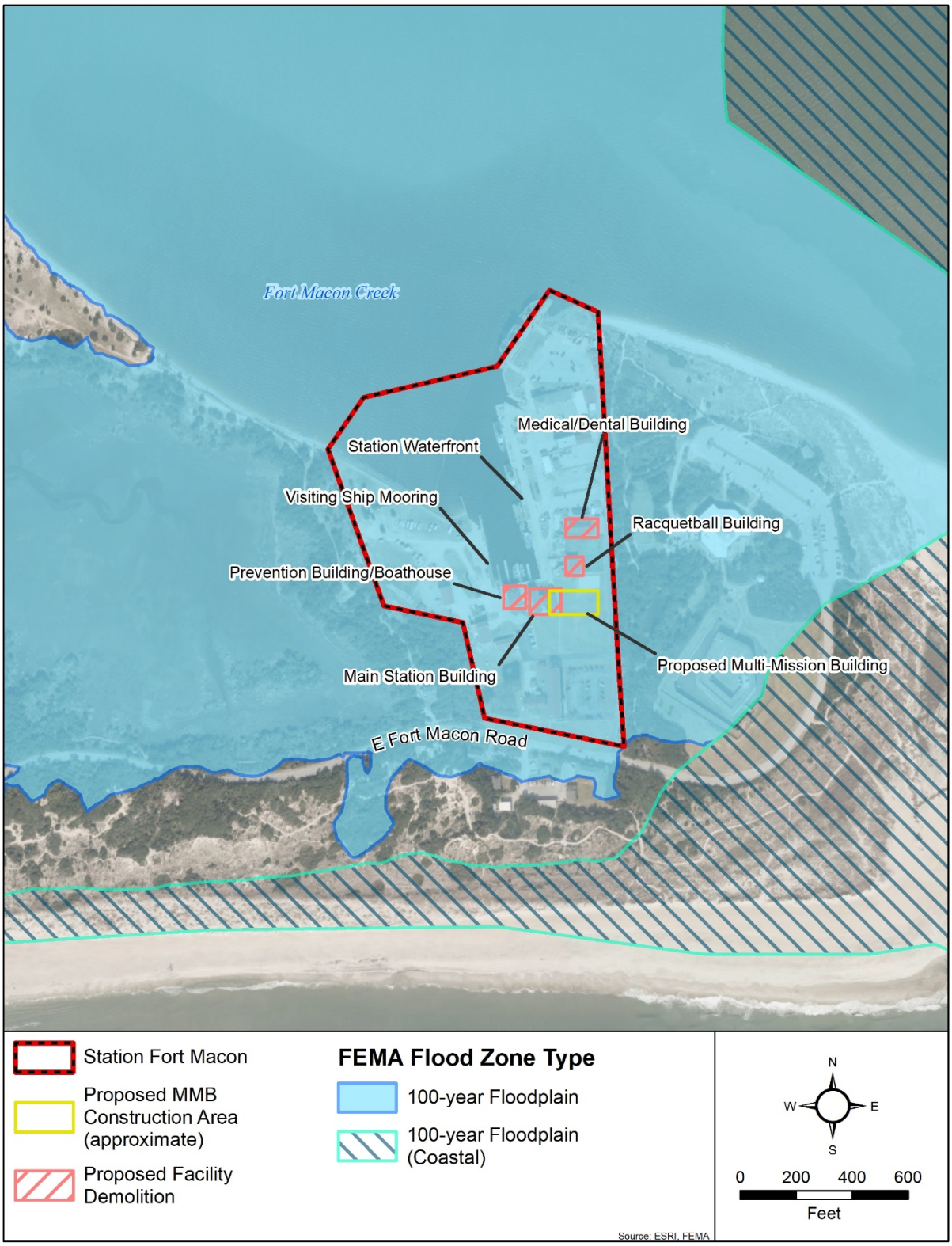


Figure 3-3: 100-Year Floodplain at Station Fort Macon



Wildlife

Wildlife occurring at Station Fort Macon is likely limited to species that have adapted to urbanized environments and a high degree of human activity. Common species of wildlife potentially occurring at or near Station Fort Macon include those typically observed in the Mid-Atlantic region and coastal areas of eastern and southeastern North Carolina.

Table 3-3 lists representative terrestrial wildlife species potentially occurring at or near the Station. Common wildlife species are likely to occur in greater abundance in the adjacent Fort Macon State Park, where dense vegetation and understory may provide more suitable habitat.

Table 3-3: Representative Terrestrial Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring at or Near Station Fort Macon

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mammals	
Eastern gray squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*
Eastern cottontail	*Sylvilagus floridanus*
White-tailed deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*
Birds	
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*
Carolina wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*
Northern cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*
Blue jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*
Great blue heron	*Egretta thula*
Canada goose	*Branta canadensis*
Amphibians and Reptiles	
Southern toad	*Bufo (Anaxyrus) terrestris*
Oak toad	*Bufo (Anaxyrus) quercicus*
American bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*
Eastern glass lizard	*Ophisaurus ventralis*
Six-lined Racerunner	*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*
Five-lined skink	*Eumeces (Plestiodon) fasciatus*
Diamondback terrapin	*Malaclemys terrapin*
Source: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020b)	

3.4.1.2 Aquatic Environment

Vegetation

The aquatic habitat at and surrounding Station Fort Macon is characterized by estuarine habitats. The estuarine marshes surrounding Station Fort Macon are dominated by smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), while the drier upland margins contain saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*) and a variety of other grasses (NC State Parks, 2020). Tidal habitats within Fort Macon Creek have a vegetative cover of less than 30 percent as unconsolidated bottoms lack large stable surfaces for plant attachment (USFWS, 2019a), (Cowardin, Carter, Golet, & LaRoe, 1979). No submerged aquatic vegetation is present at or near Station Fort Macon (NCDEQ, 2017). In the immediate area surrounding Station Fort Macon, the estuarine shoreline is categorized as a sediment bank, and as modified shoreline.

Wildlife

Aquatic species found in Bogue Sound include benthic invertebrates (e.g., oysters and clams), fish, and reptiles. The diamondback terrapin is the only reptile to regularly inhabit estuarine waters along the coast and is often seen in tidal creeks. Fish species that may occur include bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*), and croaker (*Micropogonias undulates*) (NC State Parks, 2020). These estuarine waters are rich in nutrients and provide food for marine organisms and serve as nurseries for economically important shellfish, such as crabs and shrimp (NC State Parks, 2020). Aquatic species are not expected to occur in abundance near Station Fort Macon due to the area's disturbed nature and frequent human and vessel activity.

Essential Fish Habitat

The NMFS regulates Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), which is defined as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." A list of EFH areas was obtained from the NOAA EFH Mapper for the nearby Beaufort Inlet (approximately 0.5 mile to the east); no EFH data were available for Fort Macon Creek or Bogue Sound. The query for Beaufort Inlet identified EFH for 21 species (**Table 3-4**) (NOAA, 2019). No Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and no EFH Areas Protected from Fishing were identified in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area.

Table 3-4: EFH Species and Life Stages Potentially Found in the Proposed Action area

Species	Egg	Larvae	Juvenile	Adult
Clearnose Skate	N	N	Y	N
Windowpane Flounder	N	N	Y	N
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Y	Y	Y	Y
Spiny Lobster	Y	Y	Y	Y
Snapper Grouper	Y	Y	Y	Y
Albacore Tuna	N	N	Y	N
Bluefin Tuna	N	Y	Y	Y
Spinner Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Sailfish	N	N	Y	Y
Sandbar Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Tiger Shark	N	N	Y	Y

Species	Egg	Larvae	Juvenile	Adult
Blacktip Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Blacknose Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Smoothhound Shark Complex	Y	Y	Y	Y
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Sand Tiger Shark	N	N	Y	Y
Bluefish	Y	Y	Y	Y
Atlantic Butterfish	N	N	Y	Y
Scup	N	N	Y	Y
Summer Flounder	N	Y	Y	Y

Y=Yes; N=No

Station Fort Macon is a previously disturbed marine porting area that is heavily used for industrial and docking activities. Regular human activity and vessel traffic are not conducive toward suitable EFH. As such, EFH species are not expected to occur or would occur in low densities. Adult and juvenile individuals would be mobile and capable of moving out of affected areas to more suitable habitat nearby. Suitable EFH for the eggs and larvae of coastal migratory pelagic species and spiny lobsters (e.g., estuaries and seagrass beds) may occur in Bogue Sound; however, spawning is not likely to occur near Station Fort Macon due to the high level of disturbance and human activity.

3.4.1.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

The USFWS and NMFS administer the Federal ESA of 1973, which protects listed species against killing, harming, harassing, or any action that may damage their habitat. The USFWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NMFS are mainly marine wildlife. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 prohibits the take of all marine mammals, and is also jointly administered by USFWS and NMFS. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940 is managed solely by the USFWS, and prohibits the take of bald or golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The NCNHP within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources manages natural diversity in the State, and is responsible for identifying important natural areas and maintaining rare species inventories. The NCNHP also maintains a nesting database for bald eagles, which is used in consultations to ensure that action proponents comply with the requirements of the BGEPA.

An official species list was obtained from the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) project planning tool on 17 March 2020 to identify potential T&E species that may occur in the Proposed Action area, and/or may be affected by the Proposed Action. The IPaC query returned a list of 16 federally listed T&E species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area (USFWS, 2020). A search of the NCNHP database also identified the potential presence of the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the Proposed Action area. **Table 3-5** identifies these species, their listing status, habitat description, and potential occurrence at or near Station Fort Macon. No critical habitat has been designated at or surrounding Station Fort Macon.

Several species identified by the USFWS IPaC tool fall under the jurisdiction of NMFS: the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas)*, hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata)*, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii)*, leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea)*, and loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta)*. The Atlantic sturgeon is also included under the jurisdiction of NFMS. Information on federally listed species under the jurisdiction of NMFS is provided in **Table 3-5**.

Table 3-5: Federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Category	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Occurrence
Mammals	Northern long-eared bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	T	This species prefers caves and mines during the winter; and lives underneath the bark or in small crevices of both live and dead trees during the summer (USFWS, 2015b). No roost trees are present in the Proposed Action area (USFWS, 2018).	No
	West Indian manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	T	This species prefers seagrass beds along the shoreline of marine, brackish, and freshwater systems, in addition to both coastal and riverine areas (USFWS, 2019c). Potential habitat is present in Bogue Sound. Carteret County is in the northern part of this species' range, and it is rarely documented along the southern coast of the State (NC Divison of Parks and Recreation, 2020).	Yes
Birds	Eastern black rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis*	PT	This species is typically found in tidal marshes on the coast, favoring very shallow waters (National Audubon Society, 2020a). Regular human activity and vessel traffic at Station Fort Macon are not conducive toward suitable habitat for marsh birds; no suitable habitat is present.	No
	Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	T	Piping plover are found on sandy beaches and tidal flats, typically nesting in open sandy areas near water (National Audubon Society, 2020b). Regular human activity and vessel traffic at Station Fort Macon are not conducive toward suitable habitat for shorebirds; no suitable habitat is present.	No
	Red knot	*Calidris canutus rufa*	T	This species is found on sandy beaches and tidal flats, typically nesting in open sandy areas near water (National Audubon Society, 2020c). Regular human activity and vessel traffic at Station Fort Macon are not conducive toward suitable habitat for shorebirds; no suitable habitat is present.	No

Table 3-5: Federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Category	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Occurrence
Birds (continued)	Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E	This species prefers open mature pine woodlands and is rare throughout its range. No suitable habitat is present at Station Fort Macon. The closest known group of red-cockaded woodpecker inhabits the Croatan National Forest, over 20 miles northwest of Station Fort Macon (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020d).	No
	Roseate tern	*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	E	The roseate tern occurs in coastal environments, including salt bays and estuaries (National Audubon Society, 2020e). Nests are usually found on sandy or rocky islands with some low plant cover and close to shallow waters for feeding. Station Fort Macon is primarily disturbed; no suitable habitat is present.	No
	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	BGEPA	Bald eagles prefer habitats near lakes, large rivers, and shorelines of sounds and bays, and require tall, isolated trees for perching and nesting (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020c). While no suitable habitat is present within the Proposed Action area, potentially suitable habitat may be present in the vicinity of the Station. Bald eagles may potentially occur in passing although species density is likely to be limited due to lack of suitable habitat in the Proposed Action area.	Yes
Reptiles	American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	T(S/A)	This species inhabits freshwater swamps, marshes, ponds, lakes, and the backwaters of large rivers (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020a). While the species has been observed in brackish water and on beaches, it is unlikely to occur at Station Fort Macon due to regular human and vessel activity.	No
	Green sea turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	T	This species is found nearshore, as well as in bays and lagoons, reefs, and seagrass beds (NC PARC, 2020). Potentially suitable habitat is present in the estuarine waters of Fort Macon Creek and the smooth cordgrass marshes of Bogue Sound. Its potential presence is likely to be limited due to human and vessel activity at the Proposed Action area.	Yes

Table 3-5: Federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Category	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Occurrence
Reptiles (continued)	Hawksbill sea turtle	*Eretmochelys imbricata*	E	Suitable habitat for this species includes coral reef habitat, open sea, and mangroves in bays and estuaries (NOAA Fisheries, 2020b). In North Carolina, this species has only been found in the open ocean (NC PARC, 2020). Suitable habitat is not expected to be present at Station Fort Macon.	No
	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	*Lepidochelys kempii*	E	Ridley sea turtles in North Carolina prefer shallow water and high saline sounds (NC PARC, 2020). Suitable habitat is potentially present near Station Fort Macon, although presence of this species is expected to be limited due to regular activity and disturbances.	Yes
	Leatherback sea turtle	*Dermochelys coriacea*	E	Leatherback sea turtles prefer wide sandy beaches that are close to deep water (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020c). There is no suitable habitat in this area, as Fort Macon Creek is relatively shallow, and the Station does not contain any wide, open beaches.	No
	Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	T	Adult habitat includes rock outcroppings and reefs near shore, as well as in brackish lagoons and the mouths of inlets (MarineBio Conservation Society, 2020). Potentially suitable habitat is present near Station Fort Macon, although any potential presence is expected to be limited owing to disturbances from human and industrial activities, and vessel traffic.	Yes
Flowering Plants	Rough-leaved loosestrife	*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*	E	Rough-leaved loosestrife inhabits ecotones between longleaf pine uplands and pond pine areas of dense shrub and vine growth (USFWS, 2017). This habitat does not occur in the Proposed Action area.	No

Table 3-5: Federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Category	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Occurrence
Flowering Plants (continued)	Seabeach amaranth	*Amaranthus pumilus*	T	Seabeach amaranth is found on Atlantic coast sand dunes (USFWS, 2019b). This habitat does not occur in the Proposed Action area.	No
Fish	Atlantic sturgeon	*Acipenser brevirostrum*	T	Atlantic sturgeon spend most of their lives in nearshore marine and estuarine waters, and migrate to freshwater to spawn. The Roanoke River (over 80 miles north of Station Fort Macon) is the only known river in NC with a spawning population (NCDEQ, 2020a). Atlantic sturgeon are not likely to be found in the Proposed Action area due to a lack of suitable habitat, and heavy disturbances from marine and industrial activities.	No

Federal Status Key:
T = Threatened
E = Endangered
PT = Proposed Threatened
T(S/A) = Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance
BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

A query of the NCNHP database revealed 50 state-listed T&E species with potential occurrence in Carteret County. Biodiversity is expected to be low at Station Fort Macon due to lack of suitable habitat and high levels of human and vessel activity.

Consultation with the USFWS and NCNHP is ongoing; no responses have been received to date. Agency correspondence is provided in **Appendix A**.

3.5 Cultural Resources

This section describes existing cultural resources within and surrounding Station Fort Macon, including above- and below-ground resources.

3.5.1 Overview

Cultural resources include properties as defined by the NHPA, archaeological resources as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), sacred sites as defined in EO 13007, *Indian Sacred Sites*, to which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR Part 79. The NHPA, as amended, is the basic Federal law protecting historic and cultural resources. The NHPA defines such resources as "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object" (36 CFR 800) with known or potential historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance. Pursuant to the NHPA, Federal agency historic preservation programs identify, evaluate, and nominate historic and cultural resources under their jurisdiction for listing in the NRHP. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.16, *Cultural Resources Management*, sets forth guidelines and procedures for the management of cultural resources on Department of Defense (DoD) lands.

The NHPA as amended, outlines Federal policy to protect historic properties and promote historic preservation in cooperation with States, Tribal governments, local governments, the public, and other consulting parties. Section 106 of the NHPA outlines the procedures that Federal agencies follow to take into account the effect of their actions on historic properties. Under Section 106, Federal agencies must consider the effect an undertaking may have on historic properties, defined as those properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP. As part of the Section 106 process, agencies are required to consult with the SHPO and federally recognized Native American Tribes to identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

3.5.1.1 Native American Consultation

The USCG consulted with federally recognized Native American Tribes in accordance with EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and DoDI 4710.02, *DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes.* The USCG contacted two tribes that may have ancestral ties to Station Fort Macon: Catawba Indian Nation, and Tuscarora Nation Tribal Government. Initial consultation letters were sent on 13 April 2020. No responses have been received to date. Copies of relevant tribal correspondence are provided in **Appendix B**.

3.5.2 Area of Potential Effect

The APE as defined in the NHPA accounts for the full extent and range of potential impacts on historic and cultural resources that could occur on or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. APEs are determined by the scale and nature of an "undertaking" and its potential effects on the resource(s) from ground disturbance,

changes in the surrounding landscape or viewshed, and noise. Consultation with the SHPO confirms that an appropriate APE is defined as a baseline for analysis of the potential effects of an "undertaking."

The above-ground (architectural) APE for the Proposed Action is inclusive of the limits of Station Fort Macon and portions of the adjacent Fort Macon State Park to the east that include the historic Fort Macon from which there are partial views of the Station (see **Figure 3-4**). Due to intervening topography and trees, there are minimal views of the Station beyond the delineated APE.

The archaeological APE is the limits of ground disturbance resulting from proposed demolition and construction activities. Access and laydown areas would be contained within the limits of ground disturbance or to existing paved surfaces. The proposed removal of the temporary trailers at Station Fort Macon would not require any ground disturbance.

Consultation with the North Carolina SHPO and consulting parties was initiated on 6 May 2020. To date, no response has been received from the SHPO. One response was received from Fort Macon State Park regarding potential remains of the Bogue Banks Lighthouse foundation. Section 106 correspondence is included in **Appendix B**.

3.5.1 Archaeological Resources

Previous cultural resource consultations at Station Fort Macon have not included archaeological surveys due to prior disturbances; no archeological sites have been previously recorded within the archaeological APE. Undisturbed portions of the APE, however, have a moderate potential to contain archaeological resources. A nautical chart from 1850 depicts the APE as marsh land, and rises within the marsh may have been used during prehistoric and historic times. A review of historic maps and photographs from the Civil War through present times indicate that the barrier island landform containing the APE has been relatively stable, and would not have disturbed archaeological resources if present. No buildings are shown within the APE prior to the mid-twentieth century.

Two archaeological sites have been previously recorded within a 1-mile radius of the archaeological APE: 31CR261 and 31CR317. Site 31CR261 is the archaeological component of the nineteenth century Fort Macon, which is within Fort Macon State Park and adjacent to the east of the Station. This site encompasses the fort as well as former outbuildings, such as the Commandant's house, hospital, boathouse, blacksmith, lime kiln, and two cemeteries. This site is listed on the NRHP. Site 31CR317 is Wayne's Olive Jar Site, a marine site found to contain ballast stones, modern wire rope, dredging debris, and a Spanish olive jar fragment. These materials were identified as not being associated with a submerged vessel; thus, the site has been determined not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

In correspondence dated 6 May 2020, Fort Macon State Park noted potential concerns with the Bogue Banks Lighthouse, which stood on Station Fort Macon from 1855 to 1862. Existing remains of the lighthouse (i.e., its foundation) may occur near the Proposed Action area.

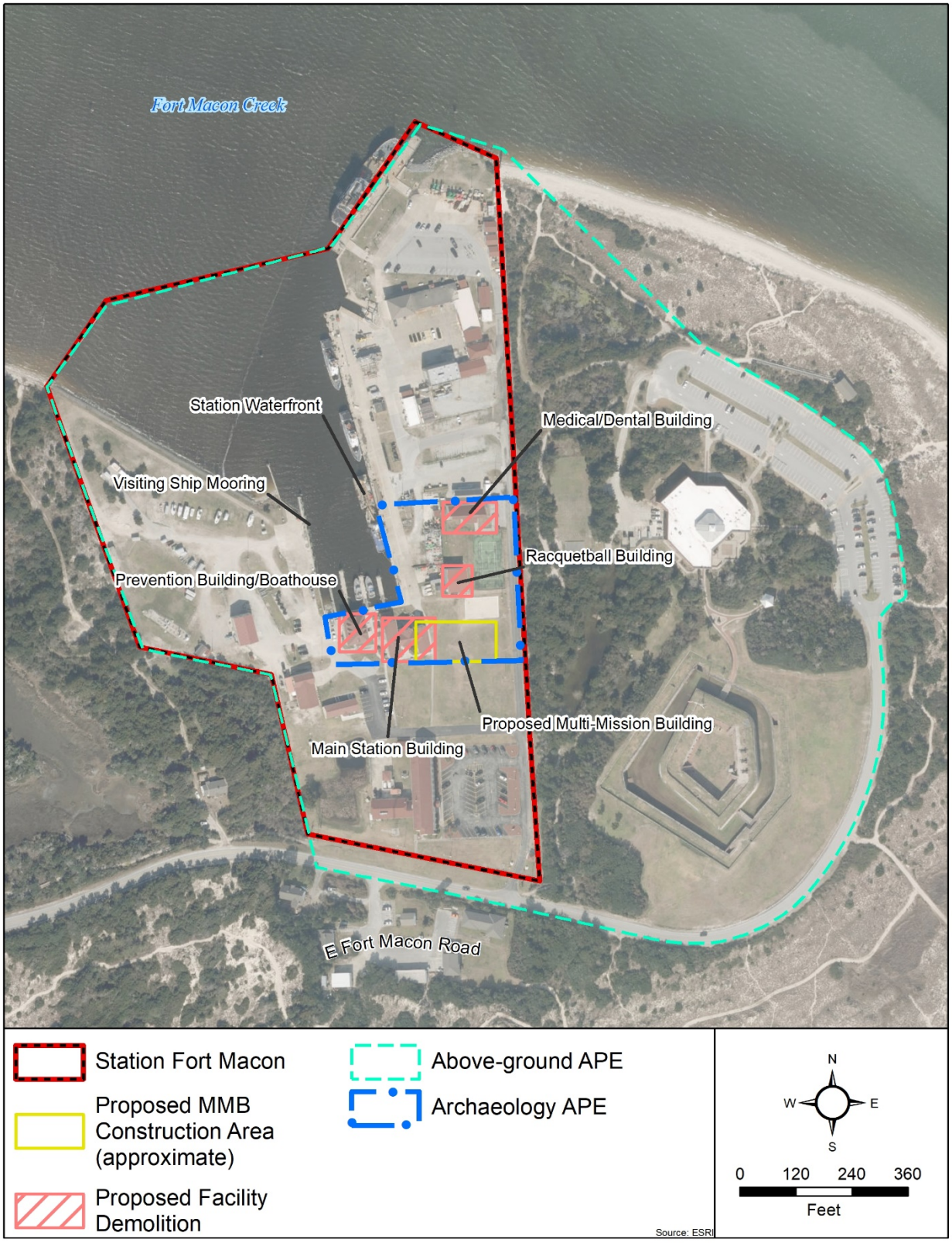
3.5.2 Historic Resources

Two above-ground historic properties have been previously identified in the architectural APE: Fort Macon (CR0003) and a buoy tender (CR0734). Fort Macon is an antebellum and Civil War military fortification that was constructed in 1826 and is part of the State-owned Fort Macon State Park. Fort Macon was listed in the NRNHP in 1970. The buoy tender dates to 1941 and was recorded in the water just off the existing docking

facilities at the Station. It was previously determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, but was removed in 1998 and is no longer extant.

An architectural history survey of the above-ground APE conducted on 5 March 2020 verified the presence of Fort Macon, the previously recorded historic property. The survey also inventoried six buildings and structures at Station Fort Macon that are over 50 years old: the 1940 Prevention Building, a 1965 Multi-Mission Building, the 1956 ISD Office, a 1954 PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2, a 1960 Dock Side Utility Building, and the 1965 Station Sign. However, none of these resources were determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Figure 3-4: Area of Potential Effects at Station Fort Macon



4.0 Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

This section identifies potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Preferred Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative, as well as Best Management Practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures that would reduce the level of identified impacts. The USCG considers BMPs integral to implementation, and they are not considered separate from the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures are identified as those that, when implemented, would reduce impacts to acceptable, *less-than-significant* levels. None of the resources evaluated in this EA would require mitigation; the use of BMPs would be sufficient to minimize impacts to the extent practicable. For more information on BMPs, refer to **Section 4.5**.

4.2 Physical Environment

4.2.1 Soils

The following criteria were used to address impacts to soils:

- The alternative would have an adverse impact if it would disturb or remove natural soils. The adverse impact would be *significant* if it would substantially disturb or remove natural soils. The impact would be *less-than-significant* if disturbance of soils and potential for erosion could be controlled through BMPs.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial* impact if it would decrease or minimize soil erosion or result in the stabilization or protection of soil conditions.

4.2.1.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed MMB would not be constructed and the existing hurricane-damaged facilities would remain. In addition, an 87' CPB would not be permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon. As such, soil conditions would remain as they are currently; therefore, there would be no new soil disturbances, and *no impact* to soils would occur.

4.2.1.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Proposed demolition and construction activities, such as grading and excavation, would disturb soils at Station Fort Macon. However, soils at the Station have experienced extensive disturbance from previous development activities. Urban-land complex soils have no particularly distinguishing or noteworthy characteristics that would be lost as a result of the Proposed Action, and no hydric soils or soils of prime or unique farmland would be affected. The primary impact associated with soil disturbance would be short-term erosion of exposed or stockpiled soils by rain or wind, which could also lead to increased sedimentation in nearby surface waters.

Prior to beginning demolition or construction activities, the USCG would develop an ESCP, as required for construction activities which disturb more than 1 acre of land under NPDES General Permit NCG010000, which is issued by the DEMLR. The ESCP would include standard BMPs to minimize impacts from erosion and sedimentation caused by runoff. These measures may include the installation of erosion controls (e.g., filter fences or sediment traps), covering soil stockpiles and exposed slopes, and revegetating cleared or disturbed areas following the completion of demolition and construction activities. Compliance with permit

requirements and implementation of BMPs would maintain *short-term, adverse* soil impacts at a *less-than-significant* level.

Operation

Because operation of the proposed MMB would not result in an increase in impervious surface areas and all disturbed lands would be restored following demolition, *no impacts* on soil resources would occur in the long-term.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of the 87' CPB is a water-dependent activity and would not require the disturbance of land or soils at Station Fort Macon; therefore, permanently homeporting the 87' CPB would have *no impact* on soils.

4.2.2 Air Quality and Climate

The following criteria were used to address impacts to air quality:

- The alternative would have an adverse impact if it would result in emissions of regulated air pollutants that would not otherwise occur. This impact would *significant* if emissions exceed regulatory thresholds (for criteria pollutants and HAPs) or alter the region's attainment status.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial* impact if it would result in a permanent reduction in regulated air pollutant emissions.

4.2.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the ambient air quality would remain as described in **Section 3.3.2**. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have *no impact* on air quality.

4.2.2.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Proposed demolition and construction activities under the Proposed Action would generate emissions and impact air quality in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon. Heavy-duty construction equipment would be the primary source of air pollutants, and would generate NO_x, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ (i.e., fugitive dust), and GHGs. NO_x emissions are generated by equipment engines and would contribute to regional ozone concentrations. Construction vehicle and equipment exhaust also generates both PM emissions and GHGs.

Construction of the proposed MMB and demolition of the existing damaged facilities would both generate emissions; however, additional emissions may result from demolition activities as demolition would lead to a minor increase in fugitive dust. These emissions would be temporary and localized, and would not have the potential to impact off-site sensitive receptors, although on-site receptors, such as the berthing and medical/dental clinic, may be exposed. The implementation of dust control measures would significantly reduce particulate emissions during demolition. In addition, emissions resulting from construction and demolition activities would be consistent with emissions from typical construction projects, and are not likely to exceed regulated thresholds nor change the attainment status for Carteret County. Further, these air emissions would not have a significant impact on climate change vulnerability. Short-term impacts on air quality from implementation of the Proposed Action are anticipated to be *less-than-significant*.

Impacts to on-site sensitive receptors from fugitive dust would be managed through appropriate dust control measures, such as watering during demolition or excavation activities, covering stockpiled debris or soil, and covering truck loads. Other emissions would be minimized to the greatest extent practicable through implementation of the following standard BMPs:

- Requiring a speed of less than 15 miles per hour for construction equipment on unpaved surfaces;
- Regularly repairing and servicing construction equipment to prevent excess emissions;
- Shutting down heavy equipment when not needed; and,
- Cleaning excess soil from heavy equipment and trucks leaving the construction zone to prevent off-site transport.

Operation

Following the completion of demolition and construction activities, air quality in the Proposed Action area would not be affected from operation of the new MMB and all disturbed lands would be restored following demolition. Operational air emissions would not increase as the new MMB would replace four facilities. Rather, the replacement of outdated, damaged buildings with a new, modern facility may increase efficiency and reduce overall emissions within the Proposed Action area; Station Fort Macon would not need to obtain a Title V permit. Therefore, *no long-term, adverse impacts* to air quality would be expected from operation of the new MMB.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of an 87' CPB would have an effect on local air quality. The permanent relocation of a new fuel-reliant vessel would contribute to overall emissions when the 87' CPB is utilized to support USCG operations and missions. These emissions are not likely to be perceptible given the regional context of air quality. In addition, visiting cutters have been contributing similar amounts of emissions during their operation at and in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon. Permanently homeporting an 87' CPB would have *long-term, negligible adverse impacts* on air quality.

4.2.3 Noise

The following criteria were used to assess noise impacts:

- The alternative would have an adverse impact on noise if it would create a new source of noise that would temporarily or permanently increase general noise levels in the area. The impact would be *significant* if it would result in a violation of the permissible levels by Federal, State, or local noise regulations, or if it would be intrusive to sensitive receptors.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial* impact if it leads or could lead to a permanent reduction of ambient noise levels.

4.2.3.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have *no effect* on the existing noise environment, as current operations and noise levels would continue.

4.2.3.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

The use of construction equipment and vehicles would generate noise levels which would affect on-site sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the Proposed Action area, such as berthing facilities, and may potentially affect off-site receptors, such as Fort Macon State Park and nearby private residences. The noisiest activities would take place in the early stages of construction during excavation, and in the latter stages of the Proposed Action when demolition occurs.

Relatively high noise levels in the range of 93-108 dBA would occur on the construction and demolition sites, decreasing with distance from areas of disturbance. **Table 4-1** presents noise levels that could be expected from a range of construction equipment during proposed construction activities. Combined noise levels, or worst-case noise levels, occur when several loud pieces of equipment are used in a small area at the same time as described in **Table 4-1.**

Table 4-1 Noise Levels Expected from Typical Construction Equipment

Noise Level (dBA)								
Source	**Distance from Source (feet)**							
	0	**50**	**100**	**200**	**400**	**1,000**	**1,700**	**2,500**
Heavy Truck	95	84-89	78-93	72-77	66-71	58-63	54-59	50-55
Dump Truck	108	88	82	76	70	62	58	54
Concrete Mixer	108	85	79	73	67	59	55	51
Jackhammer	108	88	82	76	70	62	58	54
Scraper	93	80-89	74-82	68-77	60-71	54-63	50-59	46-55
Bulldozer	107	87-102	81-96	75-90	69-84	61-76	57-72	53-68
Generator	96	76	70	64	58	50	46	42
Crane	104	75-88	69-82	63-76	55-70	49-62	45-48	41-54
Loader	104	73-86	67-80	61-74	55-68	47-60	43-56	39-52
Grader	108	88-91	82-85	76-79	70-73	62-65	58-61	54-57
Pile driver	105	95	89	83	77	69	65	61
Forklift	100	95	89	83	77	69	65	61

Worst-case Combined Noise Level (Bulldozer, Jackhammer, Scraper)					
Combined Peak Noise Level	**Distance from Source (feet)**				
	50	**100**	**200**	**0.25 Mile**	**0.50 Mile**
	103	97	91	74	68

Source: (Tipler, 1976)

Since current noise levels at Station Fort Macon generally exist at ambient levels, it is anticipated that demolition and construction noise would result in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts*. Noise levels generally decrease with distance, and would be considered insignificant at a distance of 0.25 mile from the source; however, both Fort Macon State Park and the single private residence located south of the Station

are within 0.25 mile. A slight forested buffer separates the Station from Fort Macon State Park, which may also serve to absorb noise and reduce off-site noise levels, but no such buffer exists to the south.

Noise associated with demolition and construction activities would be intermittent and temporary, and equipment and machinery used at the construction site would meet all State and Federal noise regulations. All activities would occur within the Town of Atlantic Beach's regulated timeframe of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; thus, noise disturbance to on-site berthing facilities and off-site private residences would be minimal. Additional noise reduction BMPs would also be implemented to minimize the potential impacts on nearby receptors, which may include installing noise abatement measures (e.g., mufflers and engine enclosures) on motorized equipment; periodically inspecting construction equipment to ensure proper maintenance of noise control devices; keeping noise levels relatively uniform; avoiding impulse noises and the use of equipment which would create a "worst-case" noise level; and developing and implementing a construction noise monitoring program. Adherence to applicable noise regulations and BMPs would minimize noise impacts to the extent practicable.

Operation

Following the completion of construction and demolition activities, the ambient noise environment in the Proposed Action area would not be affected from operation of the new MMB. Operation of the new facility would not appreciably alter the noise environment as routine activities currently occurring at existing facilities would continue or would be relocated to the MMB. Generated noise would be consistent with other activities already occurring at the Station and would occur primarily indoors and only occur during daytime hours. Thus, operation of the MMB would have *no effect* on noise.

87' CPB Homeporting

The homeporting of the 87' CPB would lead to a slight permanent increase in ambient noise levels from the addition of a new vessel and its associated noise to Station Fort Macon. This change, however, would not appreciably add to the existing noise environment, as numerous other noise-generating vessels are already located at the Station. Thus, homeporting would have a *long-term, negligible adverse impact* on existing noise levels.

4.2.4 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Wastes

Impacts to HTMW were assessed using the following criteria:

- The alternative would have adverse impacts if it would cause an increase in the amount of hazardous substances used, stored, or requiring disposal. This adverse impact would be *significant* if the total amount of hazardous substances exceeds regulatory thresholds or allowable limits under existing permits and procedures; if it increased the risk of contamination by hazardous substances; or if it would create new or substantial human or environmental health risks.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial impact* if it would cause a substantial decrease in the amount of hazardous substances used, stored, or requiring disposal by the site; or if it would require or facilitate cleaning up a contaminated site.

4.2.4.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions relating to HTMW would remain. HTMW would continue to be stored, managed, and disposed of as they are currently; no additional hazardous substances would be used or generated. The continual use of degraded facilities, however, would result in an increase in

risk related to hazardous materials at Station Fort Macon, as degraded facilities are currently vulnerable to weather and natural disasters. Continued use of these buildings would increase the exposure of Station tenants to hazardous conditions. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would result in a *long-term, potentially significant adverse impact* with respect to HTMW.

4.2.4.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Construction and demolition under the Proposed Action would result in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* to HTMW due to the use of hazardous materials and potential generation of hazardous wastes. Operation of construction equipment and vehicles to build the MMB could result in potential discharge, spills, and contamination of commonly used products, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, oil, antifreeze, and lubricants. A major release, or multiple minor releases, could lead to soil, surface water, and/or groundwater contamination at Station Fort Macon, and require remediation. In addition, during demolition, hazardous materials such as ACM or LBP could be encountered or released, although such materials are not believed to be present in the buildings slated for demolition. The location of ASTs near the racquetball building would require additional precautions during demolition of this building to ensure the AST is not impacted or damaged.

Neither demolition nor construction activities would be conducted within the ESQD of other buildings at Station Fort Macon, so there would be no associated risk.

To minimize the potential for accidental releases and contamination from any releases, established procedures designed to prevent and respond to releases would be followed, including Station Fort Macon's SPCC plan, the *USCG Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual* (COMDTINST M16000.14A), and COMDTINST M16478.1B. Prior to demolition, existing hazardous substances, if present (e.g., ACM, LBP, and PCBs) would be identified, segregated, removed by licensed contractors, and transported to permitted facilities outside the Station for disposal. Further, any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations. The USCG would follow all applicable laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the handling and disposal of HTMW, and would implement preventative procedures during demolition and construction to minimize the potential for accidental releases. All construction contractors would be required to comply with OSHA regulations regarding safety measures and precautions.

Operation

During operation of the new MMB, the USCG would comply with all applicable guidelines and management plans related to the storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials, wastes, and petroleum products to ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws. Additionally, the USCG would implement the measures in and comply with Station Fort Macon's SPCC plan. Therefore, any impacts or potential accidental release from the use, handling, or storage of HTMW during operation of the MMB would be *long-term and less-than-significant*, and managed in accordance with all safety regulations.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of the 87' CPB would permanently relocate a marine vessel at Station Fort Macon. This action itself would not cause impacts to HTMW, but operation and use of the 87' CPB could have impacts. Accidental or permitted discharges may occur while the vessel is docked, being fueled, or undergoing maintenance at the Station. While docked, the USCG requires booms to be placed around vessels to help

contain any spills in accordance with OSHA Publication 3172, *Training Marine Oil Spill Response Workers under OSHA's Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard.* Accidental discharge may also occur during its missions out at sea; however, accidental spills of petroleum products from USCG vessels at sea are uncommon. Implementation of appropriate preventative measures and spill response measures such as those identified in the OSHA Publication and the SPCC would result in *long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* to HTMW.

4.2.5 Non-Hazardous Solid Waste

Impacts to HTMW were assessed using the following criteria:

- The alternative would have a *significant* adverse impact if the total amount of solid waste generated exceeds current or future capacities of receiving landfills and/or processing facilities, or such that conditions or quantities of non-hazardous solid waste would exceed the capacity of USCG or Station Fort Macon to manage them.

4.2.5.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no changes in the way non-hazardous solid waste is currently generated, handled, or disposed of at Station Fort Macon. *No impacts* with respect to non-hazardous solid waste would occur.

4.2.5.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Construction of the new MMB and demolition of 17,252 GSF of existing facilities would generate debris and waste. Materials from construction and demolition activities would be recycled to the extent feasible to divert materials from disposal in landfills. Any debris generated that cannot be recycled would be disposed of at permitted disposal facilities and landfills by licensed contractors. In addition, concrete slurry would be managed and containerized appropriately prior to disposal. Contractors would be required to provide proof of proper debris disposal to the USCG. Generated debris is not likely to exceed landfill capacity or ability of contractors or the USCG to manage waste. Therefore, the Proposed Action would result in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* on non-hazardous solid waste.

Operation

Operation of the proposed MMB would not increase the amount of non-hazardous solid waste generated at Station Fort Macon. The volume and type of solid waste the USCG would not change as a result of relocating operations to the new MMB as waste generated at the new MMB would be similar to waste generated at the existing hurricane-damaged facilities. Demolished sites would be restored and replanted with native vegetation; thus, no waste would be generated at these sites. The Proposed Action would have *no long-term adverse impacts* on non-hazardous solid waste.

87' CPB Homeporting

An increase in solid waste is anticipated to result from permanently homeporting an 87' CPB. Waste would be generated from the additional 8 to 10 personnel stationed at Station Fort Macon, as well as from vessel operations. However, any generated waste would be minor and easily absorbed by existing waste management capabilities. Therefore, permanently homeporting an 87' CPB would result in *long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* on non-hazardous solid waste.

4.3 Natural Environment

4.3.1 Water Resources

The following criteria were used to assess impacts to water resources:

- The alternative would have a *significant* adverse impact if it would threaten or damage unique hydrologic characteristics, impede navigability, degrade water quality below State thresholds or prevent water quality from improving; substantially increase the amount of stormwater entering surrounding surface waters or would increase impervious surfaces; permanently alter or diminish the quality of a WOUS through the placement of fill, structures, or other discharge; or alter flooding, flood elevations, flood levels, or induce flooding.
- The alternative would have a *significant* adverse impact on the coastal zone and coastal resources if it would substantially alter the coastal zone or induce activities that would be inconsistent with North Carolina's coastal management policies.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial impact* if it improved the quality of surface water; reduced the amount of stormwater and runoff or decreased impervious surfaces; increased or improved the quantity or quality of wetlands; or resulted in improvements to floodplains or coastal resources.

4.3.1.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have *no impact* on water resources. Existing conditions would remain, and there would be no changes in water quality and existing hydrologic characteristics, fill of or discharge to wetlands, modifications to the floodplain, and degradation of the coastal zone. These resources would remain as described in **Section 3.4.1**.

4.3.1.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Proposed demolition and construction activities, such as grading and excavation, would increase erosion and sedimentation in downstream surface waters, resulting in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* on surface water quality. The use of construction equipment and vehicles would also result in an increased risk of spills. To avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts to surface water quality in Bogue Sound, the USCG would comply with State and Federal stormwater requirements to manage runoff, including development of an ESCP as required by the State's NPDES General Permit. A State Post-Construction Stormwater Management Permit would also be obtained from the NCDEQ due to the Proposed Action's location in a coastal county. Additional BMPs would be implemented to manage impacts to surface water quality from accidental releases of HTMW. Adherence to these and other appropriate BMPs described in **Section 4.2.1** and **Section 4.2.4** would further reduce impacts. The Proposed Action would not impact the current impairment status of Bogue Sound as an unsuitable water for shellfishing, however, as this status specifically relates to an exceedance of sanitary criteria, which would not worsen due to demolition or construction.

Prior to demolition but following the completion of construction activities, there would be a short-term increase in impervious surfaces at Station Fort Macon, which would result in an increase in stormwater runoff and pollutant loading of surrounding surface waters. However, following the completion of both construction and demolition activities, there would be no net increase in the amount of impervious surfaces at the Station. This

temporary increase in impervious surfaces would result in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* to stormwater.

Proposed demolition and construction activities would occur within the 100-year floodplain, and disturb land within the flood hazard zone. Since the project is specific to Station Fort Macon, which is entirely contained within the 100-year floodplain, there is no practicable alternative to construction within the floodplain. As such, the USCG would issue a Finding of No Practicable Alternative concurrent with the FONSI. To avoid or minimize effects to the floodplain, the USCG would construct the proposed MMB with a minimum base elevation of 7 feet, above the regulated flood elevation level, in accordance with the Carteret County Code of Ordinances. The short-term increase in impervious surfaces prior to demolition could temporarily increase flooding, although there would be no interference with the long-term function of the 100-year floodplain or an increased potential for flooding either on-site or off-site. As such, prior to the completion of demolition, there would be *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* on the floodplain due to a temporary increase in impervious surfaces; following demolition activities, there would be *long-term, negligible adverse impacts* to the floodplain.

Proposed construction and demolition may result in disturbances to coastal resources from onshore ground and soil disturbances that may result in erosion, sedimentation, and increased turbidity. However, the Proposed Action would be consistent with North Carolina's enforceable coastal policies with implementation of BMPs, compliance with applicable regulations, and appropriate agency coordination. The Proposed Action would avoid impacts to the State coastal zone and estuarine AEC to the maximum extent practicable; therefore, the Proposed Action would result in *short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts* on the coastal zone and coastal resources.

As there are no wetlands located within the boundaries of the Proposed Action area and no in-water work would occur during construction of the new MMB or demolition of existing damaged facilities, there would be *no impact* to wetlands.

Operation

Operation of the new MMB would have *no impact* on surface waters, stormwater, or wetlands. The design of the new MMB would incorporate green infrastructure and LID features to maintain the pre-development hydrology of Station Fort Macon to the extent feasible, in accordance with Section 438 of the EISA. These features would manage and minimize stormwater runoff and aim to improve stormwater absorption and infiltration at the site once the MMB is operational. The new facility would not discharge pollutants or large quantities of water to Bogue Sound; therefore, it would not affect its impairment status or existing hydrologic characteristics. Operation of the new MMB would have no in-water components, nor require wetland fill or dredging.

Operation of the new MMB and associated operational activities would occur entirely within the floodplain. While the new MMB would not result in additional modifications to the floodplain, the general use of the floodplain to support USCG operations would have a *long-term, negligible adverse impact* to the floodplain.

Operation of the MMB would not constitute further development along the coastal shoreline, and would not cause additional disturbances within the coastal zone that are inconsistent with North Carolina's enforceable policies. Operation of the MMB would be consistent with applicable regulations to the maximum extent practicable, and would therefore have *no impact* on the coastal zone and coastal resources.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of the 87' CPB would have *long-term, negligible adverse impacts* on surface water quality in Bogue Sound. The presence of an additional cutter may increase turbidity in the surrounding waters from activity associated with the vessel, but this increase would be minor in comparison to current disturbances caused by ongoing vessel activities at Station Fort Macon.

Homeporting of the 87' CPB would have *no impact* on stormwater, wetlands, or floodplains at Station Fort Macon. This aspect of the Proposed Action is water-dependent, and would not affect the surface hydrology nor the amount of impervious surfaces present at Station Fort Macon. Similarly, as no in-water work is proposed to support homeporting the 87' CPB, no dredging or excavation of wetlands surrounding Station Fort Macon would occur. Additionally, it would not result in any discharge to or fill of those wetlands, and would not alter the function of those wetlands.

The proposed permanent relocation and homeporting of an 87' CPB would constitute a water-dependent use of the estuarine AEC and coastal shoreline. Such an action is consistent with second priority use standards for these waters, and no in-water work would occur to support the relocation. Therefore, *no impacts* on coastal resources would occur and homeporting the 87' CPB would be consistent with North Carolina's enforceable policies to the maximum extent possible.

4.3.2 Biological Resources

The following criteria were used to assess impacts to biological resources:

- The alternative would have a *significant* adverse impact if it would substantially alter or destroy existing terrestrial or aquatic habitats, or displace terrestrial or aquatic wildlife, including T&E species.
- The alternative would have a *beneficial impact* if it would improve the quality of existing terrestrial or aquatic habitat, bring additional species to the area, or enhance habitat and introduce protection for T&E species.

4.3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing terrestrial and aquatic environment would remain undisturbed. Therefore, there would be *no impact* to biological resources.

4.3.2.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Construction activities would disturb undeveloped grassland and replace a portion of this area with impervious surfaces. The existing grassland has little or no ecological value and does not provide habitat. Proposed demolition activities would result in the permanent removal of four buildings; however, no natural features or viable habitat currently surround these buildings. Disturbed areas would be planted with native vegetation or maintained in another permeable condition to the extent feasible. As a result, there would be *no impact* to terrestrial habitat from the Proposed Action.

Terrestrial wildlife living at or near Station Fort Macon may be affected by proposed demolition and construction activities from an increase in noise and dust. Potential disturbances would be temporary and cease once construction and demolition activities have ended. Impacts would be further managed through applicable

BMPs (see **Sections 4.2.2** and **4.2.3**). Therefore, *short-term, negligible adverse impacts* would occur to terrestrial wildlife.

No in-water work would occur as part of demolition or construction of the Proposed Action. Erosion and sedimentation resulting from demolition and construction activities may adversely affect aquatic vegetation and wildlife due to increased turbidity, but with implementation of an ESCP and other stormwater management practices, such an effect would be temporary and negligible. While there is a potential for EFH species to be present, these species would occur in low densities and would be primarily mobile juvenile and adult species. Demolition and construction activities would not lead to the loss of aquatic habitat, and are not expected to notably affect EFH species; therefore, the Proposed Action would result in *short-term, negligible adverse impacts* to aquatic wildlife and habitat.

The USCG identified 17 federally listed T&E species, four of which have a limited potential to be present at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area (**Section 3.4.2.3**). These water-dependent species (West Indian manatee, green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle) are not likely to be adversely affected by the implementation of proposed demolition and construction activities as no in-water work would occur. Runoff from onshore activities would increase in the short-term and may temporarily impact water quality and the aquatic environment, but any changes are anticipated to be minor, and would be managed through USCG compliance with an ESCP. Therefore, due to the low potential presence of these species and limited possibility for aquatic disturbances, the Proposed Action would result in *no effect* on T&E species. Consultation with the USFWS was initiated on 13 April 2020; no response has been received to date.

No impacts to migratory birds or BCCs are anticipated under the Proposed Action, as none have been recorded at Station Fort Macon, nor breed in its vicinity (see **Section 3.4.2.3**). While bald eagles could potentially occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area, they would occur in limited numbers and would not likely be adversely affected as the Proposed Action would not require the clearing of any trees and the proposed MMB site and hurricane-damaged facilities occur in previously disturbed or developed grassland areas.

Operation

Operation of the new MMB would not lead to further disturbances of the terrestrial or aquatic environment; all disturbed lands would be restored following demolition. The Proposed Action would not involve in-water activities nor result in additional runoff from current levels. Operations at the new MMB would be similar to existing operations and primarily comprise office/administrative functions, which would not affect terrestrial or aquatic resources, including T&E species or sensitive species such as BCCs and bald eagles. Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have *no long-term impacts* on biological resources.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of the 87' CPB is water-dependent, and would utilize an existing ship mooring currently used by visiting cutters; no in-water work would be required. This area is already heavily disturbed from regular human activity and vessel traffic, and is not conducive toward suitable habitat for EFH species or T&E species. An additional vessel would not have substantial new disturbances nor constitute a significant impact to biological resources; therefore the Proposed Action would result in *no impacts* to biological resources.

4.4 Cultural Resources

The following criteria were used to assess impacts to cultural resources:

- The alternative would have a *significant* adverse impact on cultural resources if an adverse effect as defined under Section 106 occurs. An adverse effect is defined as occurring "when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for including the National Register [of Historic Places]" (36 CFR 800.5(a)(1) and (2)).
- The alternative would have a *beneficial impact* on cultural resources if it would support the maintenance or preservation of above- and below-ground resources.

4.4.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have *no effect* on cultural resources within either the archaeological or above-ground APE. Existing archaeological and architectural resources would remain undisturbed, and their respective APEs would remain as described in **Section 3.5**.

4.4.2 Preferred Action Alternative

Construction and Demolition

Demolition and construction of the Proposed Action would have *no effect* on architectural resources. No NRHP-eligible buildings or structures are located on Station Fort Macon, and none would be demolished under the Proposed Action. Noise associated with these activities may affect the NRHP-listed Fort Macon, which is located within the above-ground APE and may be considered a sensitive receptor. However, any intrusive noise associated with demolition and construction would be temporary, and would be minimized to the extent practicable through the use of BMPs identified in **Section 4.2.3.**

Ground disturbance from proposed demolition and construction activities would have a limited potential to disturb or affect existing, unknown archaeological sites. While there is a limited potential for archaeological materials surrounding the buildings slated for demolition due to the previously disturbed nature of this area, there is a moderate potential for archaeological resources to occur in the undeveloped grassland area of the APE, which would house the footprint of the proposed MMB. In the event that archaeological materials are inadvertently discovered during construction activities, the USCG would cease work immediately and notify the North Carolina SHPO and consulting tribes. If the resource is determined to be historically significant, the project would be redesigned to reduce or eliminate impacts. As a result, demolition and construction would have *no effect* on archaeological resources.

Operation

Operation of the MMB would have *no effect* on potentially present archaeological resources, as there would be no ground disturbance associated with operational activities.

The Proposed Action would alter the viewshed of the NRHP-listed Fort Macon, which could detract from the historic nature and feel of the property. However, visualizations of the proposed MMB compared to baseline conditions indicate that only the roof and upper section of the third story of the MMB would be visible, due to intervening topography and trees, as well as the sunken nature of Fort Macon (**Appendix D**). Those portions of the MMB would only be visible from the highest points of Fort Macon, and would not be visible throughout most of Fort Macon. Additionally, the MMB would be a minor addition to the existing built environment around Fort Macon, and would be designed so as to complement its setting and other surrounding buildings.

Therefore, while there is a potential for visual effects on Fort Macon from operation of the MMB, these effects would be minor and would not constitute an adverse effect. Operation of the proposed MMB would have *no adverse effect* on cultural resources.

87' CPB Homeporting

The proposed homeporting of the 87' CPB would have *no impact* on cultural resources, as no ground disturbance or in-water work is proposed. Further, there is no potential to affect any above-ground resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

4.5 Mitigation Measures and BMPs

Per established protocols, procedures, and requirements, the USCG would implement BMPs and satisfy all applicable regulatory requirements in association with the Proposed Action. BMPs are included as components of the Proposed Action Alternative and described below. BMPs are regulatory compliance measures that the USCG regularly implements as part of their activities, as appropriate. These are different from "mitigation measures," which are defined as project-specific requirements, not routinely implemented by the USCG, necessary to reduce identified potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to less-than-significant levels. With implementation of the following routine BMPs, the Proposed Action would result in no significant adverse impacts to the current environmental setting. No project-specific mitigation measures would be required under the Proposed Action Alternative to reduce potential significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Soils. The USCG would prepare a detailed, site-specific ESCP in accordance with the NPDES General Permit to address all ground-disturbing aspects of the Proposed Action. The ESCP would include BMPs such as specific guidelines and engineering controls to address anticipated erosion and resultant sedimentation impacts from the proposed demolition and construction activities. The USCG would implement the following measures, as appropriate: install erosion controls such as filter fences or sediment traps, cover soil stockpiles and exposed slopes, and revegetate cleared or disturbed areas.

Air Quality and Climate. The USCG would ensure demolition and construction activities are performed in conformance with applicable Federal and State regulations, and that such activities do not result in the exceedance of regulated air quality thresholds. Reasonable precaution and implementation of dust control measures would be taken to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne and affecting nearby sensitive receptors. These dust control measures may include watering during demolition or excavation activities, covering stockpiled debris or soil, covering truck loads, and requiring a speed of less than 15 miles per hour for construction equipment on unpaved surfaces. These dust reduction measures would be incorporated into construction contracts, and briefed to the contractor prior to construction. Other BMPs, such as the use of low VOC architectural materials, supplies, and equipment; regularly repairing and servicing construction equipment; and shutting down heavy equipment when not needed, would serve to minimize emissions of NO_x and GHGs during demolition and construction activities.

Noise. The USCG would implement BMPs as appropriate to limit noise impacts during demolition and construction activities. The USCG would limit activity to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in accordance with the Town of Atlantic Beach's regulations. Equipment would be operated per manufacturer's recommendations, and noise-generating heavy equipment would be shut down when not needed. Construction equipment would be outfitted with noise abatement measures, such as mufflers and engine enclosures, and would be periodically

inspected to ensure the proper maintenance of such noise control devices. Construction personnel would be directed to keep noise levels relatively uniform, and to avoid impulse noises and the use of multiple pieces of heavy equipment which would create intrusive noise levels. A construction noise monitoring program may also be developed; this and other noise-reduction measures would be briefed to the contractor prior to construction.

HTMW. The USCG would follow established procedures to minimize the potential for accidental releases and contamination from any releases during demolition, construction, and operation, including Station Fort Macon's SPCC, COMDTINST M16000.14A, and COMDTINST M16478.1B. The USCG would also adhere to these procedures in order to prevent and respond to accidental discharges from the homeported 87 CPB, either while docked or at sea. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.

Non-Hazardous Solid Waste. Solid waste generated from implementation of the Proposed Action, such as demolition debris, recyclable waste (e.g., aluminum cans, paper, glass), and concrete slurry, would be properly disposed of at permitted waste facilities or recycled. Contractors would be required to provide proof of proper disposal to the USCG. Construction contractors would be required to comply with OSHA regulations regarding worker safety measures and precautions.

Biological Resources. The USCG would re-vegetate disturbed areas to the maximum extent practicable to offset impacts to vegetation from the loss of grasslands. The demolition and construction BMPs identified under *Noise* would be implemented to minimize disturbances to terrestrial wildlife from increased noise levels. Impacts to aquatic wildlife, including potentially present aquatic T&E species, would be managed through compliance with the BMPs identified under *Soils*, particularly through adherence to the ESCP.

Water Resources. The USCG would implement the ESCP and SPCC as described for *Soils* and *HTMW* to minimize impacts to water quality resulting from sedimentation, stormwater runoff, and potential releases of hazardous substances. Runoff would also be controlled through the acquisition of a Post-Construction Stormwater Management Permit from the NCDEQ. Other measures to prevent pollutant loading of surface waters would be implemented by the USCG such as fueling construction equipment in designated areas, confining equipment maintenance to upland locations, and ensuring equipment is in good condition and not leaking. Stormwater control measures would be incorporated to further protect surface waters in accordance with Federal regulations under Section 438 of the EISA. The USCG would include green infrastructure and LID features in its design for the MMB to maintain the pre-development hydrology of Station Fort Macon. The USCG would further comply with Carteret County requirements during the design phase of the Proposed Action to ensure adequate flood protection, and would construct the MMB at a minimum base elevation of 7 feet, above the regulated flood elevation level. The USCG would also comply with EO 11988, as applicable. Construction BMPs identified under *Soils, HTMW, Surface Water,* and *Stormwater* would also be implemented to minimize impacts to the coastal resources.

Cultural Resources. The USCG would implement standard protocols for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries during demolition and construction activities. If previously unknown resources are encountered, construction would be halted and the resource evaluated. If it is determined to be historically significant, the project would be redesigned to reduce or eliminate impacts; if it cannot be avoided, additional consultation would be conducted with the North Carolina SHPO. BMPs identified under *Noise* would minimize audible impacts to Fort Macon.

4.6 Cumulative Effects

As defined by CEQ Regulations in 40 CFR §1508.7, a cumulative impact is that which "results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." NEPA requires the lead Federal agency to consider the cumulative impact of a Proposed Action. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions expected to occur in a similar location and during a similar time period. As such, a cumulative impacts analysis must identify and define other actions and their spatial or temporal overlap with a proposed action.

The CEQ advises that an agency should relate the scope of its analysis to the magnitude of the environmental impacts of a Proposed Action. Therefore, the analysis of cumulative effects involves defining the scope of other actions and their interrelationship with a Proposed Action. As cumulative effects may be accrued over time and/or in conjunction with other pre-existing conditions from other activities in the study area, pre-existing impacts should also be considered.

The Region of Influence (ROI) for cumulative analysis encompasses Station Fort Macon and its immediate surrounding vicinity, which comprises Fort Macon Park. As no projects or developments are planned for the park, the following reasonably foreseeable future actions occurring only at Station Fort Macon were considered for this cumulative analysis:

- Waterfront Repairs: The USCG plans to repair damages to the waterfront due to Hurricane Florence. Phase 1 would focus on bulkhead repairs; Phase 2 would focus on the ramps and washout.
- Utility and Infrastructure Improvements: The USCG plans to implement utility and infrastructure improvements, including replacing the HVAC system in the Administrative Building, repairing the retention pond, replacing doors and windows in the Aids to Navigation building, and potential foundation repairs to the Industrial Production Detachment (IPD) building due to flooding from the adjacent property.
- Personnel Relocation: Approximately 14 staff from Station Fort Macon would relocate to Sector North Carolina in Wilmington, North Carolina. The purpose of this relocation is to consolidate all Sector staff in one location.

4.6.1 Cumulative Impacts of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USCG would not demolish existing damaged facilities, construct the proposed MMB, nor permanently homeport an 87' CPB. Current infrastructure at Station Fort Macon would remain and ongoing operations would continue. Although the continual use of deteriorated facilities would increase the exposure of Station tenants to hazardous conditions and natural disasters, these impacts would not interact with the reasonably foreseeable future projects discussed above. The past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects considered in this cumulative analysis would likely still be developed regardless of the Proposed Action. Therefore, in consideration with other reasonably foreseeable future actions in the ROI, the No Action Alternative would have *no cumulative effects*.

4.6.2 Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative

The collective impacts of reasonably foreseeable future projects would be similar to the impacts of the Proposed Action. As no incremental effects to cultural resources would occur under the Proposed Action Alternative, no cumulative effects would result. Future actions requiring construction, such as waterfront

repairs and infrastructure improvements, would cause physical disturbance of surrounding soils and generate air emissions, fugitive dust, HTMW, and noise. As such, incremental effects of the Proposed Action taken into consideration with collective impacts of reasonably foreseeable future projects would result in *less-than-significant* adverse cumulative impacts to soils, climate and air quality, noise, HTMW, solid waste, water resources, and biological resources. The Proposed Action combined with planned and future projects could lead to increased construction-related impacts (e.g., air emissions, hazardous and solid waste generation, increased noise, stormwater runoff). However, these impacts would be highly localized and the USCG would adhere to appropriate BMPs to minimize adverse impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Further, physical disturbances would occur within the Station's existing footprint, which is extensively developed. Regional cumulative impacts would not be anticipated as construction would be contained within Station Fort Macon.

Although an additional 8 to 10 personnel would relocate to Station Fort Macon to support the 87 CPB, approximately 14 personnel are expected to relocate to Sector North Carolina. Thus, there would be no substantial change in total personnel at Station Fort Macon. The Proposed Action is not anticipated to facilitate long-term adverse cumulative impacts when taken into account with reasonably foreseeable future projects.

5.0 Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions

5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

This EA has evaluated the potential physical, natural, cultural, and cumulative effects of the USCG's proposed construction of a new MMB, demolition of four existing support buildings, and permanent homeporting of an 87 CPB to increase the operational capability of Station Fort Macon, as detailed in **Section 2.2**. The Proposed Action Alternative was evaluated in addition to the No Action Alternative. A comparison of the environmental consequences of these alternatives is provided in **Table 5-1**. All impacts would be reduced with the implementation of BMPs and minimization measures (see **Section 4.5**).

5.2 Conclusion

This EA concludes that there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the local physical and natural environment as a result of implementing the Proposed Action, with the adherence to mitigation measures and BMPs specified in this EA. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary for implementing the Proposed Action and a FONSI is appropriate. The Proposed Action Alternative was determined by the USCG to best meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action by providing onshore and vessel assets that meet the USCG's mission requirements in Sector North Carolina. Implementation of the Preferred Action Alternative would reduce the USCG's vulnerability to adverse weather events and similar types of natural disasters, and would improve operational readiness and response at Station Fort Macon. The No Action Alternative was found not to satisfy the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. As such, this EA recommends implementation of the Proposed Action.

Table 5-1: Alternatives Comparison Matrix

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Soils	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to soils from ground disturbances during construction and demolition. No impacts from operation of the MMB or homeporting.
Air Quality and Climate	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** on air quality due to the potential for increased air emissions and dust generation from demolition and construction activities. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** from 87' CPB emissions during its use for USCG operations and missions. No impacts from operation of the MMB.
Noise	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from noise generation by construction equipment. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** from the permanent addition of the 87 CPB to the existing noise environment. No impacts from operation of the MMB.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste	***Long-term, potentially significant adverse impact*** from continual use of degraded facilities resulting in increased vulnerability to hazardous conditions.	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** due to the use of hazardous materials, potential generation of hazardous wastes, and the potential for spills and releases during construction and demolition. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the potential use, handling, or storage of HTMW during operation. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the potential for spills or releases from homeporting the 87' CPB.
Non-hazardous Solid Waste	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from the generation of construction and demolition debris. ***Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** from homeporting due to new wastes generated from an increase in personnel and the addition of a new vessel. No impacts from operation of the MMB.

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Water Resources	No impact	***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to surface waters during construction and demolition from erosion, sedimentation, and potential release of hazardous materials. ***Short-term, less-than-significant adverse impact*** to stormwater, floodplains, and coastal resources from a temporary increase in impervious surfaces during construction and demolition. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impacts*** from construction and operation of a new facility in the 100-year floodplain. ***Long-term, negligible adverse impact*** on water quality from utilization of the 87' CPB. No impacts to wetlands from construction or demolition. No impacts to surface waters, stormwater, wetlands, or coastal resources from operation of the MMB. No impacts to stormwater, wetlands, floodplains, or coastal resources from homeporting of the 87' CPB.
Biological Resources	No impact	***Short-term, negligible adverse impact*** to terrestrial wildlife and aquatic wildlife and habitat due to construction and demolition disturbance and sedimentation. No impact to terrestrial habitat from construction and demolition. No adverse effects to T&E species from construction and demolition. No impacts to biological resources from operation of the MMB or homeporting of the 87' CPB.
Cultural Resources	No Impact	No adverse effects to archaeological or architectural resources from demolition, construction, operation of the MMB, or homeporting of the 87 CPB.

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7.0 Glossary

100-Year Flood – A flood event of such magnitude that it occurs, on average, every 100 years; this equates to a one percent chance of its occurring in a given year.

Ambient – The environment as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

Archaeological Resource – Any material of human life or activities that is at least 100 years of age and is of archaeological interest (32 CFR Part 229.3(a)).

Area of Potential Effect (APE) – The geographical area within which the undertaking may cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The APE may change according to the regulation under which it is being applied and should be established in coordination with consulting parties.

Asbestos – Incombustible, chemical-resistant, fibrous mineral forms of impure magnesium silicate used for fireproofing, electrical insulation, building materials, brake linings, and chemical filters. Asbestos is a carcinogenic substance.

Attainment Area – Region that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for a criteria pollutant under the CAA.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Regulatory compliance methods, measures, or practices to minimize adverse effects.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BCCs) – Bird species with the potential to become candidates for listing as a threatened or endangered species.

Coastal Zone – The coastal waters of a State and adjacent shorelands which have a direct impact on coastal waters. The area is designated by the State, which establishes special management priorities to restore and protect ecologically important habitats and natural resources.

Contaminants – Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substances that have an adverse effect on air, water or soil.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – An Executive Office of the President composed of three members appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Senate. Each member shall be exceptionally qualified to analyze and interpret environmental trends; to appraise programs and activities of the Federal government. Members are to be conscious of and responsive to the scientific, economic, social, aesthetic, and cultural needs of the Nation; and to formulate and recommend national policies to promote the improvement of the quality of the environment.

Criteria Pollutants – The CAA of 1970 required the EPA to set air quality standards for common and widespread pollutants in order to protect human health and welfare. There are six "criteria pollutants": ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and particulate matter.

Cultural Resources – Historic properties as defined by the NHPA; cultural items as defined by NAGPRA; archaeological resources as defined by ARPA; sites and sacred objects to which access is afforded under AIRFA; and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR Part 79. Included are: traditional cultural properties and objects; archaeological sites; historic buildings, structures, and districts; and localities with social significance to the human community.

Cumulative Impact – The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR Part 1508.7).

dBA – "A-weighted" non-impulse noise measurement in decibels, weighted to match human hearing frequency response.

Decibel (dB) – A unit of measurement of sound pressure level.

Elevation – Raising a building and placing it on a higher foundation so the first or lowest floor is above flood levels.

Emission – A release of a pollutant.

Endangered Species – Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – An EA is a publication that provides sufficient evidence and analysis to show whether a proposed system would adversely affect the environment or be environmentally controversial.

Erosion – The wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments through the action of moving water and other geological agents.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Waters necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.

Floodplain – The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a river, stream, ocean, lake, or other body of water that is susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters.

FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact, a NEPA document.

Fugitive Dust – Particles light enough to be suspended in air, which are not caught in a capture or filtering system. For this document, this refers to particles put in the air by moving vehicles and air movement over disturbed soils at construction sites.

Habitat – The natural home or environment of any animal, plant, or other organism.

Hazardous Substance – Hazardous materials are defined within several laws and regulations to have certain meanings. For this document, a hazardous material is any one of the following:

- Any substance designated pursuant to section 311 (b)(2) (A) of the Clean Water Act.
- Any element, compound, mixture, solution or substance designated pursuant to Section 102 of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- Any hazardous as defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
- Any toxic pollutant listed under Toxic Substances Control Act.
- Any hazardous air pollutant listed under Section 112 of CAA.
- Any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the EPA Administrator has taken action pursuant to Subsection 7 of Toxic Substances Control Act.

The term does not include: 1) Petroleum, including crude oil or any thereof, which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance in a above. 2) Natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas). c. A list of hazardous substances is found in 40 CFR Part 302.4.

Hazardous Waste – A solid waste, which when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Hazardous wastes are identified in 40 CFR Part 261.3 or applicable foreign law, rule, or regulation (see also solid waste).

Hazardous Waste Storage – As defined in 40 CFR Part 260.10, ". . . the holding of hazardous waste for a temporary period, at the end of which the hazardous waste is treated, disposed of, or stored elsewhere."

Historic Property – Any material or human life or activities that is at least 50 years of age and is of cultural interest.

Historic resources – Any real or personal property, record, or lifeway. Includes: historic real property such as archaeological and architectural places, monuments, designed landscapes, works of engineering or other property that may meet the criteria for inclusion in the NRHP; historic personal property such as any artifact or relic; historic records to include any historical, oral-historical, ethnographic, architectural, or other document that provides a record of the past; and community resources/lifeways to include any resource that a community or interested group ascribes cultural value (references to historic real or personal property such as natural landscapes and cemeteries; references to real property such as vistas or viewsheds; or, references to the nonmaterial such as certain aspects of folk life, cultural or religious practices, languages, or traditions).

Listed Species – Any plant or animal designated as a State or Federal threatened, endangered, special concern, or candidate species.

Mitigation – Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

Mobile Sources – Vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, construction equipment, and other equipment that use internal combustion engines for energy sources.

Monitoring – A process of inspecting and recording the progress of mitigation measures implemented.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – Nationwide standards set up by the EPA for widespread air pollutants, as required by Section 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Currently, six pollutants are regulated by primary and secondary NAAQS: carbon monoxide (CO), lead, (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – United States statute that requires all Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of Proposed Actions on the human and natural environment.

Nonattainment Area – An area that has been designated by the EPA or the appropriate State air quality agency as exceeding one or more national or State ambient air quality standards.

Particulates or Particulate Matter – Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes or smog found in air.

Pollutant – A substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Sensitive Receptors – Include, but are not limited to, asthmatics, children, and the elderly, as well as specific facilities, such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, and childcare centers.

Soil – The mixture of altered mineral and organic material at the earth's surface that supports plant life.

Threatened species – Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Toxic Substance – A harmful substance which includes elements, compounds, mixtures, and materials of complex composition.

Undertaking – "An undertaking is a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license, or approval; and those subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal agency" (36 CFR Part 800.16{y]).

Waters of the United States include the following: (1) All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. (2) All interstate waters including interstate wetlands. (3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

Wetlands – Areas that are regularly saturated by surface or groundwater and, thus, are characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes and estuaries.

Wildlife Habitat – Set of living communities in which a wildlife population lives.

8.0 List of Preparers

U.S. COAST GUARD COMMANDING OFFICER
Civil Engineering Unit
1240 East Ninth Street, RM 2179
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060

Name	Role
Ronald Baron	COR, CEU Cleveland
Guy M. Brunell	Facility Maintenance and Repair Lead
Todd M. Ogle	Environmental Protection Specialist/Assistant Safety Manager
Chris Schulte	Damage Control Chief, Senior

AECOM
1300 East Ninth Street, Suite 500
Cleveland, OH 44114

Name	Role	Degree	Years of Experience
Beth Kalapos	Project Manager	Master of Architecture B.A. in Architecture B.S. in Architecture	29
Jennifer Warf	EA Technical Lead/Deputy Project Manager, NEPA analysis and oversight of the EA	M.S. in Environmental Studies B.A in Zoology	18
Carrie Kyzar	Technical Review of the EA	M.S. in Environmental Management	18
Craig Carver	Preparation and review of EA sections	Master of Urban and Regional Planning	10
Charlene Wu	Preparation of EA sections	Master of Environmental Management B.S. in Environmental Science & Policy	7
Natalie Kisak	Preparation of EA sections	B.A. in Environmental Studies, Public Policy	1
Brian Norris	Map Preparation, GIS	M.S. in Geography B.S. in Economics	5

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9.0 Agencies and Individuals Consulted

Copies of all correspondence, including a sample of data request letters sent and responses received to date are included in **Appendix A**.

Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960
POC: Christopher Militscher, Chief of NEPA Program Office

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
69 Darlington Ave
Wilmington, NC 28403
POC: Tom Charles, Regional Project Manager

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
POC: Gracia Szczech, Regional Administrator

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jacksonville Service Center
Onslow Co. Multipurpose Center
4028 Richlands Highway
Jacksonville, NC 28540
POC: Petra Volinski, Supervisory Soil Conservationist-Team 16

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov
POC: Noah Silverman, NEPA Coordinator

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
david.dale@noaa.gov
POC: David Dale, Southeast Regional Office Fish Biologist

, Southeast Regional Office Fish Biologist

U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
POC: Amanda Rutherford, Mid-Atlantic Gateway Office Director

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
POC: John Hammond, Project Planning and Consultation Reviewer

Native American Tribes

Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
POC: Dr. Wenonah G. Haire, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Tuscarora Nation Tribal Government
2006 Mt Hope Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
POC: Leo Henry, Chief

State Agencies

NC State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-4617
POC: Ramona Bartos, Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

North Carolina Ports Authority
Port of Wilmington
2202 Burnett Blvd
Wilmington, NC 28401
POC: Administrator

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse
1301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1301
POC: Administrator

NC Division of Coastal Management
Wilmington District
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405-3845
POC: Tara MacPherson, District Manager

NC Natural Heritage Program
Nature Research Center
121 W. Jones Street
1651 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1651
POC: Rodney Butler, Business Services Coordinator/Natural Heritage Data Explorer Support

NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Management
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1722
POC: Brad Howard, Division Chief

NC Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources
Wilmington Regional Office
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405-3845
POC: Dan Sams, Engineering Supervisor

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Environmental Programs
1005 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001
POC: Joe Hudyncia, Environmental Program Specialist

NC Division of Parks & Recreation
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
POC: Brian Strong, Chief Planning and Natural Resources

Fort Macon State Park
2303 East Fort Macon Rd.
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
POC: Randy Newman, Park Superintendent

Local Agencies

Carteret County Department of Planning & Inspections
402 Broad St.
Beaufort, NC 28516
POC: Gene Foxworth, Director

Carteret County Department of Parks & Recreation
1702 Live Oak St., Suite 300
Beaufort, NC 28516
POC: Tina Purifoy, Director

Carteret County Department of Shore Protection
P.O. Box 4297
Emerald Isle, NC 28594
POC: Greg L. Rudolph, Shore Protection Manager

Carteret County Soil & Water Conservation District
303 College Cir.
Morehead City, NC 28557
POC: Todd Kelly, Technician

Atlantic Beach Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspections
PO Box 10
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
POC: Michelle Eitner, Planning & Development Director

Non-Governmental Organizations

Friends of Fort Macon
2303 East Fort Macon Rd,
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Appendix A:
Agency Consultation and Public Coordination

Table of Contents

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

9 April 2020

Mark Fite
Director of the Strategic Programs Office
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Fite,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space

requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

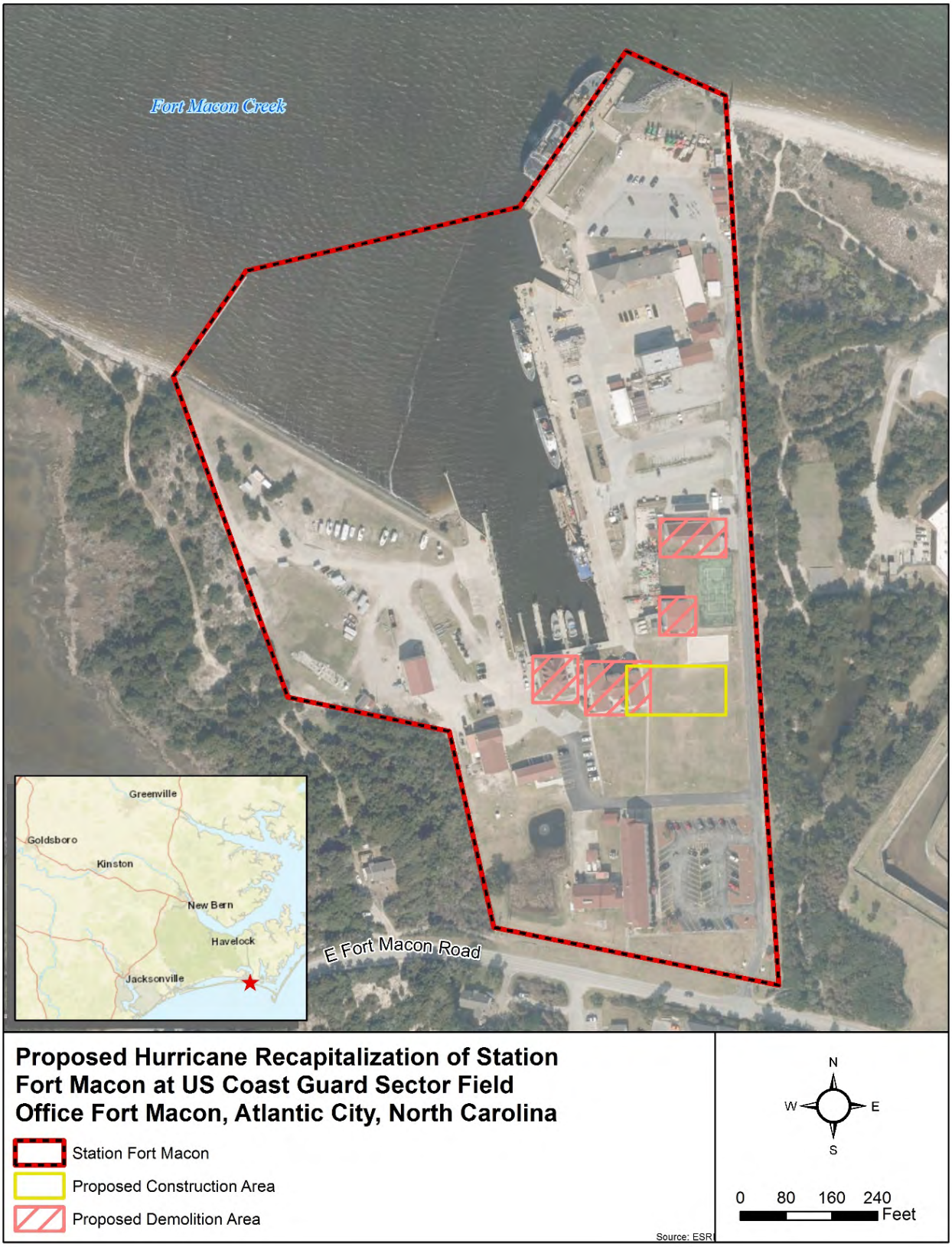
The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Tom Charles
Regional Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
69 Darlington Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Charles,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities*

Standards Manual). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

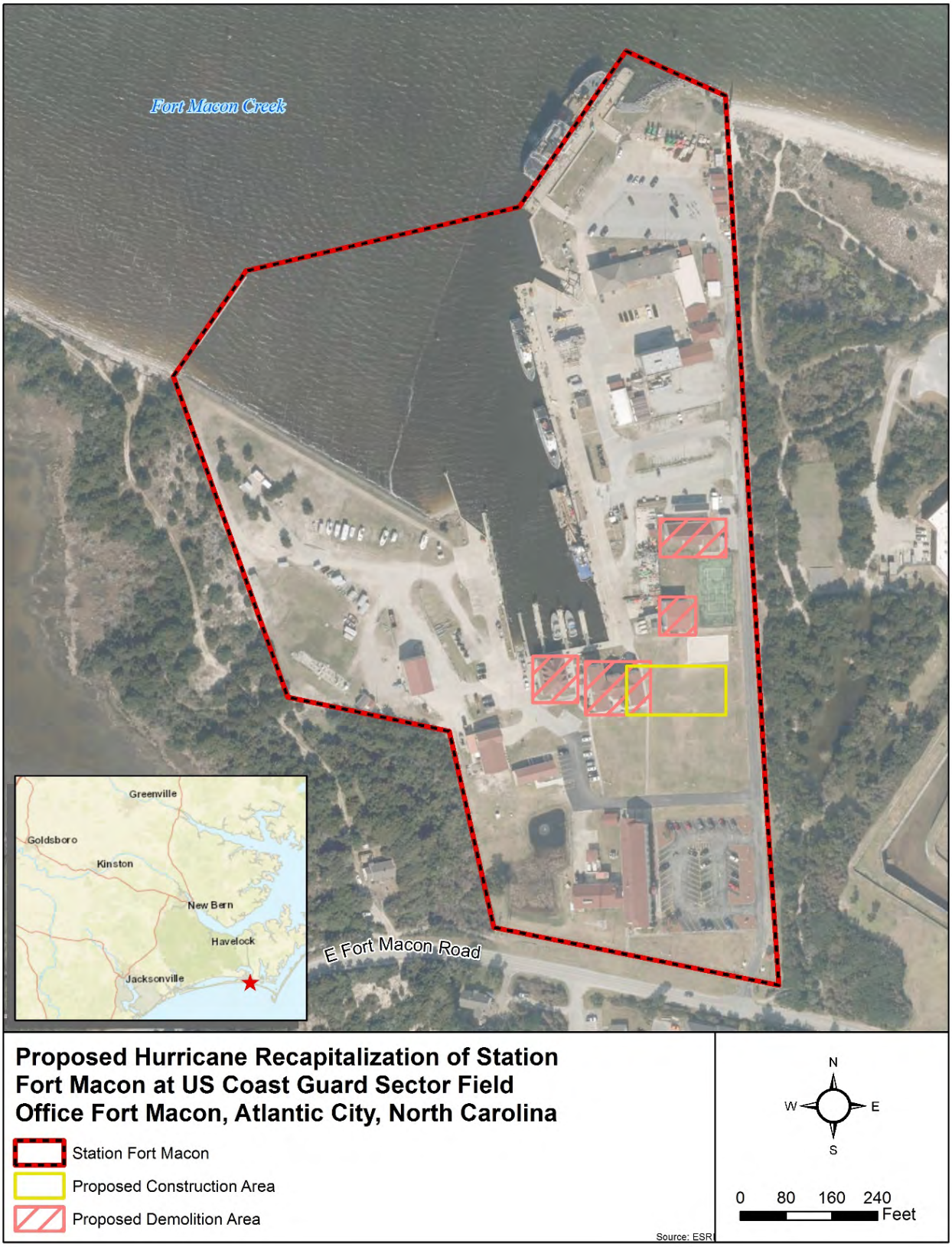
The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

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8 April 2020

Gracia Szczech
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Szczech,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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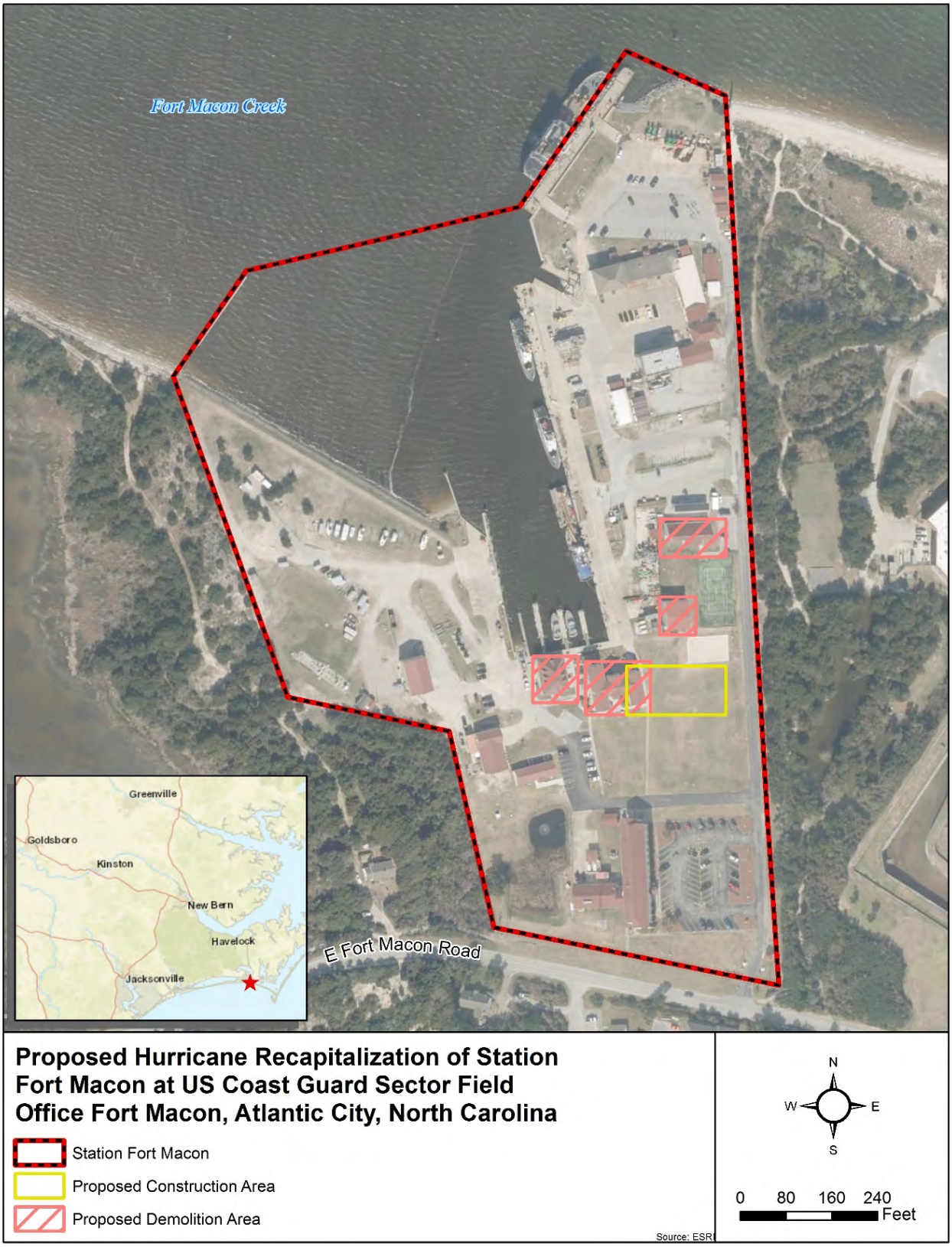

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8 April 2020

Petra Volinski
Supervisory Soil Conservationist – Team 16
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jacksonville Service Center
Onslow Co. Multipurpose Center
4028 Richlands Highway
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Volinski,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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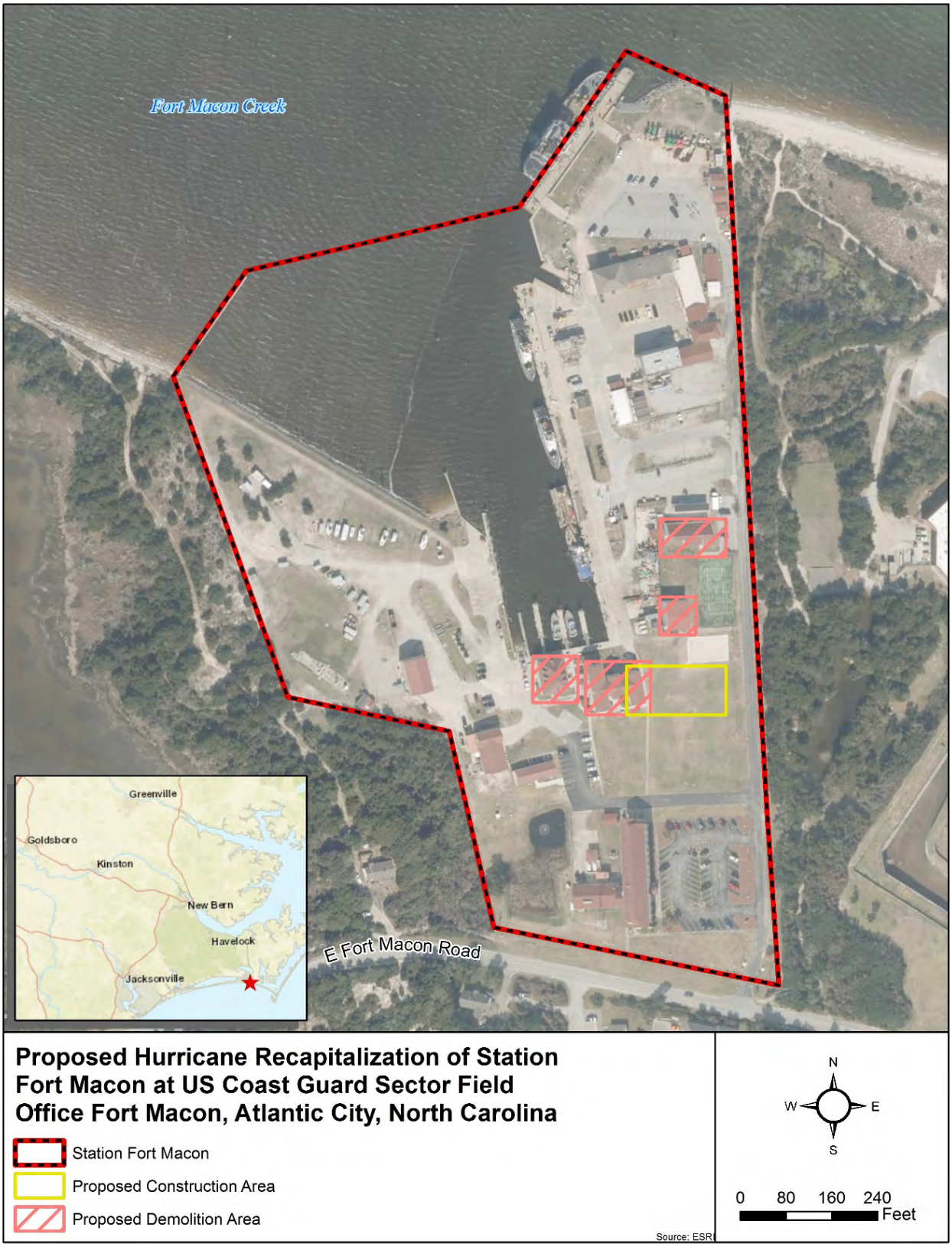

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9 April 2020

Noah Silverman
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov

Subject: Section 7 Early Consultation
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Silverman:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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NMFS Listed Species and Critical Habitats

The USCG is evaluating the potential effects of the Proposed Action on resources under the jurisdiction of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as the Proposed Action occurs near the waterfront of Bogue Sound. Based on a query of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation tool, five federally listed marine species have potential occurrence in the Proposed Action area (**Table 1**). A query of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) database also revealed the potential presence of the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus*).

Table 1: Federally-listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status	Recovery Plan	Critical Habitat Designation
Green Sea Turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	**T** - North and South Atlantic Distinct Population Segment (81 FR 20057; April 6, 2016)	October 1991	63 FR 46693; September 2, 1998
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	*Eretmochelys imbricate*	**E** (35 FR 8491; June 2, 1970)	December 1993	63 FR 46693; September 2, 1998
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	*Lepidochelys kempii*	**E** (35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970)	September 2011	None
Leatherback Sea Turtle	*Demochelys coriacea*	**E** (35 FR 8491; June 2, 1970)	April 1992	44 FR 17710; March 23, 1979
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	*Caretta caretta*	**T** - Northwest Atlantic Ocean Distinct Population Segment (76 FR 58868; September 22, 2011)	December 2008	79 FR 39856; July 10, 2014
Atlantic Sturgeon	*Acipenser oxyrhynchus*	**E** - South Atlantic and Carolina Distinct Population Segment (77 FR 5914; February 6, 2012)	2018 Recovery Outline	82 FR 39160; August 10, 2017

Key:
T= Federally listed Threatened
E= Federally listed Endangered

No federally designated critical habitat occurs within or near the Proposed Action area. The USCG is consulting separately with the USFWS regarding potential impacts from the Proposed Action on species and resources under its jurisdiction.

Descriptions of each species' preferred habitat and potential presence in the Proposed Action area are provided below.

Green Sea Turtle. Adult and juvenile green turtles are generally found nearshore as well as in bays and lagoons, reefs, and areas with seagrass beds. After emerging from the nest, hatchlings swim to offshore areas, where they live for several years. Once the juveniles reach a certain age, they leave the open ocean habitat and travel to nearshore foraging grounds (NOAA Fisheries, 2020a).

Potentially suitable habitat for green turtles may be present in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area, but there is no designated critical habitat. Bogue Sound and the surrounding coastline comprise regularly flooded estuarine waters. The regularly flooded marshes along the edge of Bogue Sound are dominated by smooth cordgrass, while the drier upland margins are covered with saltmeadow cordgrass and other grasses and sedges (NC State Parks, 2020). Green sea turtles are found in the open ocean and estuarine habitats, and may enter sounds and rivers during summer months (NC PARC, 2020). However, due to the regular presence of human activity, vessel traffic, and industrial activities at Fort Macon Creek and the Station, the USCG expects the presence of green turtles in the Proposed Action area to be limited.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle. Suitable habitat for hawksbill sea turtles includes coral reef habitat and open sea. Juvenile hawksbill sea turtles typically occupy the pelagic zone, migrating to shallower coastal feeding grounds and coral reef habitats after a few years. Hawksbills are also known to live in mangroves in bays and estuaries, particularly along the eastern shore of continents where coral reefs are absent (NOAA Fisheries, 2020b). In North Carolina, this species has only been found in the open ocean. In more tropical environs it is commonly found around reefs and estuaries (NC PARC, 2020).

There is no designated critical habitat for the Hawksbill Sea Turtle within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. Suitable habitat is not expected to be present at or surrounding the Proposed Action area. Bogue Sound and the surrounding coastline comprise regularly flooded estuarine waters that do not support coral reef habitat or mangroves. Further, the Station is situated in a previously disturbed marine porting area that is heavily used for industrial, mooring, and docking activities. Due to the absence of ideal habitat and regular human activity and vessel traffic, the USCG expects there would be no occurrence of hawksbill sea turtles in the Proposed Action area.

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle. Ninety-five percent of worldwide Kemp's Ridley nesting occurs in in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico; occasional nesting has been documented in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. Hatchlings and juveniles remain offshore and rely on floating Sargassum algae as an area of refuge. After several years, Kemp's Ridleys migrate to nearshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico or northwestern Atlantic Ocean where they mature (NOAA Fisheries, 2020c). Most Atlantic Ridleys found in North Carolina occur in shallow water and high saline sounds (NC PARC, 2020).

No designated critical habitat exists within the Proposed Action area; however. potentially suitable habitat is present in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. Annual salinity in Bogue Sound ranges between 27 to 35 Practical Salinity Unit (PSU), while water depth surrounding the Station is ranges from 12 to 17 feet (Piehler, 2017; USCG, 2013). However, due to high levels of human activity, vessel traffic, and industrial activities at the Station, the USCG expects the presence of the species in the Proposed Action area to be limited.

Leatherback Sea Turtle. Leatherback sea turtles prefer wide sandy beaches that are close to deep water. In North Carolina, most leatherback nests occur near Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout, or Cape Fear. Hatchlings remain in the open ocean for 15-30 years until they reach maturity (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020).

While leatherback sea turtles regularly occur off the coast of North Carolina, the species is not likely to occur in the Proposed Action area. Station Fort Macon does not contain any wide, open beaches and the port area is relatively shallow. In addition, the presence of human and vessel activity and the disturbed nature of the port would deter individuals from utilizing the area. Moreover, no designated critical habitat exists at the Proposed Action area. Therefore, leatherback sea turtles are not expected to be present within the Proposed Action area.

Loggerhead Sea Turtle. The loggerhead sea turtle is the most abundant species of sea turtle found in coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean. During the summer, nesting occurs primarily in the subtropics. Major nesting concentrations in the United States are found from North Carolina through southwest Florida, minimal nesting occurs outside of this range westward to Texas and northward to Virginia (NOAA Fisheries, 2020d). Hatchling habitat is primarily warm ocean currents among flotsam, while adult habitat includes rock outcroppings and reefs near shore as well as in brackish lagoons and the mouths of inlets (MarineBio Conservation Society, 2020).

As Bogue Sound and the surrounding coastline comprise brackish estuarine water, potentially suitable habitat may be present, although coral reefs are not expected to occur, and there is no designated critical habitat in the vicinity. However, due to the presence of human activity, vessel traffic, and industrial activities at the Station, the USCG expects the occurrence of loggerhead sea turtles in the Proposed Action area to be limited.

Atlantic Sturgeon. Atlantic sturgeon are anadromous and spend most of their lives in nearshore marine and estuarine waters, migrating to freshwater rivers and tributaries to spawn. Most juveniles remain in their natal river for at least several months before migrating out to the ocean. Atlantic sturgeon prefer deep waterways, and spend most of their time foraging in benthic environments (NOAA Fisheries, 2020e).

Atlantic sturgeon at various life stages are found within most estuarine waters of North Carolina throughout the year. Currently the Roanoke River (over 80 miles north of the Station) is the only North Carolina river with a known spawning population (NCDEQ, 2020). In the Proposed Action area, suitable habitat is unlikely to be present as the Station is a marine porting area that is heavily used for docking, mooring, and industrial activities; the presence of Atlantic sturgeon is expected to be limited.

Potential Impacts

As the Proposed Action would not require any in-water work or changes to the waterfront, aside from the permanent docking of the 87' CPB, which would not require any construction activities, no aquatic habitat would be permanently lost or altered, and no significant effects on marine species are anticipated.

Existing topography at the Station is mostly level, although the waterfront and areas surrounding the piers are slightly lower than adjacent terrain. As such, proposed construction and demolition may potentially result in increased runoff and sedimentation into Bogue Sound from grading, excavation, and other land disturbing activities. These disturbances would be temporary, localized to a small area, and minimized to the extent practicable through compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations. Further, stormwater drainage at the Station is currently primarily channeled toward existing detention ponds, catch basins, and infiltration beds, and treated accordingly. Any runoff into Bogue Sound would be negligible and below regulatory threshold levels. The potential risk of inadvertent release or spill of fuel and other products used during construction would be managed appropriately in accordance with Federal, State, and USCG regulations, as well as standard construction best management practices (BMPs), such as confining equipment maintenance and/or repair to upland locations to control runoff, and preventing any project-related debris from entering the water, would reduce or avoid impacts to the extent practicable.

Conclusion

Given the level of human activity and vessel traffic at the Station, as well as the lack of suitable habitat, federally listed sea turtles and the Atlantic sturgeon are not likely to occur in the area. If any individuals occur within the Proposed Action area, they are unlikely to be affected by any stormwater runoff or increased sedimentation, as these disturbances would be temporary and rapidly settle out of the water column. Stray individuals would also likely quickly relocate to more suitable areas in Bogue Sound. Therefore, the USCG concludes that the Proposed Action would have ***no effect*** on the green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea

turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, and the Atlantic sturgeon.

The USCG requests NMFS review and concurrence with the effect determinations stated in this letter. Please advise if there are any further actions needed to facilitate the implementation of the Proposed Action in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects to federally listed species. Any issues identified by your office will be addressed in the EA.

The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com

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References:

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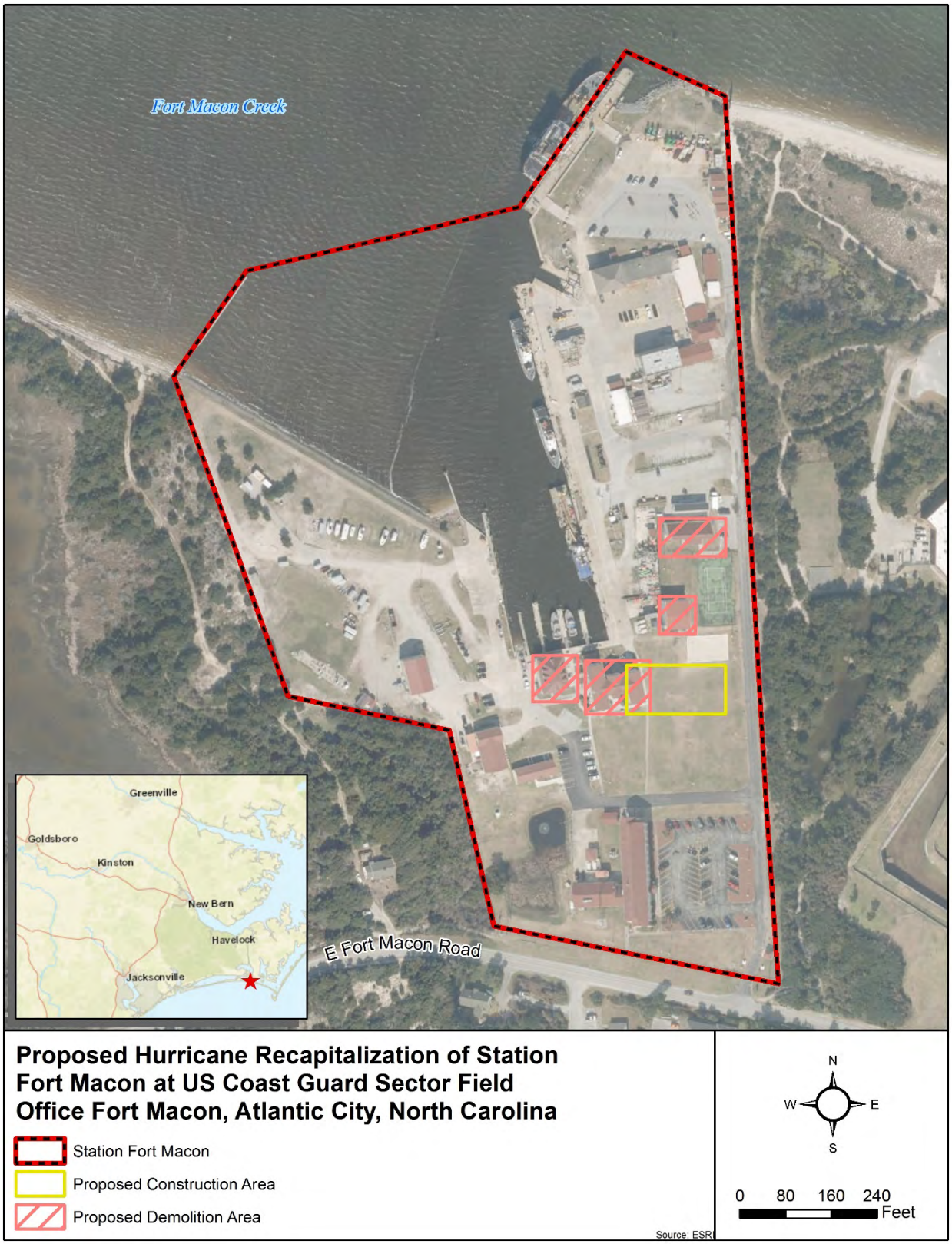
Figure 1: Site Location



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April 9, 2020

Mr. David Dale
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
david.dale@noaa.gov

Subject: Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Dale:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability

to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

Essential Fish Habitat

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address activities that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), which is defined as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." While EFH data were not available for Fort Macon Creek or Bogue Sound, a query of the NOAA EFH Mapper for the nearby Beaufort Inlet identified EFH for 21 species (**Table 1**). No Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) and no EFH Areas Protected from Fishing (EFHA) were identified in the Proposed Action area.

Table 1. EFH Species and Life Stages Potentially Found in the Proposed Action area

Species	Egg	Larvae	Juvenile	Adult
Clearnose Skate			✓	
Windowpane Flounder			✓	
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spiny Lobster	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snapper Grouper	✓	✓	✓	✓
Albacore Tuna			✓	
Bluefin Tuna		✓	✓	✓
Spinner Shark			✓	✓
Sailfish			✓	✓
Sandbar Shark			✓	✓
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark			✓	✓
Tiger Shark			✓	✓
Blacktip Shark			✓	✓
Blacknose Shark			✓	✓

Table 1. EFH Species and Life Stages Potentially Found in the Proposed Action area

Species	Egg	Larvae	Juvenile	Adult
Smoothound Shark Complex	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark			✓	✓
Sand Tiger Shark			✓	✓
Bluefish	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Butterfish			✓	✓
Scup			✓	✓
Summer Flounder		✓	✓	✓

As the Proposed Action would not require any in-water work or changes to the waterfront, aside from the permanent docking of the 87-foot CPB, which would not require any construction activities, no aquatic habitat would be permanently lost or altered, and no significant effects on EFH are anticipated.

Existing topography at the Station is mostly level, although the waterfront and areas surrounding the piers are slightly lower than adjacent terrain. As such, proposed construction and demolition may potentially result in increased runoff and sedimentation into Fort Macon Creek from grading, excavation, and other land disturbing activities. These disturbances would be temporary, localized to a small area, and minimized to the extent practicable through compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations. Further, stormwater drainage at the Station is currently primarily channeled toward existing detention ponds, catch basins, and infiltration beds, and treated accordingly. Any runoff into Fort Macon Creek would be negligible and below regulatory threshold levels. Potential risk from inadvertent release or spill of fuel and other products used during construction would be managed in adherence to Federal, State, and USCG regulations, as well as standard construction best management practices, such as confining equipment maintenance and/or repair to upland locations to control runoff, and preventing any project-related debris from entering the water, would reduce or avoid impacts to the extent practicable.

In addition, the Station is situated in a previously disturbed marine porting area that is heavily used for industrial and docking activities. Regular human activity and vessel traffic are not conducive toward suitable EFH. As such, EFH species are not expected to occur or would occur in low densities. Any present adult and juvenile individuals would be highly mobile and capable of moving out of affected areas, occupying more favorable habitats nearby.

Conclusion

Because EFH species are not likely to occur in the Proposed Action area and no direct water disturbance is proposed for this project, the USCG anticipates that the Proposed Action would have ***no effect*** on EFH, particularly with the implementation of best management practices and proper permitting during construction. The USCG requests NMFS' review and concurrence with the effects determination stated in this letter. Please advise if there are any further actions needed to facilitate the implementation of the Proposed Action in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects to EFH species or habitat.

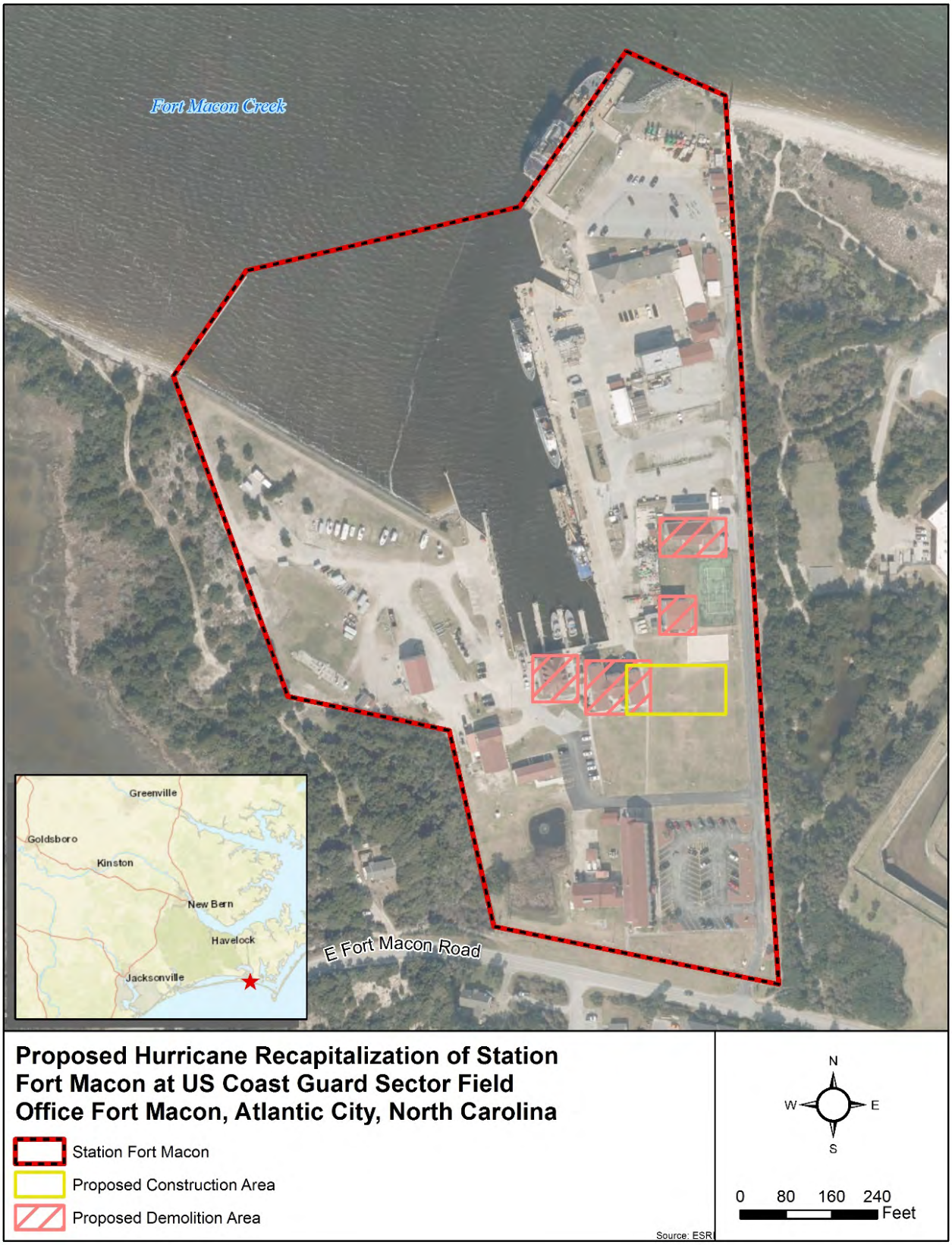
The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1-Site Location

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Amanda Rutherford
Mid-Atlantic Gateway Office Director
US Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Rutherford,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space

requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

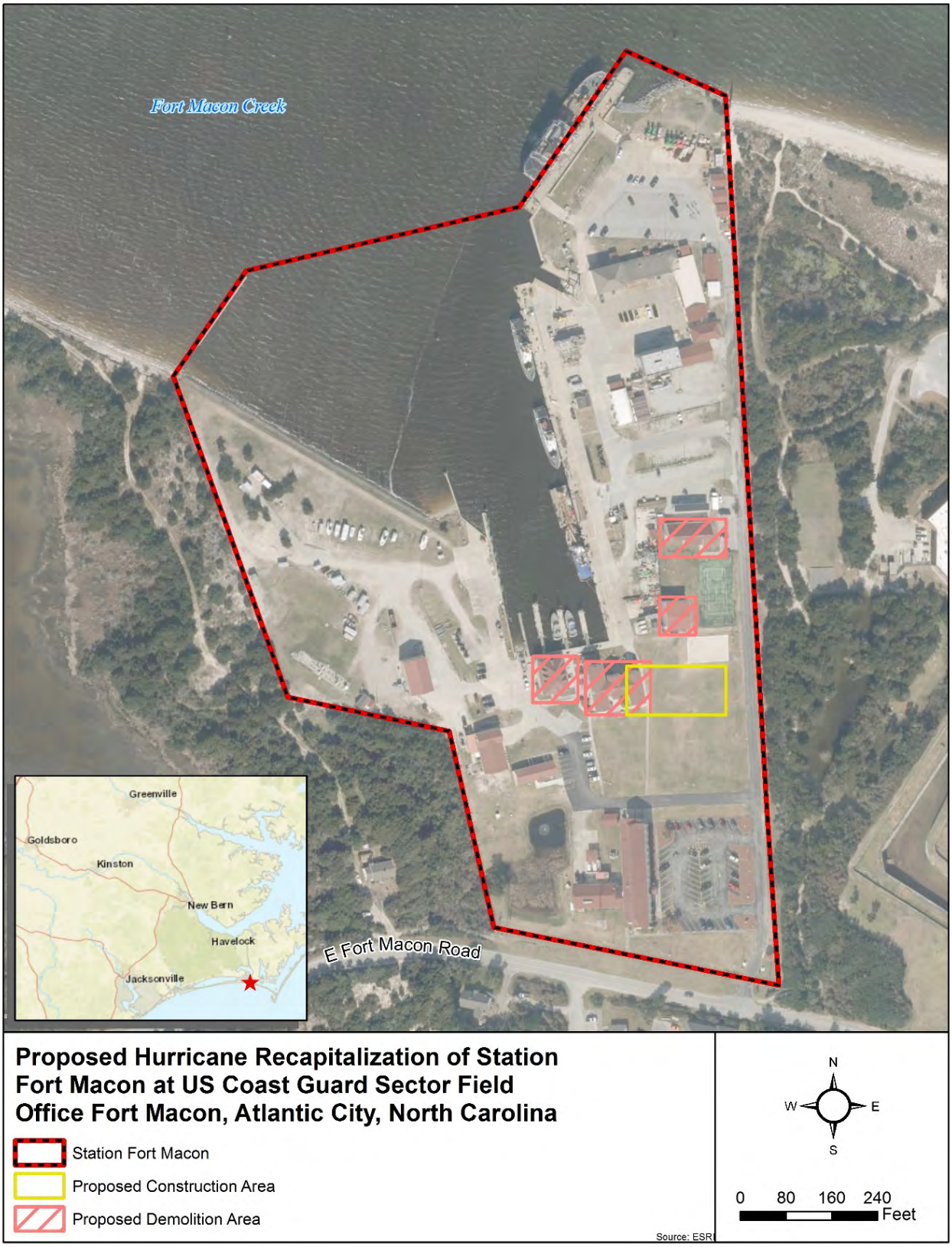
The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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9 April 2020

John Hammond
Project Planning and Consultation Reviewer
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

Subject: Section 7 Early Consultation
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Hammond:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities*

Standards Manual). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

Federally Listed Species

The USCG has reviewed the Proposed Action using the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Raleigh Field Office's online project review process and has followed all guidance and instructions in completing the review. This project review is needed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The enclosed project review package provides information about potentially present federally listed species, designated critical habitat, and bald eagles; the species conclusions table included in the package identifies our determinations for the resources that may be affected by the project.

The USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database was queried to identify federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area. The resulting table (**Table 1**) provides a list of 16 federally listed species, including one proposed species, which have been afforded protection under the ESA and have the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area. A project review request is pending with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) to confirm the presence of these species, and to obtain nesting data for bald eagles.

Table 1: Federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area

Category	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Federal Status
Mammals	Northern long-eared bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	T
	West Indian manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	T
Birds	Eastern black rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis*	PT
	Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	T
	Red knot	*Calidris canutus rufa*	T
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E
	Roseate tern	*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	E
	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	BGEPA
Reptiles	American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	T(S/A)
	Green sea turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	T
	Hawksbill sea turtle	*Eretmochelys imbricata*	E
	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	*Lepidochelys kempii*	E
	Leatherback sea turtle	*Dermochelys coriacea*	E
	Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	T
Flowering Plants	Rough-leaved loosestrife	*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*	E
	Seabeach amaranth	*Amaranthus pumilus*	T

Federal Status Key:
E = Endangered
T = Threatened
PT = Proposed Threatened
T(S/A) = Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance
BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

No federally designated critical habitat occurs on Station Fort Macon. The following is an assessment of federally listed species with the potential to occur in the Proposed Action area.

NO EFFECT

The USCG has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would have ***no effect*** on West Indian manatee, roseate tern, piping plover, Eastern black rail, red knot, red-cockaded woodpecker, American alligator, sea turtles, rough-leaved loosestrife, seabeach amaranth, or bald eagles. Confirmation of the "no effect" determination on bald eagles is pending via consultation with NCNHP. The following rationale is provided in support of these determinations.

- **West Indian Manatee –** Manatees have the potential to occur in waters surrounding Station Fort Macon from June to October. However, the Proposed Action is not water-

dependent, and no in-water activities would be required. Homeporting of the 87-foot CPB would occur in an existing docking area currently used by visiting cutters; thus, no aquatic habitat would be affected. No effects to the West Indian manatee would occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action.

- **Roseate Tern –** The roseate tern occurs in coastal environments, as well as salt bays and estuaries (National Audubon Society, 2020a). Nests are usually found on sandy or rocky islands with some low plant cover and close to shallow waters for feeding. No suitable habitat for the roseate tern is present within the Proposed Action area, which is primarily disturbed with areas of undeveloped grassland. A county-wide species search of the NCNHP did not document the presence of this species in Carteret County. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would not affect any roseate tern populations or habitat.
- **Piping Plover, Red Knot, Black Rail** – Piping plovers and red knots are found on sandy beaches and tidal flats, typically nesting in open sandy areas near water (National Audubon Society, 2020b; National Audubon Society, 2020c). The black rail is typically found in tidal marshes on the coast, favoring very shallow waters (National Audubon Society, 2020d). The Station is situated in a previously disturbed marine porting area that is heavily used for industrial and docking activities. Regular human activity and vessel traffic are not conducive toward suitable habitat for these shore and marsh birds. In addition, no construction activities would occur in the waterfront area; therefore, no adverse effects are anticipated to occur to these species.
- **Red-cockaded Woodpecker –** The red-cockaded woodpecker prefers open mature pine woodlands and is rare throughout its range. No suitable habitat is present within the Proposed Action area, which is mostly comprised of previously disturbed (impervious) areas and patches of undeveloped grasslands. Additionally, the closest known group of red-cockaded woodpecker inhabits the Croatan National Forest, over 20 miles northwest of the Station (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020a). As the red-cockaded woodpecker is not likely to occur in the Proposed Action area, no effects would occur.
- **American Alligator–** The American alligator inhabits freshwater swamps, marshes, ponds, lakes, and the backwaters of large rivers (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020b). While the species has been observed in brackish water and on beaches, it is unlikely to occur in the Proposed Action area due to regular human and vessel activity. The Proposed Action area does not contain suitable habitat and would therefore have no effects on the American alligator.
- **Rough-leaved Loosestrife and Seabeach Amaranth**- Rough-leaf loosestrife is a perennial forb that generally inhabits ecotones between longleaf pine uplands and pond pine areas of dense shrub and vine growth (USFWS, 2017). Seabeach amaranth

is an annual plant found on Atlantic Coast sand dunes (USFWS, 2019). These habitats do not occur in the Proposed Action area; therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on these species.

- **Bald Eagles –** Suitable habitat for bald eagles may occur at or around Station Fort Macon. The species prefers habitat near lakes, large rivers, and shorelines of sounds and bays, and requires tall, isolated trees for perching and nesting (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2020c). Construction and demolition activities would not require the clearing of any trees at the Station as the Proposed Action would primarily occur in previously disturbed/developed land or grassland areas, although construction effects (e.g., noise) could disturb nesting bald eagles. Consultation with the NCNHP to determine the presence or absence of active bald eagle nests is pending.
- **Sea Turtles –** The Proposed Action is not anticipated to affect the Green sea turtle, Hawksbill sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, Leatherback sea turtle, or Loggerhead sea turtle, as no in-water work would be required and suitable habitat is not likely to be present. The USCG is consulting separately with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service regarding potential impacts to these species and resources under its jurisdiction.

MAY AFFECT BUT IS NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT

The USCG has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action ***may affect but is not likely to adversely affect*** the Northern long-eared bat. The following rationale is provided in support of this determination.

- **Northern Long-eared Bat –** No critical habitat for the Northern long-eared bat is designated in or near the Proposed Action area. Although the Northern long-eared bat is known to be present within the county, no roost trees are present in the Proposed Action area. Further, no tree clearing would be required under the Proposed Action. The assisted determination key for the Northern long-eared bat Final 4(d) Rule supports this conclusion and is included in the attached project review package enclosure.

Conclusion

The USCG requests USFWS review and concurrence with the effect determinations stated in this letter. Please advise if there are any further actions needed to facilitate the implementation of the Proposed Action in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects to federally listed species. Any issues identified by your office will be addressed in the EA. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosures Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office Project Review Package

References

National Audubon Society. (2020a). *Guide to North American Birds: Roseate Tern*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/roseate-tern

National Audubon Society. (2020b). *Guide to North American Birds: Red Knot*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/red-knot

National Audubon Society. (2020c). *Guide to North American Birds: Piping Plover*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/piping-plover

National Audubon Society. (2020d). *Guide to North American Birds: Black Rail*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/black-rail

NC Wildlife Resources Commission. (2020a). *Red-Cockaded Woodpecker*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Red-cockaded-Woodpecker#35591138-status--distribution

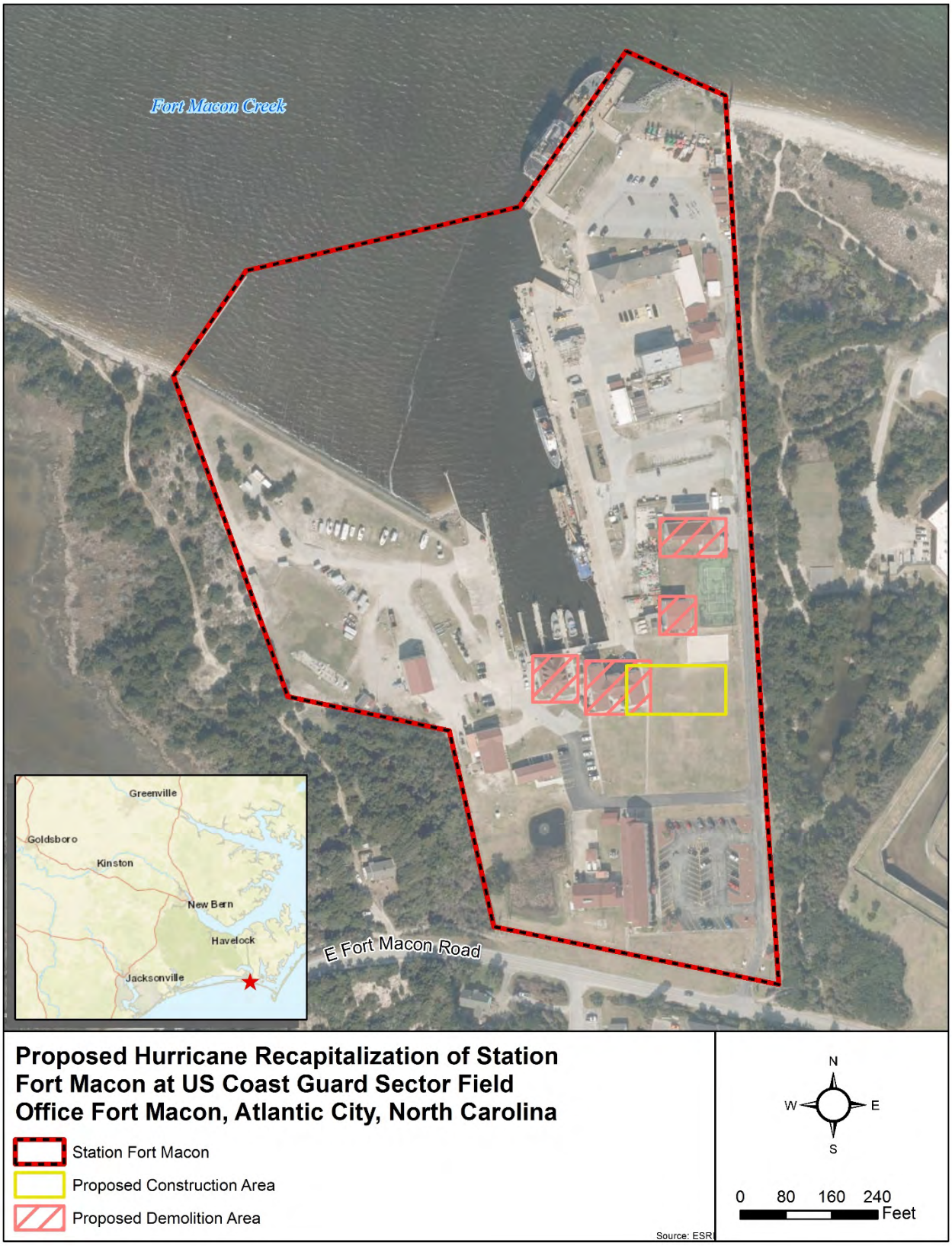
NC Wildlife Resources Commission. (2020b). *Alligator*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Reptiles/Alligator

NC Wildlife Resources Commission. (2020c). *Bald Eagle*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Bald-Eagle

USFWS. (2017). *Roughleaf Loosestrife*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/species/es_rough-leaf_loosestrife.html

USFWS. (2019). *Seabeach Amaranth*. Retrieved March 18, 2020, from https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/plants/seabeach-amaranth/

Figure 1: Site Location



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
Phone: (919) 856-4520 Fax: (919) 856-4556

In Reply Refer To: March 17, 2020
Consultation Code: 04EN2000-2020-SLI-0870
Event Code: 04EN2000-2020-E-01956
Project Name: Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The species list generated pursuant to the information you provided identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Section 7 of the Act requires that all federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative), in consultation with the Service, insure that any action federally authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. A biological assessment or evaluation may be prepared to fulfill that requirement and in determining whether additional consultation with the Service is necessary. In addition to the federally-protected species list, information on the species' life histories and habitats and information on completing a biological assessment or

evaluation and can be found on our web page at http://www.fws.gov/raleigh. Please check the web site often for updated information or changes

If your project contains suitable habitat for any of the federally-listed species known to be present within the county where your project occurs, the proposed action has the potential to adversely affect those species. As such, we recommend that surveys be conducted to determine the species' presence or absence within the project area. The use of North Carolina Natural Heritage program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys.

If you determine that the proposed action may affect (i.e., likely to adversely affect or not likely to adversely affect) a federally-protected species, you should notify this office with your determination, the results of your surveys, survey methodologies, and an analysis of the effects of the action on listed species, including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, before conducting any activities that might affect the species. If you determine that the proposed action will have no effect (i.e., no beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect effect) on federally listed species, then you are not required to contact our office for concurrence (unless an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared). However, you should maintain a complete record of the assessment, including steps leading to your determination of effect, the qualified personnel conducting the assessment, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related articles.

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; and http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

Not all Threatened and Endangered Species that occur in North Carolina are subject to section 7 consultation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, sea turtles,when in the water, and certain marine mammals are under purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service. If your project occurs in marine, estuarine, or coastal river systems you should also contact the National Marine Fisheries Service, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Ellis of this office at john_ellis@fws.gov.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
(919) 856-4520

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04EN2000-2020-SLI-0870

Event Code: 04EN2000-2020-E-01956

Project Name: Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Project Type: DEVELOPMENT

Project Description: On September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the US Coast Guard's Station Fort Macon. Storm damage rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all areas of the Station. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities. The Proposed Action for this project includes development of a 30,780-square foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work. In addition, approximately 17,252 square feet of damaged existing buildings would be demolished, including the Station Building, Station Boat House, Fitness Center, and Medical Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2022 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeport relocation of an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat to the existing visitor cutter docking area at Station Fort Macon.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.697745472585815N76.6817529559581W

Counties: Carteret, NC

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened
West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. ***This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.*** Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Proposed Threatened
Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614	Endangered
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Population: Northeast U.S. nesting population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Endangered

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/776	Similarity of Appearance (Threatened)
Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas* Population: North Atlantic DPS There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199	Threatened
Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656	Endangered
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys kempii* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523	Endangered
Leatherback Sea Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493	Endangered
Loggerhead Sea Turtle *Caretta caretta* Population: Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Rough-leaved Loosestrife *Lysimachia asperulaefolia* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2747	Endangered
Seabeach Amaranth *Amaranthus pumilus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8549	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program Species/Community Search Results

March 17, 2020

Last updated January 13, 2020

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	NC Status	Federal Status	State Rank	Global Rank	County	County Status	Habitat Comment
Freshwater Fish	Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus	Atlantic Sturgeon	E	E	S2	G3T3	Carteret	Current	coastal waters, estuaries, large rivers
Reptile	Alligator mississippiensis	American Alligator	T	T(S/A)	S3	G5	Carteret	Current	fresh to slightly brackish lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes
Vascular Plant	Amaranthus pumilus	Seabeach Amaranth	T	T	S1	G2	Carteret	Current	ocean beaches and island-end flats
Reptile	Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Seaturtle	T	T	S2B	G3	Carteret	Current	nests on beaches; forages in ocean and sounds [breeding evidence only]
Bird	Charadrius melodus melodus	Piping Plover - Atlantic Coast subspecies	T	T	S1B,S1N	G3T3	Carteret	Current	ocean beaches and island-end flats [breeding evidence only]
Reptile	Chelonia mydas	Green Seaturtle	T	T	S2B	G3	Carteret	Current	nests on beaches; forages in ocean and sounds [breeding evidence only]
Reptile	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Seaturtle	E	E	S1B,SUN	G2	Carteret	Current	nests on beaches; forages in oceans, rarely in sounds [breeding evidence only]
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	T	BGPA	S3B,S3N	G5	Carteret	Current	mature forests near large bodies of water (nesting); rivers, lakes, and sounds (foraging) [breeding evidence only]
Bird	Laterallus jamaicensis	Black Rail	SC	PT	S1	G3G4	Carteret	Current	brackish marshes, rarely fresh marshes [breeding evidence only]
Reptile	Lepidochelys kempii	Kemp's Ridley Seaturtle	E	E	S1B,SUN	G1	Carteret	Current	nests on beaches, forages in ocean and sounds [breeding evidence only]
Vascular Plant	Lysimachia asperulifolia	Rough-leaf Loosestrife	E	E	S3	G3	Carteret	Current	pocosin/savanna ecotones, pocosins
Mammal	Myotis septentrionalis	Northern Long-eared Bat	T	T	S2	G1G2	Carteret	Current	roosts in hollow trees and buildings (warmer months), in caves and mines (winter); mainly in the mountains
Bird	Picoides borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	E	E	S2	G3	Carteret	Current	mature open pine forests, mainly in longleaf pine [breeding evidence only]
Mammal	Trichechus manatus	West Indian Manatee	T	T	S1N	G2	Carteret	Current	warm waters of estuaries and river mouths

Fort Macon Habitat Assessment Map from NCNHP

March 17, 2020

- 9-10 (Maximum)
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 2-4
- 1 (Moderate)
- 0 (Unrated)
- Impervious surface >20%
- North Carolina Boundary

1:4,288

0 0.035 0.07 0.14 mi

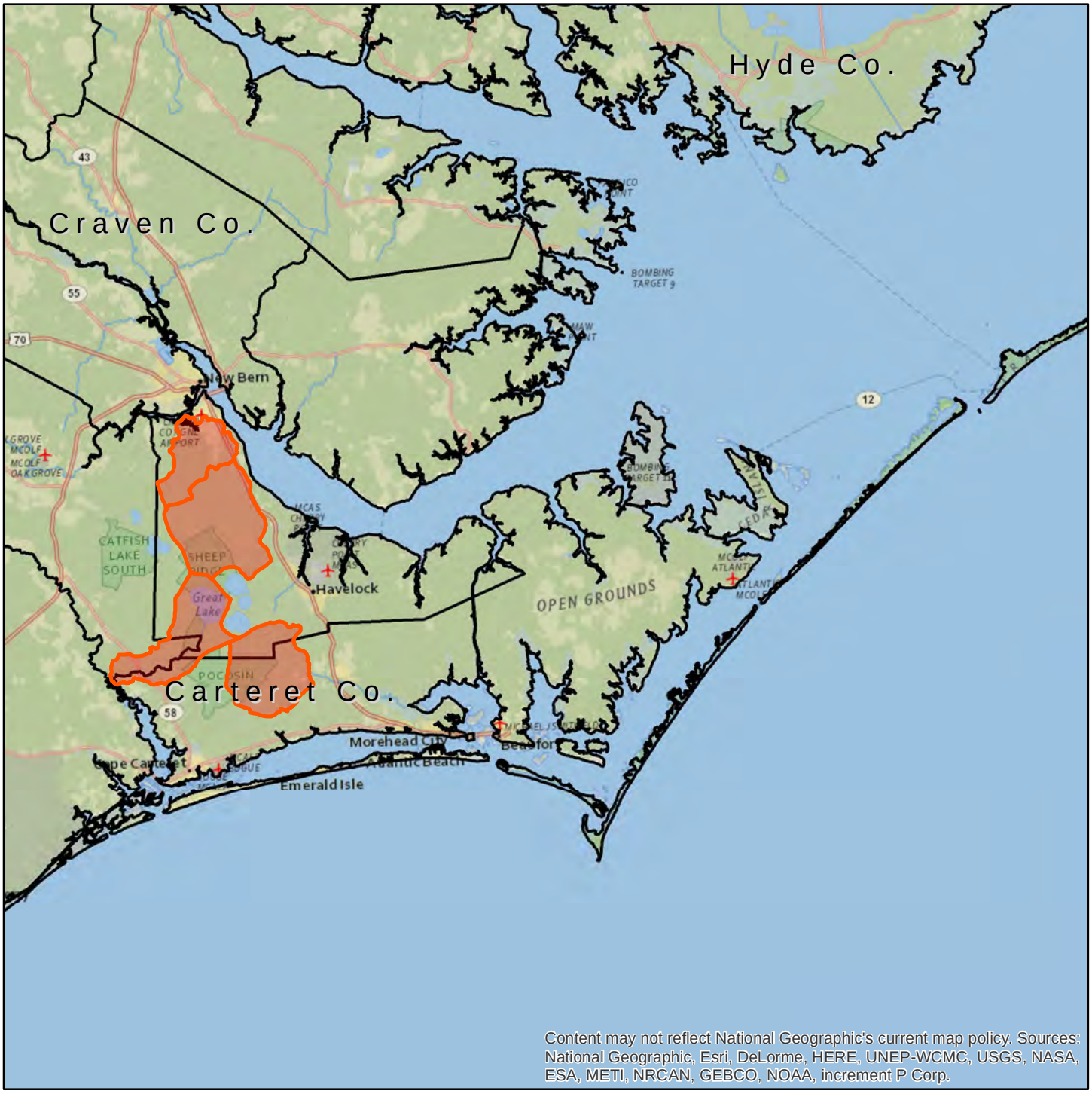
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 km

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern Long-Eared Bat Consultation Areas

CARTERET County



North Carolina County Boundary

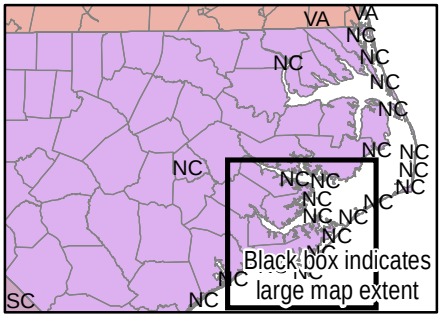
Watersheds with Known NLEB Winter Roost trees

If your project falls within the red areas identified in CARTERET County, please contact the USFWS Raleigh Field Office.

0 5 Miles

0 5 Kilometers

USFWS Ecological Services
Raleigh, North Carolina
Map Date: 12/3/2018



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
Phone: (919) 856-4520 Fax: (919) 856-4556

In Reply Refer To: March 17, 2020
Consultation Code: 04EN2000-2020-TA-0870
Event Code: 04EN2000-2020-E-01963
Project Name: Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Subject: Verification letter for the 'Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina' project under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions.

Dear Natalie Kisak:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on March 17, 2020 your effects determination for the 'Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a Federal action is consistent with the activities analyzed in the Service's January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). The PBO addresses activities excepted from "take"[1] prohibitions applicable to the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, the Action is consistent with activities analyzed in the PBO. The Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the PBO satisfies and concludes your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you submitted in IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation. If the Action is not completed within one year of the date of this letter, you must update and resubmit the information required in the IPaC key.

This IPaC-assisted determination allows you to rely on the PBO for compliance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) only for the northern long-eared bat. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- American Alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis* (Similarity of Appearance (Threatened))
- Eastern Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis* (Proposed Threatened)
- Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia mydas* (Threatened)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Endangered)
- Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, *Lepidochelys kempii* (Endangered)
- Leatherback Sea Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea* (Endangered)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle, *Caretta caretta* (Threatened)
- Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus* (Threatened)
- Red Knot, *Calidris canutus rufa* (Threatened)
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker, *Picoides borealis* (Endangered)
- Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii dougallii* (Endangered)
- Rough-leaved Loosestrife, *Lysimachia asperulaefolia* (Endangered)
- Seabeach Amaranth, *Amaranthus pumilus* (Threatened)
- West Indian Manatee, *Trichechus manatus* (Threatened)

If the Action may affect other federally listed species besides the northern long-eared bat, a proposed species, and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between you and this Service office is required. If the Action may disturb bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is recommended.

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[1]Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

Action Description
You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Rebuild at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina':

> On September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the US Coast Guard's Station Fort Macon. Storm damage rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all areas of the Station. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities. The Proposed Action for this project includes development of a 30,780-square foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work. In addition, approximately 17,252 square feet of damaged existing buildings would be demolished, including the Station Building, Station Boat House, Fitness Center, and Medical Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2022 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeport relocation of an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat to the existing visitor cutter docking area at Station Fort Macon.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.697745472585815N76.6817529559581W

Determination Key Result

This Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner consistent with the description of activities addressed by the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016. Any taking that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Therefore, the PBO satisfies your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) relative to the northern long-eared bat.

Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule

This key was last updated in IPaC on May 15, 2017. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are consistent with those analyzed in the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016.

Federal actions that may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats, affect ESA-listed species other than the northern long-eared bat, or affect any designated critical habitat, require ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation in addition to the use of this key. Federal actions that may affect species proposed for listing or critical habitat proposed for designation may require a conference under ESA Section 7(a)(4).

Determination Key Result

This project may affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat; therefore, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required. However, based on the information you provided, this project may rely on the Service's January 5, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions* to fulfill its Section 7(a)(2) consultation obligation.

Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?

   Yes

2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have "no effect" on the northern long-eared bat? (If you are unsure select "No")

   No

3. Will your activity purposefully **Take** northern long-eared bats?

   No

4. Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?

   Automatically answered
   No

5. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your project is near a known hibernaculum or maternity roost tree?

   Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases – the availability of this data varies state-by-state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited. A web page with links to state Natural Heritage Inventory databases and other sources of information on the locations of northern long-eared bat roost trees and hibernacula is available at www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nhisites.html.

   Yes

6. Will the action affect a cave or mine where northern long-eared bats are known to hibernate (i.e., hibernaculum) or could it alter the entrance or the environment (physical or other alteration) of a hibernaculum?

   No

7. Will the action involve Tree Removal?

   No

Project Questionnaire

If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

0

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?
0

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Raleigh Field Office
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

Date: March 19, 2020

Self-Certification Letter

Project Name: Rebuild at USCG Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Raleigh Ecological Services online project review process. By printing this letter in conjunction with your project review package, you are certifying that you have completed the online project review process for the project named above in accordance with all instructions provided, using the best available information to reach your conclusions. This letter, and the enclosed project review package, completes the review of your project in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 54 Stat. 250), as amended (Eagle Act). This letter also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended. A copy of this letter and the project review package must be submitted to this office for this certification to be valid. This letter and the project review package will be maintained in our records.

The species conclusions table in the enclosed project review package summarizes your ESA and Eagle Act conclusions. Based on your analysis, mark all the determinations that apply:

- ☐ "no effect" determinations for proposed/listed species and/or proposed/designated critical habitat; and/or
- ☐ "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determinations for proposed/listed species and/or proposed/designated critical habitat; and/or
- ☐ "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination for the Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) and relying on the findings of the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Final 4(d) Rule on the Northern long-eared bat;
- ☐ "no Eagle Act permit required" determinations for eagles.

We certify that use of the online project review process in strict accordance with the instructions provided as documented in the enclosed project review package results in reaching the appropriate determinations. Therefore, we concur with the "no effect" or "not likely to adversely affect" determinations for proposed and listed species and proposed and designated critical habitat; the "may affect" determination for Northern long-eared bat; and/or the "no Eagle Act permit required" determinations for eagles. Additional coordination with this office is not needed. Candidate species are not legally protected pursuant to the ESA. However, the Service encourages consideration of these species by avoiding adverse impacts to them. Please contact this office for additional coordination if your project action area contains candidate species. Should project plans change or if additional information on the distribution of proposed or listed species, proposed or designated critical habitat, or bald eagles becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. This certification letter is valid for 1 year. Information about the online project review process including instructions, species information, and other information regarding project reviews within North Carolina is available at our website http://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pp.html. If you have any questions, you can write to us at Raleigh@fws.gov or please contact Leigh Mann of this office at 919-856-4520, ext. 10.

Sincerely,

/s/Pete Benjamin

Pete Benjamin
Field Supervisor
Raleigh Ecological Services

Enclosures - project review package

Species Conclusions Table

Project Name: __Rebuild Station Fort Macon at US Coast Guard Station Field Office Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina _____

Date: ___April 3, 2020_____

Species / Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Notes / Documentation
Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)	Species present.	May affect, but unlikely to adversely affect.	Relying upon the findings of the 1/5/2016 Programmatic Biological Opinion for Final 4(d) Rule on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Exempted from Take Prohibitions to fulfill our project-specific Section 7 responsibilities.
West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.
Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.
Red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)	No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*)	No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.

Species / Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Notes / Documentation
Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)	No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.
Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present. Project location is outside designated critical habitat.
Rough-leaved loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*)	Species present. No suitable habitat present.	No effect.	Habitat assessment from NCNHP indicates no potential habitat present.
Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	Species present. Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles.	Consultation with NCNHP is pending	Consultation with NCNHP is pending
Critical habitat	No critical habitat present.	No effect.	

Acknowledgement: I agree that the above information about my proposed project is true. I used all of the provided resources to make an informed decision about impacts in the immediate and surrounding areas.

_____ _____

Signature /Title Date

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Administrator
North Carolina Ports Authority
Port of Wilmington
2202 Burnett Blvd.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

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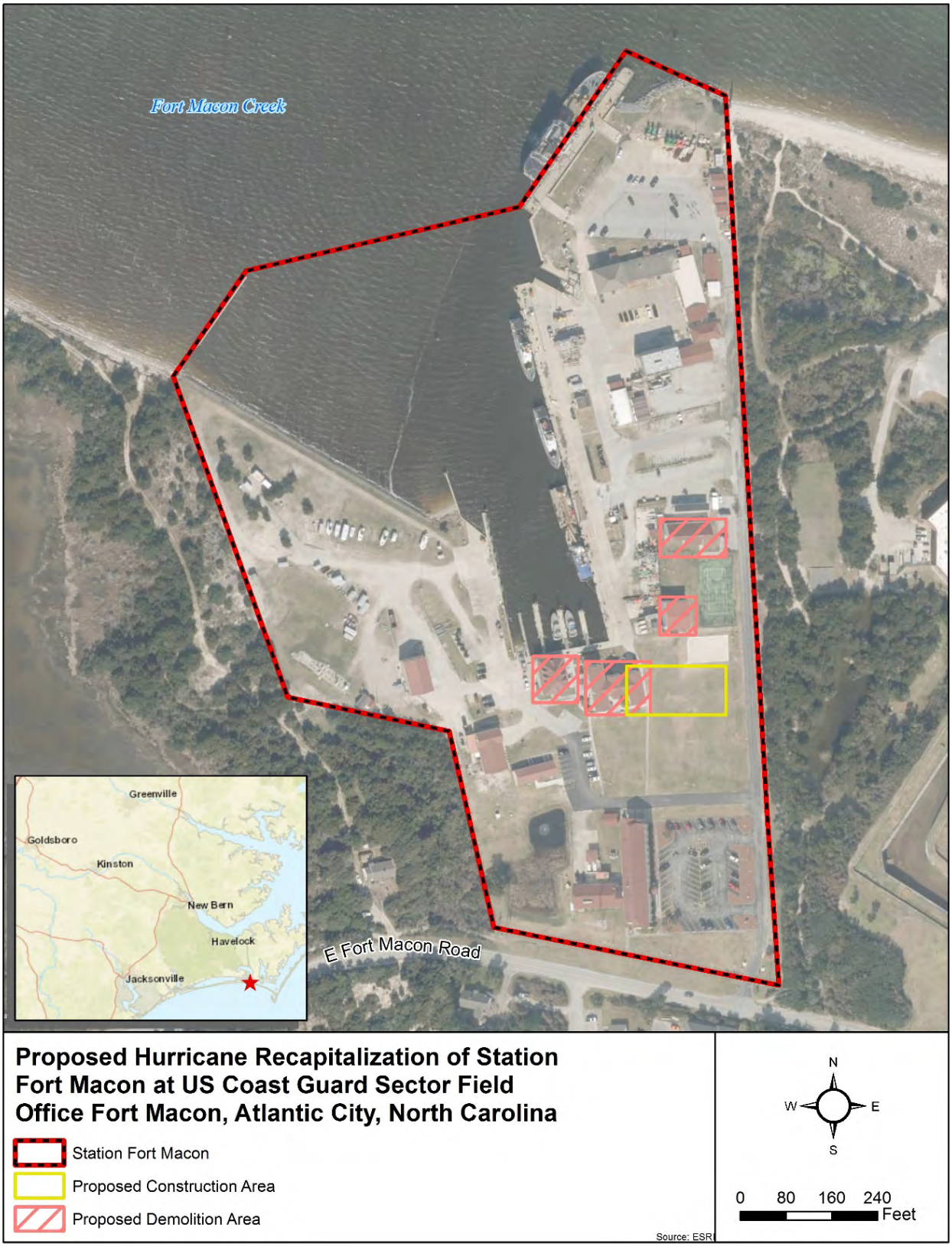
Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Administrator
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse
1301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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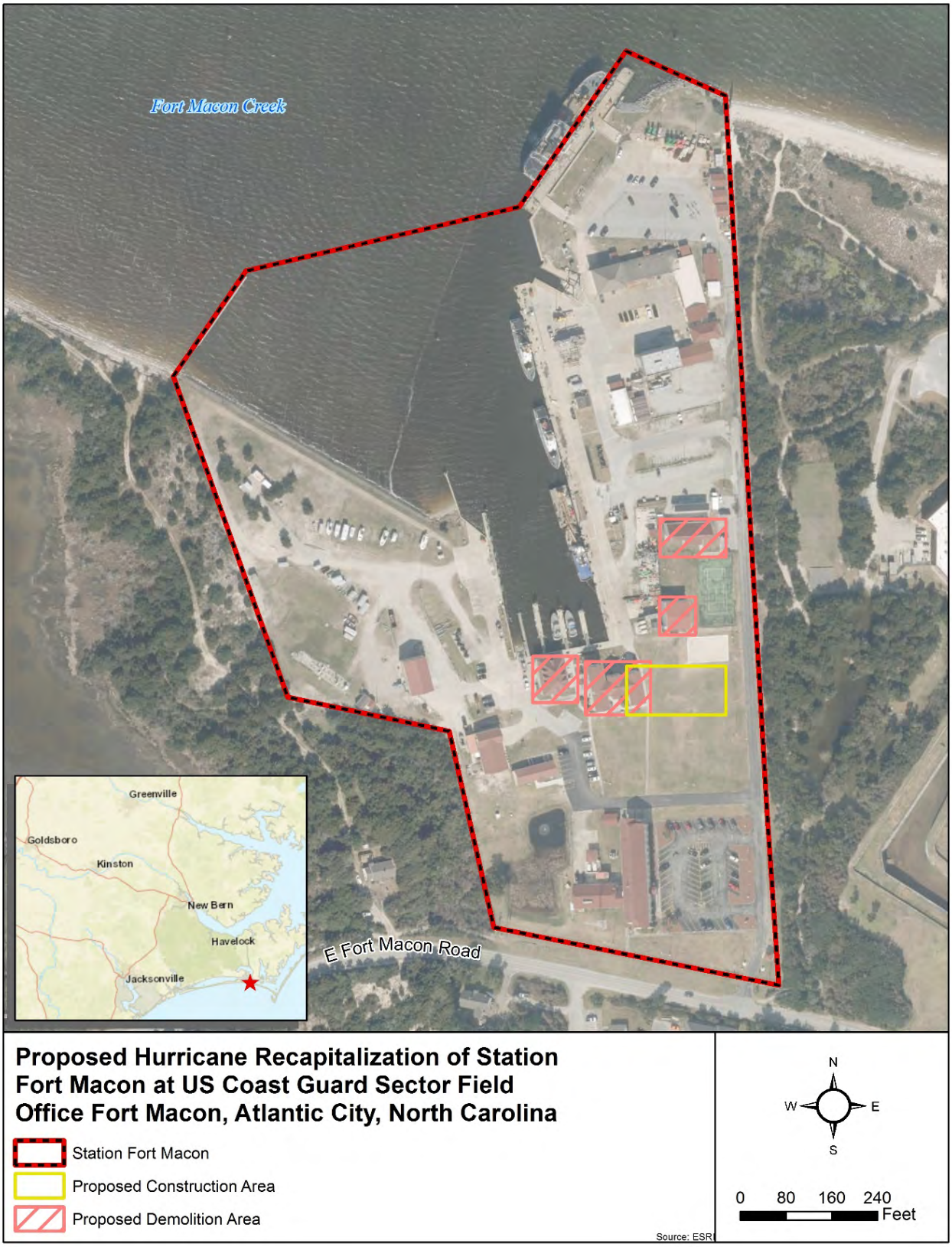

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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8 April 2020

Tara MacPherson
District Manager
NC Division of Coastal Management
Wilmington District
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405-3845

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. MacPherson,

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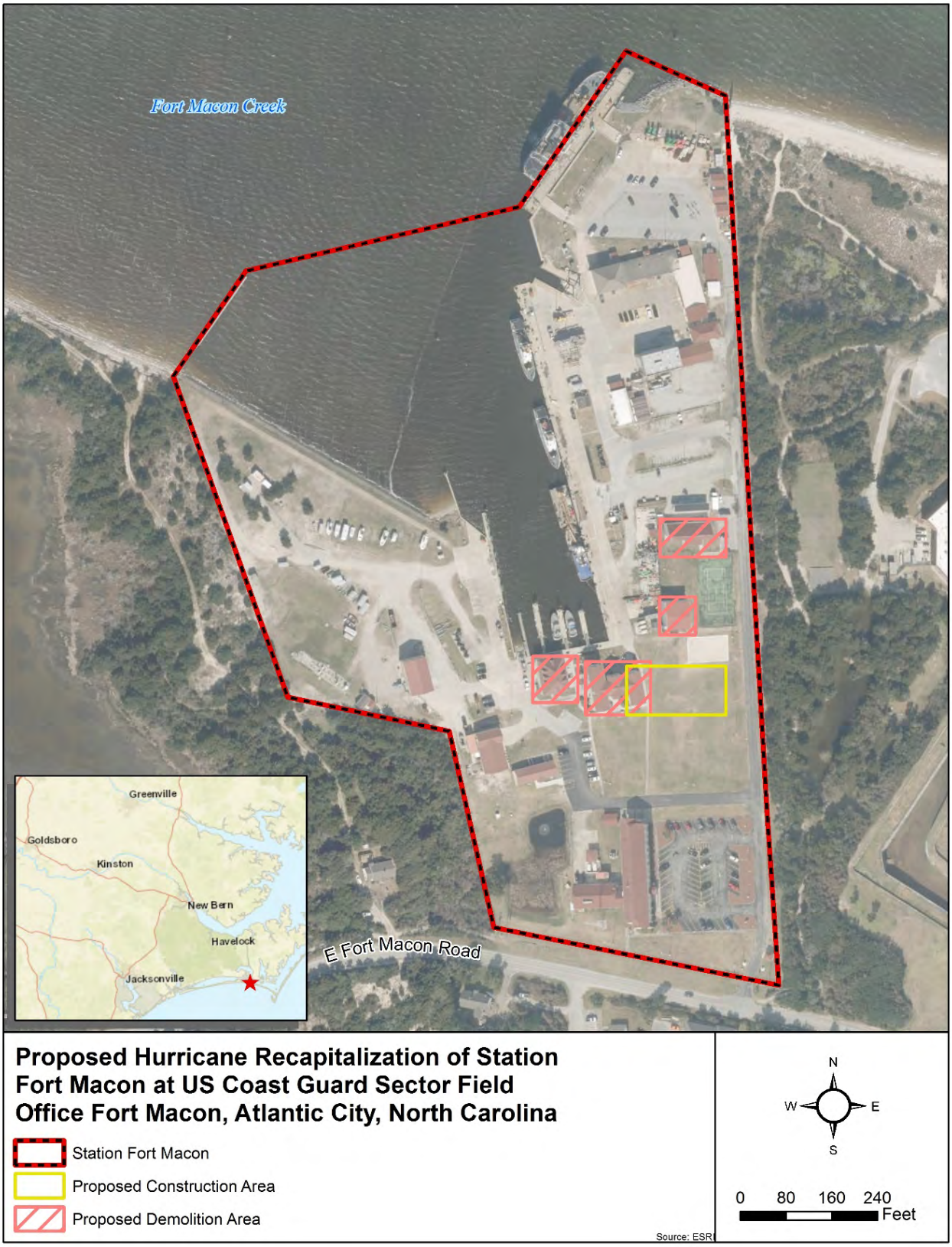

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8 April 2020

Rodney Butler
Business Services Coordinator/Natural Heritage Data Explorer Support
NC Natural Heritage Program
Nature Research Center
121 W. Jones Street
1651 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1651

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Butler,

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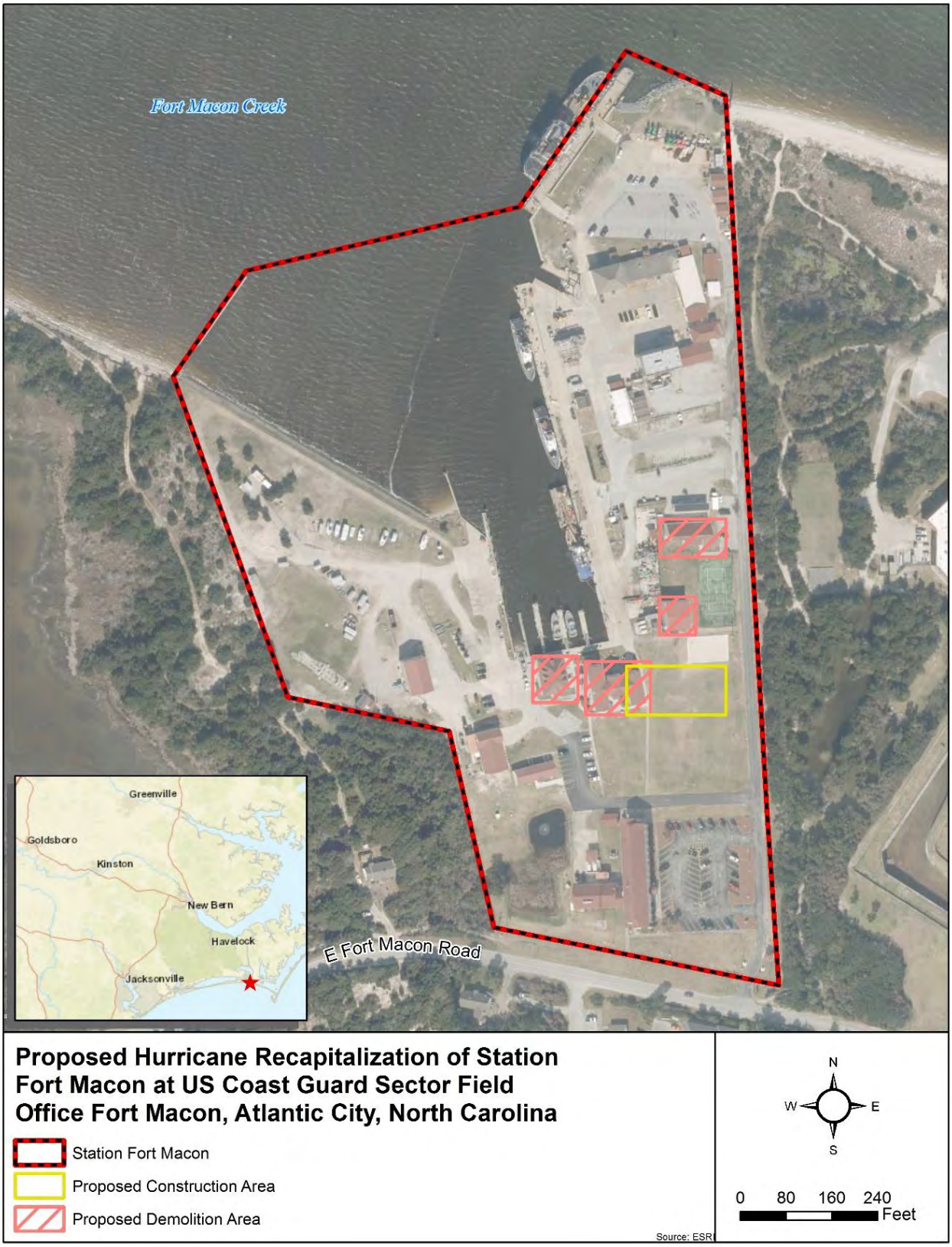

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8 April 2020

Brad Howard
Division Chief
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Management
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1722

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

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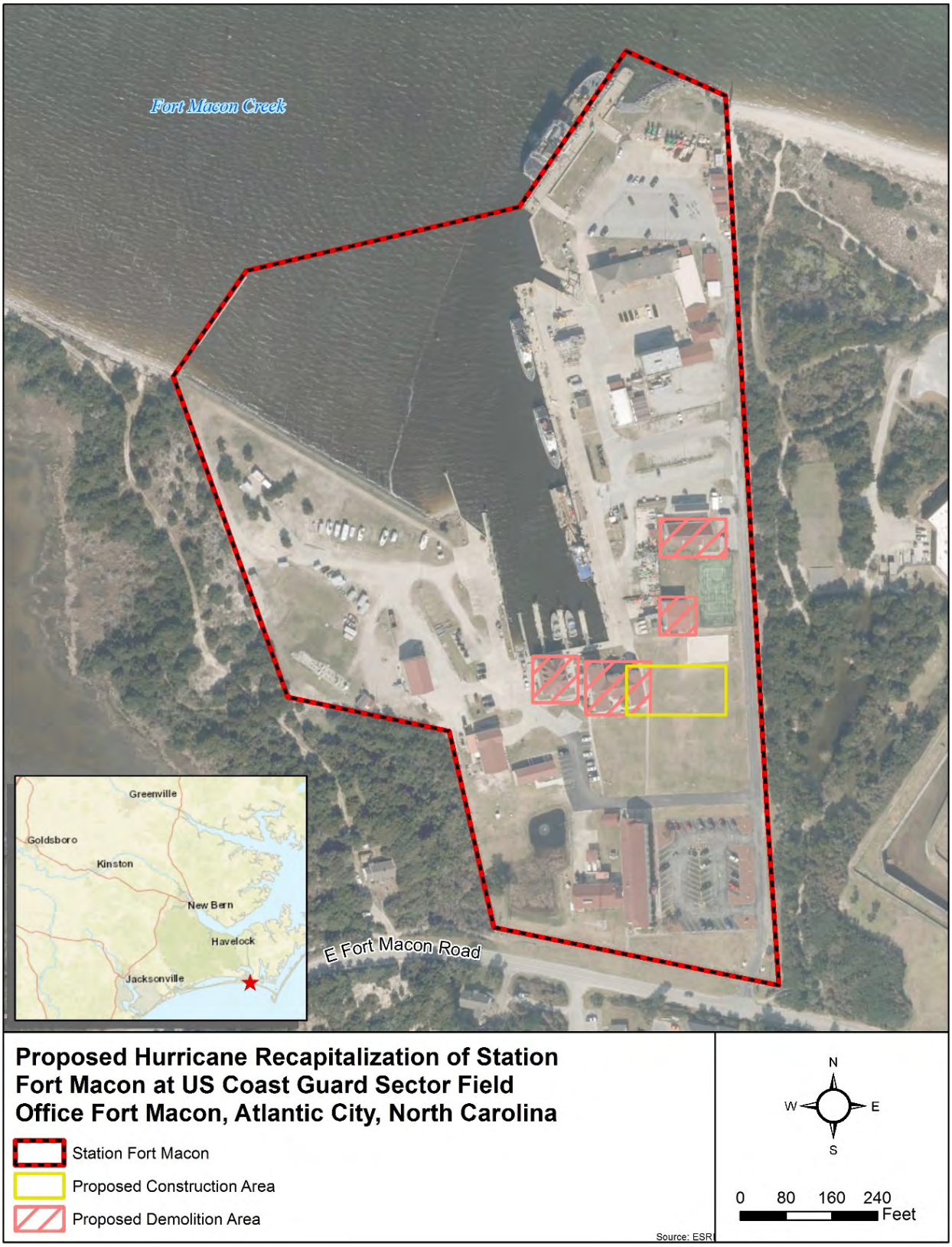

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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8 April 2020

Dan Sams
Engineering Supervisor
NC Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources
Wilmington Regional Office
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405-3845

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

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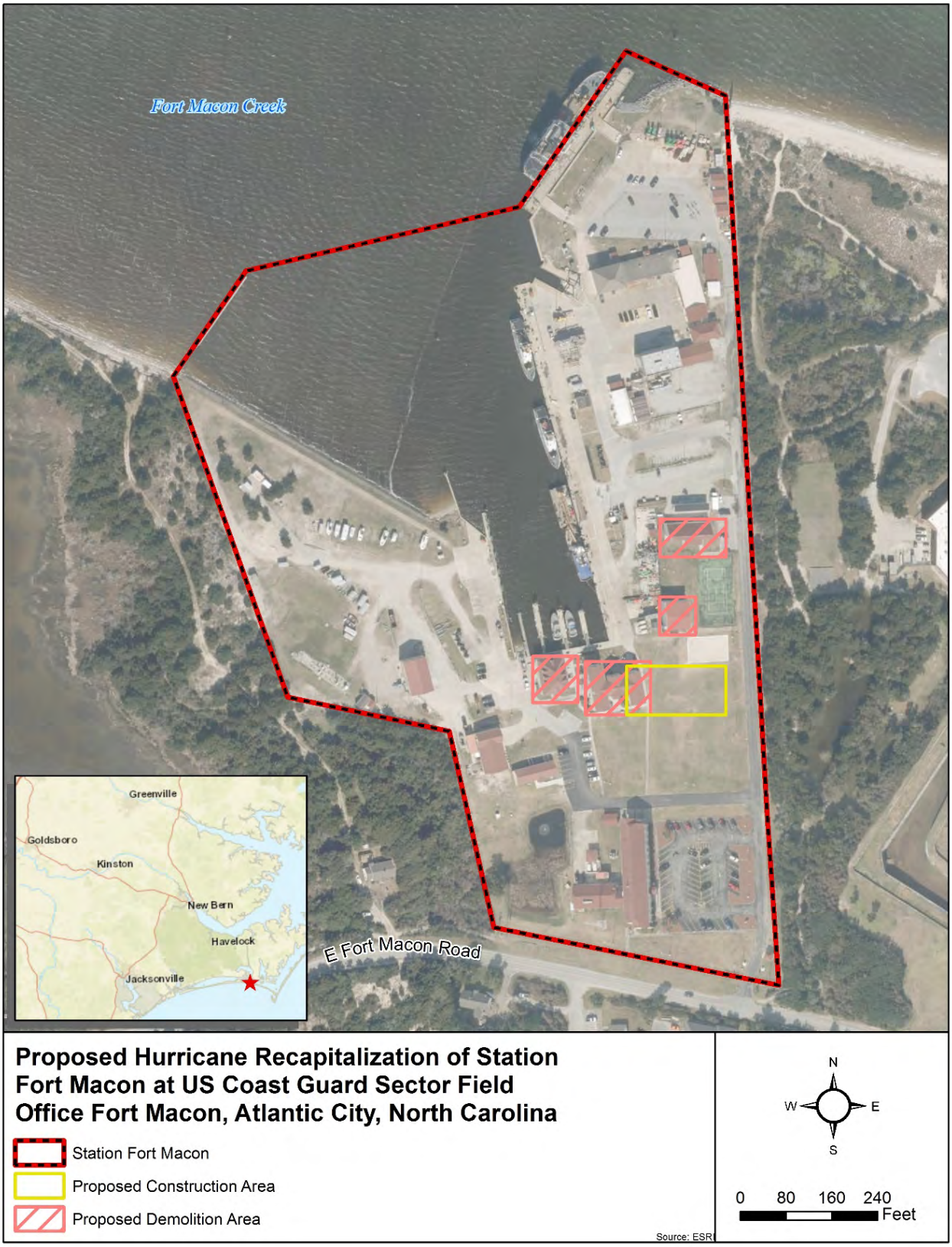

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Phone: (216) 902-6122
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8 April 2020

Joe Hudyncia
Environmental Program Specialist
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Environmental Programs
1005 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

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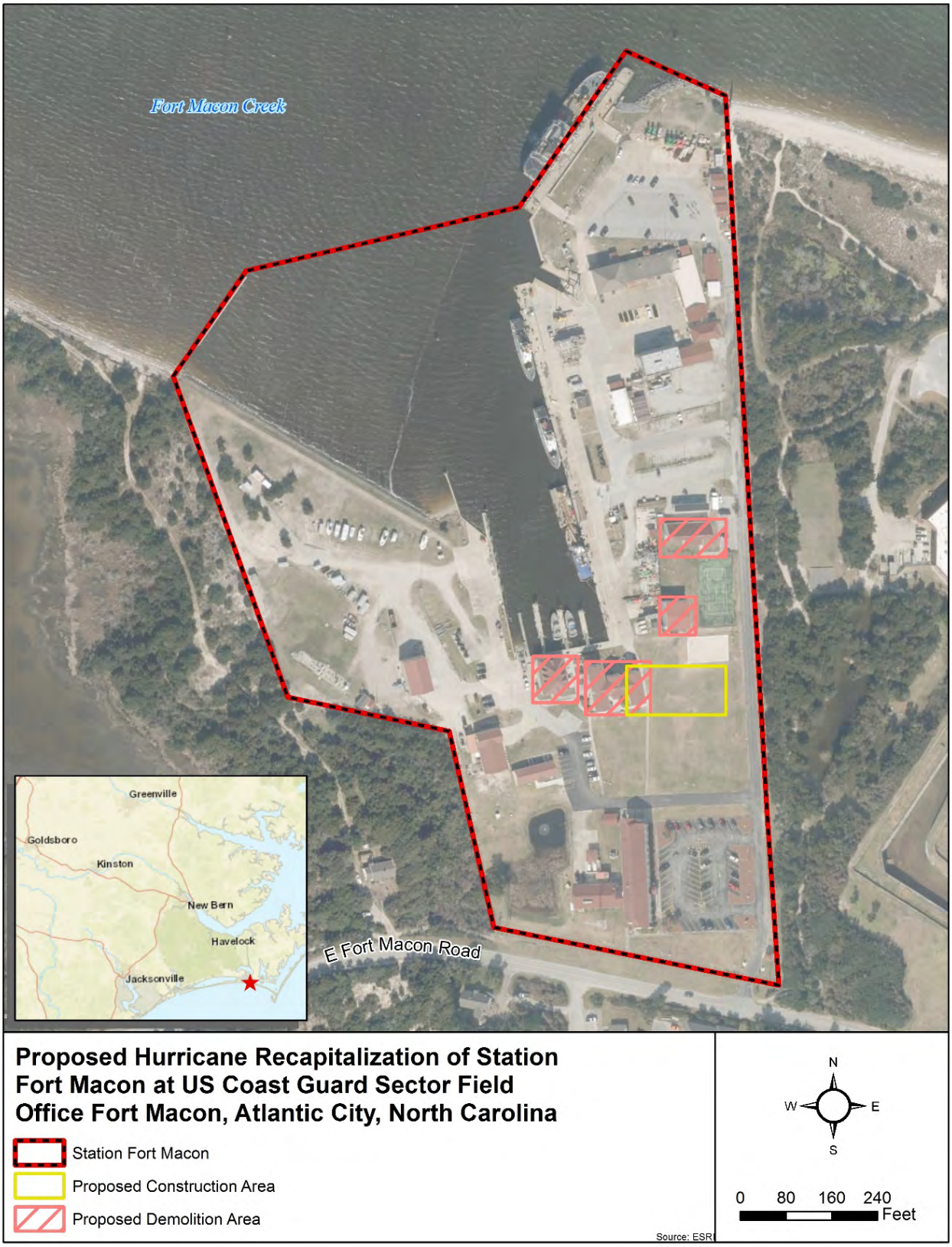
Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155
Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Brian Strong
Chief Planning and Natural Resources
NC Division of Parks and Recreation
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Strong,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability

to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

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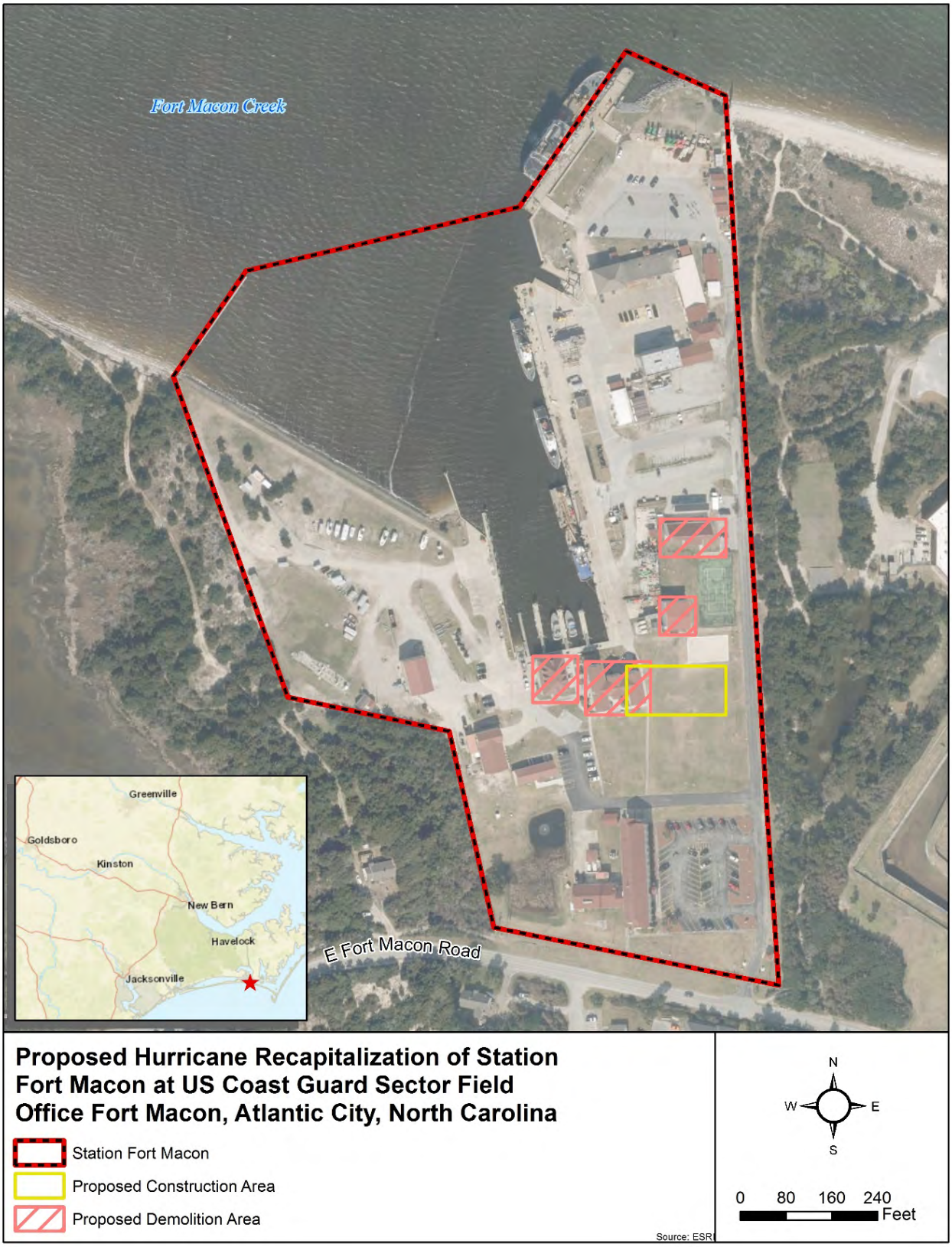

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8 April 2020

Gene Foxworth
Director
Carteret County Department of Planning and Inspections
402 Broad Street
Beaufort, NC 28516

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Foxworth,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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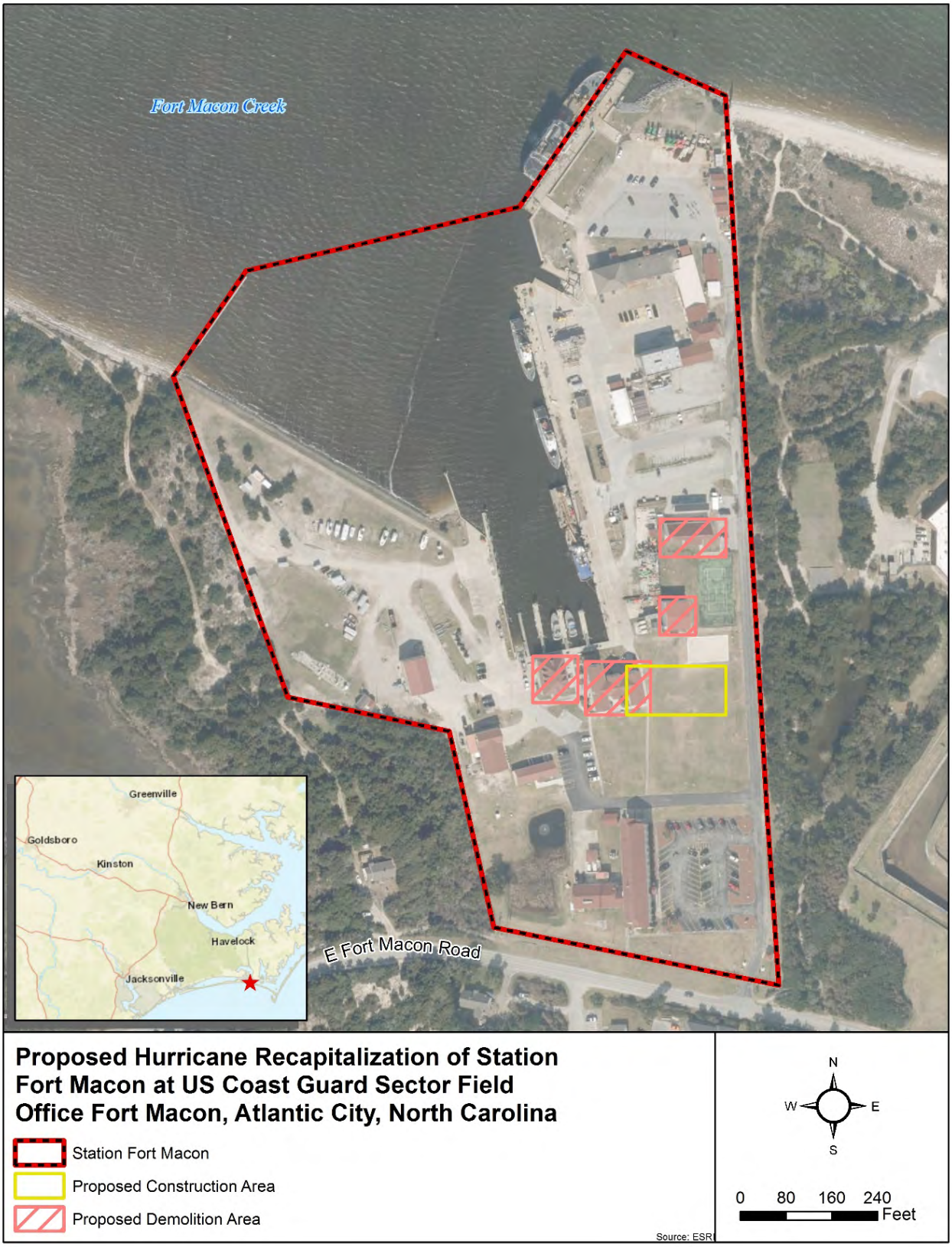

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Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Tina Purifoy
Director
Carteret County Department of Parks and Recreation
1702 Live Oak Street
Suite 300
Beaufort, NC 28516

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Purifoy,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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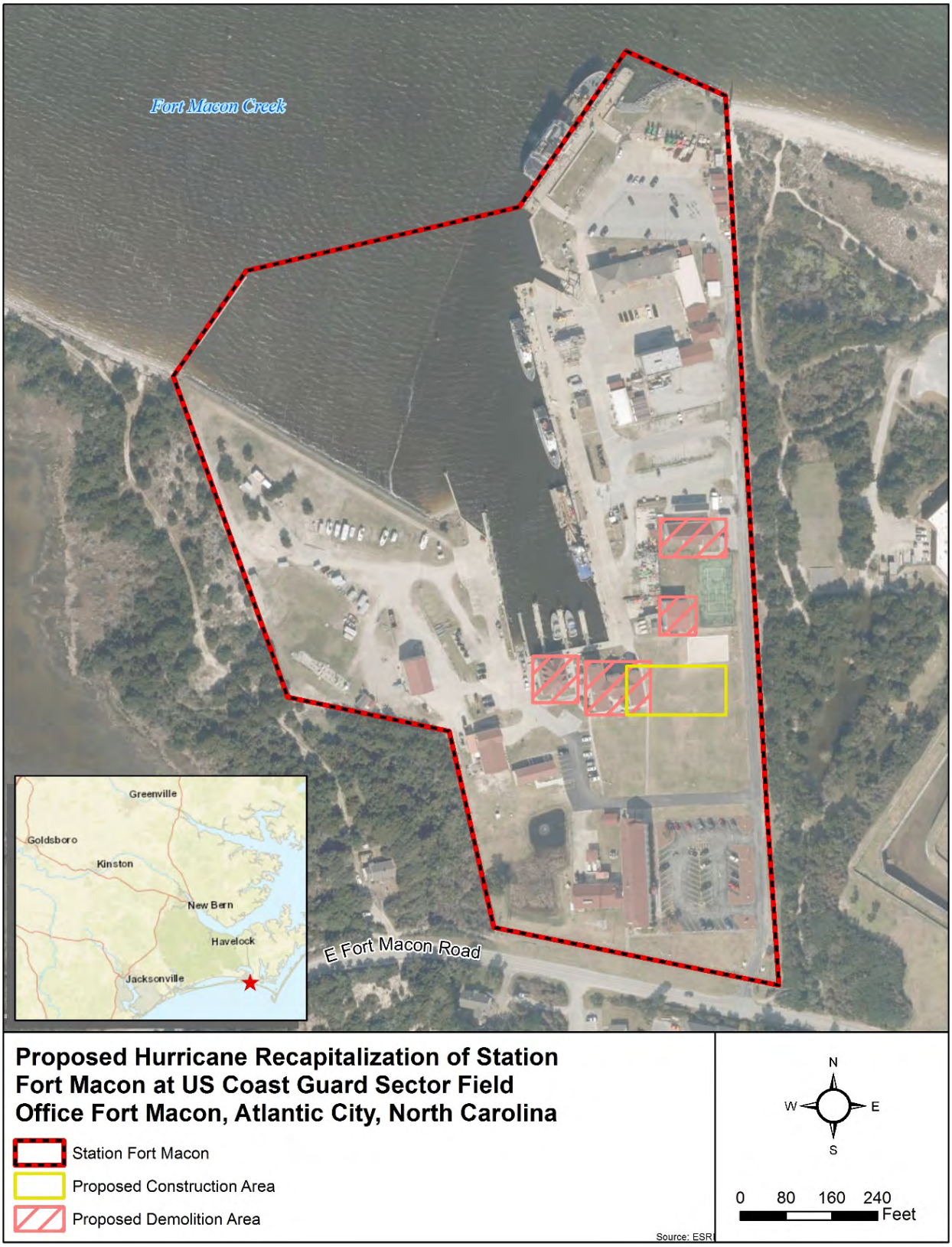

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Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Greg L. Rudolph
Shore Protection Manager
Carteret County Department of Shore Protection
P.O. Box 4297
Emerald Isle, NC 28594

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Rudolph,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

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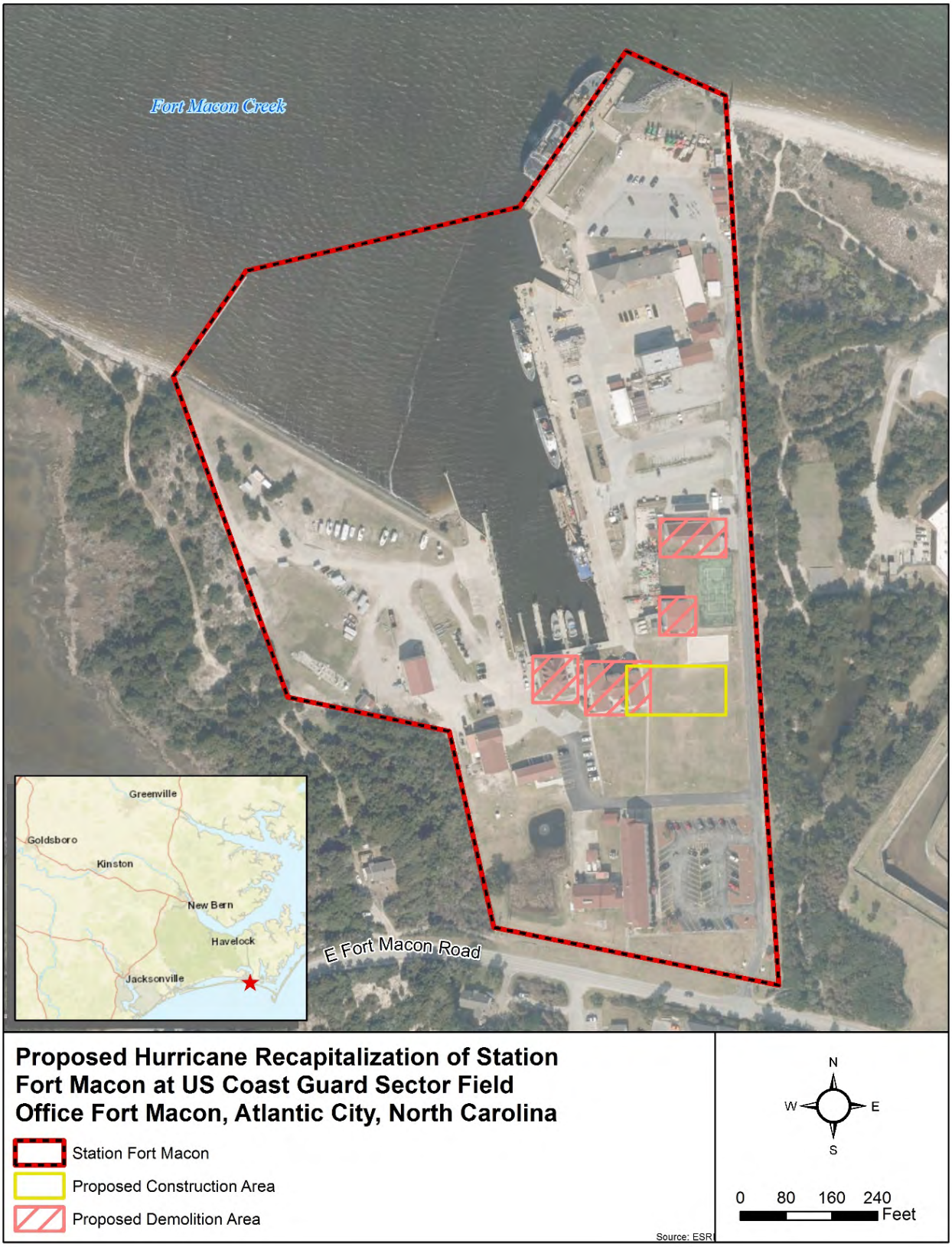

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Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Todd Kelly
Technician
Carteret County Soil and Water Conservation District
303 College Circle
Morehead City, NC 28557

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Kelly,

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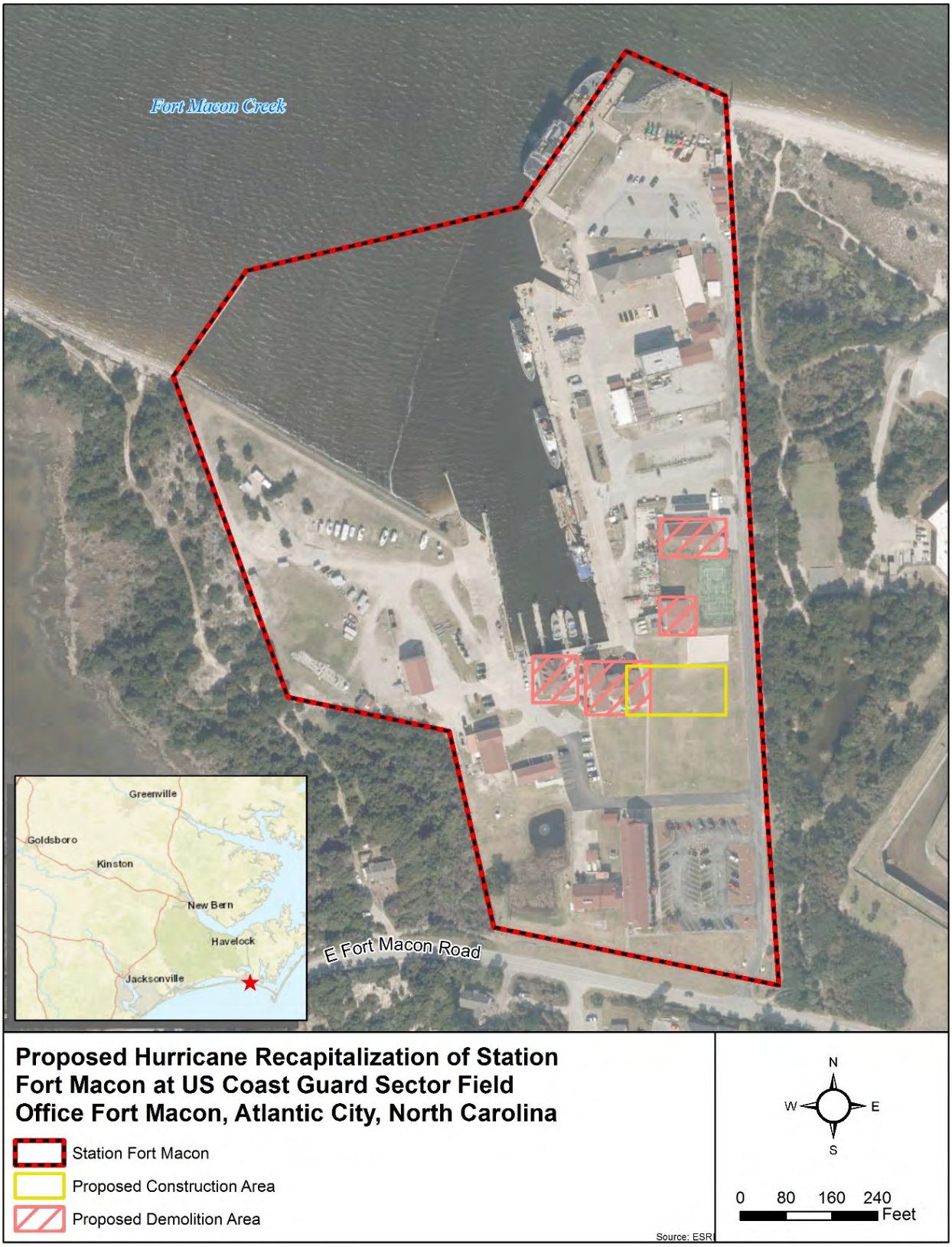

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Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Michelle Eitner
Planning and Development Director
Atlantic Beach Department of Planning, Zoning, and Inspections
P.O. Box 10
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Subject: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Eitner,

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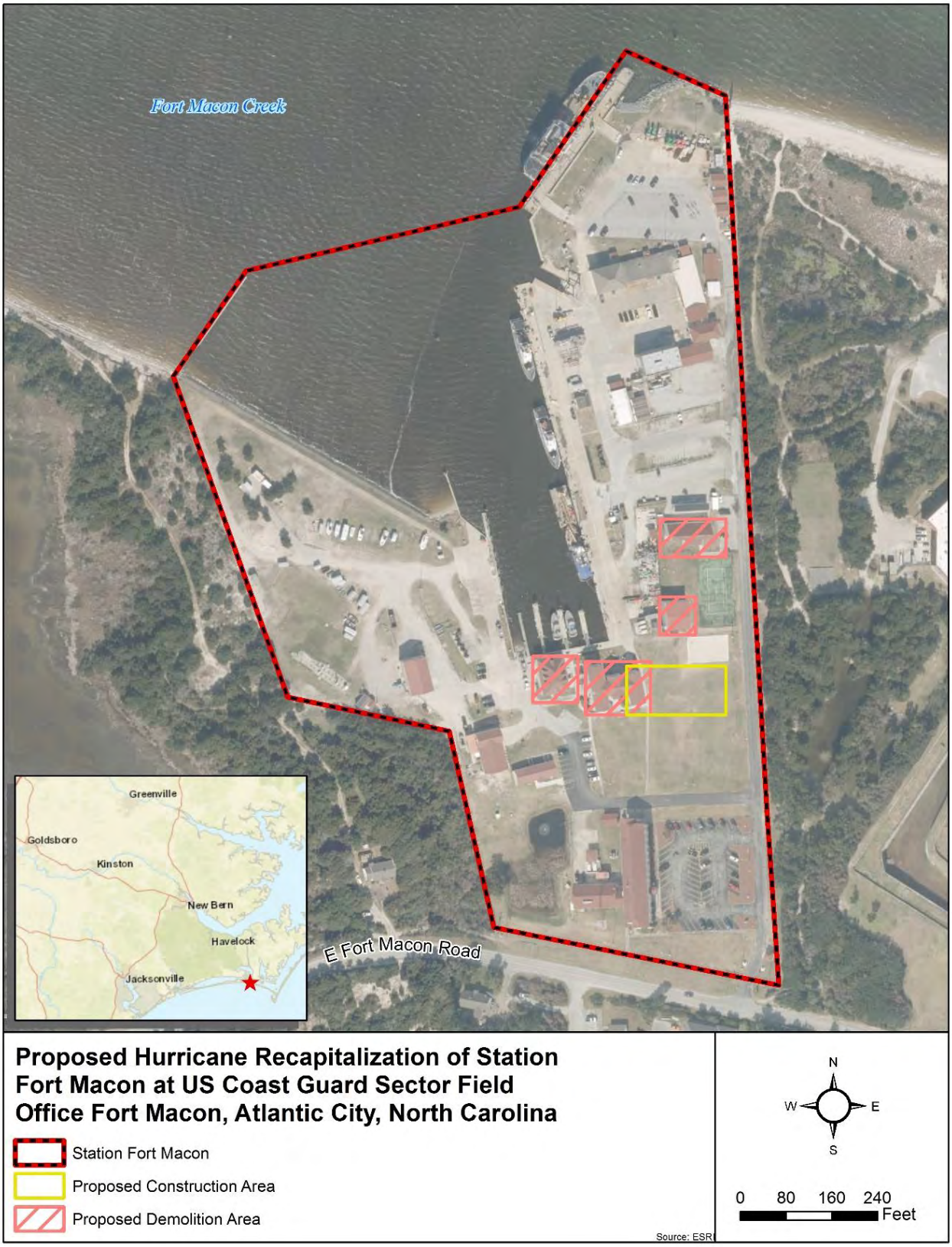

From: Charles, Thomas P CIV USARMY CESAW (USA) [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Wu, Charlene [redacted]
Cc: Warf, Jennifer [redacted]; Kyzar, Carrie [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: USACE Project Review Request

Good afternoon,

After reviewing the proposed Hurricane Recapitalization of Station at USCG Field Office Fort Macon, Atlantic City, North Carolina the Corps no jurisdiction with the work that is proposed on letter dated 4/8/2020.

Have a good week.
Regards, Tom

Tom Charles
[redacted]
Regulatory Specialist
[redacted]
https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Permits/2017-Nationwide-Permits/
The Wilmington District is committed to providing the highest level of support to the public. E-PCN
WilmingtonNCREG@usace.army.mil
PJDs` & JD`s. http://saw-reg.usace.army.mil/JD/FINALSAW-JD-REQUEST-FORM-20170508.pdf
To help us ensure we continue to do so, please complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey located at:
http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=136:4:0

From: Wu, Charlene [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Charles, Thomas P CIV USARMY CESAW (USA) [redacted]
Cc: Warf, Jennifer [redacted]; Kyzar, Carrie [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] USACE Project Review Request

Good morning,

The US Coast Guard is preparing an Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. On behalf of the US Coast Guard, we are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with this project. Please see the attached letter for additional information. A hard copy of this letter has also been mailed to your office. We would appreciate any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding this project within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this correspondence.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Thank you!

Regards,
Charlene Wu

Charlene Wu
Environmental Planner
Impact Assessment and Permitting
[redacted]

AECOM
3101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201
Blockedwww.aecom.com

From: Eugene Foxworth [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Wu, Charlene [redacted]
Cc: Warf, Jennifer [redacted]; Kyzar, Carrie [redacted]; Tommy Burns [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Carteret County Dept of Planning Project Review Request

Ms. Wu,
Carteret County has no input nor concerns with the repairs / renovations of Coast Guard Station Fort Macon. Please let me know if we can be of additional assistance.
Thanks,
Gene

Eugene Foxworth
Assistant County Manager
Carteret County

From: Wu, Charlene [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Eugene Foxworth [redacted]
Cc: Warf, Jennifer [redacted]; Kyzar, Carrie [redacted]
Subject: Carteret County Dept of Planning Project Review Request

Good morning,

The US Coast Guard is preparing an Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. On behalf of the US Coast Guard, we are seeking input from your agency regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with this project. Please see the attached letter for additional information. A hard copy of this letter has also been mailed to your office. We would appreciate any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding this project within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this correspondence.

We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Thank you!

Regards,

Charlene Wu

Charlene Wu
Environmental Planner
Impact Assessment and Permitting
[redacted]

AECOM
3101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201
www.aecom.com

Division of Parks and Recreation
NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

April 15, 2020

Charlene WU
Environmental Planner
AECOM
3101 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Fort Macon EA General Scoping Letter

Mr. McMullen,

This is in response to your email dated April 13, 2020. We have reviewed the information related to the demolition and construction of facilities at Fort Macon Coast Guard Field Station. Based on the proposed project the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has no objections or comments.

Please notify the DPR if the scope of work changes as a reevaluation may be necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Strong

Brian L. Strong
Deputy Director
NC Division of Parks and Recreation
[redacted]

Dwayne Patterson, Director
NC Division of Parks and Recreation
1615 MSC - Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
919.707.9300 / ncparks.gov

From: Gissentanna, Larry [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Warf, Jennifer [redacted]
Cc: Kajumba, Ntale [redacted] Buskey, Traci P. [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EPA Scoping Comments for the Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office, Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Dear Ms. Warf,

The US Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 NEPA Program Office is in receipt of the scoping document on the proposed preparation of an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the potential impacts of the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) proposal to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

According to the documents provided, the proposed action will include the development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work. The size of the proposed site is less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. The construction and demolition activities are tentatively scheduled for 2023 and will take approximately two years to complete. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area at Fort Macon Creek. The facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

The EPA's preliminary comments can be summarized to include the following areas: The appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document should address the following environmental issues: air quality i.e. fugitive dust, water, wetlands, noise, energy, and environmental justice. The site preparation, grading, excavation, and construction plans near Fort Macon Creek should include implementable measures to prevent erosion and sediment runoff from the various project sites both during and after grading activities. Local land disturbance and state construction stormwater permit(s) may also be required, and these should be referenced on the plans and in the specifications. Efforts should be made to divert recyclable materials such as concrete and asphalt away from landfills and repurpose the material instead. The NEPA document should also address potential environmental hazards of demolishing the four older buildings, such as lead and asbestos latent materials.
Consider sustainable building practices that utilize variable forms of proven renewable energy for the proposed project, for example, solar power for supplemental electricity and lighting for the ramps, aprons, terminals, and any parking lots or garages that may be proposed in the various projects. Please see the attached link for additional information:
http://www.wbdg.org/references/federal_mandates.php.

Please keep the local community informed and involved throughout the project development process; by having community meetings and utilizing local media and social outlets. The EPA requests at least one hard copy of the Draft and Final EA, with an electronic version, i.e. website or electronic media. Please forward all hard/electronic copies to the address below:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact us via email or the information below.

Sincerely,

Larry O. Gissentanna

Project Manager, DoD & Federal Facilities

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/ Region 4
Strategic Programs Office, NEPA Section
[redacted]

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Appendix B:

Section 106 Consultation and Native American Consultation

Table of Contents

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Dr. Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Subject: Native American Consultation for Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Haire,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*). The EA process is being coordinated with consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800; Section 106), as amended.

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space

requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your Tribe regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

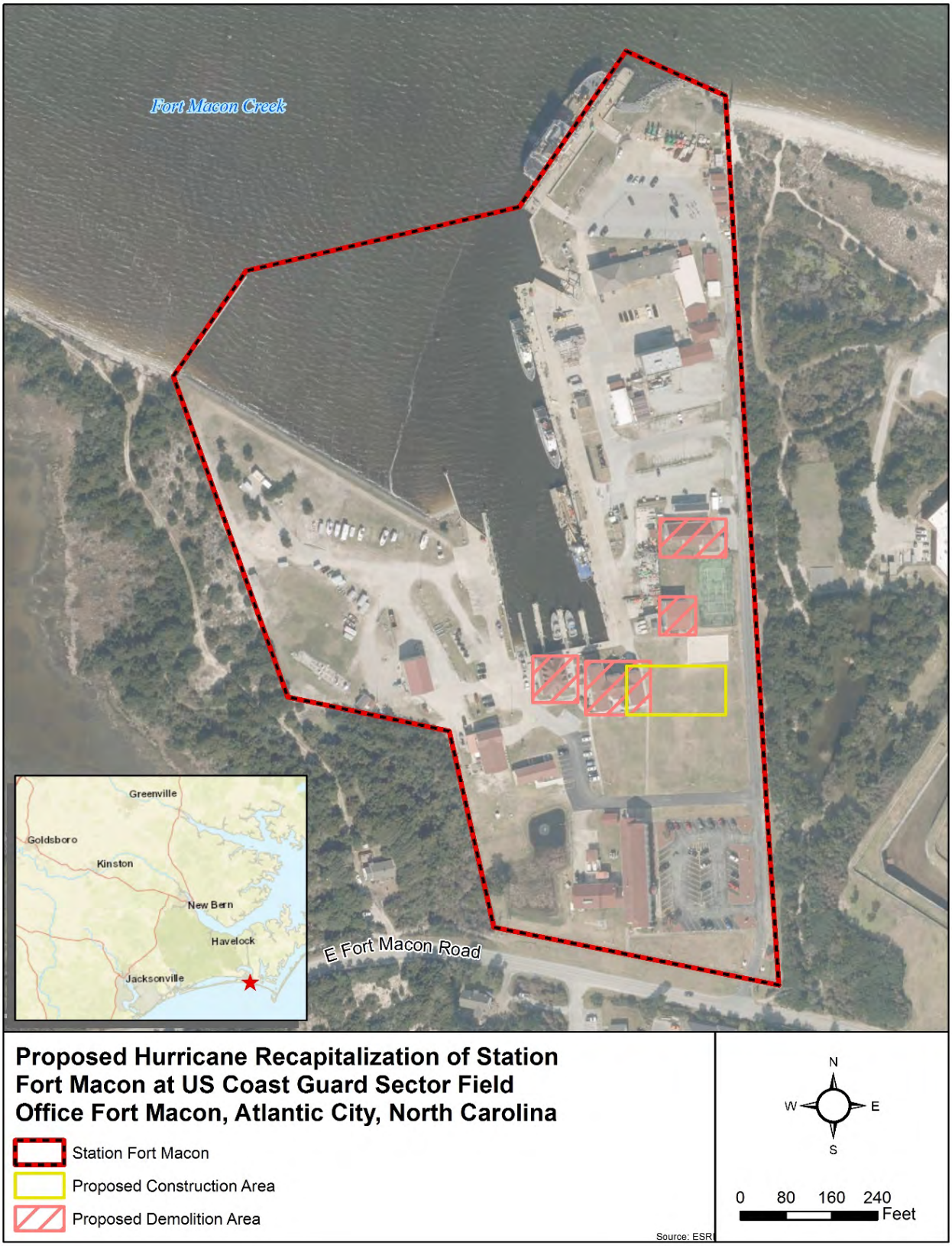
The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Figure 1: Site Location



U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

8 April 2020

Leo Henry
Chief
Tuscarora Nation Tribal Government
2006 Mt. Hope Road
Lewiston, NY 14092

Subject: Native American Consultation for Environmental Assessment in support of 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at United States Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Dear Chief Henry,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit comments regarding the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) intent to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). The USCG is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*). The EA process is being coordinated with consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800; Section 106), as amended.

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is located in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina. On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered all living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space

requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (*Shore Facilities Standards Manual*). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

The Proposed Action includes development of a 30,780-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than 1 acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished, which include the Station Building, Prevention Building, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building. Construction and demolition activities are anticipated to begin in 2023 and require two years for completion. The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately 8 to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed Multi-Mission Station Facility.

No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront.

We are seeking input from your Tribe regarding any information or potential environmental concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Please provide any comments, concerns, information, studies, or other data you may have regarding the Proposed Action within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of this letter to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. All responses will be considered for incorporation in the EA. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis.

The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. If you have comments or information relevant to the development of the EA, please direct your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Digitally signed by FULENWIDER.GEORGE.O.III.1057601155 Date: 2020.04.06 10:35:10 -04'00'

Enclosure Figure 1 – Site Location Map

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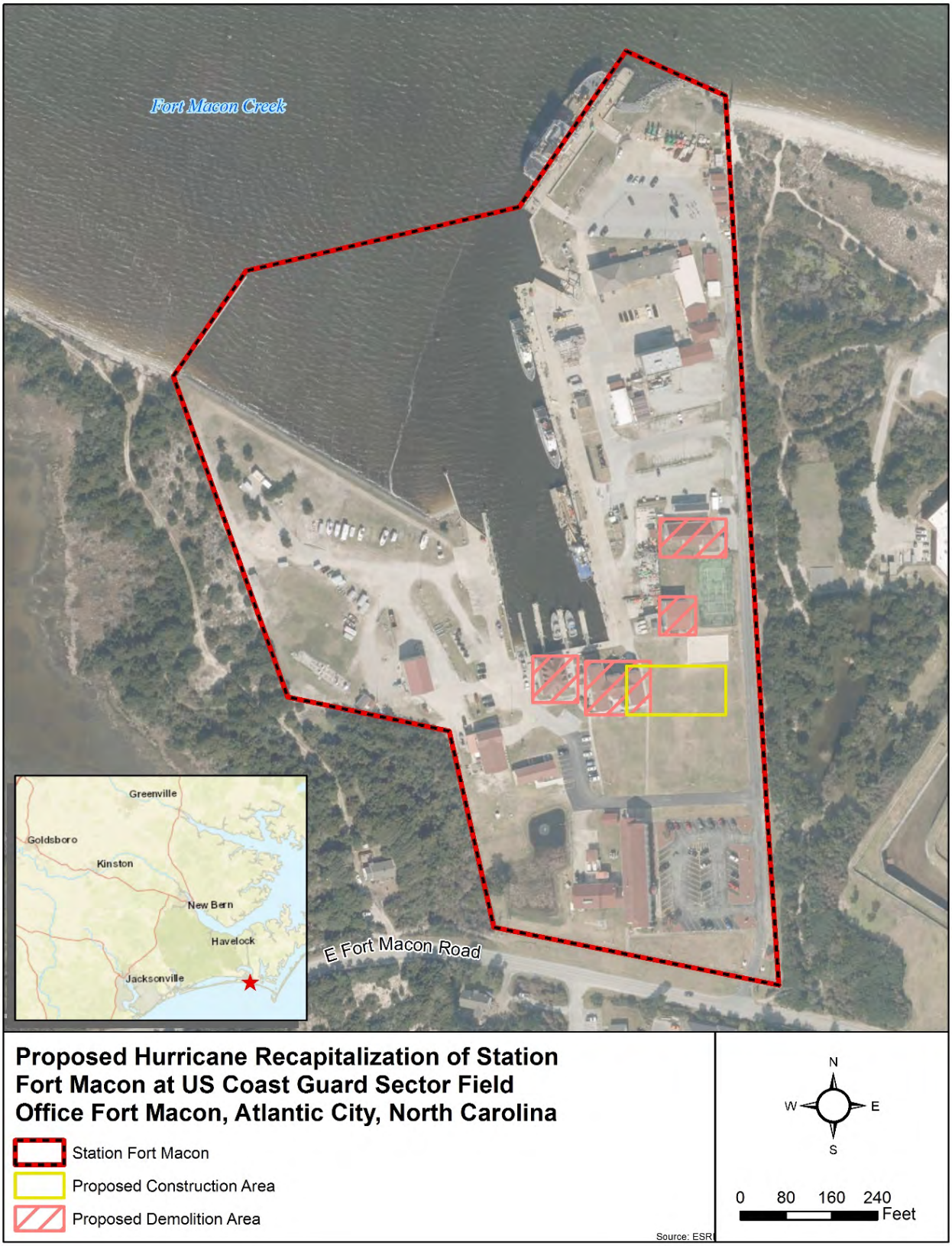

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Staff Symbol: PL
Phone: (216) 902-6253
Fax: (216) 902-6277

30 April 2020

Ms. Ramona Bartos
Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Ms. Bartos:

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to rebuild facilities damaged during the 2018 hurricane season and to permanently homeport an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) at Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Proposed Action). This letter is being transmitted to initiate consultation with your office for the Proposed Action pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800) "Protection of Historic Properties" (Section 106) and to seek concurrence from your office with the USCG's finding of No Adverse Effect.

The USCG is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and USCG Commandment Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D (*Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*).

Project Background

Station Fort Macon, herein referred to as the Station, is in Carteret County, surrounded by Bogue Sound to the north, State Road 58 to the south, and wooded areas to the east and west (Enclosure 1). The Station encompasses approximately 18.7 acres, and is composed of various tenant commands, including Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon, which consists primarily of engineering and logistics components associated with Sector North Carolina.

On 14 September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina and caused extensive damage to the Station. Upstairs berthing areas were saturated due to roof leaks, and first floors flooded due to the failure of exterior doors. The damage from the storm rendered many living spaces at the Station uninhabitable, and mold has since spread to nearly all Station facilities. As a result, personnel are currently unable to occupy existing buildings and must operate out of temporary facilities that are much smaller than the space requirements outlined in accordance with COMDTINST M11012.9 (Shore

Facilities Standards Manual). Failure to meet these requirements will lead to increased vulnerability to weather and natural disasters at the Station and hinder the operational readiness and response of SFO Fort Macon.

Alternatives Considered

The USCG developed planning factors to evaluate alternatives that would meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need. Those that did not satisfy the planning factors were considered unreasonable and dismissed from further consideration. Planning factors developed by the USCG to guide the development of alternatives for the Proposed Action consist of the following:

1. The alternative achieves Final Operating Capability (FOC) by providing onshore and vessel assets that support the USCG, Sector, and Station missions in accordance with applicable USCG functional space, hurricane resilience, and operational requirements.
2. The alternative can be implemented within the existing boundaries of a Sector North Carolina station.
3. The alternative maximizes functional relationships and efficiencies with other existing uses at the station while minimizing construction and lifetime operating costs to the extent possible.
4. The alternative does not require the substantial modification or reconfiguration of existing facilities, and/or the acquisition of new or additional land.
5. The alternative does not disrupt station personnel and operations, or impair or preclude the use of existing, viable station facilities or functions.
6. The alternative must "reduce the footprint" of facilities at the station in accordance with USCG facility management requirements by consolidating similar or related functions into a single or smaller number of facilities, and/or removing facilities that are redundant, undersized, outdated, or do not meet applicable USCG functional space and resiliency requirements.
7. The alternative supports strategic port loading or similar planning initiatives at USCG bases or stations.
8. The alternative must permanently homeport an 87 WPB (Island Class Patrol Boat) at a Sector North Carolina station to support Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and other USCG activities typically provided by that type of vessel.
9. The alternative must avoid or minimize potential impacts on sensitive environmental resources, such as wetlands, floodplains, and threatened and endangered species to the extent practicable.

The USCG initially identified five alternatives that would potentially meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need: Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Alternative; Alternative 2 – Construct and Operate a Multi-Mission Building at a Different Location on Station Fort Macon; Alternative 3 – Build a New Multi-Mission Building and Provide Standalone 87 CPB Support Building; Alternative 4 – Rehabilitate Existing Station Buildings and Provide a Standalone 87 CPB Support Facility; and Alternative 5 – Permanently Homeport the 87 CPB at Station Wrightsville Beach. However, following application of the planning factors and further evaluation during the DD1391 planning process, only one alternative meeting all of the planning factors was identified: Alternative 1.

Description of Undertaking

The Proposed Action includes development of a new 29,145-gross-square-foot Multi-Mission Station Facility (MMB) and associated site, utility, and ground work, culminating in a total site footprint of less than one acre. In addition, four existing buildings (total of approximately 17,252 square feet) would be demolished: the Station Building (built in 1996), Prevention Building (built in 1940), Racquetball Building (built in 1984), and Medical/Dental Building (built in 1983). The Proposed Action would also include the permanent homeporting of an 87-foot CPB; this vessel would utilize the existing visitor cutter docking area in Fort Macon Creek. Facilities to support the 87-foot CPB and associated personnel (approximately eight to 10 personnel) would be included in the proposed MMB.

The new 29,145-gross-square-foot MMB will be a rectangular building three stories in height. Taking into account the increased first floor elevation needed to bring the building above flood level, and an estimated first floor finished floor level of 14', with 12' floor-to-floor for each additional floor level, the building height will be approximately 45' from grade to top of the roof. The building footprint will be approximately 13,220 square feet (80'-by-165'). The new facility will be masonry construction (either brick or CMU) with a terracotta color metal standing seam gable or hip roof. The wall color will be an off-white to match other buildings at the Station. Refer to Enclosure 4, Figure 1, for a visualization of the proposed MMB.

The proposed MMB would be built and operated on a site near Station Fort Macon's working waterfront (i.e., finger piers, ship berthing areas) to provide accessibility and maintain operational efficiencies with waterfront activities. The site of the proposed MMB primarily consists of maintained lawn, although a portion also overlaps the existing Station Building, which is unoccupied due to hurricane damage. Demolition activities would occur in previously disturbed and developed areas while construction of the new facility would take place in grassland areas away from the waterfront. No in-water work would be required under the Proposed Action.

Once operational, station personnel would be relocated to the new MMB from temporary office trailers, as well as the buildings that were repaired after Hurricane Florence (i.e., the 1940 Prevention Building, 1984 Racquetball Building, and 1983 Medical/Dental Building). The temporary office trailers would then be removed from the Station, and the 1940 Prevention Building, 1983 Medical/Dental Building, and 1984 Racquetball Building would be demolished. The sequence for demolition of these facilities has not been determined; however, to minimize logistical requirements and disruption of station operations, it is anticipated that each building would be demolished individually. The 1996 Station Building would be demolished prior to beginning construction of the new MMB. Construction of the new MMB and the proposed facility demolitions are anticipated to begin in 2023 and be completed by 2025.

Following the completion of the new MMB, an 87 CPB would be relocated from Base Portsmouth and permanently homeported at Station Fort Macon. Approximately 1,972 GSF of functional space would be allocated in the new MMB for operations and activities supporting the 87 CPB. Existing waterfront and onshore facilities would be suitable to support the homeported 87 WBP as needed, and the construction and operation of additional support facilities at Station Fort Macon would not be required. Relocation of the 87 CPB and its eight to 10-person crew would increase the total number of USCG personnel assigned to Station Fort Macon to approximately 56.

Area of Potential Effect

The "Area of Potential Effect" (APE), as defined at 36 CFR 800.16(d), is "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alteration in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking."

The above-ground APE is inclusive of the limits of Station Fort Macon and portions of the adjacent Fort Macon State Park to the east that include the historic Fort Macon from which there are partial views of the USCG Station. Site visit observations on March 5, 2020 indicate that, due to intervening topography and trees, there are minimal views of the Station beyond the delineated APE.

The archaeological APE is the limits of ground disturbance resulting from proposed construction activities. Access and laydown areas will be contained within the limits of ground disturbance or to existing paved surfaces. The proposed removal of the trailers, post-construction, will not require any ground disturbance since they are mounted atop the ground surface. Refer to Enclosure 2 for the APE map.

Identification of Historic Properties

Records Search

To identify previously recorded historic properties in the APE, the USCG's Secretary of the Interior-qualified consultants conducted a records search through the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) HPOWEB GIS database in March 2020, and reviewed supplemental data provided by SHPO staff and USCG, NRHP listings, historic maps and images (e.g., historic aerials, historic topographic quadrangles, plat maps, etc.), and information derived from research at various agencies, historical societies, and other sources.

Archaeology

Three previous cultural resources consultations have taken place between the USCG and SHPO in relation to proposed USCG projects at Station Fort Macon (CH 05-2694, ER 09-0926, and ER 10-0974). None of the previously proposed and reviewed projects resulted in a requirement for archaeological survey due to prior disturbance and/or the nature of the proposed work. None of the reviewed projects encompass the current archaeological APE entirely.

No archaeological sites have been previously recorded within the archaeological APE. Two archaeological sites have been documented within a one-mile radius of the archaeological APE: 31CR261 and 31CR317. Site 31CR261 is the archaeological component of the nineteenth century Fort Macon (CR0003), which is listed on the NRHP. The fort is within the Fort Macon State Park and adjacent to the east side of USCG Station Fort Macon. Site 31CR261 encompasses the fort as well as areas of former outbuildings, such as the Commandant's house, hospital, boathouse, blacksmith, lime kiln, and two cemeteries. Site 31CR317 is Wayne's Olive Jar Site, which has been determined not eligible. The site was

identified on the basis of a remote sensing anomaly within the Morehead City Channel. Underwater testing discovered ballast stones, modern wire rope, dredging debris, and a Spanish olive jar fragment. The materials were determined to be out of context and not associated with a submerged vessel.

Architectural History

Two above-ground historic properties have been previously recorded in the architectural history APE: Fort Macon (CR0003, NRHP ID#70000445) and a buoy tender (CR0734). Fort Macon is an antebellum and Civil War military fortification that was listed in the NRHP in 1970, and is currently part of the state-owned Fort Macon State Park. The buoy tender (CR0734) dates to 1941 and was recorded in the water just off the current docking facilities at the Station. It was determined eligible for the NRHP in 1998, but it was subsequently removed and shipped to Maryland in May 1998 (and currently is in the country of Columbia), so it is no longer extant.

Archaeological Assessment

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) maps soils within the archaeological APE as Corolla-Urban land complex. Corolla soils are sands found on barrier islands, while urban land suggests the presence of fill. A nautical chart from 1850 (Maffitt 1850) depicts the APE as marsh land. Rises within the marsh may have been used during prehistoric and historic times. A review of readily available historic maps and photographs from the Civil War through the present indicates the landform containing the APE has been relatively stable despite being a barrier island. No buildings are shown within the APE prior to the mid-twentieth century. While no archaeological sites have been identified within the APE, undisturbed portions of the APE, particularly in the southeastern portion, have moderate potential to contain archaeological resources.

Architectural History Survey

An architectural history survey of the above-ground APE on 5 March 2020 verified the presence of one previously recorded historic property in the above-ground APE: Fort Macon (CR0003, NRHP ID#70000445). The survey also inventoried five buildings and structures at USCG Station Fort Macon that are more than 50 years old: the 1940 Prevention Building, a 1965 Multi-Mission Building, the 1956 ISD Office, a 1954 PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2, a 1960 Dock Side Utility Building, and the 1965 Station Sign. However, none of these buildings or structures were determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. Additional information concerning the architectural history survey results is included in Enclosure 3.

Assessment of Effects

Based on the scope of work, the USCG has determined that the Proposed Action has the potential to affect one historic property: Fort Macon. However, after applying the criteria for adverse effect as found in 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1) and (2), the USCG has further determined that it would have no adverse effect on the historic property in the APE.

To assess the potential effects on Fort Macon, the USCG prepared visualizations showing views of the Proposed Action compared to existing conditions (see Enclosure 4, Figure 2) and made site observations during a 5 March 5 2020 site visit. Review of the visualizations and site visit observations indicate that, due to intervening topography and trees, as well as the sunken nature of the fort, only the roof and upper section of the third story of the proposed facility would be visible, and those portions would only be visible from the highest points of Fort Mason. Furthermore, because much of Fort Macon is below ground level, there will be no views at all from much of the fort. To avoid and minimize visual effects on the adjacent Fort Macon, the proposed building is designed to be no more than three stories high, of similar scale and volume as those already at the Station, and designed to complement its setting, specifically using off-white masonry walls and standing-seam metal, terracotta colored hipped or gabled roof. Overall, the new facility will be a minor addition within the larger built environment around Fort Macon, whose integrity of setting has been previously compromised due to the construction of a large fort visitor's center in the early 2000s. Therefore, while there is potential for visual effects on the adjacent Fort Macon (NRHP), these effects appear to be minor within the larger built environment of Fort Macon and would not constitute an adverse effect.

While no archaeological sites have been identified within the APE, undisturbed portions of the APE, particularly in the southeastern portion, have moderate potential to contain archaeological resources.

Consulting Party Outreach

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), the USCG identified parties that may be interested in reviewing and commenting on the Proposed Action and the USCG's determination of no adverse effect on historic properties from this undertaking. The following groups are copied on this letter which serves as an invitation to participate as consulting parties: Fort Macon State Park and Friends of Fort Macon.

By separate letter, the USCG will also invite the federally recognized tribe, Catawba Indian Nation, who may have an interest in the area according to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Tribal Directory Assessment Tool, to participate in consultation.

Should any invited consulting parties express concerns in writing about the project, its potential to affect historic properties, and the USCG's determination of no adverse effect on historic properties from this undertaking, the USCG will consult with the party(ies) and your office to resolve those concerns prior to implementation of the project.

The USCG seeks concurrence from your office with this no adverse effect finding pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(c)(1). Please notify us within 30 days via overnight or private delivery service or e-mail to ensure timely receipt of your communications. Please direct any questions about the Proposed Action and your correspondence to Ms. Jennifer Warf at AECOM, 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876 or via (202) 740-5948 or Jennifer.warf@aecom.com

Sincerely,

BARON.RONALD.JESSE.1077935963 Digitally signed by BARON.RONALD.JESSE.1077935963 Date: 2020.04.30 17:10:10 -04'00'

Ronald J Baron, Shore Facilities Planner
US Coast Guard, Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

Cc: US Coast Guard, Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland
Fort Macon State Park
Friends of Fort Macon

Encl:
1) Site Location Map
2) Area of Potential Effect Map
3) Architectural History Survey Results
4) Proposed Building Visualizations

Enclosure 1 – Site Location Map

Proposed Hurricane Recapitalization of Station Fort Macon at US Coast Guard Sector Field Office Fort Macon, Atlantic City, North Carolina

- Station Fort Macon
- Proposed Construction Area
- Proposed Demolition Area

Source: ESRI

N
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0 80 160 240
Feet

Enclosure 2 – Area of Potential Effects Map

CLIENT	United States Coast Guard - Station Fort Macon
PROJ	Proposed Hurricane Recapitalization of Ft. Macon
SCALE	1:3,917
SOURCE	USCG, ESRI, USDA NAIP Imagery
	D:\Fort_Macon\Fort_Macon_APE_Map.mxd

N

TITLE

Area of Potential Effects

AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60626816

FIGURE

Enclosure 3 – Architectural History Survey Results

Architectural History Survey Results for the Proposed Hurricane Recapitalization of USCG Station Fort Macon, Atlantic City, NC

To identify previously recorded historic properties in the above-ground Area of Potential Effects (APE), USCG's Secretary of the Interior-qualified consulting architectural historians conducted a records search of North Carolina State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) records, historic research, and completed an architectural history survey of the above-ground APE on March 5, 2020. The research and survey identified one historic property in the above-ground APE: Fort Macon (CR0003, NRHP ID#70000445), a nineteenth century fort that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The survey also inventoried six buildings and structures at USCG Station Fort Macon that are more than fifty years old; none of these buildings or structures were determined eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Table 1 summarizes the survey findings. Figure 1 shows the locations of the surveyed buildings and structures. Descriptions and evaluations of the buildings and structures are provided following the historic context below.

Table 1. Architectural History Survey Results

Building or Structure Name	Construction Date	NRHP Status
Fort Macon (CR0003, NRHP ID#70000445)	1826-1834	Listed
USCG Station Fort Macon - Prevention Building	1940	Not eligible
USCG Station Fort Macon - Multi-Mission Building	1965	Not eligible
USCG Station Fort Macon - ISD Office	1956	Not eligible
USCG Station Fort Macon - PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2	1954	Not eligible
USCG Station Fort Macon - Dock Side Utility Building	1960	Not eligible
USCG Station Fort Macon - Station Sign	1965	Not eligible

CLIENT	United States Coast Guard - Station Fort Macon
PROJ	Proposed Hurricane Recapitalization of Ft. Macon
SCALE	1:3,917
SOURCE	USCG, ESRI, USDA NAIP Imagery, NC SHPO
	Q:\Projects\ENV\IAP\CRM\USCG - Fort Macon\900-GIS and Graphics\920 GIS\AH_Data\Fort_Macon_Historic_Structures_Map.mxd

N

TITLE: Architectural History Survey Results

AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60626816

FIGURE 1

Historic Context

USCG Station Fort Macon is located at the east end of North Carolina's Bogue Island, on the Atlantic Ocean. It is surrounded on the west, south, and east by the Fort Macon State Park, which includes the nineteenth-century Fort Macon, and to the north by the Beaufort Inlet. Since the eighteenth century, the east end of Bogue Island has had coastal defense fortifications to protect Beaufort Harbor. The historic Fort Macon was preceded by two other forts: Fort Dobbs, erected in the mid-eighteenth century and gone by the 1770s, and Fort Hampton, built circa 1808, but covered by water by the 1820s. Fort Macon was constructed between 1826 and 1834 (Wrenn 1970).

Fort Macon was first occupied from 1834 to 1836. Capt. R. E. Lee toured the site in the 1840s and called for stabilization measures; he proposed building stone jetties to help with the stabilization. These jetties are still extant. The fort was once more garrisoned from 1842 to 1844 and 1848 to 1849. The Confederate forces occupied the fort from April 1861 to April 1862, when the Union captured the fort. From 1862 to 1876 the fort was used as a military prison (Wrenn 1970, Branch 1999).

In 1904, the U.S. Treasury Department established the USCG Station Fort Macon 1904 as a Coast Guard Lifesaving Station on land west of the historic Fort Macon, within the old Fort Macon Military Reservation. The Treasury chose the location on Bogue Banks as part of its expansion of the Lifesaving Service's protection of North Carolina's coast (Powell 2006). By 1931, there were at least a few buildings at the Station, none which are still present (Figure 2, Branch 1999, 2013).

Figure 2. View of USCG Station Fort Macon from historic Fort Macon, facing west, in 1931 (Branch 2013)

On June 4, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed into the "Sale of Real Property Not Needed for Military Purposes," into law via Public Number 193. The law stated that the historic Fort Macon and

surrounding land should be sold to the State of North Carolina for one dollar with the stipulation that the fort would become a public space. The bill also stated that the US military would forever retain the right to build any future structure that is deemed necessary for the Treasury, War, Navy or Commerce Departments. It stated that the military could re-occupy the site if National Security depended on it. A 22.6-acre tract of land from the 412.3-acre tract of land was to be retained by the USCG for the use of the Coast Guard Lifesaving Station (Branch 1999, Powell 2006).

During the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) were active at historic Fort Macon. In December 1941, just 17 days after the Attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army returned to the fort and occupied the fort until the end of World War II to dissuade German U-boats from entering Beaufort Harbor. The Army returned the fort to the state at the end of the war, and the state reopened it as a park (Wrenn 1970, Branch 1999).

The Coast Guard in North Carolina contributed to the war effort during World War II. Personnel at shore stations such as Station Fort Macon regularly joined with personal from the major Coast Guard air base established at Elizabeth City, in the northeast part of the state, to respond to crew of tankers and freighters sunk by German submarines (Powell 2006). The Coast Guard Station had few buildings during this period, though by 1940, the extant Prevention Building (then a Boathouse) had been built (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Aerial view of USCG Station Fort Macon and historic Fort Macon, in 1945 (Branch 2013)

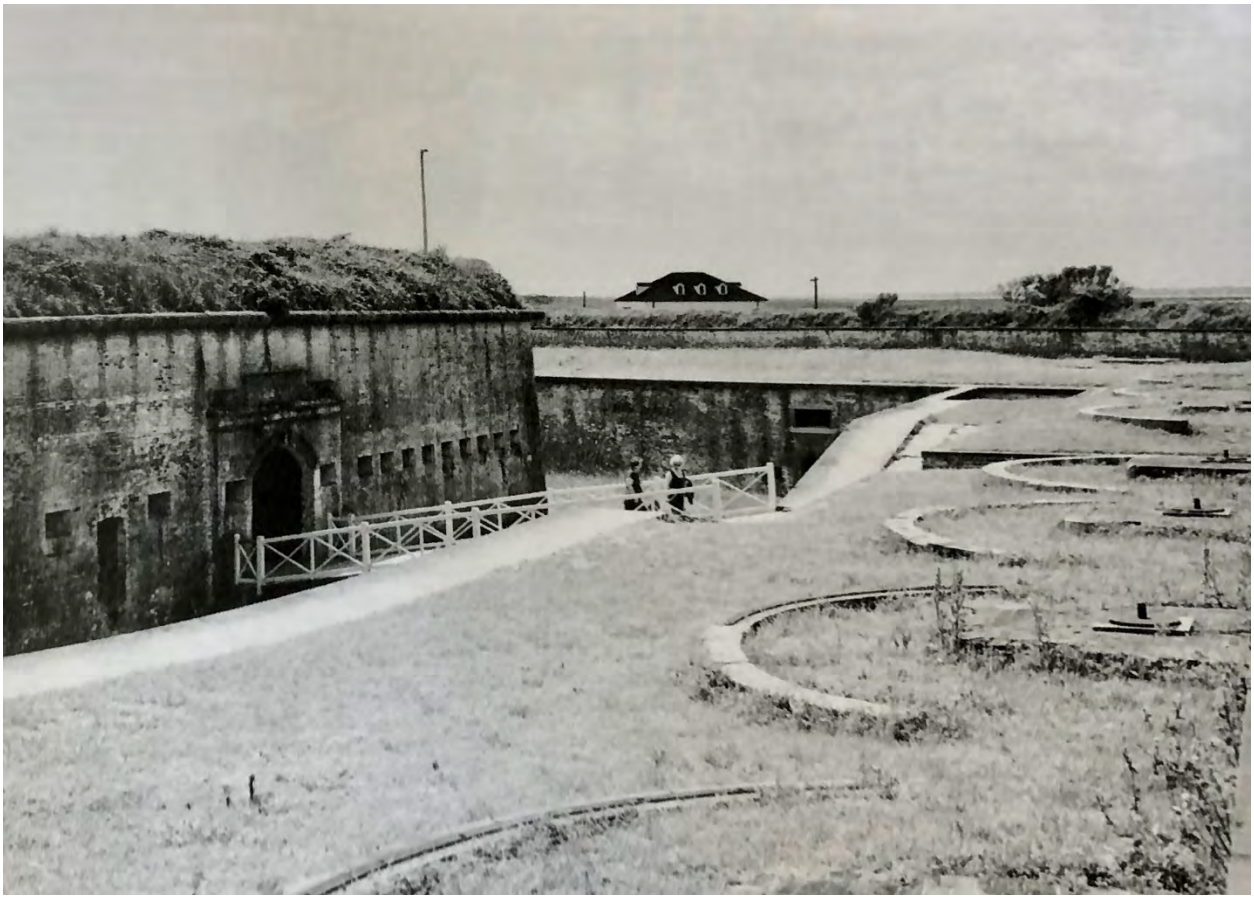


Figure 4. View of USCG Station Fort Macon from historic Fort Macon (Prevention Building roof visible in background), facing west, in 1956 (Branch 2013)

After World War II, there was a decline in coastal shipping and introduction of technology such as radar, loran, and sonar that resulted in fewer assistance calls for the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard gradually closed shore stations in the post-war period, only retaining those that were near inlets, such as Station Fort Macon (Powell 2006). Station Fort Macon remained sparsely developed until late in the twentieth century, when it acquired base status and expanded its services beyond lifesaving to include aid to navigation, marine law enforcement, and drug interdiction. A 1961 photograph (Figure 5) shows less than ten buildings at the Station (Figure 1). Today, only five buildings and structures remain from 1970 or earlier. Most of the Station's buildings were constructed in the 1980s and 1990s (USCG 2018).

Figure 5. Aerial View of the historic Fort Macon (foreground) and USCG Station Fort Macon (background) in 1961 (Branch 2013)

Building and Structure Descriptions

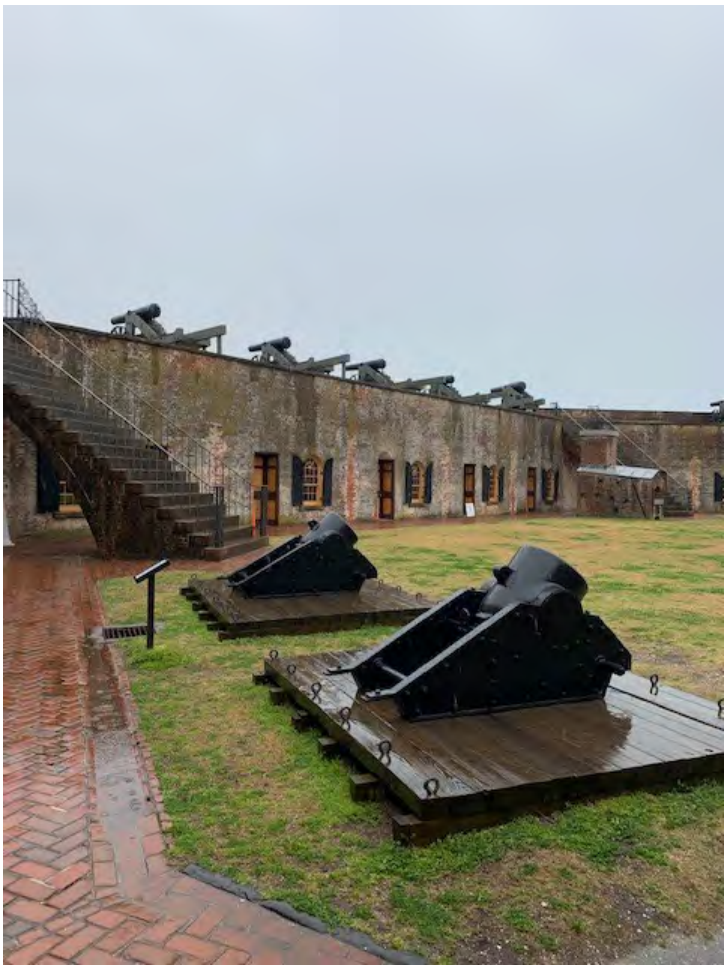
Fort Macon – NRHP-Listed

Fort Macon (Photographs 1 and 2) was listed in the NRHP on February 26, 1970 (ID #70000445) under Criteria A and C. Its period of significance in the NRHP database is listed as 1825-1849 and on the NRHP nomination form as the nineteenth century. The fort is associated with the following areas of significance: military history, engineering design and history and architecture. Survey for the fort was conducted in 1821 and construction began in 1826, with Capt. William Tell Poussin as architect. The fort was first occupied from 1834 to 1836. Capt. R. E. Lee toured the site in the 1840s and called for stabilization measures; he proposed building stone jetties to help with the stabilization. These jetties are still extant. The fort was once more garrisoned from 1842 to 1844 and 1848 to 1849. The Confederate forces occupied the fort from April 1861 to April 1862, when the Union captured the fort. From 1862 to 1876 the fort was used as a military prison. It became part of North Carolina's second state park in 1924. Work by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) occurred there during the Great Depression. In December 1941, just 17 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the US Army returned to the fort and occupied the fort until the end of World War II to dissuade German U-boats from entering Beaufort Harbor. It was returned to the state and reopened as a park after the end of the war (Wrenn 1970).

The masonry fort is shaped in a pentagon and is mostly constructed from Connecticut Freestone, with some granite, wood and iron features. There are 24 casemates each having one large embrasure, one large window, one door to the parade entrance, one fireplace, two rifle loops, two ventilator holes, and two passages connecting to the neighboring casemates. Most of the bricks were shape by local craftsman as the stone was imported. The exterior brick pattern is a 1:3 common (American) bond and the interior is laid in the Flemish (English) bond pattern with rubbed bricks used above doors and windows. The exterior is yellow-washed and the interior is whitewashed. The NRHP nomination states that Fort Macon is probably the most outstanding brick structure of its era still extant in North Carolina, far exceeding the

quality of brickwork typically found in North Carolina during the early nineteenth century, and is comparable to the brickwork found in Philadelphia, Boston or Washington DC. The nomination attributes this to the fact that master stone masons from Philadelphia and Alexandria were supervising the labor force, which is believed to have been comprised of slaves (Wrenn 1970). Fort Macon's boundaries, as depicted in the SHPO database, are shown on Figure 1.

Photograph 1. Fort Macon, facing west toward USCG Station Fort Macon with rooftop of one of the Station's buildings in foreground (AECOM 2020)



Photograph 2. Fort Macon (AECOM 2020)

Prevention Building (1940) – Not NRHP Eligible

The Prevention Building (Photographs 3 through 6) was constructed in 1940 (USCG 2018) as a boathouse and is currently used for offices. The two-story building has a rectangular plan, brick walls, and a hipped roof. The building's main entrance is on the south elevation, while the north elevation backs to the Bogue Sound. The roof is clad with standing-seam metal roofing and features gabled dormers, one each on the north and south sides of the roof, and three each on the east and west sides of the roof. The dormers are clad with standing-seam metal roofing. The windows, which are asymmetrically arranged on the east and west elevations and symmetrical on the north and south, have stone headers and aprons and are filled with non-historic double-hung sashes. The doors, one on the primary, south façade; two on the east, and one on the west; feature stone headers, transoms, and are filled with single-leaf commercial glass and metal doors or metal doors. One entry on the north end of the west elevation has been infilled with brick.

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory (USCG 2018) and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the Prevention Building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state,

or the nation. The building, while constructed and before and used during the period in which the Station was contributing to the World War II war effort, research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the war or in the years that followed. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Originally built as a boathouse, the building no longer retains the characteristics of its original use. The building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

Though the building has retained its integrity of location and association with the USCG, its integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling has diminished due to the changes over time including replacement of all the windows and doors, roofing materials, and the conversion of the building from a boathouse into offices. Its integrity of setting is diminished because of the addition of many new buildings and facilities to the Station particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

Photograph 3. Prevention Building, south elevation, facing north (USCG 2020)

Photograph 4. Prevention Building, east elevation, facing east (USCG 2020)

Photograph 5. Prevention Building, north elevation, facing south (USCG 2020)

Photograph 6. Prevention Building, west elevation, facing west (USCG 2020)

Multi-Mission Building (1965) – Not NRHP Eligible

The Multi-Mission Building (Photographs 7 through 10) was constructed in 1965 (USCG 2018) as the Shore Operations Building. The two-story building has an asymmetrical shaped plan, brick walls, and a jerkinhead roof. The building's main entrance is on the east elevation. To the north lies a grassy lawn. To the east lies the parking lot and a tree line blocking the view to the historic Fort Macon. The south elevation is bounded by East Fort Macon Road and the west is bounded by a wooded area of the Fort Macon State Park. The roof is clad with red standing-seam metal roofing. The east elevation is 15 bays wide by two bays deep on the north elevation. Piercing the sixth bay from the south elevation is a jerkinhead roof portico with brick supports. Located inside the portico is one-leaf commercial glass and metal door with two flanking fixed glass windows. To the south of the portico only the second story has windows apart from the last bay which has floor to ceiling fixed paneled windows, to the north, the bays have windows on each floor. Under the gable on the north elevation is a semi-circular vent with a stone sill. Aside from this vent there are no openings on the northern elevation. The west elevation has a similar fenestration to that on the east elevation, with the difference being the front entrance and the last bay to the south has a single-leaf commercial glass and metal door. The ell, which pierces the western elevation at the third bay from the south, is one story high and has seven bays. On the southern elevation of the ell the middle five bays have windows, and the end two bays have no openings. There are no openings on the south elevation of the main building. The windows on the building have stone lintel and aprons and are metal one-over-one double-hung sashes.

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory (USCG 2018) and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the Multi-Mission Building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or the nation. Research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the 1960s and years following. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The building is an unexceptional, utilitarian building without any notable artistic or design value. The building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

Though the building has retained its integrity of location, feeling, and association with the USCG, its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials has diminished due to the changes over time, including replacement of windows, doors, and roofing materials. Its integrity of setting is diminished because of the addition of many new buildings and facilities to the Station particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

Photograph 7. Multi-Mission Building, west and south elevations, facing northeast (USCG 2020)

Photograph 8. Multi-Mission Building, east elevation, facing west (USCG 2020)

Photograph 9. Multi-Mission Building, west elevation of the main building and north elevation of the ell, facing southeast (USCG 2020)

Paragraph 10. Multi-Mission Building, north elevation, facing south (USCG 2020)

ISD Office (1956) – Not NRHP Eligible

The ISD Office (Photographs 11 through 13) was constructed in 1956 (USCG 2018) as the General Admin Building and is currently used as an office. The one-story frame building has a rectangular plan, with vinyl siding, and a hipped roof. The building's main entrance is on the west elevation. The building is partially bounded to the south by another building, the station's boundary and tree-line to the east, another building to the north, and a parking area to the west. The roof is clad in red asphalt shingles. The building is two bays wide by three bays long. The fenestration pattern on the south elevation is asymmetrical with a window and the front door located on one bay and two windows located on the second bay. The door is a single-leaf with glass lights wooden door. A set of wooden steps lead to the door. The south elevation has three windows asymmetrically place. The east elevation has a wooden wheelchair ramp leading to the back door, identical to the west elevation door, and a small window to the north, the north elevation has two windows symmetrically placed. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash metal windows.

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory (USCG 2018) and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the ISD Office is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or the nation. Research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the 1950s and years following. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The building is an unexceptional, utilitarian building without any notable artistic or design value. The building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

Though the building has retained its integrity of location, feeling, and association with the USCG, its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials has diminished due to the changes over time, including

replacement of windows, doors, and roofing materials. Its integrity of setting is diminished because of the addition of many new buildings and facilities to the Station particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

Photograph 11. ISD Office, north and west elevations, facing east (AECOM 2020)

Photograph 12. ISD Office, west and south elevations, facing east (AECOM 2020)

Photograph 13. ISD Office, south and east elevations, facing northwest (AECOM 2020)

PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2 (1954) – Not NRHP Eligible

The PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2 (Photographs 14 through 16) was constructed in 1954 (USCG 2018). The one-story frame building has a rectangular plan and a front-gable asphalt shingle roof. The shed rests on concrete piers and is one bay wide by three bays deep. The building is clad in vinyl siding and the entrance, a metal garage door, is on the northeast elevation. On the southwest elevation there is a small single-hung vinyl window with four lights on the upper sash, the bottom sash is not visible due to an air conditioner unit. There are no windows or doors on the northwest or southeast elevations. On its northwest and southeast sides are similar sheds, to the southwest is the tree-line of the Fort Macon State Park, and to the northeast an unpaved area. The shed appears to have been moved to this location between 2009 and 2010 (Historic Aerials 2009, 2010).

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory (USCG 2018) and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or the nation. Research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the 1950s and years following. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The building is an unexceptional, utilitarian building without any notable artistic or design value. The building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

Though the building has retained its integrity of feeling, association with USCG, design, workmanship, and materials, its integrity of location and setting has been lost due to it having been moved.

Photograph 14. PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2, northeast and northwest elevations, facing south (USCG 2020)

Photograph 15. PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2, southeast and northeast elevations, facing west (USCG 2020)

Photograph 16. PW Lawn Maintenance Shed #2, southeast and southwest elevations, facing northwest (USCG 2020)

Dock Side Utility Building (1960) – Not NRHP Eligible

The Dock Side Utility Building (Photographs 17 and 18) was constructed in 1960 (USCG 2018) as a utility building and is still being used for that purpose. An electrical equipment building is adjacent to its south and it is surrounded by paved areas on the north, east, and west. The one-story masonry building is two bays wide by two bays deep, it has a shed roof and is constructed out of cinderblocks with a whitewash or a stucco coating. The building's entrance is located on the west side, with two doors, one on each bay. The doors are single leaf paneled without lights wooden doors; each has a set of three concrete steps leading to the door. There are no openings on the south or east elevations. The north elevation at the eastern most bay has a paneled wooden door that is single leaf and without lights. On this elevation there are four concrete steps leading to the door, the other bay on this elevation has two vents above the water table.

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory (USCG 2018) and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the Dock Side Utility Building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with

a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or the nation. Research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the 1960s and years following. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The building is an unexceptional, utilitarian building without any notable artistic or design value. The building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

The building appears to have retained its integrity of design, workmanship, materials, location, feeling, and association with the USCG. Its integrity of setting is diminished because of the addition of many new buildings and facilities to the Station particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

Photograph 17. Dock Side Utility Building, west and south elevations, facing northeast (USCG 2020)

Photograph 18. Dock Side Utility Building, east and north elevations, facing southwest (USCG 2020)

Station Sign (1965) – Not NRHP Eligible

The original Station Sign (Photograph 19) was erected in 1965 (USCG 2018) and is a wooden sign that reads "Station Fort Macon / Lifesavers of the Crystal Coast" and has a carved and painted image of a USCG ship riding a wave. According to the Station staff, this sign was relocated at an unknown time, and is temporarily affixed to a handrail between two temporary trailers in a parking area on the northeast part of the Station.

Based on information available, including data in USCG's Shore Facility Inventory and information from various agencies and historical societies and archives, the Station Sign is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is not significant under NRHP Criterion A because it is not associated with any specific events marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or with a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or the nation. Research did not indicate it was associated with any significant events or trends, such as important Coast Guard's contributions during the 1960s and years following. Research did not identify any associations with significant persons in history, so it is not significant under Criterion B. Further, the building does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The sign has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history and is not significant under NRHP Criterion D.

The historic sign does not retain its integrity of location, setting, or feeling. , design or materials. It appears to retain its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association with the USCG.

Photograph 19. Station Sign currently mounted on walkway handrail between temporary trailers (USCG 2020)

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Enclosure 4 – Proposed Building Visualizations

USCG SECTOR FORT MACON ENTRANCE STREET VIEW - EXISTING

USCG SECTOR FORT MACON ENTRANCE STREET VIEW - PROPOSED

KEY SITE PLAN

IMAGES BY GOOGLE MAPS AND STREET VIEW

STATION FORT MACON
PROPOSED BUILDING VISUALIZATION 1
APRIL 9, 2020

HISTORIC FORT MACON VIEW SHED - EXISTING

HISTORIC FORT MACON VIEW SHED - PROPOSED

IMAGES BY GOOGLE MAPS AND STREET VIEW

KEY SITE PLAN

STATION FORT MACON
PROPOSED BUILDING VISUALIZATION 2
APRIL 9, 2020

From:	Branch, Paul
To:	Newman, Randy; Lytle, Melanie
Cc:	Baron, Ronald J CIV; Kalapos, Beth; Warf, Jennifer; Wu, Charlene
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] RE: 2018 Hurricane Recapitalization at USCG Station Fort Macon
Date:	Wednesday, May 06, 2020 11:08:41 AM
Attachments:	image003.png

The only comment I would have on this proposed project is in regard to the site of the Bogue Banks Lighthouse, which is not mentioned in any of the documentation they provided. The lighthouse stood during the period 1855-1862, and appears on the 1857 Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart for Beaufort Inlet. The lighthouse site is on the station property near where this proposed construction and demolition would be taking place and the possibility exists they may run into the remains of its foundation during their work. What effect this might have on their project I cannot say, but it should be noted and considered.

Paul Branch, Park Ranger II
Fort Macon State Park
[redacted]

Appendix C:

Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street
Room 2179
Cleveland Ohio 44199-2060
Phone: (216) 902-6122
Fax: (216) 902-6277

April 30, 2020

Federal Consistency Coordinator
NC Division of Coastal Management
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557-3421
252-808-2808

Subject: **Federal Consistency Determination, Coastal Zone Management Act Hurricane Recapitalization Program and Vessel Homeporting at United States Coast Guard Station Fort Macon, Carteret County, North Carolina**

To Whom it May Concern:

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is submitting the enclosed Federal Consistency Determination, pursuant to Section 307(d) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 and 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 930, Subpart F for the proposed recapitalization of hurricane-damaged facilities. The USCG proposes to construct a new multi-mission station building, demolish selected existing facilities, and permanently homeport an 87-foot coastal patrol boat (87' CPB) at USCG Station Fort Macon in Carteret County, North Carolina (Proposed Action).

Station Fort Macon is located on 27 acres of land adjacent to Fort Macon Creek, an inlet of Bogue Sound near Atlantic Beach (**Figure 1**). In September 2018, Hurricane Florence caused extensive damage to four onshore facilities at Station Fort Macon: the Station Building, Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building (**Figure 2**). The Station Building was subsequently condemned due to storm damage and mold growth, and personnel were relocated to temporary facilities at the Station. The other three storm-damaged buildings were repaired and reoccupied. However, the temporary facilities and reoccupied buildings do not meet functional space requirements prescribed in the USCG Shore Facilities Standards Manual (Coast Guard Commandant Instruction M11012.9) or USCG hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements. In addition, currently, there are no 87' CPBs permanently assigned to the Sector North Carolina Area of Responsibility, which severely limits USCG's ability to maintain its mission duties and responsibilities.

Carteret County is within the State of North Carolina's designated coastal zone. Although Station Fort Macon, as a federally owned property, is statutorily exempt from the state's coastal zone, the Proposed Action could have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal zone resources and enforceable policies of North Carolina's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP). Therefore, the USCG has prepared this Federal Consistency Determination to evaluate the Proposed Action's effects on those resources and enforceable policies. The USCG has determined that the Proposed Action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the North Carolina CMP.

Pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.41, the North Carolina CMP has **60 days** from the receipt of this document in which to concur or object to the USCG's consistency determination, or to request an extension under Section 930.41(b). The State's concurrence will be presumed if its response is not received by the USCG on the 60th day from receipt of this determination.

The USCG has contracted AECOM to facilitate the NEPA process. The State's response or requests for additional information should be sent to:

Ms. Jennifer Warf
AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Drive
Suite 150
Germantown, MD
(202) 740-5948
Jennifer.Warf@aecom.com

Sincerely,

BARON.RONALD.JESSE.1077935963 Digitally signed by BARON.RONALD.JESSE.1077935963 Date: 2020.04.30 16:59:05 -04'00'

0 April 2020

Ronald J Baron

Date

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Enclosures:
Federal Consistency Determination
Figures

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
HURRICANE RECPAPITALIZATION PROGRAM AND VESSEL HOMEPORTING AT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD STATION FORT MACON
CARTERET COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Introduction

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to recapitalize hurricane-damaged facilities by constructing a new multi-mission station building (MMB), demolishing selected existing facilities, and permanently homeporting an 87-foot coastal patrol boat (87' CPB) at USCG Station Fort Macon in Carteret County (Proposed Action). Carteret County is within the State of North Carolina's designated coastal zone. Although Station Fort Macon, as a federally owned property, is statutorily exempt from the state's coastal zone, the Proposed Action could have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal zone resources and enforceable policies of North Carolina's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP). Therefore, the USCG has prepared this Federal Consistency Determination in accordance with Section 307(d) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 and 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 930, Subpart F to evaluate the Proposed Action's effects on those resources and enforceable policies. The USCG has determined that the Proposed Action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the North Carolina CMP.

The analysis presented here is drawn from the more detailed analyses presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that the USCG has prepared to analyze the Proposed Action's potential impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] §§ 4321 et seq.); the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA* (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508); Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive 023-01, *Implementation of NEPA*; and Coast Guard Commandant Instruction (COMDTINST) M16475.1D, *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*.

Project Background

Station Fort Macon is located on 27 acres of land adjacent to Fort Macon Creek, an inlet of Bogue Sound near Atlantic Beach (**Figure 1**). The Station is operated by Sector Field Office (SFO) Fort Macon under the direction of USCG Sector North Carolina, which oversees USCG operations along the state's coastline. Station Fort Macon is staffed by approximately 46 USCG active-duty and reserve personnel.

In September 2018, Hurricane Florence caused extensive damage to four onshore facilities at Station Fort Macon: the Station Building, Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building (**Figure 2**). The Station Building was subsequently condemned due to storm damage and mold growth, and personnel were relocated to temporary facilities (i.e., office trailers) at the Station. The other three storm-damaged buildings were repaired and reoccupied. However, the temporary facilities and reoccupied buildings do not meet functional space requirements prescribed in the USCG Shore Facilities Standards Manual (SFSM; COMDINST M11012.9) or USCG hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements.

Currently, there are no 87' CPBs permanently assigned to the Sector North Carolina Area of Responsibility (AOR). Coverage by 87' CPBs in Sector North Carolina is provided by temporarily deployed vessels from

other sectors, which severely limits USCG's ability to maintain search and rescue coverage in the southern AOR, including areas in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon.

Proposed Action

The USCG's Proposed Action consists of three primary components (**Figure 3**):

1) **Construct and operate a new, 30,780-gross square foot (GSF) MMB**. The new MMB that would provide space for station operations, office/administrative functions, command and communications center, medical/dental clinic, general berthing facilities, dining, fitness center and locker rooms, engine and small boat maintenance, weapons and ammunition storage, and associated general storage. The site of the new MMB currently consists of maintained lawn. The new facility would have a footprint of less than 1 acre.

2) **Demolish the Prevention Building/Boathouse, Racquetball Building, and Medical/Dental Building.** The Proposed Action would demolish inadequate facilities and remove temporary office trailers at the station, following completion of the proposed MMB. A total of 17,252 GSF of existing facilities would be demolished. The sequence for demolishing the remaining facilities has not been determined, although it is anticipated that the facilities would be demolished individually rather than simultaneously. Following the completion of each building demolition, the underlying site would be graded to achieve positive drainage and mimic the contours of the surrounding area. The site would then be planted with native vegetation or maintained in a permeable condition.

3) **Permanently homeport an 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon.** The permanent relocation of an 87' CPB from Base Portsmouth (Virginia) to Station Fort Macon would allow the Station to meet applicable USCG requirements for vessel homeporting and onshore facilities. Approximately 1,972 GSF of space would be allocated in the proposed MMB to support berthing, storage, office/administrative functions, and equipment maintenance and repair associated with the 87' CPB. No new in-water berthing facilities or onshore support facilities would be constructed. Approximately 8 to 10 new personnel would be assigned to the Station to support the 87' CPB.

Enforceable Policies

The State of North Carolina's federally approved CMP is administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Coastal Management (DCM). Federal agency actions that may impact coastal zone resources must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the state's CMP. Enforceable policies of North Carolina's coastal management program consist of the following: the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) of 1974; the state's Dredge and Fill Law; Chapter 7 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC); regulations passed by the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC); local land-use plans certified by the CRC; and a network of other state agencies' laws and regulations.

Additionally, the requirements of NCAC Title 15A, Chapter 7, Subchapter 7H – State Guidelines for Areas of Environmental Concern (15A NCAC 07H .0100-.2705) apply to activities occurring in Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC). The Proposed Action would have the potential to affect the Estuarine and Ocean System AEC, as well as the Natural and Cultural Resource AEC; thus, the USCG is required to determine the Proposed Action's consistency with the enforceable policies of North Carolina' federally approved CMP. An analysis of the Proposed Action's consistency with applicable enforceable policies is presented below. A summary of applicable and non-applicable enforceable policies is provided in **Table 1**.

Consistency with Subchapter 7M – General Policy Guidelines for the Coastal Area

Section .0200 – Shoreline Erosion Policies

The Proposed Action does not involve or require beach restoration, re-nourishment, or sand disposal activities. Applicable best management practices (BMPs) would be incorporated into the Proposed Action to prevent or minimize the erosion of soils exposed during construction and demolition activities and maintain the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff discharged from the project sites. The sites of the facilities proposed for demolition would be replanted or otherwise maintained in a permeable condition to facilitate the infiltration of precipitation and minimize stormwater runoff in the long term. Overall, the Proposed Action would not increase the amount of impervious surface within the boundaries of Station Fort Macon, thereby having no effect on the corresponding volume of stormwater runoff generated at the Station. For these reasons, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this enforceable policy.

Section .0500 – Post-Disaster Policies

The Proposed Action would be implemented entirely within the 100-year floodplain delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is considered a "hazardous area" under this policy. New construction within a hazardous area must comply with development standards to mitigate potential future damaging effects of a coastal natural disaster. The proposed MMB would be elevated above the 100-year flood level to prevent or minimize potential impacts from storm-induced flooding and overall in accordance with applicable building codes and USCG hurricane resistance and resiliency requirements. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this enforceable policy.

Section .0700 – Mitigation Policy

There are no reasonable or practicable alternatives to constructing and operating the proposed MMB and permanently homeporting the 87' CPB at Station Fort Macon. The Proposed Action is intended to address storm damage that occurred at the Station, and failure to implement the Proposed Action would prevent Station Fort Macon from achieving FOC and meeting the USCG's purpose and need. The Proposed Action would be implemented adjacent to coastal wetlands and public trust waters as the USCG's mission requires proximity to these waters and homeporting the 87' CPB is dependent on access to these waters. Implementation of the Proposed Action would also benefit the public interest, specifically public safety, by bringing the Station to FOC and providing the onshore and vessel assets required to support operational readiness.

Although the Proposed Action would occur within coastal lands and waters, it would not result in the loss of coastal resources. Station Fort Macon is previously disturbed and developed, and the Proposed Action would be implemented on previously disturbed sites entirely within the Station's boundaries. Construction of the proposed MMB and associated facility demolitions would not increase the total area of impervious surface at the Station. Therefore, there would be no changes in the corresponding volume of stormwater runoff generated at the Station. Additionally, adherence to a project-specific erosion and sediment control plan, spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan, and other applicable BMPs would prevent or minimize the potential discharge of pollutants to receiving coastal waters and corresponding adverse effects during implementation of the Proposed Action. To the extent feasible, additional BMPs to minimize the Proposed Action's potential impacts on coastal lands and waters would be incorporated into

the Proposed Action as planning and design continues. Thus, the Proposed Action is eligible for mitigation candidacy, and is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this enforceable policy.

Section .0800 – Coastal Water Quality Policies

The Proposed Action area is located in Fort Macon Creek, an inlet of Bogue Sound, which is an estuarine water that is currently listed as an impaired shellfish growing water. As a result, areas of Bogue Sound in the vicinity of Station Fort Macon are closed for shellfish growing and harvesting. Applicable BMPs, such as erosion and sediment control measures, and construction stormwater management measures, would be implemented during the proposed construction and demolition activities to prevent the further degradation of water quality in Bogue Sound by managing the quality and quantity of stormwater discharged from the Station. There would be no net increase in impervious surfaces at Station Fort Macon under the Proposed Action and as such, no corresponding increase in the volume of stormwater generated at the Station. In the long term, the Station would continue to adhere to the requirements of its SPCC and Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SWPPP) plans to manage stormwater generated at the Station and prevent discharges of oil or other hazardous substances into the coastal waters. Through adherence to applicable BMPs and protective measures, the Proposed Action would not adversely affect water quality in the surrounding waters; therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this enforceable policy.

Consistency with Subchapter 7H – State Guidelines for Areas of Environmental Concern

Section .0200 – The Estuarine System

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0205, the Proposed Action would not use or alter wetlands in a manner inconsistent with the coastal wetland management objectives set forth in this policy. With the exception of small areas of estuarine and marine wetlands occurring along the shoreline of the Station, no wetlands occur within the Proposed Action area, and implementation of the Proposed Action would not involve the fill or alteration of coastal wetlands. No in-water work would occur. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0206, the Proposed Action would utilize estuarine waters in accordance with the second priority use standards. No development activities would occur within the estuarine waters, but the proposed homeporting of an 87’ CPB would be dependent on the use of these waters. No additional dredging would be required to accommodate the 87’ CPB. No other in-water activities are included in the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0207, the Proposed Action would not interfere with the public right to use public trust areas, nor would it interfere with the ability of the public to use these waters for navigational or recreational purposes. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not involve any in-water work that could block navigational channels or adversely impact the biological and physical functions of the estuary. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0208, the Proposed Action would not involve any in-water work or utilize coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, or public trust areas for uses which are not water dependent. Proposed activities under the Proposed Action would occur entirely on land, with the exception of homeporting an 87-foot CPB; however, this action would constitute a water-dependent use, and would not involve any construction activities. Construction of new docking facilities or moorings to support the 87’ CPB would not occur, as it would tie up at the Station’s existing visiting ship mooring, which is equipped with fully

functional fenders, cleats for mooring lines, shore ties for electricity, potable water, fire protection, sewage, internet, and phone service connections, and does not require additional upgrades to accommodate the 87' CPB. Terrestrial activities under the Proposed Action would incorporate BMPs to minimize potential indirect impacts on estuarine waters, such as from runoff generated from construction and demolition sites. Since implementation of non-water dependent activities under the Proposed Action would not utilize or occur in surrounding coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, or public trust areas, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0209, the Proposed Action would pursue development along coastal shorelines in a manner that manages the important natural features and functions of the shoreline and estuarine system. The shoreline area at Station Fort Macon closest to the proposed building footprint is previously developed with ship moorings, concrete bulkheads, piers, and similar features, and there is no beach or natural transition area between the water's edge and the proposed facility construction and demolition sites. The proposed development would be removed from the normal high-water level by more than 30 feet, and would not increase the net area of impervious surfaces at Station Fort Macon. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not interfere with the public right to use or access adjacent or nearby public trust waters. It is anticipated that the Proposed Action would have no or negligible adverse impacts on estuarine or ocean resources, submerged aquatic vegetation, coastal wetlands, and historic resources. Any potential adverse effects from proposed activities would be minimized to the extent feasible through development design and implementation of BMPs during construction. The Proposed Action would comply with the standards set forth in the North Carolina Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 to preserve natural barriers to erosion and reduce the potential for sedimentation of estuarine waters. Proposed development activities within the Proposed Action area would comply with the established use standards, and would not negatively impact the quality of estuarine or coastal shorelines. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Section .0500 – Natural and Cultural Resource Areas

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0502, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) of the Proposed Action includes the nearby historic Fort Macon, which is located less than one mile to the east of Station Fort Macon, in Fort Macon State Park. No historic or cultural resources are located at Station Fort Macon itself. Fort Macon (CR0003) was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and was listed in the NRHP in 1970. Fort Macon is an antebellum military fortification that was constructed in 1826. The fort has a varied military history, used by both Confederate and Union forces in the Civil War before being opened as a state park in 1924, and then occupied by the US Army in 1941 for the duration of World War II. At the end of the war, it was returned to use as a state park. This historic resource therefore has cultural significance under this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0503, Station Fort Macon has neither been nominated nor designated as a Natural and Cultural Resource Area AEC by the CRC. However, due to the close proximity of historic Fort Macon, the Proposed Action will still be evaluated as part of the "significant coastal archaeological resources, and significant coastal historic architectural resources" categories under this AEC (pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0504) for consistency with the applicable policies at 15A NCAC 07H .0509-.0510.

The enforceable policies at 15A NCAC 07H .0505-.0507 are not applicable to the Proposed Action, as the Proposed Action area does not contain coastal areas that sustain remnant species, coastal complex natural areas, or unique coastal geologic formations.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0508, the Proposed Action would have no adverse effect on cultural resources within the AEC, and no permits for development would be required. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with these policies.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0509, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to disturb any known significant coastal archaeological resources. There is a moderate potential for archaeological resources within the Proposed Action area, but no archaeological sites have been recorded at the Station; disturbance of archaeological sites is unlikely. In the event archaeological materials are inadvertently discovered during development activities associated with the Proposed Action, the USCG would cease work immediately and notify the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and consulting Native American tribes. No adverse effects to archaeological resources are anticipated under the Proposed Action; therefore, it is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 07H .0510, the Proposed Action would not disturb any significant coastal historic architectural resources as determined by the CRC. There is, however, the potential for indirect disturbances to the nearby NRHP-listed Fort Macon from temporary construction noise and changes to the existing viewshed. Construction noise would be temporary, and minimized through the use of BMPs. Changes to the viewshed would be permanent and could detract from the historic nature and feel of Fort Macon; however, the new MMB would barely be visible, and would be designed so as to complement its setting and other surrounding buildings. Fort Macon itself would not be directly impacted by implementation of the Proposed Action, and no adverse effects to this resource are anticipated. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with this policy.

Section .0600 – Development Standards Applicable to All AECs

Guideline 15A NCAC 07H .0600 *et seq.* establishes management objectives for all AECs with the purpose of preventing pollution of shellfish waters, preventing airspace activity which would violate minimum altitude standards established by the Federal Aviation Administration, and preventing noise pollution from airspace activity related to coastal development. The Proposed Action would entail development activities adjacent to closed shellfish waters; therefore, applicable BMPs would be incorporated during construction activities to minimize the potential for pollutants to enter these waters and further degrade water quality or adversely affect the future potential of these waters to open for shellfishing. The Proposed Action would not involve airspace activity of any kind. Therefore, the Proposed Action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with these policies.

Conclusion

A summary of applicable and non-applicable enforceable policies to the Proposed Action is provided in **Table 1**. The USCG has determined that the Proposed Action, which would be implemented in accordance with applicable BMPs and minimization measures, would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of North Carolina's federally approved CMP, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and in accordance with 15 CFR Part 930, Subpart C.

Table 1. Enforceable Policies of the North Carolina CZM Program: North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) Title 15A, Chapter 7

Policy	Policy Reference	Applicability or Consistency
Subchapter 7H – State Guidelines for Areas of Environmental Concerns		
Introduction and General Comments	15A NCAC 07H .0100 *et seq.*	**Not Applicable (NA)**
The Estuarine System	15A NCAC 07H .0200 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Ocean Hazard Area	15A NCAC 07H .0300 *et seq.*	**NA**
Public Water Supplies	15A NCAC 07H .0400 *et seq.*	**NA**
Natural and Cultural Resource Areas	15A NCAC 07H .0500 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Development Standards Applicable to All AECs	15A NCAC 07H .0600 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
General Permit for Construction of Bulkheads and the Placement of Riprap for Shoreline Protection in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .1100 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Construction of Piers, Docks, and Boat Houses in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .1200 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit to Maintain, Repair, and Construct Boat Ramps along Estuarine Shorelines and into Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .1300 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Construction of Groins in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters and Ocean Hazard Areas	15A NCAC 07H .1400 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Excavation Within or Connecting to Existing Canals, Channels, Basins, or Ditches in Estuarine Waters, Public Trust Waters, and Estuarine Shoreline AECs	15A NCAC 07H .1500 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for the Installation of Aerial and Subaqueous Utility Lines with Attendant Structures in Coastal Wetlands, Estuarine Waters, Public Trust Waters, and Estuarine Shorelines	15A NCAC 07H .1600 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Emergency Work Requiring a CAMA and/or a Dredge and Fill Permit	15A NCAC 07H .1700 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit to Allow Beach Bulldozing in the Ocean Hazard AEC	15A NCAC 07H .1800 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit to Allow for Temporary Structures within Estuarine and Ocean Hazard AECs	15A NCAC 07H .1900 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Authorizing Minor Modifications and Repair to Existing Pier/Mooring Facilities in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .2000 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Construction of Sheetpile Sill for Shoreline Protection in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters and Ocean Hazard Areas	15A NCAC 07H .2100 *et seq.*	**NA**

Table 1. Enforceable Policies of the North Carolina CZM Program: North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) Title 15A, Chapter 7

Policy	Policy Reference	Applicability or Consistency
General Permit for Construction of Freestanding Moorings and Bird Nesting Poles in Estuarine Waters and Public Trust Areas and Ocean Hazard Areas	15A NCAC 07H .2200 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Replacement of Existing Bridges and Culverts in Estuarine Waters, Estuarine Shorelines, Public Trust Areas, and Coastal Wetlands	15A NCAC 07H .2300 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Placement of Riprap Revetments for Wetland Protection in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .2400 *et seq.*	**NA**
Emergency General Permit	15A NCAC 07H .2500 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for Construction of Wetland, Stream, and Buffer Mitigation Sites by the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program or the North Carolina Wetlands Restoration Program	15A NCAC 07H .2600 *et seq.*	**NA**
General Permit for the Construction of Riprap Sills for Wetland Enhancement in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters	15A NCAC 07H .2700 *et seq.*	**NA**
Subchapter 7M – General Policy Guidelines for the Coastal Area		
Shoreline Erosion Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0200 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Shorefront Access Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0300 *et seq.*	**NA**
Coastal Energy Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0400 *et seq.*	**NA**
Post-Disaster Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0500 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Floating Structure Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0600 *et seq.*	**NA**
Mitigation Policy	15A NCAC 07M .0700 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Coastal Water Quality Policies	15A NCAC 07M .0800 *et seq.*	**Consistent**
Policies on Use of Coastal Airspace	15A NCAC 07M .0900 *et seq.*	**NA**
Policies on Water and Wetland Based Target Areas for Military Training Activities	15A NCAC 07M .1000 *et seq.*	**NA**
Policies on Beneficial Use and Availability of Materials Resulting from the Excavation or Maintenance of Navigational Channels	15A NCAC 07 M .1100 *et seq.*	**NA**
Policies on Ocean Mining	15A NCAC 07M .1200 *et seq.*	**NA**

FIGURES

Figure 1: Regional Location of Station Fort Macon

Figure 2: Station Fort Macon

Figure 3: Proposed Action Area

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Appendix D:
Visualizations

USCG SECTOR FORT MACON ENTRANCE STREET VIEW - EXISTING

USCG SECTOR FORT MACON ENTRANCE STREET VIEW - PROPOSED

IMAGES BY GOOGLE MAPS AND STREET VIEW

KEY SITE PLAN

STATION FORT MACON
PROPOSED BUILDING VISUALIZATION 1
APRIL 9, 2020

HISTORIC FORT MACON VIEW SHED - EXISTING

HISTORIC FORT MACON VIEW SHED - PROPOSED

IMAGES BY GOOGLE MAPS AND STREET VIEW

KEY SITE PLAN

STATION FORT MACON
PROPOSED BUILDING VISUALIZATION 2

APRIL 9, 2020