

Mission Sustainability - Related Articles



12 November 2010



Navy AICUZ/RAICUZ
Center of Excellence



Dear Reader:

The enclosed articles are mission sustainment-related issues from the United States and abroad. They represent the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of the military/community interface on issues of mission sustainability.

While we will attempt to cover the whole spectrum of issues, we will no doubt miss some items of interest. If you see any articles that you think may be of interest to others concerning encroachment, please forward them to us. We will be sending out an updated compilation weekly.

Please let us know if you would like to be dropped from the distribution list.

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FLORIDA

Keys News

Bridge work prompts no-wake zone for boaters

BY ADAM LINHARDT

Citizen Staff

Friday, November 5, 2010

Boaters who pass under the Fleming Key Bridge will have to slow down or find another way to the open water for the next month or so.

The Navy and Coast Guard are urging boaters to heed no-wake buoys installed as construction crews make \$974,400 in structural and concrete improvements to the 46-year-old span that connects Trumbo Point and Fleming Key.

"Just like road construction, we don't want people passing through at a high rate of speed," said L.C. Gaskin Construction Co. Superintendent Shawn O'Brien, a spokesman for the Navy-hired contractor.

Many boaters pass under the bridge with their vessel on plane to beat the strong channel current during high and low tides. The construction will force some of the large charter fishing boats based at Charter Boat Row at Garrison Bight Marina to go around Fleming Key, said Capt. Aaron Neurath, who pilots the 43-foot Relentless.

"We'll have to go around and a lot of other guys will, too, but I'm glad they're fixing it," Neurath said. "It needs to be done."

Most large boats pass under the third span, which has the highest clearance, but as construction crews continue working, that pass will be shut down, sometime around Dec. 1.

"Eventually we will have to get in the waterway, and I told the [Garrison Bight] Marina that some boaters that need that 15- to 18-foot clearance will have to use the alternate route," O'Brien said.

Thus far the work hasn't spurred any complaints, said marina Manager Vince Bervaldi.

"Naval Air Station Key West regrets any inconvenience to boaters transiting the construction zone, but safety is paramount while repairs are made," base commander Capt. Pat Lefere said in a prepared statement.

Construction crews are replacing neoprene pads that absorb weight under the structural I-beams, and reinforcing the pilings, O'Brien said. The work is expected to continue until at least Dec. 10.

Construction will be limited to daylight hours, and be suspended from Nov. 25 to 28.

The bridge sees a lot of traffic, as Fleming Key is home to Key West's wastewater treatment plant, the Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School, the Navy research laboratory and heavy weapons magazines used by the Coast Guard, Navy base spokesman Jim Brooks said.

The Navy built the bridge in 1964 after the previous span collapsed in 1950, said Key West historian Tom Hambright.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

World Net Daily Exclusive

Wind turbines jamming jet radar signals

'Stealth' technology adapted to keep defenders from losing airliners in sky

By Michael Carl

Posted: November 05, 2010 12:35 am Eastern

BOSTON – The U.S. military has noticed a problem with the wind turbines environmentalists are fond of installing across the nation's landscape: They jam military radar and create the possibility that an airplane could be hidden in the sky because of the bounce from the waving blades.

The solution, however, may be soon to arrive. A proposal from Vestas Technologies is offering hope.

Ian Chatting, an official with Vestas, says the material is being modified...

The full text of the article is available on the World Net Daily Exclusive Live website found here:
<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=222945>

US Air Force

Leaders meet to discuss renewable energy projects

11/5/2010 –

Maj. Gen. James Hyatt, deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements, briefs Air Force senior leaders on the results of the encroachment management rapid improvement event on Nov. 4 in Arlington, VA. Various subject-matter experts from across the Air Force met Nov. 1 through 4 to find ways to improve the process of coordinating the Air Force's renewable energy projects.

BOMBING RANGE

Portales News Tribune

Commissioners look at closing Price Ranch Road

Writer Argen Duncan

November 09, 2010 11:16 AM

At the Roosevelt County Commission meeting Tuesday commissioners:

Appointed a road viewing committee to recommend whether Price Ranch Road should be closed. The road near Melrose Bombing Range runs through private property and is believed little used. Closing the road would remove a security issue for the ranch it runs through and allow the county to stop maintaining it. However, Commissioner Gene Creighton said the county or the Air Force would have to provide access to a cemetery in the area...

The full text of the article is available on the Portales News Tribune website found here:

<http://www.pntonline.com/news/road-23234-county-roosevelt.html>

JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

Beaufort Gazette

Chamber enlists restaurants in push to land F-35s in Beaufort

Beaufort Gazette

Published Friday, November 5, 2010

Residents can log their support for basing F-35 Strike Fighter jets at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort on laptop computers made available to the public on Veterans Day at two restaurants.

The public comment period ends later this month regarding the Department of the Navy's final decision on dividing squadrons between Beaufort and the air station in Cherry Point, N.C.

The Beaufort County Military Enhancement Committee, working with the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, will make computers available from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Office at 2121 Boundary St. in Beaufort Town Center and the Old Coffee Haus at 614 Paris Ave. in Port Royal, according to a news release.

The chamber also started a Facebook page, in which those who log comments are eligible for weekly drawings of \$50 in gift certificates from local businesses.

The chamber supports the Department of the Navy's preferred alternative to base three regular and two training F-35 squadrons in Beaufort. The five squadrons would mean more than \$300 million in construction at the air station and add 200 high-paying civilian jobs to the area, chamber president Carlotta Ungaro said in the release.

Both restaurants will offer discounts to patrons who participate in the online rally. The timing is designed to celebrate Veterans Day and the Marine Corps' 235th birthday, the release said.

"Posting comments online is the easiest and most efficient way for people to share their thoughts and support for this critical component of Beaufort County's economy and culture," Lt. Gen. Garry Parks, Military Enhancement Committee chairman, said in the release.

The Defense Department's environmental impact statement and comment sections are available until Nov. 22 at www.usmcjsfeast.com/Comments.aspx.

Background information about the new stealth strike fighters and their impact on Beaufort can be found at www.f35beaufort.com, which is maintained by the Military Enhancement Committee.

The group Best for Beaufort opposes the Navy's preferred option and encourages like-minded residents to submit their comments at www.usmcjsfeast.com, as well. Best for Beaufort's website is www.best4beaufort.com.

The Island Packet

Training squadrons a terrible mistake here

The Island Packet

Published Sunday, November 7, 2010

Suppose an employer offered Beaufort 4,000 temporary construction jobs, 200 permanent high-paying jobs and an enhanced position in the technical arena, but the cost would be to double the level of pollution in local waters? We'd reject this offer in a heartbeat. Why then should we accept the Navy's offer to double the noise pollution in our skies by basing two F-35B training squadrons here, in addition to three operational squadrons?...

The full text of the article is available on the Island Packet website found here:

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/11/07/1433828/training-squadrons-a-terrible.html#ixzz14oNfWn3o>

NWF DAILY NEWS,

Noise study for F-35s sought

A consultant will suggest what homes, businesses can do to reduce the roar

By MONA MOORE

5 NOV 10, PAGE A1

FORT WALTON BEACH — Officials from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties have taken the first step to muffle the roar of the Joint Strike Fighter.

As part of a new partnership, they agreed Thursday to find a consultant to conduct a noise reduction study of all homes, businesses and public buildings within areas that will be exposed to noise levels of 65 decibels or more after all 59 F-35s arrive at Eglin Air Force Base.

Okaloosa has taken the lead in the effort. After a few suggested tweaks from its legal and purchasing offices, the county will accept proposals for the study.

Funding was a concern for the group, which met at the county's Water and Sewer Administration Building. Mary Ann Vance, a representative for Santa Rosa County, said Commissioner Don Salter did not see the value in funding the study when the county already has a military liaison and, based on population, Santa Rosa's share of the study could be as much as \$65,000. Salter also suggested that Okaloosa rework its budget to find the money, according to Vance.

Destin City Councilman Jim Wood agreed.

"If this is as important as we say it is, we ought to be able to prioritize. There's got to be a way to do this without asking for more money," Wood said.

Jeff Fanto, coordinator of the group, said federal grants might be available.

Okaloosa County Commissioner Wayne Harris chairs the partnership.

"We can worry about that later," Harris said. "The most important aspect is the interlocal agreement."

In addition to the draft, the group reviewed the agreement to form the military sustainability partnership between the three counties, Okaloosa's nine municipalities and DeFuniak Springs and Freeport in Walton County.

Col. Sal Nodjoman, commander of the 96th Air Base Wing, and other Air Force officials also will participate in the partnership.

MARINE MAMMALS

Associated Press

Navy must halt explosives, sonar off Northwest coast if sea mammals nearby

Published: Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 6:42 AM

Updated: Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 10:50 AM

SEATTLE -- The U.S. Navy must take precautions -- including shutting down sonar use if marine mammals are spotted near training exercises -- when using the sound-wave technology or explosives off the Northwest coast, NOAA's Fisheries Service says.

The Navy requested authorization for the training exercises under the Marine Mammal Protection Act because noise from mid-frequency sonar and explosives may affect the behavior of some animals or cause temporary hearing loss...

The full text of the article is available on the Oregon Live website found here:

http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2010/11/navy_must_meet_conditions_to_use_sonar_or_explosives_off_northwest_coast_noaa_decides.html

San Jose Mercury News

NOAA sets conditions for Northwest Navy sonar use

By PHUONG LE Associated Press

Posted: 11/09/2010 12:34:53 PM PST

Updated: 11/09/2010 04:03:44 PM PST

SEATTLE—The U.S. Navy must shut down sonar use if marine mammals are spotted near training exercises and take other precautions when using the sound-wave technology or explosives off the Northwest coast, NOAA's Fisheries Service said Tuesday.

The Navy requested authorization for the training exercises from NOAA under the Marine Mammal Protection Act because noise from mid-frequency sonar and explosives may affect the behavior of some animals or cause temporary hearing loss...

The full text of the article is available on the San Jose Mercury News website found here:

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_16564982?nclick_check=1

National Public Radio

Research points to threat of shipping noise in oceans

Robert Woolsey

SITKA, ALASKA (2010-11-05) The most serious acoustic threat to the ocean's cetacean populations may be the noise from commercial shipping, rather than the more controversial use of powerful naval sonar. That's the contention of Dr. Roger Gentry, a former researcher at the National Marine Fisheries Service. Gentry is now a private consultant, and one of eight scientists presenting their work at this year's Whalefest.

Gentry made it clear, though, that naval sonar is a lethal hazard for whales and dolphins. In 1996, a dozen Cuvier's beaked whales were killed by a sonar operation near Greece. Four years later, the US Navy reported the death of nine beaked whales from the use of sonar in the Bahamas...

The full text of the article is available on the National Public Radio website found here:

http://kfsk.org/modules/local_news/index.php?op=centerBlock&syndicated=true&ID=1504

Belfast Telegraph (UK)

Naval Sonar Blamed For 33 Whale Deaths in Donegal

November 8, 2010

Royal Navy activity off the Scottish coast may have led to the mass beaching of 33 pilot whales on a Donegal island at the weekend.

Tests got under way on Rutland Island off Burtonport yesterday to determine whether the pod of adult and juvenile whales that washed up on Saturday was the same group being monitored in the outer Hebrides in Scotland last weekend.

Stormy weather has prevented experts from Britain travelling to the remote island to carry out post mortem examinations on the female and young whales whose bodies lay strewn across the beach.

Simon Berrow, of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG), said yesterday that a common cause for deep-diving pilot whales to beach was gas embolism brought on by acoustic trauma.

“Naval exercises use a low frequency active sonar which is known to affect whales very badly. Basically it affects their sonar and causes a gas embolism, like the ‘bends’. We are aware that the British Navy had been in the area off Scotland last weekend, although they have not confirmed that exercises were taking place,” he said.

In the absence of post mortem examinations, it will be difficult to determine why the whales beached but a team from the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology was on site yesterday to document and photograph the whales to see whether they can be matched to the Scottish animals.

Locals have confirmed that the animals had been seen feeding in the area around Arranmore Island since Tuesday but the IWDG was only made aware of their presence after the disaster had occurred.

“If we had been notified there is a possibility we could have rallied divers and ribs to try to herd them back out into the deep although sometimes this does not work,” Mr Berrow said.

OUTLYING LANDING FIELD – NC & VA

The Virginian-Pilot

Navy's Franklin plan leaves jet question

November 8, 2010

The Navy's plan to use the Franklin Municipal Airport for field carrier landing practice makes financial sense for both the Navy and western Hampton Roads.

The proposal to allow propeller-driven Hawkeyes and C-2 Greyhounds to use the 5,000-foot runway in Isle of Wight County would free up \$1.5 million the Navy now spends for those Norfolk-based planes to fly to Florida for landing practice.

And it would help relieve congestion at Fentress Auxiliary Landing Field in Chesapeake, the practice facility used primarily by noisy F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets from Oceana Naval Air Station.

The question is whether it solves enough of the problems at Fentress to allay fears that the Navy will someday move its East Coast master jet base. Sending traffic to Franklin will help with crowded schedules at Fentress, but it obviously does nothing to alleviate encroachment issues.

As The Pilot's Kate Wiltrout has reported, the specifics of the lease - how much the Navy would pay and when its planes could use the Franklin runway - still must be worked out. In addition, assessing the environmental impact of the training, estimated to take place about 200 days a year, could take a year.

But the plan will be good for the region, which has struggled for the past year as International Paper shuttered its Franklin plant and sent home 1,000 workers. It will turn the local airport, which now sees about 5,000 takeoffs or landings a year, into a busy runway that accommodates as many as 40,000 Navy operations, mostly touch-and-go landings.

And unlike in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, where Oceana's thundering jets have silenced so many conversations, neighbors of the Franklin airport won't have to worry much about deafening noise. The runway, 3,000 feet too short to accommodate jet landings, cannot be expanded, and the reconnaissance planes that would use it are relatively quiet.

Much is still unknown about the Navy's goal to locate a new outlying landing field that would simulate the dark conditions Oceana's pilots encounter at sea. A study of the environmental impact of the F/A-18s on potential practice sites was delayed last year, and now that jet's successor, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, is in the testing stages, expected to join the fleet in 2016.

Opponents in the three Virginia and two North Carolina communities named as possible OLF sites have waited more than three years for the Navy to decide. They will continue to live with uncertainty as the Department of Defense reshapes its priorities and pares its budget.

For now, Franklin can welcome the Navy's presence and hope services and jobs will follow.

The Virginian-Pilot

N.C. region meets requirements for building wind farms

By Jeff Hampton

November 7, 2010

Camden County, N.C.

Hundreds of wind turbines, each about 400 feet tall, could be coming to at least three farm tracts in northeastern North Carolina - including Hales Lake in Camden County - where the Navy proposes a jet airfield...

The full text of the article is available on the Virginian Pilot website found here:

<http://hamptonroads.com/2010/11/nc-region-meets-requirements-building-wind-farms>