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Navy Mayport Environmental Impact Statement – Preferred Alternative

"The fact of the matter is that we've seen changes in the world, we've seen a level of globalization that has never been seen before. Our approach to operating around the world needed to reflect those realities."
– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Naval Station Mayport preferred alternative selected

After completing a two-year Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and assessing 13 alternatives, the Navy announced its preferred alternative to homeport a single nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN) at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Mayport in Florida. The purpose of the Navy's proposed action is to ensure effective support of Fleet operational requirements through efficient use of waterfront and shore side facilities at NAVSTA Mayport. These facilities are adequately supported for training and operations along the East Coast as required by the Fleet Response Plan.

- Homeporting a CVN at NAVSTA Mayport reduces risks to fleet resources in the event of a natural disaster, manmade calamity, or attack by foreign nations or terrorists. This includes risks to aircraft carriers, industrial support facilities, and the people that operate and maintain these crucial assets. The net result is increased operational readiness.
- This preferred alternative, known as alternative #4, also involves dredging, infrastructure and wharf improvements, and construction of CVN nuclear propulsion plant maintenance facilities. No specific aircraft carrier has been identified for homeporting in Mayport. No aircraft carrier will be homeported in Mayport prior to completion of required nuclear maintenance facilities. Military construction projects are not anticipated to be completed prior to 2014.
- The EIS also assessed constructing operational facilities and infrastructure associated with homeporting additional ships at NAVSTA Mayport. The EIS evaluated resources in the Mayport area that may be affected by the proposed action, such as air and water quality, biological resources (such as marine mammals and threatened and endangered species), land use, cultural resources, and socioeconomics. The EIS also accounts for cumulative impacts from other activities in the Mayport area.
- The EIS process included two opportunities for the public to provide input into the Navy's decision making process. The goal was to consistently inform the public and interested stakeholders of the options and issues involved. Ultimately 127 individuals and organizations submitted 275 comments that were considered by the Navy in selecting the Preferred Alternative.

Key Messages

- Use of Mayport helps preserve adequate distribution of homeport locations and ports to reduce the risks to Fleet resources in the event of natural disaster, manmade calamity or attack on a Navy port.
- Full use of Mayport will preserve its capabilities as a Fleet Concentration Area, which supports U.S. based naval surge capability.
- Effective utilization of Mayport helps the Fleet to optimize access to naval training ranges and operating areas by retaining surface ship homeport locations within six hours of local operating areas.

Facts & Figures

- The Navy assessed 13 alternatives, including a 'no action' alternative in selecting the preferred alternative.
- Naval Station Mayport covers 3,409 acres. In 2006, it was the homeport for 22 ships, six helicopter squadrons, and approximately 16,010 sailors and civilians, making it the third largest naval facility in the continental U.S.
- A Notice of Availability for the Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register Nov. 21.