



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR FACILITY
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Ser 1884/0599
02 Oct 02

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility Key West
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N45)
Via: Commander, Navy Region Southeast (N46E)

Subj: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TRAINING FACILITY
IMPROVEMENTS AND INCREASED ACTIVITIES AT KEY WEST, FL

Ref: (a) 5090 CNO ltr, Ser N456/1U595362, May 11, 2001

1. Per reference (a), Naval Air Facility Key West (NAFKW) intends to initiate NEPA documentation in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the enhanced training mission that will result from Training Resource Strategy (TRS) activities at the Boca Chica Field, the Truman Annex, and waters adjacent to Key West.
2. The enhancement of the training mission that will occur will include flight operations, ship movements, renovation of certain existing facilities, and construction of new facilities. Changes in flight operations at NAF Key West would result from the proposed relocation of the VC-8 squadron or portions thereof to Key West. Proposed ship movements would include ports-of-call and maintenance arrivals by cruiser and destroyer class vessels. Proposed renovation projects include repairs to hangar A-981 at Boca Chica Field, repairs to Truman Annex boat maintenance facilities and renovations to Truman Harbor waterfront. Proposed new construction projects include an operations center and a hot pit-refueling site at Boca Chica Field. Additionally, maintenance dredge work in Truman Harbor, the adjacent turning basin, and the Key West channel are proposed.
3. The range of alternatives includes the proposed action as well as no action. Other alternatives include modeling and simulation methods, and an alternative that includes facilities improvements that would allow maximum use of the NAF flightline. Potential areas of impact due to the proposed alternatives include air emissions, noise, introduction of new personnel to the community, marine mammals, coral, and essential fish habitat. The proposed action, particularly the dredging component, is expected to generate significant public interest.
4. Please contact Mr. Will Sloger SOUTHNAVFACENGCOCM at (843) 820-5797 if you have any questions about the proposed action or the Environmental Assessment.

Handwritten signature: L. S. Cotton
L. S. COTTON

Copy to:
CINCLANTFLT
Southeast Regional Environmental Coordinator