



Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Environmental Impact Statement

Proposed Action and Alternatives

REALISTIC TRAINING IS CRITICAL FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

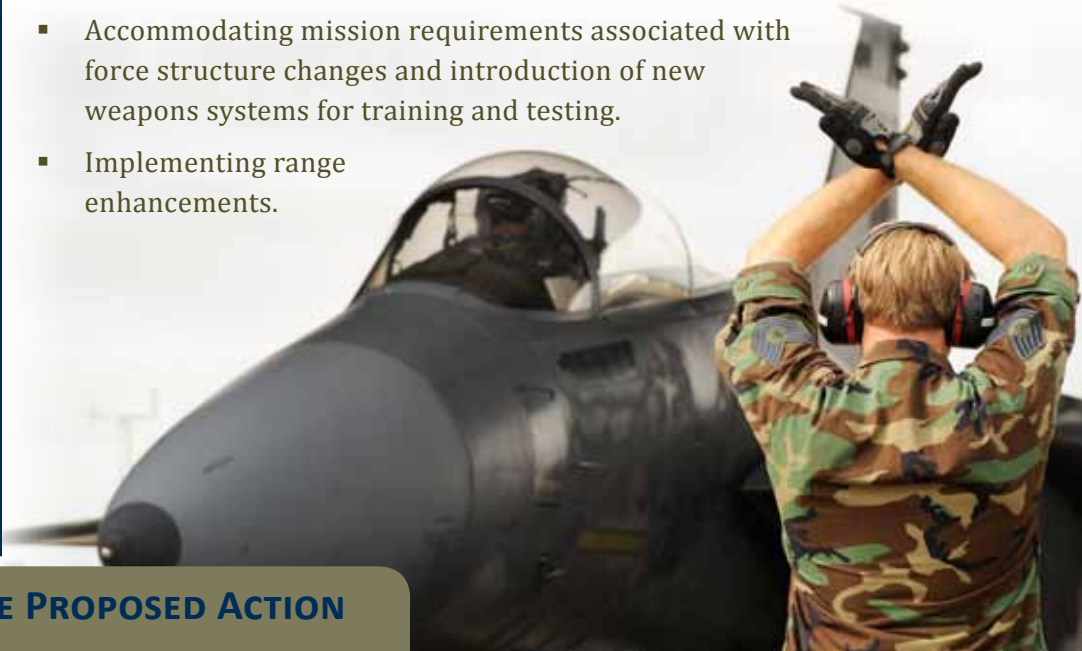
Defending the United States and protecting military personnel requires rigorous, real-life training. Conducting realistic training is one of the most important things the U.S. Navy and Oregon National Guard do to ensure service men and women are ready and able to respond to national security challenges. Readiness requires specialized locations where military personnel can learn, through practical hands-on experience, the skills necessary to effectively plan, conduct and succeed in emergencies and national security threats. Military readiness also requires the Navy and Oregon National Guard to test new and existing equipment in environments similar to those encountered during real-world missions.

Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman has been in use as a military training area for nearly 70 years. It is the primary venue in the Pacific Northwest for air-to-ground bombing practice for naval aviation squadrons. NWSTF Boardman serves as a regional training area for units homeported in the Pacific Northwest area, including aviation units stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, and units of the Oregon National Guard based at Pendleton, Portland and Klamath Falls, Oregon. NWSTF Boardman also supports other non-resident users and their training requirements, including federal, state and local agencies.

PROPOSED ACTION

The U.S. Navy, in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau and the Oregon National Guard, is proposing several actions to ensure critical training and testing requirements are met and the continued vitality of NWSTF Boardman as an essential training resource. These actions include:

- Maintaining Navy and Oregon National Guard baseline training and research, development, test and evaluation activities at current levels.
- Increasing certain training activities from current levels to support the Navy and Oregon National Guard requirements.
- Developing appropriate ranges and facilities, as necessary, to support training and testing requirements.
- Accommodating mission requirements associated with force structure changes and introduction of new weapons systems for training and testing.
- Implementing range enhancements.



PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to achieve and maintain military readiness using NWSTF Boardman to support and conduct current, emerging and future training and testing activities, while enhancing training resources through investment. The proposed action is needed to provide a training environment, consisting of ranges, training areas and instrumentation, that is able to fully support required training activities.

EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives will be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement to help determine the appropriate level and type of training and testing activities for the Navy and Oregon National Guard to accomplish the needs outlined on the previous page.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, training activities and major range events within NWSTF Boardman would continue at current levels. This alternative provides a baseline for assessing the potential environmental impacts of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2.

Training activities currently conducted at NWSTF Boardman include the following:

- Aerial surveillance
- Aircraft maneuvering
- Air-to-ground strafing
- Anti-air warfare
- Electronic combat
- Small arms live-fire
- Strike warfare
- Support activities

Alternative 1

Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet Navy, National Guard Bureau and Department of Defense current and near-term training requirements. In addition to training activities currently conducted, this alternative proposes an increase in the number of training activities to address force structure changes associated with the introduction of new weapons systems, vehicles and aircraft. Specifically, Alternative 1 proposes to:

- Increase current levels of training activities
- Conduct training activities associated with force structure changes for:
 - New aircraft, including:
 - EA-18G Growler
 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter
 - Unmanned Aerial Systems
 - New weapons systems, including:
 - Air-to-ground weapons
 - New instrumentation technology
- Implement range enhancements, including:
 - Construction of a multi-purpose machine gun range
 - Construction of a digital multi-purpose training range
 - Development of a convoy live-fire range
 - Development of a demolition training range
 - Construction of an unmanned aerial systems maintenance building and landing strip
 - Opening of a second target area for air-to-ground bombing exercises
 - Addition of remote cameras at several ranges so weapon impacts on targets can be observed and scored

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current and near-term training requirements. Alternative 2 proposes to:

- Include all elements of Alternative 1
- Increase the number of training activities over levels identified in Alternative 1 to accommodate range enhancements
- Implement range enhancements for Navy and Oregon National Guard training, including:
 - Development of a second convoy live-fire range
 - Opening a third target area for air-to-ground bombing exercises
 - Development of four mortar pads
 - Development of a helicopter landing zone
 - Construction of a joint-use administrative building

