

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for
NAVAL WEAPONS SYSTEMS TRAINING FACILITY BOARDMAN**

Lead Agency for the Environmental Impact Statement: United States Department of the Navy

Title of the Proposed Action: Military Readiness Activities at Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman

Designation: Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] §§1500-1508), and Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. §775). The Navy is the lead agency for this EIS pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1501.5 and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1501.6. The Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NGB and the Oregon National Guard (ORNG) to establish the lead-cooperating agency relationship (August 8, 2010). The ORNG is the NGB's executing agent of this Memorandum of Agreement. Since the Proposed Action contemplates activities associated with special use airspace, the Navy requested the FAA's cooperation in accordance with the guidelines described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the FAA and the Department of Defense (DoD) Concerning Environmental Review of Special Use Airspace Actions, dated October 4, 2005. Congress has charged the FAA with administering all navigable airspace in the public interest as necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of such airspace. The FAA is the agency with jurisdiction by law and special expertise to those portions of the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman proposal regarding establishment of new airspace under FAA Order 1050.1 and Joint Order 7400.2.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to achieve and maintain military readiness. This action is needed to provide a training environment consisting of ranges, training areas, and range instrumentation. Three alternatives are analyzed in this EIS.

The No Action Alternative will continue training activities of the same types and at same levels of training intensity and frequency as currently conducted at NWSTF Boardman, without a change in the nature or scope of military activities.

Alternative 1, in addition to accommodating training activities addressed in the No Action Alternative, would support an increase in the types of training activities and the number of training events conducted at NWSTF Boardman, accommodate force structure changes, and provide enhancements to training facilities and operations at NWSTF Boardman. The range enhancements analyzed under Alternative 1 to meet Navy and ORNG training requirements would include the construction and operation of a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range, a Digital Multipurpose Training Range (DMPTR), an eastern Convoy Live Fire Range, a Demolition Training Range, a Range Operations Control Center and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Training and Maintenance Facility (housed in a single building) with small airstrip, as well as the designation of a drop zone. An additional Military Operations Area (MOA) to join existing restricted airspace would be created and would be called the Boardman Low MOA. Also, an

extension would be made to the existing Boardman MOA in the northeast area of Boardman airspace (Boardman MOA, Proposed Extension). This new training airspace and airspace expansion would be 46 square nautical miles and join the current Boardman R-5701A, R-5701B and R-5701C and the existing Boardman MOA (Figure 2-5). Low-altitude flight tracks would be oriented to facilitate the use of this additional MOA, avoiding existing and planned wind turbines in the vicinity of NWSTF Boardman (Figure 2-6).

Alternative 2 would include all training and range enhancement elements of Alternative 1 (with the exception of construction and operation of the DMPTR). Due to the changing fiscal priorities impacting the DoD and the services, as well as changing priorities necessary to meet mission requirements, the NGB and ORNG are evaluating Alternative 2 without the proposed DMPTR. Under Alternative 2, the DMPTR would not be constructed or operated. In addition, under Alternative 2, three mortar pads would be established, a second (western) Convoy Live Fire Range and a Range Operations Control Center (separate from the UAS Training and Maintenance Facility) would also be constructed.

This EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts that result or could result from activities under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Environmental resources evaluated include soils, air quality, water quality, noise, vegetation, wildlife, land use and recreation, socioeconomics and environmental justice, transportation, cultural resources, American Indian traditional resources, public health and safety and protection of children. Due to comments made during public scoping, this EIS also evaluates the potential for wildfire that could result from activities under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. This EIS also addresses the cumulative impacts of the direct and indirect effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions coupled with the Proposed Action on the human environment.

Prepared by: U.S. Department of the Navy

Point of Contact: Amy Burt, Environmental Planner
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101
(360) 396-0403