Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action which may involve construction in a floodplain to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to construct a new fitness facility to replace buildings 606 and 627 fitness spaces that sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Sally. As required by EO 11988, a more detailed description of the proposed action is available below.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on December 15, 2021 by email to joelle.a.odaniel-lopez.civ@us.navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than December 15, 2021 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola  
Joelle O’Daniel-Lopez, NEPA Program Manager  
310 John Towers Road, Building 3560  
Pensacola, FL 32508
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to construct a new fitness facility to replace buildings 606 and 627 fitness spaces that sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Sally.

The Naval Aviation Technical Training Center (NATTC) has an average on-board student population of 5,000 sailors who are required to maintain physical readiness. Their main resources for physical training, located in buildings 606 and 627, are no longer usable due to hurricane damage. Both buildings have roof damage, window damage, moisture damaged interiors, and equipment damage. In addition, standing water inside of the buildings is creating mold and mildew problems. The buildings would require major renovations before they could be returned to service and the remaining fitness facilities on base are already stressed to their limit. Typically, NATTC students do not have vehicles that would allow them to travel off base to utilize commercial gym facilities.

Construction of a student fitness facility includes providing a single-story, steel-framed student fitness facility, consisting of non-loadbearing exterior walls, brick veneer exterior finish, reinforced concrete foundation and standing seam metal roofing system. Hurricane-damaged buildings 606 and 627 will be demolished as part of this project.

The Navy is proposing the action within the boundaries of floodplains associated with Pensacola Bay because the new fitness facility would be walking distance from NATTC dormitories and classrooms, and most NATTC students do not have vehicles while housed at NAS Pensacola. Alternatives include status quo, renovation/modernization, and lease. Status quo is not a viable alternative, as buildings 606 and 627 fitness facilities are no longer usable due to hurricane damage. Renovation/modernization of historic buildings 606 and 627 may be possible, but the cost will be high and future flood mitigation of the old slab-on-grade hangers will not be possible, so this is not a viable alternative. The student fitness facility needs to be located within walking distance of the NATTC and there are no private facilities to lease which meet that criteria. Therefore, lease is not a viable alternative. Construction of a new fitness facility would provide the fitness facilities needed to serve the student population. Flood mitigation would be incorporated into the new facility.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on December 15, 2021 by email to joelle.a.odaniel-lopez.civ@us.navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than December 15, 2021 to:

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