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, is proposing to construct an additional dormitory to accommodate students training at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) located aboard NAS Pensacola. 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, Florida 32508
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, is proposing to construct an additional dormitory to accommodate students training at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) located aboard NAS Pensacola. NAS Pensacola is required to provide adequate dormitory facilities for E1-E4 "A" School students. The Navy requires that "A" School students be housed in government quarters; there are no off base options. NATTC is a joint education institution. The mission of NATTC is to provide aviation technical training for enlisted personnel including Air Traffic Controllers, Electronic Technicians, Airframe Mechanics, Hydraulics Mechanics, Jet Mechanics, Aviation Support Equipment Technicians, and Avionics and Airman Apprentices.

Extreme overcrowding in unaccompanied housing for "A" School students training at NATTC has been temporarily mitigated by utilizing transient housing to house "A" School students. Before transient housing was utilized, 75% of NATTC "A" School students lived in substandard conditions. Over 600 students are still housed in space configured as recruit barracks, sharing central gang heads and showers. The new dormitory would provide additional housing for 560 "A" School students.

The proposed action includes construction of an additional dormitory similar to existing dormitories 3901 – 3908, with metal stud partition walls; standing seam metal roof; brick veneer exterior; impact resistant laminated glass windows; wall, floor, and ceiling finishes; individual HVAC room controls and conditioned make-up air; electrical system including electrical equipment, wiring and lighting; fire protection system including sprinklers and fire alarms; communication wiring including cable TV, data, and telephone lines in all sleeping rooms and lounges; supporting facilities including pavement, utilities, and other related site work. Built-in equipment includes freight/passenger elevators and an emergency generator. Sustainable design will be integrated into the design, development and construction of the project. Facilities will incorporate features that provide the lowest practical life cycle cost solutions satisfying the facility requirements with the goal of maximizing energy efficiency.

The Navy is proposing the action within the boundaries of floodplains associated with Pensacola Bay because the new dormitory would be within walking distance to NATTC classrooms, galley, fitness and recreation facilities utilized by NATTC "A" School students, most of which do not have vehicles while housed at NAS Pensacola. The construction of an additional dormitory is not only required to provide adequate housing for students, but it is the most cost-efficient alternative for increasing the available dormitory spaces to meet military mission and training requirements. Alternatives to repair actions include status quo, renovation/modernization, and housing leases. NAS Pensacola does not have sufficient housing to provide adequate berths to "A" School students training at NATTC, so status quo is not a viable option. Renovation/modernization of older buildings would be less cost effective than providing a new facility. Leasing is not an option, as "A" School students must be housed on base as part of their training. Construction of an additional dormitory is the most cost-efficient alternative and will ensure that short and long-term military mission and training requirements are met.

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, Florida 32508