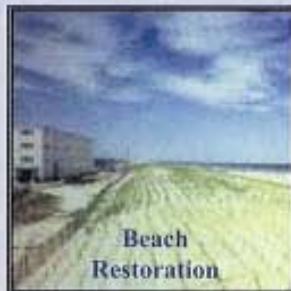


## Beaches and Dunes Protection

Navy Mid-Atlantic Region is dedicated to protecting this valuable resource. Measures undertaken to protect coastal beaches and dunes include:

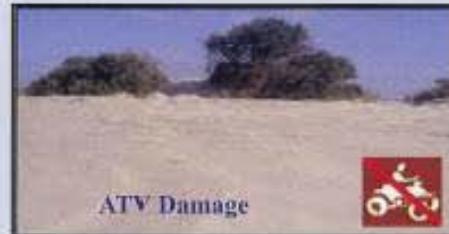
- Installing sand fencing to protect and rebuild eroded dunes
- Posting sensitive wetland, bird nesting areas, and other significant dune management areas
- Providing boardwalks for beach access
- Restricting unauthorized vehicular access
- Shoreline stabilization
- Beach nourishment
- Stabilizing dunes through native beach grass plantings.



## Training Exercises

Beaches and dunes are rare to Navy Installations. They are essential to the Navy's ability to conduct realistic training exercises; therefore, their protection is vital to the Navy's mission. To aid in their protection, training exercises are restricted to designated training areas and training units must:

- Avoid digging foxholes in vegetated areas
- Fill all excavations upon completion of the training exercise
- Remove all training material and debris from site
- Some sensitive areas including wetlands, vegetated dunes, and bird and sea turtle nesting areas are closed to training



- Enforce existing SOPs that prohibit cutting vegetation.

### Awareness is the key to success!

Make all personnel aware of the importance of the beaches and dunes to the Navy's mission.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONTACTS:

### NAVFAC MIDLANT Core (a.k.a., Region Office):

(757) 341-0495  
 (757) 341-0493  
 (757) 341-0496  
 (757) 341-0494  
 (757) 341-0490

### PWD JEB Little Creek/Fort Story (a.k.a., Base Contact):

(757) 462-8564 x 383  
 (757) 462-8564 x-392

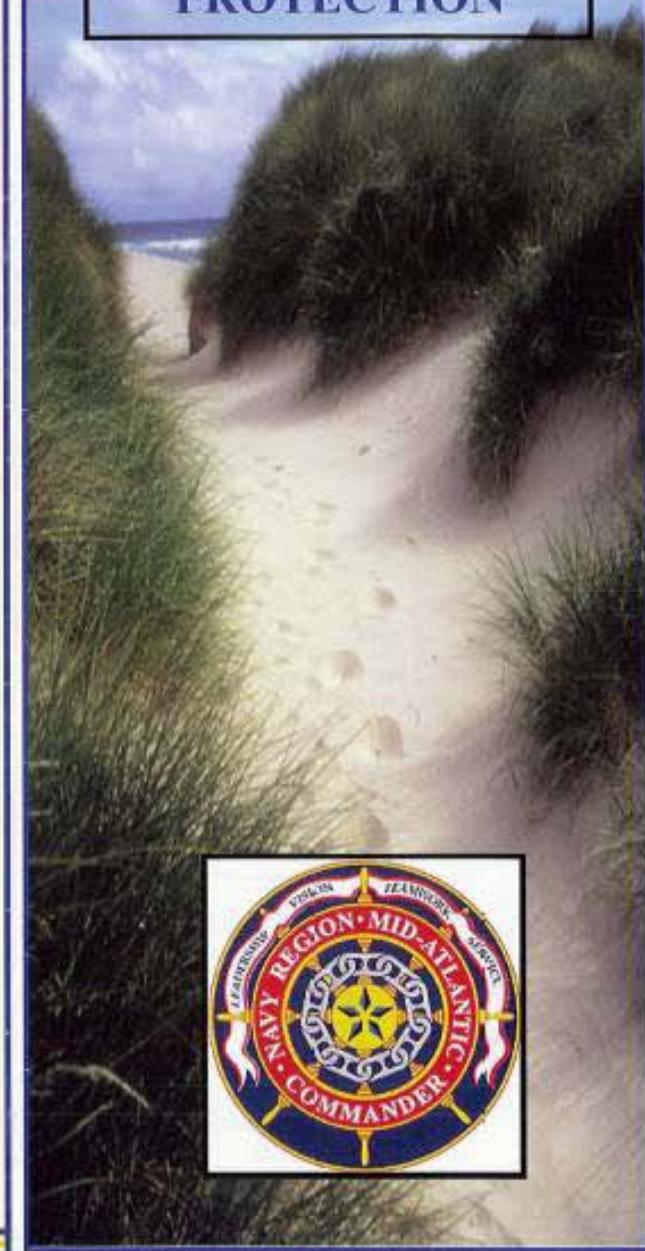
### PWD NAS Oceana/Dam Neck Annex (a.k.a., Base Contact):

(757) 433-2151  
 (757) 433-3461  
 (757) 433-3437

*To report violations (e.g., people conducting unauthorized activities on the beach or dunes; or people harassing the wildlife; etc.) or to report dead animals or alive stranded animals on the beach, please contact the Base contacts ASAP.*



NAVY REGION  
 MID-ATLANTIC  
 BEACH AND DUNE  
 PROTECTION



## Beaches and Dunes

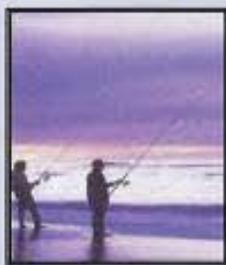
The Navy Mid-Atlantic Region boasts over 6 miles of coastal beaches and dunes. Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek has 2.3 miles of beach along the Chesapeake Bay and supports 318 acres of beaches and dunes. Together, Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex and South Virginia Beach Annex (Camp Pendleton) have nearly 4 miles of beach and 280 acres of beaches and dunes habitat.



These Navy resources provide a unique and important environment for amphibious and sea to land training exercises in the region. Their protection is vital to the long-term military training mission, providing recreational opportunities for military personnel, protection from floods and storm surges, and preserving significant natural habitats that support rare species.

## Recreational Opportunities

Fishing, swimming, surfing, sun-bathing, and bird watching are enjoyed by Navy personnel and their dependants on regional Navy beaches.



## A Natural Community

Coastal beaches and dunes are dynamic environments. Their physical and natural features are a result of harsh conditions including strong winds, wave action, salt spray, high surface temperatures, low nutrient availability, and drifting sands. Beaches form and shift from constant deposition and movement of sand.



Dunes migrate and develop through prevailing onshore winds that carry sands landward. Vegetation and other irregularities trap the sand, which gradually builds into complex dune systems. This natural process has maintained coastal dunes over centuries despite severe conditions.

## Wetlands

Wetlands are an integral part of a complex dune system. They support wildlife and vegetation, improve water quality, lessen flood impacts, and recharge groundwater levels. Wetlands are protected by law from impacts that may alter their physical, chemical, or biological properties.



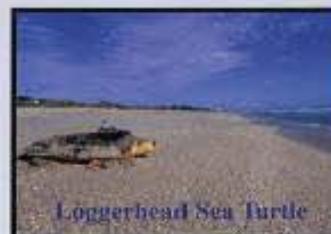
## Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant and diverse in the beaches and dunes habitat. A variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates are adapted to this harsh environment. Some rely on this habitat exclusively while others, such as migrant birds, use it on an intermittent basis. It is especially important bird habitat hosting a variety of breeding, wintering and migratory species.



## Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The Navy Mid-Atlantic Region's beach and dune habitat is known to support a number of rare species including two federally protected species and several state recognized rare species, and globally rare ecological communities. These include the following species.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle



Piping Plover

### Federally Protected :

- Loggerhead Turtle
- Piping Plover

### State Rare:

- Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela trifasciata*)
- Blue Jack Oak
- White-topped Fleabane
- American Lipocarpia
- Long Beach Seedbox
- Creeping Seedbox
- Bog Rush
- Fasciculate Beakrush

### Globally Rare Natural Communities:

- Maritime Evergreen Forest
- Maritime Dune Woodland
- Interdune Pond

## Marine Animal Strandings

Military personnel should report stranded (dead or alive) marine animals such as sea turtles, dolphins, whales, and seals to natural resources staff or the Virginia Science Museum's Stranding Center as soon as possible.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle Hatchling



Beached Whale

**VIRGINIA SCIENCE MUSEUM'S  
MARINE ANIMAL STRANDING  
CENTER:**

**(757) 437-6159**