



# Navy Cherry Point Range Complex

## Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Evaluating Potential Non-Explosive Effects on the Marine Environment

### EFFECTS FROM EXPENDED MATERIALS

#### *Types of Expended Materials Released During Navy Cherry Point Range Complex Activities*

In the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the potential effects from expended materials, including targets, chaff and flares. Chaff and flares are small disposable electronic countermeasure devices that are primarily deployed from aircraft to defend against enemy radar, or to jam enemy electronic instrumentation. The materials expended during Navy Cherry Point Range Complex activities are not buoyant and will settle on the ocean floor, where they will be covered by sediment or colonized by marine organisms.

Other materials, such as some training targets, are recovered. Due to the large training area, it is unlikely that a marine mammal or sea turtle would come into direct contact with expended material.

The following table provides a summary of the expected annual use of expended materials during Navy Cherry Point Range Complex training activities.

#### *The Navy is Committed to Minimizing Potential Non-Explosive Effects on the Marine Environment*

*The U.S. Navy takes its commitment to environmental stewardship seriously as it trains our nation's sailors to defend the United States and Allied Forces. The U.S. Navy has prepared the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex EIS/OEIS to assess Fleet training activities in the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex. This process gives the Navy an opportunity to review and assess its activities, ensuring that the benefits of recent scientific and technological advances are applied toward minimizing environmental effects.*

| DEVICE                 | DESCRIPTION   | EXPENDED - NO ACTION  | EXPENDED - ALT 1 AND ALT 2                     |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Targets                | Expendable targets include floating at sea targets. Other targets such as BQM-74E aerial drones and some surface towed targets are recovered. | 105 targets           | 130 targets                                    |
| Chaff                  | Types of Chaff: RR-144; MK-214; OR MK-216   | 6,946 chaff canisters | 7,604 chaff canisters                          |
| Flares                 | MK-46 MOD1C, MJU-8A/B, MJU-27A/B, MJU-32B, MJU-53B, SM-875/ALE are the types of flares used as infrared countermeasures.                      | 2,100 flares          | 2,335 flares                                   |
| MK-58 Marine Markers   | Marine markers are also called "smoke floats" and are used as targets for bomb training.  | 230 markers           | 250 markers                                    |
| Expendable Mine Shapes | Some non-explosive (e.g., concrete filled) training mine shapes are not recoverable after Mine Neutralization training.                       | 0 mine shapes         | ALT 1 – 1 mine shape<br>ALT 2 – 30 mine shapes |

#### *Potential Resources Affected from Expended Materials*

The Navy analyzed the potential effects of expended materials on the physical, biological, and human resources within the Navy Cherry Point Study Area. Resources evaluated include:

- Sediment quality (effects from expended material by-products)
- Marine habitat (debris accumulation)
- Water quality (effects from expended material by-products)
- Marine mammals (entanglement, ingestion, and direct strike)
- Sea turtles (entanglement, ingestion, and direct strike)
- Seabirds (entanglement)
- Cultural resources (direct strike)

### RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

There would be no significant impact to physical, biological, or human resources from expended materials associated with Navy Cherry Point Range Complex training activities.

## EFFECTS FROM VESSEL INTERACTIONS

### *Potential Resources Affected by Ocean Access Restrictions*

The Navy analyzed the potential effects of ship transit and training activities on human resources occurring within the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex Study Area. Resources evaluated include:

- Fishing
- Boating
- Shipping
- Scuba diving
- Marine mammal watching
- Energy production (water, wind, oil, and gas)

## RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

The Navy does not routinely close ocean areas for training activities and proactively notifies ocean users of temporary access restrictions (e.g., Notices to Mariners - <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/default.htm>). Additionally, many Navy training activities occur in deep water, beyond the coastal areas where the majority of ocean activities occur. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to human resources from ship transits and Navy Cherry Point Range Complex training activities.



### *Vessel Strikes*

During Atlantic Fleet training activities, there is a potential for vessels and marine life to interact. The most vulnerable animals are slow-moving mammals or those species that spend extended periods of time at the surface. The Navy has evaluated the potential for effects from interactions between vessels and marine life as a part of the environmental analysis.

### *Potential Resources Affected from Vessel Strikes*

The Navy analyzed the potential effects of vessel strikes to biological resources occurring within the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex Study Area. Resources evaluated include:

- Marine mammals
- Sea turtles
- Seabirds

## RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

The Navy implements protective measures to avoid interactions between vessels and marine mammals and sea turtles. For example, highly-trained lookouts are posted on each surface ship during Navy Cherry Point Range Complex training activities. Additionally, vessels maneuver to avoid sea turtles and to maintain a distance of at least 500 yards from marine mammals. The Navy reduces the speed of their vessels in certain areas based on the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale seasonal migration patterns. Based on the analysis and the implementation of protective measures, there would be no significant impact to marine mammals and sea turtles from vessel interactions during Navy Cherry Point Range Complex activities.

Public involvement is a fundamental part of the Navy Cherry Point Range Complex EIS/OEIS development and the Navy wants and appreciates your comments. The Navy has established several venues and informational resource areas for the public to learn and provide input.

Comments on the Draft Navy Cherry Point Range Complex EIS/OEIS will be accepted via mail, fax, or the project Web site. All comments should be submitted no later than October 27, 2008 for consideration in the Final Navy Cherry Point Range Complex EIS/OEIS.

**THE NAVY  
WANTS  
YOUR  
INPUT!**

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic  
Attn: Navy CP EIS/OEIS PM - Code EV22SA  
6506 Hampton Boulevard  
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278  
Fax: 757-322-4894  
Web site: <http://www.NavyCherryPointRangeComplexEIS.com>