

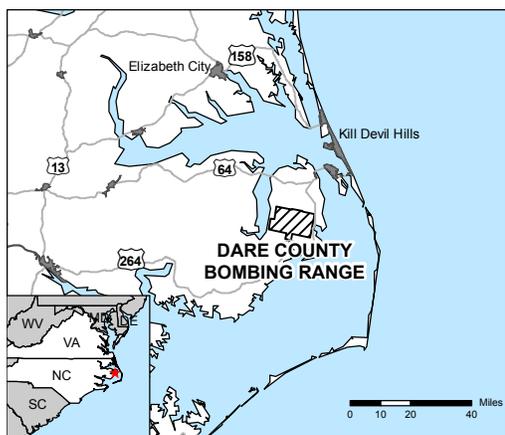


U.S. AIR FORCE :

# DARE COUNTY BOMBING RANGE : NORTH CAROLINA



**R**emotely located in eastern North Carolina, Dare County Bombing Range is the primary training range for F-15E aircraft crews from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and the primary backyard range for F/A-18 squadrons operating out of Naval Air Station Oceana. The range is an electronic combat, day-night, and air-to-ground training site critical to both installations and Army and Navy special operations teams (including SEALs). Together, the Air Force and Navy are working to protect land near and under special use airspace, military



training routes, and bombing run flight tracks near this important range.

Easements acquired with The Nature Conservancy will prevent incompatible uses such as wind energy development in areas near the range identified by range and air installation compatible use zone studies. The protected land includes forested wetlands, which are

important for numerous species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, red wolf, and area-sensitive songbirds. Keeping the range isolated and in its natural state ensures that special operations teams can continue their weapons training and Joint Tactical Air Control exercises.

Buffering the range also allows the Services to expand on current training capabilities, with Navy SEALs planning future riverine training and the Air Force developing a military operations in urban terrain target area, similar training that prepared fighter crews for close air support missions in Afghanistan. Sustaining these capabilities is only possible through partnership with The Nature Conservancy to protect Dare County’s significant undeveloped wetlands and forest landscape.



A F/A-18 Super Hornet conducts a routine training exercise above Dare County Bombing Range (top). The range includes forested wetlands and other habitat (bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- The Nature Conservancy

## FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **0**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Partner cost share: **0%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands
- Brings together new partners in support of coordinated regional planning efforts
- Preserves habitat within a green corridor

### MILITARY

- Avoids or reduces less-realistic workarounds that would otherwise limit training capacity
- Increases operational safety
- Supports multiple Service missions

## CONTACT

Public Affairs Office  
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base  
(919) 722-0027