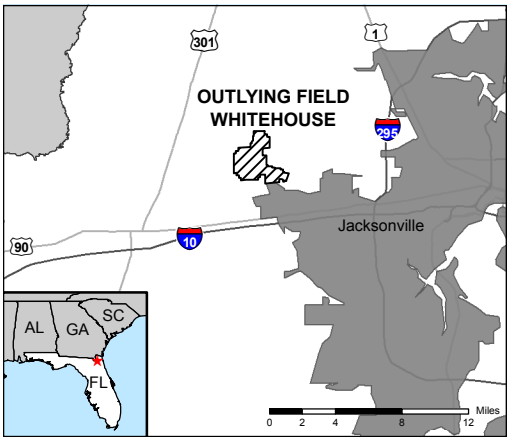
U.S. NAVY :

# OLF WHITEHOUSE : FLORIDA

**Outlying Field (OLF) Whitehouse is a critical asset for Navy air training prior to carrier deployment,** serving Naval Air Station Jacksonville, as well as visiting units from other installations in the region. OLF Whitehouse provides the necessary dark-night environment that simulates at-sea carrier landings, allowing air crews to replicate the exact landing patterns used on the carrier. Its close proximity to oceanic carrier-operating areas reduces transit time and operating costs for fixed-wing jet, helicopter, and special warfare training.




The Navy has been unable to replicate the important training capabilities provided by OLF Whitehouse anywhere else along the East Coast. However, incompatible residential development from the city of Jacksonville threatens to alter training realism and impact flight routes and landing patterns. Therefore the Navy is working with the city to protect this valuable asset and the environmentally sensitive lands that surround the outlying field.

Easements—including a donation from the city of Jacksonville—on lands within and next to high noise contours and safety zones are preserving working lands that also provide habitat for notable species and recreational opportunities. Many of the parcels fall within a greenway that includes wetlands and land suitable for longleaf pine habitat that supports species like the gopher tortoise. The easements not only provide an ecological benefit, but also prevent incompatible land uses, ensure a dark-night sky, and prevent conflicts with neighbors from training noise.

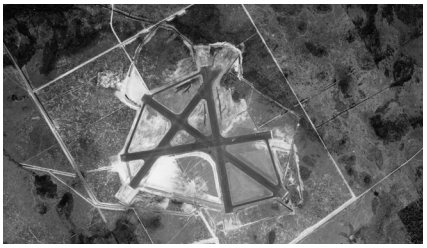
## BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands that benefit the economy
- Provides habitat for notable species
- Provides recreational benefits for area residents

MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents workarounds that would have otherwise limited training capacity



A historical 1944 aerial (top) of OLF Whitehouse demonstrates the numerous runways (bottom) that are a vital and unique asset today.

## KEY PARTNERS

- City of Jacksonville
- Florida Defense Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

» Acres preserved:
**2,660**

» Transactions conducted:
**8**

» Partner cost share:
**67%**

» Project status:
**In Progress**

## CONTACT

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