

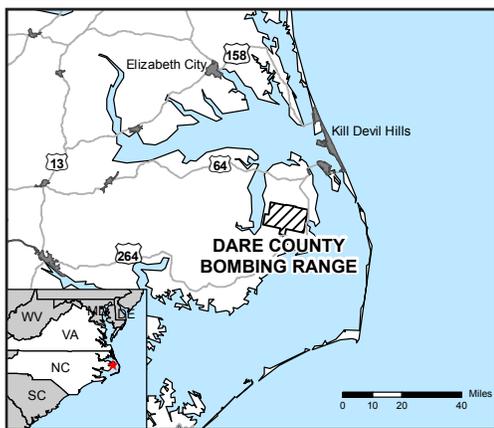


U.S. AIR FORCE :

DARE COUNTY BOMBING RANGE : NORTH CAROLINA



Remotely 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.

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



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

- Ducks Unlimited
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

- » Acres preserved:
5,991
- » Transactions conducted:
3
- » Total funds expended:
\$2.2 million
- » Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

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