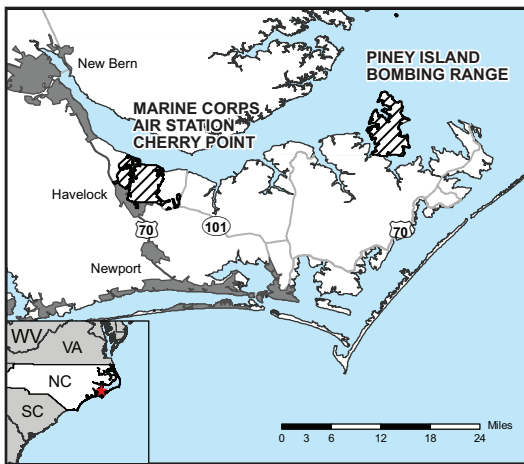




MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT WITH PINEY ISLAND BOMBING RANGE

A critical asset for its combined training and operational capabilities and the largest air station in the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point supports carrier landing practice, unmanned aerial systems, and ground maneuver training.

Its range complex includes Piney Island Bombing Range, whose land and water ranges provide electronic and special warfare training. There are no other water-based ranges in the United States so close to nearby stationed aircraft along with ground-based units within flight range to off-shore operating areas. This proximity allows those aircraft and ground units to effectively conduct joint operations.



Located along the Neuse River, large tracts of forest and farm land with water access near the installation are both desirable for residential development as well as susceptible to hurricanes and coastal flooding. Together with their partners, MCAS is working to limit encroachment and conserve 25,000 acres around the Cherry Point Range Complex, keeping that land in a compatible agricultural use. The installation

is also working with partners to construct 2,100 linear feet of living shoreline to curb erosion and control flooding near the installation.

The Marine Corps has also implemented an innovative regional approach to its installations in Eastern North Carolina by creating REPI's first multi-installation agreement, facilitating collective projects with state and non-profit partners at MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports existing regional planning, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for wildlife and builds coastal resiliency
- Provides recreational opportunities for tourists and area residents
- Preserves local character
- Contributes to the strategic goals of the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire, maneuver, and helicopter training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Preserves night flying training capacity that requires minimal light pollution
- Improves operational safety
- Enhances military installation resilience to coastal climate-related threats

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2023 | Project Status: In Progress

| Authority | Transactions | Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved | Total Funds Expended |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10 U.S.C. § 2684a | 23 | 14,168 | \$44.0 million |
| Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA) | – | – | \$30,885 |
| TOTAL | 23 | 14,168 | \$44.0 million |

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has expended REPI funds to support the ongoing management or improvement of lands outside the installation.



MCAS Cherry Point provides training on the SuperCobra attack helicopter (bottom) and bombing runs on nearby Piney Island (top).

KEY PARTNERS

- Carteret County
- City of Havelock
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust
- North Carolina Attorney General Ecosystem Enhancement Grant
- North Carolina Attorney General Wetlands Grant
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Department of Justice Environmental Enhancement Grant
- North Carolina Land and Water Fund
- State of North Carolina
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Working Lands Trust
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

CONTACT

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