The Navy’s only East Coast master jet base, Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana is home to F/A-18 squadrons and supports carrier aircraft home-basing, training, and pre-deployment requirements. Its location in Virginia Beach places it ideally near the Navy’s carrier fleet in Norfolk, offshore training ranges, and inland training routes up and down the eastern seaboard. However, much of Virginia Beach and the greater Hampton Roads region are built out, full of residential development that continues to require NAS Oceana to modify flight procedures and operations.

Protecting key remaining open space around the installation’s only major outlying landing field, Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress, and the inter-traffic area for flight routes to and from the air station is vital for NAS Oceana’s capabilities. Work by the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, to acquire easements in high noise areas and safety zones allows carrier landing practice to continue at NALF Fentress. These protected lands, which include working agricultural lands, also add to a “greenbelt” and are important for the regional watershed.

To further enhance the efforts of this project, NAS Oceana has been working with the local governments and the state of Virginia to develop a comprehensive plan for the inter-traffic area. Not only do the partners plan and coordinate easement acquisition but the local governments have also adopted zoning recommendations to sustain mission compatibility.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY
- Preserves working lands and local character
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Land Use Study

MILITARY
- Protects off-installation maneuver and night flying training capacity that generates significant noise
- Reduces lost training days and the need for workarounds that limit training realism or effectiveness
- Improves operational safety
- Provides for multi-Service missions

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