

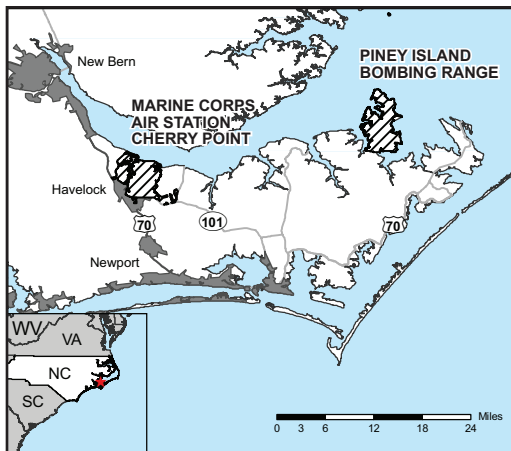


U.S. MARINE CORPS :

# MCAS CHERRY POINT : NORTH CAROLINA 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 desirable for residential subdivision. Partnering efforts aim to stem encroaching development and conserve 25,000

acres around the Cherry Point Range Complex with the support of the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, the state of North Carolina, and other partners. Easements protect local agricultural forestry use, which is compatible with the military mission. The land also includes valued recreational areas and a farm central to the prosperity of a local cooperative.

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 water supply
- Provides recreational opportunities for tourists and area residents
- Preserves local character

### 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



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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust
- North Carolina Attorney General Ecosystem Enhancement Grant
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
- State of North Carolina
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2017

- » Acres preserved:  
**6,248**
- » Transactions conducted:  
**15**
- » Total funds expended:  
**\$27.8 million**
- » Project status:  
**In Progress**

## CONTACT

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