

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FINAL

Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction



Prepared for
Hurlburt Field
1 SOCES/CEV
415 Independence Road
Hurlburt Field, Florida

August 2007

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Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONSI/FONPA)

Name of Proposed Action

Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field, Florida

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action involves the 1) construction of a boathouse for the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight alongside a new boat ramp (under separate planning) on Santa Rosa Sound to provide for storage and rapid launching of two 32-foot boats used by the unit during training, and 2) construction of a restroom facility to accommodate the needs of people using the beach pavilions and shoreline of the Soundside Area for recreational purposes. Circumstances have dictated that construction of the boathouse be, at a minimum, postponed to a yet undetermined date. Construction of the restroom facility would probably begin in early FY08.

There are no reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. Constructing the boathouse elsewhere, such as away from the new boat ramp, would not eliminate the boat launching and equipment transfer inefficiencies experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR during training exercises. The use of different types of portable toilets or additional portable toilets of the kind already onsite would not correct the deficiencies of the current situation; therefore, it was not considered to be a reasonable alternative to the proposed restroom facility. Restroom facility location options are limited to a small area that is easily accessible to the pavilions and shoreline. As a result, all siting alternatives were rejected as reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. In addition, differences in design options for the boathouse and restroom facility were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of design alternatives to the Proposed Action.

The No-Action Alternative is to maintain the existing conditions. The boathouse and restroom facility would not be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. The 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to keep its boats in an open parking lot approximately 1 mile from the new boat ramp and adequate restroom accommodations would continue to be unavailable to people using the Soundside Area for recreational purposes.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Air Quality - No activity under the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on air quality.

Noise - No activity under the Proposed Action would have significant noise-related effects.

Topography, Geology, and Soils - No activity under the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on topography, geology, or soils. Construction of the boathouse and restroom facility would involve minor intrusions into the subsurface geology from the installation of support pilings for the structures. Minor amounts of sediment and soil would be displaced by the boathouse and restroom facility, respectively. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction of the boathouse to minimize the transport of suspended sediments.

Finding of No Practicable Alternative

In accordance with the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and Executive Order 11990, Floodplains Management, after reviewing this information and considering the environmental resources and other pertinent factors analyzed in the Environmental Assessment, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) finds that there are no practicable alternatives to construction in jurisdictional surface waters for the Proposed Action. USAF further finds that all practicable measures have been taken to minimize harm to surface waters and floodplains from activities associated with the Proposed Action.

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§1500-1508, as they implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §4321, *et seq.*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the USAF concludes that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the quality of the environment and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

This decision authorizes the bathhouse portion of the project only. If the decision is made to move forward with the boathouse portion of the project a separate FONSI/FONPA will be prepared at a later date to address outstanding issues.

28 SEP 2007



STEVEN E. HOARN, Colonel, USAF
Director, Installations and Mission Support

Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONSI/FONPA)

Name of Proposed Action

Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field, Florida

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action involves the 1) construction of a boathouse for the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight alongside a new boat ramp (under separate planning) on Santa Rosa Sound to provide for storage and rapid launching of two 32-foot boats used by the unit during training, and 2) construction of a restroom facility to accommodate the needs of people using the beach pavilions and shoreline of the Soundside Area for recreational purposes.

There are no reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. Constructing the boathouse elsewhere, such as away from the new boat ramp, would not eliminate the boat launching and equipment transfer inefficiencies experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR during training exercises. The use of different types of portable toilets or additional portable toilets of the kind already onsite would not correct the deficiencies of the current situation; therefore, it was not considered to be a reasonable alternative to the proposed restroom facility. Restroom facility location options are limited to a small area that is easily accessible to the pavilions and shoreline. As a result, all siting alternatives were rejected as reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. In addition, differences in design options for the boathouse and restroom facility were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of design alternatives to the Proposed Action.

The No-Action Alternative is to maintain the existing conditions. The boathouse and restroom facility would not be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. The 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to keep its boats in an open parking lot approximately 1 mile from the new boat ramp and adequate restroom accommodations would continue to be unavailable to people using the Soundside Area for recreational purposes.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Air Quality - No activity under the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on air quality.

Noise - No activity under the Proposed Action would have significant noise-related effects.

Topography, Geology, and Soils - No activity under the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on topography, geology, or soils. Construction of the boathouse and restroom facility would involve minor intrusions into the subsurface geology from the installation of support pilings for the structures. Minor amounts of sediment and soil would be displaced by the boathouse and restroom facility, respectively. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction of the boathouse to minimize the transport of suspended sediments.

Water Resources - Construction of the boathouse would have no effect on groundwater. Boathouse construction activities would temporarily impact surface water through increased turbidity, which would be controlled using turbidity curtains. Construction of the

restroom facility may cause a minor, temporary impact to the surficial groundwater table; however, the potential impact would not be significant. The small impervious area created by the proposed restroom facility would not have a significant effect on flood hazard.

Biological Resources – The Proposed Action would have no effect on wetlands. Boathouse and restroom facility construction would create minor, temporary disturbances to wildlife, and in the case of the boathouse, construction may temporarily disturb protected species known to occur in the Sound. The small amount of soil and sediment displacement associated with these proposed structures would not significantly impact wildlife, vegetation, or protected species.

Land Use – The constructed boathouse would have no effect on land use. The constructed restroom facility would have a positive impact on land use through enhancement of recreational experiences.

Environmental Management – No activity under the Proposed Action would have an effect on environmental management.

Cultural Resources - No activity under the Proposed Action would have an effect on cultural resources.

Transportation – Construction of a boathouse would have a minor positive impact on transportation by reducing the repeated transport of large trailered boats from the existing storage area to the boat ramp during training exercises. Construction of the restroom facility would have no significant impact on transportation.

Socioeconomics – The Proposed Action would have a minor positive impact on socioeconomics.

Environmental Justice and Protection of Children – No activity under the Proposed Action would have an effect on Environmental Justice or Protection of Children.

Coastal Zone Management - A Federal Agency Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination was made, finding that the activities under the Proposed Action are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP).

Cumulative Impacts – When coupled with foreseeable planned development projects and military mission activities, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in negative cumulative impacts. The Proposed Action would have positive cumulative effects on training and recreation at Hurlburt Field.

Finding of No Practicable Alternative

In accordance with the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and Executive Order 11990, Floodplains Management, after reviewing this information and considering the environmental resources and other pertinent factors analyzed in the Environmental Assessment, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) finds that there are no practicable alternatives to construction in jurisdictional surface waters for the Proposed Action. USAF further finds that all practicable measures have been taken to minimize harm to surface waters and floodplains from activities associated with the Proposed Action.

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§1500-1508, as they implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §4321, *et seq.*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the USAF concludes that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the quality of the environment and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

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Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction
Hurlburt Field, Florida

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

August 2007

Prepared for
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Executive Summary

Introduction

Hurlburt Field, a United States Air Force (USAF) installation located in the Florida panhandle between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach, plans to conduct the following two infrastructure improvement projects in the Soundside Area of the installation:

- Construct boathouse
- Construct restroom facility

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic impacts associated with these infrastructure improvement projects. The potential impacts on the resources covered by this EA are assessed for the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative of maintaining existing conditions.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations, related Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989), and Department of Defense (DoD) directives.

Proposed Actions and Alternatives

Construct Boathouse

The purpose of the proposed boathouse is to accommodate the boat launching and storage needs of the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight. The boathouse is proposed to be adjoined to the boardwalk of a boat ramp that Hurlburt Field plans to construct for the 1 SOSS/OSR. The boathouse is needed to support the training activities of the 1 SOSS/OSR, which does not have a boat storage facility. Currently the 32-foot boats are parked on trailers at a site located approximately 1.0 mile from the new boat ramp and consists of an open parking lot that provides no covered storage. The 1 SOSS/OSR must transport its two boats from this site each time training activities are scheduled. Construction of the new boat ramp, covered under separate NEPA documentation, will alleviate the launching difficulties experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR. The proposed boathouse would further improve the launching capability of the 1 SOSS/OSR and provide the unit with more suitable boat and equipment storage accommodations.

There is no reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action. The purpose of the proposed boathouse, and its being adjoined to the boardwalk of the boat ramp, is to accommodate the boat launching and storage needs of the 1 SOSS/OSR. Constructing the boathouse away from the new boat ramp would not eliminate the current launching inefficiencies during training exercises. Additional time and effort would be required to transport the boats from the boat ramp to the boathouse if they are not collocated. As a result, the alternative of constructing the boathouse in a different location was rejected as a reasonable alternative to

the Proposed Action. Also, differences in design options for the boathouse were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of a design alternative to the Proposed Action.

The No-Action Alternative is to maintain existing conditions. Under the No-Action Alternative, the boathouse would not be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. The 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to keep its boats in an open parking lot located approximately 1.0 mile from the new boat ramp that will be constructed.

Construct Restroom Facility

The purpose of the proposed restroom facility is to accommodate the restroom needs of people visiting the Soundside Area. The Santa Rosa Sound shoreline (in the area where the restroom facility is proposed) is used for recreation. Currently, the area has only a portable toilet (port-o-let) for people using the beach pavilions and shoreline. The proposed restroom facility is needed to provide more adequate restroom accommodations for users of the area. The restroom facility would be handicap accessible and would provide showers and more sanitary conditions than the current situation.

There is no reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action. . The use of different types of portable toilets or additional portable toilets of the kind already onsite would not correct the deficiencies of the current situation; therefore, it was not considered to be a reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action. Although the exact location of the facility within the recreational area could be moved, adjustments to the location within the relatively small area were not considered to be reasonable siting alternatives to the Proposed Action. Also, differences in design options for the restroom facility were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of a design alternative to the Proposed Action.

The No-Action Alternative is to maintain existing conditions. Under the No-Action Alternative, a restroom facility would not be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. Adequate restroom accommodations would continue to be unavailable to people using the recreational area.

Environmental Consequences

The potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic effects of the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative are summarized in Table ES-1.

TABLE ES-1
Comparative Impact Summary
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Resource Area	Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Air Quality		
Construct Boathouse	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, short-term impact from fugitive dust and construction vehicle exhaust emissions during construction. Fugitive dust would be controlled by best management practices (BMPs) such as periodic watering of stockpiled material.	NO EFFECT

TABLE ES-1
Comparative Impact Summary
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Resource Area	Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Construct Restroom Facility	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, short-term impact from fugitive dust and construction vehicle exhaust emissions during construction. Fugitive dust would be controlled by BMPs such as periodic watering of cleared areas and stockpiled material.	NO EFFECT
Noise		
Construct Boathouse	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Short-term increase in noise levels during construction. Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates of noise dissipation, noise levels during construction would be below the residential acceptable level in the nearest military residential area and nearest residential area outside installation.	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Short-term increase in noise levels during construction. Based on EPA estimates of noise dissipation, noise levels during construction would be below the residential acceptable level in the nearest military residential area and nearest residential area outside installation.	NO EFFECT
Topography, Geology, and Soils		
Construct Boathouse		
Topography	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Geology	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Pilings (approximately 45) supporting the boathouse would be installed 15 to 18 feet below the sea floor.	NO EFFECT
Soils	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Approximately 20 square feet of sediment would be displaced by installation of support pilings. BMPs, such as use of turbidity curtains would be implemented during construction.	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility		
Topography	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Slight alteration from minor land contouring.	NO EFFECT
Geology	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Pilings supporting the restroom facility would be installed approximately 15 feet below grade.	NO EFFECT
Soils	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Small area of soil would be displaced in footprint of restroom facility, as well as installation of subsurface electric, water, and sewer utilities connections.	NO EFFECT

TABLE ES-1
Comparative Impact Summary
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Resource Area	Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Water Resources		
Construct Boathouse		
Groundwater	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Surface Water	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Temporary impact to surface water quality during construction. Approximately 20 square feet of jurisdictional surface waters would be impacted by boathouse. BMPs, such as use of silt fences, hay bales, and turbidity curtains, would be implemented during construction.	NO EFFECT
Flood Hazard	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility		
Groundwater	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, temporary impact to surficial water table during construction.	NO EFFECT
Surface Water	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Flood Hazard	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Relatively small increase in impervious area would not affect flooding potential associated with storm surges.	NO EFFECT
Biological Resources		
Construct Boathouse		
Wetlands	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Vegetation	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor amount of aquatic vegetation would be displaced by boathouse.	NO EFFECT
Wildlife	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor amount of aquatic habitat would be displaced by pilings of boathouse.	NO EFFECT
Protected Species	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, temporary disturbance to state listed species during construction. Small amount of foraging habitat would be impacted. No federally listed species within project area.	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility		
Wetlands	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Vegetation	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor amount of vegetation would be displaced in footprint of restroom facility. Groundcover vegetation removed from utilities trench along Marina Road will be re-established after construction.	NO EFFECT

TABLE ES-1
Comparative Impact Summary
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Resource Area	Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Wildlife	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, temporary disturbance to wildlife during construction. Disturbed, low-quality habitat would be displaced in footprint of restroom facility.	NO EFFECT
Protected Species	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, temporary disturbance to state listed species that may be nearby during construction. No federally listed species within project area.	NO EFFECT
Land Use		
Construct Boathouse	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	POSITIVE IMPACT Recreational experience at the beach and the picnic pavilions would be enhanced.	NEGATIVE IMPACT Adequate restroom accommodations would continue to be unavailable to beachgoers.
Environmental Management		
Construct Boathouse	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Cultural Resources		
Construct Boathouse	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Transportation		
Construct Boathouse	MINOR POSITIVE IMPACT The new boathouse would enable the 1 SOSS/OSR to continually store its boats at the planned new ramp, eliminating the need to transport them from the existing storage area to the deployment area.	MINOR NEGATIVE IMPACT The 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to repeatedly transport their trailered boats from the existing onbase storage area to the new boat ramp.
Construct Restroom Facility	NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Minor, short-term disruption of vehicular use of roads during construction.	NO EFFECT
Socioeconomics		
Construct Boathouse	MINOR POSITIVE IMPACT Minor, short-term benefit to local economy from construction-related expenditures.	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	MINOR POSITIVE IMPACT Minor, short-term benefit to local economy from construction-related expenditures.	NO EFFECT

TABLE ES-1
Comparative Impact Summary
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Resource Area	Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children		
Construct Boathouse	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
Construct Restroom Facility	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAFES	Army and Air Force and Exchange Service
AFB	Air Force Base
AFCESA	Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFPD	Air Force Policy Directive
AFSOC	Air Force Special Operations Command
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
AOC	Area of Concern
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AST	aboveground storage tanks
BG	Block Group
bls	below land surface
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
SOCES/CEV	Special Operations Civil Engineering Squadron/Environmental Flight
CEQ	President's Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CT	Census Tract
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Costal Zone Management Act of 1972
dba	decibels on the A-weighted scale
DNL	Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level
DoD	Department of Defense
E	endangered
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program

ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
FCMP	Florida Costal Management Program
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIFCFS	Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONPA	Finding of No Practical Alternative
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
gpm	gallons per minute
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
MOGAS	motor gasoline
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAD	no area designated
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	nitrogen oxide
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O ₃	ozone
Pb	lead
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter
PM _{2.5} diameter	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter
POL	petroleum, oils, and lubricants
ppt	parts per thousand
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SOF	Special Operations Forces
SOW	Special Operations Wing

SO _x	sulfur oxide
SSC	species of special concern
T	threatened
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VOC	volatile organic compound

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Errata Sheet for Agency and Public Reviews

The draft version of the referenced Environmental Assessment (EA) was reviewed for federal consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program through the Florida State Clearinghouse from June 5 through July 27, 2007.

EA project information was also sent to other agencies for review and comment, including the State Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The draft version of the EA was available for public review and comment from June 10 through July 9, 2007.

Complete correspondence with agencies and the public is provided in **Appendices A and B**.

Florida State Clearinghouse Comment Evaluation

After evaluating all comments received, the Florida State Clearinghouse issued the following statement:

“Based on the information contained in the draft environmental assessment (DEA) and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed federal activities are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The agency must, however, address the issues identified by our reviewing agencies prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.”

Additional Agency Review

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Comments: “The DEP Northwest District office in Pensacola advises that the proposed boathouse will require a Wetland Resource Permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization prior to construction. Care should be taken to insure that the facility will not be located over seagrasses and construction techniques should involve the use of turbidity screens or other methods to contain turbidity during construction. Please contact Mr. Larry O'Donnell at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1129 for further permitting details and assistance.

“The restroom facility and associated upland impervious area may also require issuance of a stormwater permit. Please contact Mr. Cliff Street at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1134 for information regarding state stormwater treatment and permitting requirements.

“In addition, the Air Force is advised to submit further information on the wastewater and drinking water facilities associated with the boathouse and restroom, as permits may be required from the DEP or Okaloosa County Health Department.”

Responses: Hurlburt Field acknowledges that the proposed boathouse will require a Wetlands Resource Permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization. These will be applied for at the time of project initiation. There are no seagrasses at the proposed boathouse site; however, construction techniques will include the use of turbidity screens and other methods as necessary to contain turbidity.

Hurlburt Field acknowledges that stormwater may be generated from the restroom facility, though it is expected to be low since the facility will be elevated above grade by pilings. Mr. Cliff Street will be contacted regarding requirements for a stormwater permit for this facility.

The restroom facility will be connected to a drinking water supply to support the shower and sanitary services. The source of drinking water for the base is from deep, potable water wells. Wastewater from the restroom facility will be routed to the Hurlburt Field marina area for connection to the main wastewater line. Wastewater from this area is then routed to the Hurlburt Field Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. The boathouse will not be connected to drinking water and wastewater services. The connection of water and wastewater services to the restroom facility will require permits that will be applied for at the time of project initiation.

Florida Department of State

Comments: “The Department of State (DOS) advises that proposed undertaking is not likely to affect historic properties, provided that the Air Force makes contingency plans in case fortuitous finds or unanticipated discoveries are uncovered during ground disturbing activities. If any prehistoric or historic artifacts are encountered during construction, all ground disturbing activities should cease and the Air Force should contact the DOS Division of Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333 for further instructions. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.”

Response: Hurlburt Field agrees to comply with the DOS contingency plans summarized in the previous comments and detailed in the DOS letter dated July 16, 2007 (Appendix A).

West Florida Regional Planning Council

Comments: The proposed project is for 1) the construction of a boathouse for the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight along a new ramp (under separate planning) on Santa Rosa Sound to provide for storage and rapid launching of two 32-foot boats used by the unit during training, and 2) the construction of a restroom facility to accommodate the needs of people using the beach pavilions and shoreline of the Soundside area for recreational purposes.

Based on a review of the proposal and a resource of interest report, it appears that the proposed boathouse construction will terminate in seagrass beds thus allowing for mooring

to occur over said seagrass beds. In addition, this area might be a nesting ground for Loggerhead and Green Sea Turtles.

In order to fully evaluate your project please respond to the following:

1. Explain the need for additional dolphins in the water as shown on Figure 2-2. Dolphin placement appears to be in seagrass beds.
2. Please explain the configuration associated with the proposed structure (i.e., distance between two access piers). Will the slips shown on the drawing (Figure 2-2) be covered? Based on the information provided, it appears the structure will terminate in seagrass beds, thus allowing the mooring of vessels over seagrasses.
3. What is the water depths associated with the proposed project site? Has a seagrass survey been conducted at the site?
4. Will the existing structure (T-shaped platform; Figure 3-1) remain on site?

Response: Amy Gilmore of Hurlburt Field contacted Mary Gutierrez, Environmental Planner for the West Florida Regional Planning Council, on August 10, 2007, to review the concerns regarding potential seagrass beds and turtle nesting grounds in the project area. The following correspondence from Hurlburt Field summarizes that discussion.

Ms. Gutierrez,

As we discussed, Hurlburt's Natural Resource program manager, Philip Pruitt, has noted that the presence of Loggerhead and Green Sea Turtle nesting grounds at the proposed construction location has never been indicated by any of the current or historic Threatened and Endangered Species surveys for the base. The most recent one was conducted by Florida Natural Areas Inventory representatives in 2003. An updated survey is being coordinated at this time, but in the interim, Mr. Pruitt and I did a visual survey of the area and found no evidence of seagrass beds or turtle nesting areas. To make it from the Gulf of Mexico to the area in question (which is on Santa Rosa Sound) a turtle would have to traverse over 1,700 feet of sandy barrier island or over 10 miles of Santa Rosa Sound from the nearest pass to the Gulf, both are highly unlikely. This, coupled with the survey results, indicate that potential is not high for this project to have any effect upon Loggerhead or Green Sea Turtles.

In addition, base managers have decided to go forward only with building the restroom facility addressed in the environmental assessment. The boathouse project has been cancelled.

After speaking with you, I believe this additional information alleviates your concerns with the Environmental Assessment. Please do let me know if this is correct.

Amy Gilmore

1 SOCES/CEV

Response: Mary F. Gutierrez, Environmental Planner for the West Florida Regional Planning Council, replied to Amy Gilmore on August 14, 2007:

Ms. Gilmore,

Thank-you for the additional information. This information does in fact alleviate any concerns associated with my initial environmental assessment of the proposed project.

Thank-you once again for your assistance.

Mary F. Gutierrez
Environmental Planner/BARC Staff"

The following responses address the specific questions included in the previous comments from the West Florida Regional Planning Council.

Response to Comment 1: The dolphins shown in Figure 2-2 currently exist in the Sound. No new dolphins are proposed for this project.

Response to Comment 2: The distance between the two access piers is 32 feet. The boat slips will be covered by a tin roof. The boathouse structure will not terminate in seagrass beds, as described previously.

Response to Comment 3: The water depths at the proposed boathouse site range from 3 to 10 feet. The lack of seagrass beds at the project site was described previously.

Response to Comment 4: The T-shaped platform shown in Figure 3-1 will remain in place.

Other Agency Review

All other reviewing agencies, coordinated through the Florida State Clearinghouse, released the EA without comment.

Separate Agency Reviews

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Comments: No comments were received.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Comments: On July 19, 2007, USFWS responded with the following:

"The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act."

National Marine Fisheries Service.

Comments: No comments were received.

Public Review

Comments: No public comments were received during the public review period.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

Hurlburt Field is a United States Air Force (USAF) installation located in the Florida panhandle between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach. The installation covers 6,643 acres in southern Okaloosa County (Figure 1-1). Hurlburt Field was originally designated as Eglin Auxiliary Field No. 9, one of the original pilot and gunnery training fields built in the 1940s. Hurlburt Field's mission currently falls primarily under the USAF Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and the 1st Special Operations Wing (SOW). AFSOC organizes, administers, trains, equips, and operates the USAF Special Operations Forces (SOF). The 1st SOW specializes in unconventional warfare with specially trained and equipped forces. Operation and maintenance of the installation are provided by the 1st SOW. The 1st SOW is also responsible for the facilities in support of assigned, attached, and tenant units as directed.

USAF plans to conduct the following two infrastructure improvement projects in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field between the marina and the petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL) pier:

- Construct boathouse
- Construct restroom facility

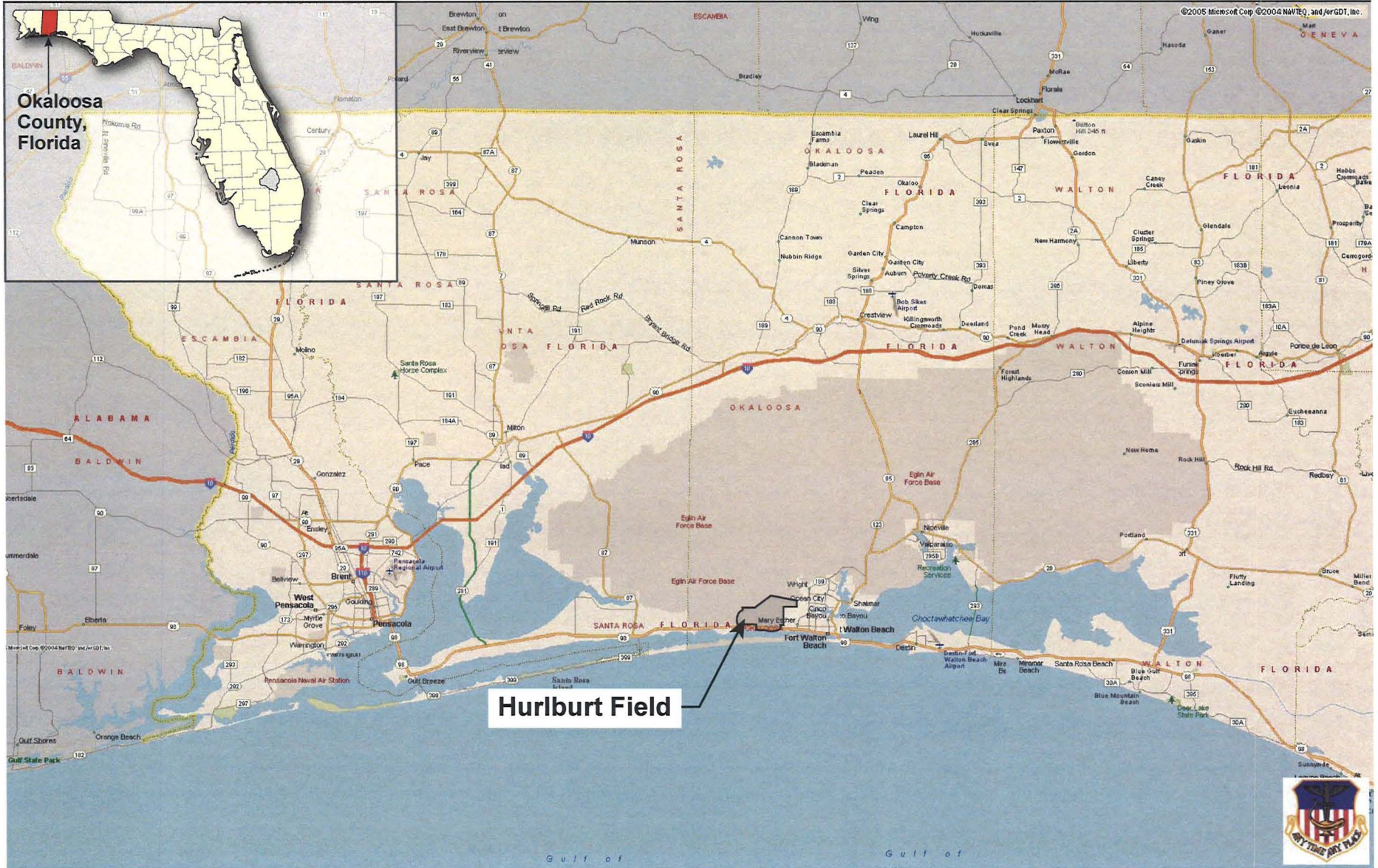
This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic impacts associated with these infrastructure improvement projects. The potential impacts on the resources covered by this EA are assessed for the Proposed Action, Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative of maintaining existing conditions.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations, related Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989), and Department of Defense (DoD) directives.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

1.2.1 Construct Boathouse

The purpose of the proposed boathouse is to accommodate the boat launching and storage needs of the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight. The boathouse is proposed to be adjoined to the boardwalk of a boat ramp that Hurlburt Field plans to construct for the 1 SOSS/OSR. The boathouse is needed to support the training activities of the 1 SOSS/OSR, which currently does not have a boat storage facility. The 1 SOSS/OSR currently shares two boat ramps at the existing base marina with the public. Congestion caused by joint usage of the marina facility and the small size of the marina basin and parking lot does not allow for rapid launching, which is required by the 1 SOSS/OSR during training events. The 1 SOSS/OSR also must transport its two boats to the marina.



Source: Microsoft MapPoint

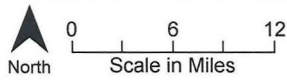


FIGURE 1-1
Project Vicinity Map
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

from the site where the boats are currently stored. This site is located approximately 1.25 miles from the marina (1.0 mile from the new boat ramp) and consists of an open parking lot that provides no covered storage. Construction of the new boat ramp, covered under separate NEPA documentation, will alleviate the launching difficulties experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR at the marina. The proposed boathouse would further improve the launching capability of the 1 SOSS/OSR, reduce the frequency of trailering the unit's boats, and provide the unit with more suitable boat storage accommodations.

1.2.2 Construct Restroom Facility

The purpose of the proposed restroom facility is to accommodate the restroom needs of the Soundside Area. The Santa Rosa Sound shoreline (in the area where the restroom facility is proposed) is used for recreation. Currently the area has only a portable toilet (port-o-let) for people using the beach pavilions and shoreline. The proposed restroom facility is needed to provide more adequate restroom accommodations for users of the area. The restroom facility would be handicap accessible and would provide showers and more sanitary conditions than the current situation.

1.3 Location of the Proposed Action

Hurlburt Field encompasses approximately 6,634 acres in southern Okaloosa County within the Florida Panhandle (Figure 1-1). It is located within the Eglin Reservation and is bordered to the east by the city of Mary Esther. Primary highway access to Hurlburt Field is by U.S. Highway 98.

The project area is located in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field, which is the portion of the installation south of U.S. Highway 98. The project area is located just southeast of the Soundside Military Housing Area along Santa Rosa Sound between the marina and POL pier (Figure 1-2). Secured access to the project area is through the South Gate off of Hume Drive.

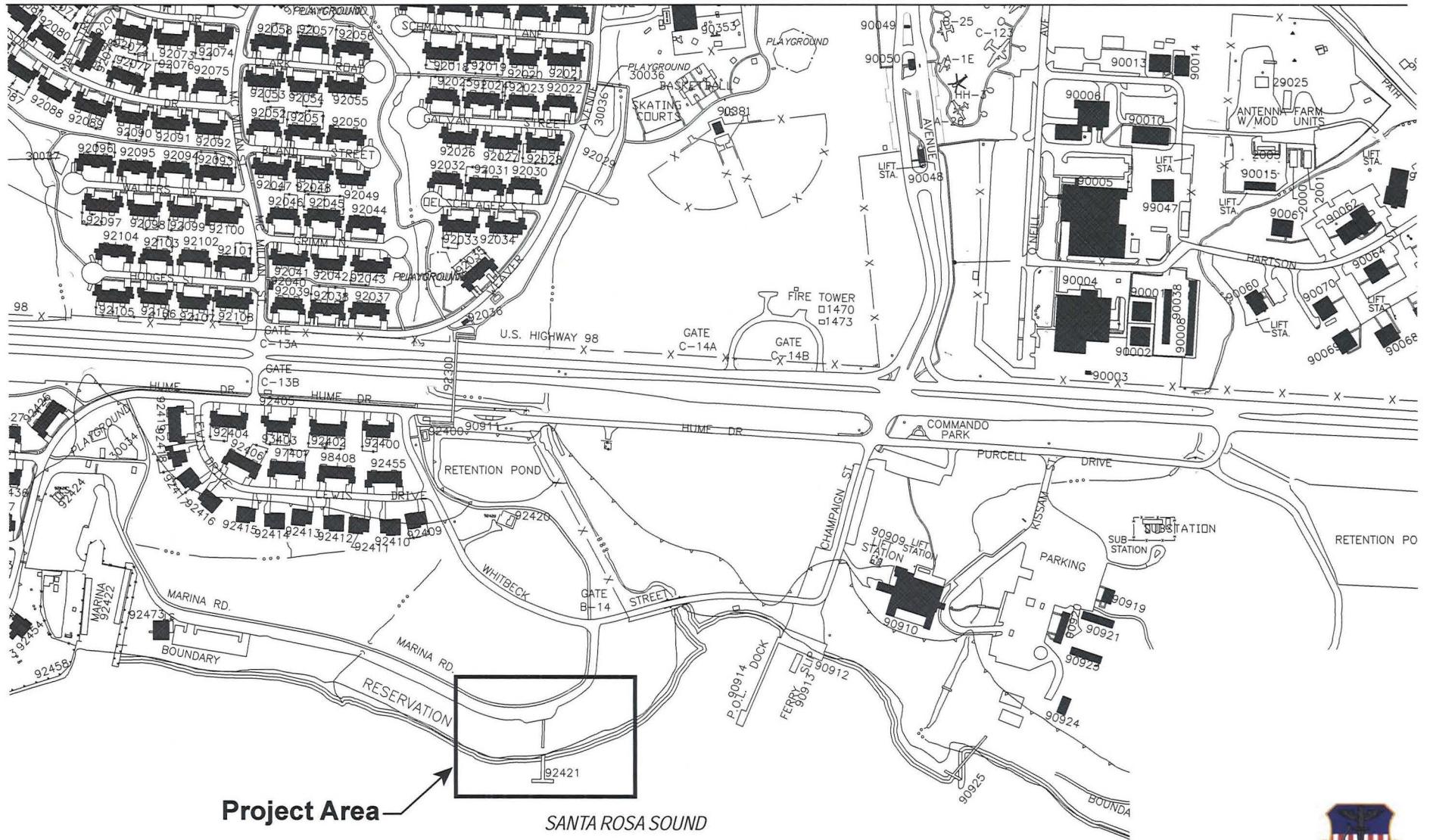
1.4 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

This EA has been conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- Title 40 of the CFR §§1500-1508, as the requirements of the NEPA of 1969 are implemented
- 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §4321, *et seq.*
- AFI 32-7061, The Environmental Impact Analysis Process

These regulations require federal agencies to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives and to use these analyses in making decisions on a Proposed Action. Cumulative effects of other ongoing activities also must be assessed in combination with the Proposed Action. The CEQ was instituted to oversee federal policy in this process. According to the CEQ regulations, an EA is required to accomplish the following objectives:

- Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).



Project Area

SANTA ROSA SOUND

Source: Hurlburt Field CE

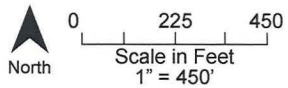


FIGURE 1-2
Project Location Map
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is not necessary and facilitate preparation of an EIS when necessary.

AFI 32-7061, as promulgated in 32 CFR 989, specifies the procedural requirements for the implementation of NEPA and preparation of the EA, and directs USAF officials to consider environmental consequences as part of the planning and decision-making process. 32 CFR 989.14(g) requires preparation of a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA), which must be submitted to the Major Command Environmental Planning Function when the alternative selected is located in jurisdictional wetlands/surface waters or floodplains.

Other environmental regulatory requirements relevant to the Proposed Action and alternatives are also identified in this EA. Regulatory requirements under the following programs, among others, will be assessed:

- Noise Control Act of 1972
- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

Requirements also include compliance with the following Executive Orders (EOs):

- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks

1.5 Consultation Requirements

Copies of the draft EA were sent to the Florida State Clearinghouse for routing to the appropriate state, regional, and local reviewers to determine federal consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The FCMP state agencies provided comments and recommendations to the Florida State Clearinghouse, based their statutory authorities. Following evaluation of the comments and recommendations received, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) makes the state's final consistency determination. Comments and recommendations regarding federal consistency were forwarded to Hurlburt Field in the state clearance letter issued by the Florida State Clearinghouse. Appendix A contains the correspondence with the Florida State Clearinghouse and the state's final consistency determination letter.

A correspondence letter was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Panama City Office, to solicit the agency's findings on the potential effects of the Proposed Action on

protected plant and animal species and their habitats. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was sent similar information to assist in determining whether the proposed project may affect the threatened Gulf sturgeon or adversely modify its critical habitat. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) office in Pensacola, Florida, was sent a letter to solicit any comments on potential wetland impacts, prior to the permitting stage planned for these improvement projects. A correspondence letter was also sent to the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to solicit the agency's findings on the potential effects of the Proposed Action on cultural resources. The SHPO is also a participating agency in the review for federal consistency with the FCMP. Appendix A contains the correspondence with these agencies.

1.6 Public Involvement

A 30-day public review period was held to solicit public comments on the draft version of the EA. The public review period was announced in a public notice published in the *Northwest Florida Daily News*, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The public notice indicated where the EA could be reviewed and how comments could be provided. Appendix B contains the public notice and any public comments received.

1.7 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

This EA assesses the potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic impacts associated with constructing a boathouse and restroom facility in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. The potential impacts on the resources covered by this EA are assessed for the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative of maintaining existing conditions. Table 1-1 includes the sections included in this EA and a brief description of each.

TABLE 1-1
Environmental Assessment Components
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Section	Title	Description
	Executive Summary	Presents a summary of the EA
	Abbreviations and Acronyms	Identifies abbreviations and acronyms used in this EA
1	Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action	Identifies the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action; applicable regulatory, consultation, and public notification requirements; and the scope of the EA
2	Description of the Proposed Action And Alternatives	Identifies the Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Action
3	Affected Environment	Identifies the existing conditions of each resource for which the Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Action are evaluated
4	Environmental Consequences	Presents the potential effects of implementing the Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Action on the resources described in Section 3

TABLE 1-1
Environmental Assessment Components
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Section	Title	Description
5	List of Preparers	Provides information on the persons who prepared the EA
6	Agencies and Individuals Consulted	Presents a list of agencies and individuals consulted during preparation of the EA
7	Works Cited	Presents bibliographical information about the sources used to prepare the EA
A	Regulatory Agency Correspondence	Presents copies of letters sent to participating agencies
B	Public Involvement	Presents comments received from the public during public comment period

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SECTION 2

Descriptions of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Description of the Proposed Action

2.1.1 Construct Boathouse

Under the Proposed Action, a boathouse would be constructed for the 1 SOSS/OSR in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field between the marina and the POL pier (Figure 2-1). The boathouse is proposed to be adjoined to the boardwalk of a boat ramp that Hurlburt Field plans to construct for the 1 SOSS/OSR. The proposed boathouse would provide storage for the two 32-foot boats used by the 1 SOSS/OSR and facilitate rapid launching of the boats during training events. The boathouse would be 40 feet by 50 feet in total area, attached to the adjacent boat ramp boardwalk, and anchored by pilings (Figure 2-2). The structure would be constructed of wood and aluminum and would have a tin roof. It would have electricity, potable water, and hoists for lifting the two boats out of the water for dry storage and maintenance.

2.1.2 Construct Restroom Facility

Under the Proposed Action, a restroom facility would be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field between the marina and the POL pier (Figure 2-1). The proposed restroom facility would accommodate the restroom needs of the Soundside Area. The proposed facility would be a stand alone structure measuring 32 feet by 62 feet. The facility would be constructed primarily of wood and elevated above grade by pilings. It would be handicap accessible and would include showers within both the men's and women's restrooms. Underground electric, water, and sanitary sewer service would extend from the facility alongside Marina Road to the Hurlburt Field marina area.

2.2 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

NEPA and 32 CFR Part 651 require consideration of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. Only alternatives that would reasonably meet the defined need for the Proposed Action require detailed analysis in this EA.

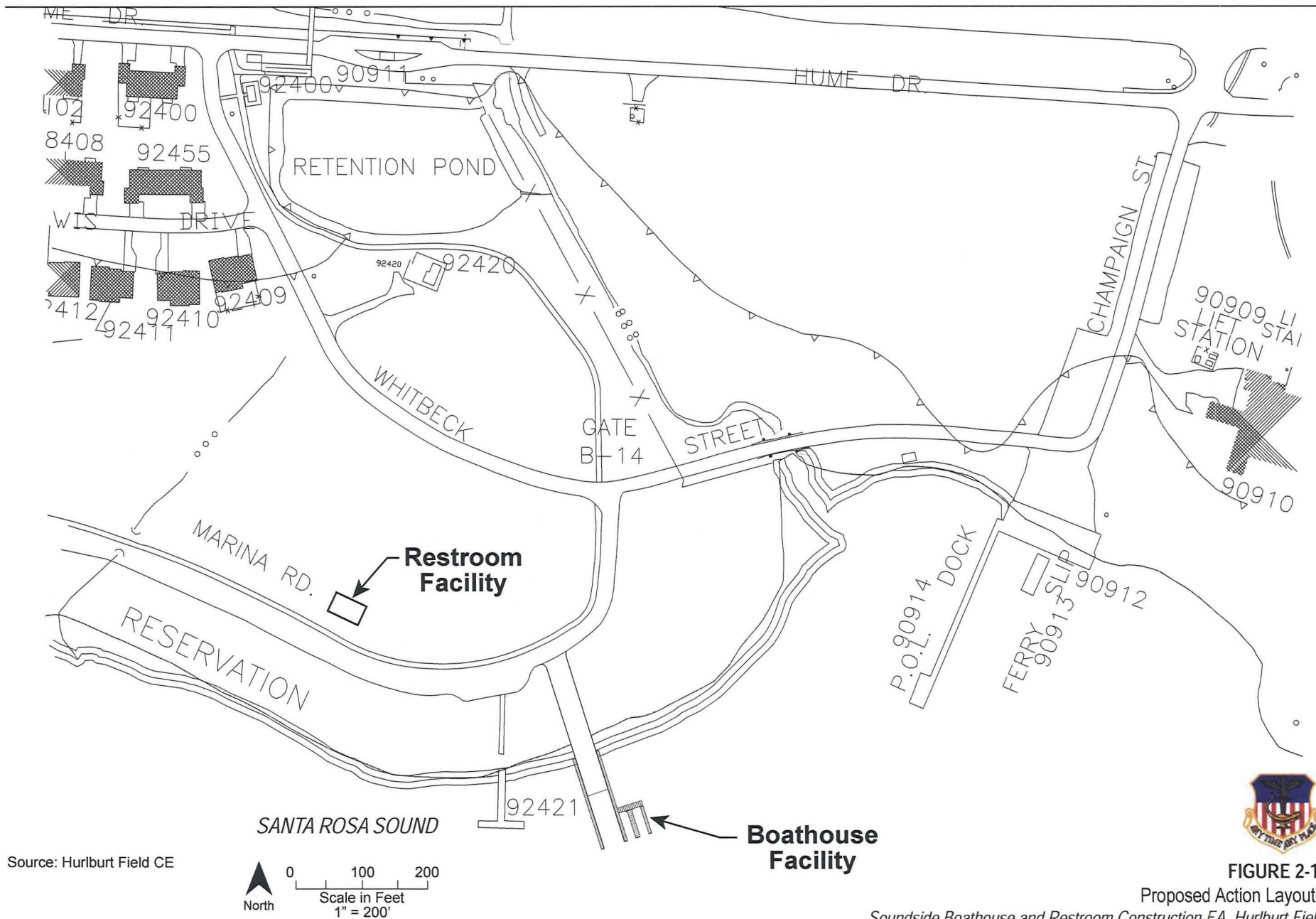
2.2.1 Construct Boathouse

The purpose of the proposed boathouse is to accommodate the boat launching and storage needs of the 1 SOSS/OSR. The boathouse is proposed to be adjoined to the boardwalk of the boat ramp that will be constructed for the 1 SOSS/OSR. The boat ramp location was evaluated in separate NEPA documentation, and the potential environmental impacts of constructing the boat ramp between the marina and the POL pier were determined to be insignificant. The alternative of modifying the existing boat ramps at the marina facility instead of constructing a new boat ramp at the designated site could potentially result in significant environmental impacts. Because of surrounding land use restrictions, lack of available space, and public use of the marina facilities, modification of the marina boat ramps would not alleviate many of the boat launching difficulties experienced by 1 SOSS/OSR.

The alternative of constructing the proposed boathouse in a different location was evaluated as a potential alternative to the proposed action during the preliminary planning phase of the project. Based on this evaluation, the preliminary alternative of not collocating the boathouse with the boat ramp would not eliminate the current launching inefficiencies experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR during its training exercises. As with the boat ramp, the alternative of constructing the proposed boathouse at the marina was not considered a reasonable alternative to the proposed action. Under this alternative, the marina dock would have to be extended beyond the marina basin into the Sound to provide the necessary space for the 1 SOSS/OSR to maneuver their 32-foot boats and avoid the recreational boat traffic within the basin. Extending the marina dock would be expensive and may require some dredging. Having the boathouse at the marina would also require the unit to use the marina parking lot and transport personnel and equipment back and forth through the marina facility, which is often congested with recreational users. Training activities involve not only the 32-foot boats that would be stored in the boathouse, but also a small fleet of Zodiacs that must be launched from a boat ramp. Deploying the 32-foot boats from the marina, and Zodiacs from the 1 SOSS/OSR boat ramp would require separation of unit personnel during training activities and may cause logistical difficulties. A centralized post for all training activities would be ideal for the 1 SOSS/OSR, and could not be accomplished if the boat ramp and boathouse are not collocated.

Several design alternatives were considered for the boathouse during project planning; however, the differences in design options were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of a design alternative to the Proposed Action.

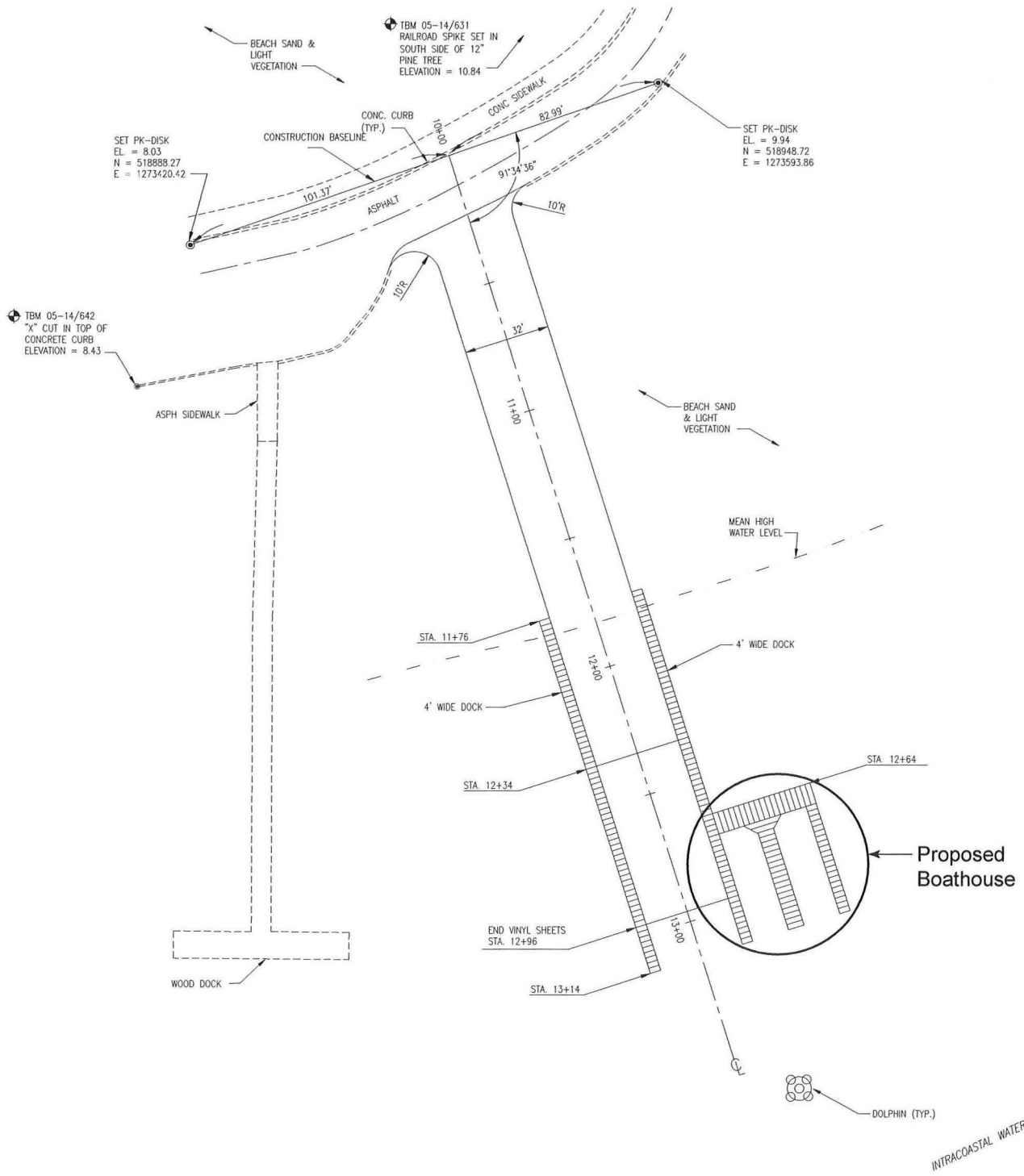
For these reasons, only the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative are evaluated in this EA.



Source: Hurlburt Field CE



FIGURE 2-1
 Proposed Action Layouts
 Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field



Source: Hurlburt Field CE

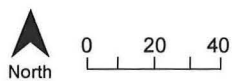


FIGURE 2-2
Plan View of Proposed Boathouse
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

2.2.2 Construct Restroom Facility

The purpose of the proposed restroom facility is to accommodate the bathhouse and restroom needs of recreational users of the Soundside Area. Recreational use is centered on the two large beach pavilions that are about 1,200 feet east of the marina and about 50 feet from the Sound.

The alternative of constructing the proposed restroom facility in a different location, the use of portable toilets, and design alternatives were evaluated as potential alternatives to the proposed action during the preliminary planning phase of the project.

An alternative location for the restroom facility that was considered is near Building 92420, a small lift station facility at the opposite end of a planned parking area near the beach. Although this area is an open upland area that would be suitable for construction, it is over 600 feet north of the two beach pavilions and shoreline. The goal of the proposed action is to support public use of the recreational beach and pavilion facilities. Increasing the distance between the beach area and restroom facility would make it more difficult to access the facility, especially for handicapped users. Although other potential locations for the restroom facility within the recreational area exist, adjustments to the location within this relatively small area were not considered to be reasonable siting alternatives to the Proposed Action.

Currently, for people using the two beach pavilions and shoreline, only a portable toilet is available at the marina. The use of different types of portable toilets or additional portable toilets of the kind already onsite would not correct the deficiencies of the current situation; therefore, it was not considered to be a reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action.

As with the proposed boathouse, the differences in design options for the restroom facility were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of a design alternative to the Proposed Action.

For these reasons, only the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative are evaluated in this EA.

2.3 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative is to maintain existing conditions. Under the No-Action Alternative, boathouse and restroom facilities would not be constructed in the Soundside Area of Hurlburt Field. The 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to keep their boats in an open parking lot located approximately 1.0 mile from the new boat ramp that will be constructed. Adequate restroom accommodations would continue to be unavailable to people using the recreational area.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

As described in Section 2.2.1, the preliminary alternative of constructing the boathouse in a different location, such as at the marina, was considered but eliminated from further study because it would not eliminate the current launching inefficiencies experienced by the 1 SOSS/OSR during its training exercises. Design alternatives for the boathouse were also

considered but eliminated from further study because they did not differ significantly from the Proposed Action.

As described in Section 2.2.2, the preliminary alternative of locating the restroom facility further inland was not considered a reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action because it makes the facility less accessible to recreational users. The use of different types of portable toilets or additional portable toilets of the kind already in use at the marina was not considered a reasonable alternative to the Proposed Action because it would not correct the deficiencies of the current situation. These alternatives were therefore eliminated from further study. As with the proposed boathouse, differences in design options for the restroom facility were considered but were not significant enough to warrant evaluation of a design alternative to the Proposed Action and were therefore also eliminated from further study.

2.5 Identification of the Preferred Alternative

The USAF preferred alternative for this EA is to implement the Proposed Action as described in Section 2.1.

SECTION 3

Existing Conditions

This section provides baseline information on the resources for which the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative have been evaluated.

3.1 Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) pursuant to Sections 109 and 301(a) of the CAA. These standards, expressed in micrograms per cubic meter, establish safe concentration levels for each “criteria” pollutant. NAAQS have been set for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO); nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); ozone (O₃); sulfur oxides (SO_x), measured as sulfur dioxide (SO₂); lead (Pb); and two types of particulate matter: particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}).

The CAA divides the United States into attainment and nonattainment areas, usually by county or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Areas not meeting NAAQS are designated nonattainment for the specific pollutant. Okaloosa County, and therefore Hurlburt Field, is currently designated as an attainment area (meets the EPA air quality standards for all criteria pollutants [60 Federal Register 62748, December 7, 1995]). Hurlburt Field operates under a synthetic minor air operation permit issued by the State of Florida (Woolpert, 2002b). The following four sources of air emissions at Hurlburt Field are regulated under this permit: the engine test stand, a jet fuel storage tank, paint booths, and generator use in an exercise area.

3.2 Noise

The primary sources of noise at Hurlburt Field are airfield operations, industrial activities, and vehicular traffic. The Hurlburt Field Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program provides noise contours for airfield operations at the installation. The noise contours for Hurlburt Field are presented in decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA) as Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level (DNL). The DNL metric accounts for the greater annoyance of noise during nighttime hours, and is calculated by averaging hourly sound levels for a 24-hour period and adding a weighting factor to the nighttime values. The noise guidelines established for land use planning at Hurlburt Field are essentially the same as those published by the Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise in the June 1980 publication, *Guidelines for Considering Noise in Land-Use Planning and Control*. Based on these guidelines, the maximum acceptable noise level for most residential land uses is considered to be 65 DNL.

Expected noise levels in the project area during construction were estimated using a number of reports prepared by EPA on general noise conditions in the United States. A summary report, *Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety* (EPA, 1974), indicated that national noise level

trends could be used to represent regional noise conditions on a broad basis. Individual discrepancies may occur, especially in areas with a high concentration of specialized land uses such as heavy industrial or government/institutional, but the noise levels generally are consistent within a specific land use area across the country.

Based on data presented in the EPA publication, *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances* (EPA, 1971), outdoor construction noise levels range from 78 dBA to 89 dBA, approximately 50 feet from a typical construction site. Table 3-1 presents typical noise levels (dBA at 50 feet) estimated by EPA for the main phases of outdoor construction.

TABLE 3-1
Typical Noise Levels for Outdoor Construction
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Construction Phase	Noise Level (dBA at 50 feet from source)
Ground Clearing	84
Excavation, Grading	89
Foundations	78
Structural	85
Finishing	89

dBA – decibel on the A-weighted scale

The nearest noise-sensitive area to the project area is a block of accompanied military housing located to the northwest as shown on Figure 2-1. At its nearest point, the military housing is located approximately 700 feet from the construction area for the proposed boathouse, and approximately 625 feet from the construction area for the restroom facility. The nearest residential area outside of Hurlburt Field is located approximately 1.8 miles to the east in the City of Mary Esther.

3.3 Topography, Geology, and Soils

3.3.1 Topography

In general, the topography of Hurlburt Field is relatively flat, with elevations ranging from sea level along Santa Rosa Sound to approximately 40 feet above mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern boundary of the installation. Based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle for Mary Esther, Florida, elevations at the project area range from sea level to approximately 10 feet msl. In general, the project area slopes steeply upward from the site of the proposed boathouse along Santa Rosa Sound (sea level) to the restroom construction area along Marina Road (10 feet msl).

3.3.2 Geology

Hurlburt Field is located within the Gulf Coastal Lowlands physiographic province that occupies the lower half of Okaloosa County. The Gulf Coastal Lowlands are a series of coast-parallel marine terraces that were formed during the Pleistocene epoch when the sea level was higher. Some typical landforms include barrier islands, lagoons (Santa Rosa

Sound), coastal ridges, sand dune ridges, and relict spits and bars. The terrace complexes are predominantly underlain by sand with local occurrences of clay, shell beds, and peat.

The near-surface mineral resources occurring on Hurlburt Field are sand, gravel, quartz, and clay (Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan [INRMP] [Woolpert, 2002b]). The geology of Hurlburt Field is not prone to sinkhole formation or earthquakes (Earth Tech, 1994). The surficial aquifer under Hurlburt Field consists primarily of sand and gravel and includes the Citronelle Formation. The deeper Floridan aquifer, which begins approximately 500 to 600 feet below land surface (bls), consists of interbedded limestones and dolomite.

3.3.3 Soils

The soils of Hurlburt Field are derived from sedimentary deposits of fluvial and marine origin (Woolpert, 2002b). Most of the soil types are sandy and have low fertility. Soil density is relatively low, reflecting the high permeability of the surface soils and the relatively low direct runoff in the area. Erosion potential for all soils is considered slight because of the relatively level topography, except along Santa Rosa Sound where it is moderate.

Based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey for Okaloosa County (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA], 1995), the area proposed for the construction of the boathouse and restroom facility is mapped as Beaches (map unit 3). The soil type consists of narrow strips of very rapidly permeable white sand on the coastline along the Gulf of Mexico. As much as half the beach can be flooded daily by high tides, while storm tides can flood the entire beach. Most beach areas have uniform, gentle slopes with a short steeper slope at the edge of the water. The water table can range from the surface to a depth of more than 4 feet, depending on the distance from the water.

3.4 Water Resources

3.4.1 Groundwater

The surficial aquifer under Hurlburt Field consists primarily of sand and gravel and includes the Citronelle Formation. The deeper Floridan aquifer, which begins approximately 500 to 600 feet bls, consists of interbedded limestones and dolomite.

The surficial aquifer is nonartesian and ranges in thickness from approximately 150 feet bls in the eastern portion of Hurlburt Field to approximately 200 feet bls near the center of the installation (Woolpert, 2002b). Yields of more than 300 gallons per minute (gpm) are possible in the main producing zone just southeast of Hurlburt Field. Water quality from the surficial aquifer requires treatment prior to potable water use, because of the relatively high iron and tannin levels, and low pH levels (USACE, 1994).

The upper Floridan aquifer, which is mostly artesian, is the main source of potable water for Hurlburt Field. The Floridan aquifer averages more than 1,000 feet in thickness and produces well yields from several hundred to over 10,000 gpm (Woolpert, 2002b). The water tends to be hard, but typically does not exceed drinking water standards for nitrate, fluoride, sodium, and chloride; iron may occasionally be exceeded. During the last several decades, the Floridan aquifer has been lowered by 90 feet by extensive pumping in the region.

3.4.2 Surface Water

Hurlburt Field is divided into two main drainage basins. Most of the northern two-thirds of the installation drains northward into East Bay Swamp and the southern third primarily drains southward into Santa Rosa Sound (Woolpert, 2002b). The Hurlburt Field Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan provides drainage patterns and stormwater outfalls for the installation. The primary surface water features within the boundaries of Hurlburt Field are the East Bay River, Hurlburt Lake, and several ponds in the golf course area. Secondary surface waters include the installation retention ponds and drainage ditches.

3.4.2.1 Construct Boathouse

The site for the proposed boathouse is located on the northern shoreline of Santa Rosa Sound (Figure 2-1). Santa Rosa Sound is an estuarine lagoon between the mainland and Santa Rosa Island that connects Pensacola Bay to the west with Choctawhatchee Bay to the east. Santa Rosa Sound is approximately 37 miles long, varies between 0.2 and 2.2 miles wide, and is 8.9 feet in mean depth (Northwest Florida Water Management District [NFWFMD], 1997). Hurlburt Field is located at about the eastern third of this system. Salinity is fairly uniform throughout Santa Rosa Sound, with a mean annual value of 24 parts per thousand (ppt). Santa Rosa Sound is subject to very low-energy diurnal tides that cause an average water level fluctuation of about 1.5 feet. The portion of the Sound in the project area supports moderate barge traffic, primarily associated with the adjacent POL pier. Around the construction site of the proposed boathouse, the shoreline of Santa Rosa Sound is sandy and moderately sloped. Overall, there is very little wave action and the water is relatively clear with some tannin color.

Santa Rosa Sound, including the shoreline area below the mean high water elevation, is considered a jurisdictional surface water.

3.4.2.2 Construct Restroom Facility

There is no surface water body directly associated with the proposed location of the restroom facility (Figure 2-1). The mean high water elevation of Santa Rosa Sound is located approximately 215 feet to the south. The characteristics of the Sound are described in Section 3.4.2.1.

3.4.3 Flood Hazard

A considerable portion of Hurlburt Field is classified as 100-year floodplain (Woolpert, 2002b). Most of the wetland area associated with the East Bay Swamp in the northern part of the installation is mapped as floodplain. Floodplain areas are also scattered east and west of the airfield and a floodplain/storm surge fringe exists along the portion of the installation that borders Santa Rosa Sound.

According to the floodplain mapping provided in the Hurlburt Field INRMP, which is based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), the entire project area is mapped as 100-year floodplain. The classification of this area as floodplain is a result of its potential to flood during heavy storm surges, such as those experienced during hurricanes. Because the approximate maximum elevation of the proposed construction sites is 10 feet msl, the project area could be affected by flooding from Santa Rosa Sound during heavy storm surge conditions.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Wetlands

All state and federal jurisdictional wetlands at Hurlburt Field were delineated from 1995 to 1997 by Woolpert Inc., and approved by USACE and FDEP (Woolpert, 1998). Hurlburt Field has approximately 3,431 acres of wetlands, most of which are associated with the East Bay Swamp in the northern part of the installation (Woolpert, 2002b). Wetlands in the vicinity of the project area are shown on [Figure 3-1](#).

3.5.1.1 Construct Boathouse

As shown on [Figure 3-1](#), the construction site for the proposed boathouse is located along the Santa Rosa Sound shoreline. The Sound, including the shoreline area below the mean high water elevation, is considered a jurisdictional surface water. Portions of this area above the mean high water line are potentially jurisdictional wetland depending on soil, hydrology, and plant species composition. The jurisdictional wetland boundaries of this area would be determined during the permitting phase of the project.

3.5.1.2 Construct Restroom Facility

As shown on [Figure 3-1](#), the construction site for the proposed restroom facility is located along Marina Road and about 215 feet inland from the Santa Rosa Sound shoreline. The construction site is located entirely in upland habitat. The nearest wetland area to the construction site is the salt marsh located approximately 225 feet to the southwest. The restroom facility site is well above the mean high water elevation, and thus is outside the jurisdictional surface waters of the Sound.

3.5.2 Vegetation

The most common natural plant communities at Hurlburt Field are cypress-gum swamps that are most abundant in the northern part of the installation, and pine flatwoods that occur throughout the installation (Woolpert, 2002b). Plant communities that have lesser coverage include sandhill, sand pine scrub, shrub wetlands, herbaceous wetlands, and maritime hammock. Developed portions of Hurlburt Field contain various types of landscaping vegetation.

3.5.2.1 Construct Boathouse

As shown on [Figure 3-1](#), the construction site for the proposed boathouse is entirely over water; therefore, it does not contain any terrestrial vegetation. Vegetation just below and above the mean high water line along the adjacent shoreline includes pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), three-square (*Scirpus americanus*), and false willow (*Baccharis* sp.). No seagrasses were sighted in the construction area for the proposed boathouse.

3.5.2.2 Construct Restroom Facility

As shown on [Figure 3-1](#), the construction site for the proposed restroom facility is located in a sandy lot that is sparsely vegetated. A small number of slash pine and longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) trees are scattered throughout the lot. The ground cover of the lot is sparse and consists primarily of sea oxeye (*Borrchia frutescens*), salt grass, dock (*Rumex hastatulus*), false willow, and blackroot (*Pterocaulon virgatum*).



FIGURE 3-1
 Natural Features Map
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

3.5.3 Wildlife

Hurlburt Field has considerable amounts of undeveloped habitat that support a wide diversity of wildlife. The forested wetlands associated with the East Bay Swamp and the pine flatwoods scattered throughout the installation provide relatively high quality wildlife habitat. The East Bay River, Hurlburt Lake, and golf course ponds are the primary habitats for aquatic biota at Hurlburt Field.

3.5.3.1 Construct Boathouse

The shoreline adjacent to where the proposed boathouse would be constructed provides moderate quality wildlife habitat for marine/estuarine aquatic species and wading birds. The overall quality of the wildlife habitat it provides is diminished by its surrounding land use and its recreational use. Barge traffic associated with the adjacent POL pier is relatively heavy just offshore from this area of the Sound. Wildlife sighted in the vicinity of the shoreline during a field investigation conducted May 3, 2005, included the semi-palmated plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), osprey (*Pandion halieatus*), and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*).

3.5.3.2 Construct Restroom Facility

The habitat of the construction site for the proposed restroom facility is disturbed from past activity and by the adjacent and active paved Marina Road; therefore, this site provides relatively low quality wildlife habitat. Wildlife sighted in the vicinity of the site during a field investigation on May 3, 2005, included the mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and fish crow (*Corvus ossifragus*).

3.5.4 Protected Species

Several protected floral and faunal species surveys have been conducted at Hurlburt Field. Based on the combined results of these surveys, a total of 18 rare plant species and 19 rare animal species (including invertebrates) have been documented to occur within the boundaries of the installation (Woolpert, 2002b). Of the 18 rare plant species, 11 are state listed as either Threatened or Endangered and none are federally listed (Table 3-2). Of the 19 rare animal species, 8 are state listed as either Threatened or Species of Special Concern, and 3 are federally listed as either Threatened or Endangered. As indicated in Table 3-2, the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is a federally listed species but not in Florida.

Based on a field investigation conducted on May 3, 2005, portions of the project area and its immediate vicinity provide suitable foraging habitat for the reddish egret (*Egretta rufescens*), brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). The reddish egret and brown pelican are state listed as Species of Special Concern, and the least tern is listed as Threatened. The Santa Rosa Sound shoreline in the project area serves as potential foraging habitat for the reddish egret, and the open waters of the Sound serve as potential foraging habitat for the brown pelican and least tern. The brown pelican and least tern were sighted in the project area foraging in the open water of Santa Rosa Sound during the field investigation as was the osprey, which is considered to be a rare species but not state or federally listed.

TABLE 3-2
 Protected Plant and Animal Species Documented to Occur at Hurlburt Field
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal ¹ / State ² Status
Plants		
<i>Calamovilfa curtissii</i>	Curtiss' Sand Grass	*/T
<i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>	Grass Pink	—/—
<i>Cleistes divaricata</i>	Rosebud Orchid	—/T
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Water Sundew	—/T
<i>Helianthemum arenicola</i>	Gulf Rockrose	—/—
<i>Lilaeopsis carolinensis</i>	Carolina Lilaeopsis	—/—
<i>Lilium catesbaei</i>	Southern Red Lily	—/T
<i>Lupinus westianus</i>	Gulfcoast Lupine	*/T
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> spp. <i>Ulvacea</i>	West Florida Cowlily	*/—
<i>Pinguicula planifolia</i>	Chapman's Butterwort	*/T
<i>Plantanthera blephariglottis</i>	White-Fringed Orchid	—/T
<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>	Rose Pogonia	—/T
<i>Sarracenia leucophylla</i>	White-Top Pitcherplant	*/E
<i>Sarracenia psittacina</i>	Parrot Pitcherplant	—/T
<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	Purple Pitcherplant	—/T
<i>Spiranthes praecox</i>	Grass-Leaf Ladies' Tresses	—/—
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chain Fern	—/—
<i>Xyris drummondii</i>	Drummond's Yellow-Eyed Grass	*/—
Animals		
<i>Agarodes ziczac</i>	Zigzag Caddisfly	—/T ⁴
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	*/—
<i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i>	Flatwood's Salamander	T/T
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	—/—
<i>Ceratocanthus aeneus</i>	Shining Ball Scarab	—/—
<i>Cheumatopsyche petersi</i>	Peter's Little Sister Sedge	—/—
<i>Dromogomphus armatus</i>	Southeastern Spinyleg Dragonfly	—/—
<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Reddish Egret	*/SSC
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink	—/—
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	*/SSC
<i>Gymnoscirtetes morsei</i>	Grasshopper Species	—/—

TABLE 3-2
Protected Plant and Animal Species Documented to Occur at Hurlburt Field
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal ¹ / State ² Status
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	T/T
<i>Nemomydas jonesi</i>	Fly Species	—/—
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	—/—
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican	—/SSC
<i>Picoides borealis</i> ³	Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	E/T
<i>Polylamina pubescens</i>	Panhandle Beach Scarab	—/—
<i>Serica rhypha</i>	Crooked Silky June Beetle	—/—
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	E5/T

* Formerly a C2 listed species (removed in 1996).

¹ USFWS.

² Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Flora) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (formerly Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission) (Fauna).

³ Former resident species.

⁴ State listing according to Deyrup and Franz (1994).

⁵ Not listed in Florida; endangered only when found more than 50 miles inland outside of Florida.

—/— Unlisted but rare species

E Endangered

NAD No Area Designated

SSC Species of special concern

T Threatened

Sources: USAF, 1996; Woolpert, 2002b; Labat-Anderson, 1994; FWC, 1997; Flowers, 1997; Printiss and Hipes, 1997 and 2000.

On March 19, 2003, the USFWS designated Santa Rosa Sound as a critical habitat for the threatened Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*). In general, estuarine and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including Santa Rosa Sound, provide foraging habitat for adult fish during 3 to 4 of the coolest months of the year, while the remaining 8 to 9 months of the year are spent in freshwater rivers.

Based on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Eagle Nest Locator database, the nearest bald eagle nest is located approximately 12.4 miles northeast of the project area.

Based on the FWC Florida Waterbird Colony Locator database, there are no woodstork nesting colonies located within 18.6 miles of the project area. The area within a radius of 18.6 miles from a woodstork colony is considered by USFWS as the "Core Foraging Area" for the species. The woodstork has not been documented to occur at Hurlburt Field and based on its known distribution, it rarely occurs in the Florida Panhandle.

3.6 Land Use

Of the total 6,643 acres that Hurlburt Field encompasses, 674 acres are classified as improved grounds (airfield, aircraft operations and maintenance, industrial, and administrative), 834 acres are classified as semi-improved grounds (outdoor recreation), and the remaining 5,135 acres are classified as unimproved grounds (wetlands, lakes, forests, and beaches).

According to the Hurlburt Field General Plan (Woolpert, 2002b), the land use of the entire project area and much of the immediate surrounding area is currently classified as Open Space. The Open Space land use classification is defined generally as undeveloped area. The undeveloped area within the immediate vicinity of the project area consists of several habitat types including sandy lot, mixed forested wetland, salt marsh, beach, and upland forest (Figure 3-1). Other land uses within the immediate vicinity of the project area include Accompanied Housing (military) to the northwest, and Industrial (POL pier) to the east.

3.7 Environmental Management

Hurlburt Field is classified as a large-quantity generator of hazardous waste (EPA No. FL7570024375) and maintains a Hazardous and Special Waste Management Plan (Woolpert, 2002b). The installation has three 90-day storage facilities for hazardous waste and numerous satellite accumulation points. Requirements and responsibilities for reusing, recycling, and disposing of POL are provided in the Hurlburt Field Recoverable and Used Oil Management Plan.

Hurlburt Field has several bulk POL storage areas. The main area, located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the main gate, has four aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and receives JP-8 jet fuel through an underground 10-inch pipeline from the barge pier located near the Soundside Club on Santa Rosa Sound. Other bulk POL storage areas at Hurlburt Field include the wastewater treatment plant with a 3,000-gallon DL-2 storage tank, the Army and Air Force and Exchange Service (AAFES) service station with three 10,000-gallon gasoline ASTs, and the marina with a 2,000-gallon motor gasoline (MOGAS) AST.

Hurlburt Field assumed responsibility from Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) for managing all Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites at Hurlburt Field in August 1999. A total of 47 Areas of Concern (AOCs) have been identified at Hurlburt Field, 30 of which have been designated as official ERP sites (CH2M HILL, 2006). Currently, there are 18 active ERP sites at the installation.

No portion of the project area is used for storing hazardous materials or wastes. The POL pier is located approximately 750 feet east of the project area at its nearest point. The 2,000-gallon MOGAS AST at the marina is located approximately 1,100 feet west of the project area at its nearest point. The nearest ERP site to the project area is Spill Site 214 (Site SS-214), the POL Valve Pit (Ferry Dock) at the POL pier. Jet fuel contamination in the soil was discovered at this site in November 1999. The contaminated soils were removed and a groundwater monitoring plan was implemented. Based on the remediation action taken and the absence of groundwater contamination in the area, FDEP issued a finding of No Further Action for this site on September 2, 2003.

3.8 Cultural Resources

The Hurlburt Field Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) (Woolpert, 2002a) provides guidance on how to identify, evaluate, and treat cultural resources at the installation in compliance with DoD and state regulations. Development and approval requirements for the CRMP are included in Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and AFI 32-7065, *Cultural Resources Management*.

Several cultural resource investigations were conducted at Hurlburt Field between 1982 and 1994. Based on subsequent Phase II testing conducted in 1997, a total of five archaeological sites at Hurlburt Field have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing (Woolpert, 2002a). Information on these sites and sites that were determined not eligible for NRHP listing, is provided in the Hurlburt Field CRMP.

Based on the Hurlburt Field CRMP, there are no cultural resources within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area. The entire area south of Highway 98 has been surveyed for historic resources. Site 80K61, the closest site to the west of the project area, is a 9,000-square-meter site that contains both historic and prehistoric occupations. The prehistoric component is composed of several shell middens associated with the Deptford, Santa Rosa Swift Creek, and Weeden Island occupations of the site. The nearest archaeological site to the east of the project area is Site 80K133. This linear site is approximately 280 meters long and 6 hectares in size. Site investigations revealed intact shell deposits associated with the Deptford and Early Weeden Island occupations. Both of these sites are located more than 1,000 feet away from the project area.

3.9 Transportation

U.S. Highway 98, a major east-west arterial that connects Pensacola to Panama City, separates the main part of Hurlburt Field from the Soundside Area of the installation (Figure 1-2). The main part of Hurlburt Field can be accessed through a primary gate located on Cody Avenue just north of U.S. Highway 98. The Soundside Area can be accessed through a secondary gate located on Hume Drive just south of U.S. Highway 98, and just west of the intersection of Hume Drive and Champaign Street. This gate primarily provides access to the marina and military housing area. The POL pier facility and Soundside Club in the Soundside Area can be accessed by Champaign Street without going through a guarded gate. There is one other primary gate and several other secondary gates that provide access to Hurlburt Field in addition to those described.

The construction site for the proposed boathouse is located on Santa Rosa Sound just southeast of the loop portion of Marina Road (Figure 2-1). The construction site for the proposed restroom facility is located along Marina Road, northwest of the two existing picnic pavilions. As previously described, both sites, as well as the marina and military housing area can be accessed through the guarded secondary gate on Hume Drive.

3.10 Socioeconomics

The population of Okaloosa County in 2003 was 178,104 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004a). In 2000, the populations of the cities of Mary Esther and Fort Walton Beach were 4,055 and

19,973, respectively. The population of Okaloosa County has increased by 79 percent from 1960 to 2000 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004a). This growth is attributed primarily to tourism along the Gulf of Mexico and to employment generated by Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field.

Table 3-3 provides 2005/2006 labor force statistics for Hurlburt Field and the surrounding area. As shown in Table 3-3, Hurlburt Field had 7,847 military personnel in 2005. The total civilian labor force of Okaloosa County in 2005 was 117,086. Of this number 6,500 civilians were employed at Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field.

TABLE 3-3
2005/2006 Labor Force Statistics for Hurlburt Field and Surrounding Area
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Labor Force	Number of People Employed
Military	
Eglin AFB	7,842
Hurlburt Field	7,847
Duke Field	1,200
Civilian	
Okaloosa County	117,086*
Santa Rosa County	63,548*
Walton County	26,477*
Total for Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field	6,500

Source: Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 2007.

* 2006 statistics.

In 2005, the income per capita in Okaloosa County was \$24,575, and the median household income was \$45,248 (Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 2007).

3.11 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

On February 11, 1994, the President issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. The purpose of this EO is to avoid disproportionate placement of any adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations. The President directed the EPA to ensure that agencies analyze the environmental effects on minority and low-income communities, including human health, social, and economic effects.

A minority population exists where the percentage of minorities in an affected area either exceeds 50 percent or is meaningfully greater than in the general population of the larger surrounding area. The phrase "minority population" includes persons who identify themselves as black (African-American), Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American or Alaskan Native, or Hispanic. "Race" refers to Census respondents' self-identification of racial background. "Hispanic origin" refers to ethnicity and language, not race, and may

include persons whose heritage is Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican, and Central or South American.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines a “poverty area” as a Census Tract (CT) where 20 percent or more of the residents have incomes below the poverty threshold and an “extreme poverty area” as one with 40 percent or more below the poverty level (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004a). The “census poverty level” refers to income levels, based on family size, age of householder, and number of children under 18 years of age, that are considered too low to meet essential living requirements. The criteria for determining poverty level are applied nationally (except in Alaska and Hawaii), without regard to the local cost of living. In the 2000 Census, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,603 annual income (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2004a).

On April 21, 1997, the President issued EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, which recognized that a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health and safety risks. This EO required federal agencies, to the extent permitted by law and mission, to identify and assess such environmental health and safety risks. EO 13045 does not provide guidance on the ages of the children to be protected; however, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (FIFCFS), founded in 1994 and formally established by the EO, focuses on those aged 17 and under.

Table 3-4 presents Year 2000 race, ethnicity, and poverty demographics for the CTs and Block Groups (BGs) that include, and are in the immediate vicinity of, the project area. As indicated in Table 3-4, the largest minority population in CT 208/BG 9, which includes Hurlburt Field (Figure 3-2), is African American (13.6 percent). CT 208/BG 9 has the highest minority population in the area.

TABLE 3-4
Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Demographics by Percentage of Population
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Percentage	CT 208/ BG 9 ^a	CT 229/ BG 2	CT 229/ BG 3	CT 231/ BG 1	CT 232/ BG 1	Okaloosa County	Florida
White	74.3%	85.6%	84.0%	80.1%	94.3%	83.4%	77.99%
African American	13.6%	5.7%	6.1%	9.0%	1.1%	9.1%	14.61%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.34%
Asian	2.4%	3.5%	4.0%	4.4%	1.5%	2.5%	1.67%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.05%
Some other race	3.5%	1.7%	1.1%	2.0%	0.9%	1.3%	2.99%

TABLE 3-4
Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Demographics by Percentage of Population
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Percentage	CT 208/ BG 9 ^a	CT 229/ BG 2	CT 229/ BG 3	CT 231/ BG 1	CT 232/ BG 1	Okaloosa County	Florida
Subtotal: One Race ^b	94.7%	97.7%	96.1%	96.3%	98.3%	97.0%	97.65%
Two or more races	4.9%	2.3%	3.7%	3.5%	1.7%	2.7%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Hispanic ^b	8.26%	4.56%	4.86%	4.95%	2.98%	4.28%	16.79%
Poverty Status	4.4%	6.3%	7.4%	7.4%	4.4%	8.5%	12.50%
Children Under 17	3.4%	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%	0.8%	2.3%	22.70%

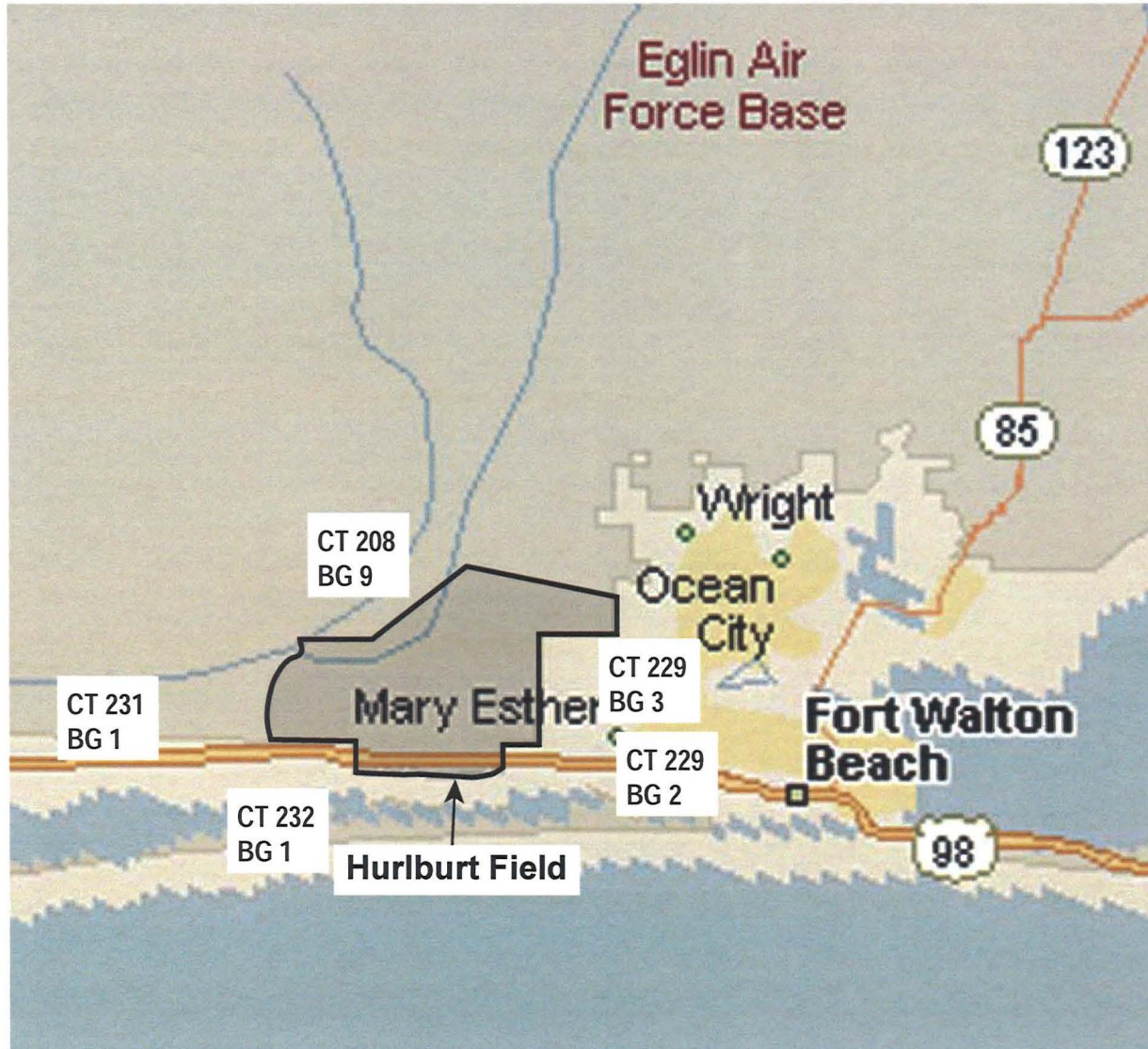
^a Includes Hurlburt Field installation.

^b Hispanic or Latino (of any race). For Census 2000 and the American Community Survey: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 or ACS questionnaire—"Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban"—as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2004a, <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census bases the poverty status of families and individuals on 48 threshold variables, including income, family size, number of family members under the age of 18 and over 65 years of age, and amount spent on food. Table 3-4 includes a summary of the poverty status of the CTs and BGs that include, and are in the immediate vicinity of, the project area. As indicated in Table 3-4, none of the CTs/BGs in the area have more than 20 percent of its residents below the poverty threshold; therefore, there are no poverty areas within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area.

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimated that 22.7 percent of Florida's population and 2.3 percent of Okaloosa County's population were children under 17 years of age (Table 3-4). CT 208/BG 9, which covers the entire Hurlburt Field property, has the highest percentage of children under 17 years of age in the vicinity of the project area (3.4 percent). This percentage is very low relative to the percentage for the entire State of Florida.



Legend

CT Census Tract
 BG Block Group

Source: Microsoft MapPoint



FIGURE 3-2
 Census Tract Locations
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

3.12 Coastal Zone Management Act

The federal CZMA provides assistance to states, in cooperation with federal and local agencies, for developing land and water use programs in coastal zones. According to Section 307 of the CZMA, federal projects that affect land uses, water uses, or coastal resources in a state's coastal zone must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of that state's federally approved coastal zone management plan.

The FCMP is based on a network of agencies implementing 23 statutes that protect and enhance Florida's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources. FDEP implements the FCMP through the Florida State Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse routes applications for federal activities, such as EAs, to the appropriate state, regional, and local reviewers to determine federal consistency with the FCMP. Applicants are required to submit their own preliminary consistency determination along with the EA to the Clearinghouse. Following their review of the EA, the FCMP state agencies provide comments and recommendations to the Clearinghouse based on their statutory authorities. Based on an evaluation of the comments and recommendations, FDEP makes the state's final consistency determination, which will either agree or disagree with the applicant's own consistency determination. Comments and recommendations regarding federal consistency are then forwarded to the applicant in the state clearance letter issued by the Clearinghouse.

SECTION 4

Environmental Consequences

This section presents an evaluation of the potential environmental, physical, cultural, and socioeconomic consequences of implementing the Proposed Action, Alternative to the Proposed Action, and No-Action Alternative on the resources described in Section 3.

4.1 Air Quality

4.1.1 Construct Boathouse

4.1.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse would result in short-term, minor impacts to air quality. Fugitive dust (particulate matter) and construction vehicle exhaust emissions would be generated during construction and would vary daily, depending on the level and type of work conducted.

Fugitive dust would be generated by construction vehicle and equipment travel on sand surfaces and to a lesser extent by wind action on stockpiled building materials. Fugitive dust from stockpiled materials would consist primarily of nontoxic particulate matter. Fugitive dust would be controlled at the site using best management practices (BMPs), such as periodic watering of cleared areas.

Pollutants that would be emitted from the internal combustion engine exhausts of construction vehicles and equipment include nitrogen oxide (NO_x), CO, PM₁₀, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These types of exhaust emissions would be temporary, and at their expected generation levels, would not significantly impact air quality. Fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from the proposed construction activities would not collectively represent a new major source of air emission; therefore, they would not require a modification to the synthetic minor air operation permit under which Hurlburt Field operates.

Construction of the boathouse would reduce the frequency of trailering of the unit's 32-foot boats between the storage area and the boat ramp. As a result, emissions from transport vehicles would be reduced, thus having a minor positive impact on air quality.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on air quality.

4.1.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on air quality.

4.1.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.1.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a restroom facility would result in short-term, minor impacts to air quality. Fugitive dust (particulate matter) and construction vehicle exhaust emissions would be generated during construction and would vary daily, depending on the level and type of work conducted.

Fugitive dust would be generated by construction vehicle and equipment travel on sand surfaces and by wind action on stockpiled materials. Fugitive dust from stockpiled materials would consist primarily of nontoxic particulate matter. Fugitive dust would be controlled at the site using BMPs, such as periodic watering of cleared areas and stockpiled materials.

Pollutants that would be emitted from the internal combustion engine exhausts of construction vehicles and equipment include NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and VOCs. These types of exhaust emissions would be temporary, and at their expected generation levels, would not significantly impact air quality. Fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from the proposed construction activities would not collectively represent a new major source of air emission; therefore, they would not require a modification to the synthetic minor air operation permit under which Hurlburt Field operates.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on air quality.

4.1.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on air quality.

4.2 Noise

As described in Section 3, typical construction work generates noise levels in the range of 78 to 89 dBA approximately 50 feet from the construction area. Based on the EPA publication, *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances*, PB 206717 (EPA, 1971), noise levels at 50 feet from a source decrease by approximately 3 dBA over a hard, unobstructed surface (such as asphalt or open sandy areas), and by approximately 4.5 dBA over a soft surface (such as forest vegetation). The maximum acceptable noise level for most residential land uses is generally considered to be 65 dBA DNL.

4.2.1 Construct Boathouse

4.2.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse would temporarily increase ambient noise levels in and around the construction area. The increased noise levels would be short term and limited to normal weekday working hours.

The nearest noise-sensitive area to the project area is the block of accompanied military housing located approximately 800 feet to the northwest at its nearest point. The nearest residential area outside of Hurlburt Field is located approximately 1.8 miles to the east in the City of Mary Esther. Based on the EPA estimates of noise dissipation described

previously, construction-related noise levels for the Proposed Action are expected to decrease by approximately 53 dBA by the time they reach the military housing area. If the range of typical construction noise levels (78 to 89 dBA) is used, the noise level range in this housing area would be approximately 25 to 36 dBA during construction. These noise levels are below the maximum acceptable noise level of 65 dBA. Construction-related noise would not be audible in the nearest residential area outside of Hurlburt Field. After construction activities are completed, noise levels would be similar to those that currently exist.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have any significant noise impacts.

4.2.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no noise-related effects.

4.2.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.2.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a restroom facility would temporarily increase ambient noise levels in and around the construction area. The increased noise levels would be short term and limited to normal weekday working hours.

The nearest noise-sensitive area to the project area is the block of accompanied military housing located approximately 475 feet to the north northwest at its nearest point. The nearest residential area outside of Hurlburt Field is located approximately 1.8 miles to the east in the City of Mary Esther. Based on the EPA estimates of noise dissipation described previously, construction-related noise levels for the Proposed Action are expected to decrease by approximately 36 dBA by the time they reach the military housing area. If the range of typical construction noise levels (78 to 89 dBA) is used, the noise level range in this housing area would be approximately 42 to 53 dBA during construction of the restroom facility. These noise levels are below the maximum acceptable noise level of 65 dBA. Construction-related noise would not be audible in the nearest residential area outside of Hurlburt Field. After construction activities are completed, noise levels would be similar to those that currently exist.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have any significant noise impacts.

4.2.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no noise-related effects.

4.3 Topography, Geology, and Soils

4.3.1 Construct Boathouse

4.3.1.1 Proposed Action

Topography

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse over the waters of the Sound would not alter the topography of the project area because no sediment dredging would be required, and only pilings would be installed as part of the boathouse support structure. For this reason, the Proposed Action would have no effect on topography.

Geology

Under the Proposed Action, installation of offshore pilings to support the boathouse structure would involve some intrusive impact to subsurface geology. Actual piling depth would depend on site conditions, but could be as deep as 15 to 18 feet below grade. Approximately 45 pilings, each measuring 8 inches by 8 inches, would be installed. Overall the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on subsurface geology.

Soils

Under the Proposed Action, no surface soils would be directly affected because the footprint of the boathouse would be over water. Based on the preliminary design, the proposed above water boathouse structure would be approximately 40 feet wide and 50 feet long. Approximately 45 pilings would be installed, displacing approximately 20 square feet of sediment. The overall impact to sediments within Santa Rosa Sound from the construction of the proposed boathouse is considered to be minor given the relatively small area of sediment that would be displaced during installation of support pilings. Sediment turbidity controls would be implemented during construction of the boathouse to minimize offsite transport. The controls would include a double row of floating turbidity curtains surrounding the entire construction area.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on sediments.

4.3.1.2 No-Action Alternative

Topography

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on topography.

Geology

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on geology.

Soils

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on soils or sediment.

4.3.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.3.2.1 Proposed Action

Topography

Under the Proposed Action, constructing the restroom facility would slightly alter the topography of the project area as a result of minor land contouring that would be required. The existing grade is gently sloping toward the south, so some regrading of the site would be required to produce a level surface for construction. The overall impact to topography would be minor; therefore, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on topography.

Geology

Under the Proposed Action, installation of pilings to support the restroom facility would involve some intrusive impact to subsurface geology. The pilings are expected to be installed approximately 15 feet below grade. Overall, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on geology.

Soils

Under the Proposed Action, soils in the area of the restroom facility would be temporarily disturbed during construction. The overall impact on soils would be minor given that the entire construction footprint is within a sandy lot where soils have been relatively disturbed from past land use. Sediment and erosion controls would be implemented during construction. Such controls may include silt fences and hay bales.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on soils.

4.3.2.2 No-Action Alternative

Topography

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on topography.

Geology

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on geology.

Soils

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on soils.

4.4 Water Resources

4.4.1 Construct Boathouse

4.4.1.1 Proposed Action

Groundwater

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse over water would not have an effect on the surficial groundwater table in the project area. The proposed activities would not result in withdrawals from, or discharges to, groundwater.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on groundwater.

Surface Water

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse over the waters of Santa Rosa Sound would temporarily impact surface water quality during the construction period, and result in a relatively small displacement of surface water area as a result of piling installation. During the construction period, silt screens and hay bales would be installed along the shoreline and turbidity curtains would be installed around the construction site to minimize transport of suspended sediments.

Santa Rosa Sound, including the shoreline area below the mean high-water elevation, is considered a jurisdictional surface water. The Proposed Action would therefore require a Dredge and Fill Permit under the joint jurisdiction of FDEP and USACE during the permitting phase of the project. Based on the preliminary design, the proposed boathouse would be approximately 40 feet wide and 50 feet long. Approximately 45 pilings, each measuring 8 inches by 8 inches, would be installed, displacing approximately 20 square feet of surface water area. The overall impact to jurisdictional surface waters from the construction of the proposed boathouse is considered to be minor given the relatively small area that would be displaced.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on surface water.

Flood Hazard

The Proposed Action of constructing a boathouse over water would not result in an increase in impervious area; therefore, there would not be an increase in flooding potential of the project area or its vicinity.

For this reason, the Proposed Action would have no effect on flood hazard.

4.4.1.2 No-Action Alternative

Groundwater

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on groundwater.

Surface Water

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on surface water.

Flood Hazard

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on flood hazard.

4.4.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.4.2.1 Proposed Action

Groundwater

Under the Proposed Action, constructing the restroom facility would have a minor, temporary impact on the surficial groundwater table in the project area during the construction period. The proposed activities would not result in withdrawals from, or discharges to, groundwater.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on groundwater.

Surface Water

Under the Proposed Action, constructing the restroom facility would not directly impact any surface water feature because none are located on or immediately adjacent to the proposed site. The small impervious area that would be created by the pilings of the constructed restroom facility would produce runoff during storm events. The runoff would be minor and would flow into the surrounding sandy soils and be readily absorbed. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on surface water.

Flood Hazard

The Proposed Action would result in a small increase in impervious area from the pilings of the constructed restroom facility. The flooding potential in the area is primarily associated with storm surges. The slope from the shoreline in the area is relatively steep so flooding from Santa Rosa Sound occurs only during very heavy storm surge conditions, such as those experienced during hurricanes; therefore, the proposed increase in impervious area should not increase the flooding potential of the project area or its vicinity.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on flood hazard.

4.4.2.2 No-Action Alternative

Groundwater

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on groundwater.

Surface Water

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on surface water.

Flood Hazard

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on flood hazard.

4.5 Biological Resources

4.5.1 Construct Boathouse

4.5.1.1 Proposed Action

Wetlands

Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse in the waters of Santa Rosa Sound would temporarily impact surface water quality within the Sound during the construction period, but is not expected to have any effect on wetlands in the vicinity of the project area. The Sound, including the shoreline area below the mean high water elevation, is considered a jurisdictional surface water. The designation of the system as a jurisdictional surface water is the same as a designation of a jurisdictional wetland from a permitting standpoint. The status of this system as a jurisdictional surface water was described previously in this section.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on wetlands.

Vegetation

Under the Proposed Action, some aquatic vegetation within the footprint of the boathouse may be permanently displaced. The overall potential impact on aquatic vegetation would be minor because there is very little aquatic vegetation and no seagrasses within the portion of the Sound in the project area.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on vegetation.

Wildlife

Under the Proposed Action, wildlife within the vicinity of the project area would be temporarily disturbed during the construction period. Aquatic habitat within the footprint of the boathouse would be permanently displaced. The overall impact on terrestrial wildlife habitat would be minor because the adjacent beach is relatively disturbed from past activity and provides relatively low-quality wildlife habitat. The shoreline where the proposed boathouse would be constructed provides moderate quality wildlife habitat for marine/estuarine aquatic species and wading birds. The overall quality of the wildlife habitat it provides is diminished by its surrounding land use and its direct use as a recreational area. Barge traffic associated with the adjacent POL pier is relatively heavy just off the shoreline.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on wildlife.

Protected Species

Based on a field investigation conducted from May 3 through 5, 2005, suitable foraging habitat for the reddish egret, brown pelican, and least tern is located within the project area for the Proposed Action. The reddish egret and brown pelican are state listed as Species of Special Concern, and the least tern is state listed as Threatened. The Santa Rosa Sound shoreline serves as potential foraging habitat for the reddish egret, and the open waters of the Sound serve as potential foraging habitat for the brown pelican and least tern. Construction of the boathouse will directly impact suitable foraging habitat for these species. The impact on foraging habitat from the boathouse construction is considered a minor impact to these species. The boathouse construction may also temporarily disturb these species during the construction period. This temporary impact is also considered to be minor.

The USFWS designated Santa Rosa Sound as a critical habitat for the threatened Gulf sturgeon. In general, estuarine and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including Santa Rosa Sound, provide foraging habitat for adult fish during 3 to 4 of the coolest months of the year, while the remaining 8 to 9 months of the year are spent in freshwater rivers. This Proposed Action would not significantly modify critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon.

Based on the FWC Eagle Nest Locator database, the nearest bald eagle nest is located approximately 12.4 miles northeast of the project area; therefore, it would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

Based on the FWC Florida Waterbird Colony Locator database, there are no woodstork nesting colonies located within 18.6 miles of the project area; therefore, foraging area for the woodstork would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action is being coordinated with USFWS through correspondence (Appendix A).

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on protected species.

4.5.1.2 No-Action Alternative

Wetlands

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on wetlands.

Vegetation

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on vegetation.

Wildlife

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on wildlife.

Protected Species

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on protected species.

4.5.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.5.2.1 Proposed Action

Wetlands

Under the Proposed Action, constructing the restroom facility would not impact any wetland because there are no wetlands located within the project site. Connection of electrical, water, and sanitary sewer services to the restroom facility would occur along the shoulder of Marina Road westward toward the marina facilities, and would not impact wetland habitat along this route. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on wetlands.

Vegetation

Under the Proposed Action, vegetation within the footprint of the restroom facility would be permanently displaced. The overall impact on vegetation would be minor because the construction site has sparse vegetation that has been disturbed from past land use. Connection of electrical, water, and sanitary sewer lines to the restroom facility would occur along the shoulder of Marina Road, which contains maintained groundcover species. Vegetation along the road shoulder would be replaced following routing of utility services.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on vegetation.

Wildlife

Under the Proposed Action, wildlife within the vicinity of the project area would be temporarily disturbed during the construction period. Terrestrial habitat within the footprint of the restroom building would be permanently displaced. The overall impact on terrestrial wildlife habitat would be minor because the construction site is relatively disturbed from past activity and provides relatively low-quality wildlife habitat.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on wildlife.

Protected Species

Based on a field investigation conducted from May 3 through 5, 2005, suitable foraging habitat for the reddish egret, brown pelican, and least tern is located within the vicinity of the Proposed Action, but not within its project area. The reddish egret and brown pelican are state listed as Species of Special Concern, and the least tern is state listed as Threatened. There is no suitable habitat for federally listed species within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area; therefore, construction of the restroom facility will not directly impact these species. The Santa Rosa Sound shoreline serves as potential foraging habitat for the reddish egret, and the open waters of the Sound serve as potential foraging habitat for the brown pelican and least tern. These species may be temporarily disturbed during the construction period; however, the overall impact would be minor.

The USFWS designated Santa Rosa Sound as a critical habitat for the threatened Gulf sturgeon. In general, estuarine and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including Santa Rosa Sound, provide foraging habitat for adult fish during 3 to 4 of the coolest months of the year, while the remaining 8 to 9 months of the year are spent in freshwater rivers. Construction of the restroom facility would not modify critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon.

Based on the FWC Eagle Nest Locator database, the nearest bald eagle nest is located approximately 12.4 miles northeast of the project area; therefore, it would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

Based on the FWC Florida Waterbird Colony Locator database, there are no woodstork nesting colonies located within 18.6 miles of the project area; therefore, foraging area for the woodstork would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action is being coordinated with USFWS through correspondence (Appendix A). For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on protected species.

4.5.2.2 No-Action Alternative

Wetlands

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on wetlands.

Vegetation

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on vegetation.

Wildlife

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on wildlife.

Protected Species

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on protected species.

4.6 Land Use

4.6.1 Construct Boathouse

4.6.1.1 Proposed Action

The land use of the project area for the Proposed Action and much of the immediate surrounding area is currently classified as Open Space. Under the Proposed Action, constructing a boathouse would not change the land use classification of the area. The portion of the Santa Rosa Sound shoreline adjacent to where the boathouse is proposed is currently used for recreation, although it is not classified as recreational land use. The boathouse would be used exclusively by the 1 SOSS/OSR to store its boats and to facilitate training exercises. The boathouse would not be available to the public or general personnel for recreation; however, the boat ramp to which the boathouse will be attached would be available for public use. The boathouse would not affect recreational use of the area.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on land use.

4.6.1.2 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the land use classification of the area would remain the same; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on land use.

4.6.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.6.2.1 Proposed Action

The land use of the project area for the Proposed Action and much of the immediate surrounding area is currently classified as Open Space. Under the Proposed Action, constructing a restroom facility would not change the land use classification of the area. The project area is currently an undeveloped sandy lot. Providing a restroom facility would enhance the usability of the picnic pavilions, beach, and surrounding areas currently used by the public for recreation.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have a positive impact on land use.

4.6.2.2 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the land use classification of the area would remain the same; however, this alternative would not provide a restroom facility that is needed by recreational users of the area. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have a negative impact on land use.

4.7 Environmental Management

4.7.1 Construct Boathouse

4.7.1.1 Proposed Action

The project area for the Proposed Action currently requires no environmental management. Under the Proposed Action, construction activities would be conducted in accordance with

all applicable Hurlburt Field environmental management plans. Because there are no active ERP sites within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the construction area, the Proposed Action would not impact any ERP sites.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on environmental management.

4.7.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would not have any effect on environmental management.

4.7.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.7.2.1 Proposed Action

The project area for the Proposed Action currently requires no environmental management. Under the Proposed Action, construction activities would be conducted in accordance with all applicable Hurlburt Field environmental management plans. Because there are no active ERP sites within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the construction area, the Proposed Action would not impact any ERP sites.

For this reason, the Proposed Action would have no effect on environmental management.

4.7.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on environmental management.

4.8 Cultural Resources

4.8.1 Construct Boathouse

4.8.1.1 Proposed Action

There are no cultural resources within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area for the Proposed Action. The nearest archaeological sites to the project area (Sites 80K61 and 80K133) are located more than 1,000 feet to the west and east, respectively, and would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action is being coordinated with SHPO through correspondence (Appendix A).

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources.

4.8.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on cultural resources.

4.8.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.8.2.1 Proposed Action

There are no cultural resources within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area for the Proposed Action. The nearest archaeological sites to the project area (Sites 80K61 and 80K133) are located more than 1,000 feet to the west and east, respectively, and would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action is being coordinated with SHPO through correspondence (Appendix A).

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources.

4.8.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on cultural resources.

4.9 Transportation

4.9.1 Construct Boathouse

4.9.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction workers would temporarily increase traffic in the project vicinity during the construction period; however, the projected increase should not significantly burden the road system in or around Hurlburt Field. After the work is completed, traffic levels at the installation would return to existing levels.

The proposed boathouse would enable the 1 SOSS/OSR to continually store its two 32-foot long boats in a location where they can be directly deployed for training exercises, thereby eliminating the need to transport the boats over land from the current storage site to the launching area. Although the boats would still be required to be transported to and from the boathouse for periodic maintenance, the overall frequency of trailering the boats over land would be decreased by the Proposed Action.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have a minor positive impact on transportation.

4.9.1.2 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the 1 SOSS/OSR would continue to transport its boats over land from the current storage site to the launching area during training exercises. As a result, periodic difficulties associated with traffic, boat trailer maneuvering, and parking would continue to occur. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have a minor negative impact on transportation.

4.9.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.9.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction workers would temporarily increase traffic in the project vicinity during the construction period; however, the projected increase should not

significantly burden the road system in or around Hurlburt Field. After the work is completed, traffic levels at the installation would return to existing levels.

The presence of a restroom facility is not likely to significantly influence local recreational use of the beach area, although it will enhance the recreational experience. Therefore, it is unlikely that the facility will have any impact on transportation.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on transportation.

4.9.2.2 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no construction would be conducted; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on transportation.

4.10 Socioeconomics

The economic effects of a proposed action are caused by a change in the demand for goods and services in the local economy. Primary (or direct) effects are caused by initial changes in expenditures, employment, salaries, and population directly related to the Proposed Action. Secondary effects are induced by the process of spending and respending, and the relationship between what is needed to produce goods and services and the commodities produced.

4.10.1 Construct Boathouse

4.10.1.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action should not affect the demographics of the area because no additional hires or personnel relocations from other installations would be required. The labor force of the local area should be able to provide enough workers to perform the proposed construction activities without additional persons relocating to the area.

The Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the total labor force, employment, or unemployment in the region because of the small number of jobs that would be created. The economic effects of the Proposed Action would be limited primarily to temporary effects associated with construction. Because the net increase in construction employment would be temporary and minimal, there would be no appreciable effect on the local economy. Expenditures for construction-related materials and supplies would have a small, short-term, beneficial effect on the economy of the region. Businesses near the project area, such as gas stations and restaurants, could benefit from additional sales to construction workers.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have a minor positive impact on socioeconomics.

4.10.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on socioeconomics.

4.10.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.10.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action should not affect the demographics of the area because no additional hires or personnel relocations from other installations would be required. The labor force of the local area should be able to provide enough workers to perform the proposed construction activities without additional persons relocating to the area.

The Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the total labor force, employment, or unemployment in the region because of the small number of jobs that would be created. The economic effects of the Proposed Action would be limited primarily to temporary effects associated with construction. Because the net increase in construction employment would be temporary and minimal, there would be no appreciable effect on the local economy. Expenditures for construction-related materials and supplies would have a small, short-term, beneficial effect on the economy of the region. Businesses near the project area, such as gas stations and restaurants, could benefit from additional sales to construction workers.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have a minor positive impact on socioeconomics.

4.10.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on socioeconomics.

4.11 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

4.11.1 Construct Boathouse

4.11.1.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action should not result in significant impacts associated with air quality, noise, drinking water, or hazardous substances. As a result, minorities, low-income residents, and children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the project area, would not be disproportionately impacted by any activity associated with the Proposed Action. This analysis is considered valid regardless of the total number or percentage of minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the project area, or the distance of their residences from the project area.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.11.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.11.2 Construct Restroom Facility

4.11.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action should not result in significant impacts associated with air quality, noise, drinking water, or hazardous substances. As a result, minorities, low-income residents, and children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the project area, would not be disproportionately impacted by any activity associated with the Proposed Action. This analysis is considered valid regardless of the total number or percentage of minorities, low-income residents, or children under 17 years of age living in proximity to the project area, or the distance of their residences from the project area.

For these reasons, the Proposed Action would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.11.2.2 No-Action Alternative

No construction activities would be conducted under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, the No-Action Alternative would have no effect on environmental justice or protection of children.

4.12 Coastal Zone Management

As described in Section 3.12, federal applicants seeking an FCMP consistency determination from FDEP are required to submit their own preliminary consistency determination along with the EA to the Florida State Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse solicits comments from appropriate state, regional, and local reviewers to determine federal consistency with the FCMP. Based on an evaluation of comments and recommendations, FDEP makes the state's final consistency determination, which would either agree or disagree with the applicant's own consistency determination.

Hurlburt Field has determined that the Proposed Action is consistent with the FCMP. Table 4-1 lists the 23 applicable statutes and a consistency determination for each. FDEP's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP, along with the comments and recommendations received from participating reviewers, will be included in the final EA.

TABLE 4-1
Proposed Action Checklist – Consistency Determination
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 161 <i>Beach and Shore Preservation</i>	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would have no significant impact on or seaward of the state's beaches. Only 20 square feet below the mean high water elevation on Santa Rosa Sound would be displaced by the proposed boathouse which will be supported by pilings over the water. Landward of this elevation, the area proposed for restroom construction is a sandy lot with disturbed soils. No other activity under the Proposed Action would impact beaches.	Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within FDEP to regulate the construction on or seaward of the state's beaches.

TABLE 4-1
Proposed Action Checklist – Consistency Determination
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 163, Part II <i>Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest.
Chapter 186 <i>State and Regional Planning</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Details the state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water-use, land development, and transportation.
Chapter 252 <i>Emergency Management</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Provides for the planning and implementation of the state's response to natural and manmade disasters, efforts to recover from natural and manmade disasters, and the mitigation of natural and manmade disasters.
Chapter 253 <i>State Lands</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property the state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands.
Chapter 258 <i>State Parks and Preserves</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the administration and management of state parks and preserves.
Chapter 259 <i>Land Conservation Act of 1972</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands.
Chapter 260 <i>Recreational Trails System</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Authorizes the acquisition of land to create a recreational trails system and to facilitate the management of the system.
Chapter 267 <i>Archives, History, and Records Management</i>	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would have no effect on the state's archaeological and historical resources. There are no cultural resources within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the project area for the Proposed Action. The nearest archaeological site to the project area, located more than 1,000 feet away, would not be affected by the Proposed Action.	Addresses the management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.
Chapter 288 <i>Commercial Development and Capital Improvements</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.

TABLE 4-1
Proposed Action Checklist – Consistency Determination
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 334 <i>Transportation Administration</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration.
Chapter 339 <i>Transportation Finance</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system.
Chapter 370 <i>Saltwater Fisheries</i>	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would have no effect on saltwater fisheries. The proposed minor impact to jurisdictional surface waters of Santa Rosa Sound (20 square feet) is not expected to have significant impact on fisheries in the area.	Addresses the management and protection of the state's saltwater fisheries.
Chapter 372 <i>Wildlife</i>	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would have no significant impact on wildlife. Construction-related noise would result in minor, temporary disturbance to wildlife during construction. Constructing the restroom and boathouse facilities would respectively displace currently disturbed, low-quality habitat and disturb a minor amount (20 square feet) of benthic habitat.	Addresses the management of the wildlife resources of the state.
Chapter 373 <i>Water Resources</i>	Based on the EA, the Proposed Action would have no significant impact on water resources. Only 20 square feet of jurisdictional surface waters would be disturbed by the proposed boathouse.	Addresses the state's policy concerning water resources.
Chapter 375 <i>Outdoor Recreation and Conservation</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Develops a comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate the need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose the means to meet the identified needs.
Chapter 376 <i>Pollutant Discharge, Prevention and Removal</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Regulates the transfer, storage, and transportation of pollutants, and the cleanup of pollutant discharges.
Chapter 377 <i>Energy Resources</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the regulation, planning, and development of the energy resources of the state.
Chapter 380 <i>Land and Water Management</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Establishes land and water management policies to guide and coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.

TABLE 4-1
Proposed Action Checklist – Consistency Determination
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 381 <i>Public Health;</i> <i>General Provisions</i> Sections 381.001, 381.0011, 381.0012, 381.006, 381.0061, 381.0065, 381.0066, 381.0067	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system.
Chapter 388 <i>Mosquito Control</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Addresses the mosquito control effort in the state.
Chapter 403 <i>Environmental Control</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state.
Chapter 582 <i>Soil and Water Conservation</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Action.	Provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion.

4.13 Cumulative Impacts

A “cumulative impact” is defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.” Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Based on the findings of this EA, the Proposed Action would not result in significant direct or indirect impacts to any environmental, cultural, physical, or socioeconomic resource. When coupled with foreseeable planned development projects proposed by the Hurlburt Field General Plan and foreseeable military mission activities, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in negative cumulative impacts. Foreseeable projects within the Soundside Area include infrastructure improvements to the POL pier facility, privatization of the Soundside military housing, construction of a boat ramp for the 1 SOSS/OSR, and improvements to U.S. Highway 98. Significant cumulative impacts are not expected based on the types, schedules, and respectively low impact potentials of these projects.

The potential impacts that the proposed construction activities would have on air quality and noise would be short-term and temporary, and are expected to be minor. When the emissions associated with construction activities are coupled with other sources at Hurlburt Field that generate air emissions, the potential cumulative impacts to air quality are not expected to be significant.

Based on the minor amounts (20 square feet) of sediment and surface water that would be displaced by the proposed boathouse, the Proposed Action would not result in significant direct impacts to the resources. When coupled with the minor impacts to sediment and

surface water resulting from the boat ramp that Hurlburt Field plans to construct for the 1 SOSS/OSR, the potential cumulative impacts to these resources are not expected to be significant.

Based on the type and condition of the vegetation and habitat within the proposed construction sites of the restroom facility and boathouse, and the minor amounts of vegetation and habitat that would be displaced, the Proposed Action would not result in significant direct impacts to these resources. The displacement of vegetation by the Proposed Action is not expected to have any adverse cumulative effects because the vegetation types impacted are not considered ecologically sensitive and are very abundant in the area. Likewise, the Proposed Action is not expected to have any cumulative impacts on protected species because of the low quantity of habitat that would be impacted and the abundance of identical habitat in the area. When coupled with the minor impacts to vegetation and habitat resulting from the boat ramp that Hurlburt Field plans to construct for the 1 SOSS/OSR, the potential cumulative impacts to these resources are not expected to be significant.

The proposed boathouse and restroom facility would have some minor positive cumulative effects on the local economy resulting from short-term, temporary increases in employment and expenditures during the construction period. Because the proposed boathouse would improve the launching capability of the 1 SOSS/OSR, reduce the frequency of trailering the unit's boats, and provide the unit with more suitable boat storage accommodations, it would have a positive cumulative effect on the unit's training exercises and the overall mission of Hurlburt Field. The proposed restroom facility would have a positive cumulative effect on recreation use within the Soundside Area and on Hurlburt Field's overall recreation program.

List of Preparers

5.1 CH2M HILL

John Martin: Project manager and lead environmental scientist responsible for preparing the EA. Mr. Martin has 22 years of experience in ecological risk assessment, aquatic toxicology, marine and freshwater ecology, and wetland ecology. He holds a B.S. degree in Biology from Baldwin-Wallace College, and an M.S. degree in Biology from the University of Memphis.

Tunch Orsoy: Environmental scientist responsible for preparing the EA and providing technical review. Mr. Orsoy has 16 years of experience in biological studies, dredge-and-fill permitting, NEPA document preparation, and contamination investigations. He holds a B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Georgia, and an M.S. degree in Marine Science from the University of South Florida.

Kira Zender: Land use planner responsible for the socioeconomic sections of the EA. Ms. Zender has 14 years as an experienced planner, specializing in land use planning for military water resources management and recreation and has prepared numerous facility siting and power plant projects, base closure documents, NEPA environmental documents, and technical studies. She holds a B.A. degree in Urban Studies from New College of the University of South Florida, and an M.S. degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Michigan State University.

Karen Smittle: Technical editor responsible for editing the report to assure clarity and consistency for the reader. Ms. Smittle has 24 years of experience editing scientific/engineering documents. She holds a B.D. degree in Architecture from the University of Florida.

Bill Owens: Civil engineer responsible for senior review of the EA. Mr. Owens has 20 years of experience in a full spectrum of engineering program management involving the oversight of program schedules, manpower, materials, funding, and environmental compliance for USAF facilities. He holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida, and an M.S. degree in Engineering and Environmental Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

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SECTION 6

List of Agencies and Persons Consulted or Given Copies of the EA

Amy Gilmore, Physical Scientist, 1 SOCES/CEV, Hurlburt Field, Florida

Keith Cutshaw, Chief, Engineering Flight, 1 SOCES/CEV, Hurlburt Field, Florida

Jim Perkins, 1 SOCES/CEV, Hurlburt Field, Florida

Ed Sarfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Pensacola, Florida

Gail Carmody, Project Leader, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Panama City Field Office, Panama City, Florida

Karla Reece, Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Protected Resources, St. Petersburg, Florida

Frederick P. Gaske, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tallahassee, Florida

Lauren Milligan, Florida State Clearinghouse, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Tallahassee, Florida

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SECTION 7

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APPENDIX A

Agency Correspondence

Florida State Clearinghouse



CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, FL
32614-7009
Tel 352.335.7991
Fax 352.335.2959

June 5, 2007

Lauren P. Milligan, Environmental Manager
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom
Facility Construction

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Attached you will find 2 hard copies and 13 CDs (PDF versions) of the *Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction, June, 2007*, for your integration and distribution to appropriate state agencies.

As I mentioned in my recent e-mailed correspondence, I would also like to request a 45 day turnaround for this report.

Please send agency comments and associated letters to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Rd
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If any additional information on the project is required, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 x52217.
Thanks for all your assistance.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL


John Martin
Project Manager

Attachment: (2 Reports, 13 CDs)

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

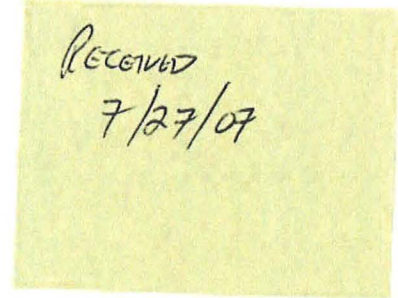
Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

July 23, 2007

Mr. John Martin, Project Manager
CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608



RE: Department of the Air Force - Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction - Okaloosa County, FL.
SAI # FL200706113501C

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced draft environmental assessment (DEA).

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Northwest District office in Pensacola advises that the proposed boathouse will require a Wetland Resource Permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization prior to construction. Care should be taken to insure that the facility will not be located over seagrass beds and construction techniques should involve the use of turbidity screens or other methods to contain turbidity during construction. Please contact Mr. Larry O'Donnell at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1129 for further permitting details and assistance. The restroom facility and associated upland impervious area may also require issuance of a stormwater permit. Please contact Mr. Cliff Street at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1134 for information regarding state stormwater treatment and permitting requirements. In addition, the Air Force is advised to submit further information on the wastewater and drinking water facilities associated with the boathouse and restroom, as permits may be required from the DEP or Okaloosa County Health Department.

The Florida Department of State (DOS) advises that proposed undertaking is not likely to affect historic properties, provided that the Air Force makes contingency plans in case fortuitous finds or unanticipated discoveries are uncovered during ground disturbing activities. If any prehistoric or historic artifacts are encountered during construction, all ground disturbing activities should cease and the Air Force should contact the DOS

Mr. John Martin
July 23, 2007
Page 2 of 2

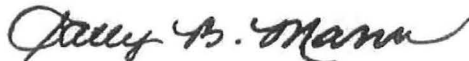
Division of Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333 for further instructions. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, *Florida Statutes*. Please see the enclosed DOS letter for further details.

West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) staff has expressed concerns regarding the location of the proposed dolphins and boat slips, water depths on-site and potential impacts to seagrass beds. Please refer to the enclosed WFRPC memorandum for additional information.

Based on the information contained in the DEA and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed federal activities are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The agency must, however, address the issues identified by our reviewing agencies prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

Sincerely yours,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosures

cc: Darryl Boudreau, DEP, Northwest District
Laura Kammerer, DOS
John Gallagher, WFRPC



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

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Project Information	
Project:	FL200706113501C
Comments Due:	07/12/2007
Letter Due:	07/23/2007
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, HURLBURT FIELD SOUNDSIDE BOATHOUSE AND RESTROOM FACILITY CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	USAF - HURLBURT FIELD SOUNDSIDE BOATHOUSE/RESTROOM FACILITY - OKALOOSA CO.
CFDA #:	12.200
Agency Comments:	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
<p>The DEP Northwest District office in Pensacola advises that the proposed boathouse will require a Wetland Resource Permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization prior to construction. Care should be taken to insure that the facility will not be located over seagrasses and construction techniques should involve the use of turbidity screens or other methods to contain turbidity during construction. Please contact Mr. Larry O'Donnell at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1129 for further permitting details and assistance. The restroom facility and associated upland impervious area may also require issuance of a stormwater permit. Please contact Mr. Cliff Street at (850) 595-8300, ext. 1134 for information regarding state stormwater treatment and permitting requirements. In addition, the Air Force is advised to submit further information on the wastewater and drinking water facilities associated with the boathouse and restroom, as permits may be required from the DEP or Okaloosa County Health Department.</p>	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
NO COMMENT BY BRAD GRUVER ON 7/9/07.	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
<p>The DOS advises that proposed undertaking is not likely to affect historic properties, provided that the Air Force makes contingency plans in case fortuitous finds or unanticipated discoveries are uncovered during ground disturbing activities. If any prehistoric or historic artifacts are encountered during construction, all ground disturbing activities should cease and the Air Force should contact the DOS Division of Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333 for further instructions. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.</p>	
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
No Comment	
WEST FLORIDA RPC - WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
<p>WFRPC staff has expressed concerns regarding the location of the proposed dolphins and boat slips, water depths on-site and possible impacts to seagrass beds. Please see the enclosed WFRPC comments for additional information.</p>	
OKALOOSA - OKALOOSA COUNTY	
No Comments	

For more information or to submit comments, please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD, M.S. 47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](#) to query other projects.



RECEIVED

JUL 19 2007

OIP / OLGA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Lauren Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard - MS 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

July 16, 2007

RE: DHR Project File No: 2007-5317/Received by DHR: June 14, 2007
United States Air Force
SAI #: FL200706113501C
Environmental Assessment for Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom
Facility Construction
Hurlburt Field, Okaloosa County

Dear Ms. Milligan:

This office reviewed the above referenced submittal in order to identify historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archeological value that could be affected. We conducted our review in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, Florida's Coastal Management Program, and all implementing state regulations. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies and applicants when identifying historic properties, assessing effects to historic properties, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects to such properties.

Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking is not likely to have an effect on historic properties, provided that the Air Force makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities on the property:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with early Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries. The Air Force shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
(561) 416-2115 • FAX: 416-2149

Northeast Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Ms. Milligan
July 16, 2007
Page 2

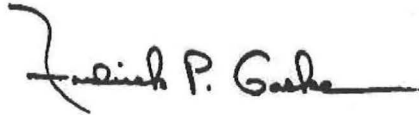
Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization.

- In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, *Florida Statutes*.

Provided the applicant addresses the above conditions, it will be consistent with the historic preservation aspects of Florida's *Coastal Zone Management Act*, the *National Historic Preservation Act*, and *Chapter 267, Florida Statutes*.

We will be pleased to work with the Air Force on future projects. If you have any questions, **please contact James Toner, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail at jetoner@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6333.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer



Bill Roberts, Chairman
Bill Dozier, Vice-Chairman

Terry A. Joseph, Executive Director

FAX TRANSMITTAL (S) Total # of Pages (including cover) 1

TO: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE - FAX: (850) 245-2190/(850) 245-2189
Phone: 850-245-2161

DATE: Thursday, July 19, 2007

FROM: John Gallagher, Director, Housing & Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.
John.Gallagher@wfrpc.org

SUBJECT: State Clearinghouse Review(s) Fax Transmittals:

SAI #	Project Description	RPC #
FL200706113501C	Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom (CD)	0 81-6-15-07

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Comments - Generally consistent with the WFSRPP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments Attached

If you have any questions, please call.

U 81-6-15-01



Bill Roberts, Chairman
Bill Dozier, Vice-Chairman

Terry A. Joseph, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. John Martin, Project Manager, CH2M Hill, 3011 SW Williston Road,
Gainesville, FL 32608

From: Mary F. Gutierrez, Environmental Planner, West Florida Regional Planning Council

Date: July 17, 2007 *MFG 7/17/07*

Subject: Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction

The proposed project is for 1) the construction of a boathouse for the 1 SOSS/OSR Watercraft Operation Flight along a new ramp (under separate planning) on Santa Rosa Sound to provide for storage and rapid launching of two 32-foot boats used by the unit during training, and 2) the construction of a restroom facility to accommodate the needs of people using the beach pavilions and shoreline of the soundside area for recreational purposes.

Based on a review of the proposal and a resource of interest report it appears that the proposed boathouse construction will terminate in seagrass beds thus allowing for mooring to occur over said seagrass beds. In addition, this area might be a nesting ground for Loggerhead and Green Sea Turtles.

In order to fully evaluate your project please respond to the following:

1. Explain the need for additional dolphins in the water as shown on Figure 2-2. Dolphin placement appears to be in seagrass beds.
2. Please explain the configuration associated with the proposed structure (i.e. distance between two access piers). Will the slips shown on the drawing (Figure 2-2) be covered? Based on the information provided, it appears the structure will terminate in seagrass beds, thus allowing the mooring of vessels over seagrasses.
3. What is the water depths associated with the proposed project site? Has a seagrass survey been conducted at the site?
4. Will the existing structure (T-shaped platform; Figure 3-1) remain on site?

COUNTY: OKALOOSA

DATE: 6/6/2007

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 7/12/2007

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 7/23/2007

SAI#: FL200706113501C

REFER TO: FL200508181426C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	X NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD		
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, HURLBURT FIELD SOUNDSIDE BOATHOUSE AND RESTROOM FACILITY CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
 3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

- No Comment
- Comment Attached
- Not Applicable
- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: _____ NFWWMD
 Resource Management Div.
 Duncan J. Cairns

Reviewer: _____ Date 9 JULY 2007

Date: _____

NO COMMENTS

RECEIVED

JUL 10 2007

OIP/OLGA

State Historic Preservation Officer



CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL
32608-3928
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, FL
32614-7009
Tel 352.335.7991
Fax 352.335.2959

June 5, 2007

*Proud Sponsor of
National Engineers Week 2000*

Frederick P. Gaske
State Historic Preservation Officer
R. A. Gray Building, 4th Floor
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom
Facility Construction

Dear Mr. Gaske:

CH2M HILL has prepared an Environmental Assessment for two construction projects on the Soundside portion of Hurlburt Field, south of U.S. Highway 98 (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed improvements include the installation of a boathouse near the southeast end of Marina Road, and the construction of a restroom facility on the north side of Marina Road near the recreational beach area (Figure 3).

Based on consultations with cultural resources staff at Hurlburt Field, as well as a review of past cultural survey findings for the entire installation, there are no cultural resources located within or in the immediate vicinity of the project area for the proposed improvements. The entire area south of Highway 98 has been surveyed for historic resources. Based on survey results, site number 80K61 is the closest site to the west of the project area and site number 80K133 is the closest site to the east of the project area. Site 80K61 is a 9,000 square meter site that contains both historic and prehistoric occupations. The prehistoric component is comprised of several shell middens associated with the Deptford, Santa-Rosa Swift Creek, and Weeden Island occupations of the site. Site 80K133 is a linear site approximately 280 meters in length and approximately six hectares in size that is comprised of intact shell deposits associated with the Deptford and Early Weeden Island occupations. Both of these sites are over 1,000 feet away and would not be affected by the proposed construction projects in any manner. In addition, Site 80K167 lies approximately 200 feet west of the project site. Site 80K167 was badly degraded by housing constructed in the 1950's and has been found to be ineligible for listing with the National Register of Historic Places.

If you concur with Hurlburt Field's assessment that the described infrastructure improvement projects would have no adverse effect on cultural resources, please acknowledge by signing or stamping this letter.

If you would like to provide any comment on the two proposed improvements, please send your comment via letter correspondence to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If you require additional information on the project, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 X 52217. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

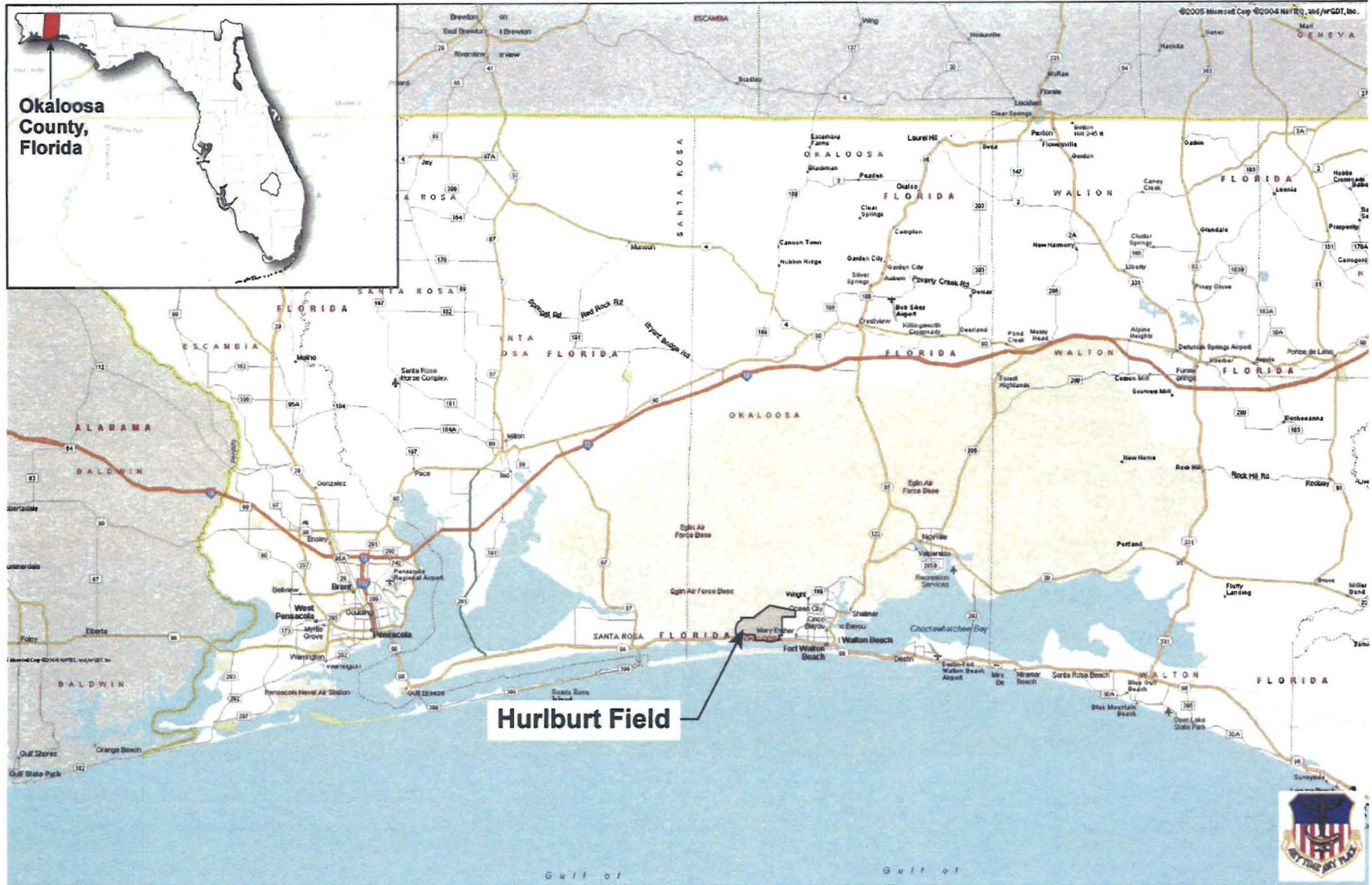


CH2M HILL

John Martin
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)



Source: Microsoft MapPoint

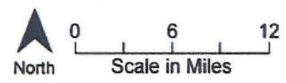
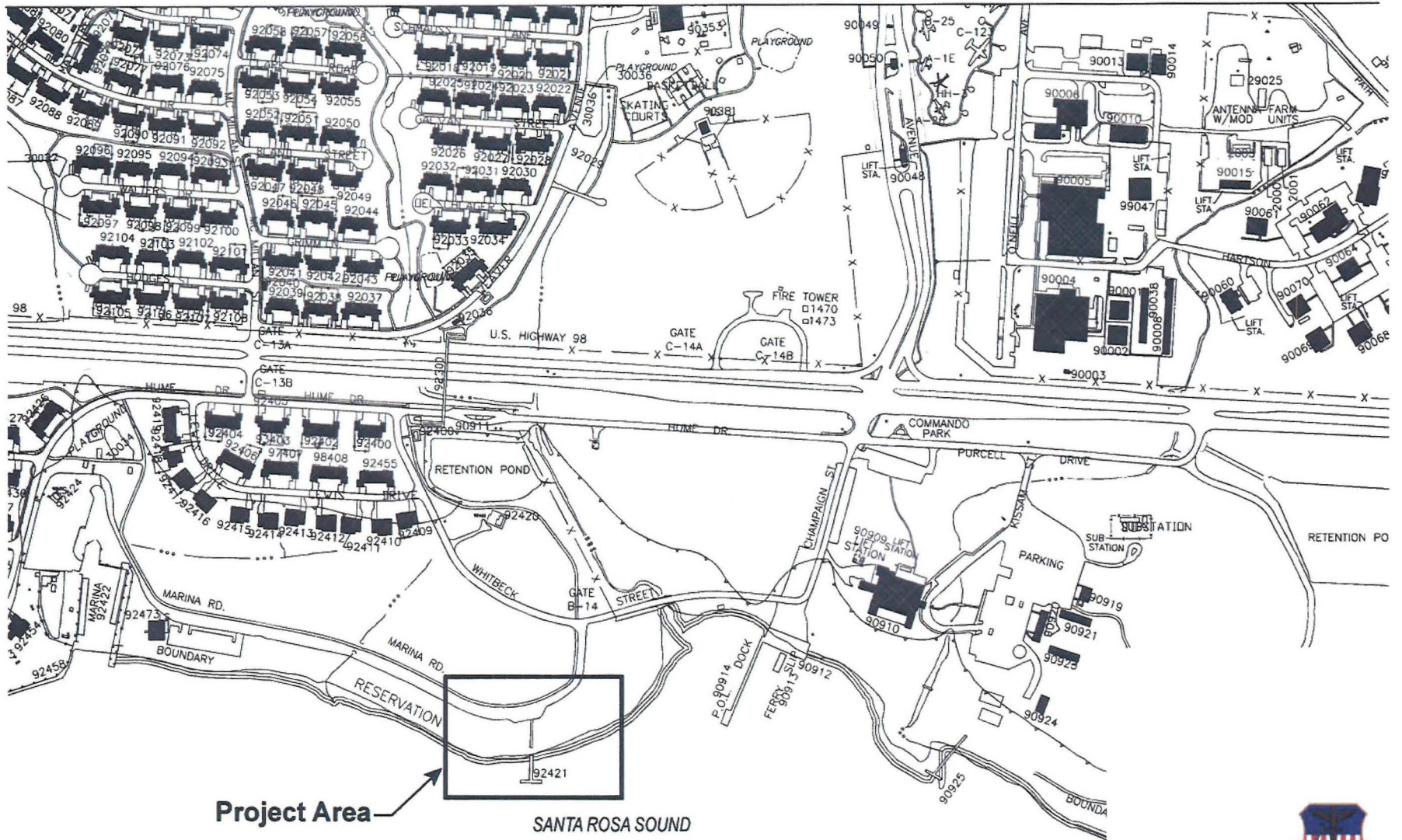


FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity Map
Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlbur Field



Project Area

SANTA ROSA SOUND



Source: Hurlburt Field CE

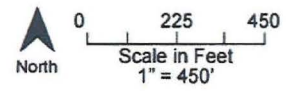


FIGURE 2
 Project Location Map
 Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

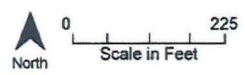
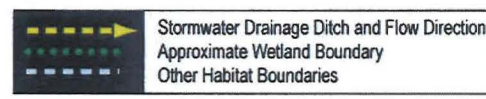


FIGURE 3
 Natural Features Map
 Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Construction EA, Hurlburt Field

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. John Martin
CH2M HILL
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, Florida 147009

July 6, 2007

RE: DHR Project File No: 2007-4610/Received by DHR: June 6, 2007
United States Air Force
Environmental Assessment for Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom
Facility Construction
Hurlburt Field, Okaloosa County

Dear Mr. Martin:

This office reviewed the above referenced submittal in order to identify historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archeological value that could be affected. We conducted our review in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and all implementing state regulations. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies and applicants when identifying historic properties, assessing effects to historic properties, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects to such properties.

Based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking is not likely to have an effect on historic properties, provided that the Air Force makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities on the property:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with early Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

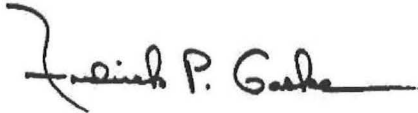
<input type="checkbox"/> Director's Office (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436	<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Research (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Museums (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Regional Office (561) 416-2115 • FAX: 416-2149	<input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Regional Office (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Florida Regional Office (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340	

Mr. Martin
July 6, 2007
Page 2

- In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, *Florida Statutes*.

We will be pleased to work with the applicant on future projects. If you have any questions, please contact **James Toner, Historic Sites Specialist**, by electronic mail at jetoner@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

United States Army Corps of Engineers



CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, FL
32614-7009
Tel 352.335.7991
Fax 352.335.2959

June 5, 2007

Ed Sarfert
United States Army Corps of Engineers
41 North Jefferson Street
Suite 111
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction

Dear Mr. Sarfert:

Attached you will find the *Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction, June, 2007*, for your review.

Two improvement projects on the Soundside portion of Hurlburt Field are being proposed, including the construction of a boathouse to support military training activities, and a public restroom facility to accommodate the needs of recreational users of the beach. The proposed action of constructing a boathouse on Santa Rosa Sound will require a Dredge & Fill Permit under the joint jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) during the permitting phase of the project.

If you would like to provide any comment on this Draft Environmental Assessment, prior to the permitting stage, please send your comments within the next 30 days to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Rd
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If you require additional information on the project, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 x52217.
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Martin".

John Martin
Project Manager

Attachment: (1 Report, 1 CD)

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)

No agency comments received.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL

3011 SW Williston Road

Gainesville, FL 32608

P.O. Box 147009

Gainesville, FL

32614-7009

Tel 352.335.7991

Fax 352.335.2959

June 5, 2007

Gail Carmody
Project Leader
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Panama City Field Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405-3721

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction

Dear Ms. Carmody:

Attached you will find the *Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction, June, 2007*, for your review.

Two improvement projects on the Soundside portion of Hurlburt Field are being proposed, including the construction of a boathouse to support military training activities, and a public restroom facility to accommodate the needs of recreational users of the beach. We would appreciate your review of this Draft report for compliance with applicable USFWS regulations.

Please send your comments via letter correspondence to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Rd
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If you require additional information on the project, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 x52217.
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

John Martin
Project Manager

Attachment: (1 Report, 1 CD)

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)

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CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, FL
32614-7009
Tel 352.335.7991
Fax 352.335.2959

RECEIVED
JUN 08 2007

June 5, 2007

Gail Carmody
Project Leader
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Panama City Field Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405-3721

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction

Dear Ms. Carmody:

Attached you will find the *Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction, June, 2007*, for your review.

Two improvement projects on the Soundside portion of Hurlburt Field are being proposed, including the construction of a boathouse to support military training activities, and a public restroom facility to accommodate the needs of recreational users of the beach. We would appreciate your review of this Draft report for compliance with applicable USFWS regulations.

Please send your comments via letter correspondence to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Rd
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If you require additional information on the project, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 x52217. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL


John Martin
Project Manager

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405
FWS Log No. 2007-I-0253



Attachment: (1 Report, 1 CD)

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)

The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act.


Janet Mizzi, Deputy Field Supervisor

7/19/07
Date

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National Marine Fisheries



CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
P.O. Box 147009
Gainesville, FL
32614-7009
Tel 352.335.7991
Fax 352.335.2959

June 5, 2007

Stephania Bolden
Fishery Biologist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom
Facility Construction

Dear Ms. Bolden:

Attached you will find the *Draft Environmental Assessment, Hurlburt Field Soundside Boathouse and Restroom Facility Construction, June, 2007*, for your review.

Two improvement projects on the Soundside portion of Hurlburt Field are being proposed, including the construction of a boathouse to support military training activities, and a public restroom facility to accommodate the needs of recreational users of the beach. We would appreciate your review of this Draft report for compliance with applicable NMFS regulations.

Please send your comments via letter correspondence to my attention at:

CH2M HILL
3011 SW Williston Rd
Gainesville, Florida 32608

If you require additional information on the project, please contact me at (352) 335-5877 x52217.
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL


John Martin
Project Manager

Attachment: (1 Report, 1 CD)

cc: Amy Gilmore – Hurlburt Field (file)

No agency comments received.

APPENDIX B

Public Comments

World

Mount Fuji: A mountain of garbage

Microwave ovens, rusting refrigerators and other trash litter Japan's sacred mount

FUJIKAWAGUCHI, Japan (AP) — If you look up from the forests at the foot of Japan's Mount Fuji, the volcano's graceful slopes rise into the distance and peak in a nearly symmetrical, snowcapped cone.

If you look down in the forest, however, you see a mountain much less elegant. Lots of it. Just below the surface of leaves and mosses are discarded microwave ovens, rusted metal debris, broken nylon suitcases. Even rusted refrigerators.

Mount Fuji, the pride of the nation and symbol of the Japanese soul, is a huge green island. "We've found everything from household trash to broken TV sets and other appliances," said Masumi Wakamura, who heads park ranger tours of the mountain. "Bombed areas are full of electronic materials like video camera batteries."

Nobody knows how much trash is buried on Fuji, but Wakamura's Fujian Club says it collects 10,000 pounds of illegally dumped trash from the mountain's slopes in its 18 months through March.

It's a growing problem in a nation that has the highest per-capita consumption of plastic in the world. The country's population is 127 million.

The sorry state of Japan's most-hallowed mountain could also be a stumbling block in Japan's campaign to host the 2020 Olympics in Mt. Fuji as a World Heritage site.

In the mid-1960s, activists and local officials asked officials from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to evaluate Mt. Fuji's natural beauty for listing as a World Heritage site.

"No good" was the answer and trash management was one of the reasons, "she said.

The situation was Japanese in action. The Fujian Club — "Fuji-ant" means Mount Fuji in Japanese — was formed in 1984 and now has about 1,000 members. The group organizes regular all-day cleanups of the mountain.

Eight from the run dogs, about 200,000 climbers and foreign tourists climb the 14,960-foot mountain every year, and many have found the trash at various altitudes and garbage scattered along the path.

Government officials and activists agree the problems along the path are now largely under control. The real problem, they say, is the trash dumped around the base of the mountain by businesses and people who live nearby.

On a recent cleanup of the base of Fuji, the only visible garbage was the old spray can of paint being used when volunteers cleaned every beam and lamp, some were blocked.

"I don't have anything to tell you about Fuji just beyond that you can't see anything," said software developer Koji Nishida, 45. "But they say that some of this stuff was gone before but has been there for 20 or 30 years. You really had to dig to get it out."

All told, the day's digging yielded more than three tons of garbage, including computer monitors and other materials that probably came from a construction site, discarded nylon Airmax sneakers and even a garbage can.

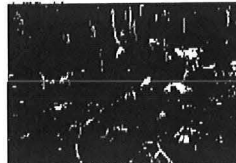
The final cleanup is hard to stop.

"It's pretty easy for someone to come and dump trash on the mountain without being seen," said Fujian Club official Yoshimichi Aoki.

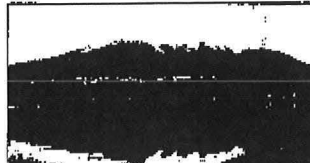
Local farmers are trying to control Japan's biggest leafhopper pest, the oak, by spraying with an organophosphate pesticide. They can't use more than 100 grams of the pesticide per acre, but they're using 100 grams per acre.

Local governments have accepted for special permits and set up surveillance cameras, but the cameras may be the last straw.

"Picking it up is not enough — people have to learn not to create an impact in the first place," Ken Naguchi, president of the environmental reformer, said Wednesday. He said April from Mount Fuji, which was his last extensive cleanup campaign.



Fujian Club members collect trash and other garbage during their outing to Fujiwaga white, Japan, at the foot of Mount Fuji.



Mount Fuji's peak — a nearly symmetrical, snowcapped cone — is reflected on the surface of Lake Yamanaka, west of Tokyo.



Mount Fuji stands behind thatched houses in Daimachiro, west of Tokyo. Fuji, the pride of the nation and symbol of the Japanese soul, is a huge garbage dump. Fuji's garbage problem is a potent symbol of the general environmental destruction wrought by decades of industrialization in a nation with one of the highest population densities on Earth.

Hurlburt Field Environmental Assessment

The 1st Special Operations Wing has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for construction of a boathouse on Santa Rosa Sound, and construction of a restroom facility near the Sound's shoreline. This EA assesses the potential environmental, cultural, physical, and socioeconomic impacts associated with these improvements.

There will be a 30-day public review period before any action is implemented. A copy of the EA is available at the Mary Esther Public Library, 100 W. Hollywood Blvd.

Comments on the EA should be postmarked by Monday, July 9, 2007, and mailed to:

1st SOCES/CEV
418 Independence Rd.
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5244

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No public comments were received.