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## **APPENDIX A: AGENCY COORDINATION**

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September 21, 2005

Ms. Maricela Constantino  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochran Drive  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Constantino:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Louis Berger Group, Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the potential effects associated with the proposed construction of an Aircraft Prototype Facility (P-588) military construction (MILCON) project at NAS Patuxent River. The location of NAS Patuxent River is shown on Figure 1. The project would consist of three major components. The first component, Phase I, would construct a modified Type I hanger module that includes adjacent technical and support areas, totaling 28,209 square feet (2,630 square meters). Phase II would include construction of a two-story addition to the Phase I facility. Phase III would include construction of an additional modified Type II hanger with a parking apron and taxiway access. The three phases of the proposed action would also require site improvements such as utility extensions, aircraft apron and taxiway access, jet blast barriers, vehicle parking and roadways, sidewalks, and landscaping. The three components of the project would incorporate anti-terrorism/force protection design elements including security fencing and lighting, access control, video surveillance and intrusion detection systems, vehicle and personnel barriers, and perimeter access control.

The EA will evaluate two alternative site locations for accomplishing the proposed action:

1. **Alternative A.** Under Alternative A, the proposed Aircraft Prototype Facility would be constructed on the NAS Patuxent River on an approximately 50-acre (20-hectare) site. The site is located adjacent to, and to the south of, Taxiway A. The area is bounded by Shaw Road on the south, Switzer Road on the east, and a narrow cleared field to the west. The site is primarily forest bordered by narrow open fields, and is located just west of the existing South Engineering Center and the Robert N. Becker Laboratory. The location of Site A is shown in Figure 2.
2. **Alternative B.** The site being considered under Alternative B is located in the vicinity of the existing VQ-4 complex. The area to be evaluated is located to the south of Taxiway A in the vicinity of the installation garden plots and is bounded by Buck Road to the east, Buse Road to the southeast and south, Tate Road to the southwest, and Leader Road to the west. The site is currently composed of both forested and agricultural/open space uses. The location of the area considered under Alternative B is shown in Figure 3.

The EA also considers the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not be implemented.

The purpose of this correspondence is to request a current list of federally listed threatened, endangered species that are known to occur, or that could potentially occur on, or in the vicinity of NAS Patuxent River and the proposed project areas. I would also like to know if there are any other sensitive natural resources or ecosystems that should be considered during the development of the EA. For quick reference, NAS Patuxent River can be found on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 series topographic map for St. Mary's City, Maryland. A regional map showing the location of NAS Patuxent River (Figure 1) and maps showing the location of each alternative (Figures 2 and 3) are enclosed.

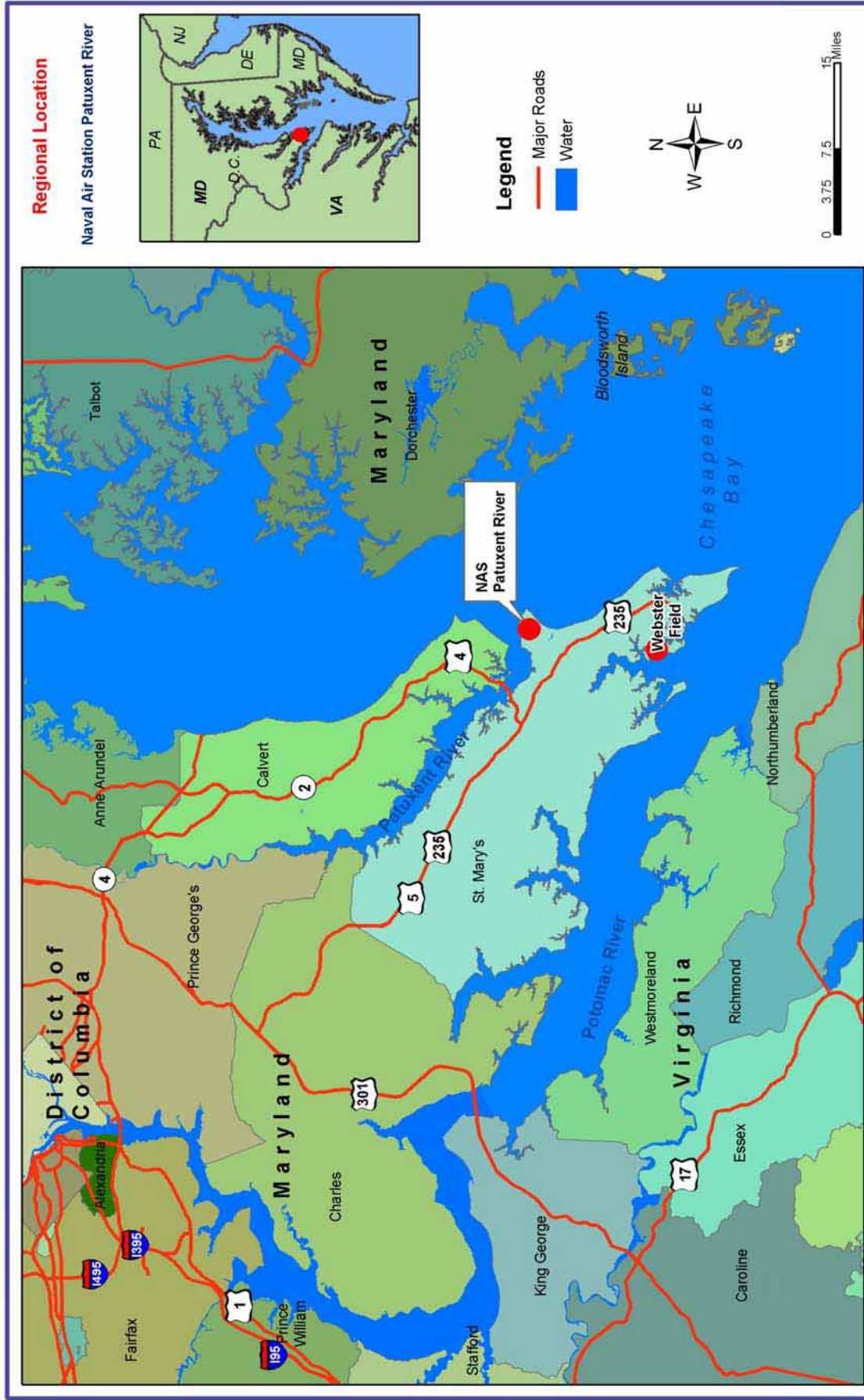
If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached by phone at (202) 912-0306, by facsimile at (202) 293-0787, or by e-mail at [scauley@louisberger.com](mailto:scauley@louisberger.com). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Shannon R. Cauley  
Senior Scientist

cc: Carolyn Woods, Planner in Charge, Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake  
Lori Gutman, Project Manager, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

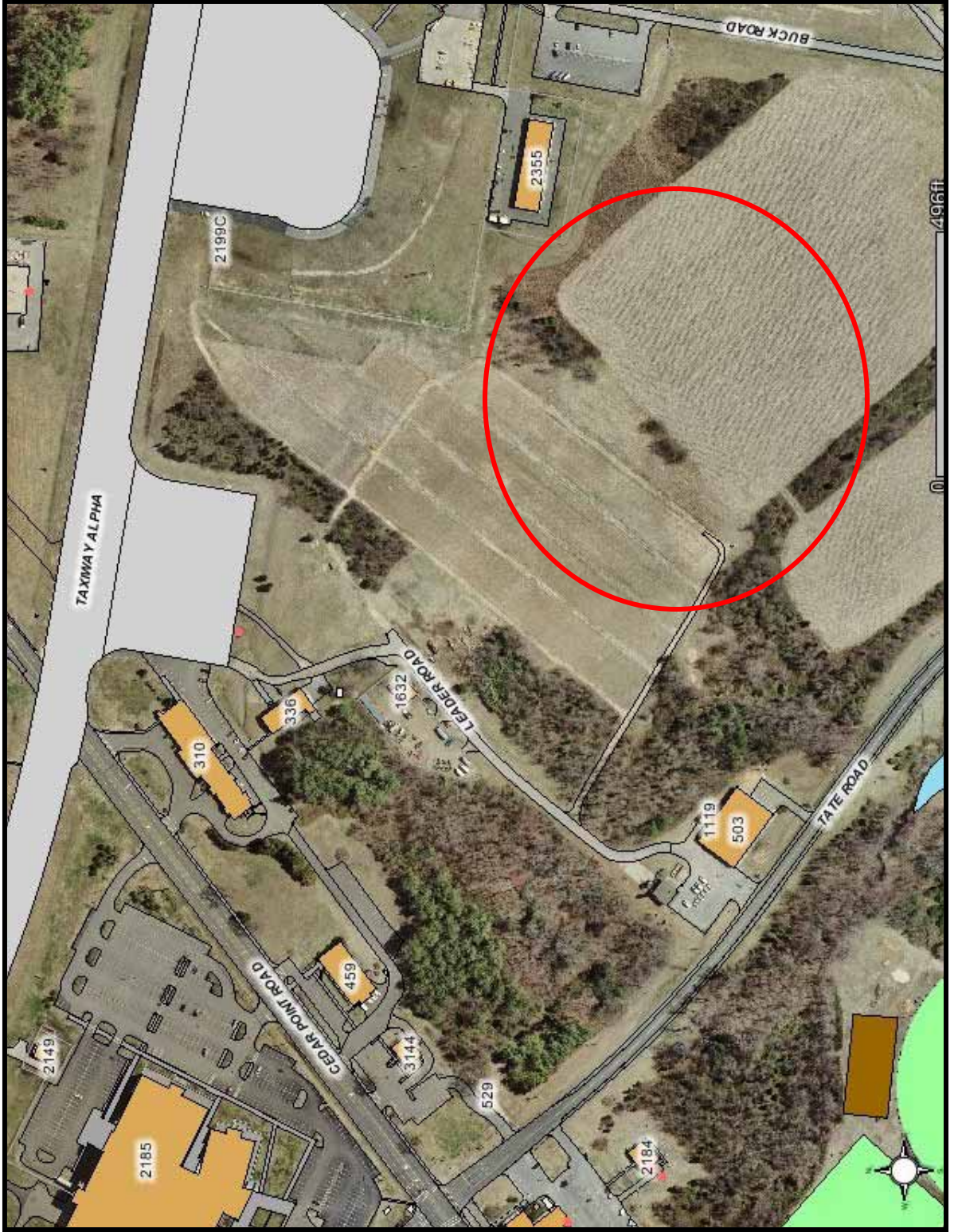
FIGURE 1: NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER REGIONAL LOCATION



**FIGURE 2: ALTERNATIVE A: SITE A LOCATION – APPROXIMATE PROJECT AREA**



FIGURE 3: ALTERNATIVE B: SITE B LOCATION - APPROXIMATE PROJECT AREA





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401



December 13, 2005

Mr. Shannon R. Cauley  
Senior Scientist  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
2300 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

*RE: Proposed Construction of an Aircraft Prototype Facility (P-588) Military  
Construction Project at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, St. Mary's County, MD*

Dear Mr. Cauley:

This responds to your letter, received September 22, 2005, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened within the above referenced project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*) is known to occur on the Naval Air Station Patuxent River property. Specifically, this species occupies habitat located at Fishing Point and Cedar Point. This beetle is most vulnerable to disturbance in the larval stage, which lasts two years. Larvae live in vertical burrows generally in the beach intertidal zone, where they are particularly sensitive to destruction by high levels of pedestrian traffic, off-road vehicles, and other factors such as beach changes due to coastal development and beach stabilization structures. Any potential impacts on northeastern beach tiger beetle habitat should be analyzed as part of your environmental assessment. If such impacts may occur, further Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be required.

Except for occasional transient individuals, no other federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.


This response relates only to federally protected threatened and endangered species under our jurisdiction. For information on the presence of other rare species, the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division should be contacted.

An additional concern of the Service is wetlands protection. Federal and state partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program have adopted an interim goal of no overall net loss of the Basin's remaining wetlands, and the long term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Basin's wetlands resource base. Because of this policy and the functions and values wetlands perform, the Service recommends avoiding wetland impacts. All wetlands within the project area should be identified, and if construction in wetlands is proposed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, should be contacted for permit requirements. They can be reached at (410) 962-3670.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interest in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Andy Moser at (410) 573-4537.

Sincerely,



 Mary J. Ratnaswamy, Ph.D.  
Program Supervisor, Threatened and Endangered Species

cc: Glenn Therres, Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division, Annapolis, MD

September 21, 2005

Ms. Lori Byrne, E-1  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife and Heritage Division  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Byrne:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Louis Berger Group, Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the potential effects associated with the proposed construction of an Aircraft Prototype Facility (P-588) military construction (MILCON) project at NAS Patuxent River. The location of NAS Patuxent River is shown on Figure 1. The project would consist of three major components. The first component, Phase I, would construct a modified Type I hanger module that includes adjacent technical and support areas, totaling 28,209 square feet (2,630 square meters). Phase II would include construction of a two-story addition to the Phase I facility. Phase III would include construction of an additional modified Type II hanger with a parking apron and taxiway access. The three phases of the proposed action would also require site improvements such as utility extensions, aircraft apron and taxiway access, jet blast barriers, vehicle parking and roadways, sidewalks, and landscaping. The three components of the project would incorporate anti-terrorism/force protection design elements including security fencing and lighting, access control, video surveillance and intrusion detection systems, vehicle and personnel barriers, and perimeter access control.

The EA will evaluate two alternative site locations for accomplishing the proposed action:

1. **Alternative A.** Under Alternative A, the proposed Aircraft Prototype Facility would be constructed on the NAS Patuxent River on an approximately 50-acre (20-hectare) site. The site is located adjacent to, and to the south of, Taxiway A. The area is bounded by Shaw Road on the south, Switzer Road on the east, and a narrow cleared field to the west. The site is primarily forest bordered by narrow open fields, and is located just west of the existing South Engineering Center and the Robert N. Becker Laboratory. The location of Site A is shown in Figure 2.
2. **Alternative B.** The site being considered under Alternative B is located in the vicinity of the existing VQ-4 complex. The area to be evaluated is located to the south of Taxiway A in the vicinity of the installation garden plots and is bounded by Buck Road to the east, Buse Road to the southeast and south, Tate Road to the southwest, and Leader Road to the west. The site is currently composed of both forested and agricultural/open space uses. The location of the area considered under Alternative B is shown in Figure 3.

The EA also considers the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not be implemented.

The purpose of this correspondence is to request a current list of federal and state listed threatened, endangered species that are known to occur, or that could potentially occur on, or in the vicinity of the NAS Patuxent River and the proposed project areas. I would also like to know if there are any other sensitive natural resources or ecosystems that should be considered during the development of the EA. For quick reference, NAS Patuxent River can be found on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 series topographic map for St. Mary's City, Maryland. A regional map showing the location of NAS Patuxent River (Figure 1) and maps showing the location of each alternative (Figures 2 and 3) are enclosed.

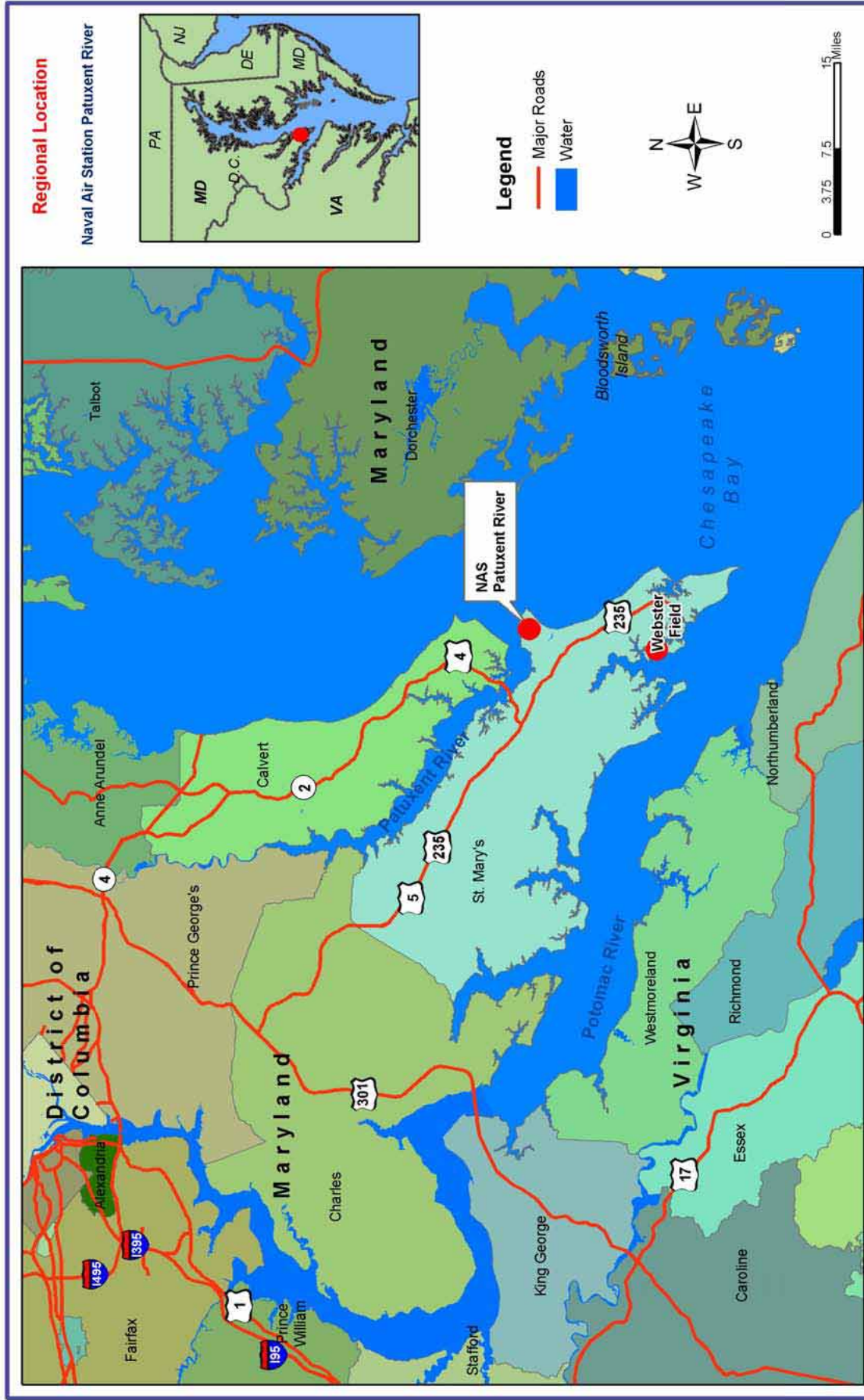
If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached by phone at (202) 912-0306, by facsimile at (202) 293-0787, or by e-mail at [scauley@louisberger.com](mailto:scauley@louisberger.com). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Shannon R. Cauley  
Senior Scientist

cc: Carolyn Woods, Planner in Charge, Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake  
Lori Gutman, Project Manager, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

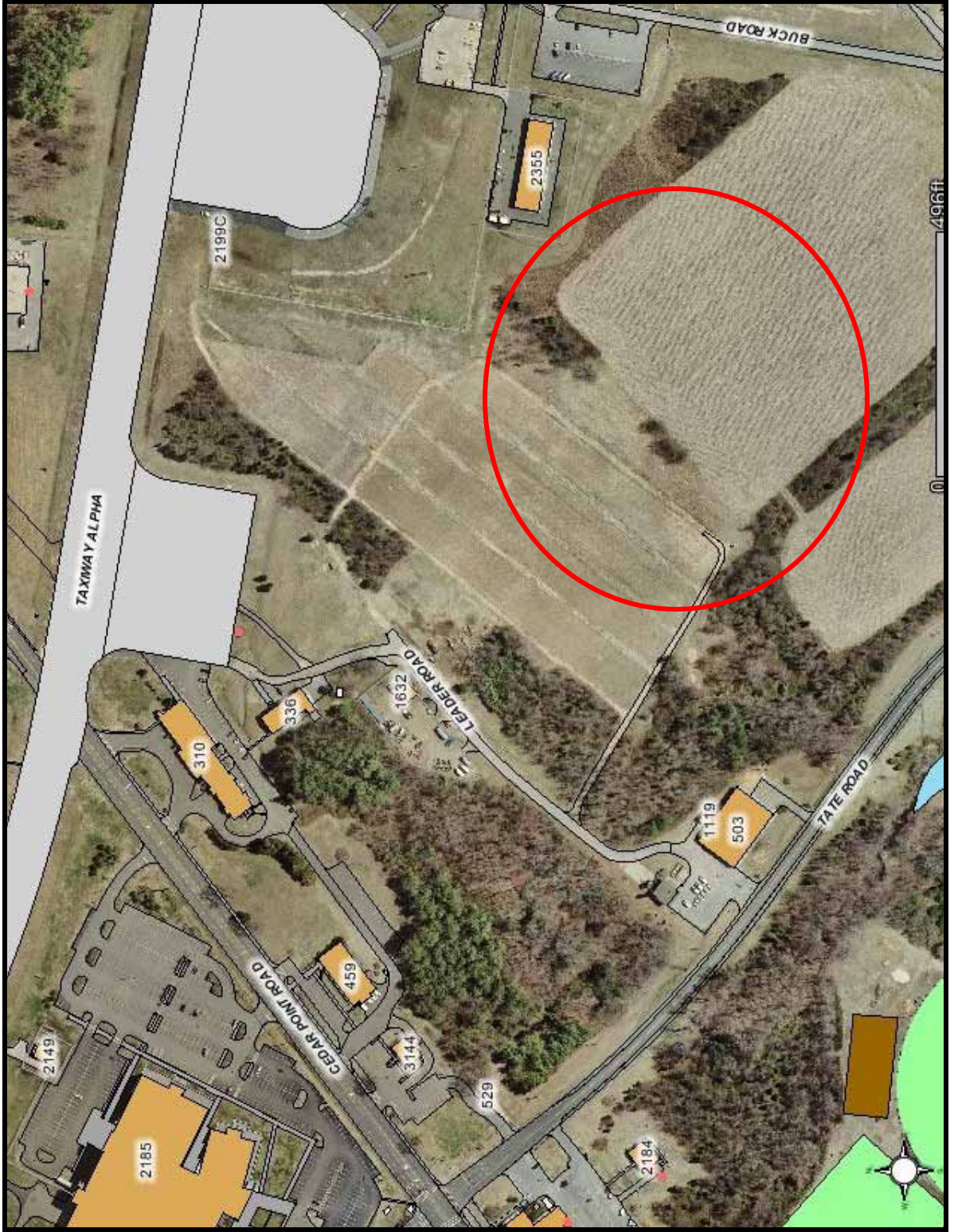
FIGURE 1: NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER REGIONAL LOCATION



**FIGURE 2: ALTERNATIVE A: SITE A LOCATION – APPROXIMATE PROJECT AREA**



FIGURE 3: ALTERNATIVE B: SITE B LOCATION - APPROXIMATE PROJECT AREA





Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor

Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor

C. Ronald Franks, Secretary

November 21, 2005

Mr. Shannon R. Cauley  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
2300 N. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

**RE: Environmental Review for Proposed Construction of Aircraft Prototype Facility (P-588) at Patuxent River Air Naval Station, St. Mary's County, Maryland.**

Dear Mr. Cauley:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no State or Federal records for rare, threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the project's limits-of disturbance as delineated. As a result, we have no specific comments or requirements pertaining to protection measures at this time. Please note however that the utilization of state funds, the need to obtain a state-authorized permit, or changes to the plan might warrant additional evaluations that could lead to protection or survey recommendations by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Please contact us again for further coordination if this project falls into one of those categories.

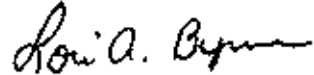
We would also like to point out that our initial evaluation of this project should not be interpreted as meaning that it is not possible for rare, threatened or endangered species to be present. Certain species could be present without documentation because adequate surveys may not have been conducted in the past. Although we are not requiring any surveys, we would like to bring to your attention that Wildlife and Heritage Service's Natural Heritage database records do indicate that the following species of interest are known to occur within the vicinity of the project site. If the appropriate habitat is present for these species they could potentially occur on the project site itself. Since the populations of these native plants and animals have declined historically we would encourage efforts to help conserve them across the state. Feel free to contact us if you would like technical assistance regarding the conservation of these important species. They are:

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>State Status</u>
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	Threatened (breeding)
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	Rare (breeding)
<i>Elephantopus tomentosus</i>	Tobaccoweed	Endangered

Page 2  
November 21, 2005

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Byrne,  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Wildlife and Heritage Service  
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER #2005.2147.sm  
cc: K. McCarthy, WHS  
R. Esslinger, CAC



## NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

Environmental Department  
22445 Peary Road, Building 504  
Patuxent River, MD 20670



5090  
N2  
27 Feb 2006

Mr. Elder A. Ghigiarelli, Jr.  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
Wetlands and Waterways Program  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

RE: Environmental Assessment for the Construction of an Aircraft Prototype Facility at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland

Dear Mr. Ghigiarelli:

In accordance with the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the U.S. Navy requests concurrence with its Consistency Determination for actions associated with the above referenced Environmental Assessment. The proposed project, located at NAS Patuxent River, has been reviewed by our natural resources staff, and has been determined to be consistent with the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program to the greatest extent practicable.

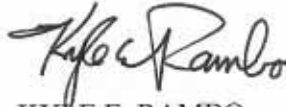
The purpose of the proposed action is to provide secure, consolidated facilities to augment and improve Naval aviation research, development, and test and evaluation (RDT&E) capabilities at the Installation. In addition, the proposed action would provide adequate secure facilities for collaborative science and technology (S&T) and test and evaluation (T&E), weapon system reliability and maintainability (R&M), and prototype demonstration/validation (DEM/VAL). These facilities would support classified Navy and Joint Service projects, as well as other activities involving unique aircraft systems, subsystems, and low-observable (LO) technologies. Once completed, the proposed project would deliver advantages that are consistent with Naval aviation goals to reduce costs and improve the process cycle time required to deliver mission critical combat systems to the U.S. Navy Fleet.

NAS Patuxent River is proposing to construct, via a three-phase process, an Aircraft Prototype Facility (APF) for carrier and rotary wing aircraft. The facility would consist of a secure, multi-story building and three hangars, as well as utility extensions, aircraft parking aprons and taxiway access, vehicle parking, roadways and sidewalks. Construction would take place on a site approximately 50 acres in size, and the associated impervious surface area is expected to be in excess of 624,651 square feet.

In addition to increased impervious surfaces, environmental impacts that would be expected to result from construction of the APF include soil disturbance, increased stormwater runoff, impacts to wetlands, and increased noise during construction. However, the project is NOT expected to impact the Maryland Critical Area, floodplains, or any Federally or State-listed threatened or endangered species. Any environmental impacts would each be addressed by applying best management practices during construction and completing construction in accordance with applicable permits/plans; therefore, the overall net impacts would be minor, and the potential for moderate impacts to wetlands after all consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment is conducted. Ultimately, the cumulative impacts of the action alternatives to the environmental resources on the Installation or the surrounding community would not be significant.

For more information regarding this request, please contact Jackie Smith, Natural Resources Specialist, at (301) 757-0007, or at the following address: Environmental Department, Conservation Division; Attn: Jackie Smith; 22541 Johnson Road, Building 1410; Naval Air Station; Patuxent River, Maryland 20670-1700.

Sincerely,

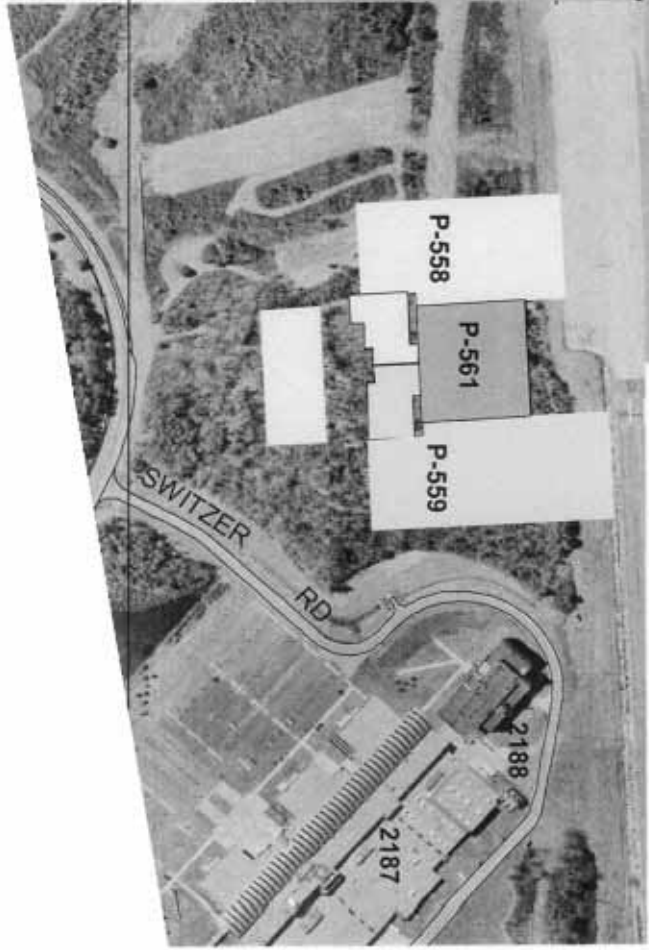
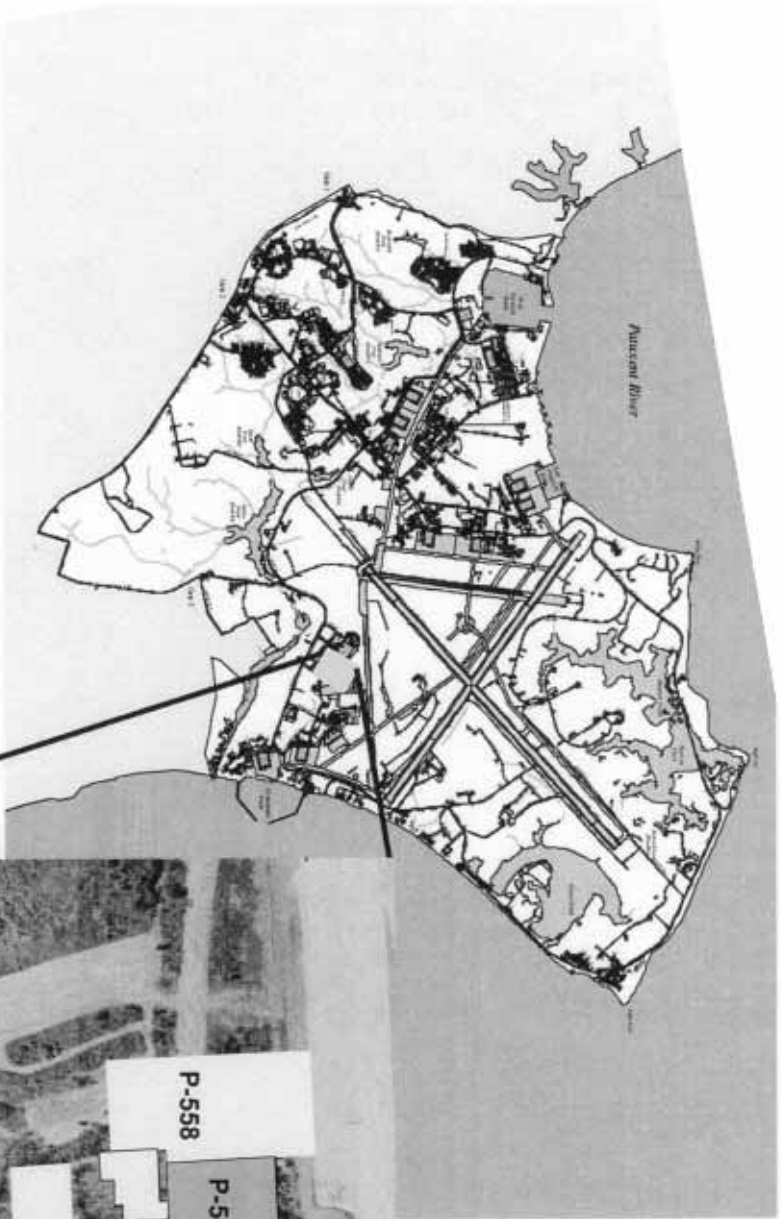


KYLE E. RAMBO  
Acting Installation Program Director  
Environmental Department  
NAS Patuxent River Maryland

Enclosures:

- (1) Site Map
- (2) Preliminary Final Environmental Assessment for Construction of P-558 – Aircraft Prototype Facility at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland (December 2005)

...-61, MID



11-1



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor

Kend P. Philbrick  
Secretary

Jonas A. Jacobson  
Deputy Secretary

May 12, 2006

Kyle E. Rambo  
Acting Installation Program Director  
Environmental Department  
Naval Air Station Patuxent River  
22445 Peary Road, Building 504  
Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

RE: Environmental Assessment  
Construction of an Aircraft Prototype Facility

Dear Mr. Rambo:

I am responding to your request for concurrence with the U.S. Navy Federal Consistency Determination, pursuant to Section 307 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA), for construction of the referenced facility. The Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River is proposing to construct an Aircraft Prototype Facility for carrier and rotary wing aircraft. The proposed facility would consist of a secure, multi-story building and three hangars, as well as utility extensions, aircraft parking aprons and taxiway access, vehicle parking, roadways and sidewalks. Construction would take place on a site approximately 50 acres in size, and the associated impervious surface area is expected to be in excess of 624,651 square feet.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide secure, consolidated facilities to augment and improve Naval aviation research, development, and test and evaluation capabilities at the NAS. In addition, the proposed action would provide adequate secure facilities for collaborative science and technology, test and evaluation, weapon system reliability and maintenance, and prototype demonstration/validation.

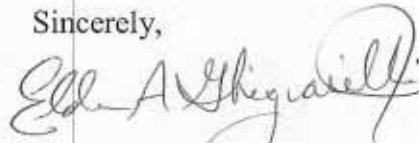
The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates two alternative sites for the proposed action. Site A, the preferred alternative, is approximately 50 acres in size and is primarily forested. The site contains five jurisdictional wetland areas totaling approximately 3.8 acres. Site B is composed of both forested and agricultural/open space uses. Site B contains two jurisdictional wetland areas totaling 0.8 acres. Although the EA notes that the proposed project may result in wetland impacts, the extent of the potential impacts is not presented.

Kyle E. Rambo  
May 12, 2006  
Page 2

As noted in the EA, any proposed impacts to jurisdictional wetland areas will require authorization from the Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Please note that MDE also regulates proposed activities in the 25-foot nontidal wetlands buffer, and the 100-year nontidal floodplain. Avoidance and minimization of any proposed impacts to these regulated areas will be the primary focus of MDE's review.

Based on these considerations, the proposed action is consistent with Maryland's Coastal Zone Management Program, as required by Section 307 of the CZMA. This determination does not obviate the Navy's responsibility to obtain any other State approvals that are required for the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 537-3763.

Sincerely,



Elder A. Ghigiarelli, Jr.  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
Wetlands and Waterways Program

EAGJr:cma

cc: Jackie Smith, NAS Patuxent River  
Amanda Sigillito, MDE  
Jim Tracy, MDE

