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Navy picks Washington for new OLF

Navy secretary to make final decision in 30 days

RYAN BURR
The Daily Advance

Even though local officials had lobbied for more than a year against it, the U.S. Navy has picked Washington County as the preferred site for a new airfield where its next generation of fighter planes can practice takeoffs and landings.

In a 1,600-page final environmental impact state-

ment released Friday, the Navy said Washington was the best choice for its outlying landing field.

The Navy chose Washington, according to the EIS, because of the county's low population density, compatible land uses and central location between the two proposed home bases for the Navy's new SuperHornet jets — Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, Va. and the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Craven County.

Those findings did not impress Washington County Manager Christ Coudriet.

"We're disappointed with this decision," Coudriet said. "There should have been equity

taken into consideration, and clearly there was none. The fallout to the tax base is going to be in one of the most disadvantaged counties in the state."

In addition, between 75 and 100 homes located in what the EIS refers to as Washington County's "noise contour area" will have to be moved, Coudriet said.

The Washington County manager wasn't alone in expressing dismay with the Navy's decision.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, a member of a six-county coalition opposed to siting the OLF in Washington, said her group had supported locating the airfield in Craven County.

"Our reason for wanting

the OLF in Craven County was that the negative part of having the noise (of the jets) would be offset by the economic benefits," Knighton said. "By sending (the OLF) to Washington County, they get all the negatives."

On the other hand, she said Virginia Beach and Craven County will receive the economic benefit of having the 144 new SuperHornets based nearby — jobs — but none of the jets' less-desirable side-effects — noise, for example.

"It's unfair that Oceana and Craven County get the new squadrons, which have high-paying jobs, but don't have to bear the burden of having the OLF," Knighton said.

Knighton said Washington is more likely to be an economic loser from having the OLF built there.

"If anything, it would be devastating because there's no opportunity for growth," she said. Washington County "will get about 10 permanent jobs from having the OLF, and they're not high-paying; they're mostly maintenance jobs."

According to the Navy's EIS, Craven was at one time a preferred OLF site.

However, later study determined that Craven wasn't an "operationally optimal distance" for SuperHornets based at Oceana.

The Navy also cited potential harm to wetlands

in Craven, and said that an OLF would adversely affect airspace near Craven County Regional Airport in New Bern. Also, Craven had the highest number of residents potentially affected by an OLF than any other site, the EIS stated.

Under federal law, the final EIS must now undergo a 30-day public review period before Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson makes his decision.

Knighton said the coalition of Albemarle counties opposed to the OLF in Washington will use that time to review the EIS for any possible areas they can use to contest the Navy's decision.

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Beverly Crofts, an administrator in Chatham County and instructor for Carbo Reading, was one of the specialists from the nationally recognized Carbo Reading Styles Program that offered training for 56 teachers and teacher assistants from Perquimans County Schools.

Local educators attend Carbo Reading workshop

Educators in Perquimans County recently participated in the Carbo Reading Styles Program.

The workshop was offered in order to fulfill the state Board of Education's mandate of 30 hours of reading instruction for certificate renewal credit for teachers in grades K-8. The Perquimans County School System chose to offer the training to high school staff as well as teacher assistants because not all students demonstrate proficiency in the upper grades.

According to school spokesperson Brenda Lassiter, the workshop is another opportunity for teachers to learn new strategies and approaches in order to meet the needs of all students.

"With the implementation of the new federal education law, No Child Left Behind, it is imperative that teachers find ways to help every single child," Lassiter said. "We are constantly seeking ways to increase academic achievement for the students not performing at proficiency."

Carbo trainers Beverly Crofts and Kay Douglas facilitated the two-day workshop and will be available to offer technical assistance as teachers begin implementing strategies this school year. Carbo workshops have been held in each state and the US Department of Education once recognized the Carbo program as one of seven effective reading and language arts models of professional development.



No one was seriously injured in a three-car accident at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Harvey Point Road last Wednesday during lunch hour traffic. One car attempted to make a left hand turn from a through-traffic lane against a red light, colliding with another vehicle. A third vehicle swerved to avoid the accident and ended up in a ditch.

No serious injuries in wreck

SUSAN R. HARRIS

No one was seriously injured in a three-car accident at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Harvey Point Road last Wednesday.

According to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy, a 2000 Mercury driven by William Gardner of 1226 Wilson Street, Plymouth was traveling south on U.S. 17. Gardner attempted to turn left onto Harvey Point Road from the inside southbound lane, rather than the turn lane. Southbound traffic had a green light, but the turn lane light was red.

Gardner pulled into the paths of two other vehicles, striking a 1998 Nissan pick-

up truck driven by Percy Ray Ward of 111 Alder Street Hertford. Ward's truck was struck on the driver's side and was spun 360 degrees, coming to rest in the northbound lane of U.S. 17 facing south.

William Matthew Reed of 242 Ethel Ave., Norfolk, Va. was driving north in a 1999 Ford pickup when he saw the accident. He attempted to swerve to avoid the collision, lost control, went across the median barrier, clipped a DOT sign and went into the ditch on the west side of the northbound lane.

Ward's vehicle sustained an estimated \$4,000 in damages, while both the other vehicles each sustained

about \$2,000 in damages.

Gardner was cited for reckless driving.

Even with the stoplight, Vanscoy said drivers should be very careful at the intersection.

"Because of it being four-lane, everybody has to treat that intersection as being two intersections in one," he said.

There is a lot of traffic on U.S. 17, and turn lanes, meaning drivers should be very cautious and check traffic carefully before proceeding through the intersection, he said.

The accident happened around 12:30 p.m.

The Hertford Fire Department and EMS also responded to the accident.

Winslows issue education challenge

Matching funds up to \$5,000 offered for golf proceeds

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A man known for his commitment to education in Perquimans County has presented a challenge to others to support the local school system.

Clifford Winslow, a former board of education chairman who served on the board for over 20 years, and his wife, Etta Florence Winslow, have offered up to \$5,000 in matching funds for proceeds from the Perquimans County Schools Foundation Golf Tournament set for Oct. 21 at the Chowan Country Club. The funds are being donated in memory of Clifford Winslow's first wife, Marie.

Clifford Winslow is a professional level member of the Foundation.

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State board chairman to speak at schools opening convocation

The chairman of the State Board of Education will be the keynote speaker at the 2003 Opening Day Convocation for Perquimans County Schools.

Lee, who is also a former state senator, is the first African-American to serve

as Board chair. State Superintendent Mike Ward said he was pleased that a person with the legislative know-how and experience of Howard Lee was elected to chair the State Board.

"Howard Lee is a strong advocate for North Carolina's public schools

and will provide excellent leadership to ensure that the state's successful school improvement efforts continue," Ward said.

During his tenure in the North Carolina Senate, Lee led efforts to enact legislation on school safety, school accountability and improv-

ing teacher quality. He played a role in the passage of the 1995 legislation that led to the creation of the ABCs accountability program and the Excellent Schools Act of 1997, which has improved North Carolina's teachers' pay to a competitive level and

raised standards for the teaching profession.

The Opening Day Convocation will be held on Monday, August 4, beginning with breakfast from 8-9 a.m. The program will begin promptly at 9 in the auditorium at Perquimans High School.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 81
Low: 70
THUNDERSTORMS

FRIDAY
High: 87
Low: 70
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 88
Low: 71
ISOLATED T'STORMS