



# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NAVY TO DETERMINE PARCEL OWNERS**

Navy representatives will begin visits to County tax offices and deed offices in Gates and Camden counties, North Carolina, and Southampton, Sussex and Surry counties, Virginia, beginning as early as July 1, 2008 in support of the Environmental Impact Statement. The purpose of the visits is to collect copies of the most recent deeds or other instruments of record to assist in determining current owners of land parcels for each proposed OLF site core area as presently defined. One or two realty specialists will visit each of the counties over the course of the next several weeks until the necessary data is obtained. It is anticipated that this effort could take up to three days in each county, although days may not necessarily be consecutive.

The identification and verification of property owners is required in the event it is determined that the Navy needs access to a parcel or parcels at any of the five sites to support the study and analysis that will go into the Environmental Impact Statement. In that event, property owners will be contacted by a Navy representative to obtain access to the identified parcel(s) prior to the Navy venturing onto a site.

This action concerns property owners, not residents, and only property owners in the approximate 2,000 acre core area as currently identified at each potential site. This approximate 2,000 acre core area is the minimum property interest necessary to support construction of the runway and support facilities, and includes property that must be maintained for flight safety in accordance with Navy governing instructions.

If the Navy determines in the future it will require access to a property at any of the five sites to support the study, the Navy will purchase a temporary easement from the property owner. The durations of the easements are expected to be about 18 months. In the past, the Navy has negotiated voluntary rights of entry (ROE) and only pursued condemnation proceedings in cases where voluntary ROE could not be accomplished. The easements will also clearly delineate to the property owners their rights and responsibilities as well as the limitations of the easements. The Navy will attempt to minimize inconvenience to property owners to the greatest extent possible throughout this process.

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