

**Final EIS
for the Proposed Homeporting of Additional Surface Ships
At Naval Station Mayport, FL**

Volume I: Final Environmental Impact Statement



November 2008

Prepared by:



UNCLASSIFIED



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November 21, 2008

Lead Agency for the EIS: U.S. Department of the Navy

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Title of the Proposed Action: Mayport Homeporting EIS

Proposed Action: To homeport additional surface ships at Naval Station Mayport, Florida

Designation: Final Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been prepared by the Department of the Navy in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508); and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Instruction 5090.1C *Environmental and Natural Resource Program Manual*. The proposed action evaluated in this FEIS is to homeport additional surface ships at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Mayport, Florida. The purpose of the proposed action is to ensure effective support of fleet operational requirements through efficient use of waterfront and shore side facilities at NAVSTA Mayport. The Navy needs to utilize the available facilities at NAVSTA Mayport, both pierside and shoreside, in an effective and efficient manner, thereby minimizing new construction. The CNO has directed U.S. Fleet Forces Command to review and assess a broad range of options for homeporting additional surface ships at NAVSTA Mayport. This FEIS reviews and assesses 12 action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. The action alternatives involve various types and numbers of ships including those types currently homeported at NAVSTA Mayport: cruisers, destroyers, and frigates, as well as additional types of ships identified by CNO, including amphibious assault ships, amphibious transport dock ships, dock landing ships, and a nuclear powered aircraft carrier. The proposed action includes only required activities necessary to prepare and operate NAVSTA Mayport for the proposed homeporting and does not include actions at other Navy bases. Depending on the action alternative, the proposed action may include dredging and disposal of dredged material, maintenance facilities improvements, utilities upgrades, wharf improvements, personnel support improvements, parking facilities and traffic improvements, or construction of nuclear propulsion plant maintenance facilities. Several alternatives could be implemented as early as 2009. Others could be fully implemented by 2014. The Navy's Preferred Alternative is to homeport a single CVN at NAVSTA Mayport (Alternative 4).

This FEIS addressed potential environmental impacts from activities that would occur under the No Action Alternative and the 12 action alternatives. Environmental resource topics evaluated include earth resources, land use, water resources, air quality, noise, biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics, general services, utilities, and environmental health and safety.

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