



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

# Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number  
CENAB-OP-RMN(DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY/NAVAL AIR  
STATION PATUXENT RIVER/CHESAPEAKE BAY IN VICINITY  
OF BLOODSWORTH ISLAND/REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF  
EXISTING REGULATIONS)

Special Public Notice 07-18

Comment Period: February 26, 2007 to March 26, 2007

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ACTION DESCRIBED BELOW. AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE ACTION WILL BE GRANTED.

The Baltimore District has received a request from the Department of the Navy, Naval Air Station Patuxent River for amendments to an established danger zone as described below:

Applicant: Director  
NAVAIR Range Department  
Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

LOCATION: Chesapeake Bay, in the vicinity of Bloodsworth Island, Maryland.

ACTION: The Department of the Navy has requested amendments to the regulations in 33 CFR 334.190 which establishes a danger zone, in Waters of the United States, in the vicinity of Bloodsworth Island, Maryland. The proposed amendment will reflect the current operational and safety procedures at the Bloodsworth Island Range and highlight a change in the enforcement authority from the Commander, Naval Base Norfolk, Virginia to the Commander, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

(a) The areas - (1) Prohibited Area. All waters within a circle 0.5 miles in radius with its center at latitude 38° 10' 00", longitude 76° 06' 00"; Bloodsworth Island, Pone Island, Northeast Island, and Adams Island.

(2) The danger zone. All waters of Chesapeake Bay and Tangier Sound within an area bounded as follows: Beginning at latitude 38° 08' 15", longitude 76° 10' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 12' 00", longitude 76° 10' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 12' 00", longitude 76° 07' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 13' 00", longitude 76° 06' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 13' 00", longitude 76° 04' 00";

thence to latitude 38° 12' 00", longitude 76° 02' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 12' 00", longitude 76° 00' 00"; thence to latitude 38° 08' 15", longitude 76° 00' 00"; thence to the point of beginning, excluding the prohibited area described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) The regulations. (1) No person, vessel or other craft shall approach closer than 75 yards to the beaches, shoreline, or piers of Bloodsworth, Pone Island, Northeast Island, Adams Island, or any Patuxent River Naval Air Station property at any time unless authorized to do so by the enforcing agency. No person, vessel or other craft shall approach rafts, barges, or platforms closer than 100 yards.

(2) No person, vessel, or other craft shall enter or remain in the danger zone when notified by the enforcing authority to keep clear. Any watercraft under way or at anchor, upon being so warned, shall immediately vacate the area and shall remain outside the area until conclusion of potentially hazardous test or training events.

(3) The area will be in use intermittently throughout the year.

(4) Prior to the commencement of any potentially hazardous test or training event that requires clearing of non participant boats from the danger zone, surface or air search of the entire area will be made for the purpose of locating and warning all craft and persons not connected with the test or training event, and a patrol will be maintained throughout the duration of the event.

(5) All persons, vessels, or other craft shall clear the area when warned by patrol vessels.

(6) Patrol vessels will provide warning that a potentially hazardous test or training event is in progress or is about to commence; when so warned, fishing or oystering vessels or other craft not directly connected with the event shall not navigate within the danger zone. Deep-draft vessels proceeding in established navigation channels normally will be permitted to traverse the area upon coordination with range patrol vessels. The patrol vessels will ensure safe separation between all non-participant vessels and potentially hazardous operations.

(7) When potentially hazardous testing or training is not in progress or is not about to commence, oystering and fishing boats and other craft may operate within the danger zone.

(8) All potentially hazardous test or training events will be performed in such a way as to contain the hazard footprint to the established danger zone described in section (a) above. Naval authorities will not be responsible for damage to nets, traps, buoys, pots, fish pounds, stakes, or other equipment that may be located within the danger zone.

(9) Nothing in this regulation shall be intended to prevent the lawful use of approved waterfowl hunting blinds along the shorelines of Bloodsworth Island range complex, provided that all necessary licenses and permits have been obtained from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the completed copy of the permit has been submitted to the Conservation Division Director at NAS Patuxent River. Waterfowl hunters must observe all warnings and range clearances, as note herein.

(10) The regulations in this section shall be enforced by the Commander, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, and such agencies as he/she may designate.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Steve Elinsky at 410.962.4503.

The decision whether to establish the requested restricted area will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Comments are being solicited from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this

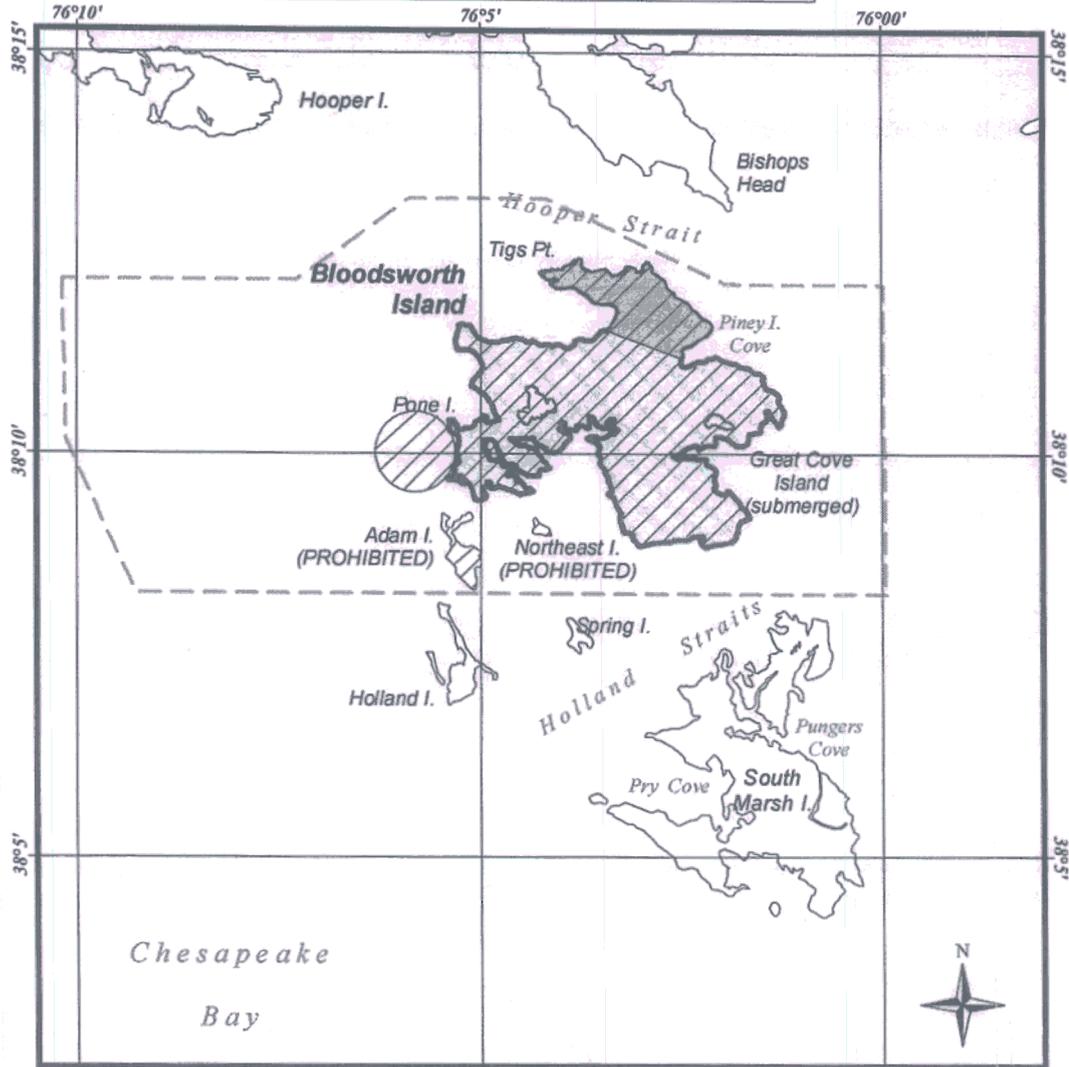
proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to grant, modify, condition or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

Written comments concerning the action described above may be submitted directly to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Mr. Steve Elinsky, CENAB-OP-RMN, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration.

# Designated Areas and Zones at Bloodsworth Island Range



**Surface Danger Zone**

Civilian boat traffic is permitted to enter the danger zone unless exercises are underway. However, no persons, vessels, or other craft are permitted to enter or remain within the danger zone when hazardous test or training is in progress or about to begin.

**No Fire Area**

Established in 1982 to prohibit firing or ordnance drops in this area.

**Impact Areas**

Portions of Bloodsworth Isl. and all of Piney Isl. that were used prior to 1995 as impact areas for ordnance releases, gunfire, and rocket strafing.

**Surface Prohibited Areas**

Not to be entered at anytime unless directed by an enforcing agency.

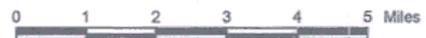
**No Navigation Zone**

No fishing or crabbing allowed within 75 yards from the shoreline.



**SOURCES:**

- \* Geographic features: US Census Bureau TIGER Data 2000.
- \* Impact Areas, Surface Danger Zone, No Fire Area, Surface Prohibited Area, and No Navigation Zone: Environmental Assessment For Continued Use of the Bloodsworth Island Shore Bombardment and Bombing Range 1982.



Ray Sabella, 2006