

Response to personnel loading numbers stated in Wright's Crossing UGA Amendment Application

The Navy has reviewed the personnel loading numbers and squadron relocation information provided in the Wright's Crossing Island County UGA amendment application. Corrections to the numbers stated in the application are below:

- In Section B the applicant states the personnel numbers for Alternative 2 of the DEIS which lists a potential increase of 664 military personnel. Applicant assumes a multiplier of .31 to account for contract and federal civilian personnel increases along with the military. It appears this multiplier was derived from page 5 of their application which shows current military loading and contractor/civilian loading. However, this multiplier is incorrect as the DEIS has not identified contractor/civilian personnel increases in addition to the military increase. Most support functions at the installation will not increase with the increase of military personnel. No contractor/civilian multiplier has been provided to the Navy to account for support services as growth in those positions is not linear in relation to military strength.
- In Section C the applicant states the personnel numbers for VP-4 as 300. However, per Table 2-1 of the 2014 SEIS for the P-8 platform it states that a standard P-8 squadron consists of 265 personnel. So with VP-4 transitioning from P-3 to P-8 they will be at 265. Also, no additional contractor/civilian personnel are identified with VP-4's relocation from Hawaii to Whidbey.
- In Section D the applicant states the personnel numbers for VP-47 and VP-9 as 300 each. However, per Table 2-1 of the 2014 SEIS for the P-8 platform it states a standard P-8 squadron consists of 265 personnel. So VP-47 and VP-9 will be at 265 each once they transition from the P-3 to the P-8. Also, no additional contractor/civilian personnel are identified with a VP-47 and VP-9 relocation from Hawaii to Whidbey.
- In Section E the applicant states three additional squadrons also transitioning to NAS Whidbey from other Naval Installations. This is incorrect. Squadrons VP-1, VP-46, and VP-40 are already at NAS Whidbey and currently operate the P-3 aircraft platform. Beginning in 2018 they will transition aircraft from the P-3 to the P-8 and with it decrease in personnel from 325 to 265 each as per Table 2-1 of the 2014 SEIS for the P-8 platform. Also, no additional contractor/civilian personnel are identified with a VP-1, VP-46 and VP-40 platform transition at NAS Whidbey.
- In Section F the applicant states total job growth at NAS Whidbey by fall of 2019 will be 3,228. However, using the loading numbers provided in the 2014 SEIS for the P-8 and the 2016 DEIS for the EA-18G total job growth at NAS Whidbey will be 574. Table 6-19 of the 2014 SEIS for the P-8 states a total personnel loading for all 6 VP squadrons at NAS Whidbey at 1,768. This is a 5% decrease from the 2014 baseline P-3 operations of

1,858. This decrease in personnel is due to the smaller squadron sizes for the P-8 as well as the proposed disestablishment of VQ-1 by 2021. The 2016 DEIS for the EA-18G states a potential personnel increase of up to 664 under Alternative 2. With the potential increase of personnel for the EA-18G at 664 and the decrease of 90 personnel from the 2014 baseline for the P-8 the total job growth at NAS Whidbey is 574.

- In Section G the applicant states the Island County Comprehensive Plan used a multiplier of 2.53 persons per household to determine average household size. If using that multiplier to the 574 jobs stated above then the population growth at NAS Whidbey would be 1,452 by the end of 2021.
- In Sections H and I the applicant uses the 60% allocation of population from NAS Whidbey within the Oak Harbor UGA. Using the population growth of 1,452 above the Oak Harbor UGA would grow by 871 people.
- In Section M the applicant states that even if the county retains the planned 1,000 personnel growth from the 2016 Comp Plan it would still constitute a UGA re-evaluation. However, using the applicant's own methodology of a .31 multiplier for contractor/civilian jobs, a 2.53 multiplier for average household size, and a 60% Oak Harbor UGA population it would result in 1,989 people for a base growth of 1,000 military personnel. This is below the Countywide Planning Policy 3.3.3c threshold of 2,059 people before the year 2024.