

Homeporting of a Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier at Naval Station Mayport, Florida

December 3, 2008

Chamber members are strongly urged to take just a few minutes to voice their concerns to the homeporting of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport, Florida. Please [click here](#) to take action. Your comments will be sent to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast and become part of the official process.

BACKGROUND

The United States Navy recently released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the homeporting of additional ships, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, at the Mayport Naval Station in Mayport, Florida. This EIS indicates that the preferred alternative (Alternative IV) is to homeport a nuclear carrier in Mayport, Florida.

If implemented, this recommendation poses a serious economic threat to Hampton Roads (up to \$1 billion lost annually). [Click here](#) to access EIS documents.

Reasons for Chamber members to go on record in opposition to the preferred alternative announced by Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter to create a second East Coast homeport for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier:

- **Fiscal responsibility** – Given the country's extraordinary financial crisis, it is irresponsible to invest in duplicative infrastructure. Unfunded, up-front costs would approach \$1 billion to create this nuclear homeport.
- **Dispersement** – With a reduced fleet and extended deployments, our Navy's aircraft carriers are already dispersed around the world on any given day. Strategic dispersion arguments are not applicable to today's needs.
- **Security** – Creating another nuclear port would increase security demands on the fleet, and would not reduce such demands.
- **Priorities** – There were \$4.6 billion of Navy budget requirements that went unfunded in FY2009. These existing budget shortfalls should be funded before spending nearly \$1 billion on additional capacity in Mayport, Florida. Over \$400 million has already been invested in Naval Station Norfolk in recent years to support carriers and other ships.
- **Sailors and Families** – Homeporting a nuclear carrier in Mayport would be an added hardship for Navy families, particularly when overhauls are required at Hampton Roads' facilities.
- **Norfolk Naval Shipyard** – There is currently a \$224 million backlog for infrastructure projects in the regions crucial public shipyard. This is part of the \$4.6 billion in budget requirements that went unfunded in FY2009.
- **Incomplete Analysis** – The Navy is using an Environmental Impact Study to make a long-term strategic operational decision that involves two regions (Hampton Roads and Jacksonville). Only one of these regions was studied (Jacksonville, Florida). The Environmental Impact Study was not designed to be a "stand-alone" study in the decision process.

CONCLUSION

The Navy's proposal to homeport a nuclear carrier in Mayport, Florida is strategically flawed and fiscally irresponsible. The analysis is too incomplete and inadequate to base such a significant long-term decision on. There would be additional hardship placed on Navy families and taxpayer dollars would be wasted in a dispersment scenario such as this.

ACTION REQUESTED

Chamber members are encouraged to voice their opposition to Alternative IV, the homeporting of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport, Florida. To have your comments included in the official study documents for this decision (FEIS) please [click here](#) to send your message.

Let your voice be heard and participate in the official process by forwarding your comments today!

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
<http://www.votervoice.net/link/target/hrcc27266431.aspx>

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