ES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §4321 *et seq.*) is the basic charter for environmental planning within the United States. It requires federal decision makers to inform themselves and the public of the environmental consequences of proposed actions that may significantly affect the environment and to consider those consequences in determining courses of action. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a public document that provides a detailed assessment of the potential effects that a major federal action may have on the quality of the human environment.[1] The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Final EIS (hereafter referred to as "EIS") to assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and proposed Navy training activities (described in detail in Chapter 2, Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) within the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC), Nevada and associated airspace (Figure ES-1). The Navy is the lead agency for this EIS pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §1501.5 and §1508.5. The Bureau of Land Management is a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1501.6 and §1508.5. This EIS was prepared in compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. §4321 *et seq.*), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 C.F.R. §§1500–1508), and Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. §775).

ES.2 STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FALLON RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX

The FRTC is located in northern Nevada and spans multiple county jurisdictions, from Elko County to the east and Washoe County to the west (see Figure ES-1). The FRTC consists of Special Use Airspace (SUA) (detailed descriptions are provided in Section 2.2.1, Special Use Airspace); land training ranges (four air-to-ground training ranges [B-16, B-17, B-19, and B-20], the Shoal Site, and the Dixie Valley Training Area; see Section 2.2.2, Training Ranges, for detailed descriptions); air, simulated sea, fixed and mobile land targets; control facilities; threat Electronic Warfare (EW) and surface-to-air missile systems and emulators; and instrumentation facilities. The FRTC SUA and land training ranges support U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Atlantic, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Nevada National Guard and joint and international forces.

The Navy's mission is to organize, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. This mission is mandated by federal law (10 U.S.C. §5062), which ensures the readiness of the United States' naval forces.[2] The Navy executes this responsibility by establishing and executing training programs, and ensuring naval forces have access to the ranges, operating areas, and airspace needed to develop and maintain skills for conducting naval activities.

[1] According to CEQ Quality Regulation 40 C.F.R. §1508.14, the "Human Environment" shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.

[2] Title 10 U.S.C. §5062 provides: "The Navy shall be organized, trained, and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained combat incident to operations at sea. It is responsible for the preparation of naval forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and, in accordance with integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Navy to meet the needs of war."

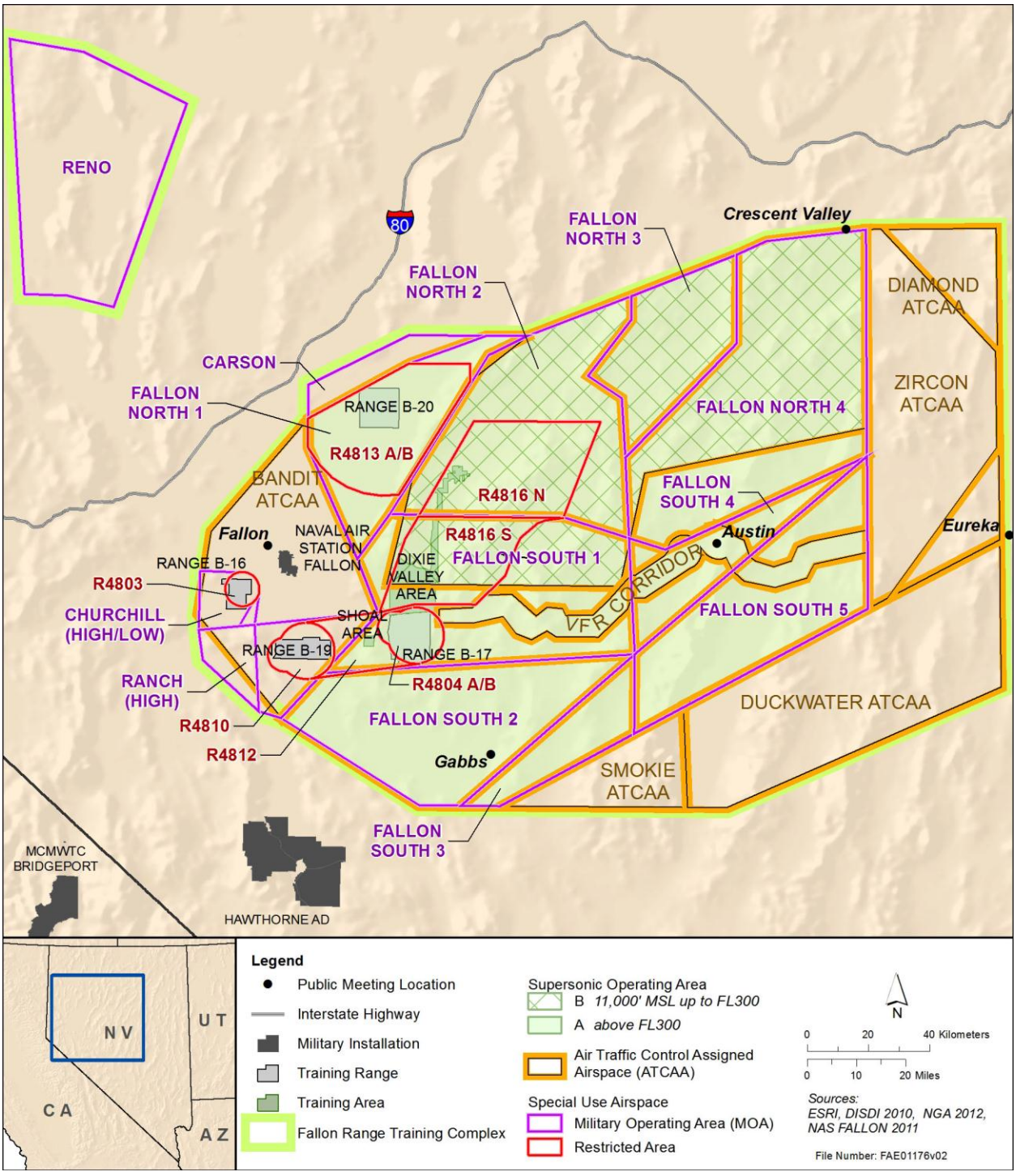

Figure ES-1: Fallon Range Training Complex and Surrounding Bases

The FRTC, with Naval Air Station Fallon, is the only naval training complex that can support, house, and train an entire carrier air wing (upward of 60 aircraft and support crews) for advanced integrated strike training warfare, EW, and air warfare training. The FRTC's unique attributes include collocation with the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC), formerly known as the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC), overland supersonic capability (where aircraft can exceed Mach 1, or the

speed of sound), a sophisticated threat Integrated Air Defense System, Tactical Combat Training System range, multiple target types, high-altitude weapons training, and on-site adversary (opposition forces) aircraft.

The FRTC also provides joint integrated training opportunities that are vital to advanced-level carrier air wing training and includes support to Air Force, Marine Corps, and National Guard units; support for other mission areas and Tactical Development and Evaluation (including military Unmanned Autonomous System [both armed and unarmed] and other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms); and support for proposed training activities of other services and government agencies.

Training areas and ranges provide controlled and safe environments that enable military forces to conduct realistic combat-like training as they undergo all phases of the graduated buildup needed for combat-ready deployment. The Navy's training cycle, the Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTP), ensures that naval forces achieve and maintain the capabilities to carry out the requirements of combatant commanders. The FRTP formalizes the traditional Navy building block approach to training in a way that brings the strike groups to the required level of combat readiness earlier in the training cycle and sustains that readiness for a longer period of time. Training proceeds on a continuum, advancing through four phases: (1) maintenance, (2) basic training, (3) integrated/advanced training, and (4) sustainment. Training activities at the FRTC would involve unit-level events, coordinated events, and major exercises. This is commonly referred to by the military as the "crawl, walk, run" approach to training.

ES.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide sustainable and modern airspace, range, maneuver areas, training facilities, and range infrastructure and resources to fully support training activities occurring on the FRTC in accordance with the assigned roles and missions for the NAWDC.

The Proposed Action is needed to achieve and maintain military readiness by using the FRTC to support and conduct military readiness activities. In this regard, FRTC furthers the Navy's execution of its roles and responsibilities under 10 U.S.C. §5062. To comply with its Title 10 (10 U.S.C. §5062) mandates, the Navy needs to:

- maintain current levels of military readiness by enhancing training at the FRTC;
- accommodate possible future increases in training activities at the FRTC;
- accommodate training activities associated with force structure changes; and
- maintain the long-term viability of the FRTC as a military training and testing range.

The Navy has developed alternatives pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1502.14, which are discussed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), based on this statement of the purpose and need.

ES.4 The Environmental Review Process

NEPA requires federal agencies to examine the environmental effects of their Proposed Actions. This EIS is a detailed public document that provides an assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed major federal action. The impacts to be analyzed are those that occur to the human environment, including natural and physical resources.

ES.4.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

When an agency decides to prepare an EIS, the first step in the NEPA process is to conduct public scoping. Public scoping is initiated with the preparation and publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop the EIS. Scoping is an early and open process for developing the "scope" or range of issues to be addressed in the EIS and for identifying significant issues related to a Proposed Action. The NOI provides an overview of the Proposed Action, the scope of the EIS, and announces public scoping meetings (Appendix A, Federal Register Notices). The NOI for this project was published in the Federal Register (FR) on May 28, 2013 (78 FR 31909 and Appendix A, Federal Register Notices), and throughout May 2013 in four local newspapers (Lahontan Valley News, Battle Mountain Bugle, Nevada Appeal, and Reno Gazette-Journal), which cover Fallon, Fernley, Lahontan Valley, and the general western Nevada region as well as the major metropolitan center of Reno and Carson City, Nevada. The NOI and newspaper notices included information about comment procedures, the project website address (www.frtceis.com), a list of information repositories (public libraries), the dates and locations of the scoping meetings, and the duration of the public scoping meeting.

The scoping meetings for this EIS were held in Fallon, Crescent Valley, Gabbs, and Austin, Nevada. Comments from the public meeting that occurred June 10–13, 2013, as well as from agencies and public interest groups (such as the State Historic Preservation Officer [SHPO] and other non-governmental organizations), including comments regarding the development of alternatives, have been considered in the preparation of this EIS. Additionally, during preparation of this EIS, the Navy met and discussed the Proposed Action and potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Nevada SHPO (see Appendix F, Public Participation, for further detail).

Subsequent to the scoping process, the Draft EIS was prepared to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the environment. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register*, and notices were placed in the aforementioned newspapers announcing the availability of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was available for general public and agency review and was circulated for review and comment for a 46-day period. A public meeting was advertised and held in Fallon, NV, to receive public comments on the Draft EIS. In this Final EIS, the Navy has made changes to the Draft EIS based on comments received during the public comment period. These changes included factual corrections, additions to existing information, and improvements or modifications to the analyses in the Draft EIS. Issuance of this Final EIS is followed by a 30-day waiting period.

Finally, after consideration of the administrative record, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be signed by the Secretary of the Navy or designee. The ROD will document the Navy's final decision on the Proposed Action, the rationale behind that decision, and any commitments to mitigation and monitoring. A *Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision* will be published in the *Federal Register*, and the ROD will be distributed to agencies and interested parties and posted on the FRTC EIS website (www.frtceis.com). The ROD will also be announced in local newspapers.

ES.5 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Navy proposes to continue and enhance training activities within the existing FRTC by:

- Increasing existing aviation and ground training activities;
- Conducting training activities with new platforms and systems as they transition into the fleet to replace older platforms and systems; and

- Conducting new ground training activities (i.e., Dismounted Fire and Maneuver Training and Ground Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation [LASER] Training).

The proposal includes adjusting activities from current (baseline) levels to levels needed to accommodate evolving mission requirements. The Proposed Action is a step toward ensuring the continued vitality and viability of the FRTC as an essential training resource. The Proposed Action would result in critical increases in training activities and range facilities, range infrastructure, and additional development of existing ranges selectively focused to achieve and maintain a state of military readiness commensurate with the Navy national defense mission.

ES.5.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CURRENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES AT THE FALLON RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX

Each military activity described in this EIS meets a requirement that can be ultimately traced to requirements from the National Command Authority.[3] Over the years, the tempo and types of activities at the FRTC have fluctuated due to changing requirements, the dynamic nature of international events, introduction of new equipment, advances in warfighting doctrine and procedures, and force structure changes. Such developments influenced the frequency, duration, intensity, and location of required training. Factors influencing tempo and types of activities are variable by nature, and will continue to cause fluctuations in training activities at the FRTC and in its associated airspace. Accordingly, training activity data used throughout this EIS are a representative baseline for evaluating impacts that may result from the proposed training activities.

Navy training activities currently conducted at the FRTC, presented as the No Action Alternative, have been ongoing at various levels and frequencies since the 1940s. Activities averaged over the years of 2010–2012 provide the baseline level for the analysis. Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy would not increase the training activities or provide for range investments.

Training activities at the FRTC would continue to involve unit level events, coordinated events, and major exercises. Unit level events are typically of relatively short duration involving few participants focused on individual and team training within a unit. The coordinated event is typically conducted by several participants of the same type (e.g., two or more air platforms) or several participants of different types working together on the same mission (e.g., a helicopter or an FA-18). During major exercises, the number of participants varies and more than one type of training event is conducted. The Navy would continue to use the airspace and provide the range operations support. Evaluation of the No Action Alternative in this EIS provides a baseline for assessing environmental impacts of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, as described in the following subsections.

ES.5.2 ALTERNATIVE 1 – INCREASE TRAINING ACTIVITIES BY 6 PERCENT

Alternative 1, in addition to accommodating training activities addressed in the No Action Alternative, would support an approximately 6 percent increase in the types of training activities and the number of training events conducted at FRTC, and accommodate force structure changes. The only activities that contribute to this overall 6 percent increase are Combat Search and Rescue exercises, Gunnery Exercise

[3] The "National Command Authority" is a term used by the U.S. military and government to refer to the ultimate lawful source of military orders. The term refers collectively to the President of the United States (as Commander-in-Chief) and the U.S. Secretary of Defense.

(Air-to-Ground), High-speed Anti-radiation Missile Exercises (simulation only, non-firing), and Missile Exercises (Air-to-Ground) (Table 2-4). In addition, two new activities, Ground LASER Targeting and Dismounted Fire and Maneuver, would be conducted under Alternative 1.

ES.5.3 Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) – Alternative 1 Plus a 10 Percent Increase in Training Activities

Implementation of Alternative 2 (which has been selected by the Navy as its Preferred Alternative) includes all elements of Alternative 1 (accommodating currently conducted and increased training activities and range enhancements). Alternative 2 represents a total increase of 16 percent from the No Action Alternative (under Alternative 2, all training activities identified in Alternative 1 would increase by 10 percent).

ES.6 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The EIS describes existing environmental conditions and assesses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives. The affected environment and environmental consequences are described and analyzed according to categories of resources. The categories of resources addressed, and their respective section numbers in the EIS, are listed in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1: Categories of Resources Addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement

Soils (3.1)	Land Use and Recreation (3.6)
Air Quality (3.2)	Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Protection of Children (3.7)
Water Quality (3.3)	Transportation (3.8)
Noise (Airborne) (3.4)	Cultural Resources (3.9)
Biological Resources (3.5)	Public Health and Safety (3.10)

During the environmental impact analysis process, the resources analyzed are identified and the expected geographic scope of potential impacts for each resource is defined. Known as the resource's region of influence, this area is defined as the geographic area in which impacts to the subject resource have the potential to occur. For most resource categories, the region of influence coincides with the air and land training areas of the FRTC. For some resources, the region of influence encompasses broader regions.

Describing the environment and analyzing impacts require a comprehensive and systematic review of relevant literature and data to ensure that only the best available information is used for analysis. Section 3.0.1 (Data Sources) describes the data used and the characteristics of the best available data.

The general approach to analysis is provided in Section 3.0.2 (General Approach to Analysis). This section describes how the Proposed Action is broken down into stressors that are analyzed for each resource. It provides a general analysis framework, preliminary impact screening, resource-specific individual stressor analysis, synthesis of ecosystem effects of the Proposed Action, and introduction to cumulative impacts analysis.

Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) concludes by assessing impacts on physical resources (soils, air quality, and water quality), biological resources (wildlife and vegetation), and human resources (land use and recreation; socioeconomics, environmental justice, and protection

of children; transportation; cultural resources; and public health and safety) (Sections 3.1 through 3.10). Each resource section has a more focused description of the regulatory framework applicable to that resource, a more focused approach to analysis, a discussion of the affected environment of that resource, the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives, a summary of the impacts to that resource, and the regulatory determination of impacts on that resource.

In determining environmental consequences, this chapter incorporates current resource protection measures such as standard operating procedures (SOPs), management practices (MPs), and conservation measures that are integral to the activities covered by the Proposed Action and its alternatives. If the analysis in a resource section identifies potential impact on the resource from the Proposed Action, methods are proposed that would minimize or mitigate the potential impacts identified. These mitigation measures are discussed at the end of each resource section and summarized in Chapter 5 (Management Practices, Monitoring, and Mitigation Measures).

ES.7 SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

Environmental effects which may result from the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives are summarized at the end of this summary in Table ES-2. Analysis of the activities described in the action alternatives and conclusions for all resource categories can be found in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences).

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.1 Soils	• Potential Release of Contaminants: Long-term effects in the form of accumulation of military munitions, metals, and explosives in surface soils. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. • Physical Disturbance: Long-term, minor effects from training activities in the form of soil erosion, compaction, and displacement. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on soils.	• Potential Release of Contaminants: Long-term effects in the form of accumulation of munitions, metals, and explosives in surface soils. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. • Physical Disturbance: Long-term, minor effects from training activities in the form of soil erosion, compaction, and displacement. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on soils.	• Potential Release of Contaminants: Long-term effects in the form of accumulation of munitions, metals, and explosives in surface soils. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. • Physical Disturbance: Long-term, minor effects from training activities in the form of soil erosion, compaction, and displacement. Effects would be localized and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area and is not anticipated to alter the ecological function of the area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on soils.
3.2 Air Quality	• Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions: Changes to air quality would not be detectable and would be below or within historical or desired air quality conditions. • Hazardous Air Pollutant: Changes to air quality would not be detectable and would be below or within historical or desired air quality conditions. • Fugitive Dust Emissions: Management practices would minimize dust. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on air quality.	• Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions: Small increase relative to baseline Nevada emissions. Measurable changes in air quality would be expected locally, but the attainment status in the Northwest Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region and Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region would not be affected. • Hazardous Air Pollutant: Small increase relative to baseline Nevada emissions. Measurable changes in air quality would be expected locally, but the attainment status in the Northwest Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region and Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region would not be affected. • Fugitive Dust Emissions: Management practices would minimize dust. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on air quality.	• Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions: Small increase relative to baseline Nevada emissions. Measurable changes in air quality would be expected locally, but the attainment status in the Northwest Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region and Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region would not be affected. • Hazardous Air Pollutant: Small increase relative to baseline Nevada emissions. Measurable changes in air quality would be expected locally, but the attainment status in the Northwest Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region and Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region would not be affected. • Fugitive Dust Emissions: Management practices would minimize dust. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on air quality.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.3 Water Quality	• Potential contaminants would not migrate to surface waters or groundwater. • Extremely low risk of spills based on current activities. • Low risk of soil sediments migrating into surface waters or groundwater. • Portions of ranges compacted by ground vehicles would be very small relative to the overall range area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on water quality.	• Potential contaminants would not migrate to surface waters or groundwater. • Extremely low risk of spills based on current activities. • Low risk of soil sediments migrating into surface waters or groundwater. • Portions of ranges compacted by ground vehicles would be very small relative to the overall range area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on water quality.	• Potential contaminants would not migrate to surface waters or groundwater. • Extremely low risk of spills based on current activities. • Low risk of soil sediments migrating into surface waters or groundwater. • Portions of ranges compacted by ground vehicles would be very small relative to the overall range area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on water quality.
3.4 Noise	• Aircraft overflights would create discrete brief noise events that, while noticeable because they would exceed the ambient background sound level, would contribute very little to the hourly average sound level. • Community sound levels from aircraft activities are compatible with land uses such as residences, transient lodging, and medical facilities. • Noise-generating events from munitions would be intermittent, occur in areas removed from sensitive receptors, and would not expose sensitive receptors to high noise levels. ***Impact Conclusion*** • There are no incompatible land use areas, and the No Action Alternative would not represent degradation in the noise environment.	• Aircraft overflights would create discrete brief noise events that, while noticeable because they would exceed the ambient background sound level, would contribute very little to the hourly average sound level. • Community sound levels from aircraft activities are compatible with land uses such as residences, transient lodging, and medical facilities. • Noise-generating events from munitions would be intermittent, occur in areas removed from sensitive receptors, and would not expose sensitive receptors to high noise levels. ***Impact Conclusion*** • There are no incompatible land use areas, and Alternative 1 would not represent degradation in the noise environment.	• Aircraft overflights would create discrete brief noise events that, while noticeable because they would exceed the ambient background sound level, would contribute very little to the hourly average sound level. • Community sound levels from aircraft activities are compatible with land uses such as residences, transient lodging, and medical facilities. • Noise-generating events from munitions would be intermittent, occur in areas removed from sensitive receptors, and would not expose sensitive receptors to high noise levels. ***Impact Conclusion*** • There are no incompatible land use areas, and Alternative 2 would not represent degradation in the noise environment.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.5 Biological Resources	• Noise may elicit physiological and behavioral responses in wildlife. Exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals. Therefore, population-level effects would not occur. • Animals may respond to a laser beam, but exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses, and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals, and population-level effects would not occur. • Aircraft strikes that might occur would have minor localized effects on birds and bats and are not expected to affect other mammals, amphibians, or reptile populations. • Munition strikes are not expected to have population-level effects on wildlife species. • Other ground-disturbing activities would not result in additional loss of vegetation communities or additional direct alteration of habitat. • Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not adversely affect sediments, water, or air quality and, therefore, would not indirectly impact terrestrial species or habitats. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on biological resources.	• Noise may elicit physiological and behavioral responses in wildlife. Exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals. Therefore, population-level effects would not occur. • Animals may respond to a laser beam, but exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses, and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals, and population-level effects would not occur. • Aircraft strikes that might occur would have minor localized effects on birds and bats and are not expected to affect other mammals, amphibians, or reptile populations. • Munition strikes are not expected to have population-level effects on wildlife species. • Other ground-disturbing activities would not result in additional loss of vegetation communities or additional direct alteration of habitat. • Implementation of the Alternative 1 would not adversely affect sediments, water, or air quality and, therefore, would not indirectly impact terrestrial species or habitats. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on biological resources.	• Noise may elicit physiological and behavioral responses in wildlife. Exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals. Therefore, population-level effects would not occur. • Animals may respond to a laser beam, but exposed individuals would be expected to quickly recover from these responses, and exposure would be intermittent and infrequent. The short-term behavioral responses are not expected to affect the fitness of individuals, and population-level effects would not occur. • Aircraft strikes that might occur would have minor localized effects on birds and bats and are not expected to affect other mammals, amphibians, or reptile populations. • Munition strikes are not expected to have population-level effects on wildlife species. • Other ground-disturbing activities would not result in additional loss of vegetation communities or additional direct alteration of habitat. • Implementation of Alternative 2 would not adversely affect sediments, water, or air quality and, therefore, would not indirectly impact terrestrial species or habitats. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on biological resources.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.6 Land Use	• Existing land uses are compatible with training-related noise levels. • Existing land uses are compatible with operations in Range Compatibility Zone-I, Range Compatibility Zone-II, and Range Compatibility Zone-III under the No Action Alternative . • Current access restrictions on Navy-administered lands would not change and impacts would be negligible. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on land use and recreation.	• Existing land uses would remain compatible with training-related noise levels. • Existing land uses would remain compatible with operations in Range Compatibility Zone-I, Range Compatibility Zone-II, and Range Compatibility Zone-III under Alternative 1. • Training activities proposed for Alternative 1 would not result in changes to current access restrictions on Navy-administered lands and impacts would be negligible. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on land use and recreation.	• Existing land uses would remain compatible with training-related noise levels. • Existing land uses would remain compatible with operations in Range Compatibility Zone-I, Range Compatibility Zone-II, and Range Compatibility Zone-III under Alternative 2. • Training activities proposed for Alternative 2 would not result in changes to current access restrictions on Navy-administered lands and impacts would be negligible. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on land use and recreation.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.7 Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Protection of Children	• Regional and community economics, employment, housing, and population growth are not affected as a result of the No Action Alternative stressors (i.e., noise, physical disturbance, or economics and usability). • Presents no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects (from noise or secondary stressors) on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada, and the United States. • Presents no disproportionate health and safety risks (from noise or secondary stressors) to children. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would result in no significant impacts on the regional and community economics, employment, housing, and population. • The No Action Alternative would result in no significant or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada, and the United States. • The No Action Alternative would result in no significant or disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children.	• Beneficial effects on the local economy would result from increased spending by additional military personnel employed by NAS Fallon and the increased military personnel participating in military readiness activities while in the local area. • Local activities would need to schedule use of airspace, but there would be no significant impact or change in economic activity related to farming and ranching operations. • Presents no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects (from noise or secondary stressors) on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada, and the United States. • Presents no disproportionate health and safety risks (from noise or secondary stressors) to children. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would result in no significant impacts on the socioeconomics of the FRTC Study Area. • Alternative 1 would result in no significant or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada and the United States. • Alternative 1 would result in no significant or disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children.	• Beneficial effects on the local economy would result from increased spending by additional military personnel employed by NAS Fallon and the increased military personnel participating in military readiness activities while in the local area. • Local activities would need to schedule use of airspace, but there would be no significant impact or change in economic activity related to farming and ranching operations. • Presents no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects (from noise or secondary stressors) on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada, and the United States. • Presents no disproportionate health and safety risks (from noise or secondary stressors) to children. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would result in no significant impacts on the socioeconomics of the FRTC Study Area. • Alternative 2 would result in no significant or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on any minority populations and low-income populations compared to communities of comparison, the state of Nevada, and the United States. • Alternative 2 would result in no significant or disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.8 Transportation	• The impact upon ground transportation by military training activities at FRTC is minimal other than transit to and from the training areas. • There would be no anticipated impacts on ground traffic transportation resources as the activities occur on the FRTC in training areas specifically designed for such activities. • There would be no anticipated impacts on level of service in the Study Area due to ground transportation accessibility factors. • There would be no adverse impacts to general aviation regarding access or usability of the current training area because the Navy is not proposing to add or change any of the boundaries or operating hours of the current Military Operating Areas or Restricted Areas that comprise the FRTC Study Area. • Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not result in an increased collision potential between military and non-participating civilian operation due to air transportation accessibility factors in the Study Area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on transportation.	• The increase of ground-based training activities will not impact ground traffic transportation resources as the activities occur on the FRTC in training areas specifically designed for such activities. • There would be no anticipated impacts on level of service in the Study Area due to ground transportation accessibility factors. • There would be no adverse impacts to general aviation regarding access or usability of the current training area because the Navy is not proposing to add or change any of the boundaries or operating hours of the current Military Operating Areas or Restricted Areas that comprise the FRTC Study Area. • Implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in an increased collision potential between military and non-participating civilian operation due to air transportation accessibility factors in the Study Area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on transportation.	• The increase of ground-based training activities will not impact ground traffic transportation resources as the activities occur on the FRTC in training areas specifically designed for such activities. • There would be no anticipated impacts on level of service in the Study Area due to ground transportation accessibility factors. • There would be no adverse impacts to general aviation regarding access or usability of the current training area because the Navy is not proposing to add or change any of the boundaries or operating hours of the current Military Operating Areas or Restricted Areas that comprise the FRTC Study Area. • Implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in an increased collision potential between military and non-participating civilian operation due to air transportation accessibility factors in the Study Area. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on transportation.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.9 Cultural Resources	• Noise and vibration associated with sonic booms have the potential to result in negligible to minor damage to caves, rockshelters, or rock formations containing petroglyphs, and negligible damage to adobe walls and stone structures. Procedures are in place for the identification, evaluation, and protection of such resources as defined in the Programmatic Agreement (PA). • Protective measures for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible cultural resources located in existing ground-based training areas are implemented in accordance with the PA. ***Impact Conclusion*** • No adverse effect on Historic Properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No significant impact on cultural resources under the National Environmental Policy Act.	• The number of supersonic events does not increase with implementation of Alternative 1. • Noise and vibration associated with sonic booms have the potential to result in negligible to minor damage to caves, rockshelters, or rock formations containing petroglyphs, and negligible damage to adobe walls and stone structures. Procedures are in place for the identification, evaluation, and protection of such resources as defined in the Programmatic Agreement (PA). • Protective measures for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible cultural resources located in existing ground-based training areas are implemented in accordance with the PA. ***Impact Conclusion*** • No adverse effect on Historic Properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No significant impact on cultural resources under the National Environmental Policy Act.	• Noise and vibration associated with sonic booms have the potential to result in negligible to minor damage to caves, rockshelters, or rock formations containing petroglyphs, and negligible damage to adobe walls and stone structures. Risk of damage would increase slightly compared to the No Action Alternative. Procedures are in place for the identification, evaluation, and protection of such resources as defined in the Programmatic Agreement (PA). • Protective measures for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible cultural resources located in existing ground-based training areas are implemented in accordance with the PA. ***Impact Conclusion*** • No adverse effect on Historic Properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Nevada SHPO concurred with the Navy's determination of no adverse effect on Historic Properties for Alternative 2 in a letter dated September 21, 2015. Copies of Section 106 correspondence are provided in Appendix C (Tribal and Cultural Correspondence). No significant impact on cultural resources under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.10 Public Health and Safety	• Training activities at FRTC take place in well-defined locations under the close supervision of experienced military personnel. • The same policies and procedures that protect training participants from injury or adverse health exposures would protect members of the public. • Strict operating procedures are in place, including ensuring clearance of the area before commencing training activities. • Routine training activities conducted within the FRTC pose little risk to public health or safety outside of the training areas. ***Impact Conclusion*** • The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on public health and safety.	• Training activities would increase. The Navy would continue to implement range planning and control procedures to avoid public safety issues. • No additional impacts are expected beyond those described in the No Action Alternative because Navy operational procedures and practices are already in place. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts on public health and safety.	• Training activities would increase. The Navy would continue to implement range planning and control procedures to avoid public safety issues. • No additional impacts are expected beyond those described in the No Action Alternative because Navy operational procedures and practices are already in place. ***Impact Conclusion*** • Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts on public health and safety.

Notes: FRTC = Fallon Range Training Center, NAS = Naval Air Station, NRHP = National Register of Historic Places, PA = Programmatic Agreement, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office

ES.8 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts were analyzed by following the NEPA of 1969, CEQ regulations, and CEQ guidance (40 C.F.R. §§1500–1508). Identifiable impacts of actions occurring in the past and present were analyzed, along with reasonably foreseeable future actions, to assess additive impacts of the Proposed Action, as well as other activities occurring in the region. Analyses indicate that the incremental contribution of the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2 to cumulative impacts on soils, air quality, water quality, noise, biological resources, land use and recreation, socioeconomic resources, transportation, cultural resources, and public health and safety would not rise to the level of significance.

ES.9 MITIGATION MEASURES

As part of the U.S. Navy's commitment to sustainable use of resources and environmental stewardship, the Navy incorporates measures that are protective of the environment into all of their activities. These include employment of MPs, SOPs, adoption of conservation recommendations, and other measures that mitigate the impacts of training activities on the environment. Some of these measures are generally applicable, while others are designed to apply to certain geographic areas during certain times of year, for specific types of military training.

Each of the alternatives considered in this EIS includes proposed MPs and mitigation measures intended to reduce the environmental effects of Navy activities. Both MPs and mitigation measures are discussed throughout the EIS in connection with affected resources, and are addressed in Chapter 5 (Management Practices, Monitoring, and Mitigation Measures).

ES.10 OTHER REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS

ES.10.1 POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, AND CONTROLS

Implementation of the Proposed Action for FRTC EIS would not conflict with the objectives or requirements of federal, state, regional, or local plans, policies, or legal requirements. The United States Navy consulted with regulatory agencies as appropriate during the NEPA process and before implementation of the Proposed Action to ensure requirements are met.

ES.10.2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

In accordance with the CEQ regulations (Part 1502), this EIS analyzes the relationship between the short-term impacts on the environment and the effects those impacts may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the affected environment. Impacts that narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment are of particular concern. This means that choosing one option may reduce future flexibility in pursuing other options, or that committing a resource to a certain use often may eliminate the possibility for other uses of that resource.

The majority of activities addressed in this EIS would be categorized as long term. For example, although the use of training areas for individual training activities may be of short duration, the training areas would continue to receive increased and repeated use for the foreseeable future. Because the Proposed Action includes an increase in training frequency, areas designated for training would accommodate a higher level of operational uses in the long term that would, in turn, affect the long-term productivity of environmental resources in those areas. Addressing such shortfalls through planning and accommodation of future training tempo requirements and deployment schedules will allow the Navy to

more readily facilitate long-term resource management strategies while achieving the near-term goal of providing the capacity and capabilities to fully support required training tasks and meet the Title 10 mandate to be organized, trained, and equipped for prompt and sustained combat.

ES.10.3 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Military training activities would increase at the FRTC under the Proposed Action, but these activities would continue to be conducted in the same locations where they currently take place. The only irretrievable commitment of resources associated with increased training activities would be fossil fuel consumption, which would increase proportionately with training activities (in Alternative 1, roughly 6 percent above the No Action Alternative, and in Alternative 2, 16 percent above Alternative 2). As outlined in Table 6-1, the effects of fuel consumption under the Proposed Action are minimized by the Navy's commitment to improving energy security in accordance with Executive Order 13693. Irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources under the Proposed Action would be negligible.

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