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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Training To Resume at Stumpy Point Bombing Range

NORFOLK, Va. -- In January 2012, the U.S. Navy will resume operations on the Long Shoal Naval Ordnance Area (LSNOA), commonly known as the Stumpy Point Bombing Range. Small-scale operations may begin as early as January 3, 2012.

Weapons used will consist primarily of machine guns from helicopters and light practice bombs from fixed wing aircraft. Initially, principal users will be SH-60 helicopters shooting 7.62mm machine guns at an altitude of 1000' and below. High-explosive ordnance is not permitted at this target and all ordnance will be inert. However small spotting charges may be used to identify the impact location of delivered ordnance. It is unlikely that any ordnance will find its way to land. However if it does, those who encounter it should not touch it and should report it to authorities immediately.

As has been the case since the bombing range was established, the area should be avoided. While the target may look interesting, the entire Surface Danger Zone is to be avoided as it may contain safety and navigation hazards ranging from sharp metal to unexploded spotting charges and is the point at which aircraft are aiming guns and bombs. The Surface Danger Zone is a circle with a 1.5 nautical mile radius centered at the target (35°32'18" N and 75°40'39" W) and is closed except for such military personnel and vessels as may be directed on assigned duties by the enforcing agency. Aircraft will visually inspect the range prior to use. The public is asked to depart the area if within the Surface Danger Zone.

The target is unlike any other in the Department of Defense in that it is both on the water and configured to look like a missile-equipped patrol boat that our naval forces could potentially face overseas. In addition to providing relief for the highly tasked land ranges in Dare County, it provides for a truly unique target.

(MORE)

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TRAINING

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Operations at LSNOA originally began in 1959. Due to extensive use and severe deterioration of the original target, operations at the range were suspended in 1997. Operations resumed briefly in 2003 on a refurbished target, which was destroyed during Hurricane Isabel. No training has been conducted at this site for approximately eight years. In 2008, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic requested renewal of the Stumpy Point target to meet readiness needs. On November 17th 2011, at the completion of this effort, a modified and environmentally approved target was moored and sunk in place at the LSNOA.

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