

Washington County, North Carolina

Outlying Landing Field Site

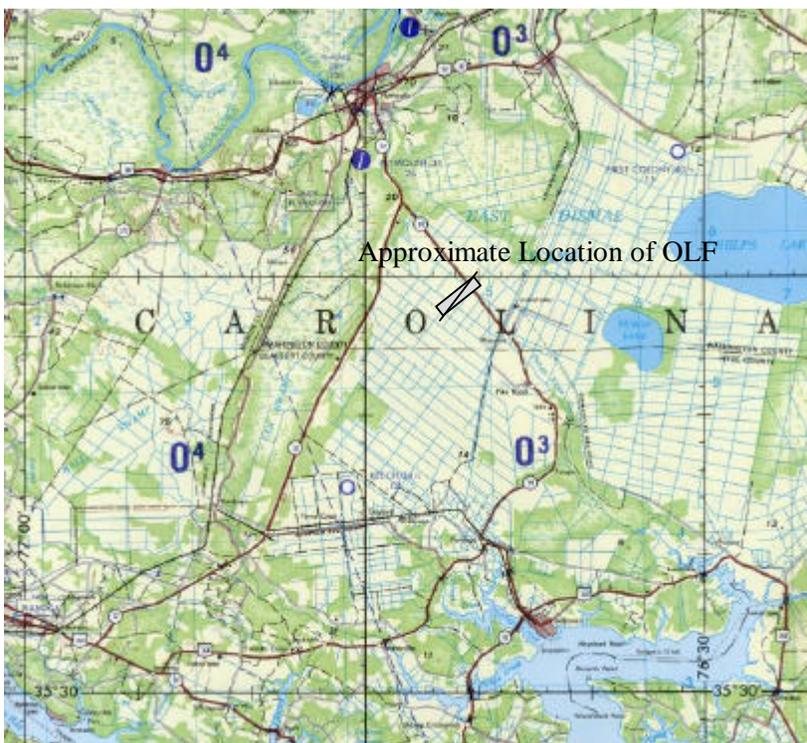


A Record of Decision for homebasing the East Coast F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet aircraft indicated 8 squadrons at NAS Oceana and 2 squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point. An OLF is used as a support facility for Navy and Marine Corps aircraft conducting operations, such as Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) and other practice approaches, away from the homebase airfield.

The OLF would include an 8,000-foot runway aligned with the prevailing wind direction and ancillary facilities, including an air traffic control tower, airfield lighting, and navigational and communications aids. The OLF site would also include approximately 30,000 acres around the core area in order to promote compatible development and land uses near the OLF.

Field Carrier Landing Practice

An aircraft pilot practices simulated carrier landings. FCLPs are required training before pilots land on a carrier. The number of FCLPs performed is determined by the length of time that has elapsed since the pilot's last landing on a carrier. Because combat maneuvers are generally conducted at night, a pilot needs to be proficient in night carrier landings, thus FCLPs are normally conducted at night.



The proposed Washington County OLF site is centrally located from NAS Oceana and MCAS Cherry Point, to facilitate the squadrons' FCLPs from both bases.

The OLF is necessary to support a larger surge-ready force. Fields at Fentress, Oceana, and Cherry Point do not have the capability to safely sustain increased operations.