



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: June 23, 2008
Comment Deadline: July 23, 2008
Corps Action ID #:SAW-2008-01885

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from **Seymour Johnson Air Force Base** seeking Department of the Army authorization to impact **7.4 acres of jurisdictional wetlands** associated with **removal of a bird and wildlife hazard at the end of the existing runway located at the Air Force Base in Goldsboro in Wayne County, North Carolina.**

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
Attention: Dennis Goode, P.E. Deputy Base Engineer
4 CS/CD, 1095 Peterson Avenue
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina 27531

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Location

The project area is a 210 acre area located at the east end of the existing runway at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB) comprising the East End Clear Zone and containing jurisdictional waters and wetlands adjacent to Walnut Creek, Fellows Branch and Stoney Creek, tributaries to the Neuse River and Pamlico Sound. The Air Force Base is located on North Carolina Highway 13 (Berkley Boulevard) near the City of Goldsboro, Wayne County, North Carolina (35.345607N, -77.934702 W).

Existing Site Conditions

SJAFB is home to 4th Fighter Wing and has 98 F-15E Strike Eagles and 8 KC-135R Stratotanker. The Base is 3233 acres and its primary mission is the deployment of

aircraft. The main feature of the base is the flight line area and associated workshops and hangers. The base also has a medical clinic, recreational areas (parks, jogging paths, golf course, etc), shopping facilities and base housing. The proposed project area is the clear zone in the eastern end of Runway 26, which is approximately 210 acres. The clear zone is an area that provides stopping or recovery space for aircraft in case of a mishap during take-off or landing. The east end clear zone is a mowed field with no above ground obstructions.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The applicant's stated purpose and need for the project is to remove bird and wildlife hazard from the end of the existing runway to prevent bird and wildlife aircraft strike hazards.

Project Description

The applicant proposes to place fill in 7.4 acres of jurisdictional wetlands to raise the grade to upland elevations. This work would result in the removal of 7.4 acres of standing water and wetlands that are currently used by waterfowl, raptors, and small and large wildlife species. The United States Air Force proposes to fill the wetlands and grade the slope of the runway clear zone (a "box" 3,000' by 3,000' at the end of the runway) to meet Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 3-260-01 (Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design).

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice combined with appropriate application fee at the North Carolina Division of Water Quality central office in Raleigh will constitute initial receipt of an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Ms Cyndi Karoly by July 23, 2008.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat.

Evaluation

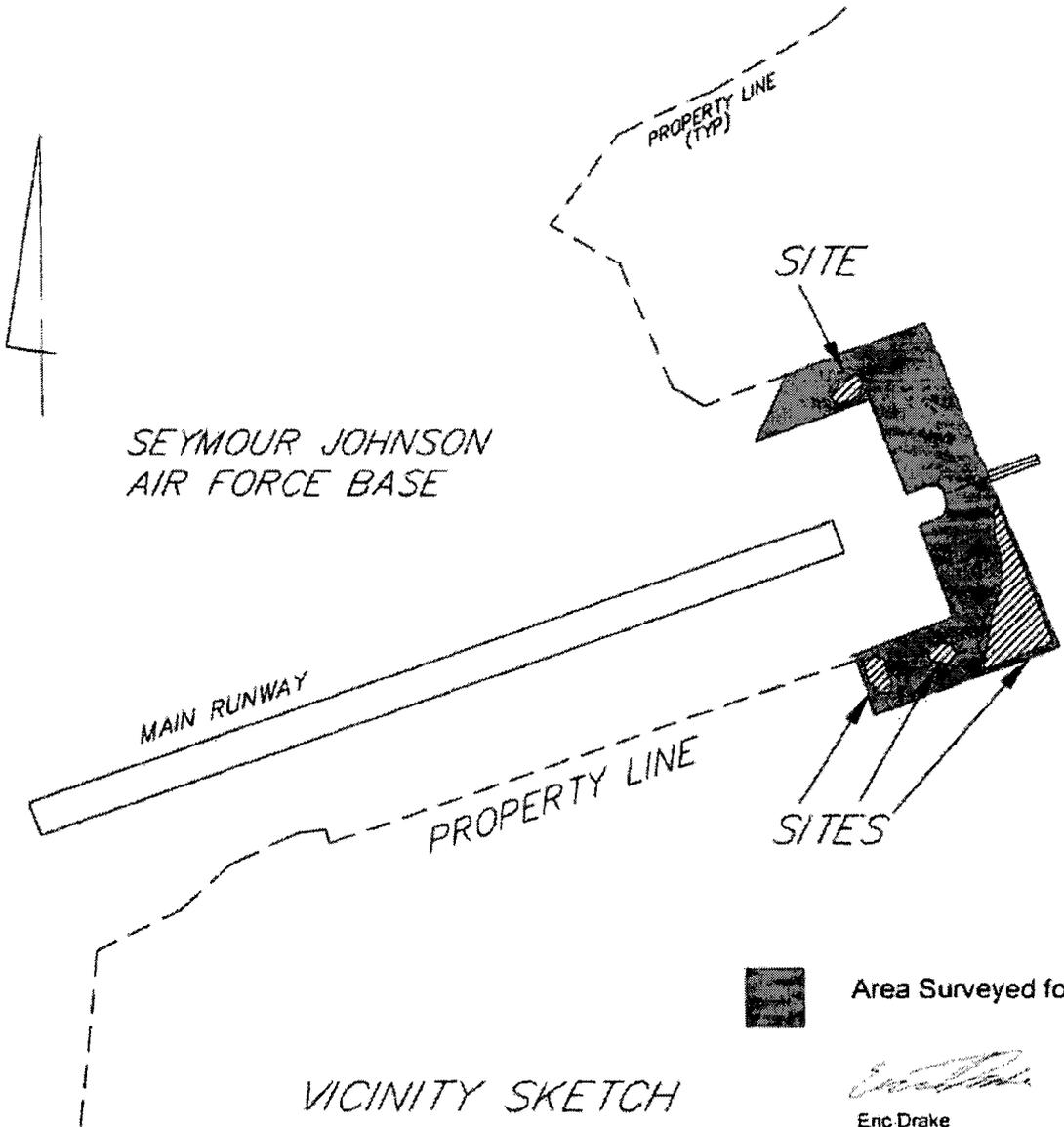
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, July 23, 2008. Comments should be submitted to Tracey L. Wheeler United States Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 1000, Washington, North Carolina, 27889.



SEYMOUR JOHNSON
AIR FORCE BASE

MAIN RUNWAY

PROPERTY LINE
(TYP)

SITE

PROPERTY LINE

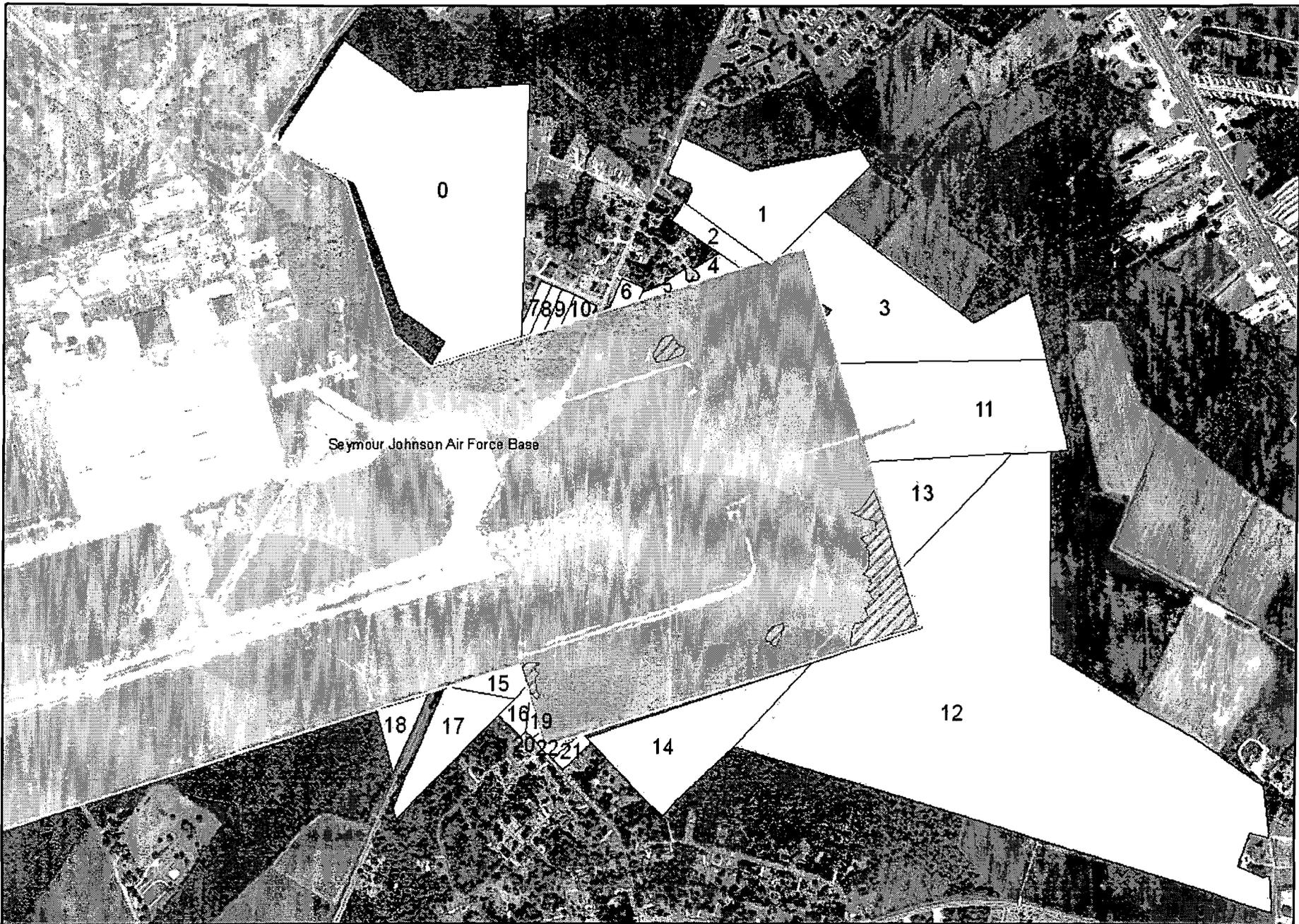
SITES



Area Surveyed for Wetlands

VICINITY SKETCH
NOT TO SCALE

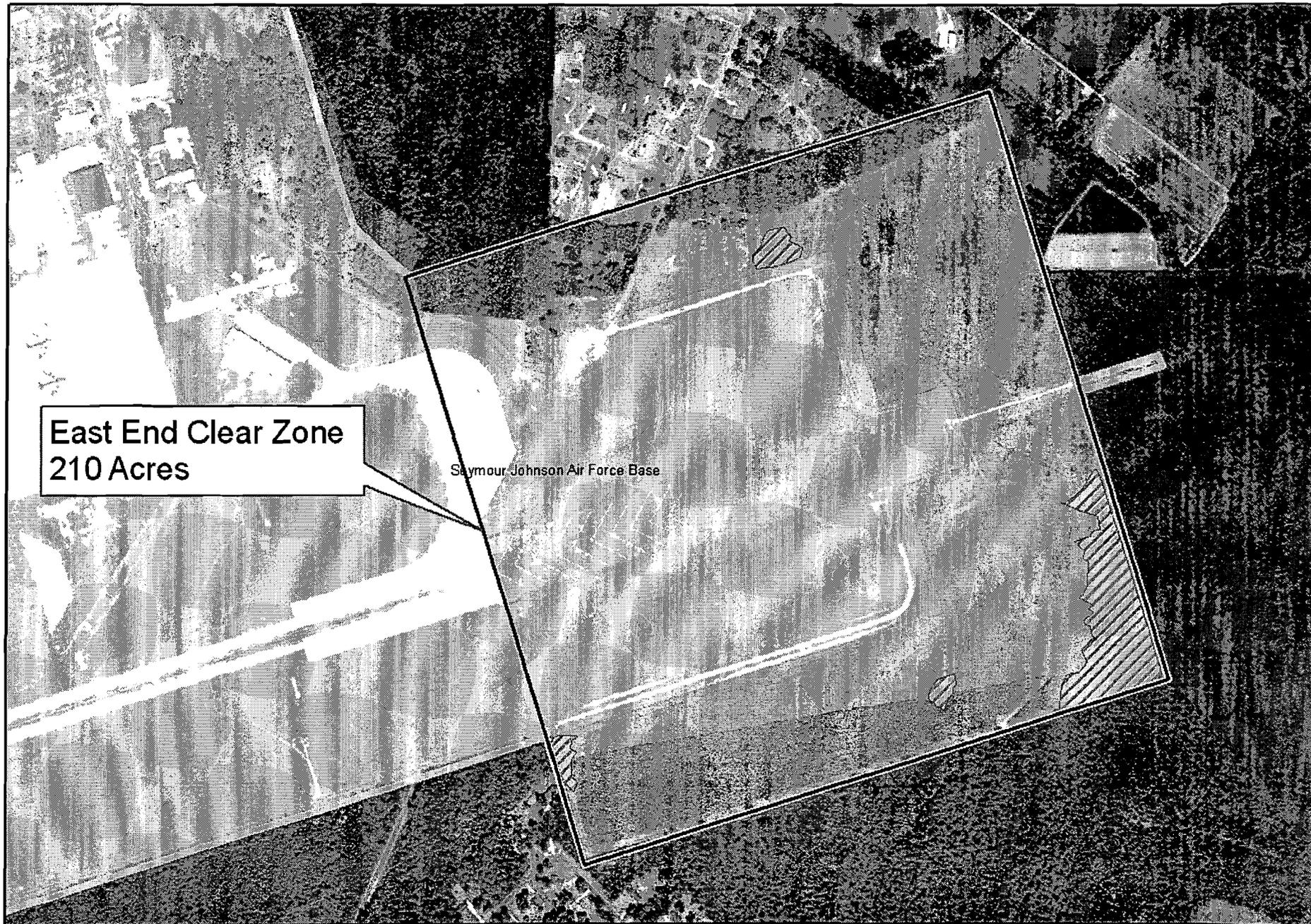
Eric Drake
Biologist Wetland Delineator



SJAFB Adjacent Property Owners

Proposal to fill wetlands project





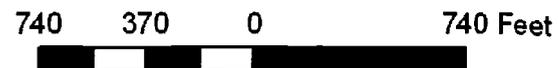
East End Clear Zone
210 Acres

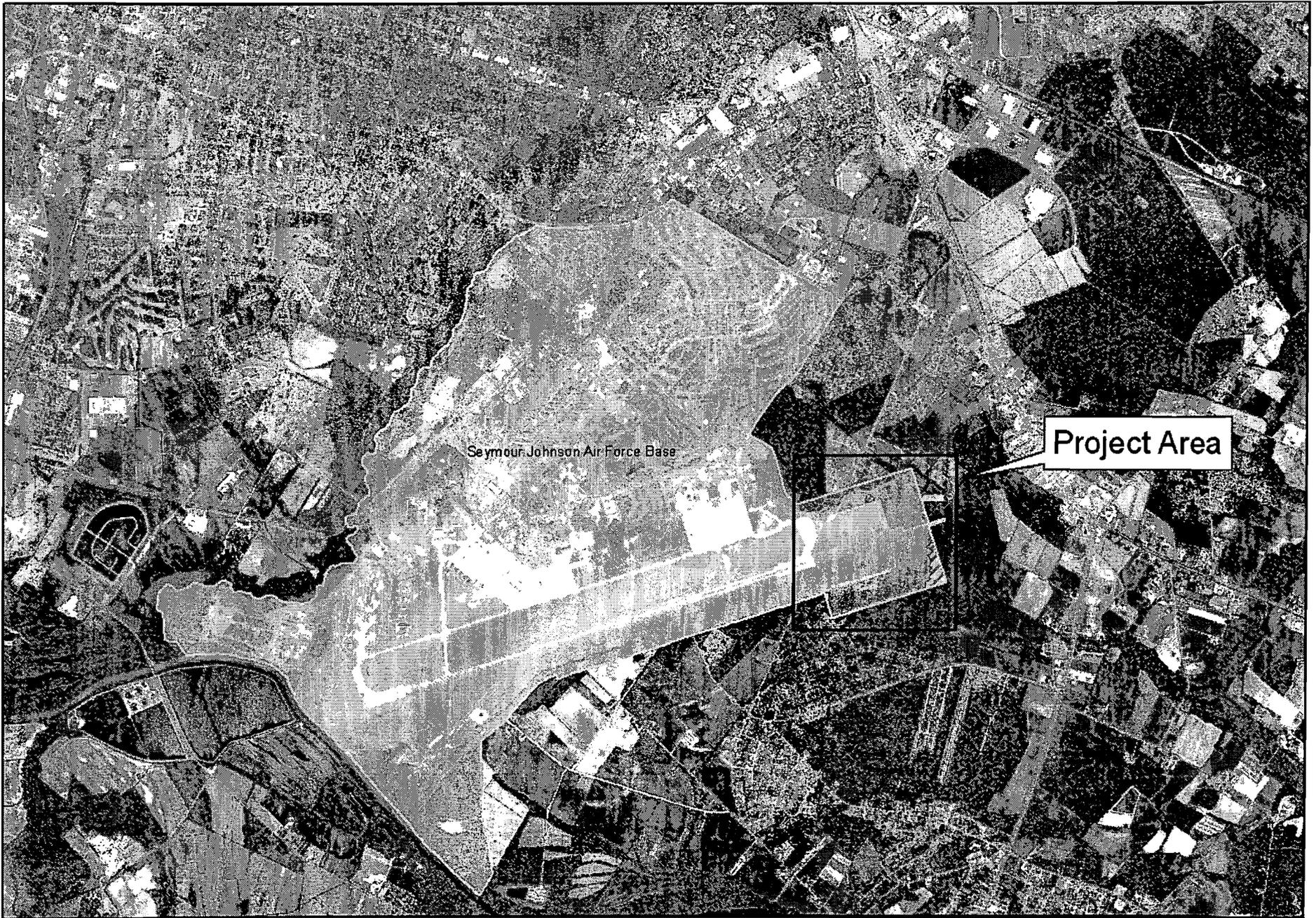
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

SJAFB Project Area

Proposal to fill wetlands

-  SJAFB Boundary
-  Wetlands
-  Clear Zone





SJAFB Location

Proposal to fill wetlands

