



Fact Sheet

Schools/ Security/ Traffic/ Jurisdiction

Schools

Quality education for all children located at NWS Earle is very important to the Navy. However, the decision of which school system these children attend is not up to the Navy—it is determined by state and local law.

All housing areas at NWS Earle are located within the boundaries of the Township of Colts Neck, however, current New Jersey statute requires that all military dependents residing aboard mainside NWS Earle be educated in Tinton Falls schools. On June 21, 2007 the New Jersey Assembly voted 50-1, with 29 abstentions, on a bill that requires all civilian children and children of military personnel who reside at NWS Earle, but are assigned to other bases to be educated in Colts Neck schools. School-age children of military personnel assigned to NWS Earle and that reside aboard NWS Earle would continue to attend schools in Tinton Falls. The Senate version of the bill was not voted on prior to the Legislature adjourning for the summer of 2007.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate potential impacts to the respective school system based on the outcome of the Bill before the New Jersey Legislature.

Impact Aid Program

In 1950, Congress provided for financial assistance to help school districts that have parcels of federal land within their district. This assistance was provided through the Impact Aid Program which is administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Impact Aid law (now Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) provides assistance to local school districts that educate federally-connected children. This would include the children of members of the uniformed services, children [civilian] who live on Federal property, and other federally-connected children.

The precise amount of funding any school district may receive as a result of the Impact Aid law is dependent on a number of factors. These factors include: the amount of funds Congress appropriates to the program; number of children eligible in the school system; percent of children eligible within the school system; children with disabilities; and direct construction grants.

Security

NWS Earle is committed to maintaining the high degree of base security that is being practiced now and into the future, no matter the occupancy of the Laurelwood housing. Adequate security measures would be in place prior to any civilians being allowed to reside in the Laurelwood housing area. The Laurelwood housing area would be segregated from NWS Earle via a fence line that meets all necessary force protection requirements and the general public would not be allowed access to the Station.

Traffic

Each of the proposed alternatives requires a new entrance on New Jersey Route 34. The degree of potential impact the proposed action may cause to traffic along Route 34 in the vicinity of the main gate is dependent upon the final alternative selected. During the development of the EIS, each alternative will undergo a traffic analysis conducted by a New Jersey company that specializes in traffic studies. The results of their evaluation and the study's recommendations regarding time delays to existing traffic flow, (i.e., level of service), potential signalization, or other road improvements will become part of the EIS.

In addition to the traffic analysis, the Navy will coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding potential intersections with Route 34. The State's recommendations and requirements for any intersections will be documented within the EIS.

Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction

NWS Earle was acquired under exclusive federal jurisdiction. Several community services normally provided for by the local township would be provided by NWS Earle, regardless of the occupancy of Laurelwood housing. Because of the exclusive federal jurisdiction, the Navy would continue to provide police, fire, and rescue services to the housing area.

In the event the Navy police were called to the Laurelwood housing area and an arrest was made, the individual would be transported to the nearest Federal magistrate and detained in a Federal facility as directed by the magistrate. The Colts Neck court system and detention facilities would not be impacted. Fire and rescue services would also continue to be provided to Laurelwood by the Navy. The Navy has established a mutual aid agreement for fire and rescue services with Colts Neck. This agreement may be modified to include civilians living in Laurelwood housing. In the event a civilian living at Laurelwood housing were injured and required medical attention, they would be transported to the nearest civilian hospital or emergency treatment facility.

The ability to tax this property is subject to state and local law. The Navy intends to honor their contract obligations and provide for unimpeded access to the Laurelwood housing area, which would allow the housing to be available for civilian occupancy.