

**BEAUFORT COUNTY**  
**Military Compatibility Area Overlay District**

**SECTION 1 - MILITARY COMPATIBILITY AREA OVERLAY DISTRICT (MCAOD)**

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**1.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The Military Compatibility Area Overlay District (MCAOD) implements and codifies the recommendations of the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (AFB) and Dare County Range Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The purpose of these regulations is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community and to preserve and maintain existing and future operational capabilities of the Dare County Range.

**1.02 APPLICABILITY**

This Section establishes regulations applicable to all land located within the boundary of the Military Compatibility Overlay District (MCAOD), as adopted and depicted on the official Zoning Map for Beaufort County.

**1.03 EXEMPTIONS**

The following uses are exempt from the MCAOD regulations:

- A. Existing Structures.** This regulation shall not restrict or limit the use of legally established, existing land uses and structures as of the effective date of these regulations.

**1.04 RELATIONSHIP OF MCAOD TO UNDERLYING ZONING**

The MCAOD is a zoning overlay, with underlying zoning entitlements in place and in effect. The MCAOD regulations established herein supplement, modify, and where indicated, supersede the regulations of the underlying zoning district. All definitions, references, requirements, and other land use controls not specifically defined or modified by the regulations herein shall conform to provisions of the MCAOD applicable to the underlying zoning district.

**1.05 CONFLICTING PROVISIONS**

The general provisions, zoning district regulations and all other development standards established within all other Sections of this Zoning Code are applicable within the MCAOD to the extent such regulations within the MCAOD establish a less restrictive standards(s) covering the same subject matter. Whenever a provision of the Zoning Code contains a specific standard(s) covering the same subject matter as this MCAOD, the more restrictive requirement(s) shall control.

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### 1.06 ESTABLISHMENT – MCAOD AND MAA BOUNDARIES

The MCAOD and component part – Vertical Obstruction MAA, are hereby established as depicted on the official Zoning Map for Beaufort County and are described as follows:

#### **MCAOD**

The MCAOD is the total geospatial area of the Vertical Obstruction MAA. The boundary of the MCAOD and Vertical Obstruction MAA are depicted on the Beaufort County official Zoning Map. The MCAOD is shown in Figure 1.

#### **Vertical Obstruction MAA**

Establishes height limitations for structures to protect navigable airspace for aircraft using the Dare County Range. The Vertical Obstruction MAA is shown in Figure 2.

### 1.07 MCAOD DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

This Section establishes regulations applicable to the overall MCAOD boundary and applies to all land within the boundary of the Vertical Obstruction MAA.

### 1.08 Vertical Obstruction MAA Development Standards

1. **Purpose and Intent.** The purpose and intent of the Vertical Obstruction MAA is to establish the geography and regulations to protect important flight areas for aircraft using the Dare County Range. These requirements establish maximum buildable heights for structures to promote compatible renewable energy development within the High Risk of Adverse Impact Zone (HRAIZ) and development within areas of low-level flight for military aircraft within Military Training Routes and Special Use Airspace.

#### **A. Renewable Energy.**

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Section is to establish regulations for utility-scale (generating 10 or more megawatts) Alternative Energy facilities and structures to ensure impacts to military and aviation operations are minimized.
2. **Applicability.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to any application for municipal approval for the erection and maintenance of the following utility-scale Alternative Energy facilities and structures within the HRAIZ subzone of the MCAOD:
  - a. Wind Energy Facility; and
  - b. Other similar uses which involve the production, storage and distribution of energy resources and involve vertical structures or other impacts to aviation operations at the Dare County Range.



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**3. Renewable Energy Development Standards.**

- a. Applications for energy development projects shall include a mission compatibility evaluation from the DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse.
  - b. Applications for energy development projects shall include details related to the siting of facilities, energy capacity output, height of structures and facilities, and construction technology.
4. The information in subsections 3 a-b shall be reviewed and considered before any decision is rendered to approve an application for an energy development project.

**B. Vertical Development Standards.**

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Section is to establish regulations for the maximum buildable height of structures to minimize impacts to military and aviation operations.
2. **Applicability.** The FAA has established minimum flight altitudes for military aircraft within Military Training Routes and military Special Use Airspace. The standards of this section shall apply to structures within the following areas of Beaufort County:
  - a. Military Training Routes: Minimum flight altitude of 100 ft. AGL
  - b. Special Use Airspace: Restricted Areas:
    - o R-5314 B/H: Minimum flight altitude of 500 feet AGL
    - o R-5314 C: Minimum flight altitude of 200 feet AGL
3. **Exemptions.** An application for development that exceeds the maximum structure height established in Section 4 below, is exempt from the requirements of this Section provided the application includes a mission compatibility evaluation from the DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse indicating no adverse impact on military operations and readiness, and the maximum structure height does not exceed the permitted height for that zoning district.
4. **Development Standards.** Structures shall be limited to the following heights:
  - a. Military Training Routes:
    - i. Structures shall be limited to a maximum height of 100 ft. AGL.
  - b. Special Use Airspace: Restricted Areas:
    - i. R-5314 B/H: Structures shall be limited to a maximum height of 500 feet AGL.
    - ii. R-5314 C: Structures shall be limited to a maximum height of 200 feet AGL.

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### 1.09 DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases applicable to the MCAOD, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning or construction, shall mean:

- A. **FAA.** The Federal Aviation Administration.
- B. **DoD.** Department of Defense.
- C. **Height.** The highest point of a structure or tree, plant or other object of natural growth or ground, measured from ground level.
- D. **High Risk of Adverse Impact Zone (HRAIZ).** The HRAIZ is a geographic area that depicts the Air Force area of interest for Dare County Range operations. Wind turbines built within the radio frequency line of sight can create adverse impacts to training activities depending on vertical height, electromagnetic sensitivity, and distance from military activities.
- E. **Joint Land Use Study.** A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is a collaborative planning process accomplished through the efforts of a military installation and/or airport and surrounding jurisdictions to identify and establish compatible land uses, enhanced communication procedures, and growth management guidelines for new development and other community activities in the vicinity of air operations. The overarching goal of a JLUS to identify compatible land uses and growth management guidelines to reduce incompatibilities.
- F. **Military Awareness Area (MAA).** In compatibility planning, the term “Military Awareness Area” (MAA) is used to formally designate a geographic area where military operations may impact local communities and, conversely, where local activities may affect the military’s ability to conduct its mission.
  - 1. **Vertical Obstruction MAA.** The Vertical Obstruction MAA includes all land within Beaufort County that is within the HRAIZ, Military Training Routes, and Special Use Airspace (Restricted Areas). The Vertical Obstruction MAA is the area where regulations apply to prevent vertical obstructions from occurring within important flight areas for aircraft operating at the Dare County Range. The Vertical Obstruction MAA is depicted on the Beaufort County MCAOD Map on the official Zoning Map.
- G. **Military Compatibility Area Overlay District (MCAOD).** The MCAOD is a comprehensive zoning overlay district including regulations applicable to the Vertical Obstruction MAA for the Dare County Range. The MCAOD is defined by the outer extent of the Vertical Obstruction MAA and represents the compatibility area that should be considered when planning future growth and development in the region.
- H. **Military Training Route.** Aerial corridors where military aircraft conduct low-altitude, high-speed military flight training.
- I. **Obstruction.** Any structure or tree, plant or other object of natural growth that penetrates an imaginary surface, or an object that is determined to interfere with the established traffic pattern, even if that object does not penetrate an imaginary surface.

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- J. Restricted Area.** A type of Special Use Airspace where the existence of unusual, often invisible, hazards to aircraft occur, such as artillery firing or aerial gunnery. Penetration of restricted areas without authorization from the using or controlling agency may be extremely hazardous.
- K. Special Use Airspace (Restricted Area).** A designated area of airspace by the FAA and DoD where activities must be confined because of their nature, or wherein limitations are imposed upon aircraft operations that are not a part of those activities, or both. Special Use Airspace areas are depicted on aeronautical charts, except for controlled firing areas (CFA), temporary military operations areas (MOA), and temporary restricted areas.
- L. Renewable Energy.** The term renewable energy is applied broadly to energy derived from renewable sources (e.g., solar, hydroelectric, wind).