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Cost-Benefit Analysis of Navy Station Search and Rescue (SAR)

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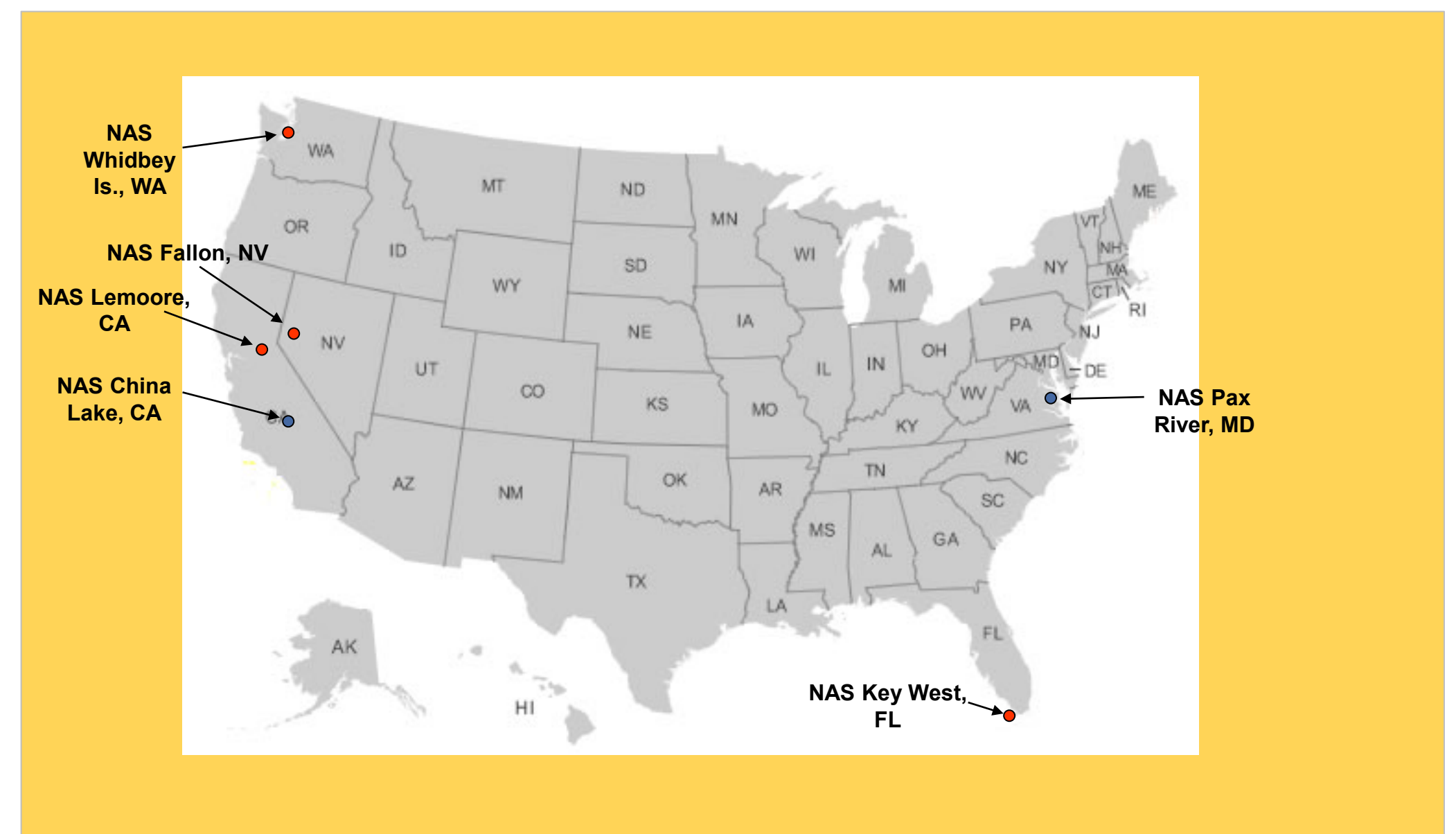
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Background

- Naval Air Stations (NASs) carry out Search and Rescue (SAR) operations using multi-mission MH-60S helicopters
- Increasing operational demand will stress MH-60S capacity in the early 2020s.
- Are there alternatives to the use of multi-mission MH-60s to deliver current and projected SAR capabilities at NAS?



Navy Air Station SAR Map



MH-60S performing SAR training

Our Approach

In-depth Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA):

- Site visits to collect data on aircraft inventory, manpower and local commercial outsourcing availability.
- Estimate costs savings associated with alternative outsourcing scenarios specific to each NAS SAR.
- Consider tradeoffs associated with different alternatives for outsourcing.

Findings and Recommendations

- Based on our CBA findings, we formulated cost-savings outsourcing recommendations tailored to each NAS delivering SAR solely using the MH-60S.
- Our research suggests that when funds are available, using civilian-off-the-shelf (COTS) aircraft would dramatically reduce operational demand on the MH-60S.



*NPS GSDM student
LT. Christensen,
during data collection site visit at
NAS Whidbey Island, WA*

Future Research Opportunities

- Further research could identify the most efficient implementation plan for replacing the multi-use MH-60S aircraft with COTS aircraft procurement, should funds be allocated towards a fully contracted SAR.
- The cost benefit analysis models developed in this study can be used to support a large array of resource allocation decisions for commands in the Navy, or DoD.



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