

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Air Force Civil Engineer Center Joint Base San Antonio Lackland Texas

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August 24, 2022

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MEMORANDUM FOR

Federal, State, and Local Public Agencies

Interested Parties Members of the Public

Libraries

Subject: Proposed Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Beddown Pilot Training Center (PTC) at Ebbing Air National Guard (ANG) Base, Arkansas (AR) or Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan (MI)

Notice of Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability

Pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the *Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA*, and the U.S. Air Force's (DAF) procedures for implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*), the Department of the Air Force (DAF) has prepared a Draft EIS for public review that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to establish an FMS PTC. The Draft EIS addresses two alternative locations: Ebbing ANGB, AR (the Preferred Alternative) or Selfridge ANGB, MI (Alternative 2). The DAF is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of the EIS. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is serving as a Cooperating Agency because the scope of the Proposed Action involves activities under their jurisdiction by law and for which they have special expertise. FAA's authorities and special expertise is based on its statutory responsibilities under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section [§] 47101) and Section 163 of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act.

The DAF's Proposed Action would establish a permanent FMS PTC to accommodate up to 36 aircraft (24 F-35 aircraft and 12 F-16 aircraft) utilizing existing facilities to the maximum extent practicable to meet FMS requirements. Both the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2 would include the beddown of F-35 and F-16 aircraft; use of respective airfields and airspace; military construction projects; facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects; and personnel increases. The number of personnel at each location would increase under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2. The beddown would not require changes to airspace configuration to support the Preferred Alternative or Alternative 2. The EIS analyzes the impacts associated with implementation of the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2, as well as the No Action Alternative.

The Draft EIS is available for download at **www.FMSPTCEIS.com**. Electronic copies of the document are also available at local libraries; the website provides a list of local libraries where the document is available.

Libraries are requested to maintain received hard copies and CDs/DVDs on site in an area easily accessible to the public until the close of the public comment period – October 17, 2022.

Request for Comments

The DAF requests comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested members of the public. Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally at the public hearings (see below), and written comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted electronically at **www.FMSPTCEIS.com** (preferred method) or via postal mail at the address below. For further information, please contact:

FMS PTC EIS Project Manager AFCEC/CZN 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155 JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853 FEDEX / UPS Deliveries: FMS PTC EIS Project Manager AFCEC/CZN 3515 S General McMullen, Suite155 San Antonio, TX 78226-2018

We will accept comments at any time during the environmental process. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight; however, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS, **please submit comments by October 17, 2022**.

Mailed submissions must be unbound, no larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches, and suitable for copying and electronic scanning. The format of electronic submissions should also be no larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches. If you mail your submissions and want to know when it reaches its destination (i.e., the address in Texas noted above), please include a stamped, self-addressed post card or envelope.

Regardless of the method used for submitting comments, all submissions will be posted without change to the project website (http://www.FMSPTCEIS.com) and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information to the website makes it public. You may wish to read the Privacy and Use Notice that is available on the project website.

Notification of Public Hearings

As part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with NEPA, the DAF will be holding public hearings to receive public comments on the environmental impacts of the proposed action presented in the Draft EIS. Verbal comments will be accepted at the hearings; your input is valuable and assists the DAF in making more informed decisions. The DAF will host three public hearings on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Central) at a location near Ebbing ANGB, AR
- Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern) at a location near Selfridge ANGB, MI
- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Central) / 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern) virtually

Interested parties need to register to attend a public hearing and sign up to provide an oral comment. To register, please visit **www.FMSPTCEIS.com**. Pre-registration is required for all meetings to comply with the Secretary of the Air Force COVID mitigation guidance. Meeting locations, links and instructions will be distributed after registering and prior to all public hearings. If unable to pre-register online for a hearing, you may call your local base Public Affairs office to register:

- Ebbing ANGB Public Affairs: (479) 573-5323
- Selfridge ANGB Public Affairs: (586) 239-4735

Both the in-person hearings and the virtual hearing will begin with a 30-minute presentation regarding the proposed action and environmental impacts, followed by a 30-minute open house session. The last hour of the meeting is set aside for an official oral comment session, where participants can provide oral

comments for the record regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed action (up to three minutes in length).

The material presented at the public meetings, received comments, and associated documentation, as well as the Final EIS (when published) will be made available for viewing at http://www.FMSPTCEIS.com.

For further information, please contact the FMS PTC EIS project manager at the address above. Sincerely,

MARTIN.DAVI Digitally signed by MARTIN.DAVID.1200730158 Date: 2022.08.19 11:51:08 - 4500

David Martin AFCEC/CZN