

**APPENDIX A**

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**VOLUME I OF III**

**PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS**

## **ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS**

<b>AFB</b>	Air Force Base
<b>BRAC</b>	Base Realignment and Closure
<b>CEQ</b>	Council on Environmental Quality
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This appendix consists of three volumes. Appendix A, Volume I contains a summary and overview of the public scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Proposed Implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions and Related Actions at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, to include public scoping, agency correspondence, and public comments received during the public scoping process. Appendix A, Volume II presents information and materials associated with the Draft EIS public involvement process. Appendix A, Volume III presents public and agency comments received during the Draft EIS public commenting period and the Air Force response to these comments.

Public involvement is an integral part of developing a representative EIS. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for public involvement are set forth in the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, at 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 989. These regulations describe what the Air Force must do as a part of the public hearing and public comment process to involve the public. The entire public involvement process ensures that the EIS has adequately addressed significant issues important to the people who will be impacted by the Air Force's decisions.

Volume I of this appendix contains a copy of the *Final Eglin 2005 Public Scoping Summary Report*, which comprises the following:

### **Public Scoping Process**

- Scoping Public Notification Process
- Initial Scoping Meetings
- Scoping Meeting Opportunities to Comment
- Scoping Update Meetings
- Scoping Update Meeting Opportunities to Comment

### **Synopsis of Public Comments**

- Summary of the Initial Public Scoping Meeting Comments
- Summary of the Public Scoping Update Meeting Comments

### **Federal Register Notice of Intent**

**Public and Government Notification**

Public Notice

Public Scoping Letter

Government Correspondence

Scoping Announcement

Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ad, Media Release, Public Service  
Announcement

**Scoping Meeting Materials**

**Scoping Meeting Transcripts and Oral Comments**

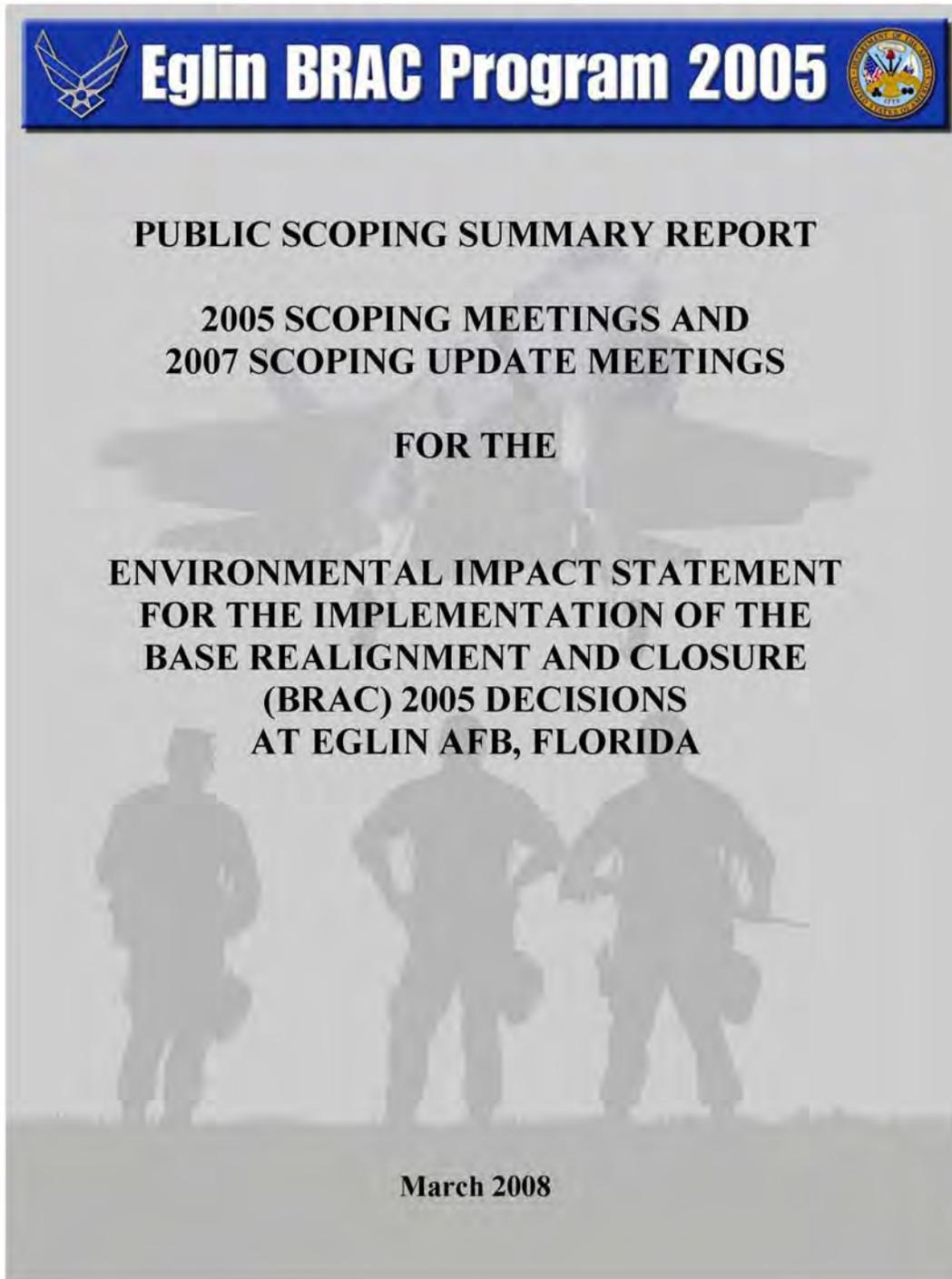
**Written Comments Received During the Public Scoping Process**

**Media Coverage**

**EGLIN BRAC 2005 PROGRAM  
PUBLIC SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

**2005 SCOPING MEETINGS AND  
2007 SCOPING UPDATE MEETINGS**

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## ACRONYMS

<b>7SFG(A)</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne)
<b>AFB</b>	Air Force Base
<b>AFI</b>	Air Force Instruction
<b>BRAC</b>	Base Realignment and Closure
<b>CEQ</b>	Council on Environmental Quality
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>DoD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>DTRA</b>	Defense Threat Reduction Agency
<b>EIAP</b>	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement
<b>Hwy</b>	Highway
<b>IICEP</b>	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
<b>INRMP</b>	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
<b>ITC</b>	Integrated Training Center
<b>JSF</b>	Joint Strike Fighter
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>NOI</b>	Notice of Intent
<b>PSA</b>	Public Service Announcement
<b>SAIC</b>	Science Applications International Corporation
<b>U.S.</b>	United States

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document presents an overview of the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared for the Proposed Implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions and Related Actions at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida. The 2005 BRAC EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts of actions identified for Eglin AFB in the BRAC Commission 2005 Final Report. Eglin AFB is located in northwest Florida and comprises 724 square miles of land area and approximately 142,000 square miles of airspace overlying land and water ranges. Eglin's Main Base is located adjacent to Valparaiso, Florida, and about 10 miles north of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The BRAC Commission's recommendations for Eglin AFB include the beddown of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and associated development of the JSF Integrated Training Center (ITC) at Eglin AFB; and the realignment of the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), or the 7SFG(A), from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin AFB; the relocation of the conventional weapons research and development functions of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Eglin AFB; and relocating the in-service engineering function of the weapons and armaments research, development, test, acquisition and evaluation from Hill AFB, Utah, to Eglin AFB.

This EIS will address the BRAC 2005 Program recommendations for Eglin AFB; specifically, the establishment of the JSF cantonment and training areas and the establishment of the 7SFG(A) cantonment and training areas. The potential impacts associated with the DTRA relocation will be addressed in a separate environmental assessment. Prior to the Secretary of Defense's BRAC 2005 recommendations, submitted on 13 May 2005, the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group evaluated realigning the weapons and armaments research, development, test, acquisition, and evaluation engineering efforts of Hill AFB to Eglin AFB. However, the engineering workload and funding were no longer available after fiscal year 2005. Since there was no workload or existing funding for these efforts at Hill AFB after fiscal year 2005, these functions will not be realigned to Eglin AFB. Therefore, this action will not be addressed in this EIS.

Furthermore, this EIS will not specifically address the potential environmental and community impacts from associated housing because the housing requirements for BRAC are not yet defined. The Air Force is in the process of conducting several internal studies to determine the housing requirements of the incoming personnel and their families as a result of BRAC. Potential impacts from housing needs may be specifically addressed in a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document once the requirements have been defined. At this time, this EIS will address housing impacts in a general sense and in the context of cumulative impacts.

In 2007, the United States (U.S.) Air Force in conjunction with the U.S. Army developed additional information that further narrowed the proposed locations for the BRAC-mandated JSF and 7SFG(A) activities.

Based upon common Army and Air Force criteria, five potential locations were identified as possible locations for the 7SFG(A) cantonment area: (1) Eglin Main Base, (2) Near Duke Field, (3) West of Duke Field, (4) North of Eglin Main Base, and (5) Near DeFuniak Springs.

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The training areas for the 7SFG(A) were also narrowed to five alternatives based upon shared criteria to ensure mission flexibility and range sustainability for both current and future users of Eglin Military Complex in a manner that does not adversely impact the environment or the neighboring communities. The 13 new range facilities encompass over 6,000 acres and will be used for a wide variety of training activities.

As a result of mission-specific requirements, two potential locations at Eglin Main Base were identified for the location of the JSF cantonment area. Operations of the JSF program will occur on Duke Field, Eglin Main Field, and Choctaw Field. The Department of Defense (DoD) initiated a noise study to evaluate potential noise impacts and studied various mixes of aircraft operations at the three fields selected. The results from the noise study were analyzed to aid in developing JSF Flight Training alternatives for the EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in early May 2008, at which time a 45-day public review period will commence, which will include public hearings where public comment may be given verbally and/or in writing. Written comments can also be submitted via facsimile, electronic mail, and regular mail. The Final EIS will address substantive public comments and is scheduled for publication in October 2008.

Scoping is a critical first step in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) when an agency prepares an EIS. The EIAP is directed by NEPA and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 989).

This scoping summary report describes the public involvement process for the 2005 BRAC EIS, which includes a discussion of the public notification process, descriptions of the scoping and scoping update meetings, and a summary of the opportunities provided for public comments.

## 2. THE SCOPING PROCESS

Public involvement is an integral part of developing a representative EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Scoping Guidance defines scoping as the "process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated." Scoping is defined in AFI 32-7061 as "a public process for proposing alternatives to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action," in this case, the establishment of an initial joint training site for JSF training and the 7SFG(A) realignment to Eglin AFB.

NEPA requirements for public involvement and scoping are set forth in AFI 32-7061, as promulgated by CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1500–1508. These regulations describe what the Air Force must do as a part of the scoping process to involve the public. Scoping for the 2005 BRAC EIS took place from 22 May 2006 to 19 September 2006. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on 28 July 2006. A supplemental NOI setting forth the newly developed alternative locations for the JSF and the 7SFG(A) actions was published on 15 October 2007.

The intent of the scoping process is to provide ample opportunity for the public and other agencies to learn about and comment on the proposed actions and alternatives and provide insight into other possible alternatives. The scoping process ensures that the EIS will address significant issues important to the people who will be affected by the Air Force's decisions.

While this scoping report identifies potentially significant issues, this document does not announce decisions nor does it set forth policies. The scoping report summarizes the issues the Air Force received up to 31 August 2006, the end of the scoping period, as well as comments received at the scoping update meetings held in November 2007.

### 2.1 SCOPING PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The Air Force pursued several avenues to notify the public of opportunities for involvement and methods to comment on the EIS, as outlined below.

#### *Federal Register Notice of Intent*

The initial scoping process began with the publication in the *Federal Register* of the NOI (Appendix A-1) on 28 July 2006. The NOI announced the Air Force's intent to prepare an EIS on the potential environmental impacts from a recommendation to execute actions identified in the BRAC Commission 2005 Final Report: establishing a JSF ITC, relocating the 7SFG(A) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin AFB; relocating the conventional weapons research and development functions of the DTRA from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Eglin AFB; and relocating the in-service engineering function of the weapons and armaments research, development, test, acquisition and evaluation from Hill AFB, Utah, to Eglin AFB. The NOI officially convened the scoping period, during which time the Air Force accepted public comments on the EIS. In the year since the original NOI was published and initial scoping meetings were held, the Air Force

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developed additional information bearing on the proposal and its impacts. As a result, the Air Force published a supplemental NOI (Appendix A-2) on 15 October 2007 announcing the Air Force's intent to hold scoping update meetings in November 2007 and update the public on the actions and alternatives for the BRAC-mandated JSF and 7SFG(A) activities.

***Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Letter and Agency Consultation***

In early August 2006, the Air Force mailed an Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) letter (Appendix B-1) in which the Air Force solicited written comments on the EIS and invited recipients to two public meetings held near the project area on 22 and 24 August 2006. Through the letter, the Air Force also initiated consultation with potentially interested and affected agencies, requesting submittal of any relevant studies or data that might be useful in the analysis process. The following is a list of local and regional agencies that were invited to participate:

- City of Fort Walton Beach
- City of Niceville
- City of Shalimar
- City of Valparaiso
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV
- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida League of Cities
- Okaloosa County
- Okaloosa Gas District
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Walton County Chamber of Commerce
- Walton County Schools
- West Florida Regional Planning Council
- In November 2007, a supplemental letter (Appendix B-2) was submitted to all local and regional agencies (Appendix B-3), notifying them of the scoping update meetings and updating interested parties on the new status of the project.

***Media***

The Air Force published newspaper advertisements in local newspapers prior to the scoping meetings. Ads were in the *Northwest Florida Daily News* on Sunday, 6 August and Sunday,

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20 August 2006. Additional advertisements were published in the *Navarre Press* on Thursday, 10 August and Thursday, 17 August 2006. Additionally, Air Force Public Affairs Specialists sent press releases to various newspapers in the local region. Appendix C-1 provides a copy of the display ad that was published in several local newspapers. It also includes the press release and the public service announcement (PSA).

For the scoping update meetings, the Air Force published local newspaper display advertisements in the *Northwest Florida Daily News* on Tuesday, 9 and 23 October 2007 and in the *Navarre Press* on Thursday, 11 and 25 October 2007. Additional advertisements were purchased in the *Navarre Express*, a monthly publication that reaches more than 17,000 local residents on Monday, 8 October 2007. Appendix C-2 provides a copy of the scoping update meeting display ad, as well as the press release and the PSA.

**Website**

The Air Force developed a website to provide the interested public with the ability to find more information about the EIS process. The website, [www.eglin.af.mil](http://www.eglin.af.mil), provides information about the EIS schedule, relevant and complete documents and notifications, and maps of the planning area.

**2.2 INITIAL SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Air Force held two initial public scoping meetings near Eglin AFB in facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Table 1 shows the meeting times, locations and attendance:

**Table 1. Initial Public Scoping Meetings**

Date	22 August 2006	24 August 2006
City	Fort Walton	Crestview
Location	Emerald Coast Conference Center Ballrooms 2, 3, and 4 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, S.E. Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Crestview High School 1250 N. Ferdon Boulevard (Highway 85) Crestview, FL 32536
Meeting Time	6:30–9:30 PM	6:30–9:30 PM
Members of Public Attending	33	25
State/Local Government Reps.	4	3
Members of Media Attending	3	3

Both meetings started at 6:30 PM with an open house where meeting attendees signed in and Air Force resource specialists were on hand to provide information and answer questions. Air Force representatives followed the informal open house with a formal presentation (Appendix D-1), starting at approximately 7:00 PM. The presentation provided an overview of the EIS process and the proposed action and alternatives.

The Air Force provided a 12-page brochure and a series of display boards at each scoping meeting (Appendix E-1). During the informal open house and after the formal presentation, the Air Force encouraged meeting attendees to comment by submitting written comment forms or

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providing oral testimonies before the on-site court reporter. Comment sheets were available to all attendees at both meetings (Appendix F-1). The court reporter officially recorded the meeting proceedings and public comments. Appendix G-1 shows the official transcripts for both meetings.

***Displays***

Two 3-panel tabletop display boards and four single-panel display boards (Appendix E-1) guided meeting participants visually through the EIS process, action, issues, and alternatives. The two 3-panel display boards illustrated these topics:

- A summary of the National Environmental Policy Act
- An explanation of an EIS
- A flowchart of the proposed EIS process timeline
- A list of proposed actions, proposed alternatives, and maps for each

The four single-panel display boards illustrated these topics:

- Welcome to the public scoping meeting
- A description of the EIS purpose
- A list of possible environmental impacts
- Information about public participation

***Brochure***

The Air Force developed a 12-page brochure (Appendix E-1) to provide meeting participants with an overview of the 2005 BRAC EIS process. The brochure provided the following:

- An overview of the EIS process
- An invitation for public involvement
- Background on Eglin AFB
- BRAC history
- Proposed alternatives for the proposed actions to be assessed during the 2005 BRAC EIS process
- Descriptions of the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A) requirements
- Definitions of anticipated environmental issues to be evaluated in the EIS, as determined by the Air Force's preliminary research

The Air Force distributed brochures to scoping meeting participants and the media.

### 2.3 OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT

The Air Force provided the public with various opportunities to comment on the Air Force's proposed alternatives and issues relevant to the 2005 BRAC EIS. The following is a comprehensive list of methods made available for commenting during the scoping process:

- Standard mail – The Air Force invited interested parties to submit comments by mail in the NOI, the IICEP letter, and in display ads in local newspapers.
- E-mail – The Air Force included an e-mail address in the newspaper advertisements and at the end of the scoping meeting briefing.
- Fax – Local newspaper display advertisements included a fax number.
- Public scoping meetings – The Air Force provided written comment forms at scoping meetings, which could be completed and submitted during or after the meetings.
- Additionally, meeting attendees were given the opportunity to submit comments orally, which were officially transcribed by a court reporter.

Government agencies and the public submitted comments to the Air Force during the scoping meetings and via mail and e-mail. Appendix G-1 contains the meeting transcripts, which captures the oral comments. Appendix H-1 captures the written comments. Table 2 shows an overview of the number of commenters in each format.

**Table 2. Number of Commenters from Initial Scoping**

Comment Format	Number of Commenters
Standard mail	3
E-mail	4
Public Scoping Meetings	4 written/7 oral
Total	18

### 2.4 SCOPING UPDATE MEETINGS

In November 2007, the Air Force held two public scoping update meetings near Eglin AFB in facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Table 3 shows the meeting times, locations, and attendance.

**Table 3. Public Scoping Update Meetings**

Date	6 November 2007	7 November 2007
City	Navarre	Niceville
Location	Comfort Inn and Conference Center 8700 Navarre Parkway Navarre, FL 32566	Niceville High School Auditorium 800 E. John Sims Parkway Niceville, FL 32578
Meeting Time	6:30–9:30 PM	6:30–9:30 PM
Members of Public Attending	76	83
State/Local Government Reps.	6	9
Members of Media Attending	3	1

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Both scoping update meetings started at 6:30 PM with an open house where meeting attendees signed in and Air Force resource specialists were on hand to provide information and answer questions. Air Force representatives followed the informal open house with a formal presentation (Appendix D-1), starting at approximately 7:00 PM. The presentation provided an overview of the EIS process and the proposed action and alternatives.

The Air Force provided a 12-page brochure and a series of display boards at each scoping update meeting (Appendix E-1). During the informal open house and after the formal presentation, the Air Force encouraged meeting attendees to comment by submitting written comment forms or providing oral testimonies before the on-site court reporter. Comment sheets were available to all attendees at both meetings (Appendix H-2). The court reporter officially recorded the meeting proceedings and public comments. Appendix G-2 shows the official transcripts for both scoping update meetings.

***Displays***

Two 3-panel tabletop display boards and four single-panel display boards (Appendix E-2) guided meeting participants visually through the EIS process, action, issues, and alternatives. The two 3-panel display boards illustrated these topics:

- A summary of the National Environmental Policy Act
- An explanation of an EIS
- A flowchart of the proposed EIS process timeline
- A list of proposed actions, proposed alternatives, and maps for each, including detailed descriptions of the BRAC-mandated JSF and 7SFG(A) activities

The four single-panel display boards illustrated these topics:

- Welcome to the public scoping meeting
- A description of the EIS purpose
- A list of possible environmental impacts
- Information about public participation

***Brochure***

The Air Force developed a 12-page brochure (Appendix E-2) to provide meeting participants with an overview of the 2005 BRAC EIS process. The brochure provided the following:

- An overview of the EIS process
- An invitation for public involvement
- Background on Eglin AFB
- BRAC history

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- Proposed alternatives for the proposed actions to be assessed during the 2005 BRAC EIS process
- Descriptions of the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A) requirements
- Definitions of anticipated environmental issues to be evaluated in the EIS, as determined by the Air Force’s preliminary research

The Air Force distributed brochures to scoping meeting participants and the media.

**2.5 SCOPING UPDATE MEETING OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT**

The Air Force provided the public with various opportunities to comment on the Air Force’s proposed alternatives and issues relevant to the 2005 BRAC EIS. The following is a comprehensive list of methods made available for commenting during the scoping process:

- Standard mail – The Air Force invited interested parties to submit comments by mail in the NOI, the IICEP letter, and in display ads in local newspapers.
- E-mail – The Air Force included an e-mail address in the newspaper advertisements and at the end of the scoping meeting briefing.
- Fax – Local newspaper display advertisements included a fax number.
- Public scoping meetings – The Air Force provided written comment forms at scoping meetings, which could be completed and submitted during or after the meetings.
- Additionally, meeting attendees were given the opportunity to submit comments orally, which were officially transcribed by a court reporter.

Government agencies and the public submitted comments to the Air Force during the scoping meetings and via mail and e-mail. Appendix G-2 contains the update meeting transcripts, which captures the oral comments. Appendix H-2 captures the written comments. Table 4 shows an overview of the number of commenters in each format.

**Table 4. Number of Commenters from Scoping Update**

<b>Comment Format</b>	<b>Number of Commenters</b>
Standard mail	7
E-mail	1
Public Scoping Meetings	2 written/9 oral
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

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### 3. SYNOPSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### 3.1 SUMMARY OF INITIAL PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS BY TOPIC AREA

The following sections represent a summary of the public comments provided to the Air Force during the initial public scoping period. These verbal and written public comments were generated by mail, e-mail, fax, and at the initial public scoping meetings, as described in Section 2.3.

Appendix G-1 contains official transcripts of the presentation and the oral comments recorded during the scoping meetings of 22 and 24 August 2006. Appendix H-1 contains a complete set of written comments that the Air Force received during the initial scoping period.

To capture the public concerns regarding the 2005 BRAC EIS, the Air Force reviewed each comment letter for content. Key issues were identified, summarized, and categorized by topic (Table 5). Many comments addressed more than one issue; therefore, the number of issues is greater than the number of comments. Some individual issues were categorized under multiple topics to ensure that comments were considered for all relevant topic areas.

Table 5 shows the number of comments received per EIS topic and is followed by summaries of scoping comments by EIS topic. The majority of comments pertained to the following topic areas: Transportation Infrastructure, Proposed Action, Socioeconomics, Cultural Resources, and Land Use and Planning, with Transportation Infrastructure being the most frequently mentioned issue. Each topic area and a summary of comments received during the initial scoping period are provided here in Section 3.1.1 through Section 3.1.17.

**Table 5. Comments from Initial Scoping by EIS Topic Area**

EIS Topic	Number of Comments
The EIS Process	6
Proposed Action	7
Proposed Alternatives	5
Land Use and Planning	6
Transportation Infrastructure	9
Socioeconomics	7
Utilities Infrastructure	3
Cultural Resources	5
Biological Resources	4
Water Resources	3
Soils	0
Air Quality	0
Hazardous Materials/Waste	4
Solid Waste	1
Noise	4
Safety	3
Cumulative Impacts	6



**Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update***Synopsis of Public Comments*

operations and opportunities. Impacts to transportation infrastructure will be assessed in relation to each proposed alternative. Comments received regarding transportation infrastructure were the most common. They included concerns about traffic increases and safety, impacts of traffic increases on fire and police activities, and coordination of state, local, and federal efforts to accommodate increases in the local and visitor traffic.

There were nine comments related to transportation and traffic (see Appendix G-1 and Appendix H-1). A summary of the comments follows:

- Update roadway infrastructure to improve traffic flow.
- Install and incorporate proper traffic flow and reduction measures, such as additional stoplights.
- Change highway access points.
- Coordinate federal and state dollars to improve roadways.
- Consider proposed alternatives that use roadways and infrastructure redesigned to handle traffic increases.
- Correct/relieve traffic congestion on Florida Highway (Hwy) 85.
- Research traffic accident logs and identify hazards.

**3.1.6 Socioeconomics**

The EIS Socioeconomics section will include an overview of the current economic activity of each proposed project area, the increase/decrease of economic activity for each proposed alternative, current population and proposed future population impacts, the current housing scenario and future housing impacts, current school providers, impacts on local schools, and environmental justice issues. There were seven comments related to socioeconomics, which are included in Appendices G-1 or H-1. A summary of the comments follows:

- Provide an accurate assessment of the impacts of each alternative on property values.
- Ensure that the Crestview Police Department is equipped to serve and protect a larger community.
- Coordinate with local schools to assess and manage the impact to schools of an increased population in certain areas. Specific concerns about appropriateness of the size of Crestview High School were raised during the informal discussions.

**3.1.7 Utilities Infrastructure**

The EIS Utilities Infrastructure section will include an analysis of impacts to potable water, wastewater management, electricity networks, and natural gas usage. There were three comments related to utilities infrastructure. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. Two respondents said that Crestview is not prepared with “adequate living conditions” (specifically, infrastructural concerns) to accommodate the additional inhabitants.

A summary of comments follows:

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- Ensure the current water and sewer system can handle the increased needs of a larger population.
- Create an infrastructure management plan that ensures wastewater, electricity, and natural gas needs will be adequately met.

### 3.1.8 Cultural Resources

The EIS Cultural Resources section will include an overall historical setting for each proposed project area, an analysis of the impact of each proposed alternative on existing cultural resources, and an overview of Native American consultation and coordination. There were five comments related to cultural resources. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. A summary of the comments follows:

- Avoid disturbance of Native American remains per the Native American's Grave Protection and Repatriation Act.
- Adequately protect all historic sites and provide an accurate and comprehensive analysis of cultural resources within each proposed project area.
- Protect existing historic resources.

### 3.1.9 Biological Resources

The EIS Biological Resources section will include an analysis of impacts to existing sensitive habitats and species and an overview and assessment of impacts to ecological associations within each proposed project area. There were four comments related to biological resources. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. A summary of the comments follows:

- Protect and maintain the diversity of species found in and around proposed alternative areas.
- Provide an adequate analysis of the impacts on habitat from each proposed alternative.
- Ensure that species and species' habitat that exist within each proposed project area are maintained and continue to be viable wildlife areas.

### 3.1.10 Water Resources

The EIS Water Resources section will include an analysis of groundwater resources and impacts, an assessment of surface water resources and impacts, and an overview of existing wetlands and floodplains and associated impacts from each proposed alternative. There were three comments related to water resources. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1.

### 3.1.11 Soils

The EIS Soils section will include an analysis of soil types found within each proposed project area and a site-wide analysis of drainage and topography. There were no comments related to soils during the public scoping period.

**3.1.12 Air Quality**

The EIS Air Quality section will include an analysis of regional air quality and emission sources and the impacts to air quality from each proposed alternative. There were no comments related to air quality during the public scoping period.

**3.1.13 Hazardous Materials/Waste**

The EIS Hazardous Materials/Waste section will include an overview of environmental restoration program sites; possible sources and/or increases in asbestos, lead-based paint, and polychlorinated biphenyls; an overview of underground storage tanks; and an analysis of hazardous materials management for each proposed alternative. There were four comments related to hazardous materials/waste. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. The one hazardous materials comment referenced concern about radar beams from Eglin Area C-6. Three waste comments focused on the need to control and accommodate increases in garbage and sewer output that would result from population increases.

**3.1.14 Solid Waste**

The EIS Solid Waste section will include an analysis of and management plans for basewide solid waste plans and local government solid waste disposal plans. There was one comment related to solid waste, which is included in Appendix H-1. The solid waste comment focused on the efficient removal of solid waste/garbage from impacted communities.

**3.1.15 Noise**

The EIS Noise section will include an overview of existing noise conditions in the proposed project areas and possible sources of new noise conditions, particularly the JSF. There were four comments related to noise. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. Noise comments focused on concerns about increased noise from new aircraft, increased number of training flights, increased number of night flights, and the potential impact this will have on the community.

**3.1.16 Safety**

The EIS Safety section will include an analysis of possible safety and health threats to military and nonmilitary persons. There were three comments related to safety. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. Safety comments focused on concerns about threats to safety from increased motor vehicle traffic, increased crime, off-base security, and possible increases in fire threats.

**3.1.17 Cumulative Impacts**

The EIS Cumulative Impacts section will include an analysis of already existing projects and actions in and around the base area and how each of the proposed alternatives might impact those projects and actions. There were five comments related to cumulative impacts. These comments are included in Appendix G-1 or Appendix H-1. Cumulative impacts comments focused on a larger concern for impacts to adjoining and existing military sponsored projects.

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### 3.2 SUMMARY OF SCOPING UPDATE MEETING COMMENTS

During the scoping update meetings, the Air Force allowed for additional comments to be provided by the public both in writing and orally at the meetings. Other comments were received via standard and electronic mail.

Appendix G-2 contains the official transcript of the presentation and oral comments recorded during the scoping update meetings 6 and 7 November 2007. Appendix H-2 contains a complete set of written comments that the Air Force received during the scoping update meeting process.

Table 6 shows the number of comments received per EIS topic. The table is followed by summaries of scoping update meeting comments by EIS topic. The majority of comments pertained to the following topic areas: land use and planning, socioeconomics, noise and safety.

**Table 6. Comments from Scoping Update Process by EIS Topic Area**

EIS Topic	Number of Comments
The EIS Process	1
Proposed Action	2
Land Use and Planning	5
Transportation and Infrastructure	1
Socioeconomics	6
Cultural Resources	2
Biological Resources	2
Water Resources	2
Noise	6
Safety	8
Cumulative Impacts	2
Air Quality	1
Hazardous Materials	2

#### 3.2.1 Air Quality

There was one comment related to air quality during the public scoping period. This comment focused on concern regarding excess pollution over the city of Valparaiso.

#### 3.2.2 The EIS Process

The Air Force included the EIS process as a comment topic area to address NEPA requirements, the public involvement process, and the objectivity of documents (e.g., Draft EIS, fact sheets/brochures, displays). One additional comment related to the EIS process, and is included in Appendix H-2 (written comments). The comment submitted was concerned about the adequacy of the involvement of affected communities and their government officials and representatives, as well as with the ethical and legal responsibility of decision makers.

#### 3.2.3 Proposed Action

The Air Force included the Proposed Action as a topic area for comments regarding the overall 2005 BRAC EIS Program. There were two additional comments that focused on the Proposed Action included in Appendix H-2 (written comments). The comments addressed concern over



**3.2.10 Biological Resources**

Two additional comments related to biological resources. These comments are included in Appendix H-2. Comments included concerns about avoiding wetlands and avoiding threatened and endangered species such as the Choctaw bean, tapered pigtoe, southern sandshell and flatwoods salamander. In addition, concerns addressed the need for compliance with the ecosystem management plan in Eglin AFB's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

**3.2.11 Water Resources**

There were two comments received relating to water resources. These comments are included in Appendix H-2. The comments included concerns about water pollution and the affect new missions and units could have on water quality in the Destin, Florida area.

**3.2.12 Soils**

No additional comments were received about soils.

**3.2.13 Hazardous Materials/Waste**

Two additional comments were received about hazardous materials/waste. These comments are included in Appendix H-2 and focused on concerns from the City of Valparaiso in regard to ground facilities.

**3.2.14 Solid Waste**

There were no additional comments received on solid waste.

**3.2.15 Noise**

Six additional comments were received relating to noise concerns regarding the BRAC 2005 proposal and actions. These comments focused on engine testing, which was addressed by Col. Ross. This response can be found in the meeting transcript on page G-126. Other comments addressed concerns about noise on the north side of principal N-S runway and noise increase over Valparaiso schools and churches.

**3.2.16 Safety**

Eight additional comments were received related to safety. These comments can be found in Appendix H-2. These comments focused on increased accident potentials, increased safety risks associated with the F-35 and the age of its pilots, increased hearing loss as a result of increased noise, and Valparaiso schools under the potential training area.

**3.2.17 Cumulative Impacts**

Two additional comments were received regarding cumulative impacts for the BRAC 2005 Proposal. These comments focused on lasting impacts on resources and impacts as a result of noise.

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Summary

#### 4. SUMMARY

A total of 249 individuals attended the initial and update scoping meetings. Of these, 10 members were from various media outlets and 22 were elected official or state and local representatives. The Air Force received a total of 37 comments. Several of these people provided informal verbal comments; 6 provided written comments during the meetings; 16 provided verbal testimony; and 15 persons submitted written comments via standard mail or electronic mail. All recorded comments are presented in Appendix G (verbal/transcribed comments) or Appendix H (written comments).

Overall, local citizens and agencies were mostly concerned with the impact to transportation and traffic. These concerns focused on traffic maneuverability, but several comments addressed traffic safety and the ability of emergency vehicles to efficiently move through traffic. Several commenters expressed concerns that the local utility, school, and public service infrastructures could not support the anticipated increases in population. Some were concerned about impacts to historical structures and remains. Others mentioned quality-of-life concerns and concern for the local ecosystem (primarily wildlife). During the scoping update meetings in November 2007, concerns focused on noise associated with the JSF and training. Concerns were also expressed regarding the EIS process and compliance with NEPA regulations.

The Draft EIS will address or consider these concerns and will be presented to the public with ample time for review before the public hearings, which are tentatively scheduled for April 2008 in Niceville and Crestview, Florida, as well as Monroeville, Alabama. At the public hearings, the public will have an opportunity to see how the Air Force addressed their concerns in the Draft EIS. The public hearings will also provide an opportunity for the public to make statements and express their viewpoints for the public record and voice additional concerns, if necessary, for inclusions in the Final EIS.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF INTENT**

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**INITIAL SCOPING MATERIALS (2006)**

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) 2005 DECISIONS AND RELATED ACTIONS AT EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), FL****AGENCY:** U.S. Air Force**ACTION:** Notice of Intent

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et. seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989), the Air Force is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an EIS evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the 2005 BRAC Commission's recommendations and related actions for Eglin AFB, FL.

The 2005 BRAC Commission identified establishment of a Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC), relocation of the Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) [7SFG(A)] from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and creation of Air Integrated Weapons and Armaments Research, Development and Acquisition, Test and Evaluation Center by relocating the Weapons and Armaments In-Service Engineering Research, Development and Acquisition, and Test and Evaluation from Hill AFB, UT and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency from Fort Belvoir, VA to Eglin AFB.

The JSF ITC would be the initial training site for joint Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps JSF training organizations, as well as the United Kingdom, which is a full partner in this program. The training site would teach aviators and maintenance technicians how to properly operate and maintain 107 F-35 aircraft. As part of this action, F-35 basing, facility construction and renovation, on-site maintenance and use of training airspace are being analyzed. The 7SFG(A)'s principal mission includes planning and executing unconventional warfare, combating terrorism operations, direct action, special reconnaissance, and foreign internal defense. Their realignment to Eglin provides multi-service collocation, joint training synergy with Air Force Special Operations Command and places 7SFG(A) on training lands that match their wartime area of responsibility in Central and South America.

Approximately 4,600 personnel are associated with the bed down of both organizations. When including spouses and children, the estimated total of personnel coming to the Eglin AFB area would be 10,000 people.

As part of this action, the Air Force is considering various alternatives for facility construction and renovation, land range development, equipment storage and operation, and land-based training/maneuvering to be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS may also include within its scope the potential environmental effects associated with socioeconomics, transportation, noise, cultural resources, water resources, wetlands, floodplains, air quality, land use, infrastructure, and biological resources.

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The Air Force will conduct scoping meetings to solicit public input concerning this proposal. The scoping process will help identify issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. The exact dates, times and location(s) will be announced through local media. Oral and written comments presented at the public meetings, as well as written comments received by the Air Force during this scoping period and throughout the EIS process, will be considered in the preparation of the EIS and will be made a part of the administrative record.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Please direct any written comments or requests for information to Mr. Michael Spaits, Public Affairs, 96 CEG/CEVPA, Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000 (PH: 850-882-2878; [spaitsm@eglin.af.mil](mailto:spaitsm@eglin.af.mil)). Handicap assistance and translation service at the public meetings are available in advance through Mr. Spaits.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF INTENT (2007)**

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<p><b>58296</b> Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 198 / Monday, October 15, 2007 / Notices</p>	
<p><i>Title:</i> Performance Measurement in AmeriCorps.  <i>OMB Number:</i> 3045-0094.  <i>Frequency:</i> Annual.  <i>Affected Public:</i> Individuals and households, community and faith-based organizations, non-profits, state and local government and education institutions.  <i>Number of Respondents:</i> 10,000.  <i>Estimated Time Per Respondent:</i> Ten minutes  <i>Total Burden Hours:</i> 1,667 hours.  <i>Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):</i> None.  <i>Total Annual Cost (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services):</i> None.                  Dated: October 4, 2007.  <b>LaMonica Shelton,</b>  <i>Associate Director for Policy and Communications, Department of Research and Policy Development.</i>                  [FR Doc. E7-20095 Filed 10-12-07; 8:45 am]  <b>BILLING CODE 6050-55-P</b></p>	<p>of Medicine; Acting Dean, USU Graduate School of Nursing; Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute; and the Director, U.S. Military Cancer Institute will also present reports. These actions are necessary for the University to remain an accredited medical school and to pursue its mission, which is to provide outstanding health care practitioners and scientists to the uniformed services.  <b>SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:</b> Pursuant to Federal statute and regulations (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165) and the availability of space, this meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the Board of Regents. Individuals persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the Board of Regents. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Officer at the address detailed above. If such statement is not received at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting, it may not be provided to or considered by the Board of Regents until its next open meeting. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the Board of Regents Chair and ensure such submissions are provided to Board of Regents Members before the meeting. After reviewing the written comments, submitters may be invited to orally present their issues during the open portion of the November 2007 meeting or at a future meeting.  <i>For further Information and Base Access Procedures Contact:</i> Janet S. Taylor, Designated Federal Officer, 301.295.3066.                  Dated: October 9, 2007.  <b>L.M. Bynum,</b>  <i>Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD.</i>                  [FR Doc. 07-5064 Filed 10-12-07; 8:45 am]  <b>BILLING CODE 5001-06-M</b></p>
<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE</b></p>	
<p><b>Office of the Secretary of Defense</b></p>	
<p><b>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Quarterly Meeting Notice</b></p>	
<p><b>AGENCY:</b> Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).  <b>ACTION:</b> Quarterly meeting notice.</p>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and the Sunshine in the Government Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended) announcement of the following meeting:  <i>Name of Committee:</i> Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.  <i>Date of Meeting:</i> November 6, 2007.  <i>Location:</i> Board of Regents Conference Room (D3001), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.  <i>Times:</i> 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Open Session), 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Closed Session).  <i>Proposed Agenda:</i> The actions that will take place include the approval of minutes from the Board of Regents Meeting held August 7, 2007; acceptance of administrative reports; approval of faculty appointments and promotions; and the awarding of post-baccalaureate degrees as follows: Masters of Science in Nursing, and masters and doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health. The President, USU; Dean, USU School</p>	
<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE</b></p>	
<p><b>Department of the Air Force</b></p>	
<p><b>Supplemental Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) 2005 Decisions and Related Actions at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), FL</b></p>	
<p><b>AGENCY:</b> Department of the Air Force.  <b>ACTION:</b> Supplemental Notice of Intent (NOI).  <b>SUMMARY:</b> This supplemental NOI is being issued pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, <i>et seq.</i>), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR part 989). This supplemental NOI is issued to advise the public that the Air Force intends to further publicly scope information necessary to complete preparation of an EIS for the proposed BRAC activities at Eglin AFB, FL.                  This supplements the initial NOI which appeared in the <b>Federal Register</b> July 28, 2006 [<b>Federal Register</b>: July 28, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 145), page 42838-42839].                  In the year since the initial NOI was published and initial scoping meetings were held, the Air Force has developed additional information that bears on the proposal and its impacts. The Air Force will present this additional information to the public and solicit comments. Public input is important to determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues that were not known when the initial NOI was published.                  The supplemental scoping meetings will be held in a "Town Hall" format allowing interested parties to review information and related materials. Oral and written comments presented at the public meetings, as well as written comments received by the Air Force throughout the EIS process, will be considered and made a part of the administrative record.                  All the information and comments gathered in response to the initial NOI remain in the record, and there is no need to repeat information submitted at that time.  <b>DATES:</b> The BRAC scoping update meetings will be held as follows:                  November 6, 2007, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Comfort Inn Conference Center, 8700 Navarre Parkway, Navarre, FL 32566, and November 7, 2007, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Niceville High School, 800 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL 32578.  <b>FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Please direct any written comments or requests for information to Mr. Michael Spaits, Public Affairs, 96 CEV-PA, Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000 (PH: 850-882-2878; <a href="mailto:mike.spaits@eglin.af.mil">mike.spaits@eglin.af.mil</a>).  <b>Bao-Anh Trinh,</b>  <i>Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.</i>                  [FR Doc. E7-20278 Filed 10-12-07; 8:45 am]  <b>BILLING CODE 5001-05-P</b></p>	

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**APPENDIX B**  
**SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**INITIAL SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT (2006)**

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## Scoping Announcement



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
 HEADQUARTERS 96TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)  
 EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA

Colonel Eric A. Pohland  
 Vice Commander  
 401 W Van Matre Avenue, Suite 106  
 Eglin AFB FL 32542-6802

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»  
 «JobTitle»  
 «Company»  
 «Address1»  
 «Address2»  
 «City» «State» «PostalCode»  
 Dear «Salutory»

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 *United States Code* 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989), the Air Force is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations and the Proposed Actions and Alternatives for Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.

The 2005 BRAC actions involve establishing the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC); relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [7SFG(A)] from Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and relocating the administrative functions of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Eglin AFB. Since the DTRA move is administrative only and involves only about 36 personnel and no new construction, the EIS will address only the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A) aspects of BRAC; the DTRA aspect will be addressed in a separate Environmental Assessment. The JSF ITC involves approximately 2,300 personnel, and 7SFG(A) also involves approximately 2,300 personnel. Including spouses and children, the estimated total newcomers to the Eglin AFB area would approximate 10,000 people. Inherent in the BRAC action is the need for Eglin AFB to accommodate JSF and 7SFG(A) training requirements.

The BRAC actions described above require the construction of administrative areas for the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A), including munitions storage and potential range reconfiguration of the Eglin Military Complex to fulfill training missions. All activities are proposed to occur within the jurisdiction of the Eglin Reservation or within the airspace associated with Eglin AFB. The Air Force has developed alternatives for implementing each of the actions described previously. These proposed alternatives differ primarily in their location within the 724 square miles that make up the Eglin Military Complex. The EIS will detail each of these actions and evaluate the potential environmental impacts.

The Air Force initiated the scoping process on July 28, 2006, and will be hosting two public scoping meetings to identify community and agency concerns. Public comments from these

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scoping meetings or written comments submitted during the scoping period will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. Public scoping meetings will be held on/at the following dates, locations, and times:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 22, 2006	Fort Walton	Emerald Coast Conference Center Ballrooms 2, 3, and 4	6:30–9:30 PM
August 24, 2006	Crestview	Crestview High School	6:30–9:30 PM

Prior to the start of the scoping meetings, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an open information session. The open session is an opportunity for community members to learn more about the Eglin BRAC 2005 Program and environmental impact statement process.

During the scoping meetings, the Air Force will provide information on the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and solicit public comments on alternative development. Comments regarding the meeting can be provided either in writing or orally. You may direct your written comments by August 31, 2006, to: Mr. Michael Spaits, Public Affairs Officer, 96 CEG/CEVPA, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542-5000 (PH: 850.882.2878).



ERIC A. POHLAND, Colonel, USAF

## 4 Attachments:

1. Figure 1: Eglin AFB Reservation
2. Figure 2: Potential Location of JSF ITC Complex
3. Figure 3: 7SFG(A) Cantonment Area Alternative 1
4. Figure 4: 7SFG(A) Cantonment Area Alternative 2



Figure 1: Location of Eglin AFB

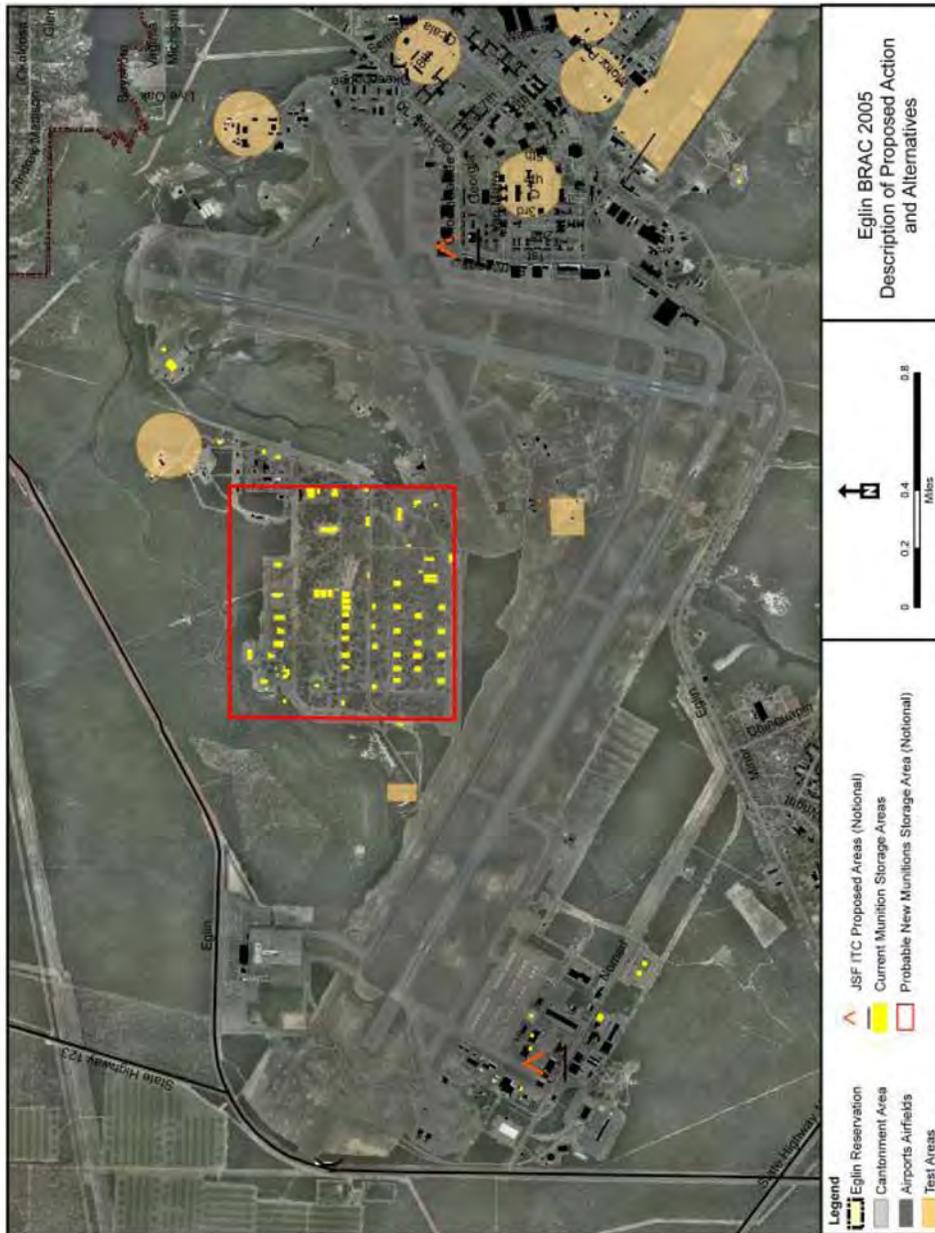


Figure 2: Location of JSFT ITC Alternatives

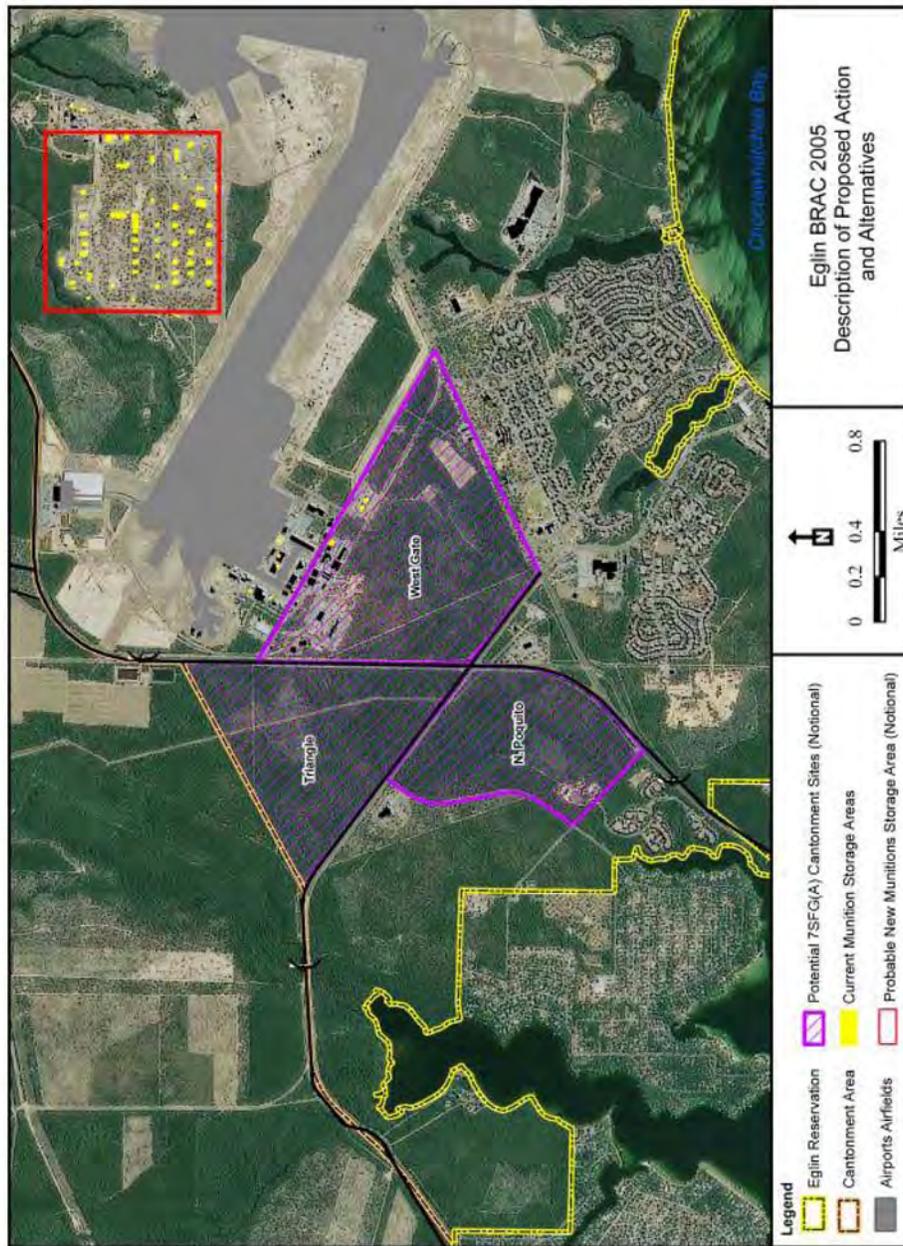


Figure 3: 7SFG(A) Alternative 1: Near Eglin Main Base

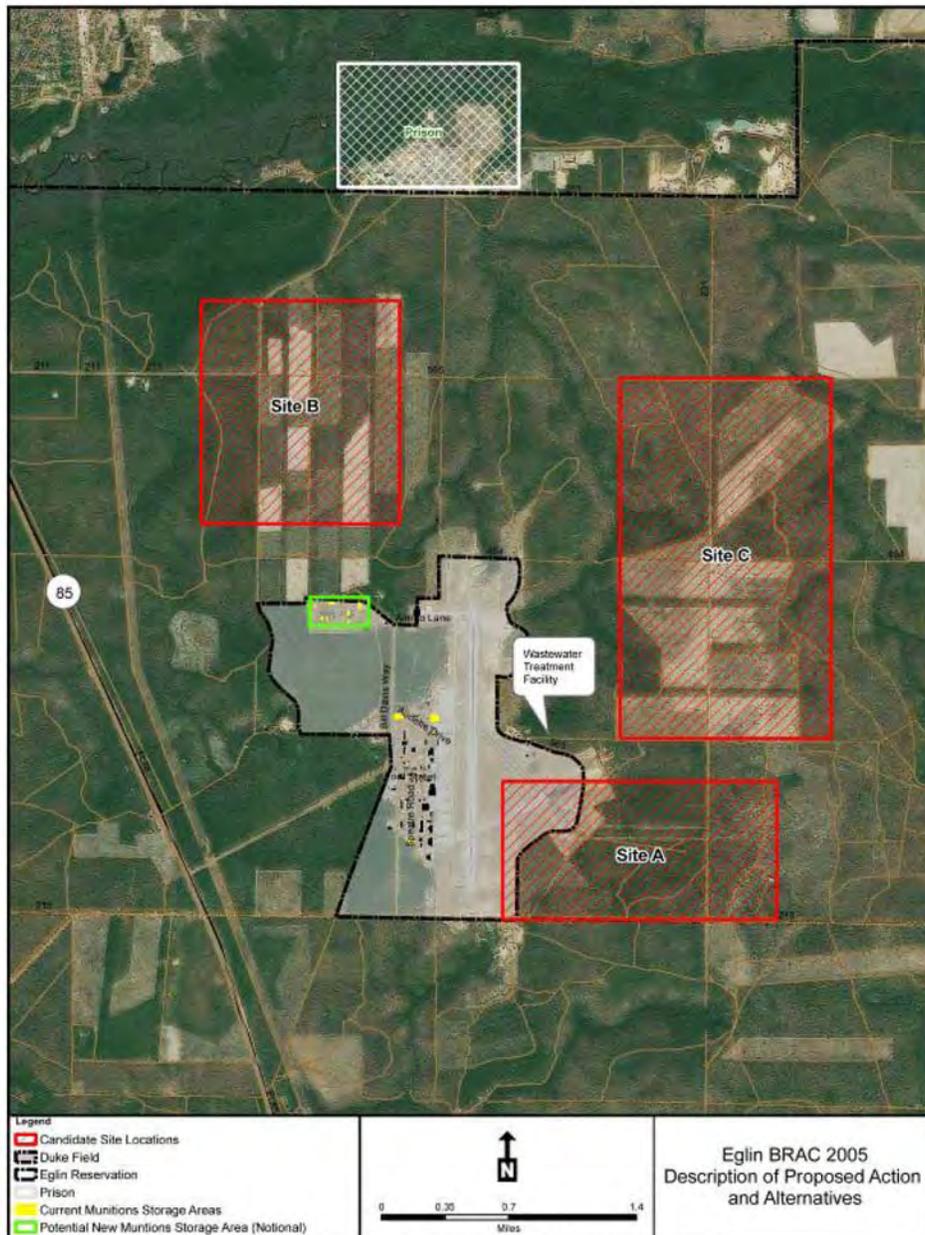


Figure 4: 7SFG(A) Alternative 2: Near Duke Field

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**UPDATED SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT (2007)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 96TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)  
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA

OCT 8 2007

Colonel Eric A. Pohland  
Commander  
401 W Van Matre Avenue, Suite 106  
Eglin AFB FL 32542-6802

Mr. Robert Thrower  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 *United States Code* 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989), the Air Force is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations and the Proposed Actions and Alternatives for Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.

The 2005 BRAC actions involve establishing the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC); relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [7SFG(A)] from Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and relocating the administrative functions of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from Fort Belvoir, Virginia to Eglin AFB. Since the DTRA move is administrative only and involves only about 36 personnel and no new construction, the EIS will address only the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A) aspects of BRAC; the DTRA aspect will be addressed in a separate Environmental Assessment. The JSF ITC involves approximately 2,300 personnel, and 7SFG(A) also involves approximately 2,300 personnel. Including spouses and children, the estimated total newcomers to the Eglin AFB area would approximate 10,000 people. Inherent in the BRAC action is the need for Eglin AFB to accommodate JSF and 7SFG(A) training requirements.

The BRAC actions described above require the construction of administrative areas for the JSF ITC and 7SFG(A), including munitions storage and potential range reconfiguration of the Eglin Military Complex to fulfill training missions. All activities are proposed to occur within the jurisdiction of the Eglin Reservation or within the airspace associated with Eglin AFB. The Air Force has developed alternatives for implementing each of the actions described previously. These proposed alternatives differ primarily in their location within the 724 square miles that make up the Eglin Military

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Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
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Complex. The EIS will detail each of these actions and evaluate the potential environmental impacts.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects associated with socioeconomics, transportation, cultural resources, water resources, noise, wetlands, floodplains, land use, infrastructure, and biological resources. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

The Air Force initiated the scoping process on July 28, 2006, and will be hosting two public scoping update meetings to identify community and agency concerns. Public comments from these public scoping update meetings or written comments submitted during the scoping period will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. Public scoping update meetings will be held on/at the following dates, locations, and times:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 6, 2007	Navarre	Comfort Inn Conference Center	6:30–9:30 PM
November 7, 2007	Niceville	Niceville High School	6:30–9:30 PM

Prior to the start of the public scoping update meetings at 6:30 PM, there will be an open information session. The open session is an opportunity for community members to learn more about the Eglin BRAC 2005 Program and environmental impact statement process.

During the meetings, the Air Force will provide information on the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and solicit public comments on alternative development. Comments regarding the meeting can be provided either in writing or orally. You may direct your written comments to: Mr. Michael Spaits, Public Affairs Officer, 96 CEG/CEVPA, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542-5000 (PH: 850.882.2878).



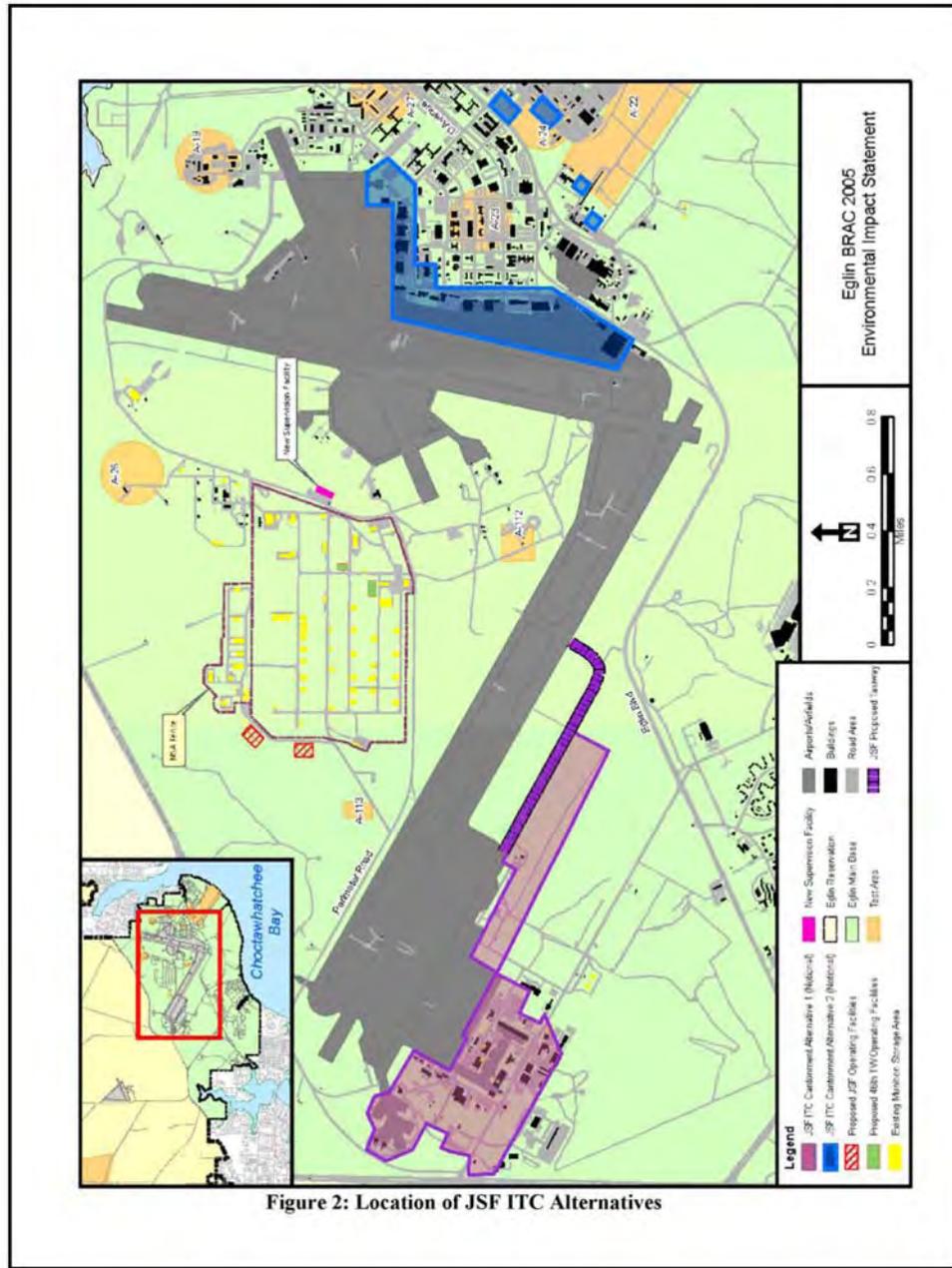
ERIC A. POHLAND, Colonel, USAF

4 Attachments:

1. Figure 1: Eglin AFB Reservation
2. Figure 2: Potential Location of JSF ITC Complex
3. Figure 3: 7SFG(A) Cantonment Area Alternatives
4. Figure 4: 7SFG(A) Range Training Alternatives



Figure 1: Location of Eglin AFB



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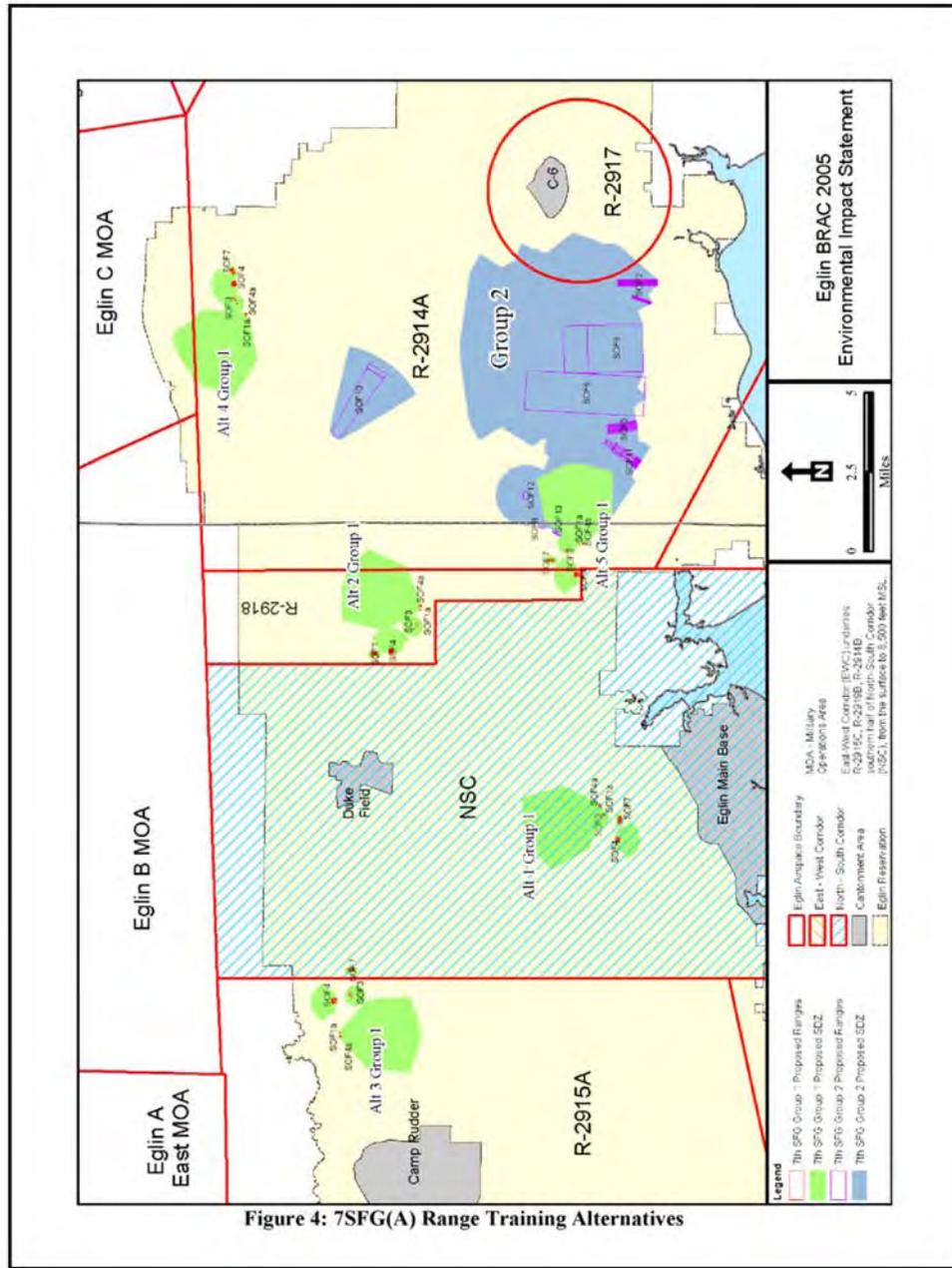


Figure 4: 7SFG(A) Range Training Alternatives

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**UPDATED SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT (2007) – HCEP MAILING LIST**

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**HCEP MAILING LIST BY CITY AND STATE****ATMORE, ALABAMA**

Mr. Robert Thrower  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

**WASHINGTON, DC**

Dr. Tom McCulloch  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20004-2604

Ms. Elizabeth Merritt  
Deputy General Counsel  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Vijai Rai  
Office of Environmental Policy &  
Compliance  
US Department of the Interior  
MS 2342 MIB  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

**BRUCE, FLORIDA**

Ms. Ann Tucker  
Muscogee Nation of Florida  
278 Church Road  
Bruce, FL 32455

**CHEWISTON, FLORIDA**

Mr. Bill Steele  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Seminole Tribe of Florida  
HC 61 Box 21-A  
Clewiston, FL 33440

**CHIPLEY, FLORIDA**

Ms. Virgie M. Bowen  
Planning Department  
P. O. Box 607  
Chipley, FL 32428

Mr. John H. Lovett  
Florida DOT  
3131 Lovett Road  
Chipley, FL 32428

Mr. Edward Prescott  
District 3 Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Highway 90 East  
Chipley, FL 32428

**CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA**

Ms. Sherry Campbell  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okaloosa County District 1  
101 E. James Lee Boulevard  
Crestview, FL 32536

Ms. Danielle Slaterpryce  
Okaloosa County Public Works  
1759 South Ferdon Boulevard  
Crestview, FL 32536

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

Board of County Commissioners  
Walton County  
PO Box 689  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Walton DeFuniak Public Library  
3 Circle Drive  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

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**Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update***Scoping Announcement***FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA**

Chief Ted Litschauer  
Chief of Police  
Fort Walton Beach Police Dept.  
7 Hollywood Boulevard NE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Mr. Paul Briere  
Florida PTAC  
34 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Mr. Randall D. Brown  
Ocean City-Wright Fire Department  
2 Racetrack Road NE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Ms. Jackie Burkett  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okaloosa County District 5  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Mr. Michael Dutton  
Fire Chief  
Fort Walton Beach Fire Department  
5 Hollywood Boulevard NE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Mr. John Doyen, District Manager  
Waste Management Inc. of Florida and Fort  
Walton Beach  
108 Hill Avenue  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Emergency Management Planner  
Okaloosa County Department of Emergency  
Services  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Honorable Mike Anderson, Mayor  
City of Fort Walton Beach  
PO Box 4009  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Ms. Patricia Gould  
Fort Walton Beach Public Library  
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Mr. James Curry  
Okaloosa County Administrator  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

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Managing Editor  
Northwest Florida Daily News  
200 Racetrack Road  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Mr. Jim Littrell  
Okaloosa County Department  
of Water and Sewer  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Ms. Missy McKim  
City of Fort Walton Beach  
Land Use Code and Enforcement  
P.O. Box 4009  
107 Miracle Strip Parkway SW  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Mr. Monty Montgomery  
Cox Communications  
320 NW Racetrack Road  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Mr. Thomas Murray  
Director of Public Works  
City of Fort Walton Beach  
107 Miracle Strip Parkway SW  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce  
34 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

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Okaloosa County Planning Commission  
c/o Planning and Zoning Division  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Okaloosa County Utilities Department  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Okaloosa Gas District  
20 NE Hughes Street  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Ms. Tracy Prince  
Cox Communications  
320 NW Racetrack Road  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Ms. Paula Riggs  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okaloosa County District 4  
1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Mr. James Robbins  
Fort Walton Beach Housing Authority  
27 Robinwood Dr SW  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5347

Mr. Bill Roberts  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okaloosa County District 3  
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Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Ms. Joyce Shanahan  
City Manager  
Fort Walton Beach  
107 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Mr. John Janazzo  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okaloosa County District 2  
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Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

**MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA**

Honorable Margaret Mclemore  
City of Mary Esther  
195 Christobal Road N  
Mary Esther, FL 32569

Mary Esther Library  
100 W. Hollywood Dr.  
Mary Esther, FL 32569

**FREEPORT, FLORIDA**

Walton County Library System Freeport  
Branch  
P.O. Box 398  
76 State Highway, 20 W  
Freeport, FL 32439-3810

**LAUREL HILL, FLORIDA**

North Walton Company Library  
261 Flowersview Boulevard  
Laurel Hill, FL 32567

**MIAMI, FLORIDA**

Mr. Steve Terry  
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida  
P.O. Box 440021  
Miami, FL 33144-0021

**NAVARRE, FLORIDA**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Announcement

[Redacted]

Mr. Dan Doucet  
City Manager  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

[Redacted]

Director of Community Development  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

[Redacted]

Ms. Tina Eakes  
Cox Communications  
320 Racetrack Road, NW  
Niceville, FL 32578

[Redacted]

Chief Bryon Kreatendon  
Chief of Police  
Niceville Police Department  
212 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

[Redacted]

Ms. Wanda Miller  
City Planner  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

[Redacted]

**NICEVILLE, FLORIDA**

Mr. James Campbell  
Director of Emergency Management  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

Mr. Bruce Price  
Director of Public Works  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

Mr. Lannie Corbin  
City Manager  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

Mr. Jerry Regans  
Utilities Director  
City of Niceville  
Niceville Civic Center Complex  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

Director of Community Development  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

Mr. Michael Wright  
Fire Chief  
Niceville Volunteer Fire Department  
102 Armstrong Avenue  
Niceville, FL 32578

Niceville Public Library  
206 N. Partin Dr.  
Niceville, FL 32578

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

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Honorable Randall Wise  
Mayor  
City of Niceville  
208 North Partin Drive  
Niceville, FL 32578

**PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA**

Ms. Gail Carmody  
Project Leader  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1601 Balboa Avenue  
Panama City, FL 32405

**PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**

Mr. Lel Czeck  
Executive Director  
West Florida Regional Planning Council  
PO Box 9759  
Pensacola, FL 32513

Ms. Terry A. Joseph  
Director of Comprehensive Planning  
West Florida Regional Planning Council  
PO Box 9759  
Pensacola, FL 32513

Mr. Michael Ryan  
Managing Editor  
Pensacola News Journal  
PO Box 12710  
Pensacola, FL 32591

Ms. Susan Story  
c/o Gulf Power Company  
One Energy Place  
Pensacola, FL 32520

Mr. Mike Willett  
Cox Communications  
2205 La Vista  
Pensacola, FL 32504

WUWF Center for Public Media  
11000 University Parkway  
Pensacola, FL 32514

**SANTA ROSA BEACH, FLORIDA**

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Managing Editor  
The Walton Sun  
PO Box 2363  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Ms. Pamela Tedesco  
President  
Walton County Chamber of Commerce  
63 South Centre Trail  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Walton County Coastal Library System  
Coastal Branch  
437 Greenway Trl.  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32549-5589

**SHALIMAR, FLORIDA**

Mr. Tom Burns  
Shalimar Town Manager  
Shalimar Town Hall  
#2 Cherokee Road  
Shalimar, FL 32579

Honorable Gary Combs, Mayor  
City of Shalimar  
Shalimar Town Hall  
#2 Cherokee Road  
Shalimar, FL 32579



Sheriff Charles Morris  
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
1250 Eglin Parkway  
Shalimar, FL 32579

**Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update***Scoping Announcement*

Chief Charles Self  
 Chief of Police  
 Shalimar Police Department  
 Shalimar Town Hall  
 #2 Cherokee Road  
 Shalimar, FL 32579



Shalimar Library  
 6 10th Ave.  
 Shalimar, FL 32579

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

David Bernhart  
 Assistant Regional Administrator  
 Protected Resources Division  
 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
 Southeast Regional Office  
 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumand Oak Blvd  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

Florida State University  
 933 W. Tharpe Street  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ms. Laura Kammerer  
 Division of Historical Resources  
 Department of State  
 ATTN: Compliance and Review Section  
 500 S. Bronough Street, Room 402  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Kathleen Slesnick Kauffman  
 Executive Director  
 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation  
 Post Office Box 11206  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Rhonda Kimbrough  
 USDA Forest Service  
 325 John Knox Rd., Suite F-100  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303

Robert Livingston  
 Florida State University  
 933 W. Tharpe Street  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303

Commissioner C. Guy Maxcy  
 President  
 Florida Association of Counties  
 PO Box 549  
 Tallahassee, FL 32302

Ms. Lauren Milligan  
 Florida State Clearinghouse  
 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard MS-47  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mr. Dan Penton  
 Muscogee Nation of Florida  
 4808 Deerrun Drive  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ms. Dottie Reeder  
 President  
 Florida League of Cities  
 301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300  
 Tallahassee, FL 32301

**VALPARAISO, FLORIDA**

Honorable John B. Arnold Jr. Mayor  
 City of Valparaiso  
 Valparaiso City Hall  
 465 Valparaiso Parkway  
 Valparaiso, FL 32580

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Mr. Joseph Hart  
Chief of Police  
Valparaiso City Hall  
465 Valparaiso Parkway  
Valparaiso, FL 32580

Ms. Tracy Roberts  
Okaloosa Gas  
PO Box 548  
Valparaiso, FL 32578

Valparaiso Community Library  
459 Valparaiso Parkway  
Valparaiso, FL 32580

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Mr. Phil May  
Regional Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
Region IV  
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Mr. Sam Hamilton  
Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service, SE Region  
1875 Century Blvd, Suite 400  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
NEPA Program Manager  
US EPA Region IV  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth St, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mr. J.I. Palmer, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region IV  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth St, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA**

Ms. Joyce A. Bear  
Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

**CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Mary Ruffin Hanbury  
Program Officer, Southern Office  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
456 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

## APPENDIX C

### SCOPING MEETING NEWSPAPER DISPLAY ADS, MEDIA RELEASE, AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
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Eglin AFB, FL

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*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

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Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

C-1.

**INITIAL SCOPING NEWSPAPER DISPLAY AD,  
MEDIA RELEASE, AND PSA (2006)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      C-3  
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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

## NEWSPAPER DISPLAY AD

## SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE EGLIN BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) 2005 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AT EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, is announcing its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decisions and related actions that involve establishing a training center and relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Air Force will host two public scoping meetings to solicit comments on the proposal. All members of the public are invited to attend the scoping meetings. During the scoping meetings, the Air Force will discuss the BRAC 2005 decisions and how they will impact Eglin AFB. All members of the public are invited.

### Scoping Meeting Schedule

Meetings are "open house" and will be held from 6:30–9:30 p.m.

An Air Force presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m.

Date	Location	Address
August 22, 2006	Emerald Coast Conference Center Ballrooms 2, 3, and 4	1250 Miracle Strip Parkway (Highway 98) Ft. Walton Beach (Okaloosa Island)
August 24, 2006	Crestview High School	1250 N. Ferdon Blvd Crestview, Florida

From 6:30–7:15 p.m., community members will have an opportunity to learn more about the project and the EIS process. During the presentation, the Air Force will provide information on the proposed action and alternatives for the BRAC project at Eglin AFB. Community members are encouraged to offer comments on the proposed action and alternatives and submit their concerns. Comments made during the scoping meetings will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS, due to be released in the winter of 2007. For more information, to request handicap assistance or translation service, or to submit comments, contact:

**Mail:**

Mr. Mike Spaits

96 CEG/CEVPA

Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000

PH: 850.882.2878

**E-mail:** spaitsm@eglin.af.mil

**Fax:** 850.882.6284

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR RELEASE ON AUGUST 15, 16, AND 18**

**AIR FORCE ISSUES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASE  
REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) 2005 DECISIONS AND RELATED  
ACTIONS AT EGLIN AFB**

The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), is holding a series of scoping meetings to solicit comments on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decisions and related actions that involve establishing a training center and relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. All members of the public are invited. Scoping meetings serve as the formal setting for the Air Force to gather community-specific issues and concerns to “focus” the EIS analysis.

Meetings will be held in the following locations and times:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 22, 2006	Fort Walton	Emerald Coast Conference Center Ballrooms 2, 3, and 4	6:30–9:30 PM
August 24, 2006	Crestview	Crestview High School	6:30–9:30 PM

A public information session will be held at 6:30 p.m., prior to the formal meetings. These sessions are an opportunity for community members to learn more about the project and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

Public scoping meetings provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions and analysis of the potential environmental impacts. During the scoping meetings, the Air Force will present the proposed action and alternatives for the BRAC project at Eglin AFB. Community members are encouraged to offer comments on the proposed action and alternatives.

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March 2008                      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the                      C-5  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

**Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update**

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

and state their concerns verbally or in writing. Comments made during the scoping meetings will be considered in the preparation of the draft EIS due to be released in the winter of 2007.

For further information about the environmental impact analysis for this project or to request handicap assistance or translation service at a meeting, please contact:

Mr. Michael Spaits  
96 CEG/CEVPA  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
PH: 850.882.2878

—END—

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements***PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT****MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR RELEASE ON AUGUST 15, 16, AND 18***30 Second Public Service Announcement***AIR FORCE ISSUES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASE  
REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) 2005 DECISIONS AND RELATED  
ACTIONS AT EGLIN AFB**

The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base, is holding a series of scoping meetings to solicit comments on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure 2005 decisions and related actions involving establishment of the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center and relocation of the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. All members of the public are invited. Meetings will be held on 22 August 2006, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Emerald Coast Conference Center Ballrooms 2, 3, and 4, and on 24 August 2006 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Crestview High School. For more information, call Mike Spaits, Eglin Environmental Public Affairs at 850-882-2878.

—END—

March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

C-2.

**SCOPING UPDATE MEETING DISPLAY AD,  
MEDIA RELEASE, AND PSA (2007)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      C-8  
Eglin AFB, FL

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements***NEWSPAPER DISPLAY AD**

## Scoping Update Meetings for the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Environmental Impact Statement at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The United States Air Force, through Eglin AFB, Fla., is holding update meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure 2005 decisions and related actions that involve establishing a Joint Strike Fighter training center and relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Eglin AFB, Fla.

The Air Force will host two Public Scoping Update Meetings to discuss these actions and their alternatives and to solicit public comments. All members of the public are invited to attend these meetings. During the meetings, Air Force officials will discuss the BRAC 2005 requirements and how they will impact Eglin AFB and the surrounding communities.

### Scoping Meeting Schedule:

Meetings are “open house” and will be held from 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
An Air Force presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m.

### Date Location Address:

Nov. 6, 2007: Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 8700 Navarre Parkway, Navarre, Fla.  
Nov. 7, 2007: Niceville High School, 800 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Fla.

From 6:30–7:15 p.m., community members will have an opportunity to learn more about the project, alternatives and the EIS process. During the presentation, the Air Force will provide information on the proposed actions and alternatives. Community members are encouraged to offer comments on the proposed action and alternatives and submit their concerns. Comments made during the scoping update meetings will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS.

### For More Information, Contact:

Mr. Mike Spaits  
96 CEG/CEV-PA  
Eglin AFB, Fla. 32542-5000  
Phone: 850.882.2878  
Fax: 850.882.6284  
E-Mail: spaitsm@eglin.af.mil

*For more information, please visit our website at [www.eglin.af.mil](http://www.eglin.af.mil)*

March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

C-9

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

96 CEG/CEVPA  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
Tel. (850) 882-2878

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**AIR FORCE TO HOLD UPDATE MEETINGS**

*EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.* – The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base, is holding update meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decisions and related actions that involve establishing a Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) training center and relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, N.C to Eglin AFB, FL.

The Air Force will host two public scoping update meetings to discuss these actions and their alternatives and to solicit public comments. All members of the public are invited to attend these meetings. During the meetings, the Air Force officials will discuss the BRAC 2005 decisions and how they will impact Eglin AFB.

**November, 6 2007, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.:**

Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 8700 Navarre Parkway, Navarre, Florida

**November 7, 2007, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.:**

Niceville High School, 800 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Florida

The media will have the opportunity to interview associated with this project thirty minutes prior to the start of each update meeting.

For questions, contact Mr. Mike Spaits with Eglin AFB Environmental Public Affairs at (850) 882-2878.

-30-

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

96 CEG/CEVPA

Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000

Tel. (850) 882-2878

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**AIR FORCE TO HOLD UPDATE MEETINGS**

The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base, is holding update meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed implementation of the Eglin Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decisions and related actions that involve establishing a Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) training center and relocating the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, N.C to Eglin AFB, FL.

All members of the public are invited. Meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Navarre, Florida and on Wednesday, November 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Niceville High School in Niceville, Florida.

For more information, please contact Mike Spaits, Eglin Air Force base Environmental Public Affairs at (850) 882-2878.

-30-

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ads,  
Media Release, and Public Service Announcements*

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March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Presentation*

**APPENDIX D**  
**SCOPING MEETING PRESENTATION**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      D-1  
Eglin AFB, FL

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

*Scoping Meeting Presentation*

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March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

D-2

Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Presentation

D-1.

**INITIAL SCOPING MEETING PRESENTATION SLIDES (2006)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      D-3  
Eglin AFB, FL

**Headquarters U. S. Air Force**

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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**Eglin AFB  
2005 Defense Base  
Realignment and  
Closure (BRAC)  
Program**

**Scoping Meeting**

22 & 24  
August 2006





**Overview**

---

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of Scoping Meeting
  - Overview of the Eglin BRAC 2005 Actions
  - Proposed Action and Alternatives
  - Description of National Environmental Policy Act
- Break
- Public Input and Questions
- Adjourn

---

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**What is BRAC?**

---

- BRAC stands for Defense Base Realignment and Closure. Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC commission to reorganize its national base structure. BRAC allows greater efficiency and increases military readiness. It also creates new ways of doing business.
- By law, BRAC recommendations
  - Must begin implementation by 15 September 2007
  - Must be completed by 15 September 2011.

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### What Does BRAC Mean for Eglin?

---

**U.S. AIR FORCE**

- Establish Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC)
  - ~2,300 Military and civilian / contractor personnel
  - 107 F-35 aircraft
  - Flight training
- Relocate 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [7SFG(A)] from Ft. Bragg, NC
  - ~2,200 troops
  - Ground training
- Relocate Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from Ft. Belvoir, VA
  - 36 Military and civilian / contractor personnel
  - Administrative function (no training activities involved)
- Relocate the in service engineering of the Weapons And Armaments Research, Development, Test, Acquisition And Evaluation (RDTA&E) From Hill AFB, Utah To Eglin AFB.

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### National Environmental Policy Act

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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to
  - Consider environmental effects of implementing a Federal project
  - Consider a range of reasonable alternatives that satisfy the purpose and need of the project
  - Identify and evaluate potential impacts on human health and the environment
  - Encourage public participation and comment
  - Provide results in a written decision document
- Implemented by Federal Regulations
  - President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508)
  - Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989)

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**National Environmental Policy Act**

---

**Public Scoping**

- Helps identify issues early in the process
- Provides the public with opportunity to
  - Become familiar with the proposed action and alternatives under consideration
  - Provide input for consideration in the development of the alternatives
  - Identify issues of concern associated with the proposed action and alternatives

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**National Environmental Policy Act**

---

- Why is the Air Force conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?
  - Scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment.
  - An EIS will provide decision-makers the best information to understand potential impacts of each alternative and make an informed decision.
- What will the EIS address?
  - All BRAC recommendations and associated actions for Eglin AFB
  - Specifically
    - JSF ITC cantonment and training areas
    - 7SFG(A) cantonment and training areas

*A Cantonment is almost like a small city. It includes*

- Administrative offices
- Classroom and dormitories
- Infrastructure services
- Equipment storage.

---

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**National Environmental Policy Act**

U.S. AIR FORCE

- DTRA
  - Potential environmental impacts will be addressed in a separate environmental assessment and incorporated into this EIS
- In-service Engineering Functions from Hill AFB, UT
  - The engineering workload and funding were no longer available after Fiscal Year 2005
  - Since there was no workload or existing funding for Hill AFB after FY 2005, authorizations may not be realigned to Eglin; as a result this action may not be addressed in this EIS.
- Housing
  - The Air Force is in the process of conducting several internal studies to determine housing requirements
  - BRAC-related housing requirements may be addressed in a separate NEPA document
  - At this time, this EIS will address housing impacts in a general sense and in the context of cumulative impacts

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**National Environmental Policy Act**

U.S. AIR FORCE

**What is the purpose of the EIS?**

- Evaluate potential impacts from BRAC recommendations. This includes alternatives for the following
  - Establishing the JSF ITC Cantonment Area
  - Establishing the 7SFG(A) Cantonment Area
  - Accommodating training requirements for JSF and 7SFG(A)

**What do the alternatives involve?**

- By BRAC law, alternatives address how, and not if, BRAC should be implemented at Eglin
- Reasonable alternatives
  - Must consider input during the scoping process
  - Need not be highly speculative
- “No Action Alternative”
  - BRAC will be implemented by law
  - No Action Alternative must be assessed as required by NEPA

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**What is the Proposed Action?**

---

**Implement BRAC, as required by law, with 3 actions:**

1. Construct the JSF ITC and associated cantonment area
2. Construct the 7SFG(A) cantonment area
3. Accommodate JSF and 7SFG(A) training requirements.

**Each action**

- Is comprised of its own purpose, need, and special requirements
- Requires an independent decision
- Has associated alternatives for implementation.

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**Joint Strike Fighter Cantonment Purpose and Need**

---

**Purpose**

- Provide cantonment area for pilots and maintainers for the F-35 Air System

**Need**

- Location for the Integrated Training Center (ITC) must
  - Be near flight line and runways
  - Have adequate acreage for facilities
  - Provide access to base operating support

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 **Joint Strike Fighter Cantonment  
Proposed Action**  
U.S. AIR FORCE

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**Requirements**

- Cantonment area (~100 - 200 acres)
- 31 facilities (~5.6 million square feet)
- 107 F-35 Aircraft
  - Airfield operations
- Munitions storage area

**Alternatives**

- Associated with locating the JSF ITC Cantonment Area

---

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 **Joint Strike Fighter Cantonment  
Alternative Narrowing Process**  
U.S. AIR FORCE

---

**Minimum requirements for candidate alternatives for  
JSF ITC Cantonment**

- Minimum runway, airfield, and aircraft support / recovery requirements
- Available utilities, fueling access, and auxiliary ground equipment
- Approximately 170-180 acres contiguous to the flight line
- Physical security
- Avoidance of wetlands and floodplains

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**JSF ITC Cantonment – Locations Evaluated Through the Alternative Narrowing Process**

---

**Because these fields have only one runway, they are not under consideration for JSF ITC Cantonment:**

- Choctaw Field
- Duke Field
- Hurlburt Field

**Camp Rudder does not meet runway requirements, and its location and logistics are not practical.**

**Eglin Main Base has two potential locations.**

---

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**Joint Strike Fighter Cantonment – Alternatives Carried Forward**

---

**Alternative 1: Eglin Main Base 33rd Fighter Wing Area (JSF Preferred Alternative)**

- 23 new facilities (~4 million square feet)
- ~1.6 million square feet of demolition / renovation

**Alternative 2: East Side of Eglin Main Base – 46 Test Wing Area**

- 21 new facilities (~1.2 million square feet)
- ~2.8 million square feet of demolition / renovation

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U.S. AIR FORCE

### Joint Strike Fighter Cantonment – Alternatives Carried Forward



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### 7SFG(A) Cantonment Purpose and Need

**Purpose**

- Provide cantonment area to prepare for wartime responsibilities

**Need**

- Adequate acreage
- Access to training ranges
- Access to a flight line for deployments
- Convenient access to base operating support functions
- Seclusion for operational security and Force Protection

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## 7SFG(A) Cantonment Proposed Action

---

**Requirements**

- Cantonment area of approximately 300 acres
- 33 facilities (~1.5 million square feet) including barracks, motor pools, and other buildings
- Munitions storage area

**Alternatives**

- Associated with locating the 7SFG(A) cantonment area

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## 7SFG(A) Cantonment Alternative Narrowing Process

---

**Minimum requirements for candidate alternatives**

- Adequate acreage for cantonment, security, and future expansion
- Location that provides
  - Proximity to training ranges, ideally no more than 10 minute transport time
  - Deployment airlift requirements
  - Appropriate emergency response
  - Appropriate access to major transportation artery
  - Appropriate ammunition storage and transport
  - No more than 20 miles distance to communications farm
  - Minimal environmental considerations and avoids unexploded ordnance areas
  - Barracks requirements, including capacity and noise safety

---

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U.S. AIR FORCE

### 7SFG(A) Cantonment – Locations Evaluated Through the Alternative Narrowing Process

---

**Camp Rudder**

- Airfield unusable
- Not within appropriate distance to major transportation artery
- Outside minimum emergency response time
- Considered, but not carried forward for further evaluation

**Hurlburt Field**

- No expansion potential
- Considered, but not carried forward for further evaluation

**Eglin Reservation / Main Base (Alternative 1)**

- 3 potential locations

**Duke Field (Alternative 2 – Army Preferred Alternative)**

- 3 potential locations

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U.S. AIR FORCE

### 7SFG(A) Cantonment – Alternative 1

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 **7SFG(A) Cantonment – Alternative 2 (Army Preferred)**



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 **JSF/7SFG(A) Training Purpose and Need**

**Purpose**

- Provide adequate ranges and airspace for both missions while maintaining range access for current and future users

**Need**

- Maximize mission flexibility and sustainability for both current and future users
- Use the Eglin Military Complex in a manner that does not adversely impact the environment or the neighboring communities

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**JSF/7SFG(A) Training  
Proposed Action**

---

**Requirements**

- JSF Training
  - 107 F-35s
  - Average 246 days / year; 20.5 training days / month; 114 sorties / day
  - 25% night flights
  - 15% of flights at an altitude of 3,000 feet or lower
  - Live / Inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)
- 7SFG(A) Training
  - 13 new range facilities
    - >6,000 acres of training area
  - ~43,000 training hours/year
    - Wheeled vehicle use (Humvees, heavy trucks, etc)
    - Fixed and rotary wing aircraft
    - Live / Inert ordnance use (small arms, large caliber)
    - Water operations

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**JSF/7SFG(A) Training  
Alternative Narrowing Process**

---

**Minimum requirements for identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate JSF Training:**

- Multiple Low Level Routes
- Specific aircraft operating altitude requirements within specified distances from the main operating base
- Air-to-air range near main operating base
- Air-to-ground range near main operating base
- Ability for inert and live weapons training
- Noise levels should not adversely impact public

**Minimum requirements for identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate 7SFG(A) Training:**

- Provide maneuver space and access for 7SFG(A) and other current and future users.
- Range area available to create the required 13 training ranges

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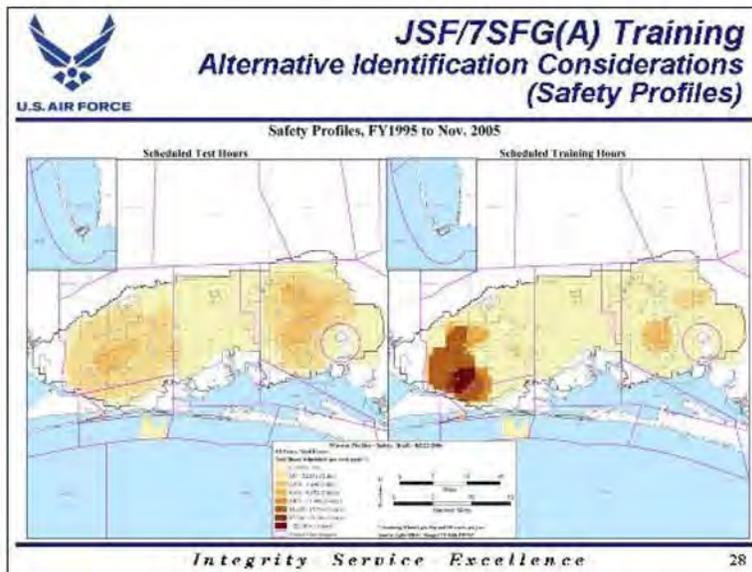
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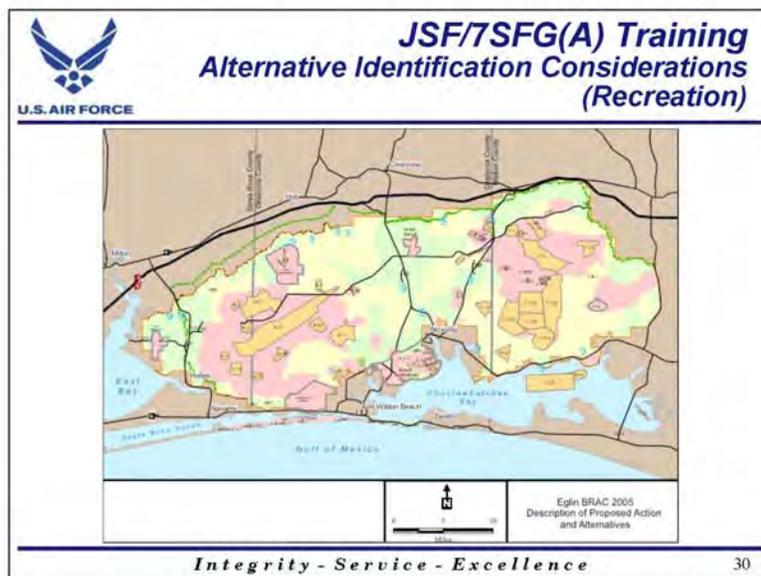
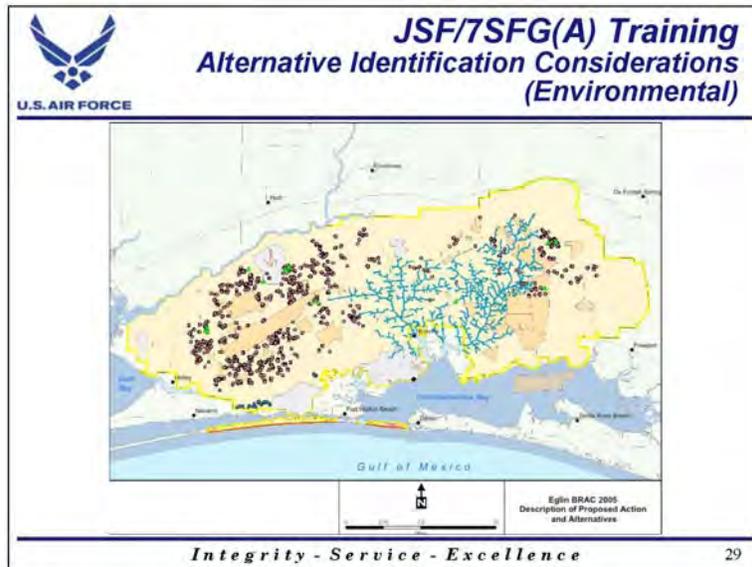
 **JSF/7SFG(A) Training  
Alternative Narrowing Process**

**Additional considerations for identifying candidate alternatives:**

- Minimize environmental, safety, and community/public impacts
- Minimize costs
- Maintain existing flight routes and approaches
- Maintain future mission flexibility
- Maintain electronic frequency compatibility
- Provide night access to ranges
- Minimize range evacuation

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## JSF/7SFG(A) Training Alternatives Carried Forward

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**Alternatives for potential Range Reconfiguration:**

- **Alternative 1: No Range Reconfiguration**
  - No reconfiguration of any existing uses of the Eglin Military Complex or relocating any facilities or user groups
- **Alternative 2: Minor Range Reconfiguration**
  - Relocation of existing user groups and/or land/airspace use changes are considered. Range assets not identified as fixed could be moved to accommodate the new training requirements
- **Alternative 3: Major Range Reconfiguration**
  - No consideration for fixed assets or prioritization given to an existing mission; all options open

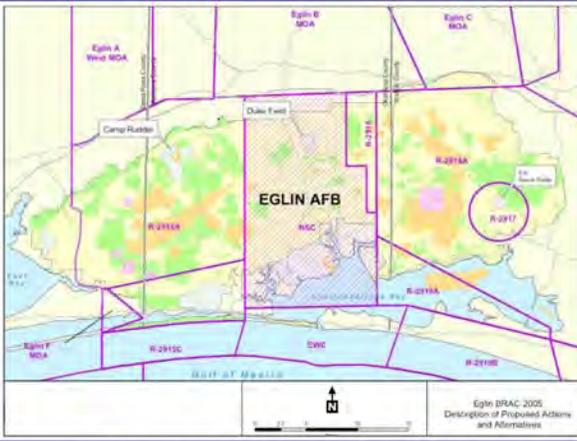
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## JSF/7SFG(A) Training Alternatives Carried Forward (Range Assets)

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**Potential Environmental Issues**

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**Environmental Issues to be addressed in the EIS**

- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Noise
- Natural resources
  - Stormwater / erosion
- Cultural resources
- Land use and recreation
- Safety
- Utilities
- Solid waste
- Air quality
- Hazardous materials

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**EIS Schedule**

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
28 Jul 06	Notice of Intent Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
22, 24 Aug 06	Public Scoping Meetings
31 Aug 06	End of Formal Scoping Period
Jan-Feb 07	Release of Draft EIS to the Public
Feb-May 07	Draft EIS 45-Day Public Comment Period
Mar 07	Draft EIS Public Hearings
Aug 07	Release of Final EIS to the Public
Sep 07	Record of Decision Signed

---

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**Scoping Input Procedure**

---

**For those wishing to speak**

- Sign up on the Speaker's List at registration desk
- Elected Officials first
- Others in order of sign-up
- Please limit comments to 5 minutes

**For written comments**

- Comment sheets are available at the registration table.
- Turn in completed comment sheets at the end of the evening, or mail, fax, or e-mail them to us at your convenience.
- If you mail your comments, send them to the address printed on the comment cards and comment sheets; the address will also be shown during the comment period.

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**Scoping Input Procedure**

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**All comments will become part of the official administrative record.**

**Public scoping period ends **August 31, 2006.****

- Input received by this date will considered when developing the Draft EIS.

**To receive a copy of the Draft EIS, please indicate preference on comment sheet or notify us by fax, phone, or e-mail.**

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Presentation



***EIS Contact Information***

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Direct written comments and questions to:

**Mr. Mike Spaits  
96 CEG/CEVPA  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
PH: 850.882.2878  
E-mail: spaitsm@eglin.af.mil**

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March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Presentation

D-2.

**SCOPING UPDATE MEETING PRESENTATION SLIDES (2007)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      D-23  
Eglin AFB, FL

**Headquarters U. S. Air Force**

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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**Eglin AFB  
Base Realignment  
and Closure (BRAC)  
2005 Program**

**Public Scoping  
Update Meeting**

6 & 7 November  
2007

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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## Overview

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- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of Public Scoping Update Meeting
  - Overview of the Eglin BRAC 2005 Actions
  - Proposed Action and Alternatives Update
  - Description of National Environmental Policy Act
- Break
- Public Input and Questions
- Adjourn

---

*Integrity - Service - Excellence* 2



**What is BRAC?**

---

**■** BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure. Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC commission to reorganize its national base structure. BRAC allows greater efficiency and increases military readiness. It also creates new ways of doing business.

**■** By law, BRAC recommendations must be completed by 15 September 2011.

---

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3



**What Does BRAC Mean for Eglin?**

---

- Establish Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC)
  - ~2,300 Military and civilian / contractor personnel
  - 107 F-35 aircraft
  - Flight training
- Relocate 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [7SFG(A)] from Ft. Bragg, NC
  - ~2,200 troops
  - Ground training

---

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4



**National Environmental Policy Act**

U.S. AIR FORCE

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to
  - Consider environmental effects of implementing a Federal project
  - Consider a range of reasonable alternatives that satisfy the purpose and need of the project
  - Identify and evaluate potential impacts on human health and the environment
  - Encourage public participation and comment
  - Provide results in a written decision document
- Implemented by Federal Regulations
  - President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508)
  - Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989)

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**National Environmental Policy Act**

U.S. AIR FORCE

- Why is the Air Force conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?
  - Scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment.
  - An EIS will provide decision-makers the best information to understand potential impacts of each alternative and make an informed decision.
- What will the EIS address?
  - JSF ITC cantonment and training areas
  - 7SFG(A) cantonment and training areas

*A Cantonment is almost like a small city. It includes*

- Administrative offices
- Classroom and dormitories
- Infrastructure services
- Equipment storage.

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## National Environmental Policy Act

U.S. AIR FORCE

---

**What is the purpose of the EIS?**

- Evaluate alternatives for the following at Eglin AFB
  - Establishing the 7SFG(A) Cantonment Area
  - Accommodate training requirements for 7SFG(A)
  - Establishing the JSF ITC Cantonment Area
  - Accommodate flight operations for JSF training requirements

**What do the alternatives involve?**

- By BRAC law, alternatives address how, and not if, BRAC should be implemented at Eglin
- Reasonable alternatives
  - Must consider input during the scoping process
  - Need not be highly speculative
- "No Action Alternative"
  - BRAC will be implemented by law
  - No Action Alternative must be assessed as required by NEPA

---

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## What is the Proposed Action?

U.S. AIR FORCE

---

**Implement BRAC, as required by law, with 4 actions:**

1. Construct the 7SFG(A) cantonment area
2. Accommodate 7SFG(A) training requirements
3. Construct the JSF ITC and associated cantonment area
4. Accommodate JSF flight operation requirements.

**Each action**

- Is comprised of its own purpose, need, and special requirements
- Requires an independent decision
- Has associated alternatives for implementation.

---

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 **7SFG(A) Cantonment Purpose and Need**  
U.S. AIR FORCE

---

**Purpose**

- Provide cantonment area to prepare for wartime responsibilities

**Need**

- Adequate acreage
- Access to a flight line for deployments
- Convenient access to base operating support functions

---

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 **7SFG(A) Cantonment Proposed Action**  
U.S. AIR FORCE

---

**Requirements**

- Cantonment area of approximately 300 acres
- 33 facilities (~1.5 million square feet) including barracks, motor pools, and other buildings
- Munitions storage area

**Minimum requirements for candidate alternatives**

- Adequate acreage for cantonment, security, and future expansion
- Location that provides
  - Deployment airlift requirements
  - Appropriate emergency response
  - Access to existing infrastructure
  - Appropriate access to major transportation artery
  - Minimal impact to Eglin test mission
  - Appropriate ammunition storage and transport
  - No more than one hour transport timing to training ranges
  - No more than 20 miles distance to communications farm
  - Minimal environmental considerations and avoids unexploded ordnance areas
  - Barracks requirements, including capacity and noise safety

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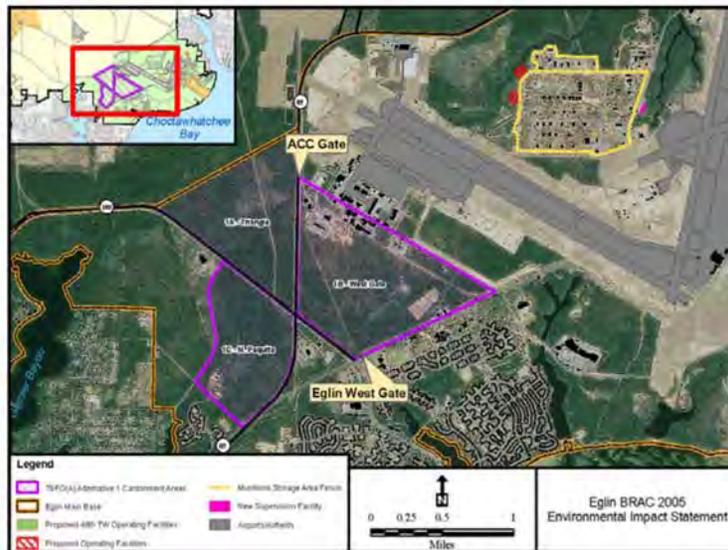
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 **7SFG(A) Cantonment Alternatives**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**

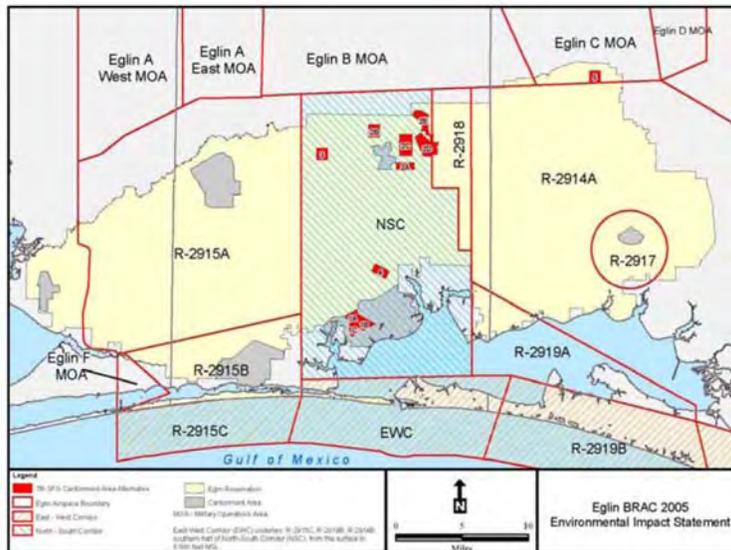
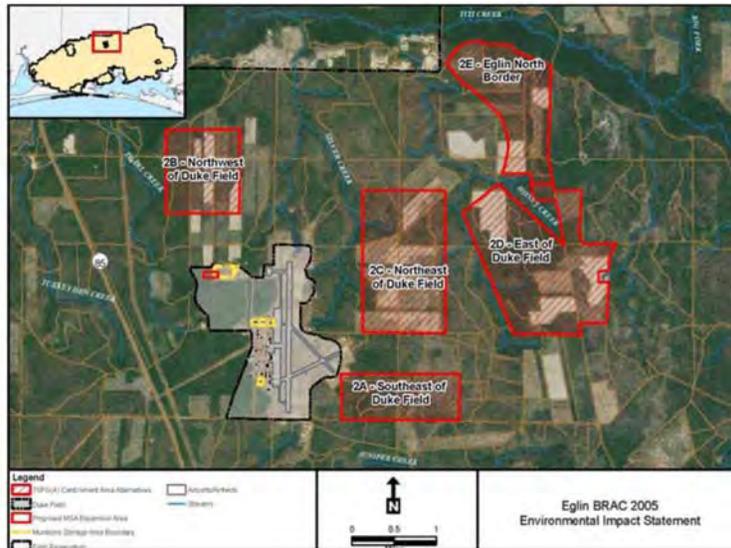
- **Currently, five locations are being considered as alternatives**
- **Alternative 1: Eglin Reservation / Main Base**
  - 3 Sub-alternatives
- **Alternative 2: Duke Field**
  - 5 Sub-alternatives
- **Alternative 3: Area West of Duke Field**
  - Preferred Alternative
- **Alternative 4: Area North of Eglin Main**
- **Alternative 5: Area near DeFuniak Springs**

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

Scoping Meeting Presentation



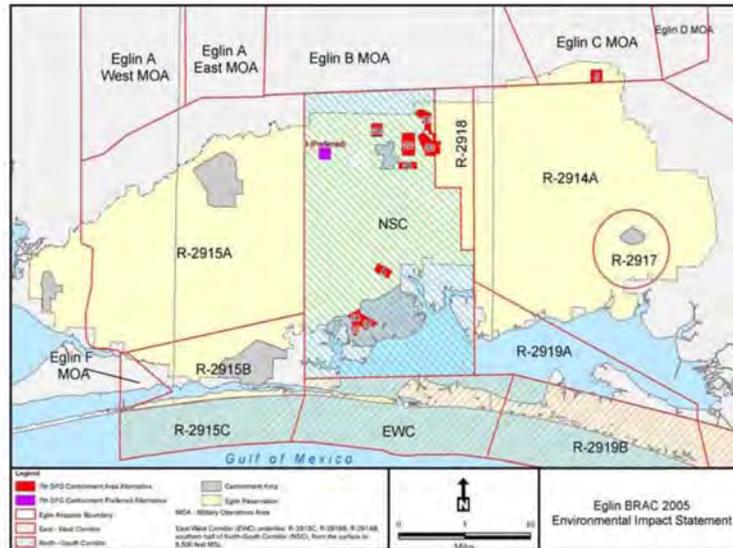
March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
Eglin AFB, FL

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Public Scoping Summary Report – 2007 Update

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## 7SFG(A) Training Purpose and Need

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**Purpose**

- Provide adequate ranges and airspace for the training mission of the 7SFG(A) while maintaining range access for current and future users

**Need**

- Maximize mission flexibility and sustainability for both current and future users
- Use the Egin Military Complex in a manner that does not adversely impact the environment or the neighboring communities

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**7SFG(A) Training  
Proposed Action**

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**Requirements**

- 7SFG(A) Training
  - 13 new range facilities
    - >6,000 acres of training area
  - ~43,000 training hours/year
    - Wheeled vehicle use (Humvees, heavy trucks, etc)
    - Fixed and rotary wing aircraft
    - Live / Inert ordnance use (small arms, large caliber)
    - Water operations

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**7SFG(A) Training  
Ranges**

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**7SFG(A) Training Ranges are divided into two types of ranges**

- Group 1 and 2 Ranges
- Group 1 ranges are comprised mostly of small caliber weapons
- Group 2 ranges are comprised mostly of larger caliber weapons
  - To minimize the creation of any new dudded or UXO-contaminated areas, all Group 2 Ranges will be located on Test Areas C-52 and C-53
- Depending on the training missions, some range areas may be conditionally closed to public use for safety reasons during the 7SFG(A) ground maneuvers.

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## 7SFG(A) Range Training Alternatives

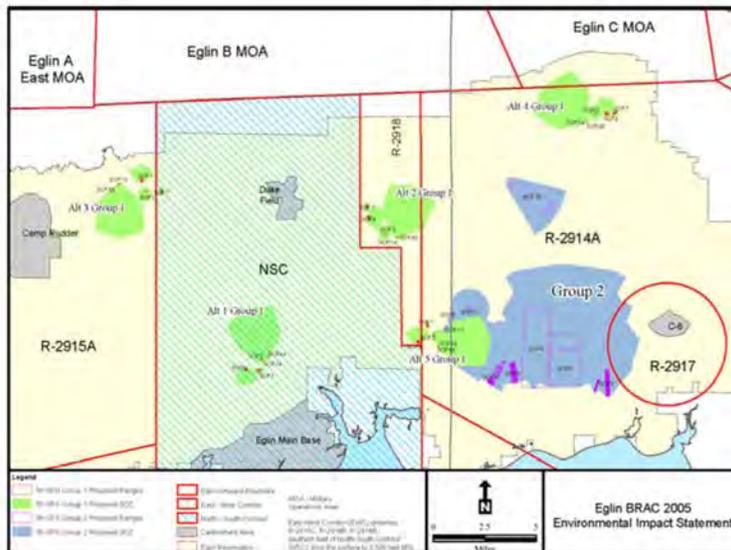
U.S. AIR FORCE

- Alternative 1: East Side and North of Eglin Main Base
- Alternative 2: East Side and North-South Corridor
- Alternative 3: East and West Side (Preferred)
- Alternative 4: East and Northeast Side
- Alternative 5: East Side

■ As mentioned previously, some range areas may be conditionally closed to public use for safety reasons during the 7SFG(A) ground maneuvers.

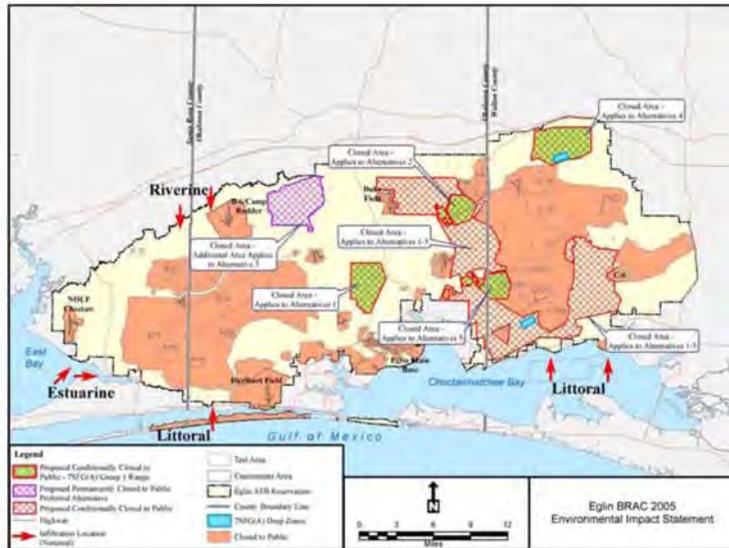
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## JSF ITC Cantonment Purpose and Need

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**Purpose**

- Provide cantonment area for pilots and maintainers for the F-35 Air System

**Need**

- Location for the ITC must
  - Be near flight line and runways
  - Have adequate acreage for facilities
  - Provide access to base operating support

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**JSF ITC Cantonment  
Proposed Action**

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**Requirements**

- Cantonment area (~200 acres)
- 31 facilities (~5.6 million square feet)
- 107 F-35 Aircraft
- Munitions storage area

**Alternatives**

- Associated with locating the JSF ITC Cantonment Area

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**JSF ITC Cantonment  
Alternatives**

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**Minimum requirements for candidate alternatives for  
JSF ITC Cantonment**

- Minimum runway, airfield, and aircraft support / recovery requirements
- Available utilities, fueling access, and auxiliary ground equipment
- Approximately 170-180 acres contiguous to the flight line
- Physical security
- Avoidance of wetlands and floodplains

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### JSF ITC Cantonment – Locations Evaluated Through the Alternative Narrowing Process

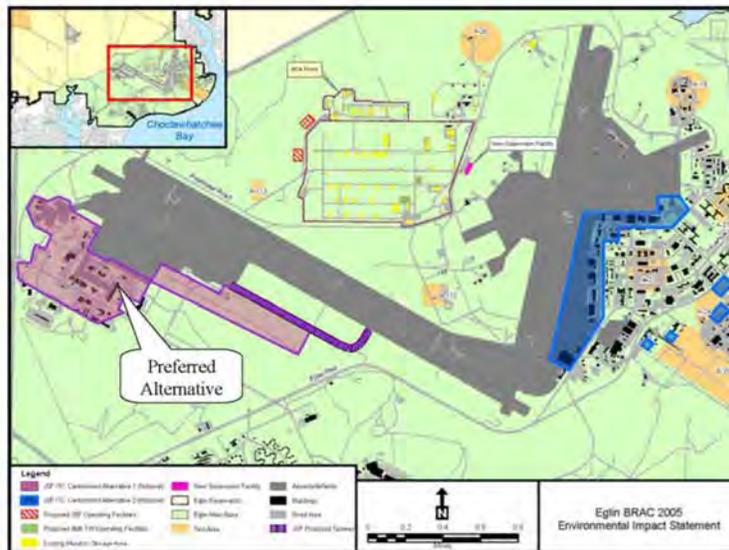
**Because these fields have only one runway, they are not under consideration for JSF ITC Cantonment:**

- Choctaw Field
- Duke Field
- Hurlburt Field

**In addition, Camp Rudder does not meet runway requirements, and its location and logistics are not practical.**

**Eglin Main Base has two potential locations.**

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## JSF Fight Operations Alternatives

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■ **A Noise Study was initiated to evaluate noise impacts associated with proposed flight operations.**

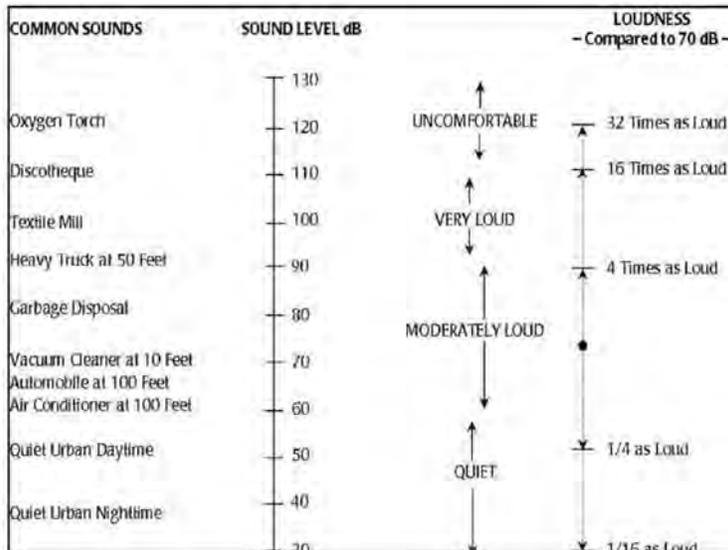
■ **The Noise Study has evaluated four possible scenarios.**

- Eglin Heavy
- Duke Heavy
- Choctaw Heavy
- Blended Mix
  - Heavy in the title above reflects greater numbers of JSF training operations at that location.

■ **Results from the Noise Study will be analyzed to aid in developing JSF Flight Alternatives.**

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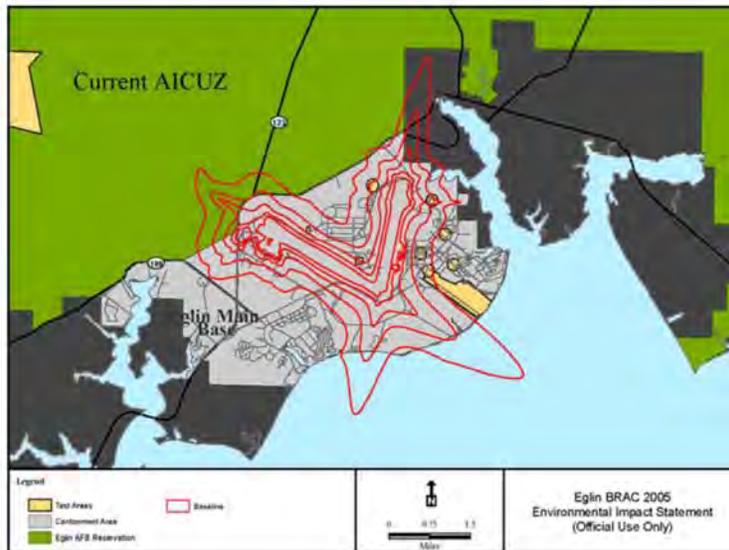


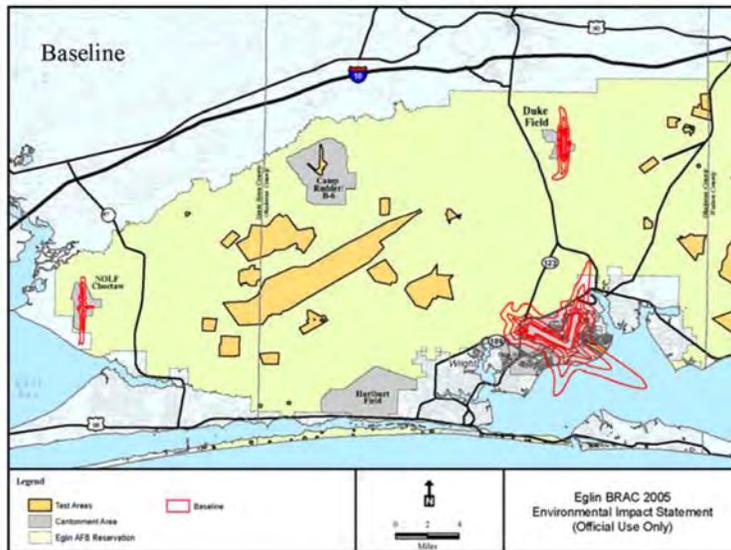
  
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### DoD Noise Information

- Sound and its effect on a human is described by A-weighted (dB) sound levels.
- Day Night Level (DNL) is the measure of the total noise environment expressed as dB.
- DNL averages the sum of all aircraft noise producing events over a 24-hour period.
  - For those noise events that occur after 10PM and before 7AM a 10 dB upward adjustment is added.
- NOISEMAP was utilized for modeling and depicts contours around the airfield in five dB intervals.

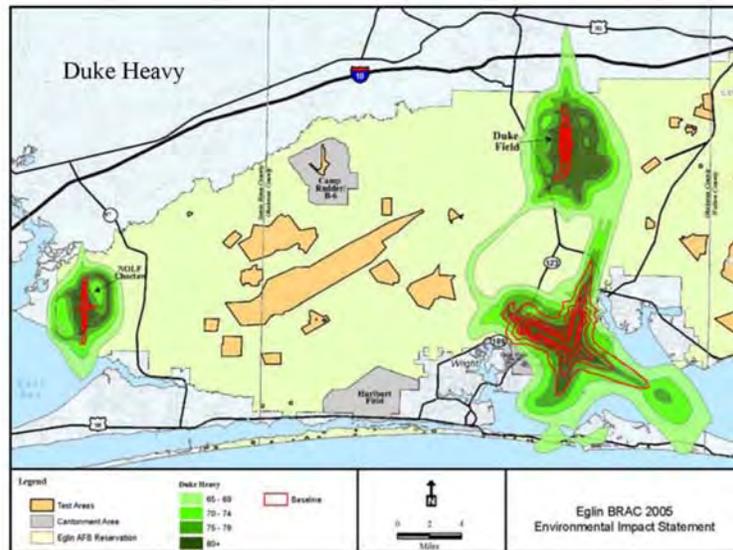
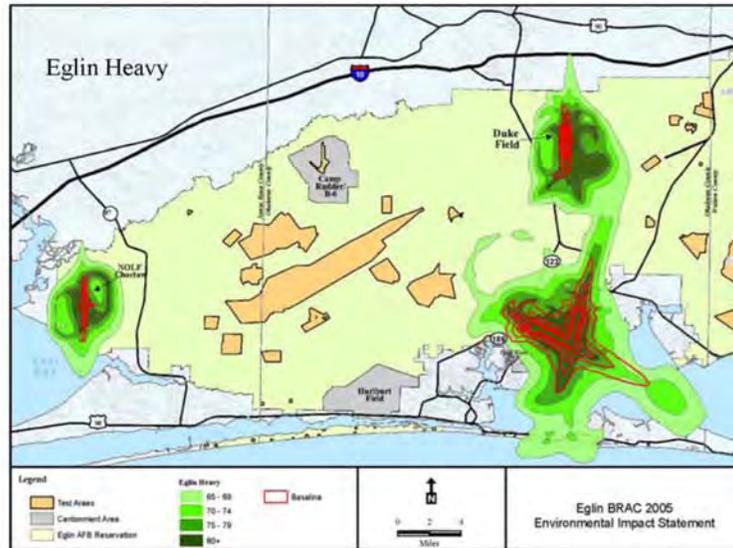
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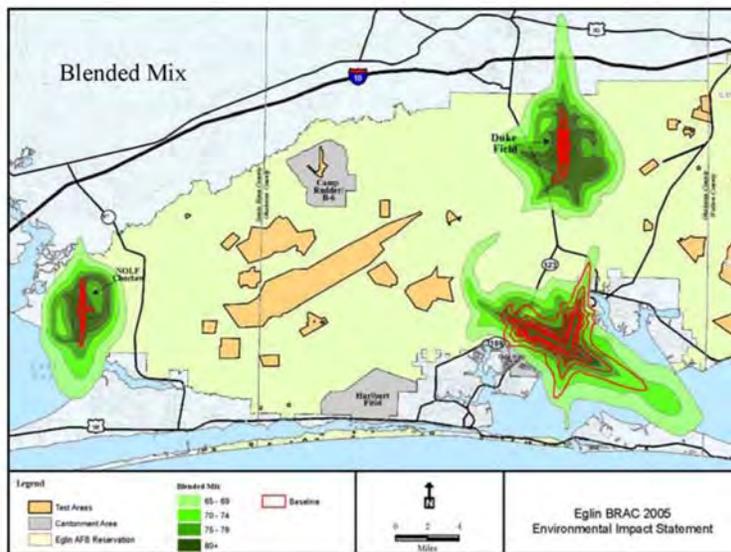
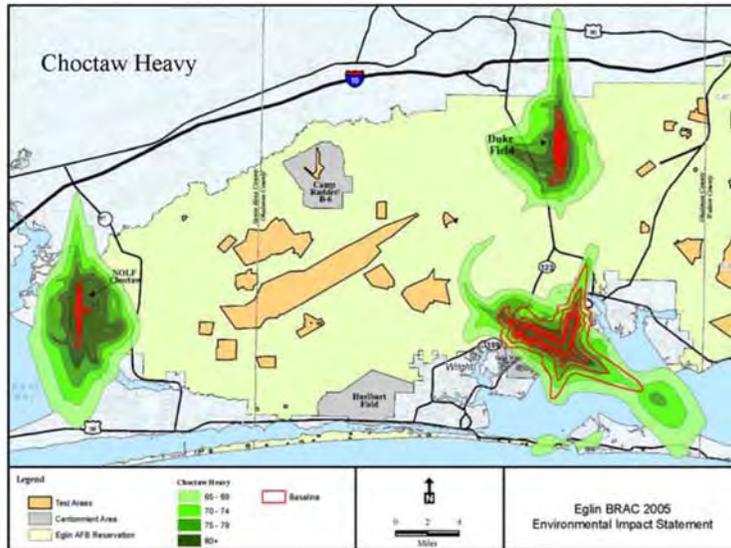
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**Potential Environmental Issues**

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**Environmental Issues to be addressed in the EIS**

- Air quality
- Cultural resources
- Hazardous materials
- Land use and recreation
- Natural resources
- Noise
- Safety
- Solid waste
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Utilities

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**EIS Schedule**

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
1 Aug 06	Notice of Intent Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
22, 24 Aug 06	Public Scoping Meetings
6, 7 Nov 07	Public Scoping Update Meetings
May 08	Release of Draft EIS to the Public
May 08	Draft EIS Public Hearings
May- June 08	Draft EIS 45-Day Public Comment Period
Oct 08	Release of Final EIS to the Public
Nov 08	Record of Decision Signed

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**Input Procedure**

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**For those wishing to speak**

- Sign up on the Speaker's List at registration desk
- Elected Officials first
- Others in order of sign-up
- Please limit comments to 5 minutes

**For written comments**

- Comment sheets are available at the registration table.
- Turn in completed comment sheets at the end of the evening, or mail, fax, or e-mail them to us no later than 7 December 2007.
- If you mail your comments, send them to the address printed on the comment cards and comment sheets; the address will also be shown during the comment period.

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**Input Procedure**

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**All comments will become part of the official administrative record.**

**To receive a copy of the Draft EIS, please indicate preference on comment sheet or notify us by fax, phone, or e-mail.**

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***EIS Contact Information***

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**Direct written comments and questions to:**

**Mr. Mike Spaits  
96 CEG/CEVPA  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
PH: 850.882.2878  
E-mail: spaitsm@eglin.af.mil**

**Comments should be received by 7 December 2007**

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## APPENDIX E

### SCOPING MEETING BROCHURES AND DISPLAY BOARDS

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March 2008	Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions Eglin AFB, FL	E-1
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*Scoping Meeting Brochures and Display Boards*

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
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E-1.

**INITIAL SCOPING MEETING BROCHURE AND DISPLAY BOARDS  
(2006)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      E-3  
Eglin AFB, FL



## Eglin BRAC Program 2005

Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

August 2006



# WELCOME

## Public Involvement Meetings for Base Realignment and Closure Program

The U.S. Air Force welcomes you to this public involvement meeting for the Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 program. The BRAC program, created in May 2005, calls for changes in our nation's military base structure. Some of these changes, which are required by law, will affect Eglin AFB.

Whenever programs like this are planned, there are potential impacts on the environment. Some impacts may become important to you. When proposed programs are federally funded, laws and regulations require scientists to predict what the impacts could be. Their research is reported in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public involvement ensures local interests are addressed in the EIS.

under consideration. They are also a chance for the Air Force to listen to community interests and concerns. Your involvement and input are vital to helping Eglin AFB continue as a community partner in mutual defense of our country.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the BRAC 2005 program. You are invited to participate in any of the following ways:

- Attend public involvement meetings and help identify community-specific issues
- Add your name and address to the mailing list for more information
- Review and comment on the Draft EIS in Spring 2007
- Review the Final EIS in Fall 2007.



**Public Involvement**

As a part of the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton communities, Eglin AFB is committed to involving the public. Public involvement meetings provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the BRAC actions and alternatives

**Environmental Impact Statement**

EISs are reports that outline the predicted environmental effects of a federal project. The EIS for Eglin's BRAC 2005 program is important in meeting environmental regulations.

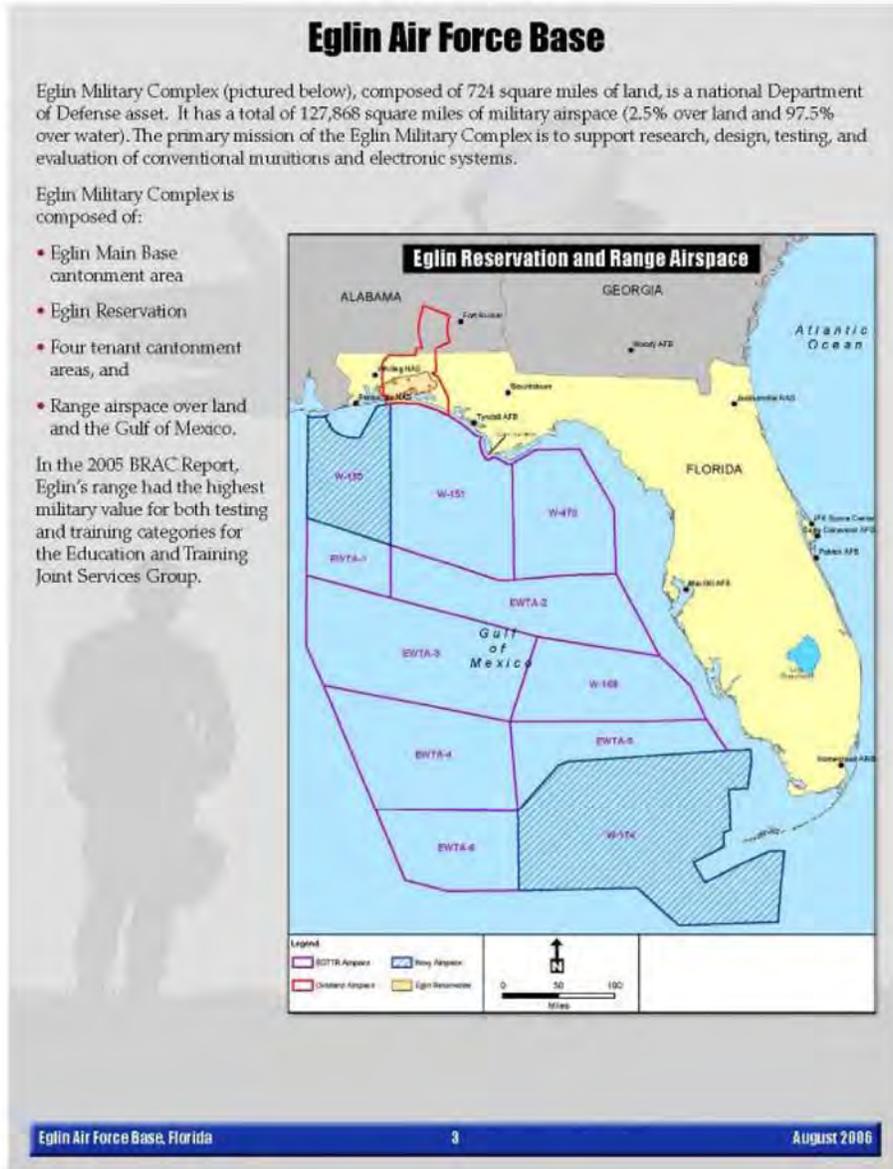
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Air Force to comply with an EIS. The EIS must consider a range of proposed actions and alternatives and how each could affect the environment and human health. The NEPA process allows the Air Force to make informed decisions based on Air Force and community needs.

This booklet will describe the three actions proposed by the BRAC 2005 Commission. It will also describe possible alternatives for each action.

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Scoping Meeting Brochures and Display Boards





## BRAC Actions and Alternatives

Actions	Alternatives
<p><b>Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC) Contonment</b> will bring into Eglin AFB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,300 new military, civilian, and contractor personnel</li> <li>• 2,559* spouses and children</li> <li>• 107 F-35 airplanes</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Numbers are approximated.</p>	<p><b>JSF ITC Contonment Alternatives</b> Are based on where to place the JSF ITC Contonment Area.</p> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> Eglin Main Base (33rd Fighter Wing Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 newly constructed facilities</li> <li>• approximately 4 million square feet</li> <li>• approximately 1.6 million square feet of demolition / renovation</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative 2:</b> East Side of Eglin Main Base (46th Test Wing Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 newly constructed facilities</li> <li>• approximately 1.2 million square feet</li> <li>• approximately 2.6 million square feet of demolition / renovation</li> </ul>
<p><b>7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (7SFG(A)) Contonment</b> from Ft. Bragg, NC, will bring into Eglin AFB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,240 new military troops</li> <li>• 2,741* spouses and children</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Numbers are approximated.</p>	<p><b>7SFG(A) Contonment Alternatives</b> Are based on where to place the 7SFG(A) Contonment Area.</p> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> Near Eglin Main Base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative 1A: The Triangle                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Located between Highway (HWY) 85 and HWY 129</li> <li>- 405 acres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alternative 1B: Eglin West Gate                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Located inside Eglin Main West Gate</li> <li>- 570 acres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alternative 1C: North Poquillo                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adjacent to the Research and Engineering Education Facility</li> <li>- 319 acres</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative 2:</b> Near Duke Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative 2A: Duke Field Southeast                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 405 acres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alternative 2B: Duke Field Northwest                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 985 acres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alternative 2C: Duke Field Northeast                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 525 acres</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>JSF and 7SFG(A) Training Requirements</b></p> <p><b>JSF Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average 246 days per year</li> <li>• 25 percent are night flights</li> <li>• 15 percent of flights at 3,000 feet or lower</li> <li>• Live and inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)</li> </ul> <p><b>7SFG(A) Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 new range facilities</li> <li>• 43,000 training hours per year</li> </ul>	<p><b>JSF / 7SFG(A) Range Training Alternatives</b> Are based on whether the range can accommodate new BRAC-related training within its current configuration or whether reconfiguration is required.</p> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> No Range Reconfiguration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No reconfiguration of any existing uses of the Eglin Military Complex or relocation of any facilities or user groups. New user groups would fit into the current configuration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative 2:</b> Minor Range Reconfiguration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocation of existing user groups and/or changes to land/airspace use changes are considered. Some land uses and airspaces are considered fixed assets and cannot be moved. Range assets not identified as fixed could be moved to accommodate the new training requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative 3:</b> Major Range Reconfiguration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No consideration for fixed assets or prioritization given to an existing mission; all options open.</li> </ul>

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## Proposed Action and Alternatives for BRAC 2005 Program Implementation at Eglin AFB, Florida

### BRAC History

Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC Commission to reorganize its national base structure and to increase efficiency and military readiness. In 2005, the BRAC Commission's Final Report recommending base closures and realignments became law. Now the Air Force, along with other military services, is required to execute the 2005 BRAC Program, beginning their implementation on September 15, 2007, and completing by September 15, 2011.

### BRAC 2005 Program

The Eglin BRAC 2005 Program will involve an environmental analysis of what it takes to

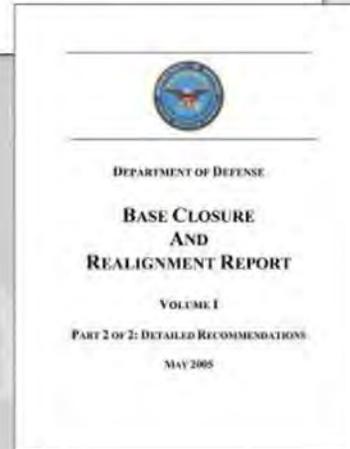
- Build the JSF ITC and its cantonment,
- Build the 7SFG(A) cantonment, and
- Provide training areas for both JSF and 7SFG(A) personnel.

### Why not housing?

Housing requirements for BRAC are not yet defined. It will be addressed in a separate NEPA document. The EIS will address housing impacts in the context of cumulative impacts.

### A cantonment is almost like a small city. It includes

- Administrative offices
- Classrooms and dormitories
- Infrastructure services
- Equipment storage.



## Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center

**Proposed Action**

BRAC calls for a joint training site, the JSF ITC, for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps as well as for the United Kingdom, which is a full partner in this program. This training site would teach aviators and maintenance technicians how to properly operate and maintain the F-35 JSF Air System. The associated requirements include

- Approximately 2,300 military and civilian personnel (does not include families)
- Cantonment / administrative area (approximately 100-200 acres)
- 31 facilities (approximately 5.6 million square feet)
- 107 F-35 aircraft (three types shown below)
- Munitions storage area
- Airfield operations.

The ITC needs to be close to the Eglin flight line and runways for the F-35. Adequate acreage and / or existing facilities are needed to support the new ITC. Access to Eglin's operating support functions is critical.



**F-35 Type 1**



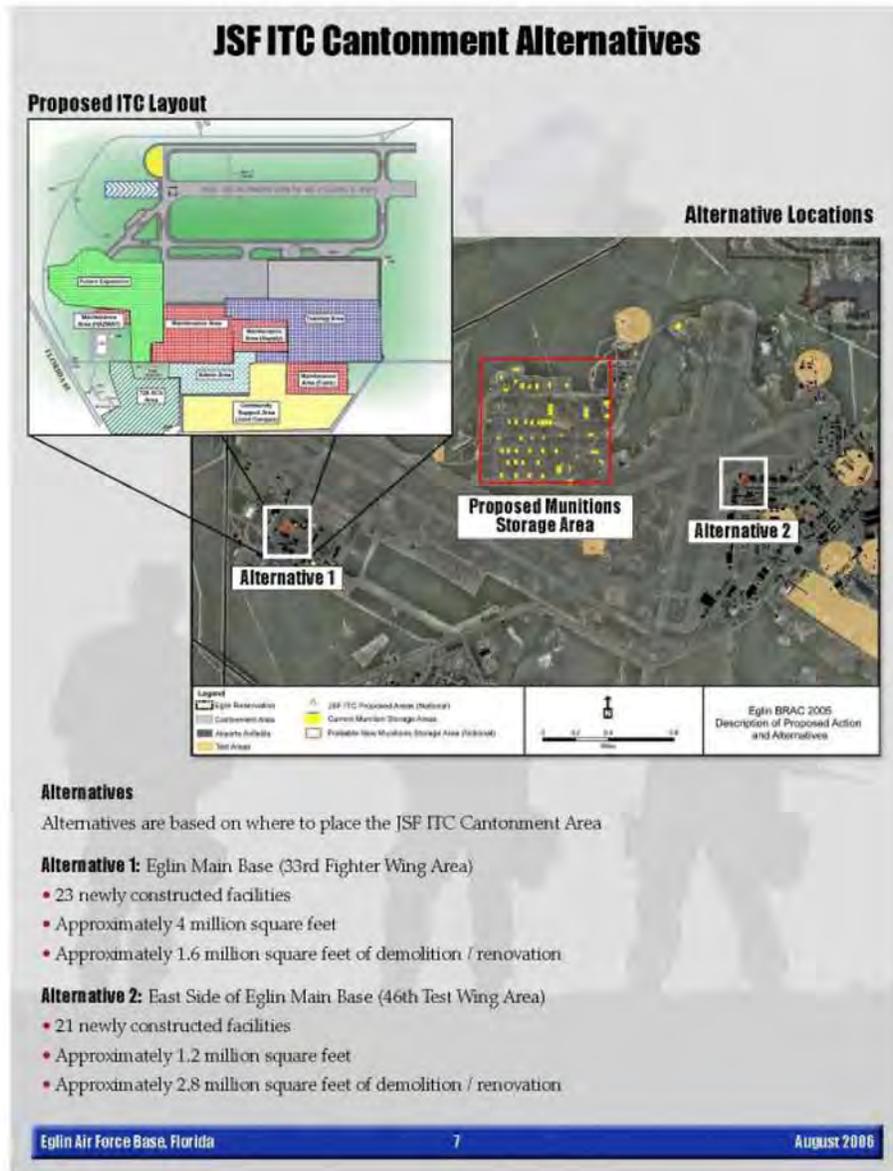
**F-35 Type 2**



**F-35 Type 3**



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## 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

**Proposed Action**  
 BRAC also calls for the 7SFG(A) to move from Ft. Bragg, NC, to Eglin and to build a cantonment area. The 7SFG(A) cantonment, when complete, would include facilities, ranges, equipment, and training/maneuver areas on training lands that match the 7SFG(A)'s wartime area of responsibility. The associated requirements include:

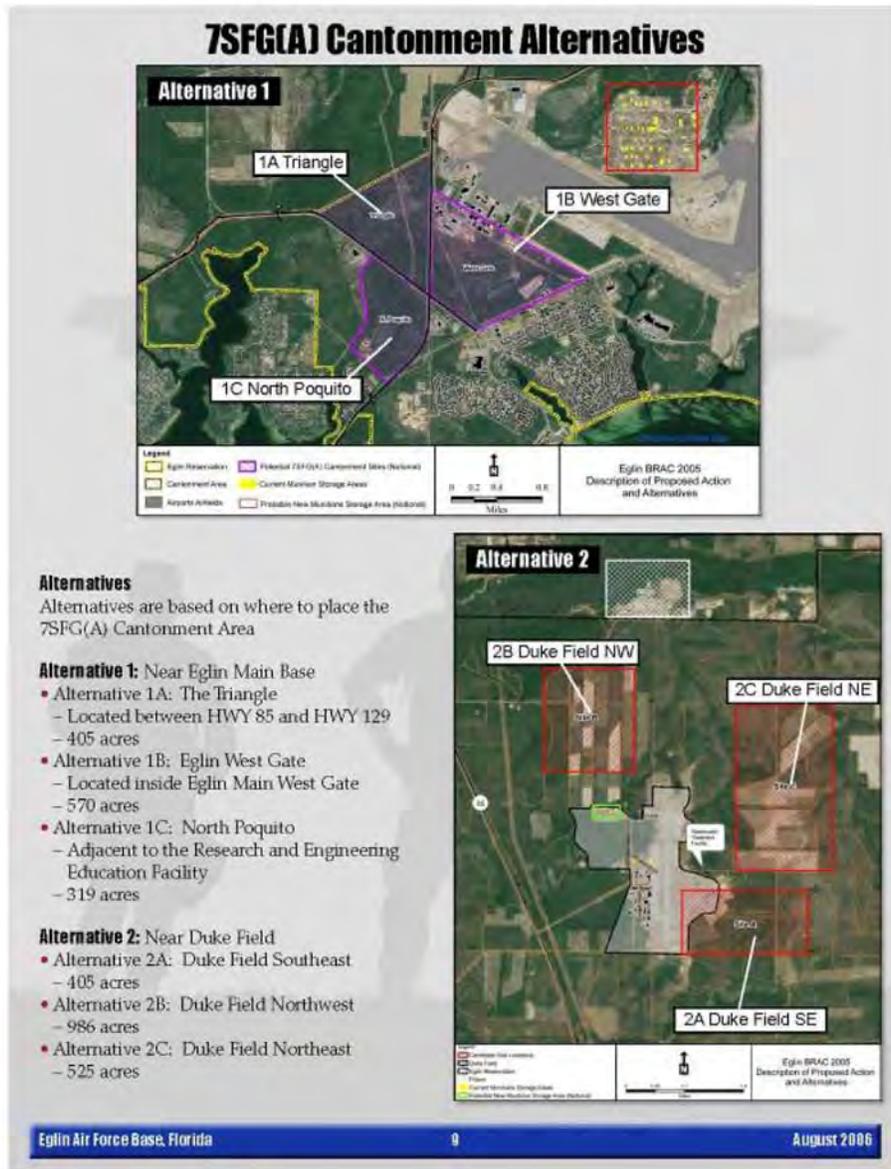
- Approximately 2,200 military and civilian personnel (does not include families)
- Cantonment / administrative area – approximately 100 acres
- 33 facilities totaling approximately 1.5 million square feet
- Munitions storage area

The cantonment area needs a location with access to a flight line that allows rapid and secluded deployments. It also needs convenient access to Eglin base operating support functions. The cantonment area will include facilities for three Special Forces Battalions, barracks, motor pools, hangars, and other buildings.






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## JSF and 7 SFG(A) Training Requirements

The third BRAC action addresses the JSF and the 7SFG(A) continuous need for military training. Eglin Military Complex range reconfiguration on land and in the air may be necessary to support the training requirements of the JSF and 7SFG(A). The Air Force is conducting an extensive evaluation of Eglin's range to determine whether reconfiguration is necessary and identify possible alternatives, if required.

Specifically, the JSF and 7SFG(A) training requires:

**JSF Airspace Training**

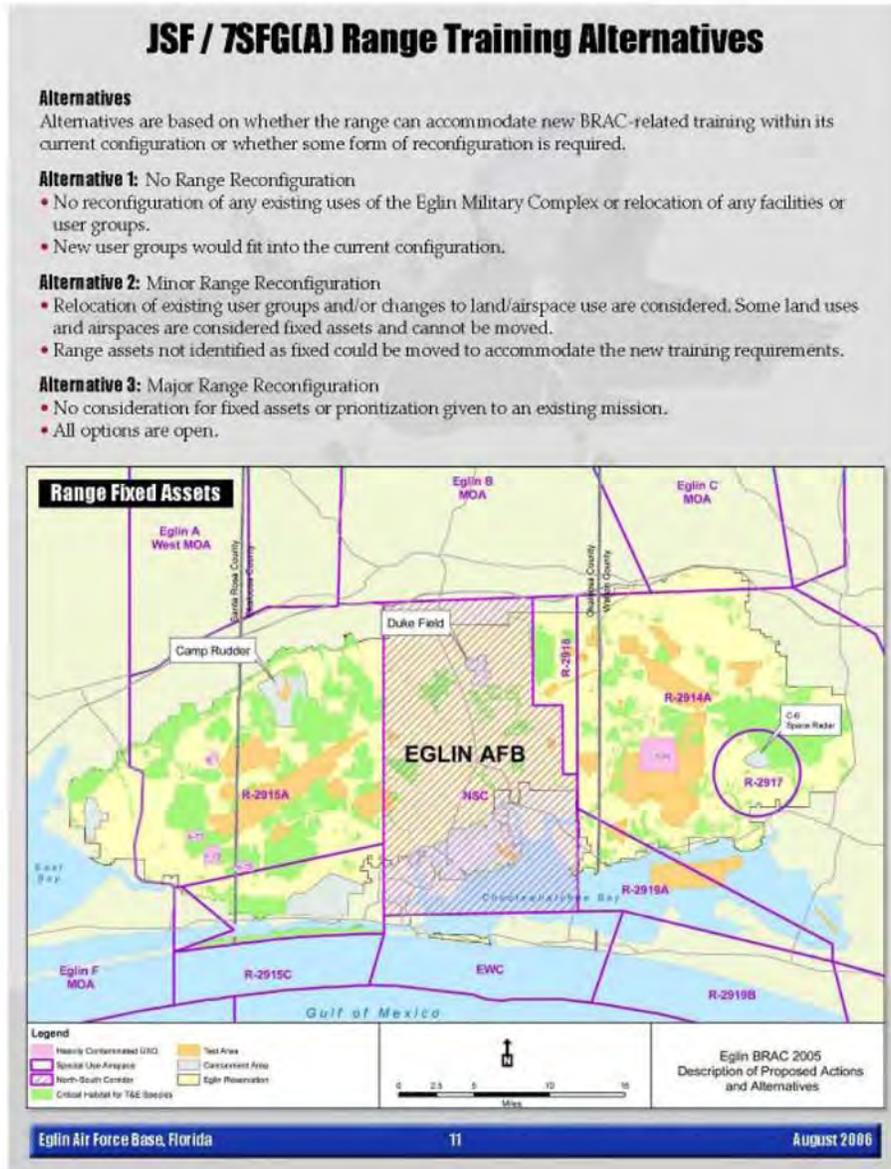
- 107 F-35s
- Average 246 days / year; 20.5 training days / month; 114 sorties/day
- 25% night flights
- 15% of flights at an altitude of 3,000 feet or lower
- Live / inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)

**7SFG(A) Ground and Airspace Training**

- 13 new range facilities
  - >6,000 acres of training area
- Approximately 43,000 training hours/year
  - Wheeled vehicle use (Humvees, heavy trucks, etc.)
  - Fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft
  - Live / inert ordnance use (small arms, large caliber)
  - Water operations.




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## Anticipated Environmental Issues from the Proposed BRAC 2005 Program

The Eglin BRAC Program 2005 EIS will examine the potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the BRAC 2005 Program at Eglin AFB, FL. Anticipated resource areas include:

**Transportation**

**Socioeconomics**

- Population
- Housing
- Schools
- Economic Activity
- Public Services
- Environmental Justice

**Utilities**

- Potable Water
- Wastewater
- Electricity
- Natural Gas

**Air Quality**

**Safety**

**Solid Waste**

**Hazardous Materials**

**Noise**

**Physical Resources**

- Soils
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Wetlands
- Floodplains

**Land Use**

- Military Land Use
- Community Land Use
- Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Sites

**Cultural Resources**

**Biological Resources**

- Plants
- Animals
- Sensitive Habitats
- Sensitive Species

Environmentally, BRAC 2005 might require the following at Eglin AFB:

- A significant air permit revision,
- A reevaluation of noise contours,
- Endangered Species Act Consultation for all threatened and endangered species,
- Modification of the hazardous waste program,
- Mitigation for potential wetlands impacts,
- Additional waste management and environmental compliance activities,
- Explosive safety waivers, and
- Modification of the on-installation water treatment works and permits.

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005

### National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires any federal agency proposing action or actions that may impact human health and the environment to consider

- a range of reasonable alternatives
- environmental consequences
- potential human health consequences
- public and government agency input.

NEPA regulations require the Air Force to write an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the anticipated environmental consequences of proposed actions and alternatives.

The final decision has not been made for Eglin. It will not be made until all the above is considered. The final decision will be announced in a Record of Decision (ROD) scheduled for the fall of 2007.

### Environmental Impact Statement

Why does Eglin need an environmental impact statement?

- The scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment.
- An EIS will provide decision-makers the best information to understand potential impacts of each alternative and make an informed decision.

### The BS Process

**The Eglin BRAC 2005 program** is still in the scoping stage. Scoping is the process used to determine the appropriate contents of an EIS. Scoping begins before any analysis of impacts is done, and is consistent with the EIS. Public participation is an integral part of scoping.

The purpose of scoping public input is to identify any major relevant issues, determine, and improve as possible, all that can be incorporated into the EIS.

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005



The Air Force encourages you to learn about the Eglin BRAC 2005 EIS proposed actions and alternatives. We'd like to hear your input and concerns on these issues.




*To be involved in the BRAC 2005 program, please provide information for the BRAC 2005 EIS by submitting written comments to:*

**Mr. Mike Spaits**  
 96 CEG/CEVPA  
 Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
 PH: 850.882.2878  
 FAX: 800.882.6284  
 E-mail: [spaitsm@eglin.af.mil](mailto:spaitsm@eglin.af.mil)

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 **Eglin BRAC Program 2005** 

# What is the purpose of an EIS for Eglin?



The EIS will address the impact of these actions:

- Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center and its cantonment
- 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) cantonment
- A range configuration that meets the training needs for both groups.

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005

### Actions

**Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC) Contentionment** will bring into Eglin AFB:

- 2,300 new military, civilian, and contractor personnel
- 2,558\* spouses and children
- 107 F-35 airplanes

\* Numbers are approximated.

### Alternatives

**JSF ITC Contentionment Alternatives**  
 Are based on where to place the JSF ITC Contentionment Area.

**Alternative 1: Eglin Main Base (3rd Fighter Wing Area)**

- 22 newly constructed facilities
- approximately 4 million square feet of demolition (removal)

**Alternative 2: East Side of Eglin Main Base (40th Test Wing Area)**

- 20 newly constructed facilities
- approximately 1.2 million square feet
- approximately 2.8 million square feet of demolition (removal)

### Maps

**Proposed ITC Layout**



**Alternative Locations**



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### 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) [75FG(A)] Contentionment

from Ft. Bragg, NC, will bring into Eglin AFB:

- 2,340 new military troops
- 2,741\* spouses and children

\* Numbers are approximated.

### 75FG(A) Contentionment Alternatives

Are based on where to place the 75FG(A) Contentionment Area.

**Alternative 1: Near Eglin Main Base**

- Alternative 1A: The Triangle
  - 10 newly constructed facilities (1000 sq ft and 1000 sq ft)
  - 100 acres
- Alternative 1B: Eglin Main Base
  - 10 newly constructed facilities (1000 sq ft and 1000 sq ft)
  - 100 acres
- Alternative 1C: North Florida
  - 10 newly constructed facilities (1000 sq ft and 1000 sq ft)
  - 100 acres

**Alternative 2: Near Duke Field**

- Alternative 2A: Duke Field Southwest
  - 10 newly constructed facilities (1000 sq ft and 1000 sq ft)
  - 100 acres
- Alternative 2B: Duke Field Northwest
  - 10 newly constructed facilities (1000 sq ft and 1000 sq ft)
  - 100 acres

**Alternative 1**



**Alternative 2**



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### JSF and 75FG(A) Training Requirements

**JSF Training**

- Average 240 days per year
- 25 percent are night flights
- 15 percent of flights at 3,000 feet or lower
- Live and inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)

**75FG(A) Training**

- 13 near range to 5000s
- 43,000 training hours per year

### JSF / 75FG(A) Range Training Alternatives

Are based on whether or not the range can accommodate new BRAC-related training either in current configuration or alternative or not under form of reconfiguration to require.

**Alternative 1: No Range Reconfiguration**

- No reconfiguration of any existing use of the Eglin Military Complex is needed; any facilities in use remain.
- New user groups would fit into the current configuration.

**Alternative 2: Minor Range Reconfiguration**

- Reconfiguration of existing user groups and/or backlogs can be completed. Some new user groups would be accommodated in their current use status or status.
- Range would not be used as food would be moved to accommodate for new training requirements.

**Alternative 3: Major Range Reconfiguration**

- No consideration for food waste or proliferation given for existing mission.
- No options are seen.

**Alternative 1**  
No Reconfiguration

**Alternative 2**  
Minor Reconfiguration

**Alternative 3**  
Major Reconfiguration



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# Possible Environmental Impacts



- socioeconomics
- transportation
- cultural resources
- noise
- water resources
- wetlands
- floodplains
- land use
- infrastructure
- biological resources



**Eglin BRAC 2005**  
Description of Proposed Action and Information



**Eglin BRAC 2005**  
Description of Proposed Action and Information

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*Scoping Meeting Brochures and Display Boards*

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**SCOPING UPDATE MEETING BROCHURE AND DISPLAY BOARDS  
(2007)**

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October 2008

2005 BRAC Decisions and Related Actions  
Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005

Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

November 2007



# WELCOME

## Public Involvement Meetings for Base Realignment and Closure Program

The U.S. Air Force welcomes you to this public involvement meeting for the Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 program. The BRAC program, created in May 2005, calls for changes in our nation's military base structure. Some of these changes, which are required by law, will affect Eglin AFB.

Whenever programs like this are planned, there are potential impacts on the environment. Some impacts may become important to you. When proposed programs are federally funded, laws and regulations require scientists to predict what the impacts could be. This research is reported in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public involvement ensures local interests are addressed in the EIS.



Your involvement and input are an important part of the Environmental Impact Analysis Process!

**Public Involvement**

As a part of the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton communities, Eglin AFB is committed to involving the public. Public involvement meetings provide citizens and government agencies the opportunity to learn more about the BRAC actions and alternatives under consideration. They also provide the opportunity for the Air Force to listen to community interests and concerns, as well as ensure the public

has a fair and equal opportunity to consider and comment on the proposal. Community-specific input and comments help shape the environmental analysis and allow decision-makers to have the most accurate and inclusive information available. Your involvement and input are vital to helping Eglin AFB continue as a community partner in the mutual defense of our country.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the BRAC 2005 program. You are invited to participate in any of the following ways:

- Attend public involvement meetings and help identify community-specific issues
- Add your name and address to the mailing list for more information
- Review and comment on the Draft EIS in Spring 2008
- Review the Final EIS in Fall 2008

**Environmental Impact Statement**

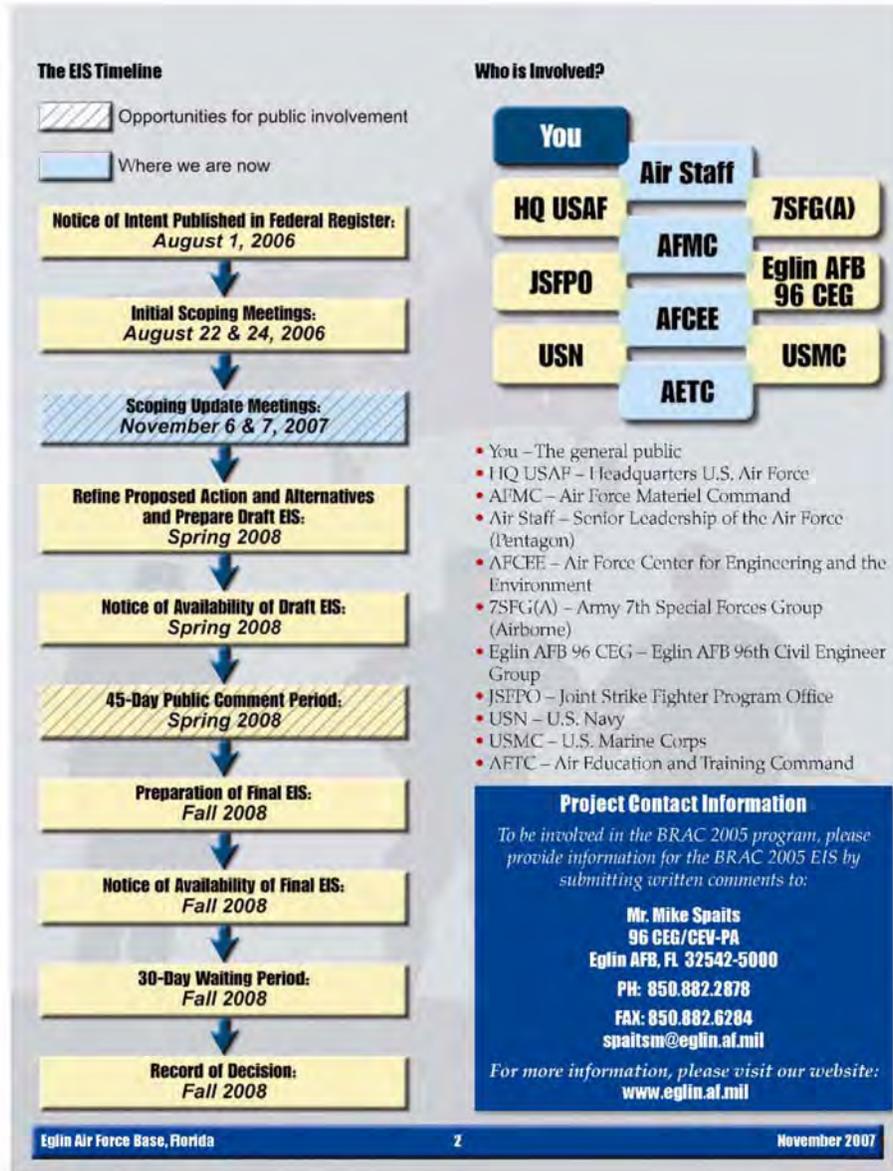
EISs are reports that outline the predicted environmental effects of a federal project. The EIS for Eglin's BRAC 2005 program is an important part of meeting environmental regulations.

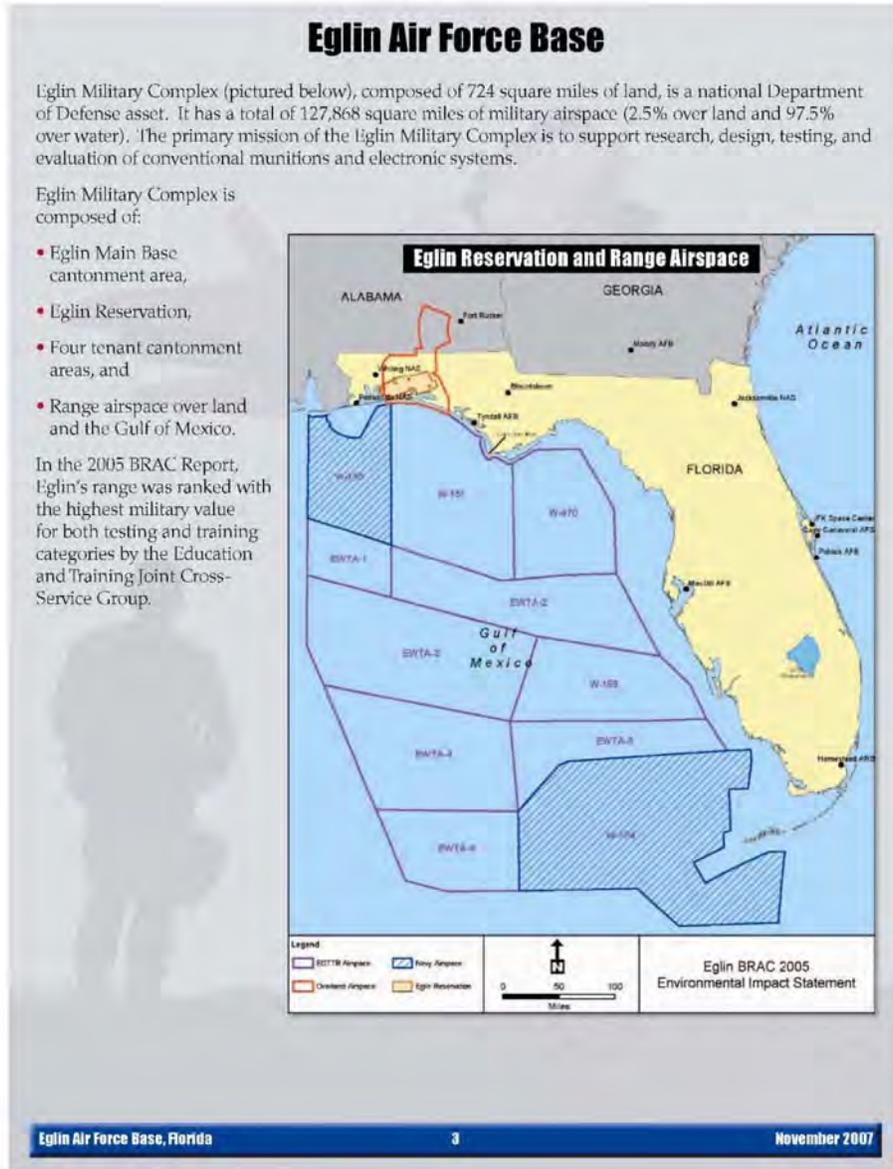
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Air Force to comply with an EIS. The EIS must consider a range of proposed actions and alternatives and how each could affect the environment and human health. The NEPA process allows the Air Force to make informed decisions based on Air Force and community needs.

This booklet will describe the three actions proposed by the BRAC 2005 Commission. It will also describe possible alternatives for each action.

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## BRAC Actions and Alternatives

### Build the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Integrated Training Center (ITC) and its Cantonment

<p>The JSF ITC Cantonment will bring into Eglin AFB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,326 new military, civilian, and contract personnel</li> <li>• 2,559* spouses and children</li> <li>• 107 F-35 aircraft</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternative 1:</b> Eglin Main Base (33rd Fighter Wing Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 newly constructed facilities</li> <li>• approximately 4 million square feet of construction</li> <li>• approximately 1.6 million square feet of demolition/renovation</li> </ul>
<p>JSF ITC cantonment alternatives are based on where to place the JSF ITC cantonment area.</p> <p><b>Currently, two locations are being considered as alternatives.</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative 2:</b> East Side of Eglin Main Base (46th Test Wing Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 newly constructed facilities</li> <li>• approximately 1.2 million square feet of construction</li> <li>• approximately 2.8 million square feet of demolition/renovation</li> </ul>

\* Numbers are approximate.

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### Build the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (7SFG(A)) Cantonment

<p>The 7SFG(A) Cantonment, coming from Ft. Bragg, NC, will bring into Eglin AFB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,240 new military troops</li> <li>• 2,741* spouses and children</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternative 2:</b> Duke Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared use of existing munitions storage area</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 2A:</b> Duke Field Southeast – 405 acres</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 2B:</b> Duke Field Northwest – 986 acres</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 2C:</b> Duke Field Northeast – 525 acres</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 2D:</b> East of Duke Field – 1,281 acres</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 2E:</b> Eglin North Border – 716 acres</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 3:</b> Area West of Duke Field – 500 acres</li> <li>• Located approximately 4 miles west of Duke Field</li> <li>• Preferred Alternative</li> <li>• Shared use of existing munitions storage area at Duke Field</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 4:</b> Area North of Eglin Main – 500 acres</li> <li>• Located approximately 2 miles north of Eglin Main Base off Hwy 85, along RR 230, west of the city of Valparaiso</li> <li>• Shared use of existing munitions storage area at Eglin Main</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 5:</b> Area near DeFuniak Springs – 500 acres</li> <li>• Located near the northeastern border of the Eglin Reservation near the intersection of RR 212 and RR 382</li> <li>• Shared use of existing munitions storage area at Duke Field</li> </ul>
<p>The 7SFG(A) cantonment alternatives are based on where to place the 7SFG(A) cantonment area. All include new construction.</p> <p><b>Currently, five locations are being considered as 7SFG(A) alternatives:</b></p> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> Eglin Reservation/Main Base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared use of existing munitions storage area</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 1A:</b> The Triangle – 405 acres</li> <li>– Located between Highway (Hwy) 85 and Hwy 129</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 1B:</b> Eglin West Gate – 570 acres</li> <li>– Located inside Eglin Main West Gate</li> <li>• <b>Alternative 1C:</b> North Poquito – 319 acres</li> <li>– Adjacent to the Research and Engineering Education Facility</li> </ul>	<p>* Numbers are approximate.</p>

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### Provide Training Areas for both JSF and 7SFG(A) Personnel

<p>The JSF and 7SFG(A) Training Requirements include:</p> <p><b>JSF Flight Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average 246 days per year</li> <li>• Live and inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)</li> </ul> <p><b>7SFG(A) Ground and Airspace Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 new range facilities</li> <li>• 43,000 training hours per year</li> </ul>	<p><b>Currently, five locations are being considered as alternatives:</b></p> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> East Side and North of Eglin Main Base</p> <p><b>Alternative 2:</b> East Side and North-South Corridor</p> <p><b>Alternative 3:</b> East and West Side (Preferred)</p> <p><b>Alternative 4:</b> East and Northeast Side</p> <p><b>Alternative 5:</b> East Side</p> <p>Some range areas may be conditionally closed to public use for safety reasons during 7SFG(A) ground maneuvers.</p>
<p>JSF Flight Training Alternatives are currently being developed. The 7SFG(A) Range Training Alternatives are based on where to place the training ranges.</p>	<p>* Numbers are approximate.</p>

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## Proposed Action and Alternatives for BRAC 2005 Program Implementation at Eglin AFB, Florida

### BRAC History

Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC Commission to reorganize its national base structure and to increase efficiency and military readiness. In 2005, the BRAC Commission's Final Report recommending base closures and realignments became law. Now the Air Force, along with other military services, is required to execute the BRAC 2005 Program, completing by September 15, 2011.

### BRAC 2005 Program

The Eglin BRAC 2005 Program will involve an environmental analysis of what it takes to:

- Build the JSF ITC and its cantonment,
- Build the 7SFG(A) cantonment, and
- Provide training areas for both JSF and 7SFG(A) personnel.

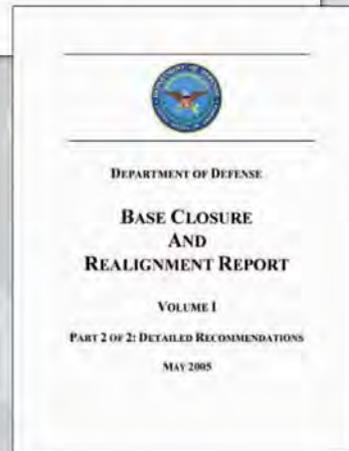
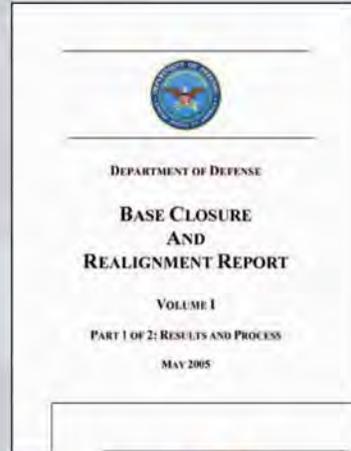
### Why not housing?

Housing requirements will be addressed in a separate NEPA document. The FIS will address housing impacts in the context of cumulative impacts.

### A cantonment is almost like a small city.

#### It includes:

- Administrative offices,
- Classrooms and dormitories,
- Infrastructure services, and
- Equipment storage.



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## Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center

**Proposed Action**

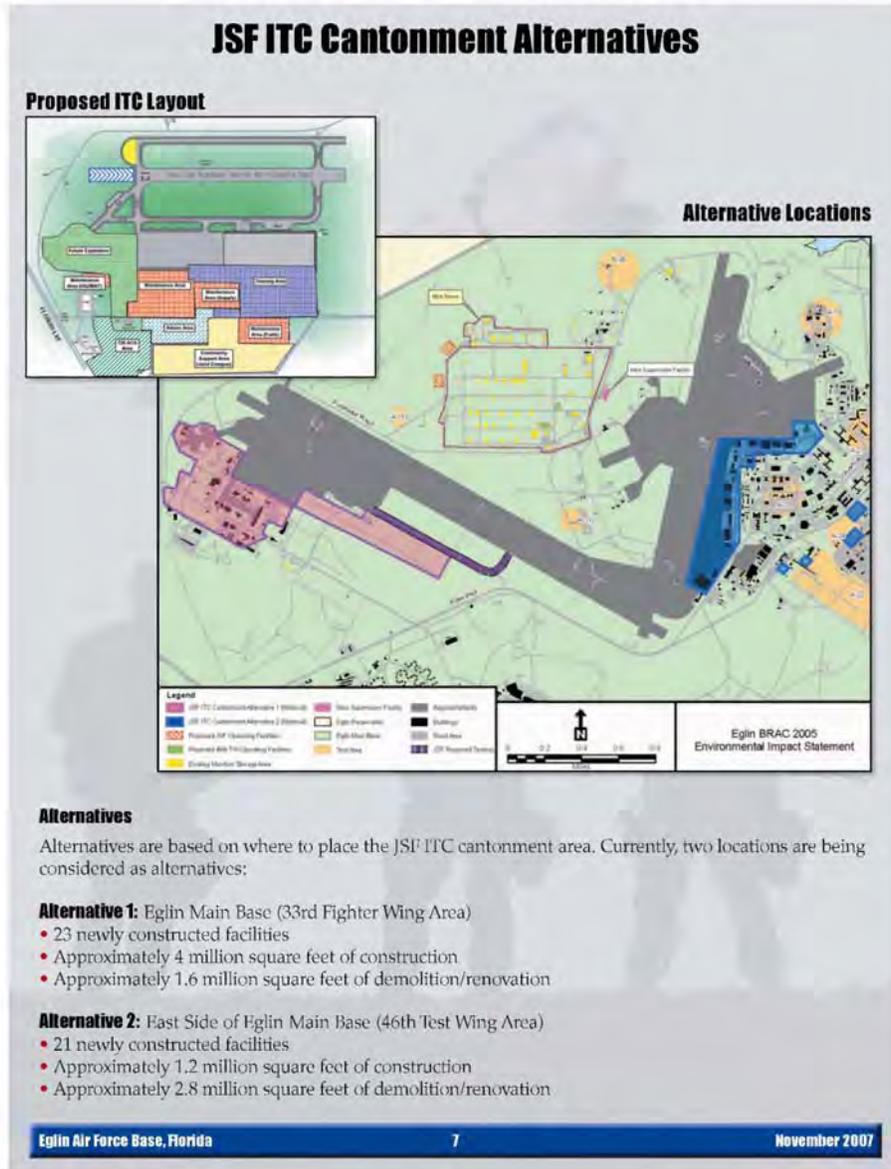
BRAC calls for a joint training site, the JSF ITC, for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps as well as for the United Kingdom, which is a full partner in this program. This training site would teach aviators and maintenance technicians how to properly operate and maintain the F-35 JSF Air System. The associated requirements include:

- Approximately 2,300 military and civilian personnel (does not include families)
- Cantonment/administrative area (approximately 100–200 acres)
- 31 facilities (approximately 5.6 million square feet)
- 107 F-35 aircraft
- Munitions storage area
- Airfield operations

The ITC needs to be close to the Eglin flight line and runways for the F-35. Adequate acreage and/or existing facilities are needed to support the new ITC. Access to Eglin's base operating support functions is critical.




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## 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) or 7SFG(A)

**Proposed Action**

BRAC also calls for the 7SFG(A) to move from Ft. Bragg, NC, to Eglin AFB and to build a cantonment area. The 7SFG(A) cantonment, when complete, would include facilities, ranges, equipment, and training/maneuver areas on training lands that match the 7SFG(A)'s wartime area of responsibility. The associated requirements include:

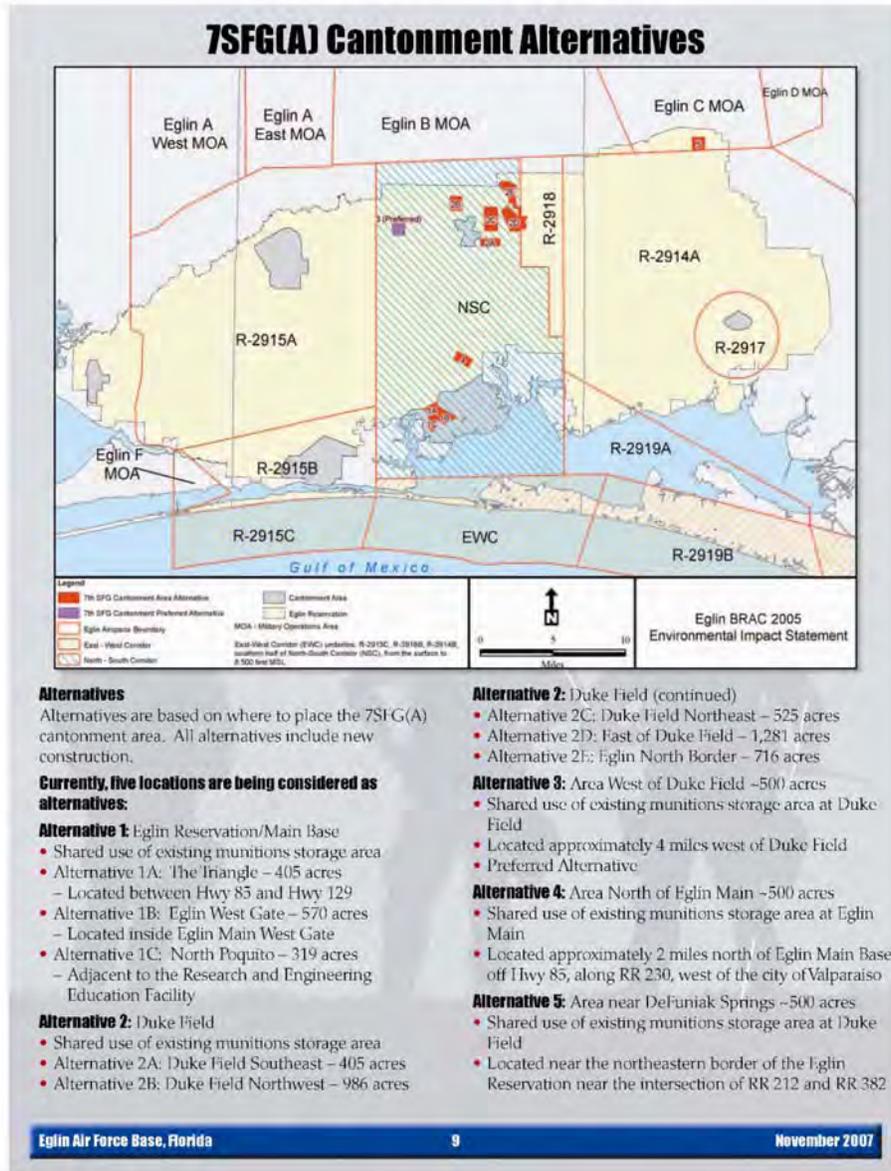
- Approximately 2,200 military and civilian personnel (does not include families)
- Cantonment/administrative area – approximately 100 acres
- 33 facilities totaling approximately 1.5 million square feet
- Munitions storage area

The cantonment area needs a location with access to a flight line that allows rapid and secluded deployments. It also needs convenient access to Eglin AFB base operating support functions. The cantonment area will include facilities for five Special Forces Battalions, barracks, motor pools, hangars, and other buildings.






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### JSF and 7SFG(A) Training Requirements

The BRAC action addresses the JSF and the 7SFG(A) continuous need for military training. The Eglin Military Complex range configuration both on land and in the air has been extensively evaluated to determine possible alternatives.

Specifically, the JSF and 7SFG(A) training require:

**JSF Flight Training**

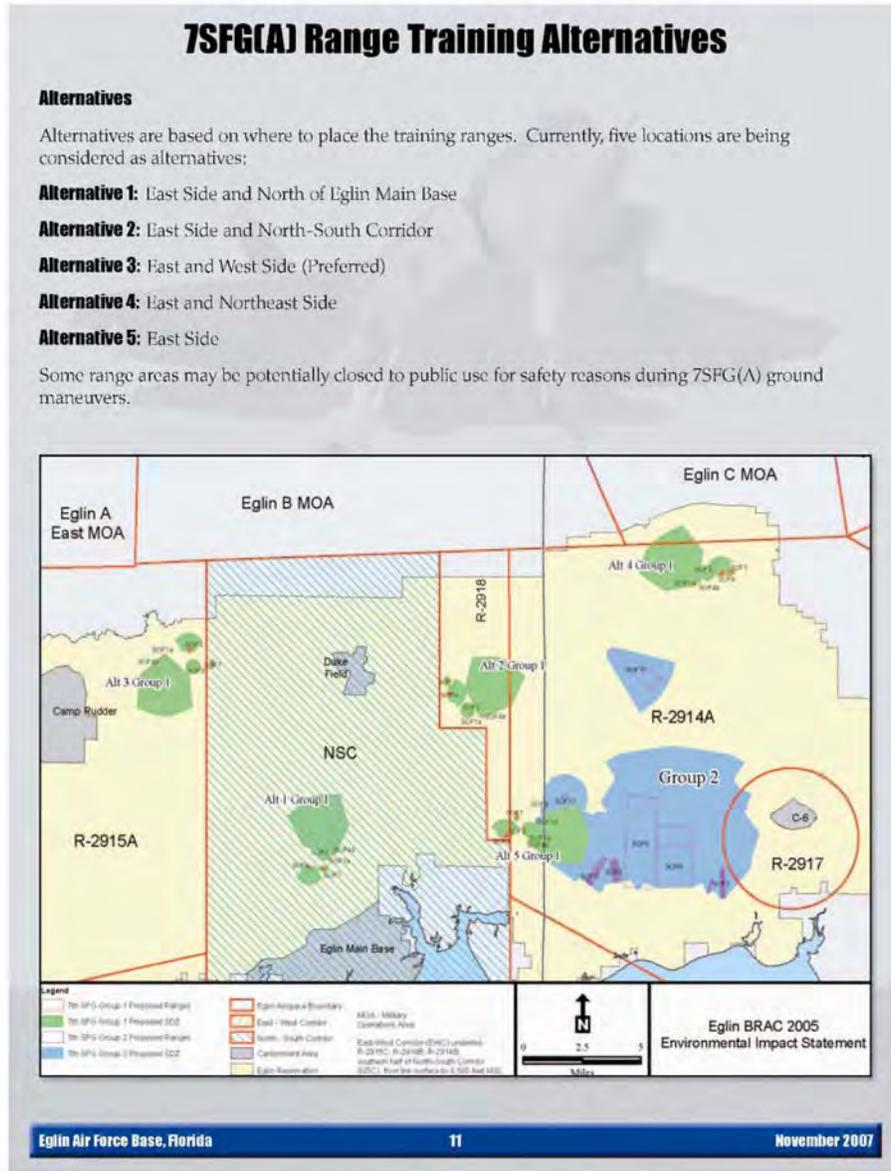
- 107 F-35s
- Average 246 days per year; 20.5 training days per month; 125 sorties per day
- Live/inert ordnance use (bombs, guns)

**7SFG(A) Range and Airspace Training**

- 13 new range facilities
  - >6,000 acres of training area
- Approximately 43,000 training hours per year
  - Wheeled vehicle use (Humvees, heavy trucks, etc.)
  - Fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft
  - Live/inert ordnance use (small arms, large caliber)
  - Water operations



Eglin Air Force Base, Florida



## Potential Environmental Issues from the Proposed BRAC 2005 Program

The Eglin BRAC 2005 Program EIS will examine the potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the BRAC 2005 Program at Eglin AFB, Florida. Anticipated resource areas include:

- Air Quality**
- Biological Resources**
  - Animals
  - Plants
  - Sensitive Habitats
  - Sensitive Species
- Cultural Resources**
- Hazardous Materials**
- Land Use**
  - Community Land Use
  - Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Sites
  - Military Land Use
- Noise**
- Outdoor Recreation**
- Physical Resources**
  - Groundwater
  - Floodplains
  - Soils
  - Surface Water
  - Wetlands
- Safety**
- Socioeconomics**
  - Economic Activity
  - Environmental Justice
  - Housing
  - Population
  - Public Services
  - Schools
- Solid Waste**
- Transportation**
- Utilities**
  - Electricity
  - Natural Gas
  - Potable Water
  - Wastewater

Environmentally, BRAC 2005 might require the following at Eglin AFB:

- A significant air permit revision,
- A reevaluation of noise contours,
- Endangered Species Act Consultation for all threatened and endangered species,
- Modification of the hazardous waste program,
- Mitigation for potential wetlands impacts,
- Additional waste management and environmental compliance activities,
- Explosive safety waivers, and
- Modification of the on-installation water treatment works and permits.



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# Eglin BRAC Program 2005

Training Ranges are divided into two types of ranges

- Group 1 and 2 Ranges
- Group 1 Ranges are comprised mostly of small-caliber weapons training.
- Group 2 Ranges are comprised mostly of larger caliber weapons training.
  - To minimize the creation of any new dudded or unexploded ordnance contaminated areas, all Group 2 Ranges will be located on Test Areas C-52 and C-53
- Depending on the training missions, some range areas may be potentially closed to public use for safety reasons during the 7SFG(A) ground maneuvers.

## Potentially Closed Areas

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005



### The EIS Process

#### National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies making a proposal that may significantly impact the environment to consider:

- A range of reasonable alternatives.
- Environmental consequences.
- Potential human health consequences.
- Public and government-agency input.



NEPA regulations require the Air Force to write an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the anticipated environmental consequences of proposed actions and alternatives.

The final decision has not been made for Eglin. It will not be made until all the above is considered. The final decision will be announced in a Record of Decision (ROD) scheduled for the fall of 2008.

#### Environmental Impact Analysis



Why does Eglin need an environmental impact statement?

- The scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment.
- An EIS will provide decision-makers the best information to understand potential impacts of each alternative and make an informed decision.



**Where we are now**

- Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register: August 17, 2006
- Initial Scoping Meetings: August 22 & 24, 2006
- Scoping Issues Meetings: November 6 & 7, 2007
- Public Comment Period: Spring 2008
- Final EIS: Spring 2008
- Record of Decision: Fall 2008

**The Eglin BRAC 2005 program as the scoping process used to determine the appropriate contents of an EIS.**

Scoping begins before any analysis of impacts is done, and it continues until the EIS is finished. Public participation is an integral part of scoping. The purpose of soliciting public input is to identify as many relevant issues, alternatives, and improvements as possible so they can be incorporated into the EIS.

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## Eglin BRAC Program 2005



The Air Force encourages you to learn about the Eglin BRAC 2005 EIS proposed actions and alternatives. We'd like to hear your input and concerns on these issues.




*To be involved in the BRAC 2005 program, please provide information for the BRAC 2005 EIS by submitting written comments to:*

**Mr. Mike Spaits**  
 96 CEG / CEV-PA  
 Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5000  
 PH: 850.882.2878  
 FAX: 850.882.6284  
 E-mail: [spaitsm@eglin.af.mil](mailto:spaitsm@eglin.af.mil)

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 **Eglin BRAC Program 2005** 

## What is the purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement for Eglin?



The Environmental Impact Statement will address the impact of these actions:

- Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center and its cantonment
- 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) cantonment
- A range configuration that meets the training needs for both groups.





# Possible Environmental Impacts



- air quality
- biological resources
- cultural resources
- hazardous materials
- land use
- noise
- outdoor recreation
- physical resources
- safety
- socioeconomics
- solid waste
- transportation
- utilities




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## APPENDIX F

### SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN AND COMMENT SHEETS

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**INITIAL SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS (2006)**

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**EGLIN BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE 2005  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: August 22, 2006

LOCATION: Emerald Coast Conference Center

PLEASE SIGN IN!

*PLEASE READ: IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) MAILED TO YOU, PLEASE CHECK EITHER THE HARD COPY OR COMPACT DISC (CD) BOX BELOW. NAMES AND ADDRESSES FROM THIS SIGN-IN SHEET WILL BE USED TO COMPILE A MAILING LIST FOR DISTRIBUTING FUTURE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL. NAMES AND ADDRESSES WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE EIS; HOWEVER, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT BY INCLUDING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, IT WILL BECOME PART OF THE EIS PUBLIC RECORD.*

PLEASE PRINT

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	Would you like a copy of the Draft EIS?
Names omitted per Privacy Act requirements.				No
		Civio		No
				CD
			Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	CD
				CD
				No
		Governor's Office		CD & Hard copy
		Daily News		CD
			Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	Hard Copy
		USDF		No
		CD & Hard Copy		

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Names omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	ABC Organization	[Redacted]	CD & Hard Copy
		Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	No
		[Redacted]	CD
	InDyne, Inc.	[Redacted]	CD
		[Redacted]	No
	City of Fort Walton Beach	[Redacted]	CD & Hard Copy
	Fort Walton Beach	[Redacted]	CD & Hard Copy
		[Redacted]	CD & Hard Copy
		[Redacted]	No
	Pelican's Cove Owner's Association	[Redacted]	Hard Copy
		[Redacted]	No
		[Redacted]	CD
	Acceptance Capital	[Redacted]	No
		[Redacted]	Hard Copy
		Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	[Redacted]
	WFTW Newstalk 1260	[Redacted]	Hard Copy
	Ocean City Wright Fire District	[Redacted]	CD & Hard Copy
	[Redacted]	CD	

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Names omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	Daily News		
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**EGLIN BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE 2005  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: August 24, 2006

LOCATION: Crestview High School

PLEASE SIGN IN!

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PLEASE PRINT

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	Would you like a copy of the Draft EIS?
Names omitted per Privacy Act requirements.		Emerald Coast Partners	[Redacted]	CD
		Jobs Plus	[Redacted]	CD
		WAAZ WJSB	Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	CD
		AAFES	[Redacted]	Hard Copy
			Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	CD
			[Redacted]	No
		VR	[Redacted]	Hard Copy
		City of Crestview Council Member		Hard Copy
		Governor's Office		Hard Copy
	CIV	[Redacted]	No	

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Names omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	CIV		No
	96 CEG/CEV		CD
	Crestview News Bulletin		No
	Governor's Office		No
	Citizen	Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	CD
	Maximillion Mtg		No
			CD
	Daily News		No
	Resident		CD
	Neill & Guater	Addresses omitted per Privacy Act requirements.	No
			CD
	Citizen		No
	Citizen		No

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SCOPING UPDATE MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS (2007)

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**EGLIN BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE 2005 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING UPDATE MEETING**

LOCATION: **Comfort Inn Conference Center**

DATE: **November 6, 2007**

PLEASE SIGN IN!

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**EGLIN BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE 2005 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING UPDATE MEETING**

LOCATION: Niceville High School

DATE: November 7, 2007

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**SCOPING UPDATE MEETING SPEAKER SIGN-UP SHEETS (2007)**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions      F-24  
Eglin AFB, FL













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**APPENDIX G**  
**SCOPING MEETINGS TRANSCRIPTS AND ORAL**  
**COMMENTS**

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March 2008      Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
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Eglin AFB, FL

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October 2008      2005 BRAC Decisions and Related Actions      A-189  
Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

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**INITIAL SCOPING MEETING TRANSCRIPTS (2006)**

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March 2008

Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of the  
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions  
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October 2008

2005 BRAC Decisions and Related Actions  
Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

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SCOPING MEETING

EIS STATEMENT  
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE  
FT. WALTON BEACH CIVIC CENTER  
FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

AUGUST 22, 2006

Transcript of public scoping meeting held August 22, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. at Emerald Coast Conference Center, Okaloosa Island, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Reported by Gertrude B. Downs, Notary Public in and for the State of Florida.

APPEARANCES:

Mike Spaits  
Public Affairs Representative for  
Environmental Management, Eglin Air Force Base

Randall Rowland  
Civil Engineering Group  
Environmental Management Division, Eglin Air Force Base

Dennis Hafer  
Joint Strike Fighter Program

Lt. Col. John Vavrin  
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

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Now, we have an incredible array of experts that are joining us tonight, so as you come forward and identify your comment, and I hope that you've had an opportunity to sign up to do just that, we can answer some of those questions right now. And all of the -- all of your comments, by design and by mandate, by law, actually, have to be incorporated as we move down the road.

The process -- this is about a 13-month process, so we're talking a year to get from scoping, notice of intent, all the way through the Draft EIS, Final -- the public comment, Final EIS takes about 13 months, and that's staying on track. So this is the first start.

Is there any initial questions for me? I can take questions after or during the break on those other issues, but please keep your comments down to those three that I talked about. Anything initially? Okay, yes, sir?

AUDIENCE MEMBER NO. 1: (Inaudible).

(Reporter can't hear audience member. Col. Clemons clarifies question from audience member.)

COL. CLEMONS: Yes, there is a website -- is there a website for BRAC law? There's several, actually. And do we have those available tonight, Mike? Do you know?

MIKE SPAITS: We'll get that to him. If he sees me at the break, I will give that to him.

COL. CLEMONS: Yes, and he'll give that to you at the break.

All right, I'll turn the mike back to Mike. Thanks.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank, you Col. Clemons.

This evening our panel members will present information on the proposed 2005 defense realignment and closure BRAC program at Eglin Air Force Base, and our effort to assess environmental impacts of its implementation in support of the interrelated decisions required to support the overall proposal.

Representatives from Eglin Air Force Base Headquarters Air Force Material Command, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Headquarters Marine Corps, the United States Navy, Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, and the Department of the Army are present tonight, either as members of our panel or providing logistics work for this scoping meeting.

I'd like to begin with an introduction of the panel members. To my immediate right is Mr. Randall Rowland from Eglin Air Force Base, the Civil Engineer Group, Environmental Management Division. To his right is Mr. Dennis Hafer from the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, and next to him is Lt. Col. John Vavrin from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

We're here tonight because the Air Force is analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed BRAC 2005 program at Eglin Air Force Base. Let me first set the stage for the program this evening. It is in two parts. First we will present information on the 2005 BRAC program, what it means for Eglin Air Force Base and discuss the environmental impact analysis process, define the proposed actions and alternatives, inform you as to

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how to stay involved with this action and what you can expect over the next several months. The second part of the program is your opportunity to help us identify issues and alternatives to be addressed in the environmental analysis.

I'd like to now turn over the presentation to Mr. Randall Rowland. Randall.

RANDALL ROWLAND: Good evening. I am Randall Rowland from the environmental analysis section here at Eglin Air Force Base, and that's part of the civil engineering group, and I'm here to discuss the 2005 BRAC program decisions for Eglin Air Force Base and also the National Environmental Policy Act.

BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure, and Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC commission to reorganize its national base structure and increase efficiency and military readiness, and in 2005 the BRAC commission's final report recommending base closure and realignments became law. Now the Air Force, along with other military services, must execute the 2005 BRAC program and conduct environmental analyses associated with those proposed actions. We must begin implementation of the BRAC recommended actions by September 15, 2007, and complete those, that implementation, by September 15th, 2011.

The BRAC 2005 program means the following for Eglin Air Force Base: First, establishing the Joint Strike Fighter, JSF, integrated training center. This would involve having about 2,300 military, civilian, and contractor personnel at Eglin Air Force Base, bringing in about 107 F-35 aircraft, and providing light training resources for those personnel. Second, it means bringing the 7th Special Forces Group Airborne from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base, and that would entail adding approximately 2,200 troops and providing ground training resources for the 7th group personnel. And then the third BRAC 2005 decision involves relocating the Defense Reproduction Agency, or DTRA, from Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, to Eglin Air Force Base. This requires bringing 36 military, civilian and contractor personnel to Eglin and moving conventional weapons research development functions to Eglin and no training resources are needed for that office.

Finally, the 2005 BRAC recommendations involve relocating the in-service engineering and weapons and armaments research, development, test acquisition and evaluation from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Eglin.

The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, as you've heard it referred to tonight, requires the federal agencies identify and consider the potential environmental effects associated with major federal actions, and NEPA assures that federal agencies consider social and environmental factors along with technical and economic components of a decision.

The agency must identify potential impacts of such resources as water, air, wildlife, cultural resources, land use, recreation and aesthetics and consider the alternatives of the proposed actions. NEPA also requires that the responsible federal agency consult with relevant federal and state agencies,

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federally recognized tribes and the public to determine those impacts.

Additionally, as required by NEPA, the Air Force must inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives to encourage public input during the environmental-analysis process, and that's what we're here for tonight. Furthermore, as part of the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton County communities, Eglin is committed to involving the public and obtaining community-specific input.

The environmental analysis for this proposal will take the form of an environmental impact statement, also know as an EIS, and the NEPA law, its implemented regulations written by the President's Council on Environmental Quality and the Air Force's environmental impact analysis process contain detailed requirements for what is included in that Environmental Impact Statement. These requirements can be found in Code Federal Regulations at 40CFR 1500 through 1508, and 32CFR Part 989.

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of the issues and for identifying significant issues related to a proposed action, the Air force soliciting input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and by -- and methods by which they will be evaluated. Public involvement ensures local interests are addressed in the environmental impact statement. The Air Force is conducting an EIS, which is the most detailed environmental analysis required by NEPA.

Environmental analysis is required by NEPA because the scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment. The EIS will provide decision makers information to understand the potential impacts of each alternative to make an informed decision. This EIS will address the first two BRAC 2005 program requirements, the establishment of the Joint Strike Fighter integrated training center, cantonment and training areas, the establishment of the 7th Special Forces Group Airborne cantonment and training areas. Please note that when we refer to cantonment, it's almost like a small city. Cantonments include administrative offices, classrooms and dormitories, infrastructure services and equipment storage.

The EIS will not specifically address potential environmental and community impacts from associated housing because the housing requirements for BRAC are not yet defined. The Air Force is in the process of conducting several internal studies to determine the housing requirements of the incoming personnel and their families as a result of BRAC. Potential impacts from housing needs will be addressed generally within the context of cumulative impacts, and more specifically in a separate NEPA document once the requirements have been defined.

Prior to Secretary of Defense's BRAC 2005 recommendation submitted on November 13, 2005, the technical joint cross service group evaluated realigning the weapons and armaments research development test, acquisition and evaluation engineering efforts of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Eglin.

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However, the engineering workload and funding were no longer available after fiscal year 2005, and since there was no workload or existing funding for these efforts at Hill after fiscal year 2005 these functions will not be realigned to Eglin Air Force Base. That's pending final approval of secretary for defense approval.

This EIS will evaluate alternatives of the following at Eglin Air Force Base: Establishing the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center cantonment area, establishing the 7th Special Forces Group Training cantonment area, accommodating training requirements for both the Strike Fighter and the 7th Group.

According to BRAC law, BRAC must be implemented, as stated in the approved BRAC Commission's recommendations, and therefore, the Air Force's proposed alternatives address how and not if BRAC should be implemented at Eglin. As required by NEPA, the Air Force must identify, and analyze reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Reasonable alternatives are alternatives that would meet the Air Force's underlying purpose and need for the proposed action.

This meeting is important because the Air Force must consider input obtained through the scoping process in developing and analyzing reasonable alternatives. Within the range of reasonable alternatives, the Air Force is not required to consider highly speculative alternatives.

Also required by NEPA, the Air Force must consider the no-action alternative, or an alternative considering no changes to Eglin Air Force Base. However, it should be noted the BRAC actions will be implemented at Eglin as required by law, and the no-action alternative in this case will simply reflect baseline or current conditions at Eglin and within the surrounding area, which will then be used for analysis purposes.

The proposed action for this EIS is to implement actions in support of BRAC 2005 program at Eglin. As required by law, it includes three actions, which we will review in detail in the upcoming slides; construct a joint fighter training center and associated cantonment area; construct a 7th Special Force's Group Airborne cantonment area; and accommodate Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Group training requirements. Each action has its own purpose, needs and special requirements, requires independent decision and has associated alternatives for implementation. Mr. Dennis Hafer will review the details of the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center. Mr. Hafer?

DENNIS HAFER: Hello and good evening. My name is Dennis Hafer. I'm with the Joint Strike Fighter program office, and I am the site activation and integration team leader.

I would like to present to you the details associated with the BRAC requirements for the JSF ITC and the proposed actions in the process.

BRAC calls for establishing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter integrated training center, or JSF ITC, as we call it, at Eglin Air Force Base. This means establishing a joint training

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site for the Air Force the Navy, the Marine Corps, as well as the United Kingdom and seven other countries which are full partners in this program. This training site will teach aviators and maintenance technicians how to properly operate and maintain the F-35 air system. The purpose of this particular action is to provide a cantonment area for pilots and maintainers for the F-35 air system.

The JSF ITC needs to be close to the Eglin flightline and runways for the F-35, and needs to have adequate acreage and/or existing facilities to support new ITC. Access to Eglin's operating and support function is critical.

The associated requirements for meeting the purpose and need for the JSF ITC include establishing a cantonment area and administrative area between 100 and 200 acres in size, providing 31 facilities at approximately 5.6 million square feet, and a munitions storage area, and bedding down 107 F-35 aircraft and allow for airfield operations.

The alternatives for this proposed action are associated with finding appropriate locations of a JSF ITC cantonment area. In arriving at the proposed alternative locations for the JSF ITC, the Air Force, in coordination with the joint program office development, lists available requirements for the JSF ITC and applied them to the Eglin military complex to identify potential sites for development. Those areas meeting all the criteria were included as potential alternatives. The minimum requirements included minimum runway, airfield and aircraft support recovery requirements, available utilities, refueling access, auxiliary ground equipment, approximately 170 to 180 acres contiguous to the flight line, physical security, and avoidance of wetlands and flood plains.

Because Chocktaw, Duke, and Hurlburt Field have only one runway, they are not under consideration for a JSF ITC cantonment location. Furthermore, Camp Rudder is not under consideration because it does not meet runway requirements and its location and logistics are not practical.

Remaining possibilities include two potential locations at Eglin main base. Alternative one, our preferred alternative, proposes locating the JSF ITC at the Eglin main base 33rd Fighter Wing area. This area we'll show you in a minute on the next slide. This area will include 23 newly constructed facilities involving approximately 4 million square foot of construction and approximately 1.6 million square foot of demolition or renovation.

Alternative 2 proposes locating the JSF ITC in the east side of Eglin main base at the 46th testing area. This would require 21 newly constructed facilities involving approximately 1.2 million square foot construction, and approximately 2.8 million square foot of demolition or renovation.

The area depicted on the map shows the proposed JSF ITC location under alternative 1, the Eglin main base 33rd Fighter Wing area. This location of the 46th Test Wing is under alternative 2, and it's on the east side of the main --

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Eglin main base, and the area in the middle shows the current munition storage area that is proposed for use by JSF ITC.

I would now like to turn the presentation over to Lt. Col. John Vavrin for a presentation on the proposed actions for the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Lt. Col. Vavrin.

LT. COL. VAVRIN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Hafer.

Hello, my name is Lt. Col. John Vavrin, and I'm from the United States Army Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. I would like to present to you the details associated with BRAC requirements for the Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), or 7th Group, and the proposed action at Eglin Air Force Base.

BRAC calls for moving the 7th Group from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base. Associated with this are the requirements for establishing a cantonment area and conducting training.

The purpose of the 7th Group cantonment area -- area proposed action is to provide a cantonment area to prepare the group for wartime responsibilities. The 7th Group cantonment area needs a location with access to training ranges, a flight line that allows rapid and secluded deployments, convenient access to Eglin Air Base, operating support functions, and seclusion for operational security and force protection.

The associated requirements for meeting the purpose and need for the 7th Group cantonment area include the following: Cantonment and administrative area of approximately 300 acres, 33 facilities totaling approximately 1.5 million square feet for barracks, motor pools and other buildings, a munition storage area. The alternatives for this proposed action are associated with finding an appropriate location for the 7th Group cantonment area.

In arriving at the proposed locations for the 7th Group, the Air Force, in coordination with the U.S. Army, developed a list of minimum requirements for the 7th Group and applied them to the Eglin military complex to identify potential sites for development. Those areas meeting all of the criteria are included as potential alternatives. The minimum requirements included adequate acreage for cantonment, security and future expansion, a location that provides proximity to training ranges ideally no more than 10-minute transfer time, deployment air lift requirements and appropriate emergency response, appropriate access to major transportation artery, appropriate ammunition storage and transport, no more than 20 miles distance to the communications barn, minimal environmental considerations, avoidance of unexploded ordnance areas, and meets barracks requirements, including capacity, and noise, and safety.

Camp Rudder was eliminated from consideration due to the fact that its airfield was unusable by the group, is not within an appropriate distance to a major transportation artery and is outside the minimum emergency response time. Hurlburt Field was eliminated as a potential alternative because it has no expansion potential. The remaining possibilities are three

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locations at the Eglin main base identified as Alternative 1, and three potential locations at Duke Field identified as Alternative 2.

Alternative 1 proposes to locate the 7th Group cantonment near Eglin Main Base at the following three locations, possible locations, which are depicted on the map for you: Alternative 1(a) is the triangle which is located between Highway 85 and 189 and is about 405 acres. Alternative 1(b) is the Eglin west gate located inside Eglin main west gate, and is approximately 570 acres. And Alternative 1(c) is north of Poquito, adjacent to the University of Florida Research and Engineering Education Facility, and is approximately 319 acres.

These alternatives would require all new construction. The red block shows the current location of the munition storage area proposed use by the 7th Group under Alternative 1. Alternative 2, which is our preferred option, proposes to locate the 7th Group cantonment area near Duke Field at the following three possible locations: Alternative 2(a) at Duke Field is, southeast portion, is approximately 405 acres. Alternative 2(b) is Duke Field northwest and is about 525 acres, and 2(c) Duke Field northeast is about 986 acres. These alternatives would require all new construction and shared use of an existing munition storage area. The area outlining 3 is the existing munitions storage area at Duke Field that is proposed for use by the 7th Group.

I would like to turn the presentation over to Mr. Rowland for a discussion of the proposed action associated with the Joint Strike Fighter and the 7th Group training at Eglin Air Force Base.

RANDALL ROWLAND: Thank you, Lt. Col. Vavrin.

The third action that will be addressed on this EIS is associated with training for the Joint Strike Fighter for 7th Group, and the purpose of this proposed action is to provide adequate ranges and air space for the joint strike fighter and 7th Group missions while maintaining range access for current and future uses.

Eglin military complex range reconfiguration may be necessary to support the training requirements of the Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Group, and the Air force is conducting an extensive evaluation of Eglin's range to determine whether reconfiguration is necessary and to identify the possible alternatives it requires.

The range reconfiguration needs to maximize mission flexibility and sustainability for both current and future users and use the Eglin military complex in a manner that does not adversely affect the environment of the neighboring communities. Specifically, the Joint Strike Fighter training requirements requires the use of 107 F-35 aircraft training an average of 246 days out of the year, 20.5 training dates per month, and 114 sorties per day. Twenty-five percent of the flights would occur during the night, and fifteen percent at an altitude lower than three thousand feet. The use of live and inert ordnance, such as bombs and guns, similar to what is currently being used.

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The 7th Group training requires 13 new training ranges, more than 6,000 acres of training area, approximately 43,000 training hours per year, including field vehicle use like Humvees, heavy trucks, fixed and rotary winged aircraft, live, inert, ordinance such as guns and hand grenades, and water operations using small rubber boats.

Minimum requirements for identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate JSF training include multiple low-level routes, specific aircraft operating at altitude requirements within specified distance from the main operating base, access to air-to-air and air-to-ground ranges near the main operating base, ability for inert and live weapons and training and noise levels should not adversely affect the public.

Similarly, minimum requirements for identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate 7th Group training include adequate maneuver space and access for 7th Group and other current and future users, and a range area available to create required 13 training ranges. Additional considerations for identifying candidate alternatives included minimizing environmental, safety and community public impacts, minimizing costs, maintaining existing flight routes and approaches into Eglin, maintaining future mission flexibility, maintaining electronic frequency compatibility, providing night access to ranges, and minimizing range evacuation due to other training missions.

This map shows heavily used areas of the Eglin reservation as presented by the brown colored areas. The darker the brown the more heavily used. Heavy-used areas must be considered when developing alternatives accommodating BRAC-related training.

The next map shows the environmental consideration, such as endangered species, that must be considered when developing alternatives for BRAC-related training and range configuration. As you can see, much of the Eglin Reservation is habitat or threatened and endangered species, including the red cockaded woodpecker, and the Okaloosa darter.

The next map shows recreation areas on them. From a land-use perspective, areas open to the public must also be considered when developing BRAC-related training alternatives, establishing new training areas, or moving others may require the use of existing areas currently used for recreation. Pink and orange colored areas represent those areas currently restricted to the public on this map.

Alternatives associated with the training are based on whether or not the range can accommodate new BRAC-related training within its current configuration or whether or not some form of reconfiguration is required. They include Alternative 1, which is no-range reconfiguration. And under this alternative no reconfiguration of any existing uses of the Eglin military complex or relocating any facilities or user groups will be required. In other words, new user groups, such as the JSF and the 7th Group, would fit into the current configuration.

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Under Alternative 2, minor range reconfiguration the alternative here is to relocate existing user groups, and land and air space use changes are being considered. Some land uses and airspace would be considered fixed assets and would not be moved. Range assets not identified as fixed could be moved to accommodate new training requirements.

Alternative 3 is major range reconfiguration, and under this alternative no consideration for fixed assets or prioritization would be given to an existing mission and all options would be open.

The next map shows the range assets that would need to be considered when identifying those that are fixed or could be moved during alternative development.

Greenish areas represent sensitive species concerns. Orange areas are test and training grounds. Pinkish areas are those with unexploded ordnance concerns, and the purple lines represent air space delineations.

After the proposed action and alternatives are identified, BRAC 2005 program EIS will examine potential impacts to the human environment that could be affected by those proposals. Environmental resources that will be evaluated include socioeconomic, including schools, public services, and economic activity, transportation, noise, natural resources, including stormwater and erosion, water quality and threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, land use and recreation, including military and community land use and recreation, safety, utilities, including potable water, wastewater, electricity and natural gas, solid waste, air quality and hazardous materials.

Above is the Eglin BRAC 2005 schedule, and as you can see, the Air Force published a notice of intent to prepare the EIS in the Federal Register on July 28, 2006, and we're holding this scoping meeting tonight and again one in Crestview on August 24th. Please note that while the scoping period ends August 31st, scoping is an ongoing process, and we will continue to gather information about the affected environment, refine the proposed action and alternatives and then analyze the potential impacts to the various resource categories I mentioned earlier.

When we complete this analysis, we will publish the results as a draft EIS in January or February 2007 and send it out for a 45-day public review period. During this period we will hold two public hearings, most likely in March, and -- to review our findings and receive comments. Finally, we will respond to comments and modify the EIS, if needed, and publish a final document next year in August 2007. And 30 days after the final EIS is released to the public, the Air Force expects to sign a record of decision, or ROD. The ROD will say whether the proposed actions will be implemented and which site alternative has been selected. The Air force expects preparation of the EIS and the signing of the ROD to be completed in September 2007.

I would now like to return the mike to Mr. Mike Spaits.  
MIKE SPAITS: Thanks, Randy.

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Before we take a short break, I'd like to now make a few administrative announcements. In order to prepare an accurate and thorough EIS, we invite the public, government officials, and interested government agencies to provide written or verbal comments. We need your help in ensuring that the full scope of issues is identified and that any significant environmental concerns relating to this proposal are identified and appropriately addressed.

In summary, we're conducting this scoping process in order for the Air Force decision maker to consider the environmental consequences associated with the proposed project while refining alternatives. We're here tonight to listen to your views and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the Eglin BRAC 2005 initiative. If you wish to speak tonight, we would like you to sign up on one of the speaker signing -- sign-in lists that are available at the entrance tables at the doors right when you first came in. We invite elected officials to speak first, and then I will call all other speakers in the order you signed in. If you speak this evening, please use the microphone made available at the podium to my right so that we can hear you clearly, and you -- and we can make an accurate record of your concerns. Please limit your comments to five minutes so that everyone who wants a chance to speak will have one.

Written comment sheets are also available at the registration table for your use. You can turn these sheets in at the end of the evening, or you can mail them, you can fax them, you can e-mail them to us at your convenience. If you mail your comments, send them to the address printed on the comment sheets. The address will also be shown on the screen during the entire comment period.

We welcome public comments in writing at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to receive timely consideration for the Draft EIS, we encourage you to provide comments by August 31st.

When you signed in, you had an opportunity to check the box to request a copy of the Draft EIS. If you did not request a document when you signed in but would like to have one, please go back to the sign-in sheet and check off that box that asks if you want a copy of this document, or you can send us a letter, a postcard, or e-mail requesting the document.

We are making an official record of this meeting to be added to the EIS administrative record. This is to ensure your comments are considered in preparing this EIS. Written comments will also become part of the administrative record and will receive full and equal consideration.

Tonight is not the end of your opportunity to participate in the environmental review process. The preparation of an EIS is an ongoing process and as such, you can provide your comments anytime throughout the EIS development. The public scoping period ends August 31st. Inputs received by this date will be considered when developing the Draft EIS.

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If that's all understood and there's no questions, let's take a 15-minute break, and when we come back from there, we'll open it up to comments from the floor, and I'll try and give you about a two-or-three-minute heads up when we're ready to get started again. Thank you. Oh, excuse me, I also encourage you if you haven't had a chance to take a look at the display boards, our subject-matter experts are going to be back out there. Please take a few moments and go take a look at the proposals that are on the boards. Thank you.

(Intermission was taken at 7:45 p.m. Return to the record at 8:00 p.m.)

MIKE SPAITS: Okay, if we could go ahead and resume the meeting by taking our seats for you stragglers in the back. Can everybody hear me okay? Great.

Okay, I'd like to start the public input session, and I'm going to call up the speakers in order that I gave you before, first the elected officials and then the general members of the public that wish to speak. I ask you to please speak clearly. State your full name and the name of your organization, if any, which you are representing before you begin your comments. Do not provide any other personal information such as your home address or phone number. Your oral comments will be used to develop a transcript and a permanent record of this meeting. Again, as a courtesy of those who have registered, please limit your comments, and I ask you to keep your comments to the scope of the BRAC issue tonight. This applies to all folks that want to speak, public officials, spokes persons, and individuals. You do not have to speak for your full allotted time. However, if you choose to speak -- well, actually we only have three members that are signed up to speak, so we're going to go ahead and let you speak. We're not going to do the timing. And let's see, we might as well get on with the first speaker. I'd like to call up Mr. Jim Roberson with the Ocean City Wright Fire Commission.

MR. ROBERSON: Thank you, Mike.

I'm Fire Commissioner for Ocean City Wright, and I just have a couple of brief comments and some very brief overlay of what we've seen.

My main concern as a fire commissioner is traffic. Since we are looking at cumulative impact of this BRAC implications I would like to specifically address the level of service designation E, which was mentioned in the previous EIS for 189, Highway 85, and the Martin Luther King.

As mentioned in that EIS, the level of service would drop. By that, I mean the speed of traffic would drop by 33 percent or less. That means if you're driving down Highway 189 at 50 miles an hour that two times a day the traffic's going to drop to 15 miles an hour or less. As a fire commissioner, I'm deeply concerned about that because our response times for our emergency vehicles will be impacted by that. And that's one of the only corridors we have to get around the fire district because we are wrapped around a bayou system, and the only way you can get a fire truck from Shalimar over to the other end of

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our district is to go around Lewis Turner or cross Shalimar Bridge. And if the level of service drops to 15 miles an hour, you're going to put those emergency vehicles in gridlock.

And I'd also remind Eglin that we have a joint-service agreement, or mutual-aid agreement, where we help you guys, and you guys help us, you know. Whenever there's a fire or emergency, we respond both ways. And I think that it's important for the Air Force and the Army's mission that these vehicles be able to move. We need to look at lessening that traffic load, even though it's within the county's guidelines, for service level. Lever service E is not really where we need to be as members of Okaloosa County. We really need to have a way to get around in our county for our own safety and for the safety of personnel on the base and others. So I just wanted to address that briefly.

I also will address the stormwater issues and other issues with the environmental impact after you've initiated your EIS. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Mr. Roberson. Next I'd like to call up Mr. Kirby Locklear.

MR. LOCKLEAR: Hi, my name is Kirby Locklear. I'm retired, and I live here in Ft. Walton Beach. I'm representing nobody but myself here.

I originally was going to address some of my comments as questions, but one of the biggest things that I want to stress, and I being a Native American is concerned about the -- all the construction that's going to be going on in this local area. I have (inaudible) on these historical sites for -- here in Ft. Walton Beach for a few months, and there is a potential of discovering some of the -- those sites, or disturbing those sites. And I know that Eglin is well prepared to protect some of those, but I just want to put that on the record as in your processes of -- near construction that, that be taken into account. I believe that's called the NAGRP Act, Native American's Grave Protection.

The other concern I have as a tester is the impact of what might happen with the testing versus the training. Sometimes everybody is going to be competing for limited resources, and I just know that's something I'll be looking forward to when this process goes further along. Thank you.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you very much, sir. Our last speaker to sign, Mr. Neil Arnott.

MR. ARNOTT: Yes, I am Neil Arnott.

My first observation is that there's no Okaloosa County Commissioners here, and I would think of an event of this importance to our area that the Okaloosa County Commissioners would surely be here, and I urge you all to call them and ask them why they're not here.

My second issue is I recognize that this is a small part of what's going on in this area. We have a housing issue going on with Camp Pinchot and Garnier Bayou. We have 33rd airplanes moving out of the area, we have a Hurlburt unit leaving the area, we have possibly the 46th Test Wing downsizing

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to some extent, and to me it would make sense to put all this together in one big pot, do the environmental impact of everything together, all inclusive, instead of separating this up into separate events. And then -- there's got to be a way to do that. There's got to be a way to get it all in one pot so you can see what little thing affects the big things. And so I would urge the Air Force to get this all put together.

You know, it doesn't make sense why we shouldn't be talking about the 46th Test Wing here also moving out. It doesn't make sense why we shouldn't be talking about the 33rd airplanes also moving out of here. It doesn't make sense we shouldn't be talking about the Hurlburt units out here. This all impacts each other. So I would urge the Air Force to put this all in one big pot, do one big study, one big RFP, one big environmental impact study and put it all together so we can all feel for what's going on in the total effect.

The issue of the Joint Strike Fighters, I see on one of the slides that they're going to be bringing in 75 planes, and they're going to be flying 15 percent night missions. As you know, this is a big tourist area. I used to fly in and out of Hickam Air Force Base all the time, and it got so bad towards the end of -- that we would -- we could not fly our KC-135 airplanes in and out of Hickam Air Force Base from like 11 o'clock at night to 6 o'clock in the morning just because we'd be flying over the condos. And I see that same thing happening here. We're going to have all these joint strike fighters coming in here, and there is going to be an issue at some point where, you know, the rich guys out there in those condos aren't going to want all these airplanes flying at low level right over their heads. That's all I have. Thank you.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Mr. Arnott. Is there anybody else that would like to speak tonight that's not signed up?

(Member of audience raises hand.)

Sir, could I ask you to sign up in the back so we that we have a record of who you are, and we'll get you up here as soon as you do.

(Audience participant signs in.)

MR. FINN: My name is Jim Finn. I'm a retired Chief in the Air Force. I was Superintendent Space Officer of Space Command, and I'm the president of a homeowner's association in Ft. Walton Beach, The Townhouses on Garnier Bayou. We're on the opposite side of the water from Camp Pinchon (sic) where you're going to put in housing.

I went through the closure and realignment of Lowry Air Force Base training school for our space troops going to Vandenberg when we ramped up Vandenberg, and I knew what the impacts were when it was a tiny schoolhouse that we moved. We had eight instructors, a pipeline of three hundred students in classes of eight, okay, throughout the year. And Lompoc grew a lot because the contractors started coming to the schoolhouse. Before, they used to be at Lowry. They had to go somewhere else. There's contractors that were projected to go to Oceana that aren't going there now. They're coming here.

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You've ramped up in what you said was the contractor, but that's only for the support of the schoolhouse. That can't be the whole enchilada, because look at how many flying spaces that we have where there is a preference of anybody that touches that air frame and was in the manufacture of it. They have a presence there of some sort, so they're going to flush out here also and put more demand on it. That's not in the numbers. Those things happen by default anyway.

Same thing, I -- I didn't notice any numbers on the Army side of support aircraft for those troops in their training missions. You're going to a base with an airfield and requesting airfield presence, and you're doing climbing training. They're mostly airlift operations of fixed wing and rotary wing, I would take it. You're getting the new 23, and you're probably using all your current rotary wing aircraft anyway. But they're probably all transient from the other support bases for their home base, coming down here using your facility, picking you up, taking you out to training missions, and taking you on ops missions, and all that good stuff. Those numbers aren't in there for impacts. You don't even give us a listing of that, and that's the part I'm looking at.

Because I'm looking at we only have two state highways in this area. We can forget 98. It's gridlocked all the time, so the only thing left is 85 going north, and 285 going northeast. 285 has got a good number of deer on there that just love to play tag, and it's a two-lane road. We need to push congress and our state legislators to make those federal highways and get federal money on them and so they can support the missions here. Because the state doesn't have the money. The county sure doesn't have the money, and those highways are going to have environmental impacts when they're quiet. I mean, they 12 laned I-95 in Southport just for hurricane evacuation, okay? We only have a simple little 4-lane road going north to Crestview, and it's gridlocked at I-10. That's now. We haven't even done anything.

So I can picture you going in at Duke Field, and that will probably be what happens because it's the most logical place to put it, but it's just going to be a nightmare, because all your people are going to be off-base in Crestview. No one's going to want to commute from Navarre. No one's going to want to come here from Panama City because that's probably where they're going to be able to afford, and yet they're going to have to come here from somewhere.

The only logical place would be, personally if I had a green thumb and just said -- you know, a magic wand and put you down where you needed to be, I would put you at field two on 285, have everybody in housing up in Mossy Head. But you don't get that, so you're going to just roughly go in where you can and hopefully you'll get good (inaudible) like you want with the minimum amount of impacts. But the county, it's going to be a nightmare here. It's not going to be pretty, and it's going to take you 20 years to ever undo the mistakes that are done at the

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beginning because there's just not -- there's not money. That's the kicker. There's no money.

We're not going to get it out of Tallahassee. It's just not going to happen. They can do all the platitudes they like. They don't do it. They talk. They never feed the money to the kitty. It takes us forever to get anything. They needed to 4-lane that bridge when they put it across mid-bay in the beginning, but they didn't do it so now we're having to undo that and put in another span.

And then fighting life point, that's not even on the charts about doing life point. And when you said you were going to have training on water, what you were meaning, saltwater, the ponds on the range, playing in the swamp like the rangers do, or -- and you're supposed to not have any impact in wetlands, so where are you playing? Where are you training at, saltwater?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lt. Col. Dill from the Special Forces Command, he can answer the training and operation questions.

LT. COL. DILL: I can talk a little about -- I'm Lt. Col. Dill. I'm Chief of Training with the Special Forces Command of the 7th Special Forces Group (inaudible).

MIKE SPAITS: Colonel, let me give you a microphone.

LT. COL. DILL: Okay. Again, I'm Chief of training for the Special Forces Command. Seventh Group is one of our support units, one of the seven special forces group that we monitor.

Bottom line is for training in the ocean, it's pretty much we have scuba detachments and all the special forces companies that have at least one scuba attachments. Those are most of the guys that do the over-the-water training. They could do parachute into the field, into the middle of the ocean, inflate their Zodiac boats and come ashore somewhere the way you see the rangers do (inaudible) along the water.

MR. FINN: So are you going to be --

LT. COL. DILL: We could do --

MR. FINN: Are you going to be training service out to the seals? Because they're doing that anyway.

LT. COL. DILL: Well, you can take up the mission with the department of defense, but we do have that same capability.

MR. FINN: What do you do --

LT. COL. DILL: But for us -- for us, the water infiltration is a method to get to the inland target. The seals, their objective is to hit targets on the water, like boats and oil platforms. For us, we get -- we leave the water and transit to a land target, but we still do summary lockouts. We do military freefall into the water. We do static line parachuting into the water, and we can also use other large ships to drop us off to -- again to move across the water and hit the land target.

MR. FINN: There's only two egress points on Eglin to the back range --

LT. COL. DILL: Yes.

MR. FINN: -- the (inaudible) range. So that means you're either dropping into the bay or you're dropping into logically on the sound side on the other side of the test range

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and coming across the island through the sound and going in across 98 where we brought in the Marines last year, or two years ago. And they came in on the back side up towards the ranger camps and went that way. So that's one -- that's the west side egress. And you've got the east side egress near Chocktaw Beach. So you have those two places to go there. So that means your helicopters have got to be out over all those yachts and dropping most likely night missions. You might do a few daytimes, but most of time you're going to be coming in there. So that's a --

LT. COL. DILL: Those would be options, yes. Not with

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MR. FINN: And each one goes into two problem (inaudible). There's a wetlands area there, and the other one is C-6 satellite tracking center. That's the other one. So you're kind of restricted down there.

LT. COL. DILL: Again, we move in very small elements. Our normal operations are a 12-man three breaking team, or smaller, so you will see a very limited signature. Those operations are normally stealthy.

MR. FINN: And you're stealthy.

LT. COL. DILL: That's correct. And so you will get limited disruption.

Now, granted, if there's some kind of rotary wing infill and exfill, which for us the normal -- the reason they put us here was synergy with U.S. Air Force Special Operations. So you will see a flight 99 percent of operations, air operation, in support, the 7th Group will come out of AFSOC. It's currently located here. So there won't be an increase on those kind of aircraft people. You will see some crews showing up for strategic lift to the combat zone. So, yes, you will see some C-17s rolling in here and so on. But again, the majority of the aircraft support will come out of AVSOC throughout the year.

But again -- so there may be some nighttime infills or exfills which do raise the noise signature, but again, our operations are stealthy in nature, so we -- you know, we try to move around. We don't leave footprints. You know, the guys they'll reduce what they're doing so you can't see them. And again, if those ingress/egress areas don't work for their training, it will be deconflicted through the appropriate authorities for where they need to move.

MR. FINN: I understand all that. When I worked with our range-support people out of Vandenberg and support them, Edwards and all those guys out there, because we -- we were the range controllers for safety and everything else in my periphery, so the one battle I always had to fight with the State of California was, one, there was two trains that ran through there all the time. It was a nightmare. But the other one was where civilian people were and where military was doing its thing occasionally chafed a lot. Especially when cell towers started going up.

When cell phones and cell towers started popping up like candy everywhere -- and they're growing all along 285 going up to I-10; they're starting to just blossom along that route --

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as those things come up, they restrict your air movements of low-flying aircraft. You're the only low flyers around here. All the other guys can fly above 500 feet and not have a problem, okay? But your guys want to be down low.

LT. COL. DILL: Well, sir, again, Air Force Special Operations can be handled through the experts that fly at those altitudes, and the pilots will deconflict those routes, rehearse them and execute them. Again, you know, we ride in the back. We jump out of them, but those guys are trained experts in this, and as you -- antennas and obstacles arise, they'll have to adjust.

MR. FINN: But that map is not indicative of all the things that are constraining you with the environment and also people growth. Because the point that was made that our commissioners are not here, guess who has the guys that control building permits and all that kind of stuff? They're the ones that are making plans today. Idiots are building on Destin right now, and they would love to put up a 40-foot building. They'd want to get up to 800 feet if they could do it, just as long as they can keep seeing the Gulf, okay?

The fact that they can climb right up into the radar beam of C-6 and hook everybody in their apartment is a different thing, and they don't take that into consideration. But -- and -- because they don't know about it. That's the biggest thing.

And the same thing goes for you. You're building out 20 years in the Isle of Palms trying to do all this stuff and get bedded down and not have anymore problems. But if the county's not here, and they're not in the game plan, or ignorant of it and not pushing for it. And the same thing with our Tallahassee delegation. Because, gee, I don't see one single congressman here. I don't see one single state senator or state representative here. None of those people are here at this point. They're not even involved, just the public.

MIKE SPAITS: Sir, a lot of your concerns that you brought up are very good concerns that will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. And in fact, that's the point of us doing this is to try to identify some of the issues that you've brought up here. And I can -- we've got your comments, and I ask you to take a look at the draft EIS when it comes out and see what issues may not have been addressed, and --

MR. FINN: While you're at it, make sure you put the Florida Trail on that map that you don't have.

MIKE SPAITS: Yes, sir.

MR. FINN: Because that's already been plotted, and it's there.

MIKE SPAITS: Yes, sir.

MR. FINN: Unless you're going to take it back.

MIKE SPAITS: Yes, sir, it's -- it wasn't on the map because it wasn't in this conversation tonight, but we -- it is in our scope.

MR. FINN: Because it's in one of the areas they want to do training.

MIKE SPAITS: Yes, sir. Okay.

MR. FINN: Okay.

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MIKE SPAITS: Thank you.

MR. FINN: That's about all I have. And what's the original bed down timeline? It says 2011. Is that only for the realignments? You're not using the closure date under BRAC for your end game. Because when I did Lowry, it was two years for realignment and five years for closures, which works out to what your '07 and '11 is. But that's if it's a closure action, but there's no closure in this case. We're just alignment.

MIKE SPAITS: Dennis, do you have information?

DENNIS HAFER: Yes. As far as the Joint Strike Fighter goes, it's a new aircraft development which has just started in flight this year. And the bed down right now is programmed for October of '09 as the first aircraft showing up. It will be very small ramp up until about 2013 which they're going to be full speed in 2013.

MR. FINN: So does the 33rd ramp down equally with the ramp up?

MIKE SPAITS: That's separate issues. That's a completely separate issue.

MR. FINN: But it drives everything. It drives whether there's enough housing or not enough housing. Does the -- are the highways adequate --

MIKE SPAITS: As far as this BRAC scoping meeting goes, the 33rd issue is a completely separate one from here. We have a 33rd representative here that may be able to address that. Can you address that?

MR. FINN: Because if you've got both units up at the same time then you overflow if you don't ramp up and down (inaudible).

LT. McMULLEN: I'm Lt. McMullen, 33rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs. Right now what we know is that our last F-15 will be taking off somewhere around 2010. We do not have any exact dates of departure of personnel as far as which ones will transfer over to JSF mission and which ones will move on to other jobs within the Air Force, so we're working on that.

LT. COL. DILL: Is that (inaudible) or 10?

LT. McMULLEN: Fiscal year 2010. Following that, no.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you.

MR. FINN: That should work.

MIKE SPAITS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Is there anybody else that would like to make a comment this evening?

(No response.)

In that case, I appreciate everyone's time and interest in the proposed changes at Eglin Air Force Base. Should you decide later that you want to make comments to this, you may write to the address shown on the comment sheets or you can send an e-mail to my -- to my e-mail address that's on the screen. If you have not indicated on the sign-in sheet that you wanted a copy of the document, and you decided you do, you can also use the same methodology. You can even call me, and I'll put you on the list for that.

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I would like to thank everybody for your participation in this meeting and have a good night.  
(Meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.)

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF BAY

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the public scoping meeting for Eglin Air Force Base held August 22, 2006, at Emerald Coast Conference Center, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing proceeding and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this the 28th day of August 2006.



Gertrude B. Downs

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SCOPING MEETING

EIS STATEMENT  
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE  
CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL  
CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA

AUGUST 24, 2006

Transcript of public scoping meeting held August 24, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. at Crestview High School, Crestview, Florida. Reported by Gertrude B. Downs, Notary Public in and for the State of Florida.

APPEARANCES:

Mike Spaits  
Public Affairs Representative for  
Environmental Management, Eglin Air Force Base

Randall Rowland  
Civil Engineering Group  
Environmental Management Division, Eglin Air Force Base

Dennis Hafer  
Joint Strike Fighter Program

Lt. Col. John Vavrin  
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

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COL. CLEMONS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Dean Clemons. I am the 96th Air Base Wing Commander, also known -- I'm also known as the Installation Commander for Eglin, and what we're doing here tonight is really the first or second step in a series of steps for the base realignment closure EIS, Environmental Impact Statement.

What we want to do is narrow the discussion for this EIS to those items that are germane to this EIS, and those items are the 7th Special Forces Group, the Joint Striker Fighter bed down, and the training requirements that support both of those. Does that make sense?

As the installation commander, recently I have received a lot of questions on housing privatization, a lot of questions on the 46th Test move, a lot of questions on wastewater treatment, and a myriad of other subjects. I'm happy and delighted to take those questions at the break, and I'll be thrilled to stay behind after we finish tonight and tackle that set of questions as well, but really what we're trying to do is scope, and that's why it's called a scoping meeting, from input from you and from the county commissioners we've already engaged with, and the Governor's office as represented by Mr. Wayne Helms. And, Wayne, if you'll raise your hand. Oh, right here. I'm sorry, Wayne.

The elected officials of the counties have been involved deeply as we move in this process and -- as is the Governor's office and Wayne. So, Wayne, thank you for that and coming with your colleagues. So those are the elements we want to consider.

Ideally what would have happened to -- at this point -- up until this point is you would have gotten a chance to sign in, be prepared to ask a series of your questions or make comment so we can better scope the effort and the impacts in the communities within the EIS boundary. Does that make sense to everyone? Does anyone not understand kind of the ground rules and where we're going to stand? Okay.

This is a, by definition and design, a NEPA process, National Environmental Policy Act process. That process, or this process, rather, is very rigid and has a necessity to be very scripted. This will not be grand entertainment. There is a script that all the members on the panel are bound to. Mike Spaits, as the moderator, is bound to a script, and as we move into a formal comment period, Mike will walk you through the mechanics and logistics of doing that in a very formal way with very formal time lines we all have to apply by. All right? So let me try to entertain any questions before we begin if there are any initial questions.

(No response.)

All right. Again, welcome, and thank you so very much for your engagement from your community perspective, from your personal perspective and what you can bring to making this

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process all so much better. Thank you, and let me turn you over to Mike Spaits, your moderator for tonight.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Col. Clemons.

Good evening and welcome to the public scoping meeting for the proposed base realignment and closure, also known as BRAC, 2005 program at Eglin Air Force Base. This public scoping meeting serves as one of several opportunities for the public to comment on the environmental review for this proposal.

My name is Michael Spaits. I am from Eglin Air Force Base Environmental Public Affairs. I'm here tonight to serve as the meeting facilitator. I am responsible for ensuring that everyone that wishes to comment about the proposed project has an opportunity to do so. Can everybody hear me in the back?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

(Microphone feedback.)

MIKE SPAITS: Okay. If we can, get some of that feedback out of here.

This evening our panel members will present information on the proposed 2005 defense base realignment and closure, or BRAC, program at Eglin Air Force Base, and our effort to assess the environmental impacts of its implementation in support of the interrelated decisions required to support the overall proposal. Representatives from Eglin Air Force Base, Headquarters Material Command, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Headquarters Marine Corps, and the U.S. Navy, Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, Headquarters Center for Environmental Excellence, and the Department of the Army are present tonight either as members of our panel or providing logistical support for this scoping meeting.

I'd like to begin with an introduction of the panel members. To my left is Mr. Randall Rowland Eglin Air Force Base Civil Engineer Group, Environmental Management Division. To his left is Mr. Dennis Hafer from the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, and next to him is Lt. Col. John Vavrin from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. We're here tonight because the Air Force is analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed BRAC 2005 program at Eglin Air Force Base.

Let me first set the stage for the program for this evening. It is in two parts. First, we will present the information on the 2005 BRAC program, what it means for Eglin Air Force Base, discuss the environmental analysis process, define the proposed actions and alternatives, inform you as to how to stay involved in this action and what you can expect over the next several months. The second part of the program is your opportunity to help us identify issues and alternatives to be addressed in the environmental analysis.

I'd like to now turn the stage over to Mr. Randall Rowland.

RANDALL ROWLAND: Good evening everyone. I am Randall Rowland from the environmental management division of the civil engineering group, and I am here to discuss the 2005 BRAC program decisions for Eglin Air Force Base and the National Environmental Policy Act.

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BRAC stands for base realignment and closure, and Congress authorized the Department of Defense to use the BRAC commission to reorganize its national base structure and increase efficiency and military readiness. In 2005, the BRAC's Commission final report for recommended base closures and realignments became law. Now the Air Force, along with other military services, must execute the 2005 BRAC program and conduct an environmental analysis of those proposed actions. We must begin implementation of the BRAC recommendations by September 15, 2007, and complete implementation by September 15, 2011.

The BRAC 2005 program means the following for Eglin Air Force Base. First, the Joint Strike Fighter, JSF Integrated Training Center, at Eglin Air Force Base. This would involve adding about 2,300 military, civilian, and contractor personnel to Eglin Air Force Base, bringing in 107 F-35 aircraft and providing flight training resources for the JSF personnel. Second, relocating the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), or 7th Group, from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base. This would include adding approximately 2,200 troops and providing ground-training resources for 7th Group personnel.

The third BRAC decision involves relocating the Defense Prep Production Agency, or DTRA, from Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, to Eglin Air Force Base. This requires bringing 36 military, civilian and contractor personnel to Eglin and moving conventional weapons research and development functions to Eglin but no training resources are needed for DTRA. Finally, the 2005 BRAC recommendation involved relocating an in-service engineering function of weapons and armament research, development, test, acquisition and evaluation from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Eglin.

The National Environmental Policy Act, more commonly referred to as NEPA, is involved and requires all federal agencies to identify and consider potential environmental effects associated with major federal actions. NEPA ensures the federal agencies consider social and environmental factors along with technical and economic components of its decision. The agency must identify potential impacts on resources such as water, air, wildlife, cultural resources, land use, recreation, and aesthetics and consider alternatives to the proposed action. NEPA also requires the responsible federal officials to scope with relevant federal and state agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public to determine these impacts.

Additionally, as required by NEPA, the Air Force must inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives and encourage public input during the environmental analysis process. Furthermore, as part of the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton County communities, Eglin Air Force Base is committed to involving the public and obtaining community-specific input.

The Environmental Analysis for the proposal will take the form of an environmental impact statement, also known as an EIS. The NEPA law is implementing regulations written by the President's Counsel on Environmental Quality, and the Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process contain detailed

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requirements for preparing environmental impact statements. These requirements can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40CFR 1500 through 1508, and 32CFR 989.

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and identified as significant issues related to proposed action. The Air force is soliciting input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated. Public involvement ensures local interest for addressing the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Air Force is conducting an EIS, which is the most detailed environmental analysis required by NEPA. Environmental analysis is required by NEPA because the scope of BRAC is significant and will impact the community and local environment. The EIS will provide the decision maker with the necessary information and understand the potential impacts of each alternative in making informed decisions. This EIS will address the BRAC 2005 program recommendations for Eglin Air Force Base. Specifically the establishment of the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center, cantonment and training areas, and the establishment of the 7th Special Forces Group Airborne cantonment and training areas. Please note that when we refer to cantonment, it's almost like a small city. Cantonments include administrative offices, classrooms and dormitories, infrastructure services, and equipment storage.

The potential impacts with the DTRA relocation will be addressed in a separate environmental assessment and incorporated into this EIS prior to the Secretary of Defense BRAC 2005 recommendations submitted on 13, May 2005 the technically joint cross service group evaluating realigning the weapons and armaments, research, development, tests acquisition and evaluation engineering efforts of Hill Air Force, Utah, to Eglin. However, the engineering workload and funding were no longer available after fiscal year 2005. Since there was no workload or existing funding for these efforts at Hill Air Force Base year 2005, these functions may not be realigned to Eglin Air Force Base from Hill pending final Office of Secretary of Defense approval. Therefore, this action may not be addressed in this EIS.

The EIS will not specifically address the potential environmental community impacts with associated housing, because the housing requirements for BRAC are not yet defined. The Air Force is in the process of conducting several internal studies to determine housing requirements of the incoming personnel and their families as a result of BRAC. The potential impacts from housing needs may specifically be addressed in a separate NEPA document once the requirements have been defined. At this time, this EIS will address housing impacts in a general sense and in the context of accumulative impacts.

This EIS will evaluate alternatives for the following at Eglin Air Force Base -- for the following at Eglin Air Force Base: Establishing the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center, establishing the 7th Group cantonment area, accommodating

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training requirements for both Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Group.

According to BRAC law, BRAC must be implemented as stated in the approved recommendations. Therefore, Air Force's proposed alternatives address how and not if BRAC should be implemented at Eglin.

As required by NEPA, the Air Force must identify and analyze reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Reasonable alternatives are alternatives that would meet the Air Force's underlying purpose and need for the proposed action. This meeting is important because the Air Force must consider input obtained through the scoping process and developing and analyzing reasonable alternatives. Within the range of reasonable alternatives, the Air Force is not required to consider highly speculative alternatives.

Also, required by NEPA, the Air Force must consider a no-action alternative or an alternative considering no changes at Eglin. However, it should be noted that BRAC action will be implemented at Eglin as required by law. The no-action alternative within EIS will simply reflect the base line or current conditions at Eglin and within surrounding areas which will then be used for analysis purposes.

The proposed action for this EIS is to implement actions in support of the BRAC 2005 program at Eglin as required by law. It includes three actions which we will review in detail in the upcoming slides. Construct a Joint Strike Fighter integrated center cantonment area, construct the 7th Group cantonment area, and accommodate Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Group training requirements. Each action has its own purpose, need and special requirements, requires an independent decision and has associated alternatives for implementation. Mr. Dennis Hafer will review the details to the Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Center. Mr. Hafer?

DENNIS HAFER: Hello and good evening. My name is Dennis Hafer, and I am the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office Site Acquisition Manager. I would like to present to you the details associated with the BRAC requirements for the JSF ITC and the proposed actions at Eglin Air Force Base.

BRAC calls for establishing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter integrated training center, that we call JSF ITC, at Eglin Air Force Base. This means establishing a joint training site for the Air Force, Navy, the Marine Corps, as well as for the United Kingdom and seven partner countries which are a full part of this program.

This training site will teach aviators and maintenance technicians how to properly operate and maintain the F-35 air system. The purpose of this particular action is to provide a cantonment area for the pilots that maintain the whole JSF air system.

JSF ITC needs to be close to the Eglin flight line and the runways for the F-35 and needs to be adequate acreage and existing facilities to support the new ITC. Access to Eglin's operating support functions is critical.

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The associated requirements for meeting the purpose of NEPA and JSF ITC include establishing a cantonment for our administrative area between 100 and 200 acres in size, providing 31 facilities at approximately 5.6 million square footing, and munitions storage area, and bedding down 107 F-35 aircraft and allowing for airfield operations. The alternatives for this proposed action are associated with finding an appropriate location for the JSF ITC cantonment area.

In arriving at the alternative locations for the JSF ITC the Air Force has coordinated with the joint program office to develop a list of minimum requirements for the JSF ITC and applied them to the Eglin military complex. To identify potential sites for development, those areas meeting all the criteria were included as potential alternatives. The minimum requirements included minimum runway, airfield and aircraft support and recovery requirements, available utilities, fueling access and auxiliary ground equipment, approximately 170 to 180 areas contiguous to the flight line, physical security and avoidance of wetlands and flood plains.

Because Chocktaw, Duke, and Hurlburt Fields only have one runway, they're not under consideration for JSF ITC cantonment locations. Furthermore, Camp Rudder is not under consideration as it does not meet runway requirements, and its location and logistics are not practical. The remaining possibilities include two potential locations at Eglin Main Base.

Alternative 1, the JSF preferred alternative, proposes locating the JSF ITC at the Eglin Main Base, the 33rd Fighter Wing area, and this area will be depicted on the map in the next slide. This area would require 23 newly constructed facilities involving approximately 4 million square foot of construction and approximately 1.6 million square foot of demolition or renovation. Alternative 2 proposes locating the JSF ITC at the east side of Eglin Main Base, the 46th Test Wing area. This would require 21 newly constructed facilities and involves approximately 1.2 million square foot of construction and approximately 1 -- 2.8 million square foot of demolition or renovation.

This area shows the proposed JSF ITC location under Alternative 1, the Eglin Main Base 33rd Fighter Wing area. This area shows the proposed JSF ITC location under Alternative 2, the east side of the Eglin Main Base at the 46th Test Wing area. And this area shows the current munition storage area that is proposed for use by the JSF ITC.

I would now like to turn over the presentation to Lt. Col. John Vavrin for a presentation of the proposal for the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Lt. Col. Vavrin.

LT. COL. VAVRIN: Thank you, Mr. Hafer.

Hello, my name is Lt. Col. John Vavrin, and I'm from the United States Army Special Operations Command out of Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. I would like to present to you details associated with BRAC requirements for the Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), or 7th Group, and the proposed action at Eglin Air Force Base.

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BRAC calls for moving the 7th Group from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base. Associated with this are the requirements for establishing a cantonment area and conducting training.

The purpose of the 7th Group cantonment area proposed action is to provide a cantonment area to prepare the group for wartime responsibilities. The 7th Group cantonment area needs a location with access to training ranges, a flight line that allows rapid and secluded deployments, convenient access to Eglin base operating and support functions, and seclusion for the operation and security and force protection.

The associated requirements for meeting the purpose and needs for the 7th Group cantonment area include the following: The cantonment and administrative area of approximately 300 acres, 33 facilities totaling approximately 1.5 million square feet for barracks, motor pools, and other buildings, a munition storage area. The alternatives for this proposed action are associated with finding an appropriate location for the 7th Group cantonment area.

In arriving at the proposed alternative locations for the 7th Group, the Air Force in coordination with the U.S. Army developed a list of minimum requirements for the 7th Group and apply them -- applied them to Eglin military complex to identify potential sites for development. Those areas meeting all of the criteria were included as a potential alternative. The minimum requirements include the following: Adequate acreage for cantonment, security and future expansion; a location that provides the following: Proximity to training ranges ideally no more than 10-minute transport time, deployment and air lift requirements, appropriate emergency response, appropriate access to major transportation artery. Appropriate ammunition storage and transport, no more than 20 miles distance to a communications barn, minimal environmental considerations, avoidance of unexploded ordnance areas, and meets barracks requirements, including capacity and noise and safety.

Camp Rudder was eliminated from consideration due to the fact that its airfield was unusable by the 7th Group, is not within an appropriate distance to a major transport artery, and is outside the minimum response line. Hurlburt Field was eliminated as a potential alternative because it has no expansion potential. The remaining possibilities include three locations at Eglin main base identified as Alternative 1 and three locations at Duke Field identified as Alternative 2.

Alternative 1 proposed to locate the 7th Group cantonment area near Eglin Main Base in the following three locations which are depicted on the map before you. Alternative 1(a) is the triangle which is located between Highways 85 and 189 is approximately 405 acres. Alternative 1(b) is the Eglin west gate located inside Eglin main west gate. It is approximately 570 acres. Alternative 1(c) is the north Poquito alternative, and that's adjacent to the University of Florida Research and Engineering Education Facility and is approximately 319 acres.

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These alternatives do require all new construction. The red box shows the current location of the munitions storage area proposed for use by the 7th Group under Alternative 1. Alternative 2, which is the Army's preferred alternative, proposes to locate the 7th Group cantonment area near to the field at the following two locations: Alternative 2(a) is the Duke Field southeast and is approximately 405 acres. Alternative 2(b) is Duke Field northwest, and that is approximately 525 acres. Alternative 2(c) is Duke Field northeast and that's approximately 986 acres.

These alternatives would require all new construction and share the use of existing munitions storage area. The area outlined in green is the existing munitions storage at Duke Field that is proposed for use by the 7th Group.

I would like now to turn the presentation over to Mr. Rowland for discussion of the proposed action associated with Joint Strike Fighter and the 7th Group training at Eglin Air Force Base.

RANDALL ROWLAND: Thank you, Lt. Col. Vavrin.

The third action that will be addressed in this EIS is associated with training for the Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Group. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide adequate ranges and air space for both the Joint Strike Fighter and the 7th Group missions while maintaining range access for current and future users.

Eglin military complex range reconfiguration may be necessary to support the training requirements of the JSF and 7th Group. The Air Force is conducting an extensive evaluation of Eglin's range to determine whether reconfiguration is necessary and to identify possible alternatives it requires.

The range configuration meets the maximized mission flexibility and sustainability for both current and future users and using the Eglin military complex in a manner that does not adversely impact the environment or the neighboring communities. Specifically, the JSF training requires use of 107 F-35 aircraft, training an average of 246 days out of the year, or 20.5 training dates per month, and 114 sorties per day. Twenty-five percent of the flights would occur during the night, and 15 percent at an altitude of 3,000 feet or lower, and the use of live inert ordnance, such as bombs and guns, similar to what is currently used at Eglin.

Specifically the 7th Group training requirements are 13 new range facilities, more than 6,000 acres of training area, approximately 20 -- 43,000, sorry, training hours per year with wheeled vehicles, such as Humvees and heavy trucks, fixed and rotary winged aircraft, live and inert ordnance, such as guns and hand grenades, and water operations, such as small rubber boats.

Minimum requirements for identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate JSF training include multiple low-level routes, specific aircraft operating altitude requirements within specified distances from the main operating base, access to air-to-air and air-to-ground ranges near the main

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operating base, ability to -- for inert and live weapons training and noise levels should not adversely impact the public.

Similarly, minimum requirements for the identifying candidate alternatives to accommodate the 7th Group training include adequate maneuver space and access to the 7th Group and other current and future users, and a range area available to create the required 13 training ranges. Additional considerations for identifying candidate alternatives included minimizing environmental, safety and community public impacts, costs, maintaining existing flight routes and -- approaching -- approaches at Eglin, maintaining future mission flexibility, and maintaining electronic frequency compatibility, providing night access to ranges, and minimizing range evacuation due to other training missions.

This map shows the heavily used areas of the Eglin reservation as represented by the brown colored areas. The darker the brown the more heavily used. The areas must be considered when developing alternatives for accommodating BRAC-related training.

The next map shows environmental considerations, such as endangered species, that must be considered when developing alternatives for BRAC-related training and range configuration. As you can see, much of the Eglin Reservation is habitat or threatened and endangered species, including the red cockaded woodpecker, and the Okaloosa darter.

This map shows recreation areas on Eglin from a land-use perspective. Areas open to the public must also be considered when developing BRAC-related training alternatives. Establishing new training ranges or moving others may require the use of existing areas currently used for recreation. Pink and orange colored areas represent those areas currently restricted to the public.

Alternatives associated with training are based on whether or not the range can accommodate new BRAC-related training within its current configuration or whether or not some form of reconfiguration is required. They include Alternative 1, no-range reconfiguration, this alternative no reconfiguration of any existing uses of the Eglin military complex or relocating any facilities or user groups. In other words, new user groups, such as the JSF and the 7th Group, would fit into the current configuration.

Alternative 2, minor range reconfiguration, under this alternative relocation of existing user groups and land and air space use changes are considered. Some land use and airspaces would be considered fixed assets and would not be moved. Range assets not identified as fixed could be moved to accommodate new training requirements.

And then Alternative 3, major range reconfiguration. Under this alternative no consideration for fixed assets or prioritization would be given to an existing mission and all options would be open.

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This map shows the range assets that would need to be considered when identifying those that are fixed or could be moved during alternative development.

Greenish areas represent sensitive species concerns. Orange areas are test and training ranges. Pinkish areas are those with unexploded ordnance concerns, and the purple lines represent air space.

After the proposed actions and alternatives are identified, the BRAC 2005 program EIS will examine potential impacts to the human environment that could be affected by these proposals. Environmental resources that will be evaluated include socioeconomics, including schools, public services, and economic activity, transportation, noise, natural resources, including stormwater and erosion, water quality and threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, land use and recreation, including military and community land use and recreation, safety, utilities, including potable water, wastewater, electricity and natural gas, solid waste, air quality and hazardous materials.

Above is the Eglin BRAC 2005 EIS schedule. You can see the Air Force published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on July 28, 2006. The Air Force held a scoping meeting on August 22nd and then again tonight. And please note that while the scoping period ends August 31st, 2006, scoping is an ongoing process, and we will gather information about the affected environment, refine the proposed action and alternatives and then analyze the potential impacts to the various resource categories I mentioned earlier.

When we complete this analysis, we will publish the results in the Draft EIS in January or February of 2007 and send it out for a 45-day public review and comment period. During this period we will hold two public hearings, most likely in March, to review our findings and receive comments. Finally, we will respond to comments and modify the EIS, if needed, and publish the final document next year in August 2007. Thirty days after the final EIS is released to the public, the Air Force expects to sign a record of decision, or ROD. The ROD will say whether the proposed action will be implemented and which site alternative has been selected. The Air force expects preparation of the EIS and the signing of a record of decision to be completed in September of 2007.

I would now like to turn it back over to Mr. Mike Spaits.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Randy.

Before we take a short break, I'd like to make a few administrative announcements.

In order to prepare an accurate and thorough EIS, we invite the public, government officials, and interested government agencies to provide written or verbal comments. We need your help in ensuring that the full scope of issues is identified and that any significant environmental concerns related to this proposal are identified and appropriately addressed.

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In summary, we're conducting this scoping process in order for the Air Force decision maker to consider the environmental consequences associated with the proposed project while refining alternatives. We're here tonight to listen to your views and concerns regarding environmental issues associated with BRAC 2005 initiative. If you wish to speak tonight, we would like you to sign up on one of the tables outside of the double doors here. We invite elected officials to speak first, and then I will call all other speakers in the order that they've signed in.

If you speak this evening, please use the microphone made available on either aisle here, and clearly enunciate your name and -- so we can have an accurate record of your concerns and issues. Please confine your issues to the scope of tonight's meeting. Also please limit your comments to five minutes so that everyone that would care to speak has an opportunity to speak.

Written comment sheets are available at the registration table if you care to put in written comments instead of speaking. You can turn these sheets in at the end of the evening, or you can mail them, fax them, or e-mail them to us at your convenience. If you mail your comments, send them to the address printed on the comment sheets. The address will also be shown on the screen during the comment period.

We welcome public comments in writing at any time during the environmental analysis process. However, to receive timely consideration for the Draft EIS, we encourage you to provide your comments by August 31st.

When you signed in, you had an opportunity to check a box to request a copy of the Draft EIS. If you did not request a copy of the Draft EIS when you signed in but would like to have one, at the break please go back to the sign-in tables and check that box. Also, if you care, you can send me an e-mail, a fax, a letter requesting a copy of the document. We'll make sure that one gets to you.

We are making an official record of this meeting to be added with the EIS administrative record. This is to ensure that all of your comments are considered during the preparation of the EIS. Written comments will also become part of the administrative record and will receive full and equal consideration.

Tonight is not the end of your opportunity to participate in the environmental review process. The preparation of an EIS is an ongoing process and as such, you can provide comments throughout its entire development. The public scoping period ends August 31st, 2006. Input received by this date will be considered in the development of the Draft EIS.

Right now let's take about a 10-minute break before beginning the public comment session. If you have not had an opportunity to do so, I encourage you to take a look at some of the display boards out there, and the fact sheets that are available to you, and we'll make an announcement in the hallways when we're getting ready to start again, so let's take about a 10-minute break.

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(Intermission was taken at 7:45 p.m. Return to the record at 7:55 p.m.)

MIKE SPAITS: All right, we're ready to resume the meeting. I'd like to start before we go any further to remind everyone that this is a scoping meeting. We are here to get your inputs into the BRAC process so that we can incorporate them into our analysis of the documents. We're not necessarily here for -- we may not be able to provide answers if you have a lot of questions. And a lot of that stems from the fact that we're trying to get information on what to analyze and a lot of things will come out during that analysis. So where you have certain questions on things, we may not have the answers to it. I just wanted to let you know up front tonight.

So let me just ask that when you do come up to speak, please clearly state your full name and the name of your organization, if you are representing an organization, before you begin your comments. Please do not provide us with any other personal information such as your home address or phone number. Your oral comments will be used to develop a transcript and permanent record of this meeting.

Again, as a courtesy of others who have registered, we ask you to limit your comments to five minutes. If you have -- feel you have comments that go longer, I encourage you to use the sheets, the written portion, and deliver those to us, and again, you can e-mail it into the address on the screen. You can mail them to us. You can fax them. We'll take them in any manner that you can get them to us.

Okay, the five-minute limit applies to everyone, public officials, spokespersons and individuals. If you do not have to speak for the first -- for the full five minutes, if you don't have five minutes to fill up, that's okay, too. You can make comments, and we'll take those. If you do, however, speak for five minutes, a yellow card will be raised when you have about 30 seconds left to speak, and a five-minute mark, the red card, may be raised indicating that your time has expired.

(Thirty-second card displayed.)

Again, I encourage you to please, if you feel like you have a lot of comments to make beyond what would take five minutes, please put them in writing and get them to us, and they will hold the same amount of weight as oral comments made tonight.

So with that, let me ask city council member -- Crestview City Council Ellis Potter, are you here? Yes, sir, would you please...

MR. CONNER: Thank you, Mike, and members of the BRAC Committee. We would like to welcome you to Crestview for your second scoping meeting here in North Okaloosa County.

I am Ellis Potter, President of the City Council. As you're scoping out your environmental concerns, the City of Crestview is scoping out our responsibilities as it relates to the impact of BRAC and North Okaloosa County, and particularly the City of Crestview.

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As it's taking you a couple of three years before the impact of the additional troops that will be coming to our area, we need two or three years to get our infrastructure in place to accommodate the demand which would be placed upon our city of Crestview. We're presently involved in doubling our wastewater treatment plant capacity, adding additional potable water capabilities to our distribution system, increasing our recreation facilities, and all those impacts on the city infrastructure as a result of BRAC impacting Crestview.

And again, I thank you for choosing Crestview for your second scoping meeting, and we'll be looking forward to working with the BRAC committee to provide the housing which will be generated by your impact. Thank you.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Mr. Conner.

Our second speaker tonight, Mr. Edward Cole? Mr. Cole?

MR. COLE: Good evening, my name is Edward Cole. I'm retired Air Force. I live here in Crestview.

I just -- I didn't know how much information was being given here. I have seen that most all of my questions and concerns have been answered. I just wanted to make an input that I thought two things: One, that the 7th Special Forces Group ought to use Duke Field, which they already are considering very strongly. My second comment, though, is transportation infrastructure. The prison road, I don't know the name of it, off of 85 there, I think you need an interstate-quality loop that would pull off of 85, go by Duke Field on the north end there and go on up to Interstate-10 to be able to handle transportation needs.

The base is probably going to be used in the future as staging areas for wars that are fought around. I'm from the 1973 era where the C-5s came in and moved things all over the world, and re-equipped Israel faster than the Russians could re-equip the Egyptians. So the C-17 is your major mover now, and the base, I've heard, is already going to be improved runway to handle the C-17. I'm not positive on that. But the moving of transportation of tanks and whatever by interstate methods to get to that field for future use is what I'm talking about. A loop would be something that you might consider. Thank you.

MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, sir. Finally, I'd like to -- Mr. Ken Wright. Mr. Wright?

KEN WRIGHT: Good evening, my name is Ken Wright. I'm with Emerald Coast Partners. I presently work with a developer in the local are that has roughly about 2,000 homesites that are available. And basically what we wanted to I guess prepare ourselves for is that the private industry is there to support this, and from a range of apartments all the way to single-family homes. So we also would be a viable alternative to some of the privatization. I have had some experience. I'm retired military myself, and actually a local native here as well. So I just wanted to say that we have some alternatives available as well.

MIKE SPAITS: Great. Thank you very much. Okay, with that I'd like to kind of remind everyone that the comments made

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tonight from the folks who came up to the microphone is not your last opportunity. There's going to be opportunities all the way through this process until the document is completed and signed, until a record of decision is signed, for you to input your concerns and issues. So please don't hesitate to use the information that's up there and let us know what things that are concerning you.

I appreciate your time and interest in the proposed changes at Eglin Air Force Base, and again, if you should decide to make additional comments, you may write to that address or call and get more information. And again, if you would like your own copy of the Draft EIS, please make sure you let us know in the sign-in sheets outside or just send us a letter, or postcard, or an e-mail, or call, and we'll make sure you get your own copy.

With that, I'd like to thank you very much for your participation. This meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.)

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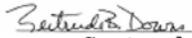
STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF BAY

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the public scoping meeting for Eglin Air Force Base held August 24, 2006, at Crestview High School, Crestview, Florida.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing proceeding and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this the 29th day of August 2006.

  
Gertrude B. Downs

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**SCOPING UPDATE MEETING TRANSCRIPTS (2007)**

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SCOPING MEETING  
EGLIN BRAC PROGRAM 2005  
EIS SCOPING MEETING  
COMFORT INN -- CONFERENCE CENTER  
NAVARRE, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Transcript of public scoping meeting held November 6, 2007, beginning at 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at Comfort Inn Conference Center, Navarre, Florida. Reported by Gertrude B. Downs, FPR, Notary Public in and for the State of Florida.

## APPEARANCES:

Mike Spaits  
Public Affairs Representative for  
Environmental Management, Eglin Air Force Base

Col. Eric Pohland  
96th Air Base Wing Commander  
Eglin Air Force Base

Randall Rowland  
Civil Engineering Group  
Environmental Management Division  
Eglin Air Force Base

Col. George Ross  
Air Education and Training Command

Col. Greg Koenig  
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

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1 JENNIFER GEESLIN: Okay, well most people are  
2 seated so we'll take that as a sign that you are  
3 eager and ready to hear what we're going to talk  
4 about this evening, so first and foremost, welcome  
5 to the BRAC scoping update meeting.

6 For those of you who didn't get a chance to  
7 join us almost a year ago when we had our original  
8 scoping meetings, welcome. For those of you who  
9 were with us before, welcome back. We're happy to  
10 be back out here and share some new information,  
11 and give you an update on where this project and  
12 proposal are headed.

13 Before we begin, just a few things, again,  
14 snacks in the back. There's coffee back there if  
15 you need a little cookie to get through the  
16 meeting so please help yourself. Restrooms for  
17 both men and women are just outside this back door  
18 here.

19 If you have any Blackberries, cell phones,  
20 pagers if you wouldn't mind turning them off or to  
21 the vibrate position, we would really appreciate  
22 it. When they start ringing, they kind of get in  
23 the way of our court reporter here, and sometimes  
24 it's hard for her to record an accurate record for  
25 us if we're having ringing and all kinds of music

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1 going on in the background.

2 Before I turn it over to our panel speakers, I  
3 would like to introduce a few people that are with  
4 us this evening. First, Miss Natalie Simpson,  
5 representing Ray Sansom's office. Thank you for  
6 being here. Mr. Bart Pullum from the Florida  
7 Transportation Commission; Mr. Mark Williams, the  
8 president of the Navarre Chamber of Commerce; Miss  
9 Loretta Aiken, the Santa Rosa Fire Commissioner;  
10 and of course Col. Eric Pohland, the 96th Air Base  
11 Wing Commander. Thanks for being here, sir.

12 And without further adieu, I will turn it over  
13 to our first speaker this evening, Mr. Mike Spaits  
14 from the Eglin Air Force Base Environmental Public  
15 Affairs Office.

16 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Jennifer.

17 Good evening and welcome to the scoping  
18 meeting update for the proposed base realignment  
19 enclosure, also know as BRAC 2005 decisions at  
20 Eglin Air Force Base.

21 Because we want to ensure we provide an  
22 accurate public record our presentation will be in  
23 a scripted format. This scoping meeting was  
24 designed to provide you an update on the actions  
25 associated with implementing the BRAC decisions

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1 since our first scoping meetings in August 2006,  
2 and to allow you an opportunity to provide input in  
3 regards to the new information in addition to input  
4 already provided at the first meetings. This is  
5 one of several opportunities for public comment for  
6 the environmental review of this proposal.

7 Again, my name is Michael Spaits. I am from  
8 Eglin Air Force Base Environmental Public Affairs,  
9 and I'm here to serve tonight as the meeting  
10 facilitator. I'm responsible for ensuring that  
11 everyone that wishes to a comment about the scope  
12 of issues regarding the proposed project has an  
13 opportunity to do so.

14 Before we get started, I'd like to introduce  
15 Col. Pohland, the 96th Air Base Wing Commander.  
16 Col. Pohland.

17 COL. POHLAND: Thanks, Mike.

18 Well, my purpose tonight is for you  
19 (inaudible) brief. I do some introductory  
20 comments, and then I really turn it over to the  
21 panel members, but I do want to just offer a couple  
22 of thoughts. First, obviously, on behalf of  
23 General Eidsaune, the Air Armament Center  
24 Commander, and all of Eglin Air Force Base, thanks  
25 for coming out and being with us tonight, and

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1 really with us in a very helpful way as we scope  
2 this issue.

3       And I say that sincerely in terms of helping  
4 us because many of you know Eglin Air Force Base  
5 was a true success story for BRAC 2005, and I say  
6 that because Eglin Air Force Base, of course,  
7 didn't lose any missions or close under base  
8 realignment and closure but instead gained some  
9 very significant missions. And two of those  
10 biggest pieces are the things that we're going to  
11 talk about tonight, the Joint Strike Fighter  
12 Integrated Training Center, and then also the U.S.  
13 Army set of special forces group.

14       Now with those challenges, or with those new  
15 missions, of course come some challenges, and, you  
16 know, potentially foremost among those is noise  
17 associated with the Joint Strike Fighter. What  
18 we're really looking at is as the Joint Strike  
19 Fighter matures, and we get fully mission  
20 operational with that training center, about 2015,  
21 that we will more than double the number of flight  
22 operations currently at Eglin. So as we do that,  
23 then we certainly have to consider the noise  
24 associated with that, and so we honestly and  
25 sincerely welcome your input as we scope that

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1 issue.

2 Similarly, the 7th Special Forces Group, as  
3 they come to Eglin Air Force Base, we need to look  
4 at challenges of training space, training  
5 utilization of our ranges. And where we anticipate  
6 some impacts there is we anticipate potentially  
7 having to close some areas that are currently used  
8 for recreation, and we have to do that because of  
9 safety concerns as we put the Army mission at Eglin  
10 Air Force Base. So those are the kinds of topics  
11 that these briefers will walk you through in a very  
12 precise way tonight. And I'll close by saying  
13 again, we welcome your input. We want to know your  
14 concerns, your issues, and thank you again for  
15 attending.

16 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Col. Pohland.

17 This evening our panel members will present  
18 updated information on the proposed Eglin Air Force  
19 Base, base realignment and closure, BRAC 2005,  
20 decisions, and our effort to assess the scope of  
21 the environmental impacts of its implementation.

22 I'd like to begin with an introduction of the  
23 panel members. To my left is Mr. Randall Rowland  
24 from the Eglin Air Force Base Environmental  
25 Management Division. He will discuss the National

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1 Environmental Policy Act, also known as NEPA,  
2 process and schedule. To his right, excuse me, to  
3 his left is Col. George Ross from the Air Education  
4 and Training Command. He will discuss the JSF ITC  
5 beddown, and next to him is Col. Greg Koenig from  
6 the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. He will  
7 discuss the requirements of the 7th Special Forces  
8 cantonment area and training area beddown.

9 We're here tonight because the Air Force is  
10 developing an environmental impact statement known  
11 as an EIS to analyze the environmental impacts of  
12 implementing the BRAC 2005 decisions at Eglin Air  
13 Force Base.

14 Let me first set the stage for this program  
15 this evening. It's in two parts. First we will  
16 present information on the BRAC 2005 decision, what  
17 it meant for Eglin Air Force Base, discuss the  
18 Environmental Impact Analysis process, define the  
19 proposed actions and alternatives and what we've  
20 learned since the last time we met, inform you how  
21 to be involved, and what you can expect over the  
22 next several months.

23 In the second part of our program is your  
24 opportunity to help us identify the scope of the  
25 issues and alternatives to be addressed in the

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1 environmental analysis.

2 We want to ensure that all of your inputs are  
3 carefully examined in the draft EIS and that we  
4 successfully address all of the issues. Therefore,  
5 all of tonight's presentation will be recorded by a  
6 court reporter to ensure accuracy. Any questions  
7 you pose this evening will be treated as comments  
8 and addressed in the draft EIS for analysis.

9 The draft EIS is scheduled to be released for  
10 review in May 2008. Keep in mind you may submit  
11 your comments in writing any time during the EIS  
12 process. However, to be included in the analysis  
13 in the draft EIS, all comments must be received no  
14 later than December 7, 2007. Comments received  
15 after that will still carry forward into the final  
16 EIS.

17 I'd like to now turn the presentation over to  
18 Mr. Randall Rowland.

19 RANDALL ROWLAND: Thank you, Mike.

20 My name is Randall Rowland from the  
21 environmental management division at Eglin, and I'm  
22 here tonight to give you -- to brief you on the  
23 2005 BRAC program decisions for Eglin and the  
24 National Environmental Policy Act.

25 BRAC stands for base realignment and closure,

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1 and in 2005 the BRAC commission's base closure and  
2 realignment decisions became law. Now that the Air  
3 Force -- now the Air Force, along with other  
4 military services, must execute the 2005 BRAC  
5 decisions and conduct an environmental analysis of  
6 the implementation of BRAC decisions which must be  
7 completed by September 15th, 2011.

8 The BRAC 2005 decision means the following for  
9 Eglin Air Force Base. First, establishing the  
10 Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center, or  
11 ITC, at Eglin Air Force Base and this would involve  
12 adding about 2,300 military and civilian and  
13 contractor personnel to Eglin, bringing about 107  
14 F-35 aircraft representing three variant models,  
15 and then providing flight and maintenance training  
16 for Joint Strike Fighter personnel.

17 Second, the relocation of the 7th Special  
18 Forces Group Airborne from Fort Bragg, North  
19 Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base, and this  
20 includes bringing approximately 2,200 personnel and  
21 then the ground training resources for those  
22 personnel.

23 The National Environmental Policy Act, also  
24 known as NEPA, is federal law that requires federal  
25 agencies to identify and consider the potential

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1 environmental or human health impacts of their  
2 proposal and any reasonable alternatives.  
3 Additionally, as required by NEPA, the Air Force  
4 must inform the public of the proposed action and  
5 alternatives and encourage public input during the  
6 environmental analysis process, and that's part of  
7 the reason we're here tonight. Furthermore, as  
8 part of the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton  
9 communities, Eglin Air Force Base is committed to  
10 involving the public and obtaining  
11 community-specific input.

12 The environmental analysis for the proposal  
13 will take the form of an Environmental Impact  
14 Statement, also known as an EIS. The NEPA law, its  
15 implementing regulations written by the President's  
16 Council on Environmental Quality, and the Air  
17 Force's environmental impact analysis process  
18 contain requirements for preparing environmental --  
19 detailed requirements for preparing these  
20 environmental impact statements.

21 The Air Force is developing an EIS which is  
22 the most detailed environmental analysis required  
23 by NEPA. The BRAC EIS will provide the decision  
24 maker detailed information to understand potential  
25 impacts of each proposed alternative and to make an

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1 informed decision. The deputy assistant secretary  
2 of the Air Force for installations is the decision  
3 maker for this EIS. The current scope of the EIS  
4 will address the first two BRAC 2005 program  
5 requirements, the establishment of the Joint Strike  
6 Fighter Integrated Training Center, and the  
7 relocation of the 7th Special Forces Group from  
8 Fort Bragg to Eglin. This EIS will evaluate  
9 alternative ways for establishing the Joint Strike  
10 Fighter Integrated Training Center Cantonment area  
11 establishing the 7th Special Forces Group  
12 Cantonment area and accommodating training  
13 requirements for both the Joint Strike Fighter and  
14 the 7th Special Forces Group.

15 According to law BRAC must be implemented as  
16 stated in the approved BRAC Commission's  
17 recommendations. Therefore, by BRAC law the Air  
18 Force's proposed alternative addressed how and not  
19 if BRAC will be implemented at Eglin. As required  
20 by NEPA, the Air Force must identify and analyze  
21 reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed  
22 action. Reasonable alternatives are alternatives  
23 that would meet the Air Force's underlying purpose  
24 and need for the action, and within the range of  
25 reasonable alternatives the Air Force is not

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1 required to consider highly speculative  
2 alternatives.

3 Also required by NEPA the Air Force must  
4 consider the no-action alternative, or an  
5 alternative considering changes to Eglin Air Force  
6 Base even if the BRAC actions were not implemented.  
7 However, it should be noted that the BRAC actions  
8 will be implemented at Eglin by law, and the  
9 no-action alternative within the EIS will simply  
10 reflect a baseline or current conditions at Eglin  
11 and within the surrounding areas which will be then  
12 used for analysis purposes.

13 The purpose of the action in this EIS is to  
14 implement the BRAC 2005 program as required by law,  
15 and it includes four actions which we will review  
16 in detail in the upcoming slides. That is to  
17 construct the 7th Special Forces Group cantonment,  
18 accommodate the 7th Special Forces Group training  
19 requirements, construct the Joint Strike Fighter  
20 cantonment area, and accommodate Joint Strike  
21 Fighter flight operations requirements.

22 There are alternative ways to implement each  
23 of these alternatives. Each action has its own  
24 defined needs and requirements and each alternative  
25 must meet the underlying purpose and need of the

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1 BRAC program. Each action requires an independent  
2 decision.

3 And now Col. Greg Koenig will now discuss the  
4 details of the proposed action for the U.S. Army  
5 Special Operations Group.

6 COL. KOENIG: Thank you very much, Randall.

7 My name is Col. Greg Koenig. I'm the USOP  
8 Deputy Chief Staff Engineer from Ft. Bragg, North  
9 Carolina. I would like to present to you the  
10 details associated with the BRAC requirements to  
11 move the Army 7th Special Forces Group in proposed  
12 action here at Fort -- Eglin Air Force Base.

13 BRAC calls for moving the 7th Special Forces  
14 Group from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Eglin.  
15 Associated with this is requirement for  
16 establishing cantonment area and an area to conduct  
17 training. The first action under the realignment  
18 for 7th Special Forces Group requires the  
19 establishment of a cantonment area as an area to  
20 provide space for the 7th Special Forces Group to  
21 prepare for the war-time mission.

22 The 7th Special Forces Group cantonment area  
23 needs access to a flight line. That includes rapid  
24 and secluded deployments, convenient access to  
25 Eglin main base operating facilities and support

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1 functions. And it also requires an area that has  
2 seclusion for operational security and for force  
3 protection.

4 The cantonment area responsibilities, or  
5 requirements including the following:  
6 Administrative areas which will include barracks,  
7 offices, classrooms, and a motor pool or motor  
8 park, a location with adequate acreage for security  
9 and for future expansion within the cantonment area  
10 at a later date. We also need a munitions storage  
11 area and the ability to transport munitions across  
12 the installation.

13 The need requires that we have the following:  
14 A proximity to training ranges ideally no more than  
15 ten-minute transport time, timely deployment for  
16 airlift, timely emergency response, access to a  
17 major transportation artery. We need to be within  
18 20 miles of a communications farm. We like to be  
19 in an area that has minimal environmental  
20 restrictions, and we like to be in an area that has  
21 avoidance of UXO ordnance. We'd also like to be  
22 compatible with the surrounding land uses, noise  
23 levels and any safety restrictions.

24 The current alternative locations can be  
25 grouped into the following five geographical

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1 locations: Eglin Main Base, Duke Airfield, an area  
2 west of Duke Field, an area just to the north of  
3 Eglin Main, and an area that is close to DeFuniak  
4 Springs.

5 Alternative 1 proposes to locate the 7th  
6 Special Forces Group cantonment area near Eglin  
7 Main Base at the following three possible locations  
8 depicted on this slide. The first alternative, 1  
9 Alpha, we call the triangle, is located between  
10 Highway 85 and Highway 189. 1 Bravo alternative is  
11 located at Eglin West Gate just inside the Main  
12 West Gate. Alternative 1 Charlie, which we call  
13 North Poquito, is adjacent to the research and  
14 engineering education facility. These alternatives  
15 would require all new construction and shared use  
16 of existing storage munitions area.

17 Alternative 2 proposes to locate the 7th  
18 Special Forces Group cantonment near Duke Airfield  
19 at the following five possible locations:  
20 Alternative 2A is just to the southeast of Duke.  
21 Alternative 2B is to the northwest of Duke Field.  
22 Alternative 2 Charlie is to the northeast of Duke  
23 airfield. Alternative 2 Delta is further east of  
24 Duke, and Alternative 2 Echo is on the Eglin north  
25 border. These alternatives would also require all

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1 new construction and shared use of existing  
2 munitions storage areas.

3 Alternatives 3, 4 and 5 are shown on this map.  
4 Alternative 3 is approximately four miles to the  
5 west of Duke Field. This alternative is currently  
6 the preferred alternative for where we want to  
7 beddown the 7th Special Forces Group. This  
8 alternative would require all new construction and  
9 the shared use of existing munitions storage  
10 facilities at Duke Airfield.

11 Alternative 4 is two miles north of Eglin Main  
12 Base. This alternative would also require all new  
13 construction and would require the use of existing  
14 munitions storage areas on Eglin Main.

15 Alternative 5 is near the northeastern border  
16 of Eglin Reservation near the intersection of Range  
17 Road 212 and Range Road 382. Alternative 5 would  
18 require all new construction and the shared use of  
19 existing munitions storage areas at Duke Airfield.  
20 Again, the Alternative 3 is our preferred location.

21 The second action proposed for the 7th Special  
22 Forces Group beddown that will be addressed tonight  
23 in this EIS is associated with training for the 7th  
24 Special Forces Group. The purpose of this proposed  
25 action is to provide adequate ranges for their

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1 missions while maintaining range access for current  
2 and future users.

3 The Air force has performed an extensive  
4 evaluation of Eglin's ranges to determine whether  
5 adequate range exists -- ranges exist and identify  
6 possible alternatives. As a result of this study,  
7 more refined alternatives have been developed since  
8 the last time we met.

9 Specifically the 7th Special Forces Group  
10 training requires 13 new ranges which will detail  
11 more than 6,000 acres of training area,  
12 approximately 43,000 training hours per year which  
13 will include wheel vehicle use including both  
14 Humvees and heavy trucks, fixed and rotary wing  
15 aircraft training, live and inert ordnance, such as  
16 guns and hand grenades, and lastly water operations  
17 using small rubber boats.

18 Training ranges are divided into two groups,  
19 Group 1 and 2 type ranges. Group 1 type ranges are  
20 comprised mostly of small-caliber weapons. And  
21 these ranges will be dedicated to the 7th Special  
22 Forces Group training activities. Group 2 ranges  
23 are comprised mostly of larger-caliber weapons and  
24 will not be dedicated to the 7th Special Forces  
25 Group for utilization. As a result of the range

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1 training alternative narrowing process, the  
2 following locations on the chart to my right were  
3 identified as possible alternatives to be  
4 evaluated. Alternative 3 on the east and west side  
5 is our preferred alternative for ranges.

6 As mentioned previously, some range areas may  
7 be conditionally closed to the public use for  
8 safety reasons during training and also during the  
9 construction phase. With all the 7th Special  
10 Forces Group training alternatives the Group 1  
11 ranges are located at various locations, however,  
12 the Group 2 ranges are a commonality and are  
13 located on the test range Charlie 5-2. Alternative  
14 1 is on the east side in the north of Eglin Main  
15 Base. Alternative 2 is on the east side in the  
16 north-south corridor. Alternative 3, which is the  
17 preferred alternative, is to the east and on the  
18 west side. Alternative 4 is on the east and on the  
19 northeast side, and the last, Alternative 5, has  
20 all the ranges on the east side.

21 This map illustrates which range areas may be  
22 conditionally closed to public use for safety  
23 reasons during ground maneuvers, range use, and  
24 during the construction phase.

25 I'd now like to turn it over, this

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1 presentation, to Col. George Ross for his  
2 presentation on the proposed action for the Joint  
3 Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center, or the  
4 JSF ITC. Col. Ross.

5 COL. ROSS: Thank you, Greg.

6 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm from  
7 Air Education and Training Command, and I'm the  
8 F-35 Joint Site Activation Task Force Commander at  
9 Eglin.

10 Tonight I want to provide you details  
11 associated with the establishment of the JSF  
12 Training Center and the proposed actions at Eglin  
13 Air Force Base and on the ranges.

14 BRAC calls for the establishment of the F-35  
15 Joint Strike Fighter and the Integrated Training  
16 Center, or the JSF ITC. It is an integrated  
17 training center because both pilot and maintainer  
18 training will occur at the same site. BRAC  
19 established Eglin as a joint training site for the  
20 Air Force, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. In  
21 addition, we expect the United Kingdom and the  
22 other international partners in the JSF development  
23 program to participate at various times at the  
24 training center.

25 The training site will teach pilots and

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1 maintenance technicians how to properly operate and  
2 maintain the F-35 air system. The purpose of the  
3 NEPA action is to provide a cantonment area for the  
4 Integrated Training Center.

5 The F-35 training center needs to be close to  
6 the Eglin flight line and the runways plus have  
7 adequate acreage for existing facilities to support  
8 the new mission. In addition, access to Eglin's  
9 Base operation support functions is critical.

10 The associated requirements for meeting the  
11 purpose and need for the JSF training center  
12 include establishing a cantonment area, or an  
13 administrative area, between 100 and 200 acres in  
14 size; providing 31 facilities at approximately 5.6  
15 million square feet, and a munitions storage area,  
16 and lastly, bedding down 107 F-35 aircraft and  
17 allowing for airfield operations.

18 The alternatives for the proposed actions are  
19 associated with finding an appropriate location for  
20 the JSF ITC cantonment area. In arriving at the  
21 proposed alternative locations for the training  
22 site, the Air Force in coordination with the joint  
23 program office developed a list of minimum  
24 requirements for the JSF training center and  
25 applied them to the Eglin military complex to

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1 identify potential sites for development.  
2 The areas meeting all of the criteria were  
3 included as potential alternatives. The minimum  
4 requirements include an airfield with two 8,000  
5 feet along the runway, plus aircraft support and  
6 aircraft recovery requirements, available  
7 utilities, fueling access, and auxiliary ground  
8 equipment approximately 170 to 180 areas contiguous  
9 to a flight line, physical security, and lastly,  
10 avoidance of wetlands and floodplains.  
11 Because Chocktaw, Duke and Hurlburt Fields  
12 have only one runway, they are not under  
13 consideration for JSF training center.  
14 Furthermore, Camp Rudder is not under consideration  
15 as it does not meet runway requirements, and its  
16 location and logistics are not practical.  
17 The remaining possibilities include two  
18 potential locations at Eglin Main Base.  
19 Alternative 1 proposes locating the JSF Integrated  
20 Training Center on the Eglin Main Base in the 33rd  
21 Fighter Wing area. This would require 23 newly  
22 constructed facilities involving approximately  
23 four million square feet of construction, and  
24 approximately 1.6 million square feet of demolition  
25 and renovation. Alternative 1 is our preferred

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1 alternative.

2           Alternative 2 proposes locating the JSF  
3 Training Center on the east side of the Eglin Main  
4 Base in the current 46th Test Wing area. This  
5 would require 21 newly constructed facilities  
6 involving approximately 1.2 million square feet of  
7 construction and approximately 2.8 million square  
8 feet of demolition and renovation. In this  
9 alternative, current 46th Test Wing personnel and  
10 functions would be relocated to the 33rd Fighter  
11 Wing area on Eglin Main.

12           Because the JSF program is still in  
13 development, training requirements and syllabi for  
14 the new aircraft are evolving to ensure that the  
15 war fighter has the most effective and efficient  
16 training to meet the ever-changing requirements of  
17 combat. The Air Force in conjunction with all the  
18 military stakeholders initiated a noise study to  
19 evalu -- evaluate potential impacts as well as  
20 operational considerations for the F-35 training.

21           The noise study comprised of four different  
22 operational scenarios categorized as Eglin heavy,  
23 Duke heavy, Chocktaw heavy, and lastly, a mix of  
24 operations at the three fields we call the blended  
25 mix. Please note that heavy in the titles reflect

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1 greater numbers of JSF training operations at that  
2 particular location.

3 Results from the noise study were reviewed and  
4 three reasonable JSF flight alternatives were  
5 selected for analysis in the Environmental Impact  
6 Statement. The Chocktaw heavy scenario is not a  
7 reasonable alternative because it cannot be  
8 achieved without displacing current Navy training  
9 activities. The blended-mix alternative is the  
10 preferred alternative at this time.

11 The worst noise and sound both related to  
12 hearing can be used interchangeably. The  
13 difference is that we typically refer to sound when  
14 discussing something pleasant, such as music, and  
15 noise when discussing something unpleasant,  
16 unwanted, or undesired. When aircraft fly overhead  
17 at lower altitudes, some people consider it  
18 annoying and refer to what they hear as noise.  
19 This noise can interrupt an activity, whether it's  
20 disturbing the peace, interfering with  
21 communications or disrupting one's sleep.

22 Sound is expressed in terms of decibels, or  
23 DBs. Decibels are a mathematic expression for the  
24 amount of sound produced. The effect of sound on  
25 humans is described by A-weighted decibels.

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1 A-weighted adjusts for the way that the human ear  
2 responds to sound. Following Environmental  
3 Protection Agency guidance, both the Department of  
4 Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration  
5 expresses noise levels around airports using a  
6 day night level, or DNL. DNL is the most  
7 appropriate metric for predicting cumulative human  
8 effects of noise. It is used by all federal  
9 agencies for predicting human annoyance. Day night  
10 level averages the sum of all aircraft noise  
11 producing events over a 24-hour period. DNL is the  
12 measure of the total aircraft noise environment  
13 expressed as decibels day night level, or decibel,  
14 DBs DNL. This measurement is not the sound level  
15 heard at any given time.

16 In addition, for those events that occur after  
17 10:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. a 10 decibel upward  
18 adjustment, or penalty, is added to those events in  
19 DNL calculations. This nighttime adjustment  
20 accounts for the added intrusiveness of noise when  
21 community noise levels are quieter and people are  
22 sleeping. We offer a simple example of the  
23 characteristics of DNL metrics.

24 Consider a 24-hour period in which a single  
25 aircraft flyover occurs in daytime, and it creates

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1 a sound level of 100 decibels for 30 seconds.  
2 During the remaining 23 hours 59 and 1/2 minutes of  
3 the day background sound level is low. Therefore,  
4 the day night level in decibels for this 24-hour  
5 period is 65 DBs. Another example is if the four  
6 of us up here were constantly talking for 24 hours,  
7 the total noise energy of our sound is also 65  
8 decibels.

9 The Department of Defense uses the noise map  
10 computer software model as its primary tool for  
11 evaluating aircraft noise in the vicinity of a  
12 military installation. A noise map predicts the  
13 noise exposures based on aircraft lights and also  
14 maintenance activities occurring during an average  
15 busy day on the air installation.

16 The noise exposure is calculated in the  
17 display as day night level exposure contours in  
18 5-decibel increments. The current Eglin Air Force  
19 Base noise baseline is shown with the outer band at  
20 65 decibels. Before we show the noise study  
21 contours, let me compare future F-35 operations  
22 with current F-15 operations at Eglin Air Force  
23 Base.

24 BRAC is bringing to Eglin five squadrons for  
25 the total of 107 F-35 primary assigned aircraft to

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1 Eglin. Currently the 33rd Fighter Wing has 54  
2 F-15C Eagles. If you double the number of aircraft  
3 operations with the same number of sorties per  
4 aircraft, this will equate to approximately a 3  
5 decibel increase in the noise levels. At the JSF  
6 Integrated Training Center, it is expected the F-35  
7 will fly three to four times the number of  
8 operations over the existing 33rd Fighter Wing's  
9 Eagles. Because of the increase in the number of  
10 operations flown, plus changes in the type of the  
11 flying, and the higher noise levels generated by  
12 the F-35 aircraft, the areas affected by noise will  
13 grow.

14 The following slides will illustrate the  
15 preliminary results of the four scenarios analyzed  
16 in the noise scenario -- noise study. The results  
17 for each airfield in the 2015 timeframe, when F-35  
18 training is at peak pilot production will be shown.

19 This slide shows the current baseline noise  
20 contours at Eglin Main, Duke, and Chocktaw outlying  
21 fields. The outer line represents the 65 DB, day  
22 night level noise exposure contour. This slide  
23 represents the Eglin heavy scenario. Each of the  
24 scenarios we will describe has approximately  
25 400,000 total operations on the Eglin Main complex.

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1 The scenarios change the location for the primary  
2 training for instrumental approaches, touch-and-go  
3 landing and low-approach practices plus simulated  
4 flame-out approaches. In addition, Marine Corps  
5 short takeoff and vertical landing practice is  
6 included. In this scenario, the majority of the  
7 F-35 activity occurs on Eglin Main airfield.

8 Let me add that in all the scenarios Chocktaw  
9 Field serves as the primary location for Navy F-35  
10 training due to the existing practice carrier  
11 landing infrastructure at Chocktaw Field.

12 Let me explain the color coding of the  
13 scenarios. The lighter shading of green is  
14 indicative of the 65 day night level decibels which  
15 each incrementally darker shade is associated with  
16 an increase of an additional 5 DBs level of noise.  
17 Let me point out that the outer bands of the red  
18 line indicate the current 65 DB level from the  
19 baseline contours.

20 The shaded contours include noise impacts from  
21 all aircraft operations at each airfield. These  
22 operations are not just the F-35, and they include  
23 all military traffic and commercial airliner  
24 traffic. With the red lines and the green shades  
25 we can now compare current operations to expected

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1 operations in 2015. In the Duke heavy scenario,  
2 the majority of the Eglin practice overhead visual  
3 approaches plus simulated flameout approaches are  
4 shifted to Duke Field. Chocktaw field in the  
5 scenario is still primarily Navy F-35 practice  
6 approach and landings. Again, the green shaded  
7 contours represent the 2015 timeframe and the red  
8 lines represent today's environment at each field.

9 The next slide is the Chocktaw heavy scenario  
10 again shifted the majority of the practice  
11 approaches to this field plus the simulated  
12 flameout approaches on top of the previous Navy  
13 activity. In this case, we also moved nearly all  
14 practice instrument approach patterns to Duke Field  
15 for instrument landing practice on the ILS -- on  
16 the -- to runway 1-8.

17 Lastly, the blended mix scenario balances  
18 training activities across these three airfields.  
19 Noise contours will move off the Destin area  
20 because in this scenario, we changed the Eglin  
21 runway 1-2 departure procedures that were used in  
22 the previous three scenarios.

23 Again, the four scenarios presented resulted  
24 in the three reasonable alternatives, the Eglin  
25 heavy alternative, the Duke heavy alternative, and

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1 the blended mix alternative. The blended mix  
2 alternative will be the preferred alternative for  
3 F-35 flight operations.

4 I will now turn it back to Mr. Rowland.

5 RANDALL ROWLAND: After the proposed action  
6 and alternative are identified in the BRAC 2005  
7 program, EIS will examine the potential impacts to  
8 the human environment that could be affected by  
9 these proposals. Environmental resources that will  
10 be evaluated include air quality, cultural  
11 resources, hazardous materials, land use and  
12 recreation, natural resources, noise, safety, solid  
13 waste, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities,  
14 and then this slide shows the revised Eglin BRAC  
15 2005 schedule.

16 As you can see, the Air Force published a  
17 notice of intent to prepare the EIS in the Federal  
18 register August 1, 2006. Initially the Air Force  
19 published a supplemental notice of intent in the  
20 Federal register on October 15, 2007, and we're  
21 holding this scoping meeting tonight and again  
22 tomorrow night in the Niceville area.

23 Please note that the scoping is an ongoing  
24 process, and we will gather information about the  
25 affected environment, refine the proposed action

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1 and alternatives and then analyze the potential  
2 impacts in various resource categories I mentioned  
3 earlier. When we complete this analysis, we will  
4 develop the results of a draft EIS in early  
5 May 2008 and send it out for a 45-day public review  
6 and comment. During this period we will hold two  
7 public hearings, most likely in -- later in May to  
8 review our findings and receive input on the  
9 issues. Finally, we will respond to the input,  
10 modify the EIS if needed, and publish the final  
11 document next year in October 2008. Thirty days  
12 after the final EIS is released to the public, the  
13 Air Force expects to sign a Record of Decision, or  
14 ROD. ROD will state whether the proposed action  
15 will be implemented and which siting alternative  
16 has been selected. The Air Force expects  
17 preparation of the EIS and the signing of the  
18 Record of Decision to be completed in November  
19 2008.

20 I would now like to return the presentation to  
21 Mr. Mike Spaits.

22 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Rowland.

23 Before we take a short break, I'd like to make  
24 a few administrative announcements. In order to  
25 prepare an accurate and thorough EIS we invite the

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1 public, government officials, and interested  
2 government agencies to provide written or verbal  
3 input on the scope of issues. We need your help in  
4 ensuring that the full scope of issues is  
5 identified and that any significant environmental  
6 concerns related to this proposal are identified  
7 and appropriately addressed.

8 In summary, we are conducting the scoping  
9 process in order for the Air Force decision maker,  
10 Ms. Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
11 of the Air Force for Installations, to consider the  
12 environmental consequences associated with the  
13 proposed project while refining the alternatives.  
14 We are here tonight to listen to and document your  
15 input and concerns regarding environmental issues  
16 associated with the Eglin BRAC 2005 decision so we  
17 can take them and analyze them in the EIS. If you  
18 wish to speak tonight and have not already signed  
19 up, please do so on one of the speaker sheets that  
20 are available at the foyer registration table. We  
21 invite -- we will invite elected officials to speak  
22 first and then I will call all other speakers in  
23 the order you signed in.

24 If you speak this evening, please use the  
25 microphone that's made available in front so that

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1 we can -- and speak clearly so we can make an  
2 accurate record of your concerns. Please limit  
3 your comments to five minutes so that everyone has  
4 an opportunity to speak. Written comment sheets  
5 are available at the registration table for your  
6 use. You can turn these sheets in at the end of  
7 the evening or mail, fax, or e-mail them to us at  
8 your convenience. If you mail your comments, send  
9 them to the address printed on the comment sheets.  
10 The address will also be shown on the screen during  
11 the comment period.

12 We welcome public input on the scope of  
13 analysis -- or the scope issues in writing at any  
14 time during the environmental impact analysis  
15 process. However, to receive timely consideration  
16 for the draft EIS, we encourage you to provide  
17 comments by December 7th. When you signed in, you  
18 had an opportunity to check a box to request a copy  
19 of the draft EIS. If did you not request the  
20 document when you signed it but would like to have  
21 one, please go back and check with one of the  
22 ladies working the check-in desk or fill out a  
23 written comment sheet, and you can fill out a  
24 postcard letter or e-mail us requesting a copy of  
25 the document.

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1           Again, we are making an official record of  
2 this meeting to be added to the EIS administrative  
3 record. This is to ensure that all of your  
4 comments are considered in preparing the EIS.  
5 Written comments will also become part of the  
6 administrative record and will receive full and  
7 equal consideration.

8           Tonight is not the end of your opportunity to  
9 participate in the environmental review process.  
10 The preparation of an EIS is an ongoing process and  
11 as such, you can provide comments anytime  
12 throughout its development. Please keep in mind we  
13 are seeking your input tonight, and we value all  
14 your comments and concerns. We are early in the  
15 EIS process and any questions you pose will be  
16 handled as comments and analyzed properly in the  
17 Draft EIS.

18           Let's take a 15-minute break, and if you care  
19 to get some refreshments in the back, please help  
20 yourself, and we'll call everybody back to order in  
21 about 15 minutes. Thank you.

22           (A recess was taken.)

23           MIKE SPAITS: Okay, if we could resume the  
24 meeting by taking our seats. I'd like to start the  
25 public input session. When I call you up to speak,

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1 please state your name clearly for the record  
2 before you make your statement. Also, we would  
3 appreciate it if you would speak clearly and direct  
4 your comments to me. If you are representing a  
5 specific group, please identify that group by name.

6 We have placed a box on the comment table in  
7 the back of the room to accept written comments.  
8 Please summarize your written comments in your oral  
9 presentation as your written comments will also  
10 become part of the official record. To ensure that  
11 all of your inputs are carefully examined and in  
12 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and that  
13 we successfully address all of the issues, all of  
14 your comments will be recorded by a court reporter.  
15 Any questions you pose tonight will be treated as  
16 comments and addressed in the Draft EIS for  
17 analysis.

18 Now before we start -- before I call our first  
19 speaker, I would like to ask Ms. Jennifer Geeslin  
20 to read a brief open letter to the district -- the  
21 1st District of Florida constituents from Hon.  
22 Congressman Jeff Miller.

23 JENNIFER GEESLIN: "Ladies and gentlemen, I  
24 want to thank you very much for taking the time to  
25 attend this public scoping meeting. Your

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1 contribution to this process is critical to the  
2 successful integration of new missions at Eglin Air  
3 Force Base. I'm honored to represent a district  
4 where the citizens take an active role in their  
5 government, and their community. I commend you on  
6 this involvement.

7 Integration of the missions is critical to  
8 meeting our nation's security requirements for  
9 today and the future. Based upon reviews I have  
10 had with Air Force senior leadership, addition of  
11 the Joint Strike Fighter and 7th -- and Army 7th  
12 Special Forces Group activities will result in  
13 significant changes in how the Air Force executes  
14 the current mission at Eglin and how Eglin's  
15 natural resources are utilized by the military and  
16 the public.

17 An increase in aircraft operation combined  
18 with the noise characteristics of JSF operations  
19 will have implications for the surrounding  
20 communities. The incorporation of new training  
21 ranges to meet the 7th Special Forces Group  
22 operational requirements will necessitate  
23 flexibility for our new community. I have full  
24 confidence that the Air Force will exercise the due  
25 diligence required to design the integration of

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1 these new missions in a way that preserves  
2 operational readiness and mitigating to the degree  
3 practical the adverse impacts on the environment  
4 and the local communities.

5 My staff and I will continue to work closely  
6 with the Air Force and the local communities every  
7 step of the way through the completion of the  
8 process which begins with your inputs at this  
9 scoping meeting. The Air Force needs your  
10 constructive inputs to ensure all community  
11 interests are understood." Signed Jeff Miller,  
12 member of Congress, 1st District, Florida.

13 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Jennifer.

14 Okay, I'd like to call our first speaker of  
15 the night, Mr. James Fix with the Holly-Navarre  
16 Fire District.

17 MR. FIX: Thank you gentlemen.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to make a  
19 comment to you on behalf of the men and women of  
20 the Holly-Navarre Fire District. We will be --  
21 going to have personnel on board full time 1  
22 January. Thanks to Mr. Barbono (phonetic) and his  
23 staff at the Eglin committee we have a piece of  
24 land at Highway 87 and Bob Talbert Road.

25 Our area covers from the county line 50 square

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1 miles which includes your Chocktaw area, and your  
2 field. We also cover the western range of the  
3 ranger camp. We are prepared, and we want you to  
4 be assured that this community and our fire  
5 fighters are trained, prepared and ready to assist  
6 you in any manner possible. We cover all ranges of  
7 the service. We're trained in rescue, flight  
8 aircraft down, rescue search. We even have a  
9 good -- we have a good cert team that will also  
10 assist us. So we will be there to help you no  
11 matter what comes, this community fire department  
12 and district. We're here to be with you and to  
13 assist you. And that's all I have to say.

14 Again, we'll be contacting you. Mike, I  
15 don't -- you don't mind me calling you Mike?

16 MIKE SPAITS: No, sir.

17 MR. FIX: We'll be contacting you again, and I  
18 thank everybody. I want to welcome Col. Koenig,  
19 U.S. Army because I am James Fix, U.S. Army  
20 retired.

21 COL. KOENIG: Whoop.

22 MR. FIX: Whoop.

23 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you. I'd like to call our  
24 next speaker, Mr. Neil Arnott with the Association  
25 for Bayou Conservation.

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1 NEIL ARNOTT: Yes, I am Neil Arnott, and I'd  
2 like to welcome you guys to the emerald coast.

3 I was just out in a boat the other day in a  
4 pod of 25 dolphins out there swimming around us,  
5 and we just stopped and let them swim around us.  
6 The most beautiful place in the world. I'm staying  
7 here forever. So welcome.

8 I have two comments and one is when we used to  
9 fly back from Vietnam and go through Hickham Air  
10 Force Base towards the end of the war, they made so  
11 that we couldn't take off out of Hickham between  
12 the hours of 11:00 at night and 7:00 in the  
13 morning, and I think you've got some sort of that  
14 thing coming up, brewing up here. I see it on the  
15 scope of the noise levels that some of the green  
16 area goes over Destin and Kelly Plantation, and  
17 just as a warning, you know, people love to build  
18 around airports, but they don't like the noise. I  
19 love the noise so bring it on. But just as a  
20 warning, if you can plan somehow, you know, to  
21 avoid those areas during the critical times I think  
22 it would make it a lot better for you because the  
23 first four shift of those F-35s going over those  
24 Destin condominiums, they're probably going to call  
25 their lawyer.

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1 My other one is that --  
2 (Audio interference.)  
3 MIKE SPAITS: I think it's better now. I hope  
4 so.  
5 NEIL ARNOTT: The other one is the scope of  
6 this meeting, if I had my way, and if you guys  
7 could do it, it would be nice to put all the  
8 effects in the militariness area into one  
9 environmental impact and into one scenario. I know  
10 you can't do that because things are -- you know  
11 one thing's happening here and one thing's  
12 happening here, but we have a lot of things going  
13 on in this area. We have the Hurlburt people, one  
14 of the units going to Canada. We have a possible  
15 move of the test wing out of here, probably, you  
16 know, out of Eglin, and then you two guys coming in  
17 here, and it's so hard for us citizens and the  
18 political people to see the whole picture when  
19 we -- you know like tonight here, basically what  
20 you're going to decide is where you're going to put  
21 your buildings, and, you know, is it going to make  
22 too much noise basically what this meeting is. But  
23 if you could somehow make it so that we could look  
24 at housing, roads, water, sewer, and noise, and the  
25 whole nine yards and put it together in one meeting

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1 and then get -- you know, so you could see the  
2 whole cumulative effect -- impacts. And I don't  
3 know if you could set up a special meeting to do  
4 that where it does throw everything together so  
5 that the people that come to a meeting can see the  
6 whole thing. And thank you guys for coming.

7 MIKE SPAITS: Thank you, Mr. Arnott.

8 That's all we have for sign-up speakers. Is  
9 there anyone else who has not signed up who would  
10 like to speak?

11 Okay. I appreciate your time and interest in  
12 the proposed changes at Eglin Air Force Base.  
13 Should you later decide to make additional comments  
14 you may write to the address shown on the comment  
15 sheet. Again, if you would like your own copy of  
16 the draft EIS, please let us know on the sign-in  
17 sheet or send us a letter or postcard asking for  
18 your own copy.

19 Thank you for your participation and this  
20 meeting is adjourned.

21 (Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.)

22  
23  
24  
25

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF BAY

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the public scoping meeting for the Eglin BRAC 2005 program held November 06, 2007, at the Comfort Inn, Navarre, Florida.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing proceeding and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this the 18th day of November 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gertrude B. Downs, FPR

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SCOPING MEETING  
 EGLIN BRAC PROGRAM 2005  
 EIS SCOPING MEETING  
 COMFORT INN -- CONFERENCE CENTER  
 NICEVILLE, FLORIDA  
 NOVEMBER 7, 2007

Transcript of public scoping meeting held November 7, 2007, beginning at 7:10 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Niceville High School, Niceville, Florida. Reported by Gertrude B. Downs, FPR, Notary Public in and for the State of Florida.

APPEARANCES:

Mike Spaits  
 Public Affairs Representative for  
 Environmental Management, Eglin Air Force Base

Col. Eric Pohland  
 96th Air Base Wing Commander  
 Eglin Air Force Base

Randall Rowland  
 Civil Engineering Group  
 Environmental Management Division  
 Eglin Air Force Base

Col. George Ross  
 Air Education and Training Command

Col. Greg Koenig  
 U.S. Army Special Operations Command

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1           JENNIFER GEESLIN: Well thank you for coming  
2 this evening, and welcome to the second night of  
3 our scoping update meeting for the BRAC 2005  
4 program. We're really pleased to see the turnout  
5 this evening, and we appreciate all of you taking  
6 your time to spend a little bit of your time with  
7 us this evening and to learn about this project.

8           I'd first like to just make a couple of  
9 announcements. If anyone has a cell phone,  
10 Blackberry, pager, if you wouldn't mind turning  
11 that to the off or vibrate position. I see a lot  
12 of people reaching into their pockets. We do have  
13 a court reporter here this evening and any  
14 additional noise can make it hard sometimes to make  
15 sure we get an accurate administrative record.  
16 Secondly, if anyone needs a restroom, if you'd just  
17 go out the doors under the exit sign, the men's and  
18 the women's restroom are both to your right. And  
19 also, we still have snacks over here so if anyone  
20 needs a water, coke or cookie for the meeting,  
21 please help yourself. It's for you, and we don't  
22 want to have any leftovers, so please help  
23 yourselves.

24           I would like to introduce a few of our honored  
25 guests this evening. Mr. John Jenazzo, the

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1 Okaloosa County Commissioner is with us this  
2 evening; Mr. James Curry, the Okaloosa County  
3 Manager; Mr. Robert Billingsley, the Valparaiso  
4 City Councilman; Ms. Lydia Hernandez, the  
5 Valparaiso City and also State Councilman, Ms.  
6 Linda Parker, a Crestview City Councilman. And we  
7 also have Col. Eric Pohland, the 96th Air Base Wing  
8 Commander.

9 And are there any other elected officials that  
10 we didn't catch that we want to make sure we get  
11 recognized this evening? Anyone else? Sir?

12 (Al Vee (phonetic), councilman speaks from  
13 audience.)

14 JENNIFER GEESLIN: Thank you for being here.  
15 Sorry we missed your name.

16 (Deb Franklin (phonetic), councilman speaks  
17 audience.)

18 JENNIFER GEESLIN: The Valparaiso  
19 commissioners. Thank you for being with us this  
20 evening. Give them a round of applause. And now  
21 I'll turn our meeting over to our first panel  
22 speaker, Mr. Mike Spaits from the Eglin Air Force  
23 Base Environmental Public Affairs Office. Mike?

24 MR. SPAITS: Thank you, Jennifer.

25 Good evening. Can everybody hear me okay with

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1 this?

2 (Microphones adjusted.)

3 Good evening and welcome to the scoping  
4 meeting update for the proposed base realignment  
5 and closure, also know as BRAC 2005, decisions at  
6 Eglin Air Force Base.

7 Because we want to ensure we provide an  
8 accurate public record for our presentation we will  
9 be -- this presentation will be in a scripted  
10 format. This scoping meeting was designed to  
11 provide you an update on the actions associated  
12 with the -- implementing the BRAC decisions since  
13 our first scoping meetings in August 2006 and to  
14 allow you an opportunity to provide inputs in  
15 regards to the new information in addition to input  
16 already provided at the first meetings. This is  
17 one of several opportunities for public comment for  
18 the environmental review of this proposal.

19 Again, my name is Michael Spaits. I'm from  
20 Eglin Air Force Base Environmental Public Affairs,  
21 and I'm here to serve as the meeting facilitator.  
22 I'm responsible for ensuring that everyone that  
23 wishes to comment about the scope of issues  
24 regarding the proposed project has an opportunity  
25 to do so.

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1 Before we get started tonight, I'd first like  
2 to introduce Col. Pohland, the 96th Air Base Wing  
3 Commander. Col. Pohland.

4 COL. POHLAND: Thanks, Mike.

5 Well, I'm not mic'ed up, but I'm pretty good  
6 at getting to you. Can y'all hear me in the back?  
7 Very good.

8 Okay, you know I've got the easy job tonight.  
9 Unlike the panel members, (inaudible) on the panel,  
10 my job is relative short, and I just get to say  
11 some welcoming comments, and I'm going to start  
12 with that, and I will be brief, no problem there.

13 I really do want to say a sincere thank you  
14 for coming out tonight to help us as we scope the  
15 BRAC road ahead for Eglin Air Force Base. And I  
16 really mean help us, and here's a little bit about  
17 why. Eglin Air Force Base in the year 2005 base  
18 realignment and closure fortunately was a very big  
19 success story in that Eglin Air Force Base did not  
20 close any missions but rather added some fairly  
21 large, significant missions realigned to Eglin Air  
22 Force Base. Chief among those, the 7th Special  
23 Forces Group and also the Joint Strike Fighter, the  
24 F-35 integrated training center. So as we scope  
25 that road ahead, we gather from you those inputs

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1 and concerns, and that helps us to do our job as we  
2 move that forward.

3 Now of course with these new missions we face  
4 new challenges, and I'd like to -- foremost among  
5 those is the noise associated with the increased  
6 air operations as a multi -- again, as the result  
7 of moving the Joint Strike Fighter here to Eglin.

8 What is happening, by 2015 as the Joint Strike  
9 Fighter integrated center matures to its full  
10 operational capacity, we're more than doubling the  
11 air operations at Eglin Air Force Base and of  
12 course with that then comes increased noise,  
13 increased noise beyond what we're all used to right  
14 now.

15 Similarly, as we -- when the 7th Special  
16 Forces Group beddown at Eglin Air Force Base, and  
17 accommodate the training that those special forces  
18 have to do then we have to look at the likelihood  
19 of closing some of the Eglin complex, some of the  
20 ranges that will relate to their mission and those  
21 areas typically that have been open to recreation.  
22 And as you can imagine, we certainly have to do  
23 that in the interest of safety.

24 So those are the subjects that these agencies  
25 will be addressing with you tonight and again,

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1       you're (inaudible). So again, on behalf of General  
2       Eidsaune, as the Air Armament Center Commander of  
3       Eglin Air Force Base, thank you for coming out  
4       tonight. And, Mike, I'll pass it back to you.

5               MR. SPAITS: Thank you, Col. Pohland.

6               Okay, this evening our panel members will  
7       present updated information on the proposed Eglin  
8       Air Force Base realignment and closure, or BRAC  
9       2005 decisions, and our effort to assess the scope  
10      of the environmental impacts of its implementation.

11              I'd like to begin with an introduction of the  
12      panel members. To my left is Mr. Randall Rowland  
13      from the Eglin Environmental Management Division.  
14      He will discuss the National Environmental Policy  
15      Act, also known as NEPA, process and schedule. To  
16      his left is Col. George Ross from the Air Education  
17      and Training Command, and he will discuss JSF  
18      Integrated Training Center beddown and training  
19      alternatives. Next to him is Col. Greg Koenig from  
20      the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and he  
21      will discuss the requirements of the Special -- 7th  
22      Special Forces Group cantonment area and training  
23      area beddowns.

24              We're here tonight because the Air Force is  
25      developing an environmental impact statement known

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1 as an EIS to analyze the environmental impacts of  
2 implementing the BRAC 2005 decisions at Eglin Air  
3 Force Base.

4 Let me first set the stage for this program  
5 this evening. It is in two parts. First we will  
6 briefly present information on BRAC 2005 decision,  
7 what it means for Eglin Air Force Base, discuss the  
8 environmental impact analysis process, define the  
9 proposed actions and alternatives and what we've  
10 learned since the last time we met, inform you how  
11 to be involved, and what you can expect over the  
12 next several months.

13 The second part of our program is your  
14 opportunity to help us identify the scope of the  
15 issues and alternatives to be addressed in the  
16 environmental analysis.

17 We want to ensure that all of your inputs are  
18 carefully examined in the draft environmental  
19 impact statement and that we successfully address  
20 all of the issues. Therefore, all of tonight's  
21 presentation will be recorded by a court reporter  
22 to ensure accuracy. Any questions you pose tonight  
23 will be treated as comments and addressed in the  
24 draft EIS for analysis.

25 The draft EIS is scheduled to be released for

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1 review in May 2008. Keep in mind you may submit  
2 your comments in writing at any time during the EIS  
3 process. However, to be included in the analysis  
4 in the draft EIS in May 2008, all comments must be  
5 received no later than December 7, 2007. Any  
6 comments that are received after that will still  
7 carry forward into the final EIS.

8 At this point, I'd like to turn it over to Mr.  
9 Randall Rowland.

10 RANDALL ROWLAND: Thanks, Mike.

11 My name's Randall Rowland. I'm here from the  
12 Environmental Management Division at Eglin Air  
13 Force Base, and I'm here to brief you on the 2005  
14 BRAC program decisions for Eglin and the National  
15 Environmental Policy Act.

16 BRAC stands for the base realignment and  
17 closure, and in 2005 the BRAC commission's base  
18 closure and realignment decisions became law. Now  
19 the Air Force, along with other military services,  
20 must execute the 2005 BRAC decisions and conduct an  
21 environmental analysis of the implementation of  
22 BRAC decisions which must be completed by September  
23 15th, 2011.

24 The BRAC 2005 decision means the following for  
25 Eglin Air Force Base. First, establishing the

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1 Joint Strike Fighter integrated training center at  
2 Eglin, and this would involve adding about 2,300  
3 military, civilian, and contractor personnel at  
4 Eglin Air Force Base, bringing in around 107 F-35  
5 aircraft representing three variant models, and  
6 providing flight and maintenance training for the  
7 Joint Strike Fighter personnel.

8 Second, BRAC involves relocating the 7th  
9 Special Forces Group Airborne from Fort Bragg,  
10 North Carolina, to Eglin Air Force Base. This  
11 includes adding about 2,200 people and providing  
12 the ground training resources for the 7th Group  
13 personnel.

14 The National Environmental Policy Act, more  
15 commonly referred to as NEPA, is a federal law that  
16 requires all federal agencies to identify and  
17 consider the potential environmental or human  
18 health impacts of their proposal and any reasonable  
19 alternatives. Additionally, as required by NEPA,  
20 the Air Force must inform the public of the  
21 proposed action and alternatives and encourage  
22 public input during the environmental analysis  
23 process. Furthermore, as a part of the Santa Rosa,  
24 Okaloosa, and Walton communities, Eglin Air Force  
25 Base is committed to involving the public and

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1 obtaining community-specific input.

2 The environmental analysis for this proposal  
3 will take the form of an environmental impact  
4 statement, also known as an EIS. The NEPA law, its  
5 implementing regulations written by the President's  
6 Council on Environmental Quality, and the Air  
7 Force's environmental impact analysis process  
8 contain detailed requirements for preparing  
9 environmental impact statements.

10 The Air Force is developing an EIS which is  
11 the most detailed environmental analysis required  
12 by NEPA. The BRAC EIS will provide the decision  
13 makers detailed information to understand potential  
14 impacts --

15 (Audio difficulties)

16 MR. SPAITS: We have a little technical  
17 difficulty that we're trying to overcome.

18 RANDALL ROWLAND: Can you hear? Okay, the  
19 deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for  
20 installations is the decision maker for this EIS.  
21 The current scope of the EIS will address the first  
22 two BRAC 2005 program requirements. The  
23 establishment of a Joint Strike Fighter integrated  
24 training center and the relocation of the 7th  
25 Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg to Eglin.

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1 This EIS will evaluate alternative ways for  
2 establishing the Joint Strike Fighter integrated  
3 training center cantonment area and establishing  
4 the 7th Special Forces Group cantonment area and  
5 then accommodating training requirements for both  
6 the Joint Strike Fighter and 7th Special Forces  
7 Group.

8 According to law BRAC must be implemented as  
9 stated in the approved BRAC Commission's  
10 recommendations. Therefore, by BRAC law the Air  
11 Force must -- proposed alternatives address how and  
12 not if BRAC should be implemented at Eglin. As  
13 required by NEPA, the Air Force must also identify  
14 and analyze the reasonable range of alternatives to  
15 the proposed action. Reasonable alternatives are  
16 alternatives that would meet the Air Force's  
17 underlying purpose and need for the proposed  
18 action. Within the range of reasonable  
19 alternatives the Air Force is not required to  
20 consider highly speculative alternatives.

21 As required by NEPA, the Air Force must  
22 consider a no-action alternative, or an alternative  
23 considering change to Eglin Air Force Base even if  
24 the BRAC action were not implemented. However, it  
25 should be noted that the BRAC actions will be

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1 implemented at Eglin as required by law. The  
2 no-action alternative within this EIS will simply  
3 reflect a baseline or current conditions at Eglin  
4 and within the surrounding areas which will be then  
5 used for analysis purposes.

6 The purpose of the action in the EIS is to  
7 implement the BRAC 2005 program as required by law,  
8 and it includes four specific actions which we'll  
9 review in detail in the upcoming slides. They are  
10 to construct the 7th Special Forces Group  
11 cantonment area, accommodate 7th Special Forces  
12 Group training requirements, construct a Joint  
13 Strike Fighter integrated training center and  
14 associated cantonment area and then accommodate  
15 Joint Strike Fighter flight operations  
16 requirements.

17 There are alternative ways to implement each  
18 of these alternatives, and each alternative must  
19 meet the underlying purpose and need of the BRAC  
20 program. Each action requires an independent  
21 decision.

22 And now Col. Greg Koenig will discuss the  
23 details of the proposed action for the U.S. Army  
24 7th Special Forces Group Airborne.

25 COL. KOENIG: Thank you very much, Randall.

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1           Good evening. Once again, my name is Col.  
2           Greg Koenig. I'm from the United States Special  
3           Operations Command located up at Fort Bragg, North  
4           Carolina. I would like to present to you guys  
5           tonight the details associated with the BRAC  
6           relation of the 7th Special Forces Group from Ft.  
7           Bragg to Eglin.

8           The first action under the realignment  
9           requires the establishment of a cantonment area to  
10          house the 7th Special Forces Group as they prepare  
11          for their war-time mission. This cantonment area  
12          needs access to a flight line for rapid and  
13          secluded deployments. It needs convenient access  
14          to Eglin base operations support functions, and it  
15          requires seclusion for operation security and for  
16          force protection.

17          The cantonment area requirements include the  
18          following: We will construct administrative areas  
19          to include barrack spaces, classes, offices, and  
20          motor pools. We need a location with adequate  
21          acreage for security and for future expansion  
22          within the cantonment area. And we also need  
23          munitions storage area and the ability to transmit  
24          munitions.

25          (Audio difficulties)

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1 All right, we'll try this again. Okay,  
2 additionally, we would like to be located in an  
3 area that is ideally no more than ten minutes away  
4 from the training range that the 7th will be  
5 training on. We like to be close to deployment  
6 aircraft. We like to be close to emergency  
7 response capability, and we like to be adjacent or  
8 close to a convenient transportation artery. And  
9 finally, we like to be within 20 miles of a  
10 communications antenna farm.

11 We prefer a site with minimal environmental  
12 restrictions and issues, and we like to avoid any  
13 unexploded ordnance areas. And finally, we like to  
14 be compatible -- we like our operations to be  
15 compatible with the surrounding land use, noise  
16 level, and existing safety restrictions.

17 The current alternatives location can be  
18 grouped into the following five geographical  
19 locations: The first one is Eglin Main Base;  
20 second, Duke Field; next the area west of Duke  
21 Field; area north of Eglin Main, and finally an  
22 area located close to DeFuniak Springs.

23 Alternative 1 proposes to locate the 7th  
24 Special Forces Group near Eglin Main Base at the  
25 following three locations depicted on this slide.

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1 Looking at Alternative 1, Alternative 1 Alpha, we  
2 call the triangle. It's located between Highways  
3 85 and Highway 189. Alternative 1 Bravo is  
4 located -- it's in the Eglin West Gate inside the  
5 cantonment area. Alternative 1 Charlie, what we  
6 call North Poquito, is adjacent to the research and  
7 engineering education facility.

8 All three of these alternatives would require  
9 us to construct all new facilities and to  
10 construct -- and to utilize the existing munitions  
11 storage area on Eglin Main.

12 Alternative 2 proposes to locate the 7th  
13 Special Forces Group cantonment area in the  
14 vicinity of Duke Field at the following five  
15 possible locations: The first one, Alternative 2A,  
16 is to the southeast of Duke Field. Alternative 2B  
17 is to the northwest of Duke Field. Alternative 2  
18 Charlie is to the northeast of Duke Field.  
19 Alternative Delta is further east of Duke Field,  
20 and Alternative 2 Echo is along the north border of  
21 Eglin Main.

22 Each of these alternatives around Duke would  
23 require us to construct all new construction and to  
24 use existing munitions storage area located in the  
25 vicinity of Duke.

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1           The final alternatives 3, 4 and 5 are shown on  
2 this map. Alternative 3 is located west of Duke  
3 Field and Highway 85. I'd like to point out right  
4 now Alternative 3 is our preferred location.  
5 Alternative 3 would require all new construction  
6 and the shared use of existing munitions facilities  
7 at Duke Field.

8           Alternative 4 is located just north of Eglin  
9 Main Base. Alternative 4 would also require all  
10 new construction and the shared use of munitions  
11 storage facilities within Eglin Main.

12           And finally, Alternative 5 is located near the  
13 northeastern border of the Eglin Main Reservation  
14 in the vicinity of Range Road 212 and Range Road  
15 382. Alternative 5 would require we build all new  
16 construction and to the shared use of existing  
17 munitions storage facilities at Duke Field. Once  
18 again, Alternative 3 is our preferred location.

19           The second action proposed for the 7th Special  
20 Forces Group beddown that will be addressed in this  
21 EIS is associated with training for the 7th Special  
22 Forces Group. The proposed -- the purpose of this  
23 proposed action is to provide adequate ranges while  
24 maintaining range access for the current and future  
25 users.

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1           The Air force has performed an extensive  
 2           evaluation of Eglin Main -- Eglin ranges to  
 3           determine whether adequate range is existing and to  
 4           identify possible alternatives. As a result of  
 5           this study, more refined alternatives have been  
 6           developed since the last time we met. Specifically  
 7           the 7th Special Forces Group training requirements  
 8           include the following: Construction of 13 new  
 9           ranges. Utilization of more than 6,000 acres of  
 10          training area. The 7th will execute approximately  
 11          43,000 hours of training per year. This training  
 12          will include wheel vehicle use, including Humvees  
 13          and heavy trucks, fixed and rotary wing aircraft.  
 14          They will utilize live and inert ordnance, such as  
 15          guns and hand grenades. And they will conduct  
 16          (inaudible) boat operations utilizing small rubber  
 17          boats.

18          Training ranges are divided into two  
 19          groupings. The first, group one ranges, are  
 20          comprised mostly of small caliber weapons and  
 21          munitions. These ranges will be dedicated to the  
 22          7th Special Forces Group for their training  
 23          activities. The second group of ranges, or group  
 24          two ranges, are comprised mostly of larger caliber  
 25          weapons. These ranges will not be solely dedicated

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1 to the 7th Special Forces Group for their  
2 utilization.

3 After we completed our analysis in conjunction  
4 with Eglin, the following locations on the chart  
5 were identified as possible alternatives to be  
6 evaluated. I'd like to point out that Alternative  
7 3 that has ranges on the east and the west side is  
8 our preferred alternate.

9 As previously mentioned, some of these range  
10 areas may be conditionally closed to the public use  
11 for safety reasons during actual ground maneuvers,  
12 training, and during the construction phase for  
13 safety reasons. With all the 7th Special Forces  
14 Group training alternatives the Group 1 ranges are  
15 located in various locations. However, the Group 2  
16 ranges are the same for all other alternatives and  
17 are located on the test area C 52. For Alternative  
18 1, ranges are located on the east side of Eglin and  
19 just north of Eglin Main Base. For Alternative 2,  
20 once again, ranges are located on the east side and  
21 long the north-south corridor. Alternative 3,  
22 which is our preferred alternative, has ranges  
23 located to the west of Duke Field and Highway 85  
24 and on the east side of Eglin. Alternative 4 has  
25 ranges on the east and the northeast side of Eglin.

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1 And finally, Alternative 5 has all the ranges  
2 located on the east side.

3 This map also illustrates which ranges may be  
4 conditionally closed to public use for safety  
5 reasons during construction and the ground maneuver  
6 phases.

7 I'd like to now turn over the presentation, to  
8 Col. George Ross for his presentation on the  
9 proposed action for the Joint Strike Fighter  
10 integrated training center.

11 COL. ROSS: Thank you, Greg.

12 I'm Col. George Ross, and I'm the chief for  
13 the F-35 Site Activation Task Force. This joint  
14 (inaudible) has members from the air combat command  
15 AETC, which I'm a member of, and also we have the  
16 Navy and the Marine Corps Fighter Integration Team,  
17 and I'm pleased to be with you tonight because this  
18 is my second assignment to Eglin, and I really like  
19 the Northwest Florida area, and we feel valued  
20 members of the Niceville community.

21 Tonight I will provide you with details  
22 associated with the establishment of the Joint  
23 Strike Fighter training center and the proposed  
24 action at Eglin Air Force Base.

25 BRAC calls for the establishment of the F-35

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1 integrated training center, or the JSF ITC, at  
2 Eglin Air Force Base. It is an integrated training  
3 center because both pilot and maintenance students'  
4 training will occur at the same site. BRAC  
5 established Eglin as a joint training site for the  
6 Air Force, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. The  
7 Joint Strike Fighter also has eight international  
8 partners to include the United Kingdom that will  
9 train at various times at the integrated training  
10 center.

11 The training site will teach pilots and  
12 maintenance technicians how to properly operate and  
13 maintain the F-35 air system. The purpose of  
14 tonight's NEPA action is to provide a cantonment  
15 area for the integrated training center.

16 The training center needs to be close to the  
17 Eglin flight line and the runways plus have  
18 adequate acreage or existing facilities to support  
19 the new mission. In addition, access to Eglin's  
20 Base operating support functions are critical.

21 The associated requirements for the meeting  
22 of -- the need and the purpose of the JSF training  
23 center include establishing a cantonment or an  
24 administration area between 100 and 200 acres in  
25 size; providing 31 facilities at approximately 5.6

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1 million square feet, and a munitions storage area.  
2 And lastly, the capability to beddown 107 F-35  
3 aircraft and allowing for the airfield operations.

4 The alternatives for this proposed action are  
5 associated with finding an appropriate location for  
6 the JSF training cantonment area. In arriving at  
7 the proposed alternative locations for the F-35  
8 site, the Air Force in coordination with the joint  
9 program office developed a list of minimum  
10 requirements for the training center and applied  
11 them to the Eglin military complex. Those areas  
12 meeting all of the criteria were included as  
13 potential alternatives.

14 The minimum requirements for the F-35  
15 integrated training center include an airfield with  
16 two 8,000 foot along the runways, plus aircraft  
17 support and recovery requirements, available  
18 utilities, fueling access, and auxiliary ground  
19 equipment. The site must have approximately 170 to  
20 180 acres contiguous to the flight line that  
21 provides physical security while avoiding wetlands  
22 and floodplains.

23 Because Chocktaw, Duke and Hurlburt Fields  
24 have only one runway, they are not under  
25 consideration for the JSF training center.

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1 Furthermore, Camp Rudder is not under consideration  
2 as it does not meet the runway requirements and its  
3 location and logistics are not practical.

4 The remaining possibilities include two areas  
5 at Eglin Main Base. Alternative 1 proposes  
6 locating the JSF training center on the Eglin Main  
7 Base in the current 33rd Fighter Wing area. This  
8 area would require 23 newly constructed facilities  
9 involving approximately four million square feet of  
10 construction, and approximately 1.6 million square  
11 feet of demolition and renovation. Alternative 1  
12 use of the existing 33rd Fighter Wing is the  
13 preferred alternative.

14 Alternative 2 proposes locating the JSF  
15 training center on the east side of the Eglin Main  
16 Base in the 46th Test Wing area. This would  
17 require 21 newly constructed facilities involving  
18 1.2 million square feet of construction and  
19 approximately 2.8 million square feet of demolition  
20 and renovation. In this alternative the current  
21 46th Test Wing personnel and functions would be  
22 relocated to the 33rd Fighter Wing area.

23 Because the JSF program is still in  
24 development, the training requirements and syllabi  
25 for the new aircraft are evolving to ensure that

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1 the war fighter has the most effective and  
2 efficient training to meet the ever-changing  
3 requirements of combat. The Air Force in  
4 conjunction with all the military stakeholders  
5 initiated a noise study to evaluate potential  
6 impacts as well as operational considerations for  
7 flying the F-35.

8 The noise study is comprised of four different  
9 operational scenarios characterized as Eglin heavy,  
10 Duke heavy, Chocktaw heavy, and lastly a mix of  
11 operations at these three fields that we call the  
12 blended mix. Please note that "heavy" in the  
13 titles reflect greater numbers of JSF training  
14 operations at that particular location.

15 Results from the noise study were reviewed and  
16 three reasonable JSF flight alternatives were  
17 selected for analysis in the existing EIS. The  
18 Chocktaw heavy scenario is not a reasonable  
19 alternative because it cannot be achieved without  
20 displacing the current Navy training activities.  
21 The blended-mix alternative is the preferred  
22 alternative at this time.

23 The new transition will tell you about the  
24 words noise and sound. Both noise and sound relate  
25 to hearing and can be used interchangeably. The

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