



Public Notification

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Air Force (Air Force) announces the availability of the Draft Special Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Emergency Aircraft Beddown that Comprise the F-22 Formal Training Unit (FTU) from Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) to Eglin AFB, Florida (RCS 18-482), for a 30-day public review and comment period.

The Air Force accepted alternative arrangements approved by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1506.11 for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, that include preparing a SEA for the interim beddown of the F-22 FTU at Eglin AFB, Florida, in response to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Michael on Tyndall AFB. In October 2018, Hurricane Michael displaced the Air Force's only F-22 FTU, which consists of the F-22 aircraft in the 43rd Fighter Squadron and its associated T-38 Talon aircraft. The Proposed Action is to restore training of replacement pilots for the F-22 FTU by January 31, 2019 at Eglin AFB, Florida until the Air Force decides on and implements a permanent beddown. The Air Force will undertake an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that addresses the permanent F-22 FTU beddown as soon as possible. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS will be issued no later than April 1, 2019.

The Proposed Action for the Draft SEA consists of temporarily relocating 31 F-22 and 17 T-38 aircraft displaced from Tyndall AFB to Eglin AFB for approximately three years. The Draft SEA assesses the change in the noise environment from flight operations at Eglin Main Base with the inclusion of F-22 and T-38 aircraft. The analysis in the Draft SEA identifies potential impacts from the Proposed Action to noise, land use, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and air quality, including qualitative comparisons with the findings published in the 2014 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for F-35 Beddown at Eglin AFB, Florida.

Your comments on this Draft SEA are requested. Letters or electronic comments provided may be published in the Final SEA. As required by law, comments will be addressed in the Final Special Environmental Assessment for Emergency Aircraft Beddown that Comprise the F-22 FTU from Tyndall AFB to Eglin AFB, Florida and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will only be used to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment period or to fulfill requests for copies of the Final SEA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for notification of the Final SEA. However, only the names and respective comments of respondent individuals will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final SEA.

The Draft SEA will be posted online at <https://www.leidoseemg.com/EglinF22SEA> from

February 28, until March 29, 2019. Hard copies will be available for review at the Niceville Public Library and the Valparaiso Community Library. These libraries have internet access and librarians can assist in accessing this document. Comments may either be entered directly on the website or mailed to the following address: Mike Spaits, 96 Test Wing Public Affairs, 101 W. D Ave, Room 238, Eglin AFB, Florida 32542. All comments must be entered on the website before midnight (Central Standard Time) on March 29, 2019. If mailed, comments must be postmarked by March 29, 2019 or received by April 1, 2019 to be included in the Final SEA. For additional information on the Proposed Action, contact: Mike Spaits, 96 Test Wing Public Affairs, Tel: (850) 882-2836; Fax: (850) 882-4894.