



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE

PROPOSED BEDDOWN OF AN F-35A DEVELOPMENTAL TESTING PROGRAM AT EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Beddown of an F-35A Developmental Testing (DT) Program at Eglin AFB, Florida, and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a 30-day public review and comment period.

The EA analyzes potential environmental impacts from construction and operation activities required to support the F-35A DT mission including: construction of a 2-bay aircraft maintenance hangar and aircraft parking area, construction of a 2-bay aircraft test hangar, an addition to Building 64, demolition of Building 965 and relocation of the Maritime Operations Group and boat storage functions to an area away from the airfield, and renovation of four existing support facilities; beddown and operation of four F-35A DT aircraft and an additional maximum of 270 personnel and their dependents; airfield operations at Eglin AFB and Tyndall AFB; and weapons DT operations including defensive countermeasures and munitions expenditures over land and water ranges.

The Draft EA and FONSI may be reviewed online at <https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Eglin-Documents/>. Local libraries have internet access and librarians can assist in accessing this document. Comments must be received by August 31, 2023 to be included in the Final EA.

Public comments and inquiries on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI should be directed to: Ms. Ilka Cole, 96 TW/PA, 1010 West D Avenue, Eglin AFB, FL 32542, or by email to 96CEG.CEIEA.NEPAPublicComments@us.af.mil. Reference the F-35A DT EA in the subject line.

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are provided for public comment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code, Section 4321-4347), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (Code of Federal Regulations [CFR} Title 40, Parts 1500-1508), and CFR Part 989 *et seq.*, Environmental Impact Analysis Process. As required by law, comments received will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Any personal information provided will only be used to fulfill requests for copies of the Final EA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EA; however, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published.