

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

100000-01

JAN 2 7 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32399

FROM: HQ ACC/A7P

129 Andrews Street

Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

SUBJECT: F-35A Operational Basing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- 1. The United States Air Force (Air Force) is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of basing operational F-35 aircraft at one or more Air Force installations within the continental United States. The F-35 is the next generation strike aircraft designed for the Air Force, Navy, Marines and our international allies. The Air Force variant of the F-35, designated F-35A, will supplement and replace legacy aircraft. In accordance with Executive Order, 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, the Air Force is requesting input from other federal, state and local agencies on the proposal.
- 2. The Air Force proposes to base operational F-35A aircraft at one or more installations within the continental United States. Basing alternatives being considered include: Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho; Hill AFB, Utah; Burlington Air Guard Station (AGS), Vermont; Shaw AFB/McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), South Carolina; and Jacksonville AGS, Florida. For Mountain Home AFB, Hill AFB, and Shaw AFB, the potential environmental impacts will be analyzed for no action and basing scenarios of 24 primary assigned aircraft (PAA), 48 PAA, and 72 PAA. For Burlington AGS, McEntire JNGB, and Jacksonville AGS, the potential environmental impacts will be analyzed for no action and for basing scenarios of 18 and 24 PAA. At any of the alternative basing locations, the proposed action would involve personnel changes, facility construction, demolition, and/or modifications, and aircraft operations.
- 3. In support of this process we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EIS. In addition, if your agency recently completed, is currently implementing, or is planning to undertake any new activities which you believe should be included as part of our cumulative impact analysis, we ask you to identify the activity and provide a Point of Contact.
- 4. The Air Force recognizes open communication of issues is a critical element of the EIS process, and will host scoping meetings in communities near the proposed beddown locations. Scoping meeting dates and locations are attached. Meetings with public, agency, and American Indian stakeholders during this scoping process will help identify the full range of reasonable alternatives, potential impacts, and key issues to be considered in the environmental impact analysis process. During the scoping meetings, which will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in an open-house format, Air Force representatives will describe the proposed action and alternatives, explain the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), outline opportunities for public involvement, and answer questions about the proposal. Interested parties or citizens are welcome to join the meeting at any time since information will be provided throughout the duration of the open house. The Air Force will publish notices of EIS preparation and upcoming public scoping meetings in local newspapers.

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- 5. Public and agency comments received during the meetings, as well as written comments received by the Air Force during the scoping period and throughout the environmental process, will be considered in the preparation of the EIS. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, we are requesting that comments be submitted by March 1, 2010 to HQ ACC/A7PS, 129 Andrews Street, Suite 337, Langley AFB VA 23665-2769, ATTN: Ms. Sheryl Parker, F-35A Ops EIS Project Manager.
- 6. If you or your staff has any specific questions or concerns about this proposal or desire additional information, we would like to hear from you. Our EIS project manager is Ms. Sheryl Parker, HQ ACC/A7PS and can be reached at the above address or at (757) 764-9334. Information is also available at www.airforcef-35opseis.com beginning January 19, 2010.

Sincerely

DIMASALANG F JUNIO, Colonel, USAF

Chief, Programs Division

Attachment Scoping Meeting Locations and Dates

Scoping Meeting Locations and Dates

Hill AFB

- Tuesday, January 19, 2010, Ogden Union Station, Wattis-Dumke Room, 2501 Wall Ave, Ogden,
 Utah
- Wednesday, January 20, 2010, Courtyard Marriott, Millennium A & B Rooms, 1803 Woodland Park Drive, Layton, Utah
- Thursday, January 21, 2010, Callao School, 225 Pony Express Road, Callao, Utah
- Friday, January 22, 2010, West Wendover Branch Library, 590 Camper Road, Wendover, Nevada

Burlington AGS

- Monday, January 25, 2010, O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, Winooski, Vermont
- Tuesday, January 26, 2010, Littleton High School (Cafeteria), 159 Oak Hill Avenue, Littleton, New Hampshire
- Thursday, January 28, 2010, Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, New York

Shaw AFB/McEntire JNGB

- Monday, February 1, 2010, University of South Carolina Sumter, Arts & Letters Building, Room 116, 200 Miller Road, Sumter, South Carolina
- Tuesday, February 2, 2010, Eastover Community Center, 624 Main Street, , Eastover, South Carolina
- Wednesday, February 3, 2010, Glen Hills High School, 2840 Glenn Hills Drive, Augusta, Georgia
- Thursday, February 4, 2010, Kingstree Senior High School, 616 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Kingstree, South Carolina

Jacksonville ANG

- Monday, February 8, 2010, College of Coastal Georgia, 3700 Altama Avenue, Brunswick, Georgia,
- Tuesday, February 9, 2010, Florida State College, 4501 Capper Road, Jacksonville, Florida
- Wednesday, February 10, 2010, South Florida Community College, 600 West College Drive, Avon Park, Florida
- Thursday, February 11, 2010, Lake Wales Public Library, 290 Cypress Gardens Lane, Lake Wales, Florida
- Friday February 12, 2010, Palatka Public Library, 601 College Road, Palatka, Florida

Mountain Home AFB

- Tuesday, February 16, 2010, Grand View Elementary, 205 1st Street, Grand View, Idaho
- Wednesday, February 17, 2010, Boise State University, Student Union Building, Barnwell Room, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho
- Thursday, February 18, 2010, College of Southern Idaho Student Union Building (N. Cafeteria), 315 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, Idaho
- Friday, February 19, 2010, Hacker Middle School, 550 East Jackson, Mountain Home, Idaho