

regulatory review and verification of natural resource areas that would be subject to mitigation and permitting during the final design process for the Hangar Complex. In addition, the Air Force has decided to relocate the Military Working Dog Kennel to the Vermont Road site to better meet current facility standards and operational requirements. Last, the Air Force has also clarified the decision in relation to the golf courses at Joint Base Andrews affected by the Program.

As analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the existing Hazardous Cargo Pad at Joint Base Andrews would need to be relocated in order to accommodate the Hangar Complex. During the Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the Air Force considered a variety of siting alternatives for these facilities. In the 2017 Record of Decision, the Air Force identified Hazardous Cargo Pad and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Proficiency Range Southeast Option 1 or a variant thereof (e.g. Southeast Option 1A or 1A-3) as its preferred alternative for the permanent siting of these facilities, but did not make a final selection on the permanent siting of these facilities.

To arrive at a decision among the remaining preferred alternatives for the permanent siting of the Hazardous Cargo Pad and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Proficiency Range, the Air Force considered a range of operational, mission capability, land use compatibility and safety factors, as well as potential impacts to adjacent landowner, Soil Safe, Incorporated. Southeast Option 1A-3 was ultimately chosen for implementation because it: (1) Meets the purpose and need for the Program; (2) eliminates off-installation land acquisition; (3) minimizes impacts to adjacent environmental resources compared to other alternatives; and (4) avoids many adverse effects to adjacent landowner, Soil Safe, Incorporated.

In the 2017 Record of Decision, the Air Force identified its decision to relocate the Military Working Dog Kennel to the Vermont Road location subject to specific contingencies. Since publication of the 2017 Record of Decision, funding for the relocation of the Military Working Dog Kennel to a new facility has been secured by Joint Base Andrews. This funding will allow relocating the Kennel to this new facility irrespective of the contingencies. The Vermont Road location better meets the mission and operational requirements of the Kennel, compared to the existing facility, in terms of facility size, layout and amenities. Consequently, the Air Force is electing

to use this location as the site for the new Kennel facility.

Air Force decisions documented in the Program Records of Decision were based on matters discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, inputs from the public and regulatory agencies, and other relevant factors. The Final Environmental Impact Statement was made available to the public on October 17, 2017 through a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** (Volume 82, Number 199, Page 48227) with a wait period that ended on November 15, 2017. A Notice of Availability for the December 2017 Record of Decision was published in the **Federal Register** on February 16, 2018 (Volume 83, Number 33, Page 7017).

Authority: This Notice of Availability is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR part 1506.6 and 1502.14(e)) implementing the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and the Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR parts 989.21(b) and 989.24(b)(7)).

Henry Williams,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for T-X Recapitalization Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The United States Air Force (USAF) is issuing this notice to advise the public of the intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed T-X Recapitalization at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Randolph. The EIS will assess the potential environmental consequences of the replacement of T-38C aircraft with the new fifth-generation T-X training aircraft, and, construction and renovation of T-X support facilities at JBSA-Randolph, Texas.

DATES: USAF invites the public, stakeholders, and other interested parties to attend an open house public scoping meeting from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center, 12900 Mount Olympus, Universal City, Texas. A second open house public scoping meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20,

2019 at Midway Hall, 728 Midway, Seguin, Texas. Participants may provide written comments at either of these public scoping meetings.

ADDRESSES: The project website www.TXRecapitalizationEIS.com provides more information on the EIS and can be used to submit scoping comments. Scoping comments may also be submitted to Mr. Christopher Moore, (210) 925-2728, AFCEC/CZN; Attn: T-X Recapitalization EIS; 2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155; JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853, christopher.moore.114@us.af.mil. Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to ensure the USAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, scoping comments should be submitted in English to the website or the address listed above by April 5, 2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USAF intends to prepare an EIS to address the proposed replacement of the T-38C aircraft with the T-X aircraft and evaluate alternatives with varying levels of aircraft operations, five military construction projects and additional minor facility renovations at JBSA-Randolph.

Scoping and Agency Coordination: To effectively define the full range of issues to be evaluated in the EIS, the USAF will determine the scope of the analysis by soliciting comments from interested local, state and federal elected officials and agencies, as well as interested members of the public and others. A scoping meeting will be held in Universal City and the City of Seguin and the scheduled dates, times, and locations for the scoping meetings will also be published in local media a minimum of 15 days prior to the scoping meeting. The USAF also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties.

If you have comments or would like to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process, please visit the project website or contact Mr. Christopher Moore, AFCEC/CZN at the address above.

Henry Williams,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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