

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

The Department of the Air Force invites you to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and attend a Virtual Public Hearing for the Proposed T-7A Recapitalization at Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, San Antonio, Texas

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Air Force (Air Force), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to replace T-38C Talon aircraft with T-7A Red Hawk aircraft at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Randolph. The proposal includes constructing supporting infrastructure and providing appropriate manpower at JBSA-Randolph, as well as conducting associated T-7A aircraft training operations at Seguin Auxiliary Airfield, JBSA-Lackland, and designated airspace for military operating areas, military training routes, and ranges in the San Antonio, Texas vicinity.

The Air Force's Preferred Alternative is to replace all currently operating T-38C aircraft at JBSA-Randolph with up to 72 T-7A aircraft. Varying levels of numbers of aircraft and aircraft operations are defined as reasonable alternatives. Along with the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative and 3 action alternatives are evaluated in the Draft EIS.

OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE DRAFT EIS. The Draft EIS is available for download at **www.jbsa.T-7ANEPADocuments.com** and may be viewed at the following libraries:

San Antonio Public Library: 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205-1200

Schertz Public Library: 798 Schertz Parkway, Schertz, Texas, 78154-1911

Seguin Public Library: 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin, Texas, 78155

Universal City Public Library: 100 Northview Drive Parkway, Universal City, Texas, 78148-4150

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING - PLEASE ATTEND. The Air Force requests comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested members of the public. In light of recent federal guidance on COVID-19 and public gatherings, the Air Force is holding a virtual public hearing to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and provide input on November 16, 2021. Information regarding the impact assessment will be accessible via the project website (www.jbsa.T-7ANEPADocuments.com), and a pre-recorded public hearing presentation will be available to access and listen to on the day of the virtual public hearing. A link to the on-line virtual public hearing will be provided on the project website allowing interested parties to electronically participate in the public hearing and phone number will be provided for those without internet access. The virtual public hearing will open at 5:30 p.m. Central Time and begin with the Air Force giving a brief presentation about the proposal. Formal public testimony will begin at approximately 6 p.m. The hearing venue will close at 8 p.m. The hearing may adjourn before 8:00 p.m. upon or after verification that all participants who desire to speak have been heard and there are no more registered speakers. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. Verbal comments will be accepted at the hearing; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making more informed decisions.

To request a CD of the hearing presentation, or if you need to request accommodation to access the printed or audio portion of the presentation or need additional accommodation to make a telephone comment (per the Americans with Disabilities Act), please submit your request at the project website (www.jbsa.T-7ANEPADocuments.com) or call (210) 925-3392 no later than one week prior to the hearing date.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally at the virtual public hearing. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be available at the virtual public hearing to assist with translation of verbal comments. *Un intérprete de español está disponible para ayudar con la traducción de los comentarios al inglés.* Additionally, written comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted electronically at **www.jbsa.T-7ANEPADocuments.com**; or via postal mail at the address below. For further information, please contact:

Mr. Nolan Swick, AFCEC/CZN

Attn: JBSA T-7A Recapitalization EIS

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

100 H. East Street., Suite 4; Randolph AFB, TX 78150.

We will accept comments at any time during the environmental process. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight; however, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS, please submit comments by November 29, 2021.