

WELCOME

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

F-15 BEDDOWN AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AT ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM



OVERVIEW

- The National Environmental Policy Act
- What is the Public Review Period?
- Department of the Air Force Proposed Action
- Alternatives Considered
- Environmental Resources Analyzed
- Summary of Potential Impacts
- How to Provide Comments



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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment. NEPA's main objectives are:

- Encourage analysis of proposed federal programs, projects, and actions before decision-making
- Inform the public of proposed federal activities that might affect environmental quality
- Encourage and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process

Department of the Air Force (DAF) implementing regulations for NEPA are located at 32 CFR Part 989



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

- Under NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):
 - Identifies and describes the affected environment
 - Evaluates the potential environmental consequences of reasonable alternatives
 - Identifies environmental permits and specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce adverse environmental impacts, if required
- The NEPA EIS process concludes with a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies which alternative is selected and outlines mitigation measures that are required, if any.
- The DAF has prepared a Draft EIS for the proposed F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen AFB, Guam. DAF is the lead agency for the EIS, and the U.S. Navy is a cooperating agency.

Steps in the EIS Process

Notice of Intent

Public Scoping Period

Draft EIS Preparation

Draft EIS Notice of Availability

Draft EIS Public Comment and Meetings

Final EIS Preparation

Final EIS Notice of Availability

Waiting Period (minimum 30 days)

Record of Decision



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WHAT IS THE DRAFT EIS REVIEW PERIOD?

- Provides the public with the opportunity to review and comment on a Draft EIS, which contains information on the action being proposed and presents potential impacts from implementing the proposed action and alternatives.
- DAF actively requests substantive public comments on topics addressed in the Draft EIS for consideration in the Final EIS.



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AFTER THE PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

After the public review period has ended, the DAF will:

- Consider the comments received in the preparation of the Final EIS.
- All comments received within the public review period for the Draft EIS will be considered, and substantive comments will be responded to in the Final EIS.

The Final EIS and a Record of Decision the Proposed Action are expected in Spring 2025. A Record of Decision could be signed no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is released.



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PROJECT BACKGROUND

- DAF and Department of Defense (DoD) strategies and initiatives for the Indo-Pacific are continuously evolving in response to the geopolitical climate.
- Conducting an F-15 beddown and improving operationally relevant infrastructure within the Indo-Pacific would:
 - be in alignment with these initiatives to modernize and strengthen DoD's presence,
 - improve logistics and maintenance capabilities, and
 - allow the DAF and DoD to maintain agile defense capabilities within the region, in accordance with DAF responsibilities mandated by Title 10 U.S. Code 8062 to ensure readiness.



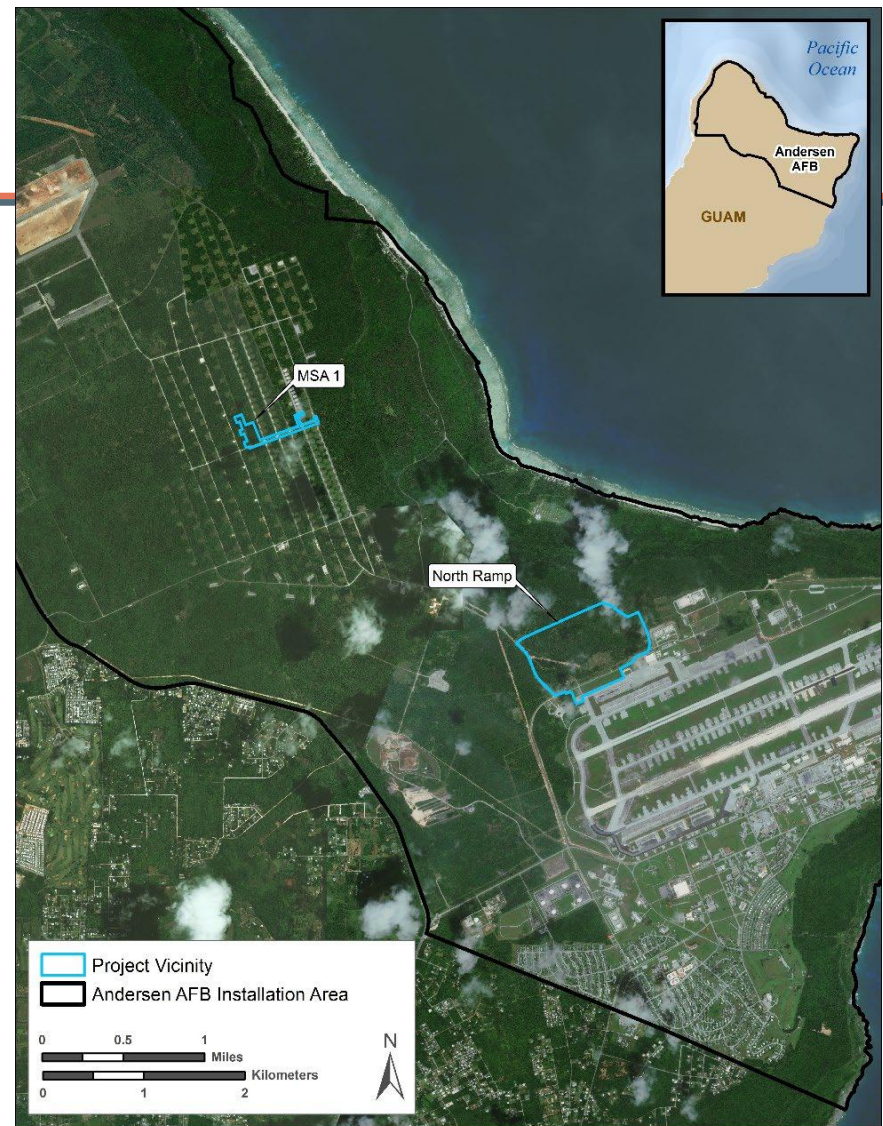
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PROJECT LOCATION

The DAF Proposed Action would occur on Andersen AFB, adjacent to the existing airfield operations area, referred to as the “North Ramp”, and in munitions storage area 1, referred to as “MSA-1.”



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PURPOSE

- To provide critical infrastructure that enhances U.S. posture west of the International Date Line.
- To beddown and operate Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) fighter aircraft at Andersen AFB to support training requirements.



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NEED

- To enhance DAF capability to support U.S. and partner nation forces within the Indo-Pacific region and strengthen the U.S.'s ability to respond regionally and worldwide through construction of infrastructure upgrades and increased support of fighter aircraft, in alignment with evolving DAF and DoD strategies and initiatives for the region.
- To increase and improve airfield and munitions infrastructure to address capability gaps and allow for greater efficiencies and agility in the way ground operations are conducted.



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PROPOSED ACTION OVERVIEW

- Construction of infrastructure upgrades over 7 years at the North Ramp and within Munitions Storage Area-1 (MSA-1) on Andersen AFB
 - The North Ramp project area would provide additional aircraft parking, fueling, and maintenance infrastructure to allow for greater efficiencies and agility in where and how ground operations are conducted
 - MSA-1 would be used for munitions storage for aircraft rotations and training detachments, consistent with existing operations
- Beddown and operation of up to 12 RSAF F-15 aircraft with anticipated arrival beginning 2029



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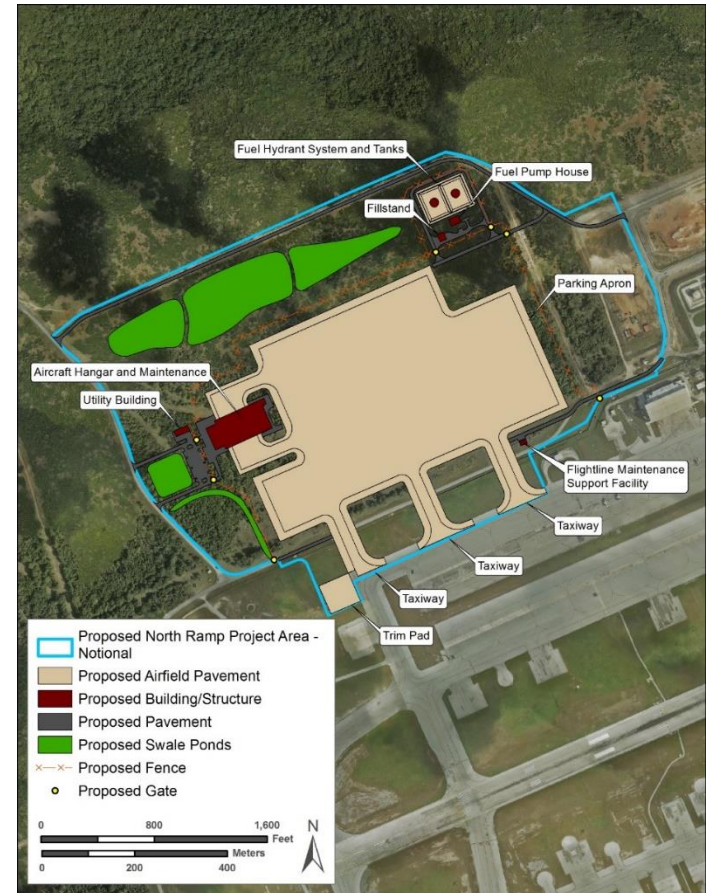
PROPOSED ACTION: NORTH RAMP INFRASTRUCTURE

Approximately:

- 80 acres of paved surfaces;
- 16 acres of stormwater management infrastructure;
- 96 acres that would be cleared, graded, revegetated, and maintained once construction is complete.

North Ramp Upgrades include:

- Airfield pavements
- Aircraft hangar and maintenance facility
- Flightline maintenance facility and utility building
- Jet fuel receipt, storage, and distribution system extension
- Fencing and utilities extension
- Roadways and parking
- Stormwater management infrastructure



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PROPOSED ACTION: MSA-1 INFRASTRUCTURE

Approximately:

- 2 acres of paved surfaces;
- 1.5 acre of stormwater management infrastructure;
- 2.3 acres of temporary disturbance, and
- 11.2 acres that would be cleared, revegetated, and maintained once construction is complete.

MSA-1 Upgrades include:

- Three earth covered magazines
- Pavements along utilities corridors
- Generator
- Stormwater management infrastructure



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PROPOSED ACTION: F-15 BEDDOWN

Up to 12 RSAF F-15 aircraft would beddown and operate from Andersen AFB, Guam. The first aircraft are anticipated in 2029.

F-15 Beddown includes:

- Up to 12 RSAF F-15 aircraft and their training operations
- Temporary support aircraft airfield operations during planned exercises
- Increase in support personnel and dependents by approximately 240, stationed at Andersen AFB, Guam
- An additional approximately 200 temporary support personnel at Andersen AFB, Guam. This temporary increase would occur during approximately 2 planned training events per year, for approximately 4 weeks per event



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REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

DAF reviewed locations for strategic capabilities and improvements in accordance with the following criteria:

1. U.S. territory to allow implementation of procedures for security protection of forces;
2. Upgraded capabilities on a single installation;
3. Aircraft can reach East Asia from the installation;
4. Existing DoD airfield infrastructure (e.g., runways, aircraft parking, associated airfield support systems) that could be expanded upon without interfering with existing operations;
5. Adequate base operating support and weapon storage areas for operational efficiencies;
6. Near an airspace training range with live fire Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground not requiring aerial refueling; and
7. Base and community service availability to support a population of up to 240 people



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REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

- DAF analyzed ability of installations with airfields on the following islands within the Pacific Air Forces area of responsibility to meet operationally relevant criteria:
 - Iwo To (formerly known as Iwo Jima), Japan;
 - Saipan, CNMI, U.S.;
 - Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory;
 - Wake Island, U.S.;
 - Hawai'i, U.S.; and
 - Guam, U.S.
- All locations except for Guam (Andersen AFB) did not meet one or more of the requirements.
- DAF identified Andersen AFB for enhanced strategic capabilities, including beddown of up to 12 Republic of Singapore Air Force F-15 aircraft and upgrade of operationally relevant infrastructure



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ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERATION SUMMARY

Once Andersen AFB was identified for enhanced strategic capabilities, DAF considered locations on Andersen AFB for the proposed infrastructure.

Airfield Infrastructure:

- The proposed airfield infrastructure would require approximately 150 to 200 acres
- Planners sought to identify a location on base that met selection standards
- North Ramp project area is the only contiguous location adjacent to the airfield capable of meeting the construction footprint selection standards

Munitions Storage Infrastructure:

- DAF determined that the munitions infrastructure must be located within MSA-1 for operational efficiencies
- Collocating additional munitions storage within MSA-1 reduces environmental and mission impacts

No Action Alternative:

- NEPA requires the alternatives analysis in the EIS to include a “No Action Alternative.”
- The No Action Alternative is analyzed in the Draft EIS, in addition to the Proposed Action.



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ALTERNATIVES REVIEW: NORTH RAMP

DAF developed 6 selection standards to review airfield infrastructure alternatives.

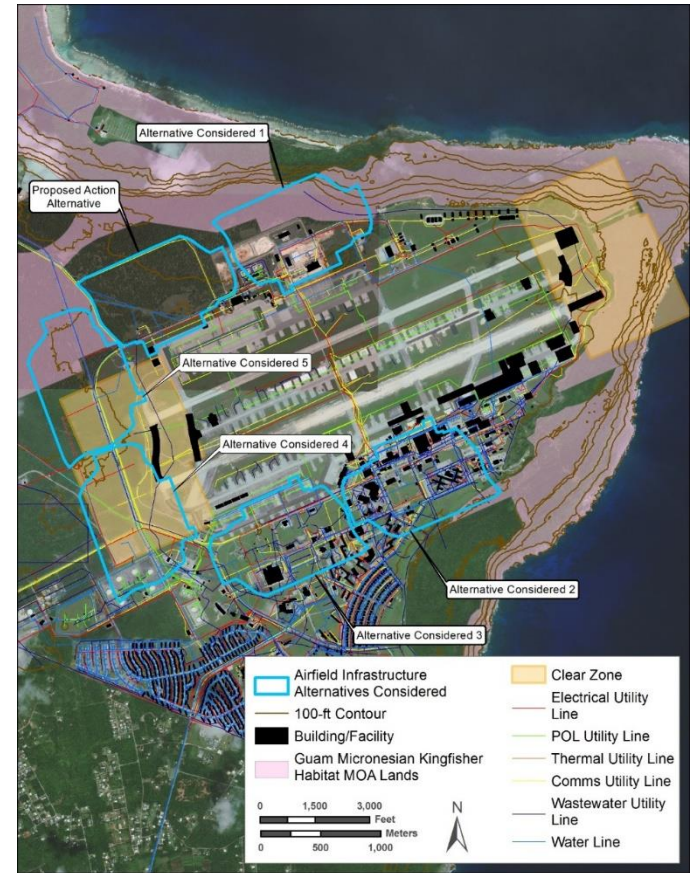
Alternatives Considered:

- Five alternatives around the airfield
- Repair/replacement of existing infrastructure

Alternatives Not Considered:

- Locations that are not immediately adjacent to the airfield because they would not provide collocation/consolidation of resources and mission capabilities
- Smaller or noncontiguous configurations because they would not provide collocation/consolidation of resources and mission capabilities
- Locations surrounding the northeastern end of the airfield due to the topography which would not be easily accessible (due to topography and relative location to the existing infrastructure)

Only the Proposed Action meets all Selection Standards and Purpose and Need



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ALTERNATIVES REVIEW: MSA-1

DAF developed 7 selection standards to review munitions storage alternatives.

Alternatives Considered:

- Other locations on Andersen AFB
- Renovate/repair/replace existing munitions infrastructure
- Other locations within MSA-1

Only the Proposed Action meets all Selection Standards and Purpose and Need



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No ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The Draft EIS also considers a No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the following would not occur:

- Beddown up to 12 RSAF F-15 fighter aircraft and associated aircraft operations
- Increase in personnel associated with the F-15 beddown
- Proposed infrastructure upgrades at North Ramp and MSA-1

The No Action Alternative is evaluated for environmental consequences to provide a baseline for the impacts analysis and to inform decision makers



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DRAFT EIS RESOURCE AREAS

The Draft EIS addresses the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the following resources:

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Infrastructure and Utilities
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Health and Safety
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes



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POTENTIAL IMPACTS SUMMARY: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Biological resource surveys conducted in North Ramp and MSA-1 in 2021 and 2024 to characterize the current condition of vegetation communities and fauna, and document presence or absence of Guam or federally listed species

Anticipated impacts could include:

- **Vegetation:** Loss of native vegetation and habitat; would also reduce native seed and pollen sources and increase the opportunity for spread of non-native species
- **Wildlife:** Physical disturbance and construction-related noise, lighting, and dust emissions during construction. Long-term habitat loss, modification, and fragmentation would impact wildlife
- **Special Status Species:** Degradation or modification of available supporting forest habitat, affecting both plant and animal special status species. Potential for significant effects. Air Force consulting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act



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POTENTIAL MITIGATIONS SUMMARY: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, DAF is identifying specific conservation measures to address effects on special status plants and loss of forest vegetation. These could include:
 - Salvage and transplant individual plants
 - Enhancement of limestone forest habitat around Andersen AFB
 - Invasive species management
 - Bat poaching deterrence



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POTENTIAL IMPACTS SUMMARY: CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resource surveys conducted in North Ramp and MSA-1 in 2021:

- **North Ramp:**

- The DAF has recommended 3 archaeological sites as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- 3 buildings are contributing elements of the North Field historic district

- **MSA-1:**

- The DAF has recommended 1 archaeological site as eligible for listing on the NRHP

Anticipated impacts could include the potential for construction activities to impact the physical integrity of surface and subsurface cultural resources. The DAF is coordinating with the Guam SHPO and will comply with the applicable requirements of the JRM Programmatic Agreement (2008).



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POTENTIAL IMPACTS SUMMARY: SOCIOECONOMICS

Anticipated impacts on Socioeconomics could include:

- Benefits on the local community from construction of the proposed infrastructure upgrades through:
 - increases in wages;
 - business sales;
 - and local and regional service, materials, and supply demands.
- Increased demand on housing needs from personnel associated with the F-15 beddown and/or an increase from the construction workforce.



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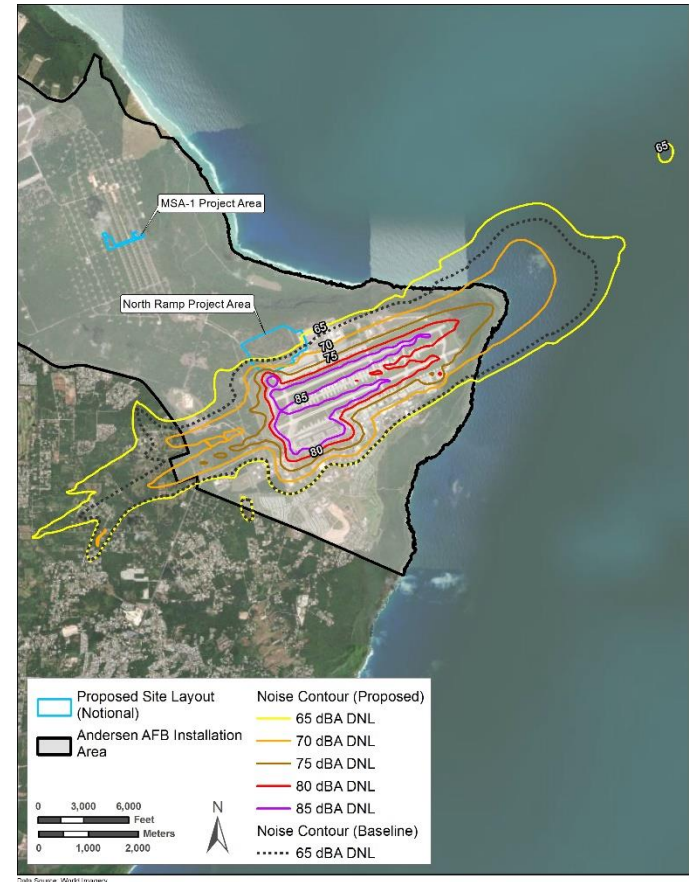
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POTENTIAL IMPACTS SUMMARY: NOISE

Anticipated impacts on Noise could include :

- An increase of approximately 83 off-Andersen AFB acres within the 65-dBA DNL contour
- Increase in approximately 40 residences within the 65-dBA DNL contour
- No off-Andersen AFB noise sensitive areas within the existing 65-dBA DNL contour, including schools, churches, or hospitals.



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HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

Comments, suggestions, and relevant information are welcomed on the DAF Andersen AFB F-15 and Infrastructure Upgrades proposal using one of the following methods:

- **Public Meetings:** Verbal and written comments accepted at the public meetings on July 17 and 18, 2024. For more details on the meetings, visit the project website.
- **E-mail:** afcec.aafb.infrasandf-15eis@us.af.mil (Attn: AAFB F-15 and Infrastructure EIS)
- **Mail:** HQ AFCEC/CIE, ATTN: Mr. David Martin, Bldg. 171, 2261 Hughes Ave., Ste. 155, JBSA Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9853 (U.S. POSTAL SERVICES DELIVERY)
- **Online on the Project Website:** AAFBInfraAndF15EIS.com/provide-comments
- **Comment Form:** Available for download on project website: www.AAFBInfraAndf15EIS.com

To ensure the Department of the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input, please submit all comments by July 29, 2024.



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Thank you for your participation!

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ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM