

F-35A Training Basing

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



NEPA PROCESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires U.S. federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions before making a decision. The public participates in the NEPA process by:

- ▶ Helping to identify environmental issues and potential alternatives during the scoping period
- ▶ Evaluating the environmental analysis of the Proposed Action and alternatives during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comment period
- ▶ Evaluating the Final EIS and U.S. Air Force responses to public comments on the Draft EIS during the Final EIS wait period

All public comments are considered, and the Air Force will not proceed with any proposed action until the NEPA process is complete.

Project Materials and Draft EIS Availability

Informational materials and project documents are available on the project website at www.F-35ATrainingEIS.com and at the following information repositories:

El Mirage Branch Library
14011 N. 1st Ave.
El Mirage, AZ 85335

Sun City Branch Library
16828 N. 99th Ave.
Sun City, AZ 85351

Gila Bend Branch Library
202 N. Euclid
Gila Bend, AZ 85337

Northwest Regional Library-Surprise
16089 N. Bullard Ave.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Glendale Public Library
Main Branch
5959 W. Brown St.
Glendale, AZ 85302

Wickenburg Public Library
164 E. Apache St.
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Litchfield Park Branch Library
101 W. Wigwam Blvd.
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

The National Environmental Policy Act process emphasizes the importance of public involvement during the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The public is encouraged to comment and provide feedback on the Proposed Action, alternatives and potential environmental impacts as presented in the Draft EIS. Public participation helps the U.S. Air Force make more informed decisions about its proposed action.

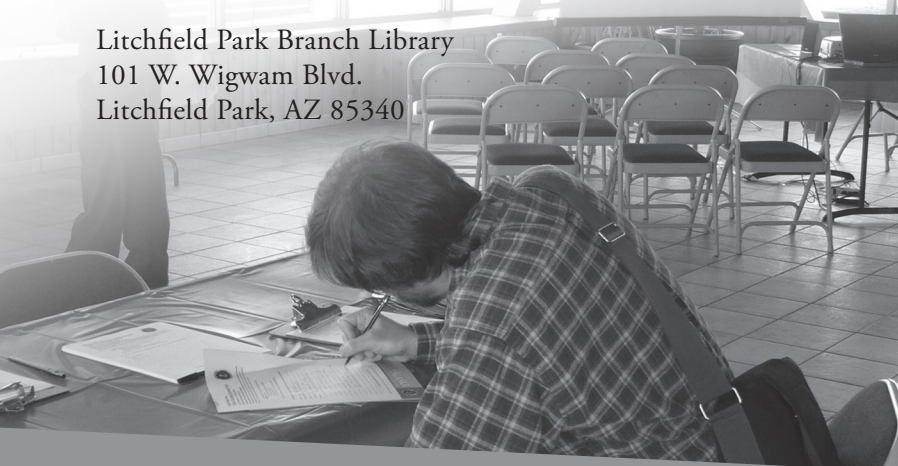


Commenting on the Draft EIS

The Air Force requests and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS. Interested parties can comment on the Draft EIS in any of the following ways:

- ▶ Submit oral and written comments at the public hearings
- ▶ Mail, fax or email comments to:
David Martin, Air Force Contractor,
and Kim Fornof
HQ AETC/A7CPP
266 F Street West, Bldg. 901
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4319
Fax: 210-652-5649
Email: aetc.a7cp.inbox@us.af.mil

All comments must be postmarked or received by March 14, 2012, for consideration in the Final EIS.



F-35A Training Basing EIS

The Air Force has prepared a Draft EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed establishment of a Pilot Training Center and basing of F-35A training aircraft at one or more existing Air Force or Air National Guard installations within the continental United States.

This table shows the steps of the NEPA process and identifies opportunities for public involvement.

MILESTONES	DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE
Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS	Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register and local newspapers started the initial public involvement phase of the NEPA process.	Dec. 28, 2009
➤ Scoping Period	The scoping process was conducted prior to starting the environmental analysis and actively involved the public and other agencies in identifying the environmental issues and reasonable alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. Twenty-three scoping meetings and a 141-day public comment period were provided during the scoping period, more than the minimum 30 days required under NEPA.	Scoping Period: Dec. 28, 2009 – May 17, 2010
Draft EIS/Notice of Availability (NOA)	The Draft EIS presents the analysis of potential environmental impacts for the Proposed Action and each alternative. The NOA of the Draft EIS is published in the Federal Register and local newspapers. The Draft EIS was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties.	Jan. 20, 2012
➤ Public Hearings and Comment Period	The Draft EIS is made available to the public and other agencies to comment on the analysis for 45 days, as required under NEPA. During this time, 13 public meetings will be held.	Public Comment Period: Jan. 20, 2012 – March 14, 2012 Public Hearings: Holloman Air Force Base Feb. 7-9, 2012 Luke Air Force Base Feb. 13-16, 2012 Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station Feb. 21-23, 2012 Boise Air Terminal Airport Air Guard Station Feb. 27-29, 2012
Final EIS/NOA	The Final EIS is an update to the Draft EIS based on comments received during the Draft EIS public comment period. The NOA of the Final EIS is published in the Federal Register and local newspapers. The Final EIS is filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties.	Summer 2012
➤ 30-Day Wait Period	Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS is published, before the agency may take final action. During that period, in addition to the agency's own internal final review, the public and other agencies can comment on the Final EIS before the agency's final action on the proposal.	Summer 2012
Record of Decision	After the 30-day wait period and considering public comments on the potential environmental impacts, the decision maker will select an alternative and issue a Record of Decision. A Notice of Record of Decision is published in the Federal Register and local newspapers and made available to interested parties.	Summer 2012

➤ Opportunities for Public Review and Comment Complete In Progress Next Steps