

Beddown of Foreign Military Sales Pilot Training Center

at Ebbing ANGB, Arkansas or Selfridge ANGB, Michigan



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) invites you to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and attend Public Hearings for the Proposed Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Pilot Training Center (PTC) at either Ebbing Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Arkansas (AR) or Selfridge ANGB, Michigan (MI).

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act the DAF has prepared a Draft EIS for public review that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to establish a FMS PTC. The Draft EIS addresses two alternative locations: Ebbing ANGB, AR (the Preferred Alternative) or Selfridge ANGB, MI (Alternative 2). The DAF is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of the EIS. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is serving as a Cooperating Agency because the scope of the Proposed Action involves activities under their jurisdiction by law and for which they have special expertise. FAA's authorities and special expertise is based on its statutory responsibilities under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section [§] 47101) and Section 163 of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act.

The DAF's Proposed Action would establish a permanent FMS PTC to accommodate up to 36 aircraft (24 F-35 aircraft and 12 F-16 aircraft) utilizing existing facilities to the maximum extent practicable to meet FMS requirements. Both the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2 would include the beddown of F-35 and F-16 aircraft; use of respective airfields and airspace; military construction projects; facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects; and personnel increases. The number of personnel at each location would increase under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2. The beddown would not require changes to airspace configuration to support the Preferred Alternative or Alternative 2. The EIS analyzes the impacts associated with implementation of the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2, as well as the No Action Alternative.

OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE DRAFT EIS. The Draft EIS is available for download at www.FMSPTCEIS.com. Electronic copies of the document are also available at local libraries; the website provides a list of local libraries where the document is available.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - PLEASE ATTEND. As part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with NEPA, the DAF will be holding public hearings to receive public comments on the environmental impacts of the proposed action presented in the Draft EIS. The DAF will host three public hearings on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Central) at a location near Ebbing ANGB, AR
- Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern) at a location near Selfridge ANGB, MI
- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 – 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Central)/6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern) – virtually

Verbal comments will be accepted at the hearings; your input is valuable and assists the DAF in making more informed decisions. Interested parties need to register to attend a public hearing and sign up to provide an oral comment. To register, please visit www.FMSPTCEIS.com. Pre-registration is required for all meetings to comply with the Secretary of the Air Force COVID mitigation guidance. Meeting locations, links and instructions will be distributed after registering and prior to all public hearings. If unable to pre-register online for a hearing, you may call your local base Public Affairs office to register:

- Ebbing ANGB Public Affairs: (479) 573-5323
- Selfridge ANGB Public Affairs: (586) 239-4735

Both the in-person hearings and the virtual hearing will begin with a 30-minute presentation regarding the proposed action and environmental impacts, followed by a 30-minute open house session. The last hour of the meeting is set aside for an official oral comment session, where participants can provide oral comments for the record regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed action (up to three minutes in length).

PUBLIC COMMENT. The DAF requests comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested members of the public. Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally at the public hearings, and written comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted electronically at www.FMSPTCEIS.com (preferred method) or via postal mail at the address below. For further information, please contact:

USPS:
FMS PTC EIS Project Manager
AFCEC/CZN
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

FEDEX / UPS Deliveries:
FMS PTC EIS Project Manager
AFCEC/CZN
3515 S General McMullen, Suite 155
San Antonio, TX 78226-2018

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 October 17, 2022.

