



The United States Air Force (Air Force) is assessing a proposal to relocate the 18th Aggressor Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB) to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and to re-size the remaining wing overhead/base operating support at Eielson AFB, Alaska.

Proposed Action

The 18th Aggressor Squadron consists of 18 assigned F-16 aircraft and 3 back-up F-16s. This proposed relocation includes removing 623 military personnel from EAFB, transferring approximately 542 positions to JBER, and eliminating 81 positions. The Air Force proposes an additional reduction of approximately 749 military authorizations and approximately 179 civilian authorizations at EAFB appropriate to the command structure required for the remaining operations. Current planning estimates call for an end-state of approximately 769 appropriated funds personnel at EAFB after FY15 (559 military and 210 civilian personnel).

EAFB will continue to host Red Flag and Distant Frontier training exercises with the 18th Aggressor Squadron operating out of JBER under one of two possible alternatives: under Alternative 1, the 18th Aggressor Squadron would deploy to EAFB for the duration of the exercises; under Alternative 2, the 18th Aggressor Squadron F-16 aircraft would fly to and from exercises using aerial refueling. The participating F-16 aircraft would not routinely land at EAFB for refueling. Both Alternatives would operate in the same air space as currently used for Red Flag and Distant Frontier exercises. Transient aircraft and personnel from outside of Alaska participating in these exercises would continue to deploy to and operate out of EAFB. The No Action Alternative of keeping the 18th Aggressor Squadron stationed at EAFB will also be addressed.

The Air Force is proposing the relocation to reduce defense spending and support congressionally mandated deficit reductions, and as part of its priority to prepare for future challenges and protect the broad range of U.S. national security interests.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Air Force is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) considering a proposal to relocate the 18th Aggressor Squadron from Eielson AFB to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and rightsizing the remaining Wing Overhead/Base Operating Support at Eielson. The Air Force is in the early stages of the EIS process and no decision has been made regarding the relocation of the 18th Aggressor Squadron.

Public Scoping Meetings – Please Attend!

In order to effectively define the full range of issues to be evaluated in the EIS, the Air Force will determine the scope of the analysis by soliciting comments from interested local, state and federal agencies, as well as interested members of the public. The following public open house scoping meetings are being held.

Feb. 4, 2013	6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. presentation	Alaska State Fairgrounds 2075 Glenn Highway, Hoskins Building, Palmer, AK
Feb. 5, 2013	6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. presentation	Tyson Elementary School 2801 Richmond Avenue, Anchorage, AK
Feb. 6, 2013	12 - 2 p.m.; 12:30 p.m. presentation 6 - 8 p.m.; 7:00 pm presentation	Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge 4477 Pikes Landing Rd, Edgewater & Jade Rooms, Fairbanks, AK
Feb. 7, 2013	6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. presentation	North Pole High School 601 North Pole High School Boulevard, North Pole, AK

Public Comment

Your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making informed decisions. Public scoping comments will be accepted either verbally or in writing at the open house scoping meetings. For further information, or to submit written comments, please contact: **Mr. Allen Richmond, AFCEC/CZN, 2261 Hughes Ave, Ste. 155, Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9853, Telephone: (210) 395-8555.**

The Air Force will accept comments at any time during the environmental process. ***However, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, please submit comments by March 1, 2013!***