

**Public**





# Capitol Recap: A Welcome Back to the Gold Dome

By Sen. Larry Walker  
(R – Perry)

On Monday, January 9, 2023, the Georgia General Assembly officially gaveled in the 2023 Legislative Session, beginning a new biennial legislative term. The Georgia Constitution requires that the Georgia General Assembly convene on the second Monday in January every year, but it does not specify an adjournment date. Instead, the Constitution sets a maximum number of 40 session days, which are not required to be consecutive. We generally stretch these 40 days over about three months, with recess days scheduled for committee meetings, weekends and holidays sprinkled throughout. Most of the activity during the first week of session is ceremonial and organizational in nature with only a handful of resolutions passed and a few bills introduced, and this year is no different. On Monday, all members of the House and Senate, both new and



returning, were sworn into office for the new biennial. The Senate has a number of new leaders, including Lt. Governor Burt Jones and President Pro Tempore Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) along with 10 freshmen/women Senators. With new leadership and so many new legislators, I anticipate that the 2023 Legislative Session will get off to a little slower paced start than in the past, but I know the activity will soon accelerate, and I look forward to this great opportunity to forge new relationships and build on the accomplishments of previous sessions. On Thursday, the official Inauguration of Georgia's

83rd Governor, Brian P. Kemp, and our state's Constitutional Officers took place. I am proud to see Governor Kemp lead us for a second term so that we can continue to benefit from his experience, bold vision, and dedication to the hard-working citizens of this great state. I'm confident that we will work closely with his office to address the issues facing Georgia in a prudent manner that furthers our standing as the number one state in the nation to do business and the best place to live, work, and raise a family. I am also pleased to report that I, along with my Senate colleagues, worked hard over the interim to lay the groundwork for a productive and fruitful session. Following the adjournment of the 2022 Legislative Session, our work did not stop. Much of the interim was devoted to conducting numerous Senate Study Committees, appointed by former Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan, such as the Senate Study Committee

on Georgia Music Heritage chaired by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) and the Senate Study Committee to Review Education Funding Mechanisms chaired by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton) to name a few. Much of my time over the interim was spent serving on a joint House and Senate study committee of major importance and one that has received a lot of interest, the Joint Study Committee on Electrification of Transportation. This committee, co-chaired by Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) and House member Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper), was established pursuant to Senate Resolution 463 and was adopted by the General Assembly during the 2022 Legislative Session. The prevalence of electric vehicles (EV) on our roads is increasing, with projections for EV adoption to accelerate, and Georgia appears to be at the epicenter of EV and EV battery manufacturing. Therefore, it is imperative that we plan and pre-

pare for a future where EV's continue to replace combustible engine vehicles on our roads by implementing public policy that supports an adequate EV charging network and replaces diminishing motor fuel tax used to fund our transportation infrastructure. After several months of hard work, the Joint Study Committee held its final meeting to adopt its committee report, outlining the committee's work and recommendations on November 30, 2022. I am grateful for the time commitment, expert testimony and robust discussion that went into each study committee and look forward to vetting potential legislation resulting from this work during the 2023 Legislative Session. Next week, much of the General Assembly's time will be devoted to Joint Hearings of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. "Budget Week," as we call it, is a time for the heads of Georgia's state agencies and departments to present their budget requests

to the General Assembly for review. These hearings are often long, but are critical in ensuring that your taxpayer dollars are spent as responsibly as possible. The following week, we will reconvene in the Senate Chamber Monday through Thursday for our next four Legislative Days. We also plan to get back to work serving in our committees to assess the pieces of legislation brought before us. If you have any questions or concerns related to the budget or any potential legislation that my come up this year, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I am here to serve you. Sen. Larry Walker serves as Chairman of the Insurance and Labor Committee. He represents the 20th Senate District, which includes Bleckley, Dodge, Dooley, Houston, Laurens, Pulaski, Treutlen and Wilcox counties. He may be reached by phone at 404.656.0095 or by email at [larry.walker@senate.ga.gov](mailto:larry.walker@senate.ga.gov).

## WATERS From page 4A

we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts. All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct;

or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here." ALWAYS PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY. The Penn Biden Center took in more than \$61 Million in gifts from China between 2017-2019. Does anyone here see the connection? Notice how with this Biden/Obama/Clinton classified-document-gate, there is never any camera

footage or visitor logs. How long can this country survive such a cavalier attitude toward national security by our 3-lettered intelligence agencies? The larger question may be how and why is this happening? Could it simply be that the love of money is root of all evil, as the Word tells us? Selling state secrets to the highest bidder slightly outpaces, in moral outrage, Brian Kemp's Rivian deal with the Georgia taxpay-

ers. Our smug FBI director, Christopher Wray, along with Georgia Governor Brian Kemp are away from the country, both attending the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Maybe Kemp just needs a break from Georgia, as the Center for Economic Accountability just selected Rivian's \$1.5 billion subsidy from the State of Georgia as the Worst Economic

Development Deal of the Year for 2022. The Center for Economic Accountability is an organization that "works for transparency, accountability, and market-based reforms for state and local economic development programs across America." They remarked, "(Nationally) Georgia's \$1.5 billion Rivian subsidy still managed to stand out for the way that bureaucrats and elected officials completely failed in their

responsibilities to the state's residents and taxpayers." Don't think for one second that Governor Brian Kemp isn't in bed with all the swamp monsters from Davos. Georgia's wealthiest family, the Cox family, own Cox Enterprises and a 4.7% stake in Rivian, and are a World Economic Forum partner. They are Kemp supporters and donors as well. Making sense yet?

## TEAMS From page 1A

This was the 10th annual event Chip'n Away calls "Teams Against Heart Disease," and its mission is to bring awareness to sudden cardiac arrest and its impact on young athletes. During the event, organizers said the crowd was open and receptive to the message. Additionally, to get in the spirit, coaches and cheerleaders wore custom T-shirts that read "Teams vs. Heart Disease," and during the presentation, many on the sidelines also wore the color red. The Northside and Warner Robins basketball teams participated in the event, and their locations both hold significant ties to Coach Malone. Dr. Rebecca White is the varsity head coach for

Warner Robins High School's Demonettes. She helped organize the event and explained the connection. "Coach Malone actually coached at Tabor Middle School, so he was also on the north side of town and the south side of town," White said. "Those schools have always been very encouraging and wanting to participate in this, so we wore the shirts, the coaches wore the shirts. It was very interesting to see the two coaches going against each other, but coming together for one cause." She added that even in the spirit of competition, it's refreshing to see the community come together, and coming together, in a sense, continues on the legacy of Warner Robins' former coach, as White explained. "Yes, we're here competing on the court, but when something happens in our

community, we have to come together for that cause," White said. "... Coach Malone will always be a part of Warner Robins High School. He impacted many lives." Malone knew White from childhood, and was a father figure to her. During her time as assistant coach, she saw firsthand the impact Malone made on those he coached, and is excited to continue the legacy. "I remember when I was younger, I asked the coach, 'what can I ever do to repay you?' He said 'no coach will ever ask for money. We ask you to give back part of what we've given to you.' That's what I try to do, and I'm going to continue to do for Warner Robins High School,"

White said. She encouraged the community to come together, highlighting the spirit of Chip'n Away's mission to bring awareness. "It's okay to battle on the court, but we're one big community here in Warner Robins, and we can make a difference when we come together," White said. The Warner Robins vs. Northside matchups on Saturday night were certainly a battle on the court. If you want to see how the teams performed, check out The Journal's coverage in the sports section. For more information on Chip'n Away at Heart Disease, and to view their upcoming events, visit their website: [chipnaway.com](http://chipnaway.com)

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## Notice for Early Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) proposes to develop a C-130 Campus Area on Robins Air Force Base (AFB), GA for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex (WR-ALC). This effort is expected to involve modification of stormwater structures in previously disturbed areas located in a 100-year floodplain. This notice satisfies the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 11988, Section 2(a)(3)-(4) and has been prepared and made available to the public by the DAF in accordance with Title 32, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 989.15e(2)(iii) and 989.24(c), and Air Force Manual 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*, for actions proposed in or affecting floodplains. Interagency scoping has also been initiated with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Middle GA Regional Planning Commission, Houston County Board of Education, Houston County Board of Commissioners, Robins Regional Chamber, and Warner Robins Department of Community and Economic Development.

The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide appropriate organic industrial base (OIB) infrastructure to reliably support projected increases in DoD C-130 depot operational demand, in accordance with the final Depot Source of Repair (DSOR) Decision on the C-130J and Variants signed 26 May 2020 by Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (HQ AFMC). The Need for the Proposed Action arises from the inadequacy and unreliability of using only existing WR-ALC facilities to meet currently projected C-130 workload levels. All potential existing facility changes have been explored, as well as potential staffing increases. Due to current/projected competing and existing mission needs, these changes would not be sufficient to address the increase. Therefore, the WR-ALC does not have the necessary infrastructure to support projected C-130 PDM workload increases. Action is needed to meet as much of the projected demand as is practicable to minimize adverse mission impacts.

The Proposed Action would construct needed OIB facilities and support infrastructure over the next five years. More specifically, two hangars would be constructed and a paint booth would be installed, along with required taxiway connections. A few small facilities would be demolished and generally relocated due to siting. A hot cargo pad and vehicle holding area would also be relocated. Support infrastructure would include new personnel parking space and road repair, aircraft parking space, aircraft fuel pits and functional test areas, a dedicated electrical circuit, fire protection water supply facilities, and any needed stormwater system and wastewater system corrections and improvements. The Proposed Action would disturb an estimated 61 acres and would increase the Base's impervious area by approximately 27 acres. As the C-130 depot work increases, so would the required aircraft operational testing (a 50% peak increase). The Proposed Action would require approximately 766 new personnel. Maps indicating the expected areas of disturbance and 100-year floodplain are available at <https://www.robins.af.mil/Units/78th-Air-Base-Wing/78th-Civil-Engineer-Group/Environmental/>.

These projects would conform to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards. Any reasonable location for the campus would result in the need to modify the stormwater system, likely including the outfalls along the east side of the flightline. Stormwater system modifications in the 100-year floodplain due to the projects are expected to be unavoidable. Additional impervious area near the flightline would necessitate the directing of additional stormwater volume away from the immediate area. Due to the general nature of stormwater flow going to the east in the area and the existence of floodplains along the eastern side of the base, appropriate stormwater management would involve modification of stormwater features in the floodplain. The DAF is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the Proposed Action's potential environmental impacts.

The DAF is seeking advance public comment on the Proposed Action to determine if there are any public concerns regarding the development's potential impacts and is soliciting public input or comment on potential project alternatives during the next 30 days. The full draft EA will also be available for public review when complete. Please provide written comments to 78 ABW/PA, 620 9th St., Bldg. 905, Rm 230, Robins AFB, GA 31098. Comments can also be provided by phone at (478) 926-2137 or by email at [78.abw.pa.office@us.af.mil](mailto:78.abw.pa.office@us.af.mil). Comments will be accepted for 30 days from the publication of this notice.

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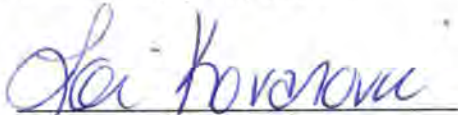
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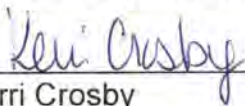
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Lori Kovarovic  
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9467  
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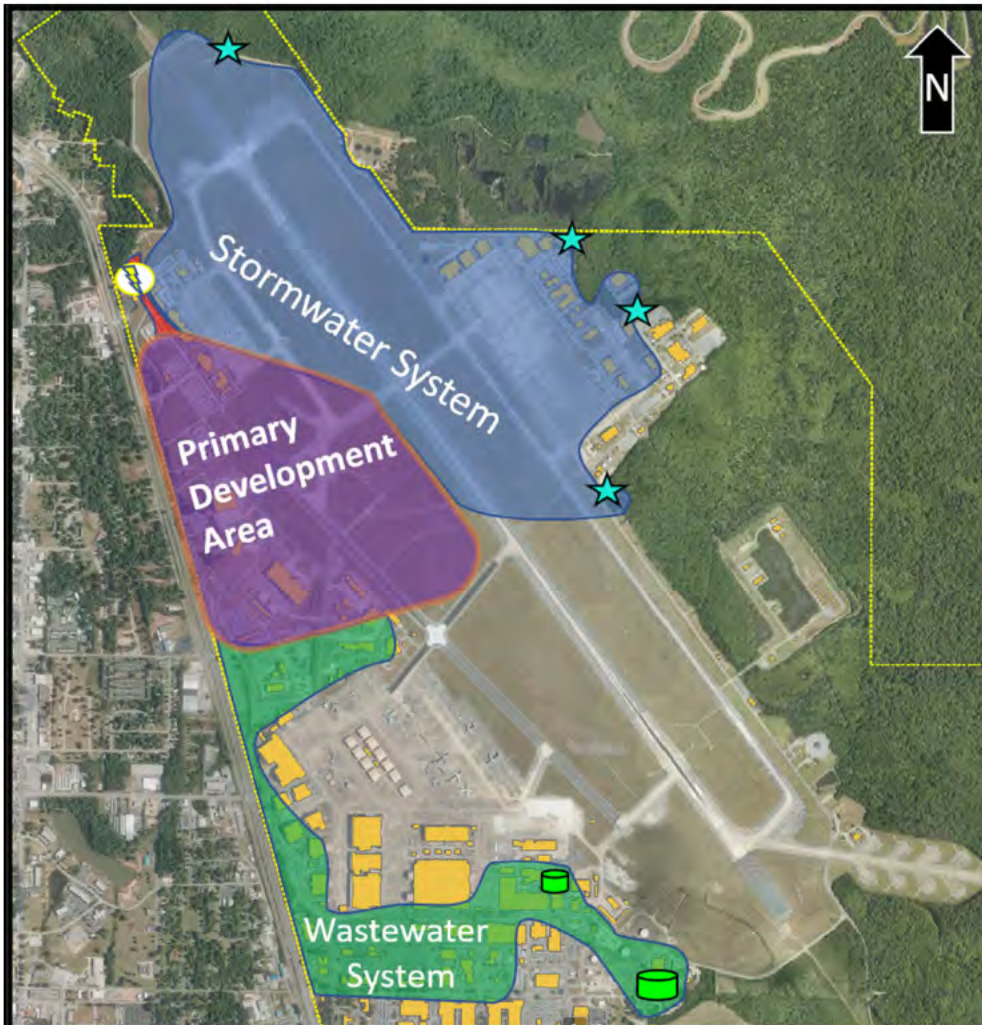
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## Proposed Action Location Maps

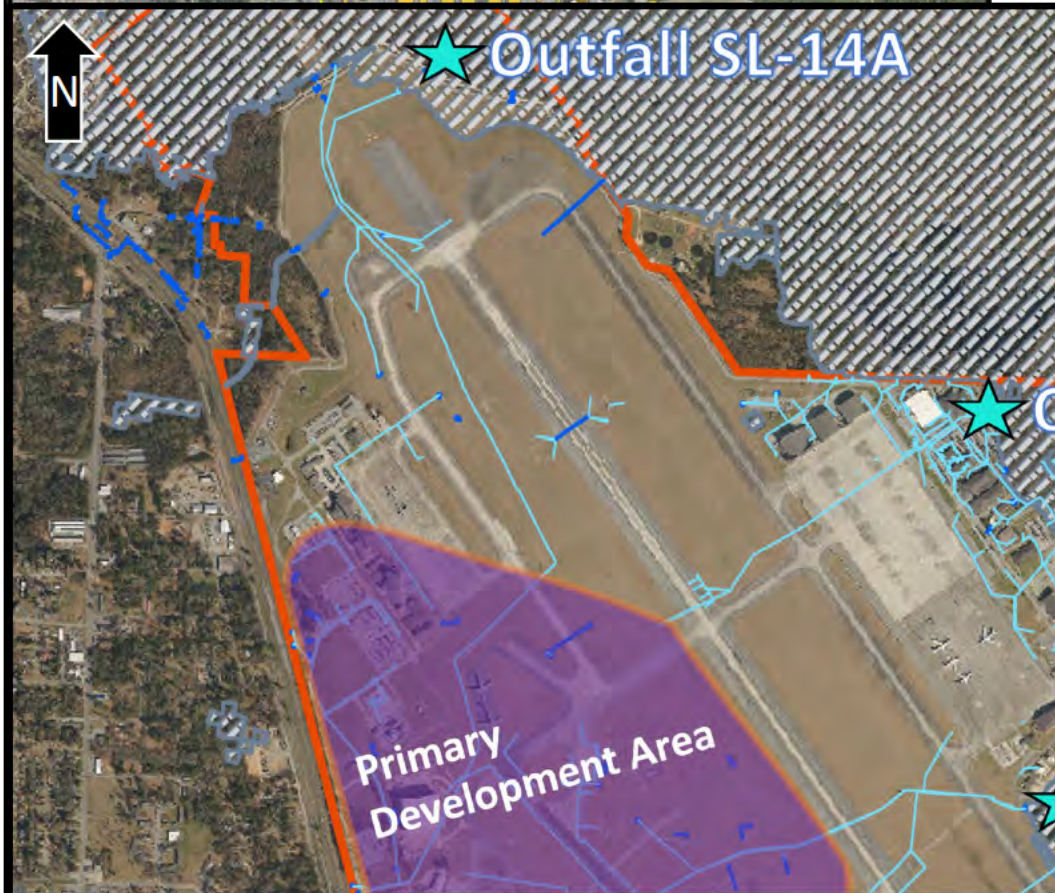
*Top* – Overview of Potential Disturbance Areas

*Bottom* – 100-year Floodplain Detail

C-130 Campus Area Development Plan  
Multi-Project Environmental Assessment  
Robins Air Force Base  
Warner Robins, Georgia

### Legend

-  Primary Development Area
-  Stormwater System (lines, culverts, etc.)
-  Wastewater System (lines, lift stations)
-  Electrical Circuit
-  Installation Boundary
-  Weir/Outfall
-  Fowler Street Substation
-  Wastewater Treatment Plants



### Legend

-  Installation Boundary
-  100 Year Floodplain (CSU)
-  Storm Water Lines
-  Culvert



## **HARTLEB, MARISSA E CIV USAF AFMC 78 CEG/CEIE**

---

**From:** DICK, DAWN E CIV USAF AFMC 78 ABW/PA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:50 AM  
**To:** LEACH, ROLAND W CIV USAF AFMC 78 ABW/PA; HARTLEB, MARISSA E CIV USAF AFMC 78 CEG/CEIE  
**Subject:** RE: C-130 Campus Multi-Project EA - Scoping Period  
**Signed By:** dawn.dick.1@us.af.mil

Good morning,

No emails were received on this subject.

Thanks,  
Dawn

Dawn Dick  
Program Support Assistant  
78 Air Base Wing Public Affairs  
Robins AFB, GA  
Dawn.dick.1@us.af.mil  
478-222-0811  
DSN 472-0811

---

**From:** LEACH, ROLAND W CIV USAF AFMC 78 ABW/PA <roland.leach@us.af.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:38 PM  
**To:** HARTLEB, MARISSA E CIV USAF AFMC 78 CEG/CEIE <marissa.hartleb@us.af.mil>  
**Cc:** DICK, DAWN E CIV USAF AFMC 78 ABW/PA <dawn.dick.1@us.af.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: C-130 Campus Multi-Project EA - Scoping Period

Marissa,

We haven't received any comments or questions but let me double check to see if anything came into our 78ABW/PA email.

V/r,

*Roland Leach*

Media Operations – Robins Public Affairs Office Robins AFB, GA 31098  
478-222-1024 or DSN 472-1024  
FAX 478-327-6001 or DSN 497-6001

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**From:** HARTLEB, MARISSA E CIV USAF AFMC 78 CEG/CEIE <[marissa.hartleb@us.af.mil](mailto:marissa.hartleb@us.af.mil)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:41 PM

**To:** LEACH, ROLAND W CIV USAF AFMC 78 ABW/PA <[roland.leach@us.af.mil](mailto:roland.leach@us.af.mil)>

**Subject:** C-130 Campus Multi-Project EA - Scoping Period

Good afternoon,

The scoping period for the subject action ended last week. Were any comments/questions received?

Thank you,

Marissa Hartleb

NEPA Planner (All WR-ALC Actions)

78 CEG/CEIE

Cell: [REDACTED]