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. The attached maps indicate the expected areas of disturbance and 100-year floodplain.

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. Comments will be accepted for 30 days from the publication of this notice.

