

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Department of the Air Force

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 4321 – 4347; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; and 32 CFR Part 989

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) has made available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed KC-46A Main Operating Base 5 (MOB 5) Beddown. The Draft EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed beddown and flight operations of KC-46A aircraft MOB 5 mission. The DAF has identified March Air Reserve Base (ARB) as the preferred alternative with Grissom ARB and Tinker Air Force Base (AFB) as reasonable alternatives. Along with the No Action Alternative, these alternatives were fully evaluated in the Draft EIS.

Although all practicable measures were taken to minimize and avoid impacts to floodplains and wetlands, implementation of the KC-46A MOB 5 mission at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma, would affect approximately 3.5 acres of floodplain and approximately 45 linear feet of jurisdictional water. Consistent with the requirements and objectives of Executive Orders (EOs) 13690, “Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input,” 11988, “Floodplain Management” and 11990, “Protection of Wetlands,” state and federal regulatory agencies with special expertise in wetlands and floodplains have been contacted regarding these impacts. Consistent with these EOs, this NOA continues the early public review of the alternatives, including implementation of the KC-46A MOB 5 mission at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma which has the potential to affect waters of the United States and/or floodplains. If Tinker AFB is selected for the proposed KC-46A MOB 5 mission, impacts to the jurisdictional water would be permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Nationwide Permit 39 which requires pre-construction notification. Because impacts to East Crutcho Creek would be less than 3/100 of an acre, no mitigation would be required. To avoid altering the elevation, function, and capacity of the floodplain, material would be excavated adjacent to and from within the same floodplain to be used as fill for the proposed ramp expansion. Should Tinker AFB be selected for the proposed MOB 5 mission, as required by EOs 13690, 11988, and 11990, the DAF would prepare a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) for the ramp expansion. The FONPA would explain why there is no practicable alternative to impacting floodplains and wetlands at Tinker AFB.

Additional information is available at <https://www.kc-46a-mob5.com/index.aspx>. A copy of the Draft EIS will be available for review beginning June 30, 2023, on the project website and at the following locations:

- Moreno Valley Public Library, Iris Plaza Branch, 16170 Perris Blvd., Suite C3, Moreno Valley, CA 92551
- Perris Branch Library, 163 E San Jacinto Avenue, Perris, CA 92570
- Peru Public Library, 102 East Main, Peru, IN 46970
- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library Main, 220 N. Union, Kokomo, IN 46901
- Midwest City Public Library, 8143 E. Reno Ave., Midwest City, OK 73110-7589
- Del City Library, 4330 SE. 15th St., Del City, OK 73115

DATES: The Air Force will host three public hearings at the following dates, times, and locations:

Tuesday July 18, 2023; 5:00 to 8:00 PM	March ARB	March Field Air Museum, 22550 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA 92518
Thursday July 20, 2023; 5:00 to 8:00 PM	Tinker AFB	Delta Hotels Midwest City at the Reed Conference Center, 5750 Will Rodgers Rd., Midwest City, OK 73110
Tuesday July 25, 2023; 5:00 to 8:00 PM	Grissom ARB	Maconaquah High School Cafeteria, 256 East 800 South, Bunker Hill, IN 46914

The hearing dates, times, and locations listed above will be announced through the local media. Oral and written comments presented at the hearing, as well as written comments received by the DAF during the public comment period will be considered in the Final EIS. To ensure the DAF has sufficient time to include public input in the preparation of the Final EIS, written comments from the public should be submitted to the address below by August 14, 2023

COMMENTS: Direct written comments to: KC-46A MOB 5 EIS, 13397 Lakefront Drive, Suite 100, Earth City, MO 63045. Electronic submissions should be provided via the project website at: www.kc-46a-mob5.com. EIS inquiries and requests for digital or print copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request at the email or mailing address provided. For printed material requests, the standard U.S. Postal Service shipping timeline will apply. All are encouraged to provide verbal or written comments on the proposed action either at the public hearings or via the project website or by mail, postmarked no later than August 14, 2023, to ensure proper consideration in the environmental impact analysis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: KC-46A MOB 5 EIS, 13397 Lakefront Drive, Suite 100, Earth City, MO 63045.