



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

The Department of the Air Force Publishes the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed T-7A Recapitalization at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Proposed Action and Alternatives Considered

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Air Force (DAF) publishes the T-7A Recapitalization at Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A 30-day waiting period is required by law before signing the Record of Decision.

Recapitalization would entail introduction of T-7A aircraft and flight operations at Laughlin AFB and associated special use airspace to replace all T-38C aircraft assigned to the installation; changes to the number of personnel and dependents in the Laughlin AFB region; and construction and upgrade of operations, support, and maintenance facilities. The Final EIS evaluates the potential environmental consequences resulting from three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative.

DAF has identified Alternative 3 as its preferred alternative in the Final EIS. Alternative 3 is preferred because it provides sufficient operational capacity for foreseeable pilot production needs and provides operational flexibility for future capacity needs. Previously in the Draft EIS, DAF identified Alternative 1 as its preferred alternative, but DAF switched its preferred alternative to Alternative 3 because of anticipated upcoming changes in the pilot training curriculums and syllabuses.

Where to Obtain the Final EIS

The Final EIS is available for download at <https://laughlin.t-7anepadocuments.com/>.

A hardcopy is available for reading at the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring Street, Del Rio, Texas 78840.

30-Day Waiting Period and Record of Decision

The Notice of Availability for the Final EIS will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 21, 2024. The 30-day post-filing waiting period will end on July 22, 2024. After the close of the waiting period, DAF will sign a Record of Decision.

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