

Proposed Action Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE 1

63 T-7A Aircraft and Operations at Level Sustaining Pilot Training while Simultaneously Phasing Out the T-38C and Phasing In the T-7A

- 4-year aircraft delivery/withdrawal period between 2030 and 2033.
- Pilot training operations performed at level to meet anticipated training needs. Operations are takeoffs, landings, the approach phase of a “touch-and-go”, and the takeoff phase of a “touch-and-go”.
- Up to 493 annual nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) T-7A operations, which is a decrease of approximately 77 percent from baseline levels.
- Use existing T-38C Military Operations Areas (MOA) (i.e., Laughlin 1, Laughlin 2, Laughlin 3) and Military Training Routes (MTR) (i.e., IR-169, IR-170, VR-143, VR-165, VR-168, and VR-187).
- No changes to airspace configurations required; sub-sonic operations only.

ALTERNATIVE 2

63 T-7A Aircraft and Operations 25 Percent Greater than Alternative 1

- Covers scenario in which the Department of the Air Force requires a surge or increase in pilot training operations above current plan.
- Identical to Alternative 1 except operations are 25 percent greater with up to 614 annual nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) T-7A operations, which is a decrease of approximately 72 percent from baseline levels.

ALTERNATIVE 3

79 T-7A Aircraft and Operations 25 Percent Greater than Alternative 1

- Provides the Department of the Air Force with operational flexibility so that 16 additional T-7A aircraft can be assigned to Laughlin AFB, if needed.
- Similar to Alternatives 1 and 2 except 16 additional T-7A aircraft are delivered in 2030 and 60 T-7A shelters are installed.
- Operations are identical to Alternative 2.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Does Not Implement T-7A Recapitalization at Laughlin AFB

- Assess environmental consequences from taking no action; serves as baseline.
- T-38Cs remain in service with no changes to operations at Laughlin AFB or special use airspace even though they will reach the end of their service lives within the next decade.
- No changes to the number of personnel and dependents; no construction undertaken.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

T-7A RECAPITALIZATION AT LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

