



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



### The U.S. Department of the Air Force invites you to participate in public scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Beddown of KC-46A Tanker Aircraft for Main Operating Base #6

Please note, due library renovations, the U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) has extended the 30-day public scoping period to June 30, 2022. The original scoping period was from April 14 through May 16, 2022 through publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement addressing the proposal to beddown KC-46A Pegasus (KC-46A) tanker aircraft, associated infrastructure, and personnel for the Main Operating Base #6 (MOB 6) at an existing active duty Air Force Base (AFB) within the continental United States.

The Proposed Action consists of the beddown of 24 KC-46A aircraft at MacDill AFB, Florida with a mission to provide worldwide refueling, cargo, or aeromedical evacuation support, or as an alternative, the beddown of 24 KC-46A aircraft would occur at Fairchild AFB, Washington. Under the Proposed Action at MacDill AFB or the Fairchild AFB alternative, the 24 KC-46A would replace 24 KC-135 Stratotanker (KC-135) aircraft when those aircraft are relocated or retired from the selected installation. The associated KC-46A training mission would result in an increase in overall tanker operations at that installation.

The DAF plans to recapitalize (restructure and replace) the existing 1950's-era tanker aircraft and associated mission through basing of the modern KC-46A aircraft. With more refueling capacity and enhanced capabilities, improved efficiency and increased capabilities for cargo and aeromedical evacuation, the KC-46A will provide aerial refueling support to the DAF, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps, as well as allied nation coalition force aircraft.

**FLOODPLAIN NOTICE.** Implementation of the Proposed Action at MacDill AFB would have the potential to be located in a floodplain and/or wetland. Consistent with the requirements and objectives of Executive Order (EO) 11990, "Protection of Wetlands," and EO 1988, "Floodplain Management," state and federal regulatory agencies, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, with special expertise in wetlands and floodplains will be contacted to request comment.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS).** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the DAF will prepare an EIS, which will assess the potential environmental consequences of the KC-46A aircraft beddown. The beddown will require personnel and facilities to support aircraft operations and pilot and operator requirements.

**PUBLIC SCOPING.** The DAF encourages interested local, state, and federal elected officials and agencies, as well as interested members of the public and others, to participate in public scoping for the proposal and assist the Air Force in identifying issues to evaluate in the EIS. Identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action are requested and will be accepted at any time during the EIS process. In accordance with DAF guidance, in-person public scoping meetings will not be held. Public scoping is being accomplished remotely, in accordance with the 2020 version of 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1506.6, via the project website at [www.kc46amob6eis.com](http://www.kc46amob6eis.com). The website provides posters, a presentation, a fact sheet, downloadable comment forms to fill out and return by mail, and a capability for the public to provide scoping comments. Scoping materials are also available in print in the MacDill AFB area at the MacDill AFB Library (8012 Condor Street, Tampa, FL 33621), Port Tampa City Public Library (4902 West Commerce Street, Tampa, FL 33616), and John F. Germany Public Library (900 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602), and in the Fairchild AFB area at the Fairchild AFB Library (2 West Castle Street, Fairchild AFB, WA 99011) and the Spokane Public Library-Shadle Park Branch (2111 West Wellesley Avenue, Spokane, WA 99205). Requests for digital or print copies of scoping materials may also be made to Ms. Helen Kellogg at the addresses below or by phone at (210) 925-7843. For printed material requests, the standard U.S. Postal Service shipping timeline will apply. Please consider the environment before requesting printed material.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** For more information on the EIS or to submit written comments, please visit the project website at [www.kc46amob6eis.com](http://www.kc46amob6eis.com) or contact:

MAIL: Ms. Helen Kellogg, AFCEC/CZN  
Attn: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS  
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155; JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

EMAIL: [Helen.Kellogg.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Helen.Kellogg.1@us.af.mil)  
Subject: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS

Please include your name and email or mailing address in your comment submittal and indicate whether you want to receive future mailings informing you of the availability of the Draft and Final EIS.

**To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft EIS, please submit comments by June 30, 2022.**

[www.kc46amob6eis.com](http://www.kc46amob6eis.com)