



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**



The U.S. Department of the Air Force invites you to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and attend Public Hearings for the Proposed Beddown of KC-46A Tanker Aircraft for Main Operating Base #6

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to beddown and replace 1950s-era aerial refueling tankers with the KC-46A Main Operating Base #6 (MOB 6) aircraft and mission at either MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), Florida or at Fairchild AFB, Washington, to include the proposal's effect on historic properties. The MOB 6 beddown requires an active duty installation in the continental United States with the aerial refueling tankers and mission to be replaced, as well as the capacity to support KC-46A infrastructure, facilities, airfield operations, training activities, and personnel.

The DAF's Preferred Alternative is to beddown the MOB 6 mission with 24 KC-46A aircraft at MacDill AFB. The EIS also evaluates Fairchild AFB as a reasonable alternative for the MOB 6 beddown, and the No Action Alternative. Depending on the selected installation, the KC-46A would either fully or partially replace the current active duty tanker mission.

OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE DRAFT EIS. The DAF has initiated a 45-day comment period and invites the public to review and provide comments on the Draft EIS, which is available for download at www.kc46amob6eis.com and may also be viewed at the following local libraries:

MacDill AFB Area: Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library (3910 S. Manhattan Ave, Tampa, FL 33611), John F. Germany Public Library (900 N. Ashley Dr, Tampa, FL 33602), Port Tampa City Public Library (4902 W Commerce St, Tampa, FL 33616), and MacDill AFB Library (8102 Condor St, Bldg 252, Tampa, FL 33621)

Fairchild AFB Area: Airway Heights Library (1213 S. Lundstrom St, Airway Heights, WA 99001), Medical Lake Library (321 E Herb St, Medical lake, WA 99022), Spokane Central Public Library (906 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201), and Fairchild AFB Library (2 W Castle St, Fairchild AFB, WA 99011)

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS - PLEASE ATTEND. The DAF requests comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested members of the public. The DAF is holding two virtual public hearings to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the proposal, its effect on historic properties, and to provide input in March 2023 (see table below for specific dates and times). Information regarding the impact assessment is accessible via the project website (www.kc46amob6eis.com), and a pre-recorded public hearing presentation will be available to access and listen to on the day of the virtual public hearing. A weblink and phone number to access the online virtual public hearings will be provided via flyers at the specified local libraries and on the project website allowing interested parties to participate in the public hearings either by phone or online. Those without internet access are invited to participate by phone.

One virtual public hearing will be held in the local time of each installation alternative. Each virtual public hearing will begin at 5:30 local time with the DAF giving a brief presentation about the proposal. Formal public testimony will begin at approximately 6 p.m. The hearing venue will close at 8:00 p.m., but may adjourn before 8:00 p.m. upon or after verification that all participants who desire to speak have been heard and there are no more registered speakers. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. **Verbal comments will be accepted at the hearings, but you can also submit your comments in writing via email, postal mail, the project website (see details below). Verbal comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less; therefore, the DAF suggests submitting statements of considerable length in writing. Your input is valuable and assists the DAF in making more informed decisions.**

To request a CD of the hearing presentation, or if you need to request accommodation to access the printed or audio portion of the presentation or need additional accommodation to make a telephone comment (per the Americans with Disabilities Act), please submit your request at the project website (www.kc46amob6eis.com) or contact the MacDill AFB 6 Aerial Refueling Wing (ARW) Public Affairs Office (PAO) by phone (813-828-2215) or email (6.arw.pa@us.af.mil) or Fairchild AFB PAO by phone (509-247-5705) or email (92arw.pa@us.af.mil) no later than one week prior to the virtual hearing date. Dates for each virtual hearing are provided below:

Date	Time	Installation
March 7, 2023	5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time	MacDill AFB
March 9, 2023	5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time	Fairchild AFB

PUBLIC COMMENT. Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted online at www.kc46amob6eis.com; verbally at the public hearings; via email to MacDill AFB 6 ARW PA at 6.arw.pa@us.af.mil, SUBJECT: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS, or to Fairchild AFB PAO at 92arw.pa@us.af.mil, SUBJECT: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS, or by postal mail vis USPS to AFCEC CZN, ATTN: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS, 2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155, JBSA Lackland, Texas 78236-9853 or via FedEx or UPS to AFCEC CZN, ATTN: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS, Building 1 Bay 8 Room 6009, 3515 South General McMullen, San Antonio, TX 78226-1710. In order to fully address public concerns or comments, the DAF suggests attendees submit their intention to participate in the public hearing with an indication of which environmental impact(s) they wish to address prior to the hearing via email or phone, though it is not required.

For additional information, or to request hard or CD copies of the Draft EIS, please contact MacDill AFB 6 ARW PAO via the phone, email, or postal mail contact information provided in this notice. Please consider the environment when requesting print materials.

We will accept comments at any time during the environmental process. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight; however, to ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS, please submit comments by March 27, 2023.

