



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270-2102

November 22, 2021

Nolan Swick
Attn: JBSA T-7A Recapitalization EIS
HQ AETC Public Affairs
100 H. East Street, Suite 4
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150

Dear Mr. Swick:

The Region 6 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Air Force (USAF) T-7A Recapitalization at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) - Randolph Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) CEQ Number 20210153. The Draft EIS was reviewed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), and by our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The USAF has determined that JBSA-Randolph as the preferred alternative and Columbus, Laughlin, Sheppard, and Vance Air Force Bases as reasonable alternatives for the T-7A. The Air Force will recapitalize the Air Education and Training Command T-38C aircraft fleet with the T-7A aircraft. Training with the older T-38C aircraft fails to prepare pilots for the technological advancements of fourth and fifth generation aircraft including nighttime flight training. Fifth generation aircraft are modern aircraft with advanced avionics developed in the early part of the 21st century such as the F-22 and F-35.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS. EPA has no comments on the proposed project. We look forward to reviewing the Final EIS related to this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Gabe Gruta, the project review lead, at 214-665-2174 or gruta.gabriel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Houston
Staff Director
Office of Communities, Tribes and
Environmental assessment