

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE

CONTACT: Mike Spaits, Eglin AFB Public Affairs Office, 101 West D Avenue, Suite 110, Eglin Air Force Base, FL 32542-5499, phone (850) 882-2836, e-mail: mike.spaits@eglin.af.mil or check the Web site, http://www.eglin.af.mil/housing_privatization/index.asp.

Bao-Anh Trinh,

YA-3, DAF, Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Basing F-35A Operational Aircraft**

AGENCY: United States Air Force, Air Combat Command and Air National Guard.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989), the Air Force is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of establishing operational F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft at one or more existing Air Force installations within the continental United States.

The proposed basing alternatives include: Mt. Home AFB, Idaho; Hill AFB, Utah; Burlington Air Guard Station (AGS), Vermont; Shaw AFB/McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), South Carolina (SC); and Jacksonville AGS, Florida.

Each candidate base is an alternative. For Mt. Home AFB, Hill AFB, and Shaw AFB/McEntire JNGB, the potential environmental impacts will be analyzed for no action and in increments of 24 primary assigned aircraft (PAA). For Burlington AGS and Jacksonville AGS, the potential environmental impacts will be analyzed for no action and in increments of 18 and 24 primary assigned aircraft.

The Air Force version of the F-35 JSF, designated F-35A, is a conventional take-off, multiple-role fighter with an emphasis on air-to-ground missions. The aircraft was designed to supplement and eventually replace legacy aircraft as

well as complement the air-to-air mission of the F-22A Raptor. At any of the alternative locations, the beddown action would involve personnel changes, facility construction and modifications, and aircraft operations.

Scoping: In order to effectively define the full range of issues to be evaluated in the EIS, the Air Force will determine the scope of the EIS (i.e., what will be covered and in what detail) by soliciting scoping comments from interested state and federal agencies and interested members of the public through the **Federal Register** and various media in the local areas of concern. Scoping comments should be submitted to the address below by the date indicated. The Air Force will also hold a series of scoping meetings to further solicit input regarding the scope of the proposed action and alternatives.

DATES: The Air Force intends to hold scoping meetings in the following communities: January 11-14, 2010 Grand View, Twin Falls, Boise, and Mt. Home Idaho; January 19-22, 2010 Ogden, Layton, Callao Utah; Wendover Nevada; January 25-28, 2010 Winooski, Vermont; Littleton, New Hampshire; Watertown, New York; February 1-4, 2010 Sumter, Eastover, and Kingstree, South Carolina; Augusta and Brunswick Georgia; February 8-12 2010 Jacksonville, Avon Park, Lake Wales and Palatka Florida. The scheduled dates, times, locations and addresses for the meetings will be published in local media a minimum of 15 days prior to the scoping meetings. All meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, comments should be submitted to the address below by March 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sheryl Parker, HQ ACC/A7PS, 129 Andrews Street, Suite 337, Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769, telephone 757/764-9334.

Bao-Anh Trinh, YA-3, DAF,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-30671 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Notice of Meeting**

AGENCY: U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Department of the Air Force, Defense.

ACTION: Meeting Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.150, the Department of Defense announces that the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010, at the SAF/AQ Conference and Innovation Center, 1550 Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA, 22202. The meeting will be from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to hold the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board quarterly meeting to discuss the FY10 Scientific Advisory Board study topics tasked by the Secretary of the Air Force and the results of the Air Force Research Laboratory Assessment.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102-3.155, the Administrative Assistant of the Air Force, in consultation with the Office of the Air Force General Counsel, has determined in writing that the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board meeting will be closed to the public because they will be concerned with classified information and matters covered by sections 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (1) and (4).

Any member of the public wishing to provide input to the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board should submit a written statement in accordance with 41 CFR 102-3.140(c) and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the procedures described in this paragraph. Written statements can be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer at the address detailed below at any time. Statements being submitted in response to the agenda mentioned in this notice must be received by the Designated Federal Officer at the address listed below at least five calendar days prior to the meeting which is the subject of this notice. Written statements received after this date may not be provided to or considered by the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board until its next meeting. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the United States Air

Force Scientific Advisory Board Chairperson and ensure they are provided to members of the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer, Lt Col Anthony M. Mitchell, 301-981-7135, United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, 1602 California Ave. Ste. 251, Andrews AFB, MD 20762, anthonymitchell@pentagon.af.mil.

Bao-Anh Trinh,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Race to the Top Fund

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.395C

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of three additional public meetings and request for input from technical experts pertaining to a possible Race to the Top Assessment program, and provide technical assistance to States for the development and implementation of high-quality assessments based on common standards.

SUMMARY: On October 23, 2009, the Department announced in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 54795) a series of public meetings to be held throughout November and December 2009 to inform its work on a potential Assessment Program within the Race to the Top Fund and to provide technical assistance to States. This notice announces three additional public meetings intended to address questions outlined in the October notice that have not been fully covered, and new topic areas and questions that have emerged based on public and expert input. As announced in the October notice, by March 2010, the Secretary of Education (Secretary) intends to announce a competition for a program that would support one or more consortia of States that are working toward jointly developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments aligned with a consortium's common set of kindergarten-through-grade-12 (K-12) standards that are internationally benchmarked and that build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school completion. To inform the design of this program and the

development of a notice inviting applications that establishes the requirements for this competition, and to provide technical assistance to States, the Secretary continues to seek input from States, technical experts, and members of the public through public meetings and written submissions. Following the public meetings and review of the written submissions, the Department intends to publish a notice inviting applications for such a competition.

DATES: Public meetings will be held on the dates and at the locations specified later in this notice. Written submissions must be received by the Department by 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

ADDRESSES: For those submitting written input, we encourage submissions by e-mail using the following address: racetothetop.assessmentinput@ed.gov. If you prefer to send your input by mail, address it to Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Race to the Top Assessment Program—Public Input Meetings, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3W339, Washington, DC 20202. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3W339, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: 202-453-7246 or by e-mail: racetothetop.assessment@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Race to the Top Fund, authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Public Law 111-5, provides \$4.35 billion for competitive grants to States to encourage and reward States that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; implementing ambitious plans in the four education reform areas described in the ARRA; and achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers.

The Department is considering implementing two separate programs under the Race to the Top Fund. The first, a general program, was announced in November through a notice inviting applications and notice of final priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria published in the

Federal Register on November 18, 2009 (74 FR 59688). Under this general program, the Department will award approximately \$4 billion to State applicants that have demonstrated that they have created certain conditions for education innovation and reform; achieved significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and proposed to develop and implement comprehensive reform strategies that are integrated across the four ARRA education reform areas.

Through this notice, we are seeking additional input on a second proposed program (Assessment Program), which would provide approximately \$350 million in grants to consortia of States for the development of common, high-quality assessments aligned with an applicant consortium's common set of K-12 standards that are internationally benchmarked and that build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school completion.

At a later date, guided by the input from the public meetings and written submissions described in this notice, and in conjunction with the input received in response to the October 23, 2009 notice, the Secretary intends to issue a notice inviting applications for a competition for this second program that would set forth the requirements and criteria for the submission of applications. Should the Secretary decide not to conduct the Race to the Top Assessment Program, the \$350 million designated for this program will revert to fund additional grants under the general Race to the Top Program.

Because requirements for an assessment program are highly technical, the Department has been soliciting input through public meetings to inform the design and development of this program, including the notice inviting applications, and to provide technical assistance to States. Based on the input received in the three public meetings and written comments received thus far, the Department will hold a second series of public meetings to address issues articulated in this notice. At these meetings invited experts and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide input, including written input. Should we decide to implement this Assessment Program by holding a competition, we do not intend to conduct notice and comment rulemaking. Section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1), allows the