



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE  
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30**

21 January 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PREPARATION FOR PERIODIC OPERATIONS OF F-15E/EX  
TESTING AT VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

1. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the periodic operations of F-15E/EX aircraft at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) for testing and training, the "Project". The periodic operations would include a temporary deployment of up to 12 F-15E or F-15EX aircraft with test and training operations of approximately 1 week in duration occurring a maximum of two times per year the first year, then a maximum of once a year thereafter. The periodic operations would require construction of several facilities on VSFB to support the flight operations. The ramp space on the VSFB airfield would be configured with new paint markings and aircraft tie-downs to define parking spaces for the 12 F-15 aircraft. An aircraft arresting system would be installed on the VSFB runway. A new permanent Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) storage and administration building would be constructed and include storage space for AGE and administrative space to support the testing and training mission. Up to five munitions storage igloos would be constructed with four located near the VSFB airfield. Several alternatives for the location of the four munitions storage igloos were evaluated, but the location near the airfield was the only alternative that met the standard operating requirements for the F-15 operations. Two alternatives for an access road between the four munitions storage igloos and the airfield are being evaluated in the EA. Both access road alternatives would cross an isolated wetland area that was determined to be a non-jurisdictional waters of the U.S. No other practicable alternative for the access road exists.

2. The Project is subject to Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requirements and objectives because the proposed access road would potentially affect a wetland. Within the project area, Alternative 1 (preferred), an access road to the munitions storage igloos would potentially affect 0.09 acres (3,920 ft<sup>2</sup>) of wetland. Under Alternative 2, an access road would potentially affect 0.02 acres (871 ft<sup>2</sup>) of wetland. The DAF requests advance public comment to determine possible public concerns on potential project impacts. The DAF also solicits public comments on potential project alternatives. The DAF will analyze the proposed Project in a future Draft EA and the public will have the opportunity to comment on it.

3. The advance public comment period is 22 January 2025 through 25 February 2025. Please submit comments, or requests for more information to Ms. Jennifer Vicich, NEPA Project Manager, via email ([jennifer.vicich@spaceforce.mil](mailto:jennifer.vicich@spaceforce.mil)) or by standard mail to:

30 CES/CEIEA, Attn: Jennifer Vicich, 1028 Iceland Avenue, Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA 93437.

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