

breaking strength of 600 lb (272 kg), 1,700 lb (771 kg) maximum breaking strength sleeves, and line with a breaking strength of less than 2,200 lb (998 kg).

#### EFP Buoy Line

Six of the eight currently available ASBRS devices require the use of a line for retrieval that is contained and stored at depth by a line management system. The other two release devices do not use line, but instead, utilize the inflation of either a lift bag or inflatable buoy to pull a lead trap to the surface. The styles of line storage vary with device design and includes square, rectangular, domed, circular, and conical cages, oyster mesh bags, canisters, and spools. These have been successfully used in trials and testing in a variety of active fishing operations in the United States and worldwide.

Four of the ASBRS devices in the EFP require floating line to return the buoy or buoys to the surface for retrieval. Currently, the average time for appearance of buoys at depths greater than 100 ft (30.5 m) is approximately 3 minutes. Retrieval generally takes less than 2 minutes, which means that any floating line would be at the surface for less than 5 minutes, and during which time the fishing vessel would be within 20–30 ft (6.1–9.1 m) of the line. Two of the release devices do not incorporate line longer than 10 ft (3.1 m) in their design, and two devices use a harness that clips to the pot. The remaining devices use less than 150 ft (45.7 m) of line which would be stowed inside either a bag or on a spool. Sinking line cannot be used for any ASBRS as it would create a negatively buoyant strain on the buoys and not effectively allow for their return to the surface. All of the ASBRSs with a line storage system would need to be attached between the trap and the buoy. If necessary, several of the ASBRSs may also require a small anchor or weight to be attached between the pot and line-storage device or buoy in areas with higher current to keep them from fouling in the pot, as well as to ensure they are not dragged from their intended deployment area. For lift bag and buoy systems, the actual systems would be secured between the pot and the buoy/bag.

NMFS finds the application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on the permit, if granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting fishing gear testing within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, special management zones, or areas where they might interfere with managed fisheries

without additional authorization. Additionally, NMFS may require special protections for ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat, and may require particular gear markings. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the appropriate fishery management agencies of the affected states, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that the activities to be taken under the EFP are consistent with all applicable laws.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 11, 2022.

**Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022–00737 Filed 1–14–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Regional Special Use Airspace Optimization To Support Air Force Missions in Arizona

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental consequences associated with optimizing the Special Use Airspace (SUA) managed by the DAF to support aircrews stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB), Luke AFB, and Morris Air National Guard Base ([ANGB] located at Tucson International Airport) in Arizona and to request comments on potential alternatives and impacts, and identification of any relevant information, studies, or analyses of any kind concerning impacts affecting the quality of the human environment.

**DATES:** This NOI begins the public scoping process for identifying issues and potential alternatives for consideration in the EIS. Notifications are being concurrently published in local newspapers within the potentially affected localities. Scoping comments are requested by March 4, 2022 to ensure full consideration in the Draft EIS in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.9.

In-person scoping meetings will be held at the dates and locations below. All meetings will be open-house style from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Local). There will not be a formal presentation, please attend at your convenience. Persons with hearing impairments should notify the DAF at least 7 days in advance of the meeting dates to ensure that sign language assistance can be available. Masks worn over the nose and mouth and social distancing are required at all in-person meetings. Spanish interpreters will be available at scoping meetings.

- *February 7, 2022.* Sonoran Desert Inn & Conference Center, 55 South Orilla Avenue, Ajo, Arizona 85321.

- *February 8, 2022.* Superior Town Hall, 199 N Lobb Avenue, Superior, Arizona 85173.

- *February 9, 2022.* Bagdad Event Center, 121 Main Street, Bagdad, Arizona 86321.

- *February 10, 2022.* Congress Fire Department, 26733 Santa Fe Road, Congress, Arizona 85332.

- *February 22, 2022.* Village Hall, 15 Jake Scott Street, Reserve, New Mexico 87830.

- *February 23, 2022.* Clifton Community Center, 100 North Coronado Blvd., Clifton, Arizona 85533.

- *February 24, 2022.* Animas High School, 1 Panther Blvd., Animas, New Mexico 88020.

In addition to the in-person meetings, the project website [www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com](http://www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com) provides a virtual presentation of the meeting materials for those persons that do not wish to attend or are unable to attend an in-person meeting. All the handout(s) and displays for the in-person meetings are available on the website.

The EIS is still in the early planning stages and the schedule is subject to change. The schedule will be updated throughout the EIS process on the project website. Major milestone dates are as follows:

- Draft EIS and Notice of Availability (NOA) publication, Fall 2023

- Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Hearing, Fall 2023

- Final EIS and NOA publication, Summer 2024

- Record of Decision signature, Summer/Fall 2024

**ADDRESSES:** For questions regarding the Proposed Action or EIS development, or to request sign language assistance at the in-person scoping meetings, contact Grace Keesling, at [grace.keesling.1@us.af.mil](mailto:grace.keesling.1@us.af.mil) or (210) 925–4534. Comments may be submitted through the project website

[www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com](http://www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com),

by mailing to Arizona Regional Airspace EIS, c/o Cardno, 501 Butler Farm Rd., Suite H, Hampton, VA 23666, or in person at the scoping meetings.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Air Force utilizes portions of the National Airspace System (NAS) for aerial training and test activities known as Special Use Airspace (SUA). As a specific type of SUA, Military Operations Areas (MOAs) are specific airspace, defined by vertical and lateral limits, established for the purpose of separating certain military flight activities from other civil and commercial air traffic. Air Force aircrews stationed in Arizona are continually challenged to meet critical training requirements within existing MOAs established decades ago. The MOAs that are currently used for Air Force training in Arizona, specifically low altitude airspace and airspace that supports supersonic operations at low altitude, have become saturated with aircraft. While the Air Force manages an extensive network of valuable SUA in the region, including the restricted areas associated with the Barry M. Goldwater Range, the volume and attributes associated with the individual MOAs are insufficient to meet the current training requirements. The Air Force is proposing a regional approach that aims at optimizing the existing training airspace to meet current and future mission requirements of multiple users. The airspace proposed for optimization includes the following MOAs: Tombstone, Outlaw, Jackal, Reserve, Morenci, Bagdad, Gladden, Sells, Ruby, and Fuzzy. These MOAs overlie land located throughout southern Arizona and a small portion of western New Mexico.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to optimize existing Air Force SUA to address the existing and future training deficiencies of aircrews stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB, Luke AFB, and Morris ANGB due to existing airspace limitations. The need for the Proposed Action is driven by two primary factors: The need for aircrews to be able to conduct flight training near their home base; and the need to conduct required training to ensure readiness and increase survivability. As currently configured, the identified MOAs do not provide the appropriate altitudes (down to 500 feet above ground level [AGL] and lower), terrain variety, and attributes (ability to fly supersonic at lower altitude and use of chaff and flares) to support required training.

The Proposed Action is to modify existing Air Force MOAs to address existing and future training deficiencies.

The Proposed Action includes changing published times of use; adjusting the horizontal dimensions of some airspace; lowering the floor of some airspace to allow for low-altitude training; and adjusting airspace attributes to allow for supersonic speed at lower altitude and use of chaff and flares. The Proposed Action does not include any changes at the installations (personnel, infrastructure, aircraft inventory, or airfield operations), ground disturbance beneath the MOAs, or weapons deployment.

Three preliminary action alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action have been developed. Comments received during scoping may result in changes or additions to these alternatives. Additionally, the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), whereby the proposed modifications of the training airspace would not occur, will be evaluated to provide a benchmark that will enable Air Force decision makers to compare the magnitude of the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and any reasonable alternatives.

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) would optimize the existing Air Force managed airspace, including the following changes to the times of use, horizontal and vertical dimensions, and attributes: Published times of use for all MOAs would be modified to provide consistency across the airspace; Tombstone A, B, and C would be combined and the northern boundary of the MOA and associated Tombstone Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) would be expanded; an exclusion zone would be established below 13,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) surrounding Bisbee Douglas International Airport; the floor of Tombstone MOA would be lowered to 100 AGL from the existing 500 feet AGL; the floors of Outlaw and Jackal MOAs would be lowered to 500 feet AGL from the existing 3,000 feet AGL; the floors of the Bagdad and Gladden MOAs would be lowered to 500 feet AGL from the existing 5,000 feet AGL; use of chaff would be authorized in Tombstone MOA; the minimum flare release altitude in Tombstone, Gladden, and Bagdad MOAs would be lowered to 2,000 feet AGL from 5,000 feet AGL; the minimum flare release altitude in Outlaw and Jackal MOAs would be lowered to 2,000 feet AGL from 3,000 feet AGL; and the authorization for supersonic flight would be lowered to 5,000 feet AGL from the existing 30,000 feet MSL in Tombstone, Outlaw, Jackal, Morenci, and Reserve MOAs.

Alternative 3 would include those modifications proposed for Alternative

2 except that the northern boundary of the Tombstone MOA/ATCAA would not be expanded. Additionally, to increase the volume of airspace available to support Davis-Monthan AFB, the floor of Jackal MOA would also be lowered to 100 feet AGL from the existing 3,000 feet AGL.

Alternative 4 would include those modifications proposed in Alternative 2 except supersonic flight would be authorized down to 10,000 feet AGL in the Tombstone, Outlaw, Jackal, Morenci and Reserve MOAs (vs 5,000 feet AGL in Alternative 2). While this option would not fully optimize the airspace for supersonic operations, lowering the authorized altitude in the MOAs would improve the current capabilities.

Based on previous NEPA actions in the region and familiarity with the affected environment, the following is a preliminary list of issues and concerns that will be the focus in the EIS: Noise and sonic boom impacts to domestic animals, wildlife, special status species, children, quality of life, property values, homes, and cultural resources; effects to cultural resources and Native American tribes; effects to Environmental Justice populations; aircraft safety and impacts to civilian pilots (crop dusting, predator control, and cattle management) and commercial operations; air quality impacts to wildlife and public; effects from use of chaff and flares, specifically fire risk; and effects to special use land management areas such as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and national parks/monuments.

*Scoping and Agency Coordination:* To effectively define the full range of issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS, the Air Force is soliciting comments from interested local, state and federal elected officials and agencies, Tribes, as well as interested members of the public and others. The DAF is requesting comments concerning the proposed SUA optimization, feasible alternatives, possible measures to mitigate, minimize and/or avoid adverse environmental impacts, and any other information relevant to the Proposed Action and any reasonable alternatives.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Offices for Arizona and New Mexico, and tribes with interest in land beneath the airspace are being consulted to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has agreed to be a Cooperating Agency for this action. The FAA would update aeronautical charts to reflect any modifications to existing airspace that result from this proposal and published in FAA Order

JO 7400.10(C), *Special Use Airspace* ([http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/)).

Adriane Paris,

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022-00749 Filed 1-14-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Army West Point Athletic Association

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of designation as an entity for which DOD personnel may participate in management activities.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Army is publishing this notice to announce that the DOD Office of General Counsel has designated the Army West Point Athletic Association is an entity for which DOD personnel may participate in management activities.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Lori L. Doughty, Academy Counsel, in writing at Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, ATTN: Ms. Lori L. Doughty, 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996; by email at [lori.doughty@westpoint.edu](mailto:lori.doughty@westpoint.edu); or by telephone at 845-938-3205.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Army West Point Athletic Association (AWPAA) is the 501(c)(3) corporation organized under the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, section 7462 to execute the U.S. Military Academy's intercollegiate athletics mission. The AWPAA is governed by a board of directors (BOD), which is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the AWPAA as well as the general corporate responsibilities of the organization. Of the minimum of seven BOD positions made available under its bylaws, three are reserved for members of the Armed Forces. The purpose of Armed Forces membership on the AWPAA BOD is to provide oversight and advice to, and coordination with AWPAA, but will not extend to the day-to-day operations of the AWPAA.

James W. Satterwhite, Jr.,

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022-00762 Filed 1-14-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Business Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of the Defense Business Board ("the Board") will take place.

**DATES:** Open to the public Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern time.

**ADDRESSES:** Due to the current guidance on combating the Coronavirus, the meeting will be conducted virtually or by teleconference only. To participate in the meeting, see the Meeting Accessibility section for instructions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Jennifer Hill, Designated Federal Officer of the Board in writing at Defense Business Board, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 5B1088A, Washington, DC 20301-1155; or by email at [jennifer.s.hill4.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.s.hill4.civ@mail.mil); or by phone at 571-342-0070.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C.), the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), and 41 CFR 102-3.140 and 102-3.150.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** The mission of the Board is to examine and advise the Secretary of Defense on overall DoD management and governance. The Board provides independent advice reflecting an outside private sector perspective on proven and effective best business practices that can be applied to DoD.

**Agenda:** The Board meeting will begin February 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time with opening remarks by Jennifer Hill, the Designated Federal Officer. The Board will then receive remarks by the Board Chair, and remarks by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. The Board will then receive a briefing on Energy Reform from Mr. Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy & Environment Resilience. The meeting will conclude with closing remarks by the Board Chair and Designated Federal Officer. The latest version of the agenda will be available upon publication of the **Federal Register** on the Board's website at: <https://dbb.defense.gov/Meetings/Meeting-February-2022/>.

**Meeting Accessibility:** Pursuant to the FACA and 41 CFR 102-3.140, the meeting on February 2, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is open to the public. Persons desiring to participate in the public session are required to register. Attendance will be by teleconference only. To attend the public session, submit your name, affiliation/organization, telephone number, and email contact information to the Board at [osd.pentagon.odam.mbx.defense-business-board@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.odam.mbx.defense-business-board@mail.mil). Requests to attend the public meeting must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern time, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Upon receipt of this information, a teleconference line number will be sent to the email address provided which will allow teleconference attendance to the event. (The DBB will be unable to provide technical assistance to any user experiencing technical difficulties during the meeting.)

**Written Comments and Statements:** Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.105(j) and 102-3.140 and section 10(a)(3) of the FACA, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments or statements to the Board in response to the stated agenda of the meeting or in regard to the Board's mission in general. Written comments or statements should be submitted to Ms. Jennifer Hill, the Designated Federal Officer, via electronic mail (the preferred mode of submission) at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Each page of the comment or statement must include the author's name, title or affiliation, address, and daytime phone number. The Designated Federal Officer must receive written comments or statements being submitted in response to the agenda set forth in this notice by January 26, 2022 to be considered by the Board. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submitted written comments or statements with the Board Chair, and ensure the comments are provided to all members of the Board before the meeting. Written comments or statements received after this date may not be provided to the Board until its next scheduled meeting. Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.140d, the Board is not obligated to allow any member of the public to speak or otherwise address the Board during the meeting. Members of the public will be permitted to make verbal comments during the meeting only at the time and in the manner described below. If a member of the public is interested in making a verbal comment at the meeting, that individual must submit a request, with a brief statement of the subject matter to be