

The proposed beddown would include B-21 Operations Squadrons, Weapons Instructor Course (WIC), and Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) Squadron, as well as a Weapons Generation Facility (WGF). Potential impacts of these four components (*i.e.*, Operations Squadrons, WIC, OT&E, and WGF) will be analyzed for both alternative locations, Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB.

The EIS will analyze Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB as basing alternatives for the Proposed Action, as well as a No Action Alternative. The basing alternatives were developed to minimize mission impact, maximize facility reuse, minimize cost, and reduce overhead, as well as leverage the strengths of each base to optimize the B-21 beddown strategy. At Dyess AFB, proposed activities include an estimated 4.2 million square feet (SF) of construction, 600,000 SF of renovation, and 300,000 SF of demolition. Proposed airspace for B-21 operations out of Dyess AFB include special use airspace (SUA) units over areas in Texas and New Mexico. At Whiteman AFB, proposed activities include an estimated 600,000 SF of construction, 1.7 million SF of renovation, and 85,000 SF of demolition. Proposed airspace for B-21 operations out of Whiteman AFB include SUA units over areas in Missouri and Kansas. The potential impacts of the alternatives and the No Action Alternative that the EIS may examine include impacts to land use, airspace, safety, noise, hazardous materials and solid waste, physical resources (including earth and water resources), air quality, transportation, cultural resources, biological resources, socioeconomics, and environmental justice.

The DAF is preparing this EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500 through 1508 (85 FR 43359, July 16, 2020, as amended by 87 FR 23453, April 20, 2022), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA; and the DAF's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) as codified in 32 CFR part 989. Since the B-21 basing action is a series of beddowns, once a base is selected for MOB 2, the remaining base would subsequently become the MOB 3 beddown location.

DAF anticipates potential noise impacts to be similar to, or less than, those currently experienced at Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB, including associated airspace.

Potential permits that may be required include, but are not limited to, section

404 of the Clean Water Act, General Construction, Floodplain Development, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Additionally, the DAF will coordinate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as well as SHPO and federally recognized tribes regarding section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act and will utilize the scoping process to partially fulfill consultation requirements.

**Scoping and Agency Coordination:** The scoping process will be used to involve the public early in the planning and development of the EIS and help identify issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. To effectively define the full range of issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS, the DAF is soliciting scoping comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies (including, but not limited to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and interested members of the public.

The proposed action at Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB is subject to the Clean Water Act, sections 401, 404 and 404(b)(1) guidelines and have the potential to be located in a floodplain and/or wetland. Consistent with the requirements and objectives of Executive Order (E.O.) 11990, "Protection of Wetlands", and E.O. 11988, "Floodplain Management", as amended by E.O. 13690, "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input," state and federal regulatory agencies with special expertise in wetlands and floodplains will be contacted to request comment. Consistent with E.O. 11988, E.O. 13690, and E.O. 11990, this NOI initiates early public review of the proposed actions and alternatives, which have the potential to be located in a floodplain and/or wetland.

The DAF will hold scoping meetings to inform the public and solicit comments and concerns about the proposal. Scheduled dates, and times for each meeting, as well as registration information for virtual meetings, will be available on the project website ([www.B21EIS.com](http://www.B21EIS.com)) and published in the local media a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to each meeting.

**Tommy W. Lee,**

*Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2023-06175 Filed 3-24-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-10-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** General Counsel of the Department 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 Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD) will take place.

**DATES:** Thursday, March 30, 2023—Open to the public from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** This public meeting will be held virtually. To receive meeting access, please submit your name, affiliation/organization, telephone number, and email contact information to the Committee at: [whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil](mailto:whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dwight Sullivan, 703-695-1055 (Voice), 703-693-3903 (Facsimile), [dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil](mailto:dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil) (Email). Mailing address is DAC-IPAD, One Liberty Center, 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 150, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Website: <http://dacipad.whs.mil/>. The most up-to-date changes to the meeting agenda can be found on the website.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces was unable to provide public notification required by 41 CFR 102-3.150(a) concerning its March 30, 2023 meeting. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.150(b), waives the 15-calendar day notification requirement. This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) (formerly the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., app.)), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.140 and 102-3.150.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** In section 546 of the National Defense Authorization

Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Pub. L. 113–291), as modified by section 537 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Pub. L. 114–92), Congress tasked the DAC–IPAD to advise the Secretary of Defense on the investigation, prosecution, and defense of allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct involving members of the Armed Forces. This will be the twenty-eighth public meeting held by the DAC–IPAD. At this meeting the Committee will discuss, deliberate, and vote on two recommendations from DAC–IPAD Special Projects Subcommittee.

*Agenda:* 12:30 p.m.–12:35 p.m.—Opening Remarks. 12:35 p.m.–1:30 p.m.—Discussion, Deliberations, and Voting on Special Projects Subcommittee Recommendations. 1:30 p.m.—Public Meeting Adjourns.

*Meeting Accessibility:* Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140 and section 1009(a)(1) of title 5 U.S.C., the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the DAC–IPAD about its mission and topics pertaining to this public meeting. Written comments must be received by the DAC–IPAD at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting date so that they may be made available to the DAC–IPAD members for their consideration prior to the meeting. Written comments should be submitted via email to the DAC–IPAD at [whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil](mailto:whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil) in the following formats: Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word. Please note that since the DAC–IPAD operates under the provisions of the FACA, all written comments will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection.

*Written Statements:* Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140 and 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(3), interested persons may submit a written statement to the DAC–IPAD. Individuals submitting a statement must submit their statement no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 29, 2023 to Dwight Sullivan, 703–695–1055 (Voice), 703–693–3903 (Facsimile), [dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil](mailto:dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil) (Email). If a statement pertaining to a specific topic being discussed at the planned meeting is not received by Wednesday, March 29, 2023, then it may not be provided to, or considered by, the Committee during the March 30, 2023 meeting. The DFO will review all timely submissions with the DAC–IPAD Chair and ensure such submissions are provided to the members of the DAC–IPAD before the meeting. Any comments received by the DAC–IPAD prior to the stated deadline will be posted on the DAC–IPAD website (<http://dacipad.whs.mil/>).

Dated: March 22, 2023.

**Aaron T. Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2023–06281 Filed 3–24–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001–06–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS)

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Request for information (RFI).

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Science in the Department of Energy (DOE) invites interested parties to provide input on potential technological approaches to meet the needs of the Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program for a Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS) and on potential ways to accelerate the construction and delivery of such a facility, including partnerships with the private sector.

**DATES:** Responses to the RFI must be received by May 11, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** DOE is using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) system for the submission and posting of public comments in this proceeding. All comments in response to this RFI are therefore to be submitted electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), via the web form accessed by following the “Submit a Formal Comment” link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions may be submitted to [fpns@science.doe.gov](mailto:fpns@science.doe.gov) or to Daniel Clark at (240) 780–6529.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The scientific and engineering demonstration of fusion energy will require mastering materials science and performance issues, particularly those associated with materials degradation due to bombardment by the energetic (14.1 MeV) deuterium-tritium (D–T) fusion neutrons. This performance degradation provides the basis for and is one of the single largest inherent limiting factors for the economic, safety, and environmental attractiveness of fusion energy. As such, the FES program places a high priority on gaining an improved understanding of the science of materials degradation due to fusion neutron bombardment, particularly as it pertains to enabling the development of next-generation, high-performance materials for future fusion devices.

Managing this fusion neutron-induced property degradation is one of the most

significant scientific “grand challenges” facing fusion energy development. Although considerable progress has been made exploring the resistance of fusion materials to neutron-based displacement damage with the use of tools available today, such as fission test reactors, ion beams, and computer simulation, the current knowledge base for bulk mechanical and physical property degradation in a realistic fusion environment with simultaneous transmutation effects is limited. The requirement to understand 14.1 MeV neutron-induced material degradation underscores the critical need for a Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS), which is aimed at enabling investigation of the effects of fusion-relevant irradiation on both microstructural evolution and bulk material properties degradation.

An FPNS will address the fundamental question of whether materials retain adequate properties for damage levels greater than 20–50 displacements per atom (dpa) in a fusion neutron environment, and lifetime limits from an engineering science perspective at higher levels of irradiation. This will enable the generation of engineering data that is required to design and deploy commercial fusion devices. These roles could be addressed in either the same or complementary irradiation facilities.

The 2020 Long-Range Plan (LRP)<sup>1</sup> “Powering the Future: Fusion & Plasmas” developed by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), included strong support for an FPNS, which was viewed as not only filling a key gap in the science mission of FES but as an opportunity to provide world leadership by enabling the fundamental explorations of fusion nuclear material science. Among the key recommendations of the LRP was to “Immediately establish the mission need for an FPNS facility to support development of new materials suitable for use in the fusion nuclear environment and pursue design and construction as soon as possible.”

In addition, the 2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report, *Bringing Fusion to the U.S. Grid*,<sup>2</sup> emphasized the need for materials research and a neutron irradiation capability to enable a Fusion Pilot Plant (FPP), including facilities to provide a limited-volume prototypic neutron source for testing of

<sup>1</sup> [https://science.osti.gov/-/media/fes/fesac/pdf/2020/202012/FESAC\\_Report\\_2020\\_Powering\\_the\\_Future.pdf](https://science.osti.gov/-/media/fes/fesac/pdf/2020/202012/FESAC_Report_2020_Powering_the_Future.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25991/bringing-fusion-to-the-us-grid>.