

Frequently Asked Questions for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Five-Year Installation Development Plan (IDP) Update at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB)

Project Specific Questions

Why is a Programmatic Environmental Assessment being prepared?

The Air Force is preparing a programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the potential consequences to the human and natural environment associated with the construction, infrastructure, and demolition projects identified within the Five-Year Installation Development Plan (IDP) Update at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB), Washington, DC. The Proposed Action is to implement ten separate projects over a five-year period (FY 2025—FY 2029) to support JBAB's future mission requirements as outlined in the IDP.

What is an Installation Development Plan?

An IDP is a critical master plan and comprehensive document mandated by Department of Defense (DoD) policy (Department of Defense Instruction [DoDI] 4165.70, Real Property Management and United Facilities Criteria [UFC] 2-100-01, Installation Master Planning) and Air Force policy (AFI 32-1015, Integrated Installation Planning). The IDP encompasses a series of independent documents, including an IDP Framework, Installation Facility Standards, District Plans for each installation district, and various component plans. The IDP outlines JBAB's Planning Vision, which establishes principles for optimal long-term development, defines goals and objectives guiding development in support of ongoing missions, identifies potential development opportunities, quantifies planning constraints, assesses development capacity, and evaluates the sustainability of the installation's growth. The overall purpose of the JBAB IDP is to ensure that management and development of the real property assets of the installation support the planning vision, mission readiness, and quality of life for installation residents and employees.

Why is an update to JBAB's five-year IDP needed?

The IDP was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, an independent executive agency charged with oversight of the development of federal property within the national capital region, and the Air Force finalized the plan in February 2022. The update would define five-year physical development plans to support JBAB's future mission requirements as outlined in the 2022 IDP. The IDP update is needed to provide the facilities and infrastructure to meet the mission requirements of the 11th Wing and its tenant units. The construction of new facilities, demolition of facilities, and infrastructure improvements (such as roads and utility lines) would address deficiencies in existing facilities and infrastructure and provide the space to accommodate future missions planned on JBAB. The construction of new facilities would assist in accommodating an expanding service mission and growing workforce at JBAB in support of the IDP's goal to "Promote and Strengthen JBAB's Identity as an Urban Waterfront Military Community" and support consolidation of similar facilities and land uses. The demolition of aging infrastructure would provide space for new construction, compatible with guidance and goals set forth by the National Capital Planning Commission. The infrastructure improvements would modernize JBAB's aging electrical infrastructure and improve electrical reliability. The Proposed Action is also needed to increase vehicle and pedestrian capacity; to address increasing demand on mobility networks; and to create recreational trails to support JBAB's need for accessible, walkable development within the Housing and Community Support District.

What types of proposed activities would take place under Alternatives 1 and 2?

Both action alternatives (Alternatives 1 and 2) would include the same 10 separate IDP projects; however, the locations would differ slightly. Activities would include:

- Demolishing the Blanchard Barracks and adjacent buildings
- Constructing a new Defense Information System Agency (DISA) facility
- Constructing a new National Capital Region (NCR) Center of Excellence facility
- Modernizing the electrical infrastructure on JBAB
- Reconfiguring and widening Defense Boulevard and adding a bicycle lane and sidewalks
- Connecting the Waterfront Trail to Bellevue Housing
- Repurposing a CSX right-of-way and easement into a pedestrian and bicycle trail
- Constructing a replacement Child Development Center (CDC)
- Creating a new medical facility for the Medical Squadron to consolidate existing functions
- Reconfiguring South Gate and the Visitor Center to improve safety and access

What would happen at JBAB if none of the alternatives were implemented?

The EA analyzes the potential impacts of a No Action Alternative, under which the implementation of the ten projects would not proceed. Activities that occur in existing facilities on JBAB would continue to operate in unconsolidated, geographically separated facilities; security requirements necessary for compliance with DoD and Air Force guidelines would not be met; aging facilities and infrastructure would continue to deteriorate and require extensive and costly upkeep; and inefficient workarounds to meet mission requirements would continue. New mission partners programmed for JBAB would not be accommodated by the existing installation facilities. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. However, it is included in the EA, consistent with Air Force regulations, to provide a baseline against which impacts can be assessed.

Are any of the proposed projects within a floodplain?

The Proposed Action is subject to the requirements and objectives of Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplain Management*, because construction of several of the Proposed Action projects are within the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

Are other studies being conducted?

Yes, a Transportation Study to assess traffic capacity and level of service for existing conditions and future requirements will be completed in accordance with this scope and requirements for traffic evaluation in the District of Columbia. A Noise Study will be completed to assess the potential noise impacts resulting from the proposed action and alternatives. These studies are included as appendices to the Draft EA.

How can I submit my written comments?

You may submit your comments by writing an email to NAVFACWASHNEPA1@navy.mil and include ATTN: JBAB IDP Update in the subject line. You can also submit via U.S. mail to 1314 Harwood Street SE, Washington DC 20374.

General NEPA Questions

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), signed into law on January 1, 1970, is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. NEPA establishes policy, sets goals, and provides direction for carrying out the policy. NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

When does NEPA apply?

NEPA applies whenever a proposed activity will occur on federal lands, is funded with federal money, or is sponsored by a federal entity. NEPA's basic policy is to ensure that all branches of government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action.

What is the purpose of an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

An EA is a concise public document, for which a federal agency is responsible, for an action that is not likely to have a significant effect or for which the significance of the effects is unknown, that is used to support an agency's determination of whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

How does the public play a role in the NEPA process?

Public participation is an integral part of NEPA's procedural requirements. The Air Force is seeking public comment to gain feedback on the analysis contained within the EA. The Air Force makes every effort to understand public concerns, accurately record public comments, and allow adequate time for involvement by the affected public.

How will the Air Force use my comment?

The Air Force respectfully requests your written comments which will be considered during preparation of the Final EA.

What are the next steps?

The Air Force is seeking public comment on the Proposed Action, Alternatives, and analysis within the Draft EA to determine areas that may require further analysis in the Final EA. The Final EA will be available in the spring of 2025.