



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

December 23, 2020

Ms. Cynthia J. Pettit, AFCEC/CZN
F-35A/MQ-9 EIS Project Manager
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, Texas 78236-9853

Re: EPA Comments for the Final Environmental Impact Statement, F-35A Wing Beddown at Tyndall AFB and MQ-9 Wing Beddown at Tyndall AFB or Vandenberg AFB. CEQ No. 20200244

Dear Ms. Pettit:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Air Force Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The proposed project involves the beddown of the F-35A Wing and possibly a MQ-9 Operational Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, or an alternate beddown location for the MQ-9 Remote Piloted Aircraft at Vandenberg AFB, California.

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) selected Tyndall AFB Florida as its preferred alternative for the beddown of both the F-35 and the MQ-9 Operational Wing. Based on our review of the FEIS, the EPA has no environmental concerns regarding the overall scope of this proposed project. In addition, our previously identified concerns have been addressed, specifically noise mitigations measures considered in Section 2.7.1. of the FEIS. Nevertheless, we encourage the USAF to continue to seek measures to further avoid and minimize potential noise impacts on nearby communities and the environment. We also request an electronic copy of the record of decision, when it becomes available.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Larry Gissentanna, NEPA Section, DoD and Federal Facilities Project Manager, at (404) 562-8248 or by e-mail at gissentanna.larry@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Fite
Director
Strategic Programs Office