

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF DEPARTMENT ARMY CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR
CONSTRUCTION ASSAULT-DEFEND HOUSE at INSTALLATION PLATOON BATTLE COURSE,
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

The Assault/Defend House is a structure on the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) that is used to house two targets and is assaulted and defended as part of a mounted or dismounted maneuver live fire scenario. The Assault/Defend House is a required structure on the IPBC IAW the Army's TC25-8 Training Ranges and is a mandatory 11th ABD DIV training and readiness requirement. The structure will be approximately 24'x24'x20' built out of treated lumber with a plywood exterior and rolled roofing. The building is for training use only and is used as a target. Most of the site has already been cleared, however, some tree clearing will be required (0.15 acres). There will be two targets on the ground floor that will be shot at with live rounds. Electricity and Communications are required and already on site at nearby automated targets. After engaging the target on the lower floor, the Soldiers will ascend to the 2nd floor and engage additional targets.

The Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) was conducted on the proposed project in accordance with 32 CFR Part 989 to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Air Force regulations implementing NEPA. Pursuant to NEPA, the use of Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) may be appropriate where an agency has determined an action falls within a category of actions that a Federal agency has determined normally does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Agencies may rely on CATEXs promulgated by the agency itself, or those promulgated by other agencies adopted pursuant to 42 USC §4336c. On 25 Nov 24, the Air Force published in the Federal Register (89 FR 92911) its identification and adoption of a range of other agency CATEXs, including the Department of the Army CATEX described in Appendix B to 32 CFR Part 651, Section II, paragraph (c)(1) "*Construction of an addition to an existing structure or new construction on a previously undisturbed site if the area to be disturbed is no more than 5.0 cumulative acres of new surface disturbance. This does not include construction of facilities for the transportation, distribution, use, and disposal of solid waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste.*"

Procedurally this Environmental Impact Analysis was developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended by Public Law 118-5, Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the DAF's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of NEPA (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508) of July 2024. Executive Order (E.O.) 14154 of January 20, 2025, Unleashing American Energy, revoked E.O. 11991, Enhancement of Environmental Quality, which amended E.O. 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality. While CEQ has provided notice that it intends to rescind the CEQ NEPA regulations, the DAF has accepted in this instance CEQ's suggestion to voluntarily rely on the CEQ Regulations to allow for timely decision-making to meet critical mission requirements.

A review of the proposed project and methods for construction and operation resulted in no anticipated adverse effects to the human environment. The project will not affect wetlands, floodplains, or other sensitive habitat or have any effect at all on federally listed threatened or endangered species. As this project consists entirely of demolition and disposal of construction waste, DA CATEX (c)(1) applies to the action. The analysis and findings have been documented on an Air Force Form 813 as required by the Air Force EIAP process.

Inquiries may be sent to 673 CES/CEIEC EnvPlanning 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil.

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

Public comments on this Draft EA are requested pursuant to NEPA, 42 *United States Code* 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period will be made available to the public and considered during the Final EA preparation. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. However, address information will be used to compile the project mailing list and failure to provide it will result in your name not being included on the mailing list.