

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Name of the Proposed Action

Environmental Assessment (EA) for Beddown of Additional Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) F-15SGs at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to expand the RSAF training mission at Mountain Home AFB to maintain maximum readiness for RSAF forces. Mountain Home AFB provides a location for the RSAF to train with the F-15SG purchased from the U.S. Air Force (USAF) as a part of the foreign military sales program (identified as the Peace Carvin V program), under the 366 Fighter Wing, in accordance with the Letter of Offer and Acceptance between the United States and Singapore. The Proposed Action is needed because the Republic of Singapore has limited airspace and availability to train, and to continue building the USAF relationship and interoperability with the Singapore armed forces. The Proposed Action would provide training for effective combat readiness of an important partner nation, fulfilling the need to train as a team to perform in a multinational force structure.

Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action. USAF proposes to increase the number of permanently assigned RSAF F-15SG aircraft at Mountain Home AFB from fourteen to twenty, in accordance with a Letter of Request submitted by the Singapore Ministry of Defense and the RSAF. The Proposed Action would include increases in the number of airframes, support personnel, aircraft operations, and two types of inert munitions expenditures. It would also include construction and renovation of supported facilities on the installation. Construction and renovation to support the beddown would occur from 2018 through 2020, and the increase in airframes, personnel, aircraft operations, and munitions use would begin in 2019. All aircraft operations would take place within existing military training routes and airspace, and additions to or alterations of airspace are not proposed. Additionally, all munitions expenditures would take place within existing military range training areas currently authorized for munitions use, and changes or additions to the range areas are not proposed.

Alternative 1- Construction Alternative. USAF would conduct all activities described under the Proposed Action and would also construct four munitions storage igloos and an additional facility extension. However, under Alternative 1, USAF would not renovate one facility proposed for renovation under the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative. USAF National Environmental Policy Action regulations require consideration of the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action and other potential action alternatives can be evaluated. Under the No Action Alternative, USAF would not beddown additional RSAF F-15SGs at Mountain Home AFB. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action and would not allow RSAF to expand their training mission at Mountain Home AFB. The No Action Alternative would limit RSAF's ability to maintain maximum readiness for RSAF forces and USAF's ability to train with an important partner nation, and

would not fulfil the need for USAF and the RSAF to train as a team to perform in a multinational force structure.

Summary of Environmental Effects

The analysis of environmental effects focused on the following environmental resources: noise, air quality, soils, cultural resources, water, biological resources, socioeconomics, health and safety, and hazardous materials and waste management. A cumulative effects assessment was also conducted. Details of the environmental consequences can be found in the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for Beddown of Additional Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) F-15SGs at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho*, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The analysis in the EA for each of the environmental resource areas previously noted identified negligible to minor adverse effects under the Proposed Action. Potential environmental effects are not expected to be significant.

Conclusion

Based on the description of the Proposed Action as set forth in the EA, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and were coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. The Draft EA and this FONSI were made available to the public for a 30-day review period. Agencies were coordinated with throughout the EA development process, and their comments were incorporated into the analysis of potential environmental impacts performed as part of the EA.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the information and analysis presented in the attached EA, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, implementing regulations set forth in 32 Code of Federal Regulations § 989 (*Environmental Impact Analysis Process*), as amended, and based on review of the public and agency comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period, I conclude that neither the Proposed Action or Alternative 1 would have significant environmental impacts, either cumulatively or with other projects at or near Mountain Home, AFB Idaho, that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary, and that signing this FONSI completes the environmental impact analysis process.

JOSEPH D. KUNKEL, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 366th Fighter Wing

Attachment: *Environmental Assessment (EA) for Beddown of Additional Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) F-15SGs at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho*.