

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 23D CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC) MOODY AIR FORCE BASE GEORGIA

John L. Eunice, III Deputy Base Civil Engineer 23d Civil Engineer Squadron 3485 Georgia Street Moody AFB GA 31699-1707

Mr. John S. Quarterman Suwanee Riverkeeper PO Box 88 Hahira GA 31632

Dear Mr. Quarterman:

The United States Air Force (Air Force) has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidelines for the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for the Comprehensive Airspace Initiative for Moody Air Force Base (AFB). The Notification of Availability for the Draft EIS will appear in the Federal Register on September 25, 2020.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential impacts on the human and natural environment as a result of the proposal to modify existing and create new Military Operations Areas (MOAs) in the Moody Airspace Complex to support the training missions at Moody AFB, Georgia. As required by NEPA, a No Action Alternative, where low-altitude MOAs would not be charted in the Moody Airspace Complex is addressed in the Draft EIS.

The Moody Airspace Complex, located above 28 counties in south Georgia and north Florida, consists primarily of mid- to higher-altitude Special Use Airspace with limited low-altitude Special Use Airspace. A-10C, A-29, HH-60G, and HC-130J aircrews assigned to Moody AFB have severely constrained access to few existing, overly congested low-altitude Special Use Airspace wherein they can conduct required training operations at low-altitude. The Proposed Action would configure new low-altitude MOAs immediately underneath and within the lateral confines of the existing Corsair North, Corsair South, Mustang, Thud, and Warhawk MOAs and Restricted Area R-3008C and would lower the floor of the Moody 2 North MOA. Moody AFB would assign and schedule the new low-altitude MOAs to provide adequate low-altitude floors for training operations at low altitude. Existing training operations at low altitudes conducted from Moody AFB would be shifted to the new MOAs and no new training operations are proposed.

The Proposed Action would not require changes in the types or numbers of aircraft based at Moody Air Force Base, appreciable increases in the number of flights or sorties, alterations in

types of airfield operations, or additions of training operations. However, optimizing the airspace would result in the redistribution of aircraft operations from existing low-altitude Special Use Airspace to new low-altitude MOAs. Three action alternatives were identified to meet the project's purpose and need. The three action alternatives provide a realistic low (i.e., 1,000 feet above ground level) and high (i.e., 4,000 feet above ground level) boundary for the low-altitude floors for the proposed low-altitude MOAs.

The Draft EIS is available for review from the project website at **moodyafbairspaceeis.com** and in hard copy format at the following public libraries:

- Boston Carnegie Library, 250 South Main Street, Boston, Georgia 31626
- Brooks County Public Library, 404 Barwick Road, Quitman, Georgia 31643
- Clinch County Public Library, 478 West Dame Street, Homerville, Georgia 31634
- Collins Main Library, 200 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
- Douglas County Public Library, 6810 Selman Drive, Douglasville, Georgia 30134
- Dougherty County Public Library, 300 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707
- Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library, 123 North Main Street, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750
- Miller Lakeland Library, 18 South Valdosta Road, Lakeland, Georgia 31635
- Moultrie-Colquitt County Library Main Branch, 204 5th Street SE, Moultrie, Georgia 31768
- South Georgia Regional Library, 2906 Julia Drive, Valdosta, Georgia 31602
- Tifton-Tift County Library, 245 Love Avenue, Tifton, Georgia 31794

Due to the current federal guidance limiting public gatherings, the Air Force has scheduled a virtual public hearing on Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). The virtual public hearing will be held in lieu of an in-person public hearing. Those interested in participating in the virtual public hearing can participate by calling (844) 992-4726 and entering Meeting Number: 126 002 0391 followed by the pound sign (#). All participants only calling in to the public hearing will hear but not see the presentation. To see and hear the presentation about the Moody AFB Comprehensive Airspace Initiative, a computer or smart device (i.e., phone or tablet) can be used to access the following web presentation URL: **moodyafbairspaceeis.com/#publichearing**. Additional information about the public hearing can be found on the project website at **moodyafbairspaceeis.com**.

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally at the virtual public hearing, electronically at moodyafbairspaceeis.com, or by mailing written comments via US Mail to AFCEC/CZN, Attn: Moody AFB Comprehensive Airspace Initiative, 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155, JBSA Lackland TX 78236-9853; and via FedEx and UPS to AFCEC/CZN, Attn: Moody AFB Comprehensive Airspace Initiative; 3515 S General McMullen, San Antonio, TX 78226-9853.

Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental review process. However, verbal comments provided at the public hearing and written comments received by November 24, 2020 will be considered in the preparation of the Final EIS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Lorence Busker, 23d Civil Engineer Squadron at (229) 257-2396 or via email to lorence.busker@us.af.mil. Thank you in advance for your participation in the Draft EIS review and comment process.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. EUNICE, III, GS-14, DAF

Deputy Base Civil Engineer