

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Public Comment Period on NOLF Extension to Close

Naval Facilities Command (NAVFAC) and Naval Air Station Whiting Field representatives are scheduled to close their first public comment period pertaining to the proposed runway extensions of Navy outlying fields (NOLF) in the Baldwin County, Ala. Area, Monday, April 6 at 4 p.m .

Closing the comment period will enable the NAVFAC representatives to review public input and incorporate that information into the Environmental Assessment (EA). Once the draft EA is published, tentatively in mid to late May, the Navy's desired option will be announced both publicly and through the website www.navyolfextensions.com.

Following the release of the draft EA, there will be an additional 30 day public comment period on the desired option.

Residents near the NOLFs Silverhill, Summerdale, Barin, and Wolf are encouraged to continue to review the website for current information on the project

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE, the base's major tenant command, provide primary flight training to nearly 60 percent of all Navy and Marine Corps aviators as well as U. S. Coast Guard aviators, select Air Force pilots and flight students from Allied foreign countries. The current training aircraft was implemented in 1977 and is aging. The T-34 Turbo Mentor is slated to begin transitioning to the T-6B Texan later this year. The transition is expected to be complete by 2015.

The T-6B has greater horsepower, increased range, improved avionics, and lower operational costs. However, the aircraft needs longer runways for safe landing operations.

The final decision on the project is scheduled to be made Sept. 15, 2009.

Editor's note: Media partners with questions about this release should call the NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office at (850) 623-7651 extension #30 or (850) 501-0433 cell.