

# **Media Advisory**

## **Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Affairs Office**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DEADLINE FOR RELEASE OF RUNWAY EXTENSION DRAFT EA EXTENDED UNTIL FALL 2009**

As Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast and Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field began reviewing various alternatives for expanding the NAS Whiting Outlying Landing Fields to accommodate the T-6 aircraft operations, it became clear that all of the alternatives would exceed \$1,000,000. When this threshold is met, land acquisition projects require review by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, which will delay release of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to the public until fall 2009.

Residents near the NOLFs Silverhill, Summerdale, and Barin are encouraged to continue to review the website, [www.navyolfextensions.com](http://www.navyolfextensions.com), 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-34C 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 operates much more similarly to fleet aircraft than does the T-34, which will substantially enhance training operations at NAS Whiting Field.

The final decision on the project is scheduled to be made in early spring 2010.

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***Editor's Note: Media partners wishing more information should call the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Affairs Office at (850) 623-7651 ext. 1-30 or 850-501-0433 cell.***