



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
99TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)  
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE NEVADA**

**FEB 07 2017**

99 CES/CENP  
6020 Beale Ave.  
Nellis AFB NV 89191

Skip Canfield  
Nevada Division of State Lands  
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5003  
Carson City, NV 89701-5246

Dear Mr. Canfield:

The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Beddown of a Tactical Air Support Squadron (TASS) at Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Nevada. To take into account various environmental concerns, the USAF is engaging early with the appropriate resource and regulatory agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the USAF seeks consultation with your office.

The EA will, as required by law and regulations, consider the potential impacts resulting from basing 16 F-16C aircraft (and related construction, demolition, and renovation of facilities) at Nellis AFB, NV. The USAF has identified Nellis AFB as the preferred alternative and eliminated further consideration of other installations using established criteria as permitted by 36 C.F.R. §989.8.

If Nellis AFB is selected for the beddown of the TASS, 16 F-16C aircraft would be relocated from Hill AFB, UT to Nellis AFB. The F-16Cs would operate in existing airspace and the types of flight operations would be similar to existing operations at Nellis AFB conducting Close Air Support (CAS) training. The F-16Cs would use existing fuel jettison areas, if necessary. Preliminary review indicates that noise levels from these operations would be similar to noise levels associated with the current F-16C and F-35 missions at Nellis AFB. Therefore the area of potential effect (APE) for this action will be limited to the areas of construction, demolition, and renovation on Nellis AFB, as depicted on the attached map. The Air Force can provide additional information if necessary as the EA is ongoing.

The military construction (MILCON) projects would be conducted in phases over a 4- to 5-year period. A new maintenance hangar/aircraft maintenance unit and the TASS Headquarters building would be the first two MILCON projects. Demolition of an existing building (Building 295) would be required before construction of the new hangar could be built. The TASS Headquarters is currently planned to be constructed at Freedom Park adjacent to the Green Flag Operations Building and the Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) Operations Building, which would facilitate communications between the joint missions.

The other two MILCON projects involve expansion of the east-side apron to provide ramp space for displaced heavy aircraft and addition to the live ordnance loading area (LOLA), which is also located on the east side of the airfield. The latter project would extend the LOLA ramps for six additional aircraft spots and construct an associated support facility. These two areas, which encompass approximately 15 acres, contain native vegetation but have been disturbed by past activities; still, they will be surveyed for sensitive resources as part of the EA process.

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and the no action alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on noise, air quality, traffic/transportation, biological and cultural resources, and socioeconomic conditions. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA.

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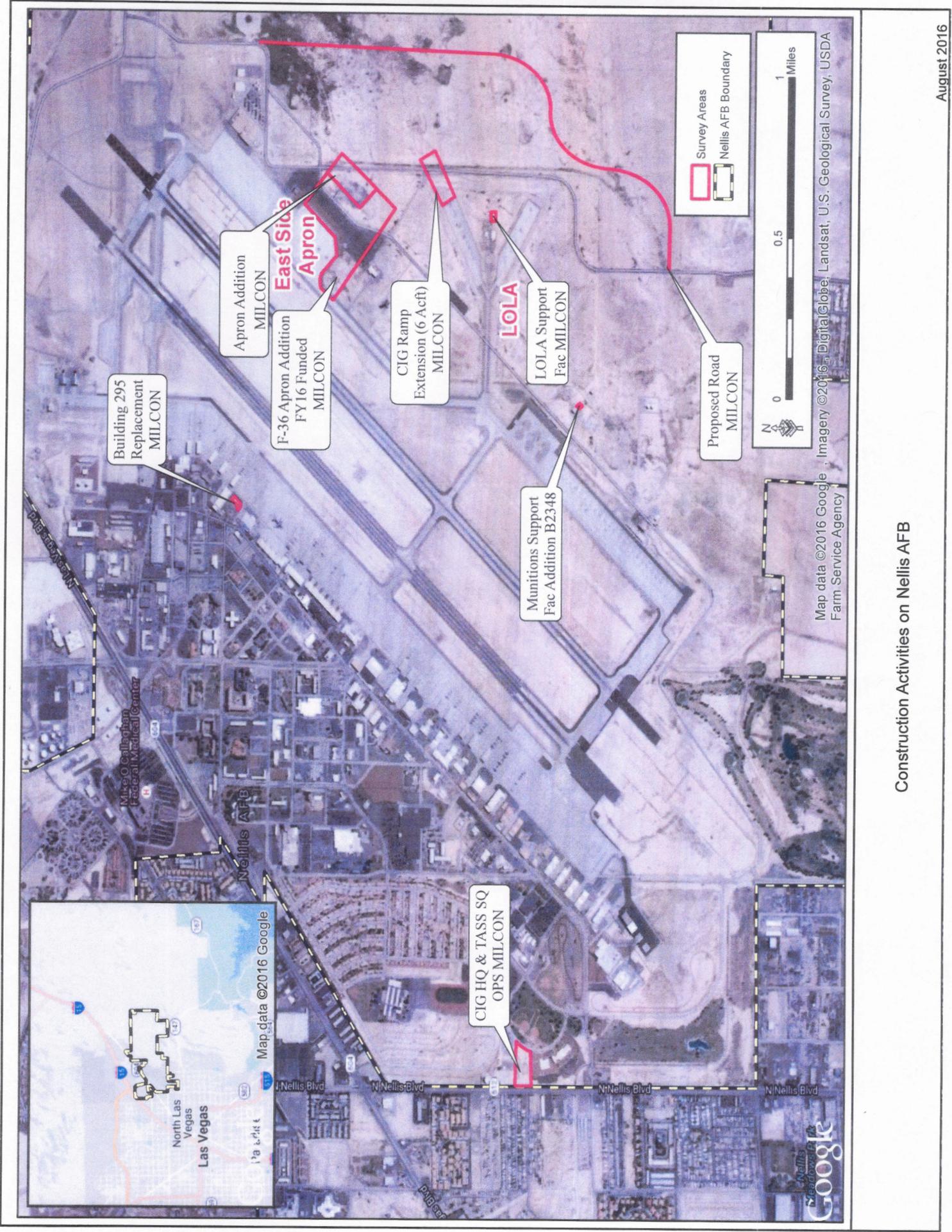
For staff questions, comments, or input on the NEPA process, please contact Mr. Tod Oppenbom, Nellis AFB NEPA Program Manager, [tod.oppenbom@us.af.mil](mailto:tod.oppenbom@us.af.mil) , (702) 652-9366. For matters related to the Section 106 process, you may contact Ms. Kish LaPierre, [kish.lapierre@us.af.mil](mailto:kish.lapierre@us.af.mil) , (702) 652-5813. Please let us know if you have interest in consulting about the proposal and look forward to receiving any input you may have regarding this endeavor.

Sincerely



CHARLES W. ROWLAND  
Chief, Portfolio Optimization

Attachment:  
Project Location Map



Construction Activities on Nellis AFB