**NOTICE FOR EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTION WITHIN THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS NEAR EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA - UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) is inviting public input on any practicable alternatives for a proposed activity within wetlands and the 100-year floodplain near Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve 5th and 6th generation aircraft training effectiveness in the North Pacific operational theater. The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of nine radar simulator sites along the Richardson Highway corridor. Work would involve vegetation clearing, access road construction, electrical utility development, operation pad development, attendant activities, and radar simulator site operation after construction is completed.

Two of the proposed radar simulator sites would be constructed in areas containing potential wetlands or floodplains. The USAF determined, pursuant the development and application of selection standards in accordance with 32 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 989.8, that there are no practicable alternatives without wetland or floodplain impacts that would meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action. The project footprint in wetlands or floodplains would be minimized to the extent practicable and the USAF would procure the necessary permits from the managing entities to ensure the proposed work would not be contrary to the public interest or cause unacceptable floodplain impacts.

The USAF is performing environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. This early public notice is required by Executive Order (EO) 11990, “Protection of Wetlands” and EO 11988, “Floodplain Management”. The USAF prepared and made this notice available to the public in accordance with 32 CFR 989, USAF Manual 32-7064 for actions proposed within floodplains and wetlands. The USAF will also be coordinating with State and Federal regulatory agencies with special expertise regarding the Proposed Action, that may include United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer. Subsequent public notice required by NEPA will be made once the Proposed Project NEPA document is available for review and comment

The USAF requests advance public comment to determine if there are any public concerns regarding the project’s potential to impact to the 100-year floodplain and wetlands. Comments and inquiries should be emailed within 30 days of this notice directly to 354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs at: 907-377-2116 or 354fw.pa.publicaffairs@us.af.mil.