

The United States Air Force is initiating section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) for a federal undertaking to construct two new modular hangars, a parking apron and a ramp for the A-10 Thunderbolt II at Nellis Air Force Base (NAFB), Nevada. The purpose of the hangars is to accommodate the arrival of additional fighter jets in support of the increased fighter pilot training vital to continued national security.

The area of potential effects (APE) is located on the east side of the NAFB runways at the connection to a taxiway (Attachment 1). The two new hangars and parking apron will be 150 feet by 360 feet with the hangars 45 feet high. The new ramp will connect the to the existing taxiway and will be 155 feet by 260 feet. The entire construction footprint will be approximately 200,000 square feet (18,580 square meters).

Four previously recorded resources that have been determined not eligible with prior State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence are within or directly adjacent to the direct APE. Three resources—CK4858, CK4860, and CK4866—were determined not eligible with SHPO concurrence on February 9, 1993. The final resource, CK5720, was determined not eligible with SHPO concurrence on July 3, 2000.

Several historic-age structures that are located within one mile of the APE were previously determined not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). There are eight historic structures that previously have been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A for their association with fighter pilot training during the Cold War located across the flightline approximately one mile to the northwest. The location, design, materials, workmanship, and association—such that they are—will not be altered by the addition of new structures of similar design and function in the vicinity.

Setting and feeling are the only two aspects of integrity for the historic buildings that have the potential to be altered. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) establishes as the policy of the Government to “use measures...to foster under which our modern society and our prehistoric and historic resources can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations” (16 USC 470–1[1] and [5]). The facilitation of new construction, improvements, and upgrades to the flightline and associated resources ensure that the flightline can continue to be utilized for its purpose of training the next generation of elite fighter pilots. NAFB has *Installation Facilities Standards* (IFS 2019:99), which states that new buildings must “Maintain architectural compatibility following AFCFS [Air Force Corporate Facility Standards] and this Installation Facility Standards (IFS) document to create continuity while avoiding monotony.” These standards consider the importance of the historic elements within the overall installation and are consistent with the express purposes of the NHPA and negate any potential visual impacts that would alter the integrity of setting or feeling.

No new aircraft will be added to the installation as part of this undertaking and construction noise will not exceed the noise level of the current array of fighter jets; therefore, there is no short- or long-term auditory effect from this project. Construction of the hangar, parking apron, and ramps will increase the amount of unpaved disturbed soil temporarily. The increased potential for dust will be mitigated through a dust control permit and plan. This

potential for an increase in atmospheric dust is temporary and will not have long term cumulative effects.

Overall cumulative effects to the project area include an increase in traffic and personnel to the project area for the duration of the construction project; however, no additional personnel will be hired or stationed at NAFB as a result of this project. As discussed above, the visual effect to historic properties is negated using the IFS, which is consistent with the spirit of the NHPA. As the new hangars will be consistent with the visual, auditory, and atmospheric nature of the flightline, there will be no effect to the significance or the integrity of the known historic properties within the indirect APE. There are no historic properties within the direct APE. NAFB, therefore, has determined there are *no adverse effects* to historic properties.

In accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.3(e), NAFB is inviting you to participate in consultation for this undertaking and is seeking your views so they may be considered. A similar letter also will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking, please contact the Cultural Resources Office at Nellis Air Force Base via email 99CES.CulturalResources@us.af.mil.

Yellow circle shows approximate location of proposed hangar construction.

