



# Fifth Generation Formal Training Unit Optimization

Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

### Purpose and Need for the F-22 FTU Mission Beddown at JBLE-Langley

The U. S. Air Force (Air Force) proposes to permanently beddown the F-22 FTU mission at JBLE-Langley to optimize its 5<sup>th</sup> generation fighter fleets. An FTU is a unit that trains pilots to fly a given aircraft. The F-22 FTU mission is comprised of F-22 and T-38 aircraft and is temporarily operating at Eglin AFB due to Hurricane Michael's devastation of nearby Tyndall AFB, Florida on October, 10 2018.

Tyndall AFB was struck by category 5 hurricane wind speeds in excess of 156 miles per hour, resulting in every facility sustaining damage, including some that were totally destroyed. The Air Force temporarily relocated the Tyndall-based F-22 FTU mission to Eglin AFB and is now proposing to permanently beddown the F-22 FTU mission at JBLE-Langley.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the proposed permanent beddown of the F-22 FTU mission is to support continued training and production of combat-ready F-22 fighter pilots.

#### Need

The permanent beddown of the F-22 FTU at JBLE-Langley is needed to consolidate the F-22 fleet at a location to achieve maintenance and supply efficiencies and improve aircraft availability to increase pilot production and mission capability rates.

The need for the action is partially tied to the damage wrought by Hurricane Michael, though prior to the hurricane, the Air Force had already recognized a need to optimize its fifth-generation operational fighter fleets to ensure adequate training ranges, facilities, and airspace necessary to effectively produce qualified combat pilots.

The F-22 Raptor is a fifth-generation, single-seat, twin-engine, all-weather stealth tactical fighter aircraft developed for the Air Force. The result of the Air Force's Advanced Tactical Fighter program, the aircraft was designed primarily as an air superiority fighter, but also has ground attack, electronic warfare, and signal intelligence capabilities.



The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer recognized for its versatile design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance, and exceptional safety record. Air Combat Command specifically uses the T-38 to simulate enemy aircraft during F-22 training exercises.

