

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 SPRING 2010

Authorization for potential purchase of properties associated with the runway extensions for Navy Outlying Fields (NOLFs) in Baldwin County, Ala. are still pending. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project cannot move forward until such authorization is granted. Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Naval Air Station Whiting Field will release further information on proposed options upon the completion of the review by the Office of the Secretary of the Navy.

Residents near the NOLFs Silverhill, Summerdale, and Barin are encouraged to continue to review the website, 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 introduced in 1977 and is nearing the end of its service life. 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 preliminary decision on the Environmental Assessment 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.