



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

17 April 2025

**MEMORANDUM FOR INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC
GROUPS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHERS**

FROM: 673 CES/CEIEC
724 Quartermaster Road
JBER, AK 99505

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Proposal for Mortar and Artillery
Training (PMART) at Richardson Training Area, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson
(JBER), Alaska (AK)

1. The United States Air Force (Air Force) is pleased to notify you of the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Proposed Mortar and Artillery Training (PMART) at Richardson Training Area at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and has published a Notice of Availability (NOA). We invite you to review and comment on the Draft EIS, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Air Force is the lead agency for this EIS, and the Army and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are cooperating agencies. The Draft EIS is available for download at <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/> and is also available for review throughout the 60-day public comment period, which ends on 24 June 2025, at the following libraries:

Wasilla Public Library
500 N. Crusey Street
Wasilla, AK 99654

Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Library
12001 Business Blvd. #176
Eagle River, AK 99577

Z.J. Loussac Public Library
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

JBER Library
123 Chilkoot Avenue, Bldg. 7
JBER, AK 99505

2. Notification of the availability of the Draft EIS is also scheduled to appear in the Federal Register. The Draft EIS addresses the proposal to modify the conditions under which live-fire weapons training and qualification is conducted at JBER to meet the Army's home station training requirements and to ensure Army elements at JBER are fully prepared for operational deployments in support of the United States' evolving Arctic Strategy. The Final EIS and a Record of Decision on the Proposed Action are expected later in 2025. Additional information about the Proposed Action is provided in the attached Informational Brochure (Enclosure 1) and is also available on the project website at <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/>

3. The Army's purpose for the proposed action is to increase military readiness by optimizing recurring indirect live-fire weapons training, qualification, and certification at JBER to meet home station training requirements in accordance with current Army training doctrine.
4. The Army needs to conduct frequent live-fire mortar and artillery training, qualification, and certification exercises under realistic conditions/standards throughout the year to prepare soldiers for combat operations.
5. The Draft EIS has been prepared to ensure that comprehensive and systematic consideration is given to potential environmental impacts that may result from implementing the proposed action or any reasonable alternatives. The EIS assesses the potential environmental consequences that would result from the proposal to modify the conditions under which indirect live-fire weapons training can be conducted at JBER. The proposed action would optimize recurring indirect live-fire weapons training at JBER to meet home station training requirements in accordance with current Army training doctrine. Reasonable alternatives were identified and evaluated based on selection standards by Army Richardson Training Area Installation Range Office personnel. Alternatives that met all established selection standards were considered reasonable and retained for consideration in the EIS. Resources addressed in the Draft EIS include noise, air quality, climate change, safety and occupational health, earth resources, water resources, wetlands, biological resources, wildland fire, cultural resources and subsistence, land use and recreation, transportation and circulation, socioeconomics, infrastructure and utilities, hazardous materials and waste, and forest resources. The Draft EIS incorporates the public and interagency comments received during the April–May 2020 scoping period.
6. The Air Force will seek public input on the proposed action during two in-person hearings that will be held in Palmer and Eagle River, Alaska. The Air Force invites you to participate in the public hearings.
7. Details regarding the dates, times, and locations of the hearings are included in the Public Hearing Flyer (Enclosure 2). This enclosure can be reproduced and distributed. There will be an open house format the hour before each hearing with representatives available to answer questions from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The public hearings will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. Written and verbal comments will be accepted at the hearings. Members of the public planning to give testimony will be asked to register at the hearings.
8. Project informational materials are available on the project website. Requests for printed materials can be made by emailing 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil. In the subject line, please include "PMART EIS." For printed material requests the standard U.S. Postal Service shipping timeline will apply. Please consider the environment before requesting printed material.
9. Public agency and stakeholder comments provided during the public hearings, through email, via postal mail, and/or through the project website will be considered in the preparation of the Final EIS. During the public review period, the Air Force actively requests substantive public comments on topics addressed in the Draft EIS for consideration in the Final EIS. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input, please submit all comments by 24 June 2025.

10. If you have comments or questions on this project or printed materials request, please submit them by visiting the project website at <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/> or by email to 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil. Additionally, you can provide verbal and written comments during the public hearings or via postal mail at the following address:

JBER Environmental Planning Office
724 Quartermaster Drive, Door 5
JBER, AK, 99505

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KYLENE LANG, GS-13, DAF

Environmental Conservation Chief

Enclosures:

1. Information Brochure: Draft EIS, Proposed Mortar and Artillery Training at Richardson Training Area at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
2. Public Hearing Flyer: Proposed Mortar and Artillery Training at Richardson Training Area at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Public Hearings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

for Proposed Mortar and Artillery Training at Richardson Training Area
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Alaska



The U.S. Air Force invites you to attend public hearings for the **Draft EIS for Proposed Mortar and Artillery Training at Richardson Training Area, JBER, Alaska**. The Draft EIS assesses the potential environmental consequences that would result from the proposal to modify the conditions under which indirect live-fire weapons training can be conducted at **Eagle River Flats Impact Area**.

The public and all interested stakeholders have the opportunity to participate fully in the Draft EIS public review period and comment process. The Draft EIS is available online at: <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/> and at the **Wasilla Public Library, Z.J. Loussac Public Library, Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Library, and JBER Library**.

Requests for printed materials can be made by emailing 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil. In the subject line, please include **"PMART EIS."**

Public Hearings:

Wednesday May 21, 2025
Palmer Community Center Depot
610 S. Valley Way
Palmer, AK 99645

Thursday May 22, 2025
Eagle River
Town Center Community Room
12001 Business Blvd, #170
Eagle River, AK 99577

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Open House | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Public Hearing

There will be an open house format the hour before each hearing with representatives available to answer questions from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The public hearings will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. Written and verbal comments will be accepted at the hearings. Members of the public planning to give testimony will be asked to register at the hearings. Hearing materials are available for browsing and download at <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/>

Submitting Comments on the Draft EIS:

The public comment period will be from **April 25, 2025** through **June 24, 2025**.

- Comments may be submitted on the project website at <https://jber-pmart-eis.com/> until **June 24, 2025**.
- Comments may also be submitted by email to 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil, or by U.S. Postal Service:
JBER Environmental Planning Office
724 Quartermaster Drive, Door 5
JBER, AK 99505.
(In the subject line, please include **"PMART EIS."**)

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals or officials representing organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



PMART Environmental Impact Statement

For more information go to:
jber-pmart-eis.com



