

also the White House's 2021 Space Priorities Framework), the United States seeks to provide greater launch and landing capabilities and infrastructure to support national security objectives, including deploying satellites and other space assets that enable intelligence, reconnaissance, and global security operations. The United States aims to promote a hybrid space architecture that diversifies access to space, reduces dependency on singular systems, and ensures rapid reconstitution capabilities.

The Proposed Action is needed to meet current and near-term U.S. Government space launch requirements from the DoD space launch range that supports launches centered at VAFB (Western Range), specifically for medium and heavy lift launches to polar, geostationary, and other orbits less reliably available elsewhere without compromising current launch capabilities. The Proposed Action is also needed to expand launch capacity by returning heavy lift launch capability to the Western Range. Finally, the proposed action is needed to fulfill (in part) 10 U.S.C. 2276(a), "Commercial space launch cooperation," authorizing the Secretary of Defense to maximize the use of the capacity of the space transportation infrastructure of the DOD by the private sector in the U.S.; maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the space transportation infrastructure of the DOD; reduce the cost of services provided by the DOD related to space transportation infrastructure and launch support facilities and space recovery support facilities; encourage commercial space activities by enabling investment by covered entities in the space transportation infrastructure of the DOD; and foster cooperation between DOD and covered entities. "Covered entity" means a non-federal entity that is organized under the laws of the U.S. or of any jurisdiction within the U.S. and is engaged in commercial space activities.

Additionally, public interests largely intersect with the government interests identified, including greater mission capability for space exploration, and advancing reliable and affordable access to space which in turn advances the scientific and national security benefits of the U.S. Space Program.

The DAF has identified a Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and the No Action Alternative to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS. Under the Proposed Action, the DAF would authorize Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch and landing operations at SLC-6, including modifications to SLC-6 required to

support those operations and construction of landing zones. The DAF would also authorize an increase in Falcon 9 launches from SLC-4, which currently hosts Falcon 9 launch operations, and an increase in downrange landings on a droneship in the Pacific Ocean. The overall launch cadence for Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy at both SLCs, combined, would be 100 launches per year. No modification of SLC-4 infrastructure is proposed. The FAA would issue or modify a vehicle operator license for Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy operations and approve corresponding temporary airspace closures for operations. Under the Proposed Action, the existing horizontal integration facility (HIF) located north of SLC-6 would be modified into a hangar for use by SpaceX to support Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy operations. Alternative 1 is the same as the Proposed Action except rather than modifying the existing HIF, DAF would authorize SpaceX to construct a new hangar south of the HIF and north of the launch pad at SLC-6. Under the No Action Alternative, the DAF would not authorize any Falcon 9 or Falcon Heavy launches or landing operations at, or modifications to, SLC-6, nor would the DAF authorize additional Falcon 9 launches from SLC-4. SpaceX would not apply for an FAA vehicle operator license for Falcon operations at SLC-6 or increased launches from SLC-4.

Potential effects may include noise, air quality, and hazardous material effects associated with launch and landing operations and construction, as well as effects on biological and cultural resources due to ground disturbance, and operational noise and vibrations. A full assessment of potential impacts to all relevant resource areas will be included in the EIS, including an analysis of environmental effects of the Proposed Action and Alternatives when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As part of that effort, the cumulative impacts analysis in the EIS will examine the effects of the Proposed Action that was the subject of the Environmental Assessment of Falcon 9 Cadence Increase at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (EAXX-007-57-USF-1724161195), the final of which was published in November 2024. SpaceX would be required to obtain or modify an FAA vehicle operator license for Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy at SLC-6, which could include launch, reentry, or both. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit may be required. The Proposed Action and Alternatives are within wetlands and

floodplains; therefore, the Proposed Action is subject to the requirements and objectives of Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands", and this NOI initiates early public review and requests public comment on the Proposed Action and any practicable alternatives.

Scoping and Agency Coordination: Consultation will include, but not necessarily be limited to, consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, consultation under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to include consultation with federally recognized Native American Tribes, and consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Regulatory agencies with special expertise in wetlands and floodplains, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will be contacted and asked to comment. Comments are requested on alternatives and effects, as well as on relevant information, studies, or analyses with respect to the Proposed Action.

Tommy W. Lee,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024-29446 Filed 12-12-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Adoption of Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act; Correction

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of adoption of categorical exclusions; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects the description for five categorical exclusions (CATEXes) adopted by the Department of the Air Force through posting in the **Federal Register** on 25 November 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jack Bush, DAF NEPA Policy and Execution Oversight, 703-695-1773, af.a4c.nepaworkflow@us.af.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of November 25, 2024, in FR Doc. 2024-27545, on pages 92912 and 92913, the following corrections are made:

On page 92912 in the third column for DON CATEX (f)(27), the word "like" is corrected to "similar to" in the sentence.

On page 92912 in the third column for DON CATEX (f)(33), the word “like” is corrected to “similar to” in the first sentence.

On page 92913 in the second column, NASA CATEX (d)(2)(i) is revised to read: “(d)(2)(i) Routine maintenance, minor construction or rehabilitation, minor demolition, minor modification, minor repair, and continuing or altered operations at, or of, existing NASA or NASA-funded or -approved facilities and equipment, such as buildings, roads, grounds, utilities, communication systems, and ground support systems (e.g., space tracking and data systems). This includes routine operations such as security, public health and safety, and environmental services.”

On page 92913 in the second column, NASA CATEX (d)(3)(i) is revised to read: “(d)(3)(i) Research, development, testing, and evaluation in compliance with all applicable Federal, state, Tribal, or local laws or requirements and Executive Orders. This includes the research, development, testing, and evaluation of scientific instruments proposed for use on spacecraft, aircraft (including unmanned aircraft systems), sounding rockets, balloons, laboratories, watercraft, or other outdoor activities.”

On page 92913 in the second column, NASA CATEX (d)(3)(iii) is revised to read: “(d)(3)(iii) Use of lasers for research and development, scientific instruments and measurements, and distance and ranging, where such use meets all applicable Federal, state, Tribal, or local laws or requirements and Executive orders. This includes lasers associated with spacecraft, aircraft (including unmanned aircraft systems), sounding rockets, balloons, laboratories, watercraft, or other outdoor activities.”

Tommy W. Lee,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024–29352 Filed 12–12–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of

the Defense Science Board (DSB) will take place.

DATES: Closed to the public Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Eastern time.

ADDRESSES: The address of the closed meeting is the Pentagon, Room 3E188, Washington, DC 20301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth J. Kowalski, Designated Federal Officer (DFO): (703) 571–0081 (Voice), (703) 697–1860 (Facsimile), elizabeth.j.kowalski.civ@mail.mil, (Email). Mailing address is Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3140. Website: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/>. The most up-to-date changes to the meeting agenda can be found on the website.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”); 5 U.S.C. 552b(c); and sections 102–3.140 and 102–3.150 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Purpose of the Meeting: The mission of the DSB is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to the DoD’s scientific and technical enterprise. The objective of the meeting is to obtain, review, and evaluate classified information related to the DSB’s mission. The DSB will meet with DoD Leadership to discuss classified current and future national security challenges and priorities within the DoD and deliberate and vote on findings and recommendations.

Agenda: The meeting will begin on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 8:15 a.m. Ms. Betsy Kowalski, DFO, and Dr. Eric Evans, Chair of the DSB, will provide classified opening remarks regarding ongoing studies. Next, from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. the board will deliberate and vote on the classified findings and recommendations of the DSB Task Force on 21st Century Industrial Base for National Defense. From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Dr. Christopher Scolese, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Director, will provide a classified briefing on his views of current NRO strategy, challenges, and priorities. Following a 15-minute break, the DSB will hold a session from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that includes a classified discussion to deliberate and vote on the findings and recommendations of the DSB Task Force on Balancing Security, Reliability, and Technological Advantage in Generative Artificial Intelligence for Defense. Following a break from 12:30 p.m. to

1:30 p.m., the DSB Members will hold a classified discussion to deliberate and vote on the findings and recommendations of the DSB Task Force on Emerging Biotechnologies and National Security. After the final break of the day from 3 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., General Reed, Commander U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), will provide a classified briefing from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on his views of current TRANSCOM strategy, challenges, and priorities (VTC). The meeting will adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Meeting Accessibility: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(d) and 41 CFR 102–3.155, the DoD has determined that the DSB meeting will be closed to the public. Specifically, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in consultation with the DoD Office of the General Counsel, has determined in writing that the meeting will be closed to the public because it will consider matters covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1). The determination is based on the consideration that it is expected that discussions throughout will involve classified matters of national security concern. Such classified material is so intertwined with the unclassified material that it cannot reasonably be segregated into separate discussions without defeating the effectiveness and meaning of the overall meetings. To permit the meeting to be open to the public would preclude discussion of such matters and would greatly diminish the ultimate utility of the DSB’s findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Written Statements: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(3) and 41 CFR 102–3.150(6) and 102–3.140, interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the DSB at any time regarding its mission or in response to the stated agenda of a planned meeting. Individuals submitting a written statement should submit their statement to Ms. Elizabeth J. Kowalski, the DSB DFO, via electronic mail (the preferred mode of submission) at the email address provided above in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Each page of the comment or statement must include the author’s name, title or affiliation, address and daytime phone number. If a written statement is not received at least three calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to or considered by the DSB until a later date. Please note that all submitted comments and statements will be treated as public documents and