



Basing F-16 Fighting Falcon Fighter Squadron at Gowen Field – Idaho Air National Guard Base, Ada County, Boise, Idaho

Environmental Impact Analysis

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED ACTION?

The proposal is the basing, operation, and associated infrastructure construction of up to 21 F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft at the 124th Fighter Wing (124 FW). These aircraft would replace the 21 aging A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft currently flown by the 124 FW. The consideration and analysis of the No Action alternative is required by NEPA for the purpose of presenting a comparative analysis to the action Alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, the 124 FW would retain the A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft and continue flying that mission until FY 2029, when retirement of all A-10C aircraft is anticipated. The facility and infrastructure construction required for continuing this mission will also be evaluated in this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

WHY IS THE PROPOSED ACTION NECESSARY?

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain combat capability and mission readiness for the 124 FW by transitioning from an A-10C Thunderbolt II mission to an F-16 Fighting Falcon mission. The Proposed Action is needed because the A-10C fleet is reaching the end of its service life and is consistent with DAF plans to divest all A-10 aircraft by FY 2029.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

The alternatives are:

- Conversion to the F-16 A aircraft (as described above).
- Under the No Action Alternative, the 124 FW would retain the A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft and continue flying that mission until FY 2029 at which point all A-10C aircraft would be retired.

HOW MANY AIRCRAFT WOULD BE PART OF THE PROPOSED ACTION?

The proposal includes basing 21 F-16 aircraft (18 primary and 3 backup/reserve) to replace 21 A-10C aircraft (18 primary and three backup/reserve) currently at Gowen Field.

WHEN WOULD THE AIRCRAFT ARRIVE?

The proposal anticipates arrival of the F-16 aircraft in FY 2028.

IS THERE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROPOSAL?

Yes. The proposal includes 25 supporting projects, including:

- New construction
- Facility demolition
- Facility renovation

All construction would occur within the current airport/ installation boundaries.

WHAT IS THE NEPA PROCESS?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our national charter for making informed decisions based upon potential environmental consequences. NEPA requires all federal agencies to take a good-faith, hard look at potential environmental consequences of a proposal before making a decision. The NGB is preparing a detailed study that will analyze the potential environmental consequences of this proposal. The anticipated schedule of this process is shown in the timeline.



HOW IS THE IMPACT OF NOISE ON THE COMMUNITY EVALUATED?

The Department of Defense uses several metrics to evaluate noise effects. The Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) noise metric is primarily used for noise generated at the airfield. Additionally, the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is used in the state of Idaho. These metrics are used by all Federal agencies for predicting human annoyance and other potential noise effects on humans. DNL represents the average of all noise events that occur over a 24-hour period and includes a penalty for flights occurring between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. CNEL also includes a nighttime penalty between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. and adds an additional evening penalty between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Other metrics are used to determine maximum, instantaneous, and supersonic noise levels. These will all be used in the Draft EIS analysis.

WHAT WOULD THE COMMUNITY EXPECT IN TERMS OF NOISE FROM THE F-16?

A noise analysis is being conducted to determine any changes that would result from basing the F-16 aircraft. The Draft EIS will evaluate and present any change in noise levels at the airfield and in the airspace.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE EXISTING AIRCRAFT?

The A-10C Thunderbolt II would be retired from service due to the age of the aircraft.

HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ACTION?

Comments may be submitted by:

	Project website: www.gowenfieldf16eis.com
	Project email: NGB.CCA4F.NEPACOMMENTSOrg@us.af.mil . Please Include "F-16 Gowen Field EIS" in the subject line.
	US Mail: NGB Project Manager Attn: Gowen F-16 EIS Whitetail Ayuda JV P.O. Box 9235 Denver, CO 80209

Please submit comments by the end of the scoping public comment period on March 15, 2026, to ensure that your comments are addressed in the Draft EIS. Comments received after the close of the public comment period will be reviewed but may not be specifically addressed in the Draft EIS. Comments will be accepted throughout the EIS process.

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED AND RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Please visit www.gowenfieldf16eis.com to learn more about this proposal and join the mailing list at <https://www.gowenfieldf16eis.com/mailing-list/>.