Agenda Item No. 3.8

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: John A. Barton, Interim Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project, The Texas A&M University System, Bryan, Texas (Project No. 01-3471)

Background and Prior Actions:

The Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project was included as an approved project on the FY 2026 – FY 2030 A&M System Capital Plan, with an FY 2026 start date and a planning amount of $9,150,000. The Board approved a project budget increase of $7,250,000 at the December 2025 special meeting.

Proposed Board Action:

Per System Policy *51.04 General Requirements and Delegations of Authority on Construction Projects*, the board authorizes to:

(1) Approve the project scope and budget.

(2) Appropriate $14,760,000 for construction services and related project costs. $1,640,000 has been previously appropriated to this project.

(3) Approve construction of the Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project at The Texas A&M University System (A&M System).

Funding/Budget Amount:

Funding Source	Budget Amount	Average Estimated Annual Debt Service	Debt Service Source
Cash (General Revenue)	$16,400,000	N/A	N/A
Total Project Funds	$16,400,000		

Project Justification:

The Aircrew Labor In-Cockpit Automation System (ALIAS) program was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to promote the addition of high levels

of automation into existing aircraft, enabling operation with reduced onboard crew. As an optionally piloted vehicle (OPV), ALIAS-enabled aircraft aim to support execution of an entire mission from takeoff to landing, either independently or as part of a multi-agent/platform operation.

Project ALIAS–Texas is a research and development project investigating the use of autonomous Blackhawk helicopters to address various state needs. Initial scope will be fighting wildfires, future projects might include border patrol, and search and rescue similar activities. The research project was funded by a $59.8M appropriation to the Bush Combat Development Complex from the Texas 89th Legislature HB500 to "develop and evaluate autonomous rotary wing wildland firefighting capabilities for Texas". The research project involves significant collaboration with DARPA and the transition of DARPA knowledge and equipment in the DARPA ALIAS project to Texas A&M University. DARPA will contribute equipment and in-kind activities to the project. The majority of the A&M System budget is for the acquisition of autonomous helicopters, research, test, and evaluation tasks, and support of the research teams and aircraft. The current capital project, Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar, will house the research project, designed to be expandable for future research needs.

Scope:

This new approximately 30,000 GSF facility will include two hangar bays for the simulation and maintenance of both Sikorsky UH60L (Blackhawk) and Boeing CH-47 (Chinook) aircraft. Construction of the facility will be a Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) with support spaces that include storage, staff break room, testing operations, simulator room, server room, communications room, data operations, technology control, and restrooms. The PEMB is designed to be a single structure with a pitched roof, which may allow for some spaces to be stacked within the higher volume that is needed for aircraft clearances and maintenance. Adequate concrete apron space is provided to allow for aircraft to be prepped and stored outside without the need to encroach on existing RELLIS runways and/or taxiways.

Located on the RELLIS Campus, utility connections and extensions for water, electrical, technology, and sewer are included, but extension of thermal lines for HVAC systems is not required in this facility. Fire suppression will be included in the new facility, and future expansion is factored into the suppression system and aligned with code requirements. Coordination and compliance with RELLIS Design and Construction Standards is included in the design.

All support areas within the new facility will have fully controlled HVAC, but hangars will have only ventilation and the ability to control temperature extremes. Specialized network connectivity to the nearby Research Integration Center is included.

In addition to the new building and associated infrastructure, the project site accommodates fuel storage and a code-compliant fueling and defueling area with runoff management, as well as a communications tower and parking for staff and a mobile ground control station.

Construction on this project is scheduled to start in June 2026 with substantial completion

scheduled for May 2027. The total project budget is $16,400,000.

Other Major Fiscal Impacts:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

This project best supports Strategic Plan Imperatives #4 and #5, aiming to keep the A&M System at the forefront of technology research and innovation.

Strategic Plan Imperative No. 4: *"The A&M System will increase its prominence by building a robust and targeted research portfolio."*

We will continue to encourage cross-institution and cross-discipline collaboration, and we will support our member institutions in their research pursuits, including obtaining Emerging Research University status.

Strategic Plan Imperative No. 5: *"The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy."*

We will continue to address the needs of Texas and utilize technology to reach citizens in new ways.

Agenda Item No. 3.8

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
FACILITIES PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
March 25, 2026

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project, The Texas A&M University System, Bryan, Texas (Project No. 01-3471)

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"Per System Policy *51.04 General Requirements and Delegations of Authority on Construction Projects*, the project scope, along with a project budget of $16,400,000 for the Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project is approved.**
>
> **The amount of $14,760,000 is appropriated from Account No. 01-110700 Bush Combat Development Center, for construction services and related project costs.**
>
> **The Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar Project, The Texas A&M University System, Bryan, Texas, is approved for construction."**

Respectfully submitted,

[SIGNED BY]

John A. Barton
Interim Vice Chancellor for
Business Affairs

System Approval Recommended:

[SIGNED BY]
Glenn Hegar
Chancellor

[SIGNED BY]
Susan Ballabina, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor

[SIGNED BY]
Ryan C. Griffin
Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

System General Counsel Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[SIGNED BY]
R. Brooks Moore
General Counsel

Board General Counsel Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[SIGNED BY]
Nichole B. Bunker
General Counsel

BUSH COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX - ALIAS TEXAS HANGAR **PROJECT BUDGET**
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
PROJECT NO. 01-3471

1.	Construction	$13,000,000
2.	Project Contingency	687,825
3.	Program of Requirements	0
4.	Pre-Construction Services	1,455,450
5.	Commissioning	0
6.	Construction Testing	130,300
7.	Campus Services & Technology	353,000
8.	Furnishings	0
9.	Equipment	119,000
10.	Other Project Costs	226,085
11.	Project Management & Inspection	$428,340
12.	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT	$16,400,000

BUSH COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX - ALIAS TEXAS HANGAR **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

PROJECT NO. 01-3471

1. BOR Approval to Include in Capital Plan ..... August 28, 2025
2. Issue A/E RFQ ..... September 1, 2025
3. Issue CMAR RFP ..... September 4, 2025
4. Receive A/E RFQ Responses ..... September 23, 2025
5. Receive CMAR RFP Response ..... September 25, 2025
6. Shortlist A/E Firms ..... September 30, 2025
7. Shortlist CMAR Firms ..... September 30, 2025
8. Interview A/E Firms ..... October 7, 2025
9. Interview CMAR Firms ..... October 8, 2025
10. A/E Ranked Order Approved by Chancellor ..... October 13, 2025
11. CMAR Ranked Order Approved by Chancellor ..... October 20, 2025
12. Execute A/E Agreement ..... December 15, 2025
13. Execute CMAR Agreement ..... January 7, 2026
14. A/E Design Kick-Off ..... January 29, 2026
15. Complete Schematic Design ..... February 20, 2026
16. Complete Design Development ..... April 10, 2026
17. Receive GMP from CMAR ..... April 22, 2026
18. Submit THECB Application ..... April 22, 2026
19. BOR Approval for Construction ..... May 21, 2026
20. Begin Construction ..... June 2026
21. Complete Construction Documents ..... July 2026
22. Substantial Completion ..... May 2027
23. Owner Occupancy ..... June 2027

Bush Combat Development Complex - ALIAS Texas Hangar

The Texas A&M University System **Project No. 01-3471**