

# **B-21 Beddown Main Operating Base 2 (MOB 2) or MOB 3 at Dyess AFB or Whiteman AFB**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



## **Welcome**

**To the Public Scoping Meeting  
for the B-21 Beddown Main Operating Base 2  
or Main Operating Base 3 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas  
or Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri  
Environmental Impact Statement**



**April 2023**

**What is Public Scoping?** The B-21 Main Operating Base (MOB) 2 and 3 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in the 45-day public comment period and public scoping stage. Directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Air Force environmental regulations, scoping is a critical first step in the EIS process to make diligent efforts to involve members of the public, cooperating agencies, stakeholders, and tribes in the development of the EIS. The scoping meetings are part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with the EIS. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide opportunities to learn about and comment on the

potential alternatives and to identify issues of interest or concern to frame the environmental analyses.



## Agenda

The public scoping meetings will have the following agenda:

### 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Air Force presentation

### 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

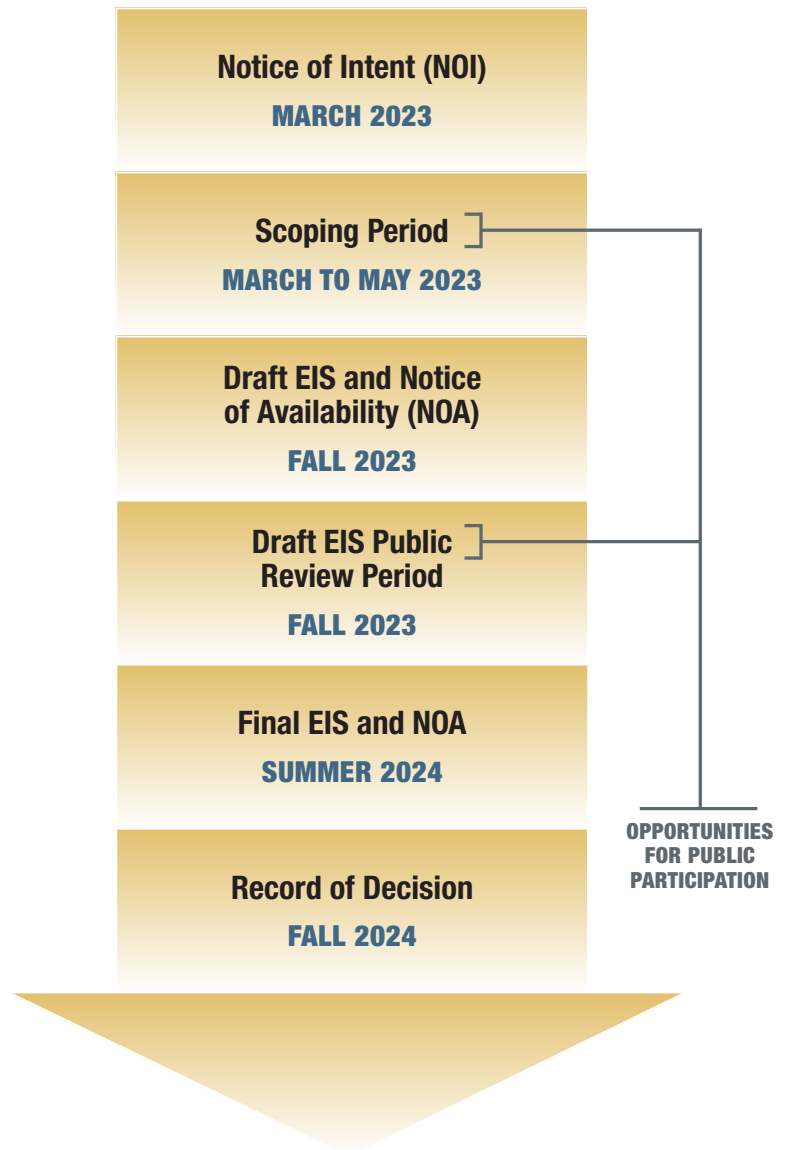
Informal Q&A session and comment submission

## What is NEPA?

NEPA is our national charter for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. NEPA requires all federal agencies making a proposal that may significantly impact the environment, to consider:

- ▶ A range of reasonable alternatives.
- ▶ Potential environmental or human health consequences.
- ▶ Tribal, government agency, and public input.

## Timeline





## What Environmental Resources will be Studied in the EIS?

**Air Quality:** Analysis will focus on air emissions from the proposed action and alternatives and the potential impacts to local and regional air quality.

**Airspace Use and Management:** Analysis will address current and proposed use of airspace and potential impacts to airspace use and aviation.

**Biological Resources:** The EIS will address potential impacts to plant and animal species associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

**Cultural Resources:** Analysis will focus on potential impacts to Native American, archaeological, and historic resources associated with the proposed actions and alternatives.

**Environmental Justice:** The EIS will analyze potential environmental justice impacts to low-income and minority populations.

**Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes:** Analysis will focus on characterizing the types of hazardous and solid materials and wastes utilized and/or produced as a result of the proposed action and alternatives and the potential impacts to the environment.

**Health and Safety:** The EIS will address potential impacts to the health and safety of military members and the public from the proposed action and alternatives.

**Land Use:** Analysis will address potential impacts to current and planned future land uses associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

**Noise:** The EIS will analyze the potential impacts to the public and biological resources from noise generating activities associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

**Physical Resources (Water and Soils):** The EIS will analyze impacts (such as erosion) to soils and geology, as well as potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources (such as streams, springs, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifers) associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

**Socioeconomics:** Analysis will focus on the economic impacts to the local economy as a result of the proposed action and alternatives.

**Transportation:** The EIS will address potential impacts to base and local traffic conditions as a result of the proposed action and alternatives.

**Utilities:** Analysis will include estimated changes in electricity, potable water, wastewater, and natural gas use associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

## What is the Background of the Project?

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is developing a new bomber aircraft, the B-21 "Raider," which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The beddown of the B-21 will take place through a series of beddowns at three Main Operating Bases (MOBs), referred to as MOB 1, MOB 2, and MOB 3. The DAF previously identified Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), Dyess AFB, and Whiteman AFB as potential installations to beddown the B-21 Raider. The DAF chose Ellsworth AFB for MOB 1; therefore, this EIS evaluates potential environmental consequences associated with establishing MOB 2 at the remaining two alternative bases: Dyess AFB or Whiteman AFB.

The B-21 basing action is a series of beddowns. If one of the candidate bases is selected for MOB 2, then the remaining base would subsequently become the MOB 3 beddown location. Air operations and personnel numbers for the MOB 3 beddown are not anticipated to exceed those analyzed in this EIS and construction

activities are anticipated to be the same for either MOB location. Therefore, the analysis presented in this EIS represents potential impacts associated with the beddown actions at either location.

The MOB 2 and MOB 3 beddowns would include B-21 Operations Squadrons, Weapons Instructor Course (WIC), and Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) Squadron, as well as a Weapons Generation Facility (WGF). Consequently, in this EIS, potential impacts of these four components (i.e., Operations Squadrons, WIC, OT&E, and WGF) are analyzed for both alternative locations, Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB.

The B-21 will operate under the direction of the Air Force Global Strike Command (GSC). The B-21 will have both conventional and nuclear roles and will be capable of penetrating and surviving in advanced air defense environments. It is projected to enter service in the 2020s, and the DAF intends to operate a minimum of 100 B-21 aircraft.





## What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

As stated in the 2022 National Defense Strategy, which includes the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review and the 2022 Missile Defense Review, the global security environment and “threats to the homeland have fundamentally changed.” The threats we face as a nation are increasingly transregional, multi-domain, and multi functional. These threats frequently do not comply with international rules of law. They include ever-expanding, rapidly developing technologies of other nations.

Thus, the DAF must deter its adversaries, assure its allies, and be prepared to support operations that protect the homeland, respond to aggression with overlapping timelines, wage a global counter terrorism campaign in cooperation with our allies and partners, and improve our ability to respond to emerging threats.

### THE DAF’S PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS TO:

- ▶ Implement the goals of the National Defense Strategy by modernizing the U.S. bomber fleet capabilities.
- ▶ The B-21 Raider is being developed to:
  - Carry conventional payloads.
  - Support the nuclear triad by providing a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability.
  - Assure allies and partners through the U.S. commitment to international treaties.

### THE DAF’S NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION IS TO:

- ▶ Support deterrence capabilities by basing the B-21 at installations that can support the MOB 2 mission.
  - The B-21 will provide the only stealth bomber capability and capacity needed to deter, and if necessary, defeat our adversaries in an era of renewed great power competition.
  - The installation will support training of crewmembers and personnel in the operation and maintenance of the B-21 aircraft in an appropriate geographic location that can provide sufficient airfield, facilities, infrastructure, and airspace to support B-21 training and operations.

# What are the Elements of the Proposed Action?

## Personnel

- ▶ Personnel associated with the B-21 MOB 2 mission would include military personnel and dependents.
- ▶ B-21 mission personnel would include operational and instructor pilots, as well as maintenance personnel to support the Operational Squadrons, WIC, OT&E, and WGF components.
- ▶ The DAF anticipates that the B-21 MOB 2 mission would include an estimated 5,500 total individuals consisting of approximately:
  - 2,500 military personnel
  - 3,100 dependents

## Airfield Operations

- ▶ The annual estimated number of total B-21 aircraft operations is approximately 7,000 per year.
- ▶ Forty percent of all arrival and closed pattern operations and 5 percent of all departure operations would be conducted between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- ▶ On average, approximately 3.12 sorties would be conducted per day.



## Airspace and Range Utilization

- ▶ The B-21 can adequately train in Class A airspace using Federal Aviation Administration-filed flight plans; however, training in Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs) provide additional flexibility and integration opportunities.
- ▶ Dyess AFB would utilize Bronco, Brownwood, Lancer, Lancer Bridge and Pecos MOAs, as well as the Willie-Roscoe ATCAA.
- ▶ Whiteman AFB would utilize the Smoky Hill Range, Ada, Cannon, Lindbergh, and Truman MOAs, and the Ozark ATCAA.
- ▶ There are no plans to modify any of the airspace.



## Facilities and Infrastructure

- ▶ DAF planners:
  - Used the strengths of each base to optimize the B-21 beddown strategy.
  - Leveraged facilities and infrastructure at each base individually, factoring base specific site constraints, to minimize mission impact, maximize facility reuse, and minimize cost.
  - Identified infrastructure and facility needs by evaluating operational readiness, site constraints, and existing infrastructure.
- ▶ The Proposed Action involves construction, renovation, and demolition projects to support the B-21 MOB 2 basing action.



## Weapons Generation Facility

- ▶ The WGF is a unique facility that would be newly constructed at each B-21 beddown location and will provide a safe and secure location for the storage of DAF nuclear munitions.
- ▶ The WGF will require:
  - A construction footprint of approximately 50 acres and a final WGF compound size of approximately 20 acres.
  - Approximately 7,100 linear feet of double-fencing.
  - Approximately 8 acres of construction, consisting of roughly 82,000 square feet of facilities and 275,000 square feet of parking/pavement areas.
  - Roadway access unique to the location.
- ▶ The WGF provides a consolidated facility within a single, controlled site that accommodates maintenance, storage, and support functions under one roof to provide enhanced operations and security measures for the entire mission.
- ▶ The configuration of the facility allows for efficient movements of all assets in various configurations, which improves both the safety and security associated with mission requirements.

# What is the Dyess AFB Alternative?

The Dyess AFB Alternative would establish MOB 2 at Dyess AFB, Texas, which includes all elements of the Proposed Action.

## Personnel

- ▶ Approximately 4,300 individuals associated with the B-1 mission would depart.
- ▶ Approximately 5,600 individuals are associated with the B-21 mission.
- ▶ End-state personnel would increase by approximately 1,300 individuals.

## Airfield Operations

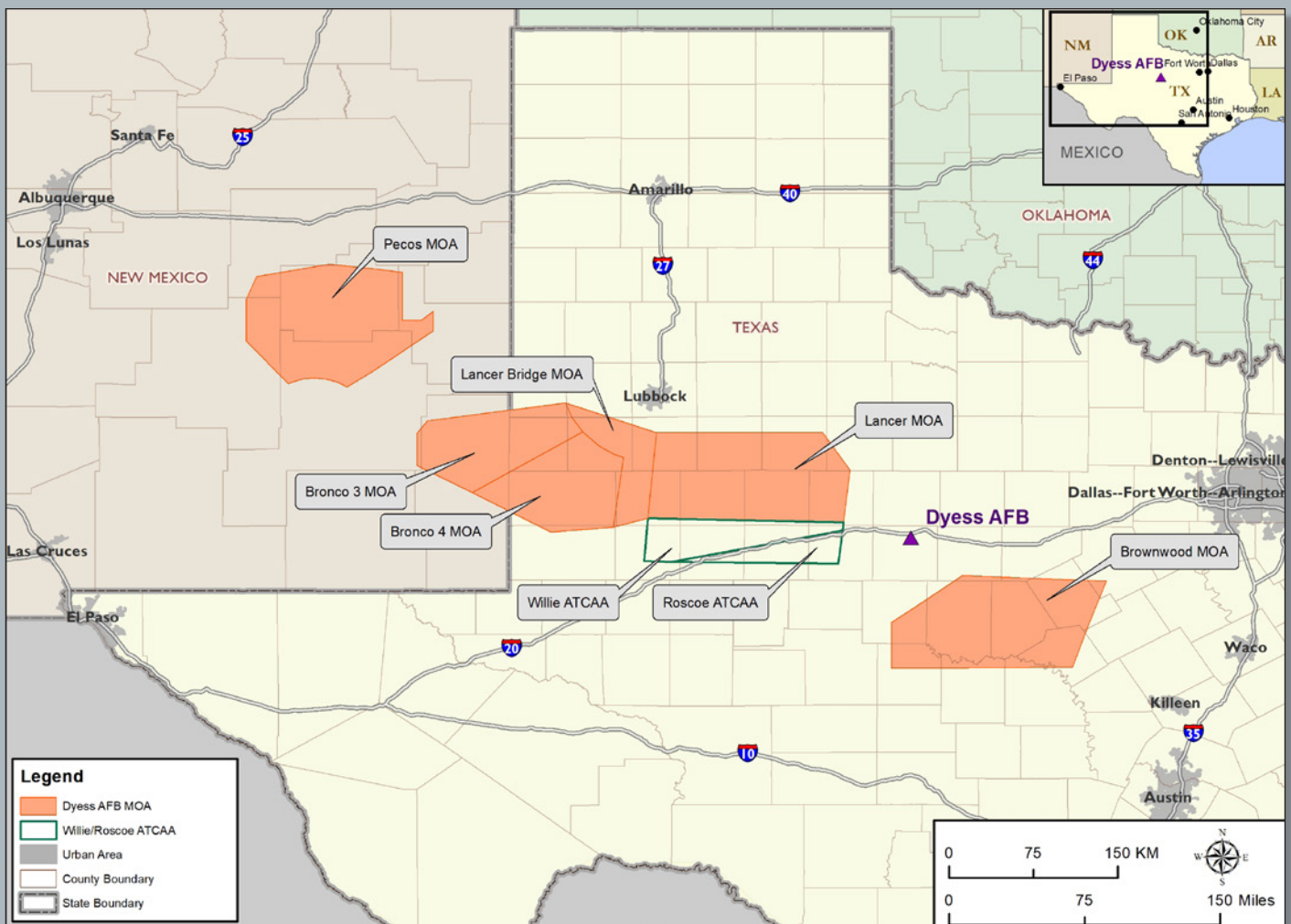
- ▶ End-state airfield operations would decrease by approximately 2,000 operations.

## Airspace and Range Utilization

The map below shows the airspace units that the DAF would utilize under the Dyess AFB Alternative.

- ▶ Includes all associated ATCAAs.
- ▶ No plans to modify any of the airspace as a result of the Proposed Action.

## Dyess AFB Alternative Establish MOB 2 at Dyess AFB, Texas





## Facilities and Infrastructure

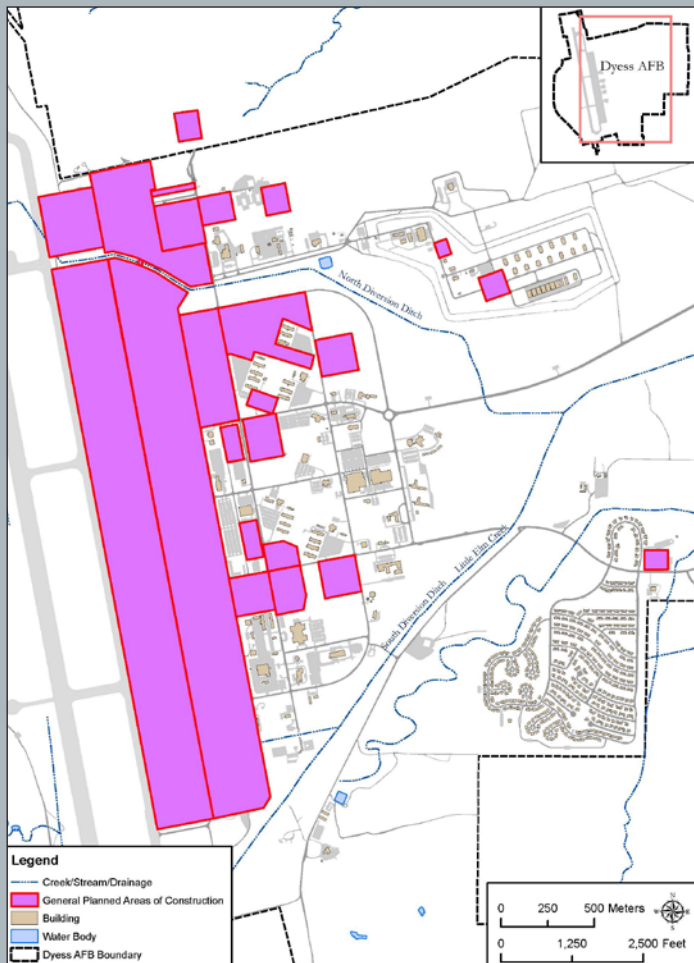
DAF planners considered base-specific site constraints in order to:

- ▶ Minimize mission impact
- ▶ Maximize facility reuse
- ▶ Minimize cost

The Dyess AFB Alternative base-specific plan consists of approximately:

- ▶ 4.2 million square feet of construction
- ▶ 600,000 square feet of renovation
- ▶ 300,000 square feet of demolition

## Dyess AFB Alternative Establish MOB 2 at Dyess AFB, Texas

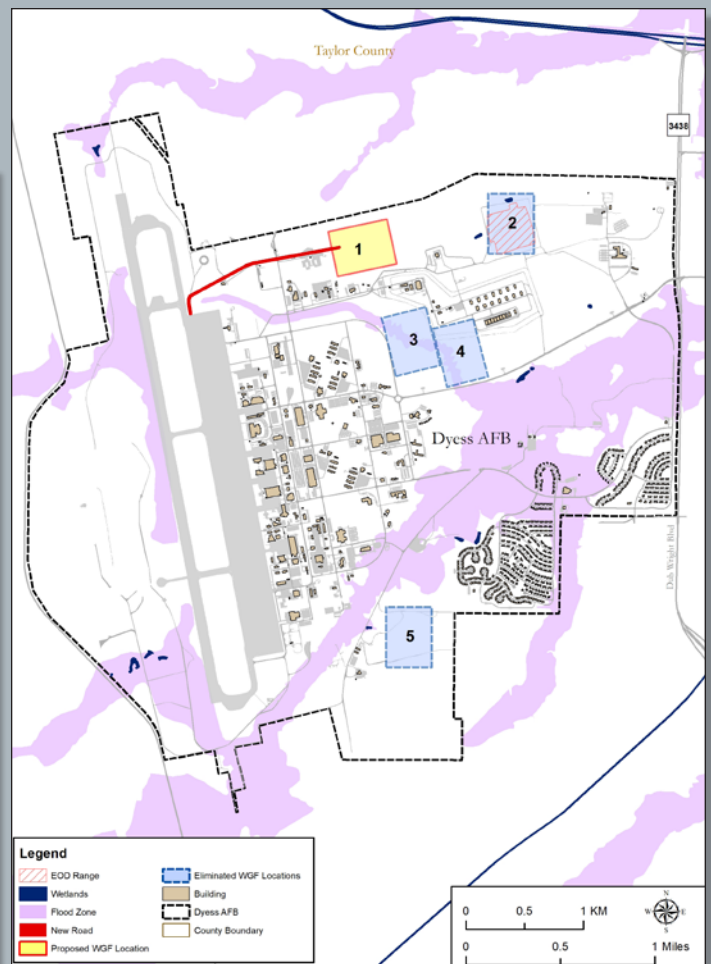


## Weapons Generation Facility

In the MOB 1 EIS, the DAF planners identified five possible locations for the WGF.

Four locations were eliminated due to the presence of one or more negative site evaluation criteria.

Location 1 satisfied all evaluation criteria that are unique to the WGF and is being carried forward as part of the MOB 2 EIS.



*Due to operational security concerns, the specific locations of the facilities cannot be illustrated. General planned areas of construction are shown here.*

# What is the Whiteman AFB Alternative?

The Whiteman AFB Alternative would establish MOB 2 at Whiteman AFB, Missouri, which includes all elements of the Proposed Action.

## Personnel

- ▶ Approximately 4,600 individuals associated with the B-2 mission would depart.
- ▶ Approximately 5,600 individuals are associated with the B-21 mission.
- ▶ End-state personnel would increase by approximately 1,000 individuals.

## Airfield Operations

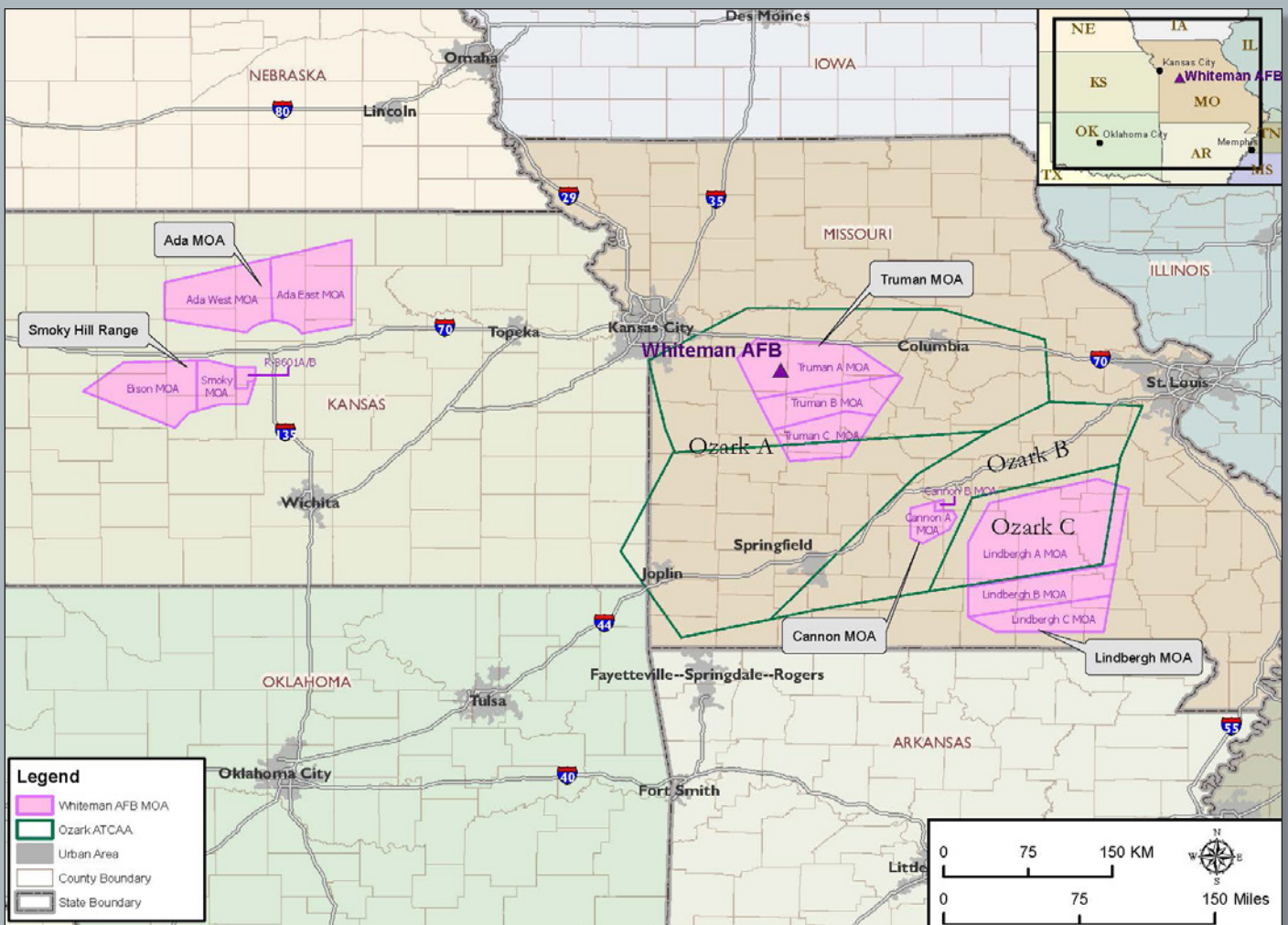
- ▶ End-state airfield operations would increase by approximately 2,000 operations.

## Airspace and Range Utilization

The map below shows the airspace units that the DAF would utilize under the Whiteman AFB Alternative.

- ▶ Includes all associated ATCAAs.
- ▶ No plans to modify any of the airspace as a result of the Proposed Action.

**Whiteman AFB Alternative**  
**Establish MOB 2 at Whiteman AFB, Missouri**



## Facilities and Infrastructure

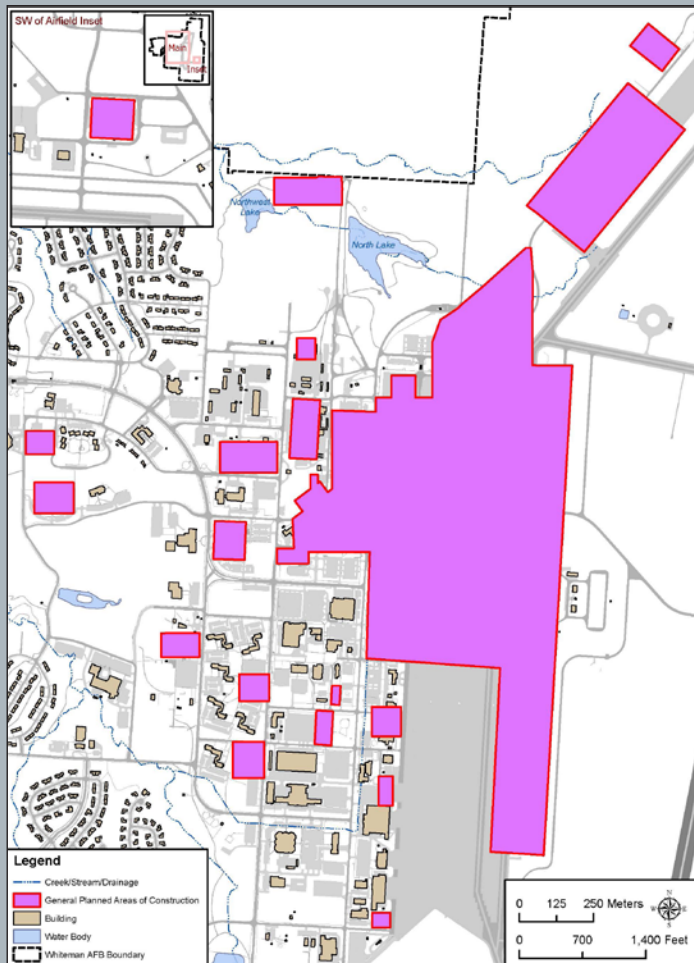
DAF planners considered base-specific site constraints in order to:

- ▶ Minimize mission impact
- ▶ Maximize facility reuse
- ▶ Minimize cost

The Whiteman AFB Alternative base-specific plan consists of approximately:

- ▶ 600,000 square feet of construction
- ▶ 1.7 million square feet of renovation
- ▶ 85,000 square feet of demolition

## Whiteman AFB Alternative Establish MOB 2 at Whiteman AFB, Missouri

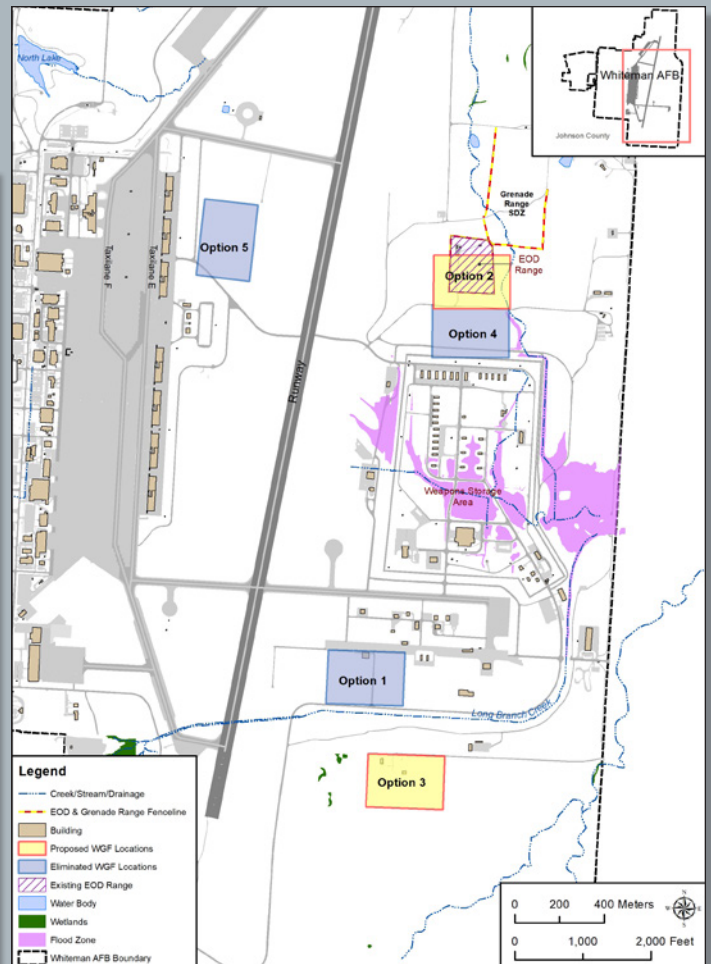


## Weapons Generation Facility

DAF planners identified five possible locations for the WGF, three of which were eliminated due to the presence of one or more negative site evaluation criteria. Locations 2 and 3 were selected as proposed locations because they satisfied site evaluation criteria unique to the WGF.

Location 2 is referred to as the **North WGF Site Subalternative**.

Location 3 is referred to as the **South WGF Site Subalternative**.



*Due to operational security concerns, the specific locations of the facilities cannot be illustrated. General planned areas of construction are shown here.*

Turn page to see No Action Alternative ▶

## What is the No Action Alternative?

NEPA requires the alternatives analysis in the EIS to include a “No Action Alternative.”

### However:

- ▶ The B-21 program is a major Department of Defense initiative to ensure the U.S. nuclear triad is and remains effective; therefore, the B-21 program will be implemented whether or not the No Action Alternative is selected.
- ▶ If selected, the DAF would re-evaluate their B-21 phasing approach using military judgement and implement the basing at another, undetermined location.

### Therefore, under the No Action Alternative:

- ▶ The B-21 would not beddown at either Dyess or Whiteman AFB.

Each installation would continue their individual missions at current levels, which will be used as the baseline for the analysis.



**For more information or to submit scoping comments electronically,  
please visit the public website at  
[www.B21EIS.com](http://www.B21EIS.com)**

### Scoping comments by mail should be sent to:

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**Scoping comments should be postmarked by May 10, 2023.**

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