

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

at Dyess AFB, Texas, or
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Public Scoping Presentation for the B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown Environmental Impact Statement

March-May 2020

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Purpose of Public Scoping

- ▶ Provide the public with information regarding the B-21 Main Operating Base 1 (MOB 1) beddown that the Air Force is proposing to evaluate in this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- ▶ Describe the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and objectives of the EIS
- ▶ Provide an Overview of Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Resources Considered for Analysis
- ▶ Receive Public Input on Proposed Action and Alternatives

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



- ▶ Federal law that requires agencies to identify and consider the environmental consequences of implementing proposals.
- ▶ NEPA requires a rigorous process to be followed prior to making a final decision, including consideration of comments.
- ▶ The analysis of environmental consequences is presented in an EIS, which accomplishes the following objectives:
 - Identifies and describes the affected environment
 - Evaluates the potential environmental consequences of reasonable alternatives
 - Identifies environmental permits and specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce adverse environmental impacts, if required
- ▶ The NEPA process concludes with a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies which alternative is selected and outlines any mitigation measures that are required.



Background of the Proposed Action

- ▶ The Department of Defense is developing a new bomber aircraft, called the B-21 “Raider,” in honor of the Doolittle Raiders of World War II.
- ▶ The B-21 Raider will:
 - Eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft
 - Operate under the direction of the Global Strike Command
 - Have both conventional and nuclear roles
 - Penetrate and survive advanced air defense environments
- ▶ The B-21 is projected to enter service in the mid-2020s.
- ▶ The Air Force intends to build at least 100 B-21 aircraft.



Background of the Proposed Action (continued)

- ▶ The Air Force is proposing to beddown the following elements at the first of three potential Main Operating Bases (MOBs):
 - Two B-21 Operational Squadrons
 - A B-21 Formal Training Unit (FTU)
 - A Weapons Generation Facility (WGF)
- ▶ This EIS focuses on the beddown location alternatives for MOB 1.
- ▶ After the location of MOB 1 is selected, locations for MOB 2 and MOB 3 will be chosen, where additional B-21 aircraft would be beddown.



Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

- ▶ One of the requirements in preparing an EIS is to state the purpose and need for the proposal.
- ▶ The Air Force'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
 - Provide a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability that will assure allies and partners through the United States' commitment to international treaties

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

(continued)



- ▶ The Air Force's need for the Proposed Action is to:
 - Support deterrence capabilities by basing the B-21 at an installation that can support Global Strike Command's MOB 1 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.



Alternatives Development

- ▶ NEPA requires the development and identification of reasonable alternatives to a proposed action.
- ▶ The Air Force applied a three-phased screening process to determine potential MOB 1 locations:
 - Phase 1: Initial Screening Criteria
 - Developing and applying screening criteria for the new B-21 mission from the strategic basing process
 - Phase 2: Global Strike Command Screening Criteria
 - Reviewing the current Global Strike Command mission at each base
 - Phase 3: Time-Phased Aircraft Drawdown Screening Criteria
 - Incorporating an assessment of the missions that will be replaced by the B-21 mission, including time-phased reduction of B-1 and B-2 aircraft

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Phase 1: Initial Screening Criteria

- ▶ The Air Force applied the Strategic Basing Process to identify potential B-21 locations for MOB 1.
 - This process identified all bases that could reasonably support the B-21 mission and evaluated those locations using objective criteria, such as:
 - Sufficient runway length with adequate concrete strength
 - Certain ramp and hangar dimensions
- ▶ The Air Force applied these criteria across all continental U.S. active-duty bases; however, all non-bomber bases were eliminated due to following criteria, which deemed them incapable of supporting the B-21 mission:
 - Limited runway length
 - Ramp and hangar deficiencies
 - Insufficient concrete strength

Phase 1 Application

Minot AFB
North Dakota

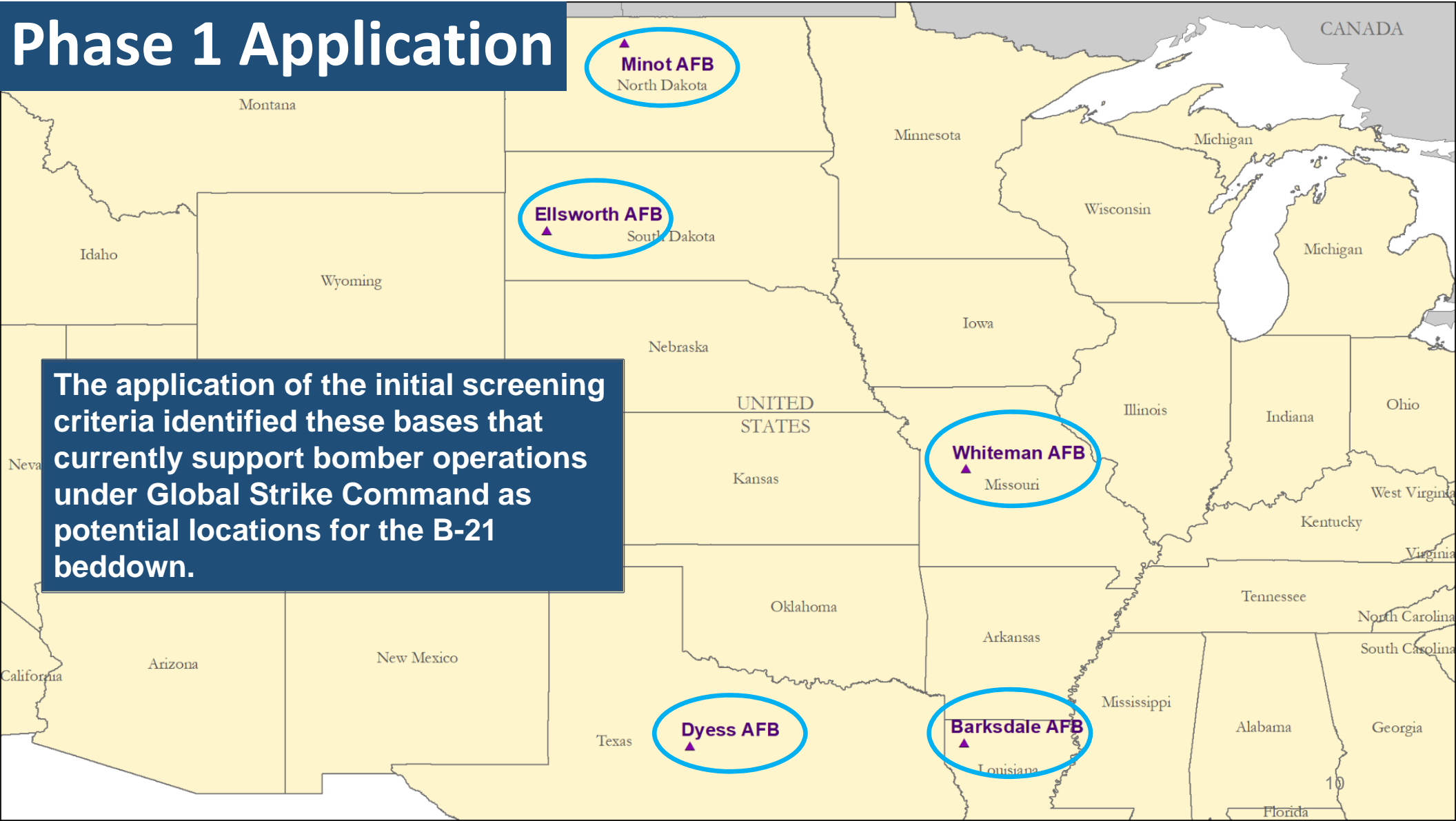
Ellsworth AFB
South Dakota

Whiteman AFB
Missouri

Dyess AFB

Barksdale AFB
Louisiana

The application of the initial screening criteria identified these bases that currently support bomber operations under Global Strike Command as potential locations for the B-21 beddown.



Phase 2: Global Strike Command Screening Criteria

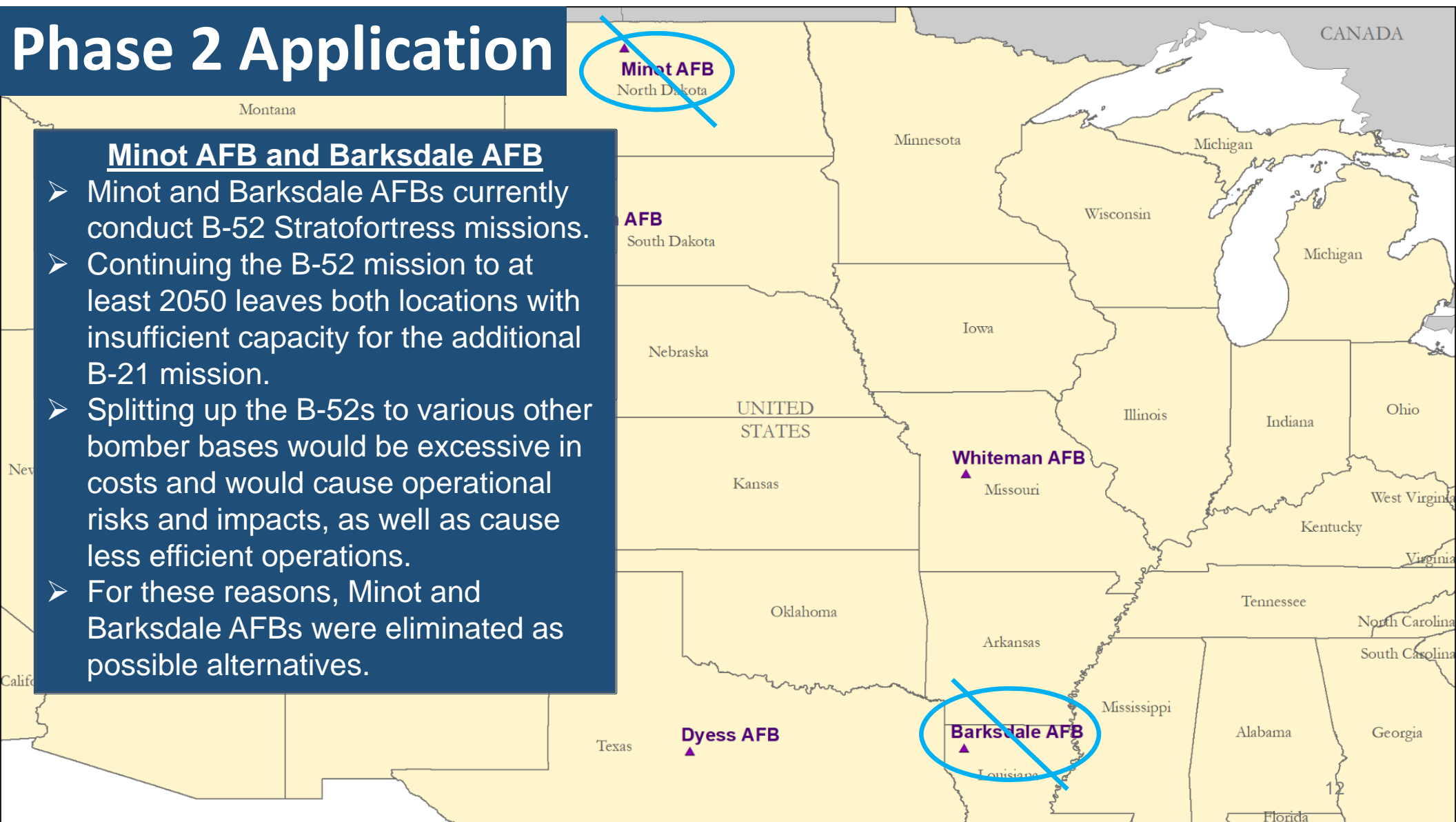


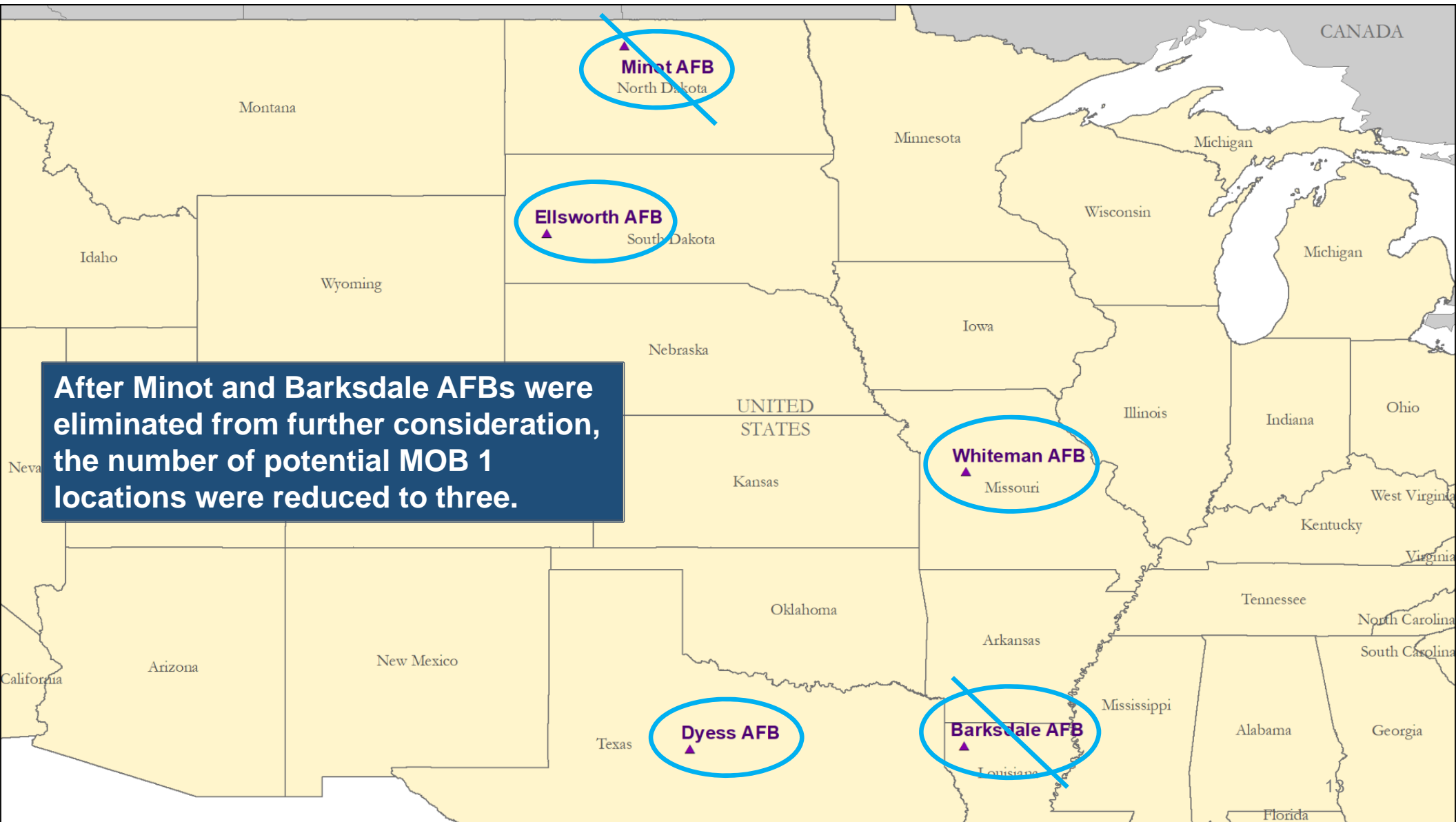
- ▶ The Air Force then implemented Phase 2 of the screening criteria process.
- ▶ Phase 2 evaluated ongoing Global Strike Command missions at each location identified in Phase 1:
 - Barksdale AFB
 - Dyess AFB
 - Ellsworth AFB
 - Minot AFB
 - Whiteman AFB
- ▶ The Air Force then applied military judgement and experience regarding implementing MOB 1.

Phase 2 Application

Minot AFB and Barksdale AFB

- Minot and Barksdale AFBs currently conduct B-52 Stratofortress missions.
- Continuing the B-52 mission to at least 2050 leaves both locations with insufficient capacity for the additional B-21 mission.
- Splitting up the B-52s to various other bomber bases would be excessive in costs and would cause operational risks and impacts, as well as cause less efficient operations.
- For these reasons, Minot and Barksdale AFBs were eliminated as possible alternatives.





After Minot and Barksdale AFBs were eliminated from further consideration, the number of potential MOB 1 locations were reduced to three.

CANADA

Montana

~~Minot AFB~~
North Dakota

Minnesota

Michigan

Idaho

Ellsworth AFB

South Dakota

Wisconsin

Michigan

Wyoming

Nebraska

Iowa

UNITED STATES

Illinois

Indiana

Ohio

After Minot and Barksdale AFBs were eliminated from further consideration, the number of potential MOB 1 locations were reduced to three.

Kansas

Whiteman AFB

Missouri

West Virginia

Kentucky

Virginia

Oklahoma

Tennessee

North Carolina

South Carolina

Arizona

New Mexico

Arkansas

Mississippi

Alabama

Georgia

Texas

Dyess AFB

~~Barksdale AFB~~

Louisiana

Florida

13

Phase 3: Time-Phased Aircraft Drawdown Screening Criteria

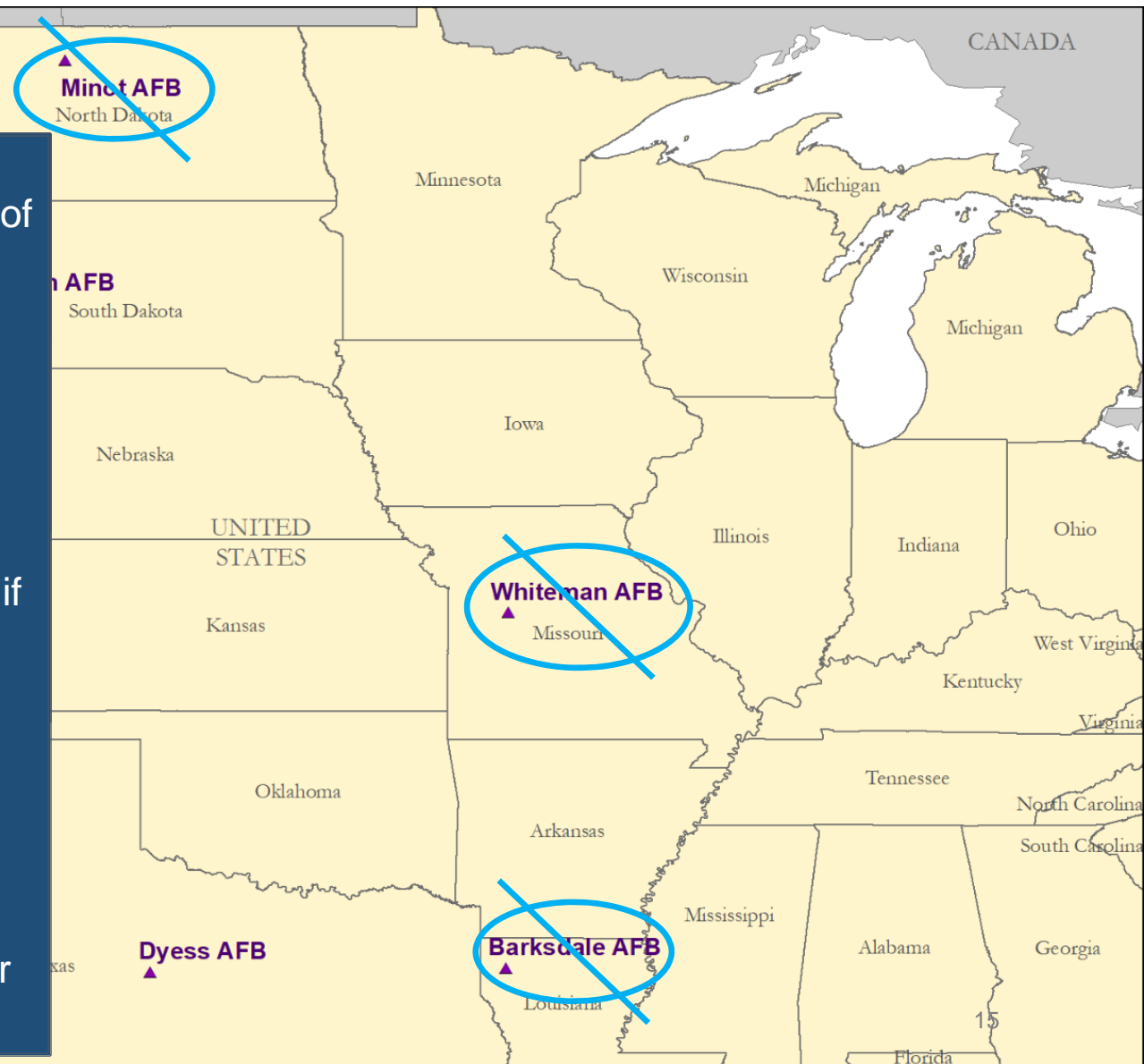


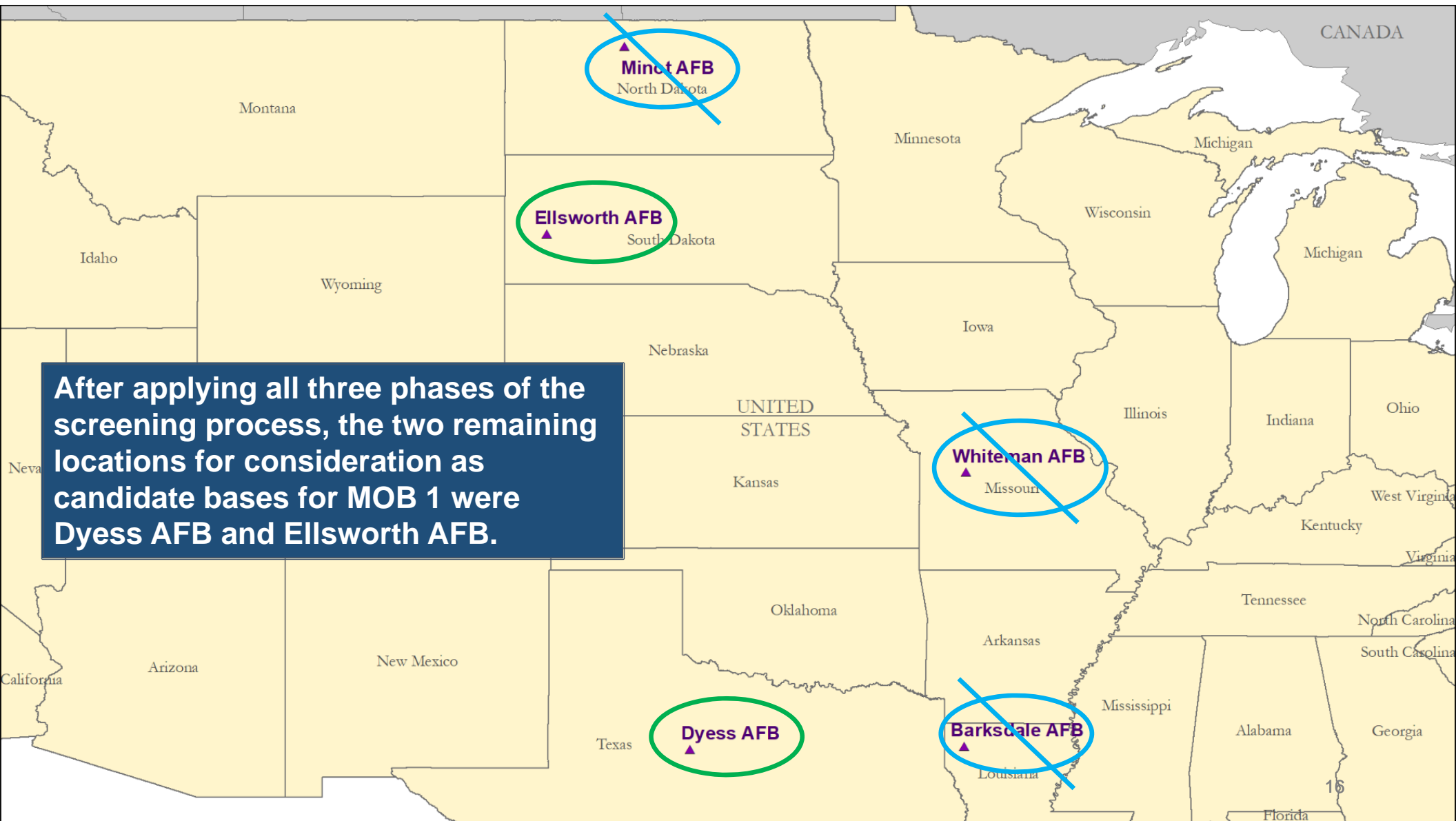
- ▶ After completing Phase 2 of the screening criteria process, the Air Force evaluated the impacts to executing a smooth mission handover between elements of the legacy bomber fleet (B-1 and B-2) and the B-21.
 - The Air Force determined that the aging B-1 fleet would be the first to be phased into retirement and replaced by the B-21.
 - As B-1 missions are being reduced, bases with B-1 missions will be more readily available to receive new B-21 aircraft and would be better suited as a potential MOB 1 base.
- ▶ The Air Force also assessed current missions to ensure overall readiness in the Global Strike Command would not be disrupted from phasing in B-21 aircraft.

Phase 3 Application

Whiteman AFB

- B-2 mission includes the employment of nuclear weapons, which will be transitioned to the B-21 in a time-phased manner.
- To ensure uninterrupted nuclear deterrent capabilities, the Air Force determined this transfer should occur after the initial beddown of MOB 1.
- Mission readiness would be impacted if the B-21 mission was added to Whiteman AFB while the B-2 mission was ongoing.
- Whiteman AFB's B-2 mission will remain active until MOB 1 for the B-21 is implemented.
- As a result, Whiteman AFB was eliminated as a potential alternative for MOB 1.





CANADA

Montana

Minot AFB
North Dakota

Minnesota

Michigan

Idaho

Ellsworth AFB

South Dakota

Wisconsin

Michigan

Wyoming

Nebraska

Iowa

UNITED STATES

Illinois

Indiana

Ohio

Whiteman AFB

Missouri

West Virginia

After applying all three phases of the screening process, the two remaining locations for consideration as candidate bases for MOB 1 were Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB.

Kansas

Kentucky

Virginia

Oklahoma

Tennessee

North Carolina

South Carolina

Arizona

New Mexico

Arkansas

Mississippi

Alabama

Georgia

Texas

Dyess AFB

Barksdale AFB

Louisiana

Florida



Proposed Alternatives

- ▶ Based on the screening criteria process previously described, the Air Force is preparing this EIS for two proposed alternatives:
 - Dyess AFB Alternative (a MOB 1 Beddown at Dyess AFB, Texas)
 - Ellsworth AFB Alternative (a MOB 1 Beddown at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota)



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Commonalities among Alternatives

- ▶ The Proposed Action includes common elements that the B-21 would bring to, or require at, both candidate bases:
 - Personnel
 - Aircraft Operations
 - Airspace and Range Utilization
 - Weapons Generation Facility



Commonalities among Alternatives (continued)

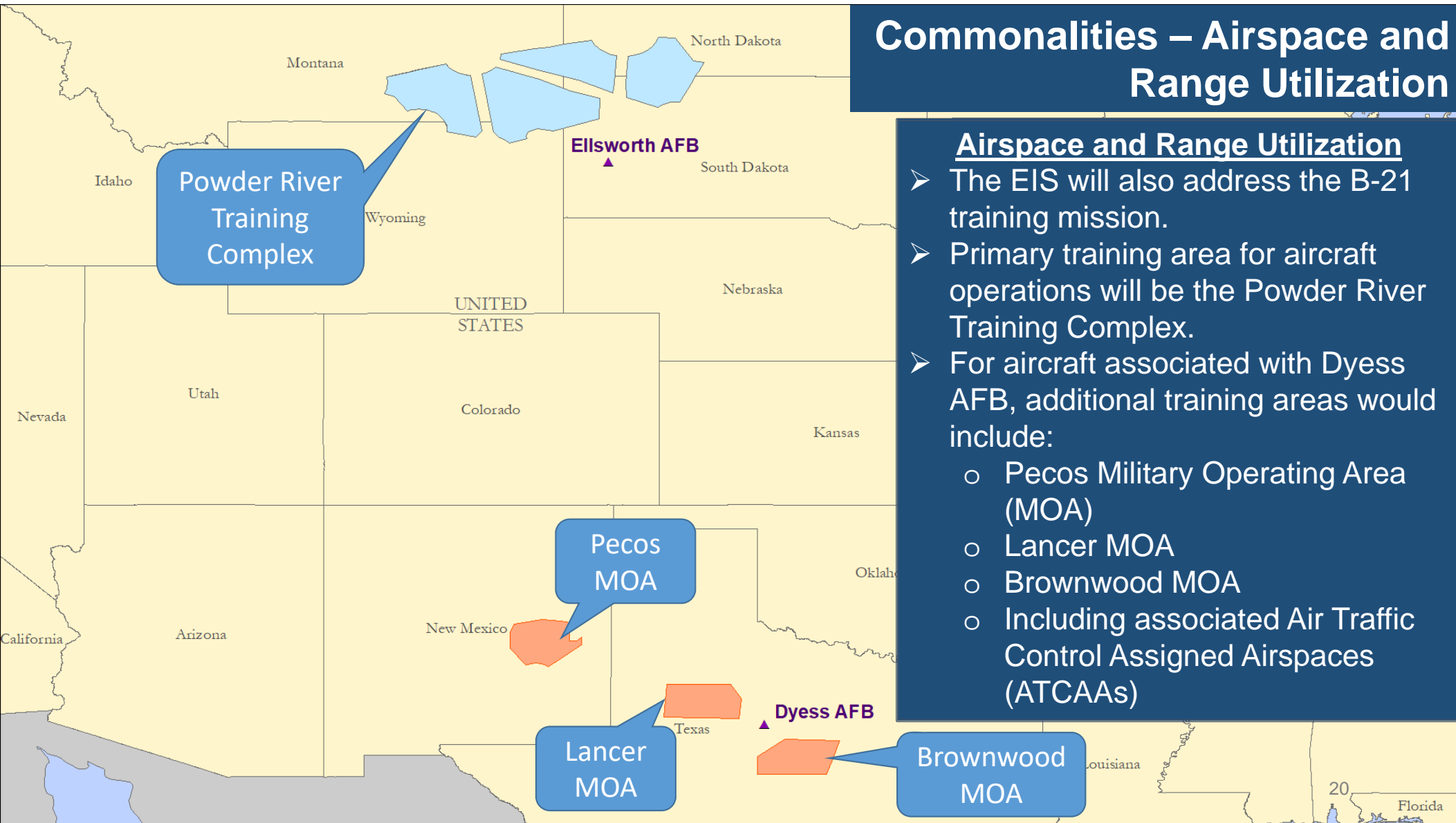
▶ Personnel

- Approximately 3,900 military personnel
- Approximately 200 contractor personnel
- Approximately 9,000 dependents

▶ Aircraft Operations

- Approximately 9,100 operations per year
- Approximately 40% conducted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Commonalities – Airspace and Range Utilization



Powder River
Training
Complex

Ellsworth AFB

Pecos
MOA

Lancer
MOA

Dyess AFB

Brownwood
MOA

Airspace and Range Utilization

- The EIS will also address the B-21 training mission.
- Primary training area for aircraft operations will be the Powder River Training Complex.
- For aircraft associated with Dyess AFB, additional training areas would include:
 - Pecos Military Operating Area (MOA)
 - Lancer MOA
 - Brownwood MOA
 - Including associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs)



Commonalities among Alternatives (continued)

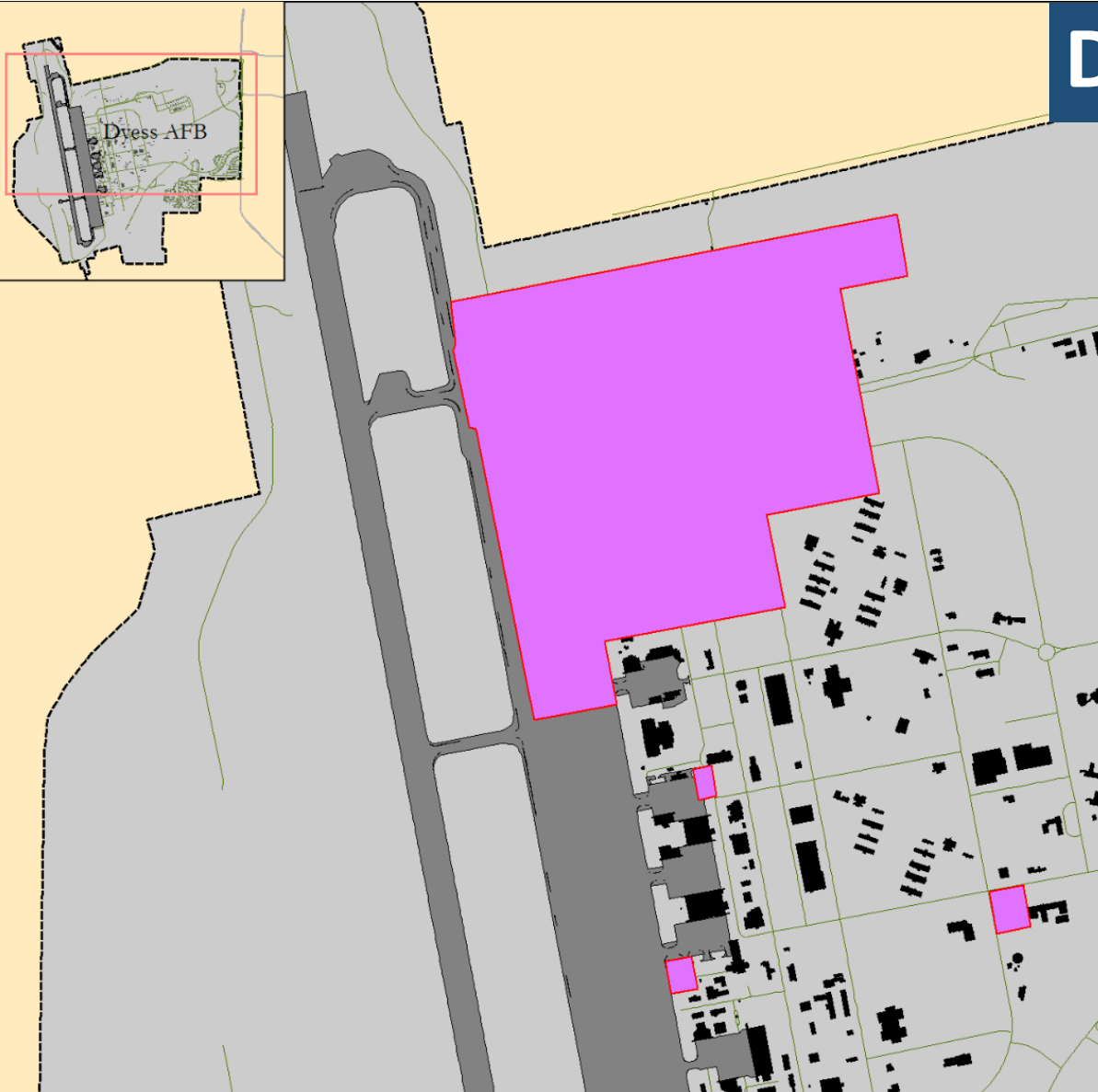
- ▶ Weapons Generation Facility (WGF)
 - Facility requiring new construction at the selected base
 - Requires approximate 35 acre footprint with approximate 52,000 square foot building
 - Provides safer and more secure location for storage of nuclear munitions
 - Provides a consolidated facility within 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



Dyess AFB Alternative

- ▶ Would establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas
- ▶ Includes all common elements described previously
 - Personnel, Aircraft Operations, Airspace and Range Utilization, and Weapons Generation Facility
- ▶ Also includes:
 - Construction of Facilities
 - Construction of Infrastructure
 - Siting of the WGF

Dyess AFB Alternative



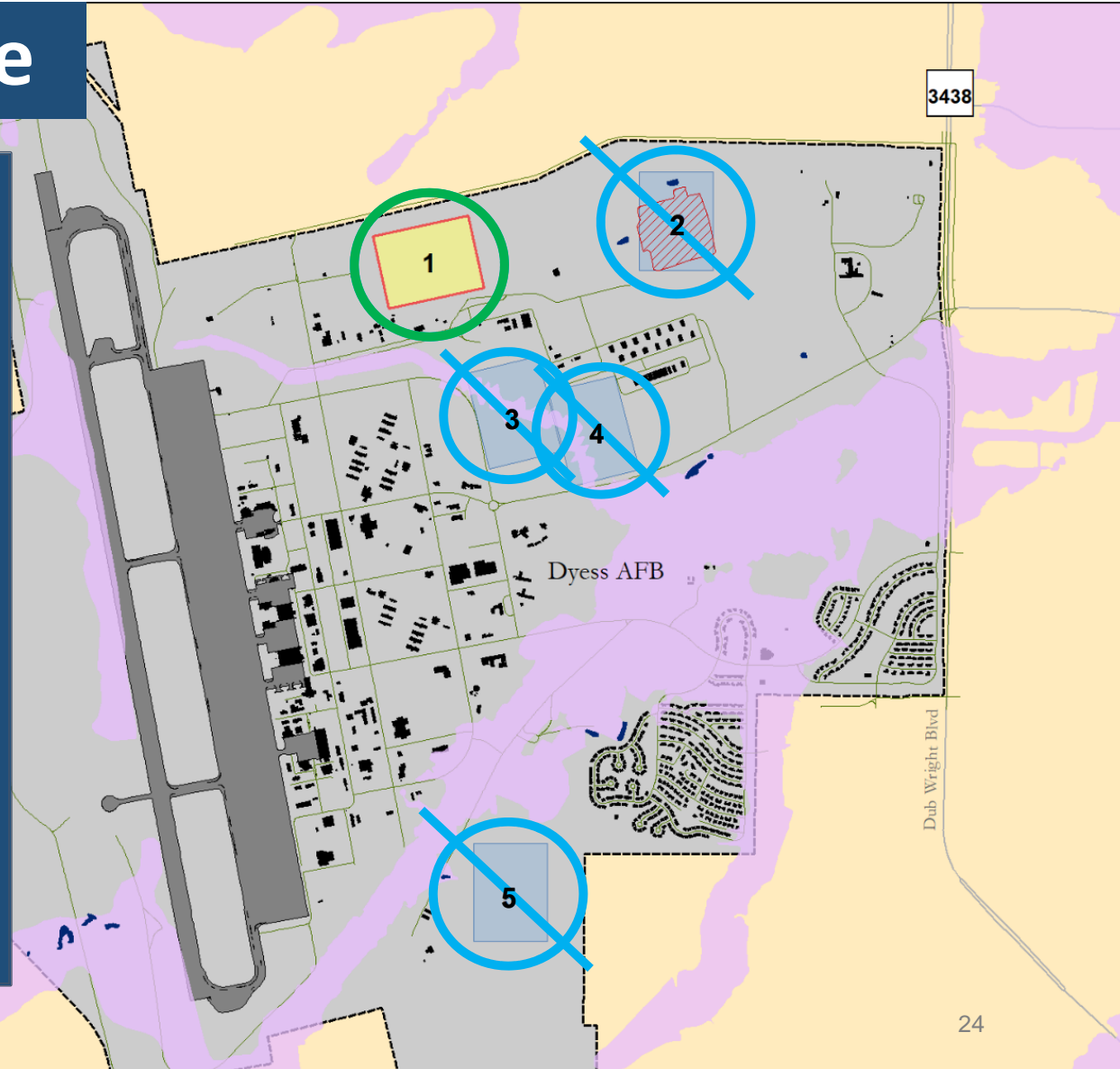
Facilities and Infrastructure

- Air Force Planners applied these screening criteria:
 - Leveraging existing facilities
 - Factoring site constraints
 - Maximizing facility reuse
 - Minimizing cost
- Applying these criteria resulted in reuse, renovation, demolition, and new construction of facilities and infrastructure.
- Specific locations cannot be illustrated due to operational security concerns.
- General planned areas of construction are shown here.
- Construction will allow both initial operational flying and flight training activities for both the operations and FTU squadrons.

Dyess AFB Alternative

Weapons Generation Facility

- Air Force Planners identified five possible locations.
- Four locations were eliminated due to the presence of one or more negative site evaluation criteria:
 - Location 2 was eliminated due to high likelihood of unexploded ordnance.
 - Locations 3 and 4 were eliminated due to presence of floodplains.
 - Location 5 was eliminated due to operational readiness concerns.
 - Location 1 satisfies all evaluation criteria that are unique to the WGF and is being carried forward as part of the Dyess AFB Alternative.

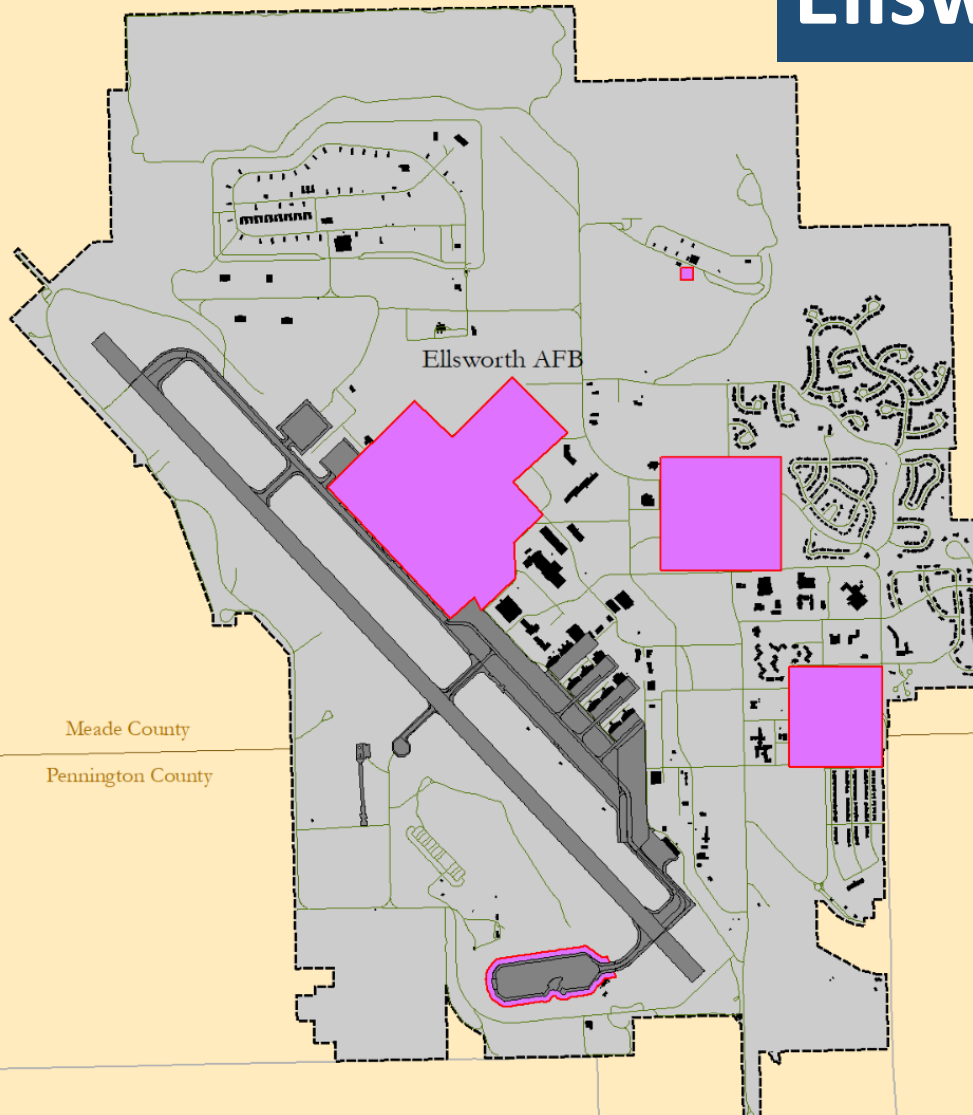




Ellsworth AFB Alternative

- ▶ Would establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota
- ▶ Includes all common elements described previously
 - Personnel, Aircraft Operations, Airspace and Range Utilization, and Weapons Generation Facility
- ▶ Also includes:
 - Construction of Facilities
 - Construction of Infrastructure
 - Siting of the WGF

Ellsworth AFB Alternative



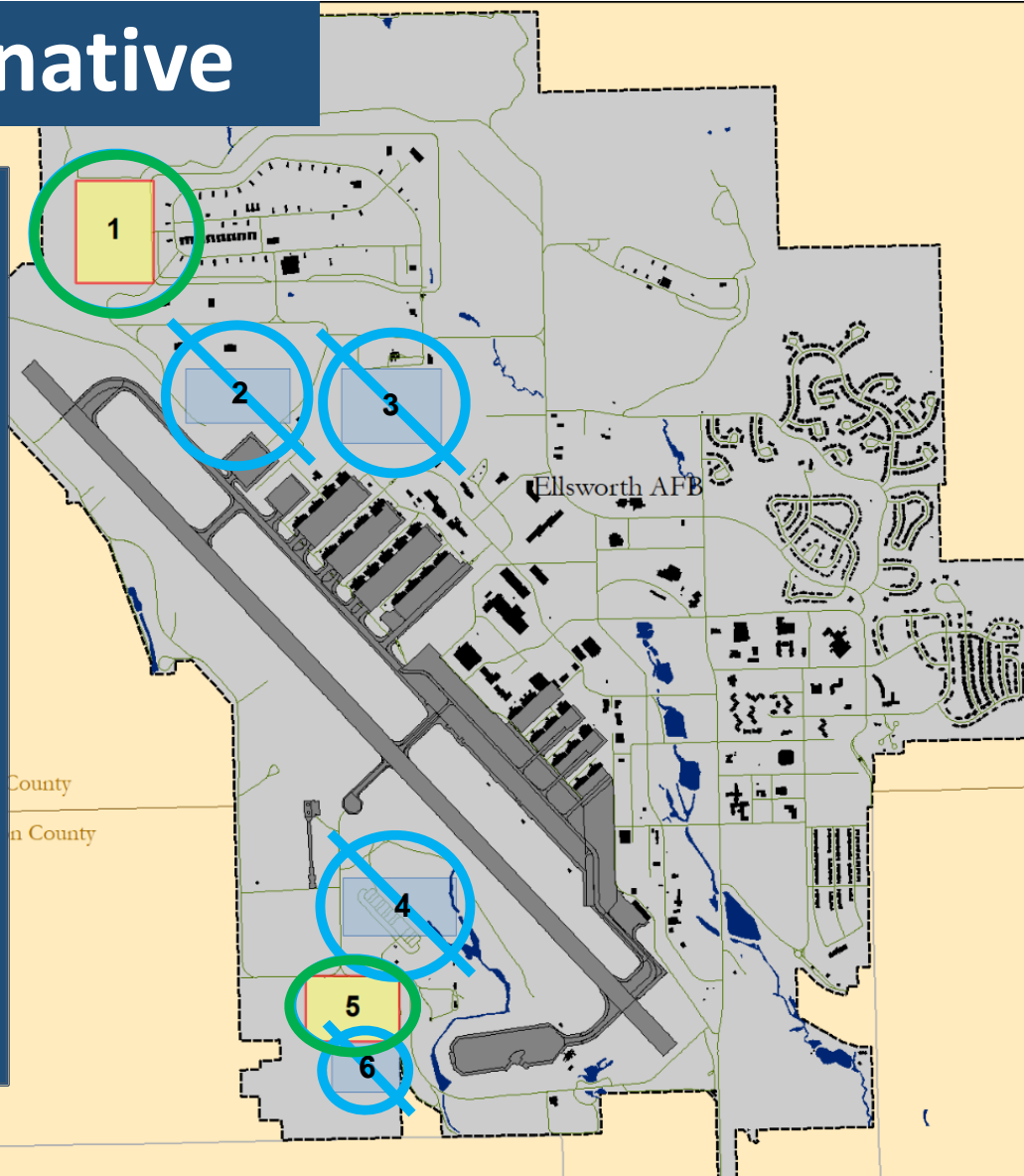
Facilities and Infrastructure

- Air Force Planners applied these screening criteria:
 - Leveraging existing facilities
 - Factoring site constraints
 - Maximizing facility reuse
 - Minimizing cost
- Applying these criteria resulted in reuse, renovation, demolition, and new construction of facilities and infrastructure.
- Specific locations cannot be illustrated due to operational security concerns.
- General planned areas of construction are shown here.
- Construction will allow both initial operational flying and flight training activities for both the operations and FTU squadrons.

Ellsworth AFB Alternative

Weapons Generation Facility

- Air Force Planners identified six possible locations.
- After applying the screening criteria, four locations were eliminated:
 - Locations 2 and 3 were eliminated due to operational readiness concerns.
 - Location 4 was eliminated due to presence of wetlands.
 - Location 6 was eliminated due to topography.
 - Locations 1 and 5 satisfy all evaluation criteria that are unique to the WGF and are being carried forward as part of the Ellsworth AFB Alternative.





Ellsworth AFB Alternative

- ▶ Two subalternatives based on WGF Locations 1 and 5
- ▶ Both subalternatives include commonalities discussed previously
- ▶ North WGF Site Subalternative
 - Located at north end of the runway
 - Facilitates operational readiness requirements for the B-21 mission
 - Offers level ground that is well-suited for construction activities
- ▶ South WGF Site Subalternative
 - Located at south end of the base, in flat area near the alert apron
 - Meets operational readiness requirements for the B-21 mission
 - Does not contain any other site constraint features such as topography or wetlands



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 Air Force would re-evaluate their B-21 phasing approach using military judgement and implement the basing at another, undetermined location.
 - Under this scenario, the B-1 mission would continue at both Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB until the Air Force conducts their re-evaluation.



No Action Alternative (continued)

- ▶ Therefore, the No Action Alternative will provide a baseline against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of potential environmental effects resulting from the action alternatives.
- ▶ For this EIS, the No Action Alternative states:
 - The B-21 would not beddown at either Dyess or Ellsworth AFB.
 - Each installation would continue their individual missions at current levels which will be used as the baseline for the analysis.



Summary of EIS Alternatives

- ▶ The EIS will analyze two action alternatives for establishing MOB 1.
 - Dyess AFB Alternative
 - Ellsworth AFB Alternative
 - North WGF Site Subalternative
 - South WGF Site Subalternative
- ▶ The EIS will also analyze the No Action Alternative.



Potential Environmental Resources Analyzed

- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Airspace Use and Management
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Physical Resources (water and soils)
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Transportation





B-21 EIS Anticipated Milestone Schedule

March 6, 2020

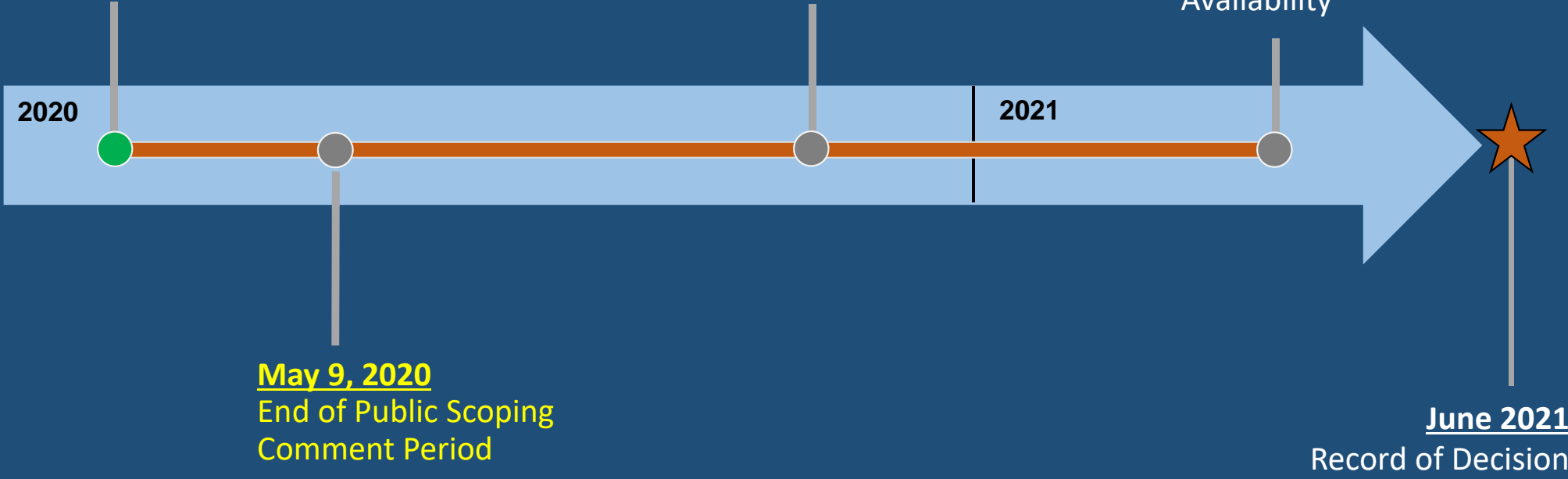
- EIS Notice of Intent
- Start of Public Comment Period

September – November 2020

- Draft EIS Notice of Availability
- Public Comment Period
- Public Hearings

April 2021

Final EIS Notice of Availability



May 9, 2020
End of Public Scoping
Comment Period

June 2021
Record of Decision



Public Scoping Comment Procedures

- ▶ Public Scoping is the first stage in the EIS process.
- ▶ The Air Force is seeking feedback from federal, state, and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public for the development of the EIS.
- ▶ The Public Scoping Phase:
 - Provides public opportunities to learn about and comment on the project
 - Provides the Air Force with opportunity to identify issues of interest or concern and more effectively shape the alternatives to be considered
 - Public scoping comments will be part of the official record and a summary will be included in the Draft EIS.



Public Scoping Comment Procedures (continued)

- ▶ Comments can be:
 - Submitted via the project website at www.B21EIS.com
 - Mailed (see next slide)
- ▶ To be considered in the Draft EIS, all substantive comments should be received or post-marked by no later than **May 9, 2020**.
- ▶ All substantive comments received, whether written or electronic, will be given equal consideration.
- ▶ To receive a notice of availability of the Draft EIS, please notify us by signing up on the mailing list via the project website or by contacting either the Dyess AFB or Ellsworth AFB Public Affairs Office.



Comment Submittal Information

Submit comments online:

www.B21EIS.com

Or submit comments in writing:

Leidos

ATTN: B-21 EIS

1456 Woodlawn Way

Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

**Comments should be postmarked by May 9, 2020
for consideration in the Draft EIS.**

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Air Force Contact Information



For questions please contact:

Dyess AFB Public Affairs

325.696.4820, or
after hours 325.268.6554

Ellsworth AFB Public Affairs

605.385.5056, or
after hours 605.391.7436