

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Public Scoping Presentation for the B-21 Beddown Main Operating Base 2 or 3 at Dyess AFB or Whiteman AFB Environmental Impact Statement

April 2023

Integrity - Service - Excellence



Purpose of Public Scoping

- ▶ Provide the public with information regarding the B-21 beddown of Main Operating Base (MOB) 2 and MOB 3 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, as well as other reasonable 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 potential impacts from the proposed alternatives
 - Identifies permits or proposed mitigations that would avoid, minimize, or reduce the potential for adverse environmental impacts
- ▶ The NEPA process concludes with a Record of Decision 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, the B-21 “Raider,” which will:
 - Eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft
 - Operate under the direction of 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 B-21 basing action is a series of beddowns as identified through the Air Force's Strategic Basing Process.
 - Identified Dyess AFB, Ellsworth AFB, and Whiteman AFB as potential installations to beddown the B-21
- ▶ In 2021, the Air Force completed an EIS for the B-21 MOB 1 beddown, which analyzed Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB as alternatives.
- ▶ On June 3, 2021, the Air Force signed a Record of Decision for the MOB 1 EIS and selected Ellsworth AFB as the MOB 1 beddown location



Background of the Proposed Action (continued)

- ▶ This EIS will evaluate locations for the beddown of MOB 2 and MOB 3.
- ▶ Since the B-21 basing action is a series of beddowns, if one of the candidate bases is selected as the MOB 2 location, then the remaining candidate base would subsequently become the MOB 3 beddown location.
- ▶ Should any MOB 3 beddown actions exceed those analyzed in this EIS, the Air Force would conduct additional NEPA analysis, as appropriate.



Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

- ▶ The 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:
 - Deliver conventional ordnance
 - 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 need for the Proposed Action is to:
 - Support deterrence capabilities by basing the B-21 at installations that can support the Air Force Global Strike Command's 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.



Alternatives Development

- ▶ NEPA requires the development and identification of reasonable alternatives to a proposed action.
- ▶ The Air Force applied their Strategic Basing Process to identify reasonable alternatives for the B-21 basing action:
 - Identified all bases that could reasonably support the B-21 mission and evaluated them using objective criteria (such as runway length, runway strength, ramp and hangar dimensions)
 - All non-bomber bases were eliminated due to limited runway length, ramp and hangar deficiencies, and insufficient concrete strength
 - Resulting bases included Barksdale AFB, Dyess AFB, Ellsworth AFB, Minot AFB, and Whiteman AFB



Alternatives Development (continued)

- ▶ Barksdale and Minot AFBs were eliminated to minimize impacts to the B-52 fleet and mission, which would continue to operate beyond 2050
- ▶ Remaining bases were Ellsworth AFB, Dyess AFB, and Whiteman AFB
 - Whiteman AFB was eliminated to ensure nuclear capabilities remained uninterrupted and active at Whiteman AFB until MOB 1 was established
 - Remaining bases evaluated in the MOB 1 EIS were Ellsworth AFB and Dyess AFB



Proposed Alternatives (continued)

- ▶ As previously stated, the Air Force selected Ellsworth AFB as the MOB 1 location in the B-21 MOB 1 EIS Record of Decision (June 2021).
- ▶ Based on the Strategic Basing Process previously described, and the selection of Ellsworth AFB for the MOB 1 location, the Air Force is preparing the MOB 2 EIS for the remaining two locations.



Proposed Alternatives

- ▶ The Air Force is preparing this EIS for two proposed alternatives:
 - Dyess AFB Alternative (beddown MOB 2 at Dyess AFB, Texas)
 - Whiteman AFB Alternative (beddown MOB 2 at Whiteman AFB, Missouri)





Proposed Action

- ▶ The Proposed Action would beddown MOB 2, which includes:
 - B-21 Operations Squadrons
 - Weapons Instructor Course
 - Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron
 - Weapons Generation Facility (WGF)

- ▶ The B-21 MOB 2 beddown would include the following common elements:
 - Personnel
 - Airfield Operations
 - Airspace and Range Utilization
 - Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Weapons Generation Facility



Proposed Action (continued)

▶ Personnel

- Require approximately 2,500 military personnel
- Roughly 3,100 dependents will accompany these personnel

▶ Airfield Operations

- Nearly 7,000 operations per year for all squadrons
- About 40% of all arrival and closed pattern operations and 5% of all departure operations would be conducted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- An average of 3.12 sorties would be conducted per day



Proposed Action (continued)

▶ Airspace and Range Utilization

- The B-21 can adequately train in Class A airspace
- Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs) provide additional flexibility and integration opportunities
- Airspace and range training areas that would be utilized are specific to each alternative
- No plans to modify any airspace as a result of the Proposed Action under either alternative

▶ Facilities and Infrastructure

- Requirements are specific to each alternative
- Planners factored base-specific site constraints to minimize mission impact, maximize facility reuse, and minimize cost



Proposed Action (continued)

▶ Weapons Generation Facility (WGF)

- Facility requiring new construction at the selected base
 - 50-acre construction footprint; final 20-acre compound
 - Approximately 82,000 square feet of facilities
 - Approximately 275,000 square feet of parking/pavement areas
 - Double fenced (7,100 linear feet)
- 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



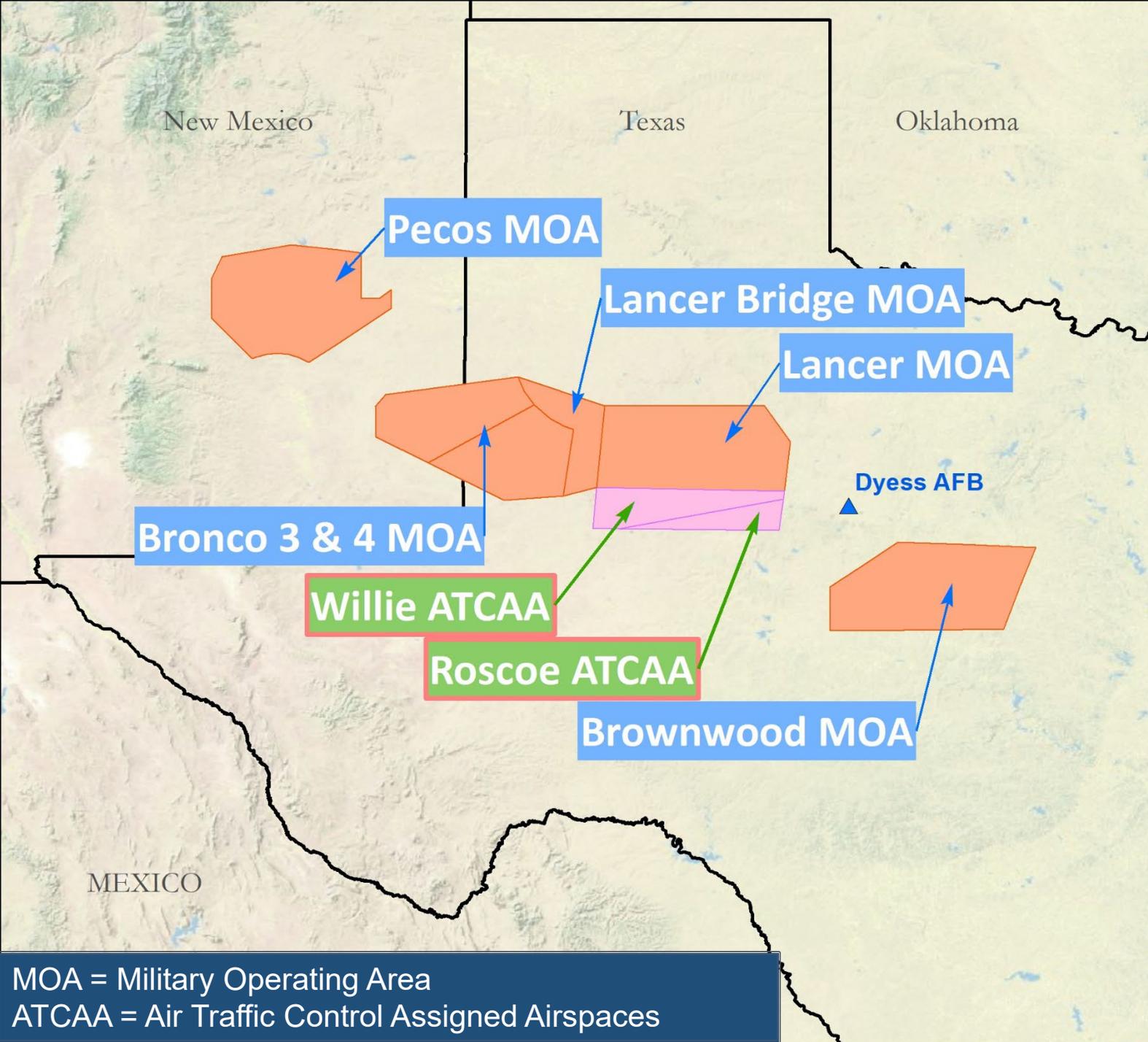
Dyess AFB Alternative

- ▶ Establishes MOB 2 at Dyess AFB, Texas
- ▶ Personnel
 - Approximately 4,300 individuals associated with the B-1 mission would depart
 - Approximately 5,600 individuals 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

Dyess AFB Alternative

Airspace and Range Utilization

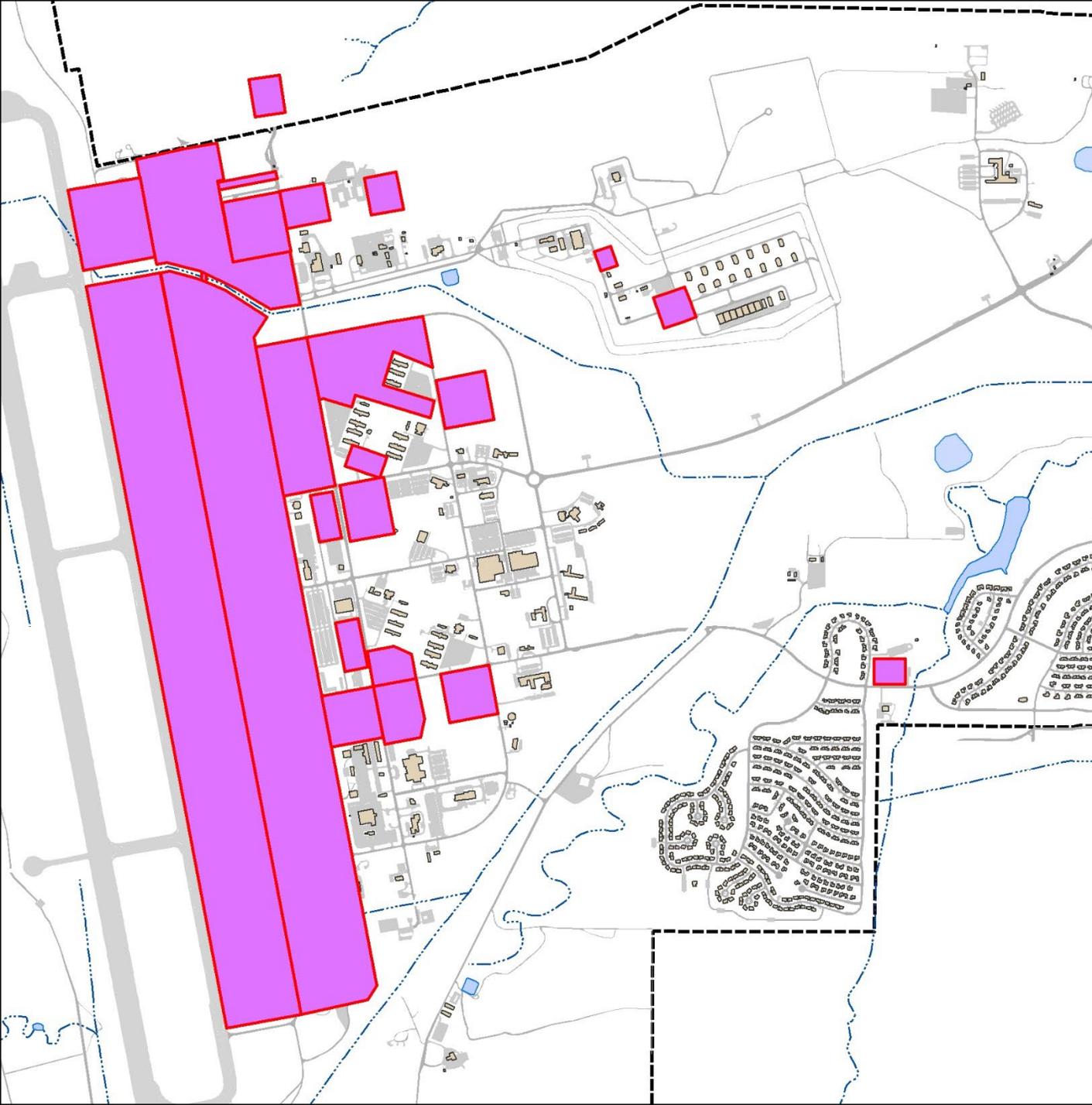
- B-21 training areas would include:
 - Pecos MOA
 - Bronco MOA
 - Lancer Bridge MOA
 - Lancer MOA
 - Brownwood MOA
 - Willie-Roscoe ATCAA
- Includes all ATCAAs associated with the MOAs above
- No plans to modify any of the airspace listed above as a result of the Proposed Action



Dyess AFB Alternative

Facilities and Infrastructure

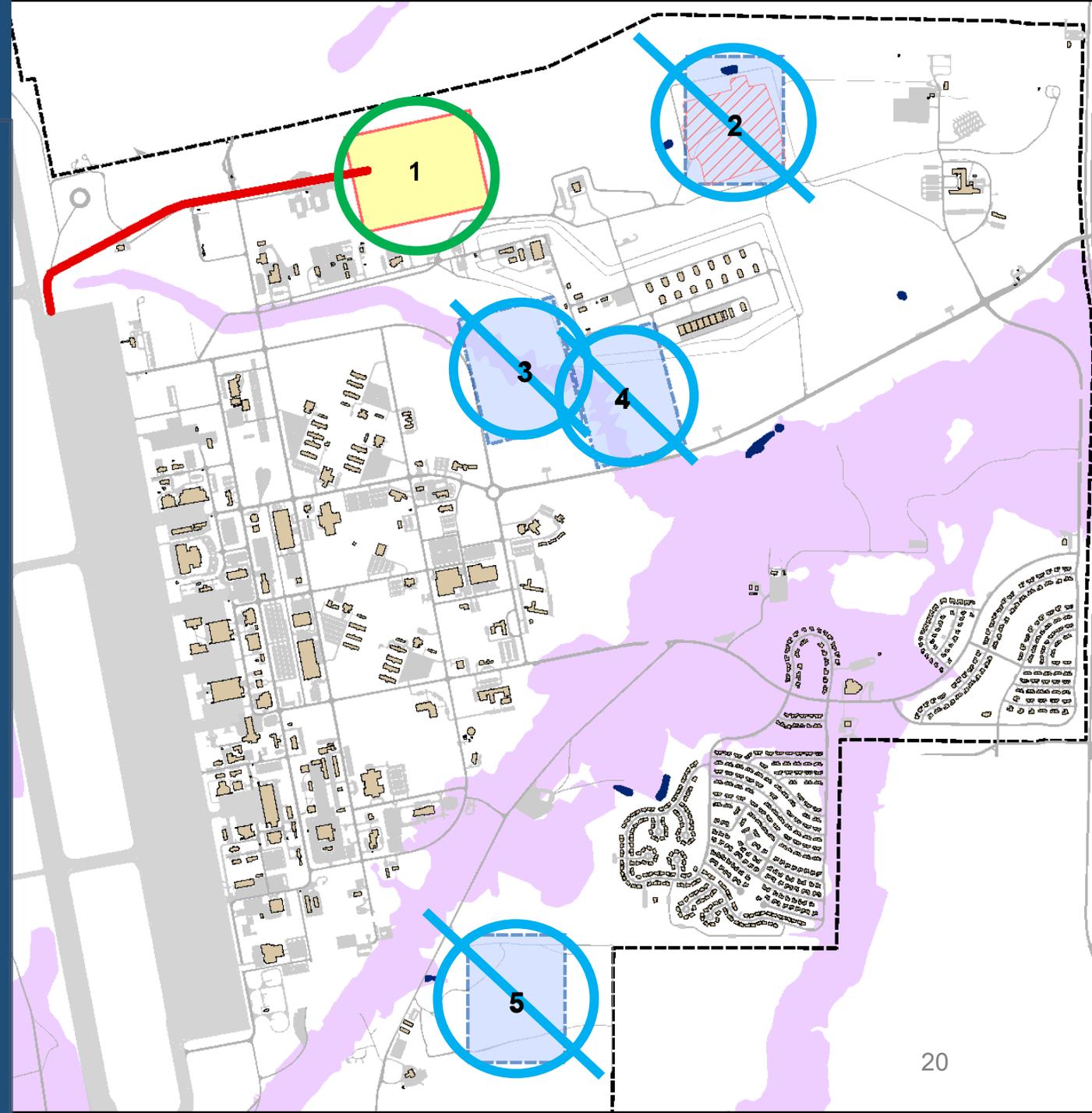
- Air Force planners considered base-specific site constraints
 - Minimize mission impact
 - Maximize facility reuse
 - Minimize cost
- Base-specific plan consists of:
 - 4.2 million square feet of construction
 - 600,000 square feet of renovation
 - 300,000 square feet of demolition
- Specific locations cannot be illustrated due to operational security concerns.
- General planned areas of construction are shown here.



Dyess AFB Alternative

Weapons Generation Facility

- In the MOB 1 EIS, the 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: high likelihood of unexploded ordnance
 - Locations 3 and 4: presence of floodplains
 - Location 5: operational readiness concerns
- Location 1 satisfied all evaluation criteria that are unique to the WGF and is being carried forward as part of the MOB 2 EIS.





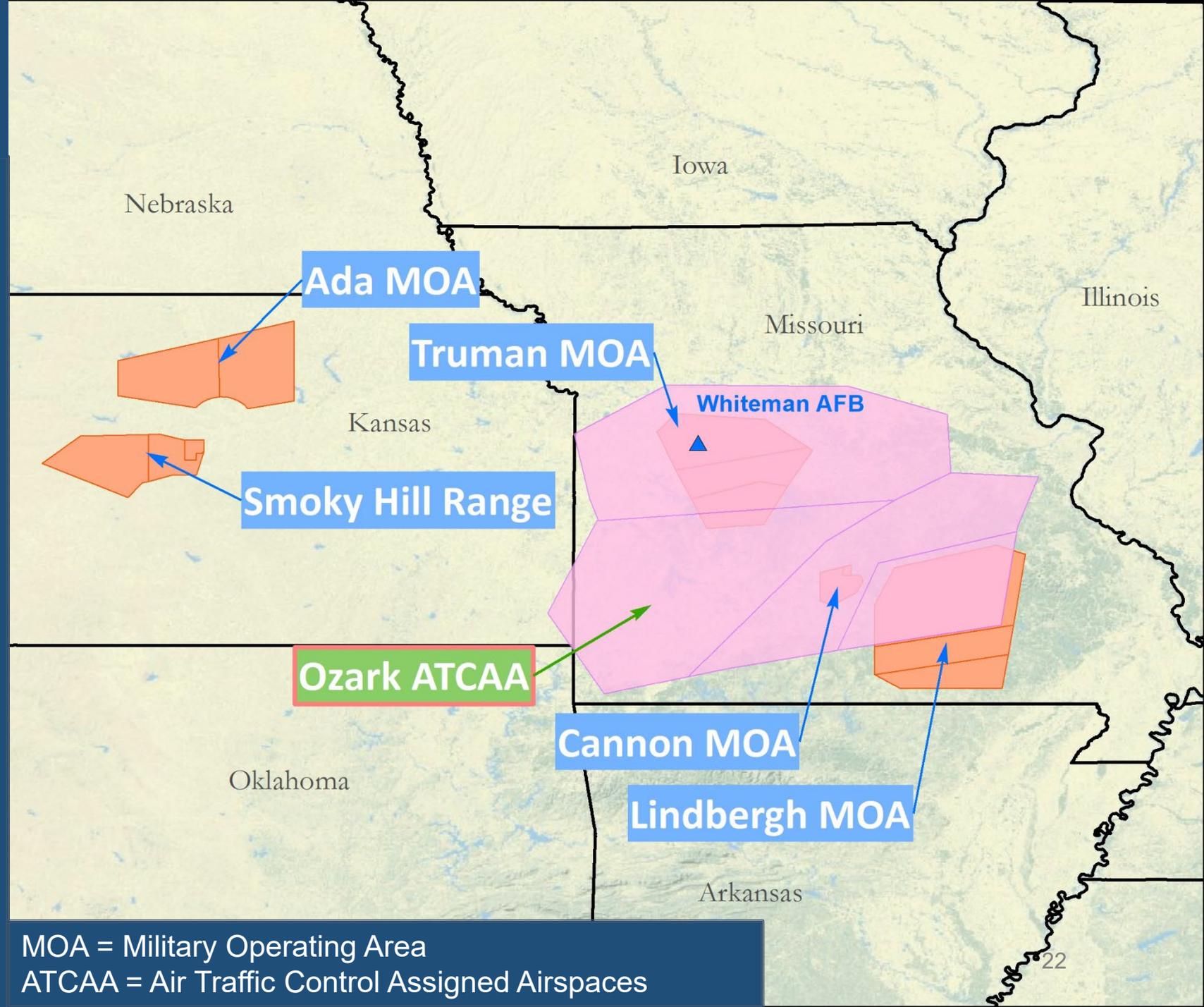
Whiteman AFB Alternative

- ▶ Establishes MOB 2 at Whiteman AFB, Missouri
- ▶ Personnel
 - Approximately 4,600 individuals associated with the B-2 mission would depart
 - Approximately 5,600 individuals 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

Whiteman AFB Alternative

Airspace and Range Utilization

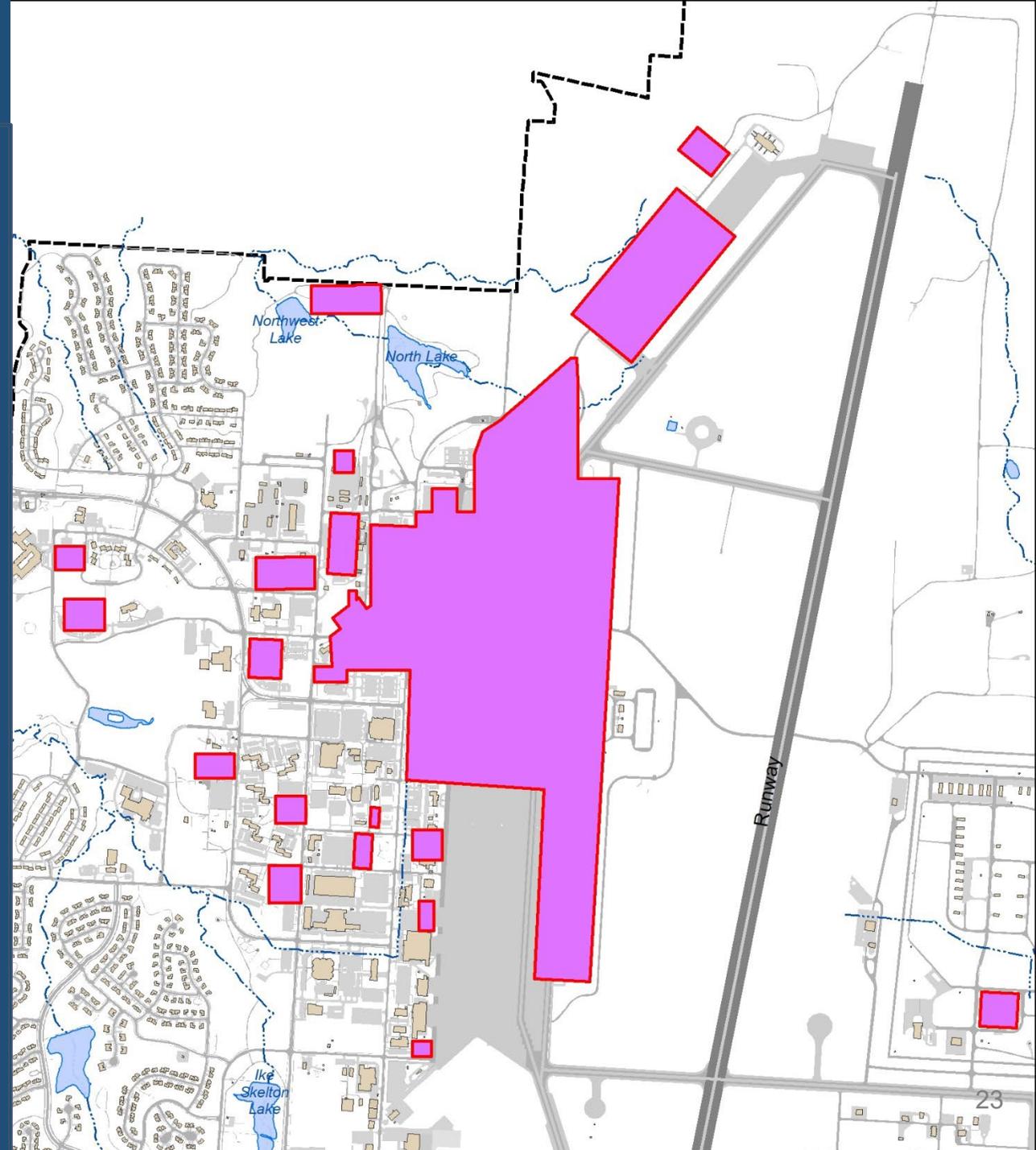
- Aircraft training areas would include:
 - Smoky Hill Range – Smoky MOA, Bison MOA and Restricted Airspace 3601
 - Ada MOA
 - Truman MOA
 - Cannon MOA
 - Lindbergh MOA
 - Ozark ATCAA
- Includes all ATCAAs associated with the MOAs above
- No plans to modify any of the airspace listed above as a result of the Proposed Action



Whiteman AFB Alternative

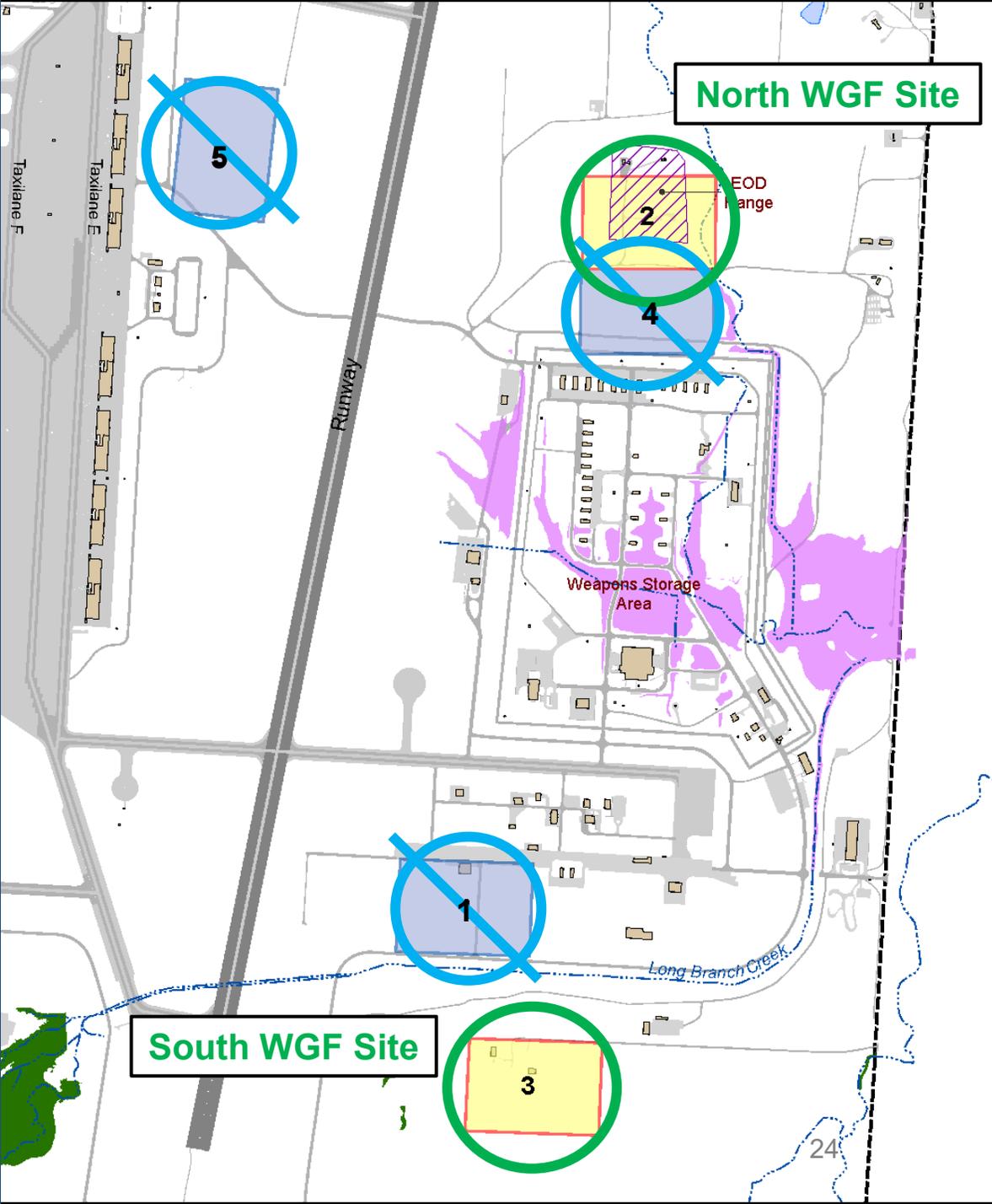
Facilities and Infrastructure

- Air Force planners considered base-specific site constraints
 - Minimize mission impact
 - Maximize facility reuse
 - Minimize cost
- Base-specific plan consists of:
 - 600,000 square feet of construction
 - 1.7 million square feet of renovation
 - 85,000 square feet of demolition
- Specific locations cannot be illustrated due to operational security concerns.
- General planned areas of construction are shown here.



Whiteman AFB Alternative

Weapons Generation Facility



- Air Force Planners identified five possible locations.
- Three locations were eliminated:
 - Location 1: impacts to current missions and an existing weapons storage area; security related issues; weapons safety concerns
 - Location 4: site constraints for another weapons storage area; impacts to current missions
 - Location 5: airfield site constraints; proximity to existing infrastructure; interference with navigational aids; dock access issues; requires access to the airfield
- 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 and location 3 is referred to as the South WGF site.



Whiteman AFB Alternative - WGF

- ▶ Includes two subalternatives based on WGF North and South locations
- ▶ North WGF Site Subalternative
 - Requires construction of access roads (approximately 177,000 square feet)
 - Requires the relocation of the existing EOD range
- ▶ South WGF Site Subalternative
 - Requires construction of up to three access roads (approximately 51,000 square feet)
 - One roadway would be constructed over an existing ERP site



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.
- ▶ 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.



Summary of EIS Alternatives

- ▶ The EIS will analyze two action alternatives for establishing MOB 2.
 - Dyess AFB Alternative
 - Whiteman 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 MOB 2 EIS Anticipated Milestone Schedule



March 2023

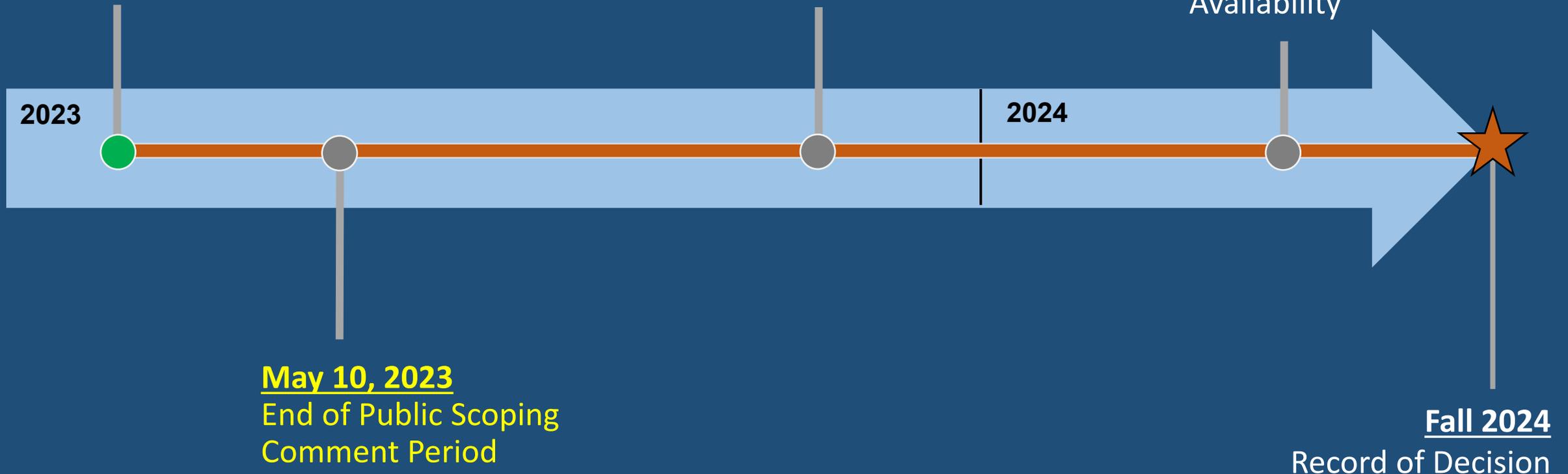
- EIS Notice of Intent
- Start of Public Comment Period

Fall 2023

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

Summer 2024

Final EIS Notice of Availability



May 10, 2023
End of Public Scoping
Comment Period

Fall 2024
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, 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 to frame the environmental analysis 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 the following ways:
 - Visit the project website at www.B21EIS.com
 - Via written comment forms provided at in-person meetings
 - Mail comments directly to the Air Force (see next slide)
- ▶ To be considered in the Draft EIS, all substantive comments should be received or post-marked by no later than **May 10, 2023**.
 - Substantive comments identify potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action.
- ▶ All substantive comments received, whether written or electronic, will be given equal consideration.
- ▶ To receive a notice of availability of the Draft EIS, please sign up for the mailing list by visiting the project website.



Comment Submittal Information

Submit comments online:

www.B21EIS.com

Or submit comments in writing:

Leidos

ATTN: B-21 EIS

12304 Morganton Hwy #572

Morganton, GA 30560

Comments should be postmarked by **May 10, 2023**
for consideration in the Draft EIS. Please include "B-21 EIS" in attention
line of all correspondence.

Air Force Contact Information



For questions please contact:

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Whiteman AFB Public Affairs

660.687.5727