

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

The National Environmental Policy Act (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.
- ▶ Public and government agency input.



NEPA Public Involvement

NEPA and Air Force regulations require tribal, government, agency, and public participation throughout the environmental impact analysis process.

Tribal, government, agency, and public participation is an integral part of the EIS process. The purpose of soliciting input is to identify interested parties and relevant issues so they can be considered in the EIS.

The first stage in the EIS process is public scoping. During scoping, the Air Force is actively seeking feedback from Federal, state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public in development of the EIS. The public scoping phase provides opportunities to learn about and comment on the project and provides the Air Force with the opportunity to identify issues of interest or concern to frame the environmental analysis and more effectively shape the range of alternatives to be considered.

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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 Environmental Impact Statement (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 action and alternatives.

Earth Resources The EIS will analyze impacts (such as erosion) to soils and geology associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

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.

Socioeconomics Analysis will focus on the economic impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, to include potential environmental justice impacts to low-income and minority groups.

Water Resources The EIS will identify potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources (such as streams, springs, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifers) associated with the proposed action and alternatives.



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What is the Background of the Project?

On October 27, 2015, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) announced that Northrop Grumman Corporation was awarded the contract for Engineering and Manufacturing Development and early production for the Long Range Strike Bomber.

The Secretary of the Air Force announced that the new bomber would be called the B-21 “Raider,” in honor of the Doolittle Raiders of World War II.

The B-21 will operate under the direction of the USAF Global Strike Command. The B-21 will have both conventional and nuclear roles and will be capable of penetrating and surviving in advanced air defense environments.

The B-21 Raider will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The beddown of the B-21 will take place through a series of three Main Operating Bases (MOB), referred to as MOB 1, MOB 2, and MOB 3. The Air Force proposes to beddown MOB 1, which includes B-21 Operational Squadrons, a B-21 Formal Training Unit, and a Weapons Generation Facility in this EIS. The additional two MOB locations (MOB 2 and MOB 3) would be evaluated in future NEPA analyses, after the location for MOB 1 is chosen.

The Environmental Impact Statement will consider two beddown locations for MOB 1, where B-21 Raider training and operational activities would take place: Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

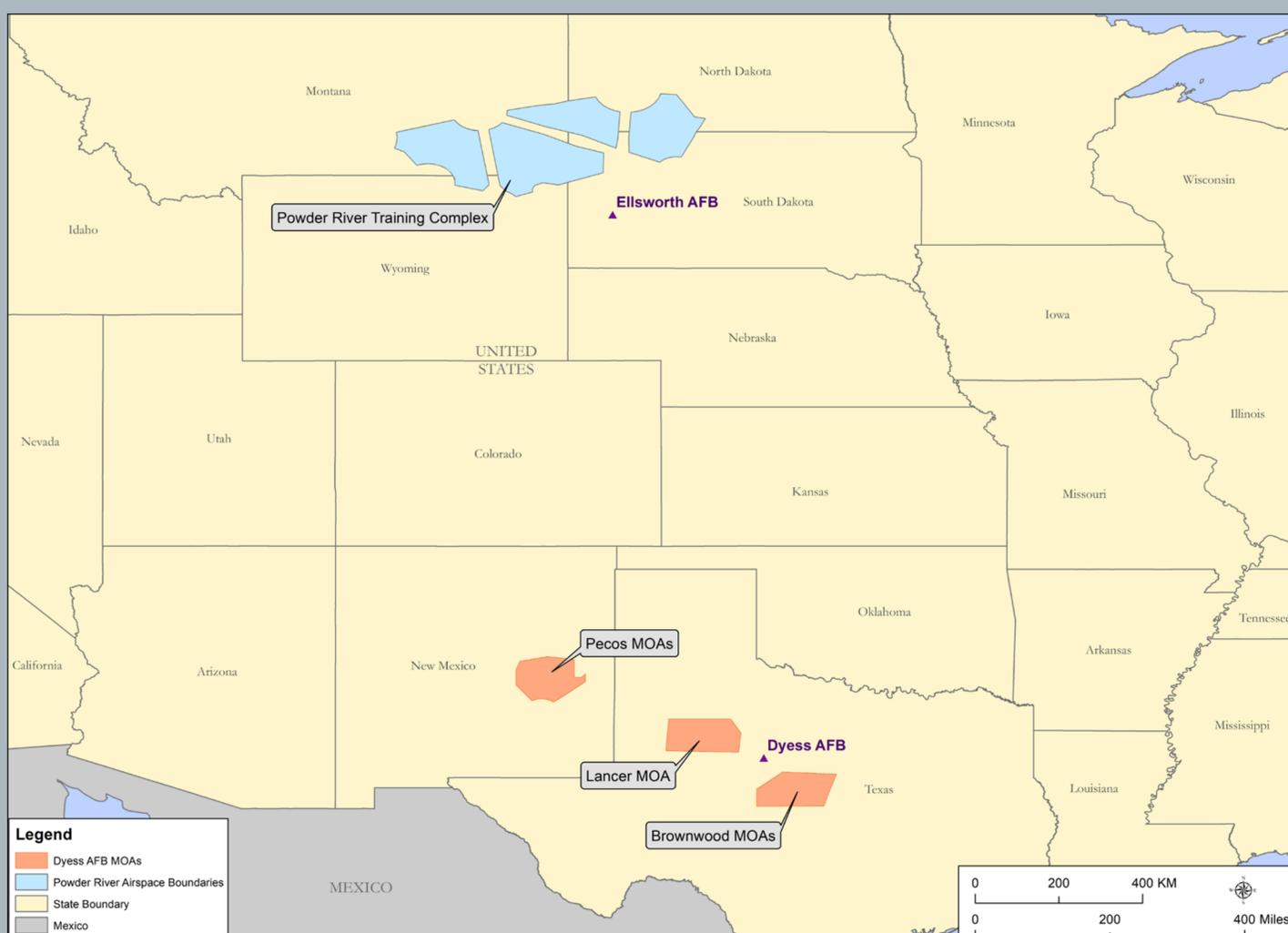
The map shows the airspace the USAF may utilize depending on the beddown location.

For Dyess AFB, the Following Airspace Might Be Utilized:

- ▶ Powder River Training Complex
- ▶ Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA)
- ▶ Lancer MOA
- ▶ Pecos MOA

For Ellsworth AFB, the Following Airspace Might Be Utilized:

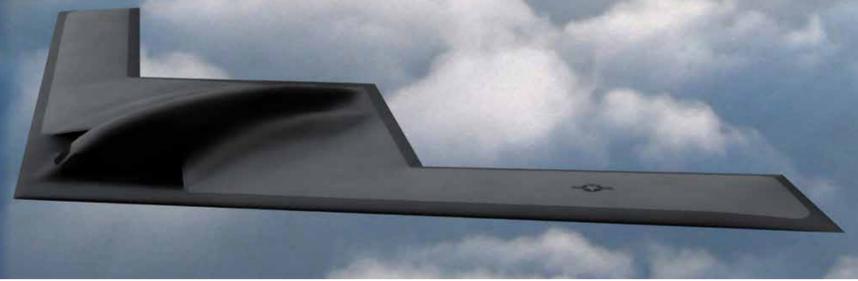
- ▶ Powder River Training Complex



This map shows the airspace the U.S. Air Force may utilize depending on the beddown location.

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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



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What are the Elements of the B-21 MOB 1 Beddown?

Personnel

- ▶ Personnel associated with the B-21 mission will include military personnel, contractors, and dependents at the chosen basing location.
- ▶ The B-21 mission would include initial training, transition/conversion training, refresher/qualification training, and instructor training.
- ▶ Students entering the B-21 program would be graduates of undergraduate aviator and maintainer training programs.
- ▶ Pilots and maintainers entering the program from another aircraft platform would go through a transitional training program, which would provide the requisite skills to meet the mission-qualified pilot or mission-qualified maintainer graduation criteria.
- ▶ MOB 1 Force Structure will consist of two Operational Squadrons and the B-21 Formal Training Unit.

Facilities and Infrastructure

- ▶ Existing facilities and infrastructure would be leveraged to maximize facility reuse and minimize cost.
- ▶ Requirements would differ depending on the basing location.
- ▶ Construction would allow both initial operational flying and flight training activities associated with both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons.

Air Operations

- ▶ Both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons would conduct air operations.
- ▶ Air operations would occur primarily during the day, with some operations at night.

Airspace and Range Utilization

- ▶ No changes to any existing airspace would occur.
- ▶ The Powder River Training Complex would be the primary training area for aircraft operations for either basing location.
- ▶ Dyess AFB would utilize additional airspace within the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA), Lancer MOA, and the Pecos MOA.
- ▶ The B-21 engine noise is expected to be quieter than the B-1B and about the same or quieter than the B-2.
- ▶ The B-21 is not expected to use low altitude training routes.

Weapons Generation Facility

- ▶ A facility that is unique to the B-21 mission, which would require new construction at the selected base.
- ▶ Provides safer and more secure location for the storage of Air Force nuclear munitions.
- ▶ Provides a consolidated facility with 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.
- ▶ Munitions Storage Areas for each of the basing locations have adequate capacity for conventional Air Force assets.



B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

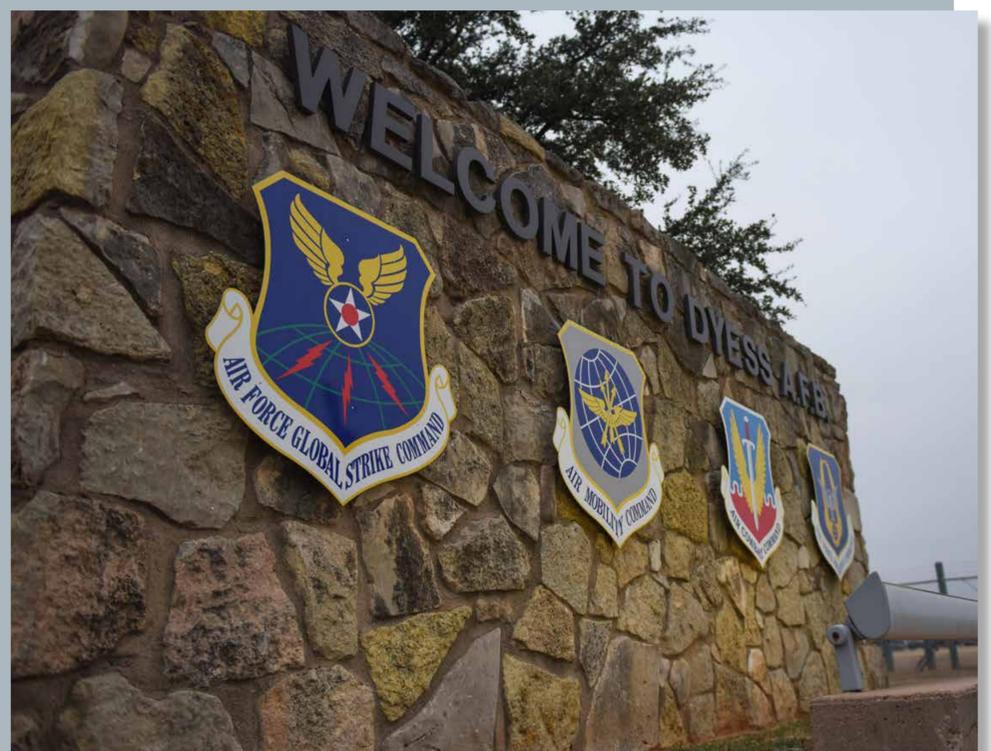
As stated in the 2018 National Defense Strategy, the global security environment is “characterized by overt challenges to the free and open international order and the re-emergence of long-term, strategic competition between nations”. The threats we face as a nation are increasingly transregional, multi-domain, and multi-functional. The U.S. Air Force’s existing bomber fleet lacks the technology required to ensure U.S. global security and long-range strike missions into the future. The U.S. Air Force must have advanced defense capabilities that discourage adversary nations from taking action and that can respond effectively to support national defense priorities. For deterrence to be successful, our adversaries must be aware that our weapons are reliable and will achieve the desired result regardless of enemy countermeasures.

The Air Force’s Need for the Proposed Action is to:

- ▶ Address the U.S. Air Force bomber fleet’s lacking technology by providing a new, more technologically capable system to support the nation’s defense and deterrence capabilities.
- ▶ Identify an installation that implements U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command’s B-21 MOB 1 mission objectives by providing an appropriate location that can:
 - Provide sufficient airfield, facilities, infrastructure, and airspace for B-21 training and operations.
 - Support personnel required for B-21 operation and maintenance.

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 will:
 - Carry conventional payloads.
 - Support the nuclear triad by providing a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability.
 - Provide the only stealth bomber capability and capacity needed to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries.
 - Assure allies and partners through the United States’ commitment to international treaties.



B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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What Criteria was Used to Select Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB?

The U.S. Air Force used a three phased screening process to identify reasonable alternatives for MOB 1 locations.

- ▶ Phase 1 of the process consisted of developing and applying initial screening criteria for the new B-21 mission.
- ▶ Phase 2 involved reviewing the current Global Strike Command mission at each base.
- ▶ Phase 3 incorporated assessments of the missions that will be replaced by the B-21 mission, including an appropriate time phased reduction of B-1 and B-2 aircraft.

Phase 1: Initial Screening Criteria

During this phase, the U.S. Air Force looked at all U.S. bases and determined that only those with a current bombing mission could reasonably support the B-21 mission.

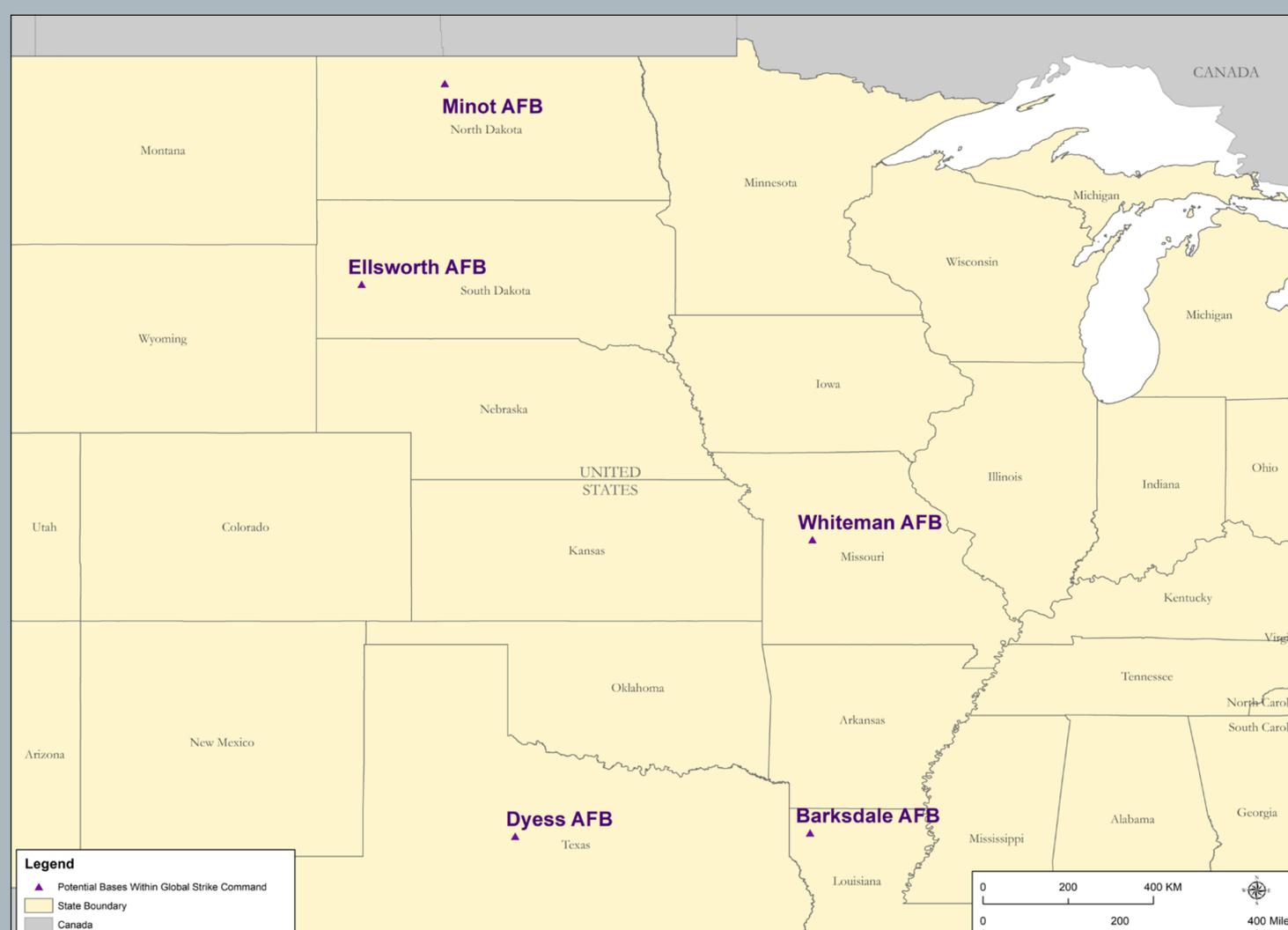
This process identified the following bomber bases as potential locations:

- ▶ Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
- ▶ Dyess AFB, Texas
- ▶ Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota
- ▶ Minot AFB, North Dakota
- ▶ Whiteman AFB, Missouri

Phase 2: Global Strike Command Screening Criteria

During this phase, the U.S. Air Force evaluated the ongoing Global Strike Command missions, and made the determination to eliminate Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and Minot AFB, North Dakota due to the continuation of the B-52 missions at these installations.

The map shows all of the locations within the Global Strike Command considered. Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB are the two alternatives being analyzed in this Environmental Impact Statement.



B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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What Criteria was Used to Select Dyess AFB and Ellsworth AFB (continued)?

Phase 3: Time-Phased Aircraft Drawdown Screening Criteria

During this phase, the U.S. Air Force determined the timing involved in slowing down and ending other Global Strike Command missions that will be replaced by the B-21 mission. To ensure an uninterrupted deterrent related to the United States' nuclear capabilities, the U.S. Air Force determined that this transfer should occur after the initial beddown of Main Operating Base 1 (MOB 1) and that Whiteman AFB, Missouri will not be considered as a potential alternative for MOB 1 because the B-2 program will remain active at Whiteman AFB until an MOB 1 for the B-21 is established.

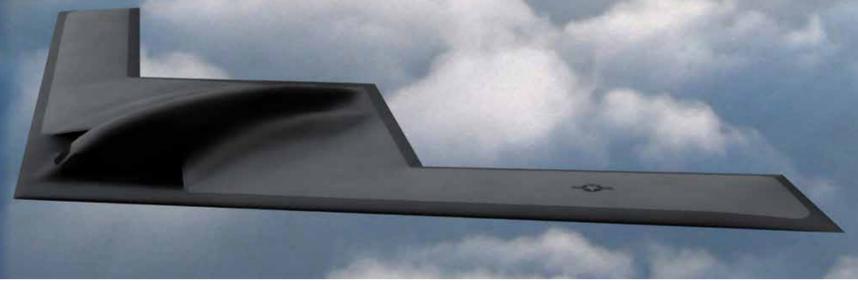
At the conclusion of all three phases, the two remaining locations for consideration for MOB 1 are:

- ▶ Dyess AFB, Texas
- ▶ Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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What are the Commonalities Between the Dyess AFB Alternative and the Ellsworth AFB Alternative?

The Proposed Action includes common elements among both candidate bases, Dyess AFB, Texas and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. These commonalities are associated with personnel, aircraft operations, ordnance use, range utilization, and facilities.

Personnel Associated with the B-21 Mission:

- ▶ Includes military personnel, contractors, and dependents associated with two Operational Squadrons and one B-21 Formal Training Unit
- ▶ Approximately 3,900 military personnel
- ▶ Approximately 200 contractor personnel
- ▶ Approximately 2,300 spouses
- ▶ Approximately 6,700 children

Aircraft Operations Associated with the B-21 Mission:

- ▶ Approximately 9,100 total B-21 operations per year.
- ▶ Approximately 94.5 sorties per month, 40% of which would be conducted between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Airspace and Range Utilization Mission:

- ▶ Powder River Training Complex would be the primary training area for B-21 aircraft operations for both installations.
- ▶ Dyess AFB would use additional airspace within the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA), Lancer MOA, Pecos MOA, and associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs).
- ▶ The B-21 engine noise is expected to be quieter than the B-1 and about the same or quieter than the B-2.
- ▶ The B-21 is not expected to use low altitude training routes.

Weapons Generation Facilities (WGF) Associated with the B-21 Mission:

- ▶ The WGF is a facility that is unique to the B-21 mission and would be newly constructed at the selected base.
- ▶ Provides a safer and more secure location for storage, maintenance, and support functions of U.S. Air Force nuclear munitions within a consolidated facility.
- ▶ Requires an estimated construction footprint of 35 acres, which includes an approximate 52,000-square-foot building.
- ▶ Due to national security, details regarding the infrastructure associated with the WGF is not releasable.



B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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



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What is the Dyess AFB Alternative?

Establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas

The Dyess AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas, which includes all common elements described on the commonalities board plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the Weapons Generation Facility (WGF), as seen in the figures below.

This figure shows the WGF location (in yellow) for Dyess AFB.



This figure shows the facilities and infrastructure planned areas of construction for Dyess AFB.

Due to operational security concerns, the specific locations of the facilities cannot be illustrated.

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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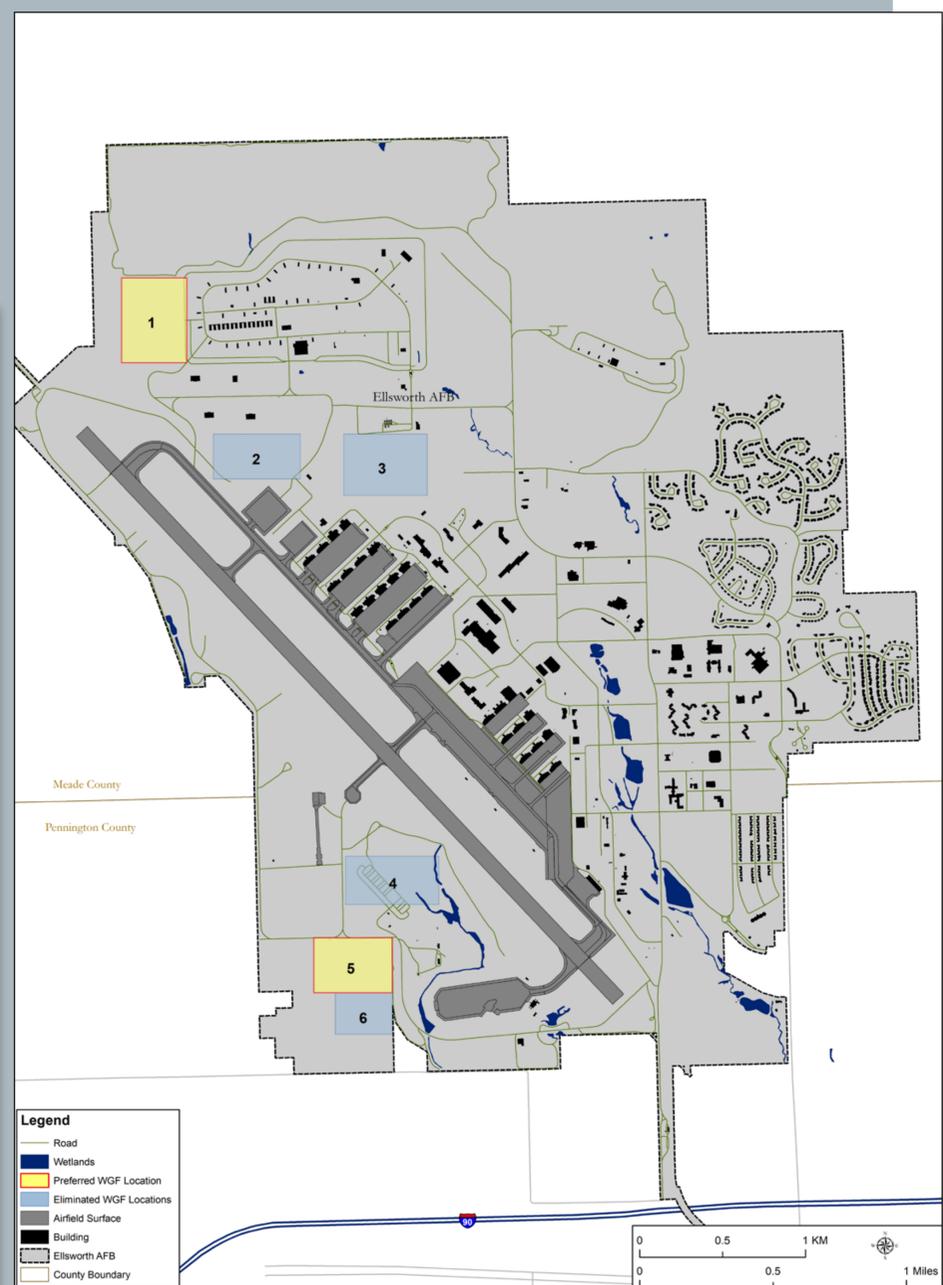


What is the Ellsworth AFB Alternative?

Establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

The Ellsworth AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, which includes all common elements described on the commonalities board plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the Weapons Generation Facility (WGF), as seen in the figures below. Alternative 2 has two sub-alternatives associated with the WGF as shown by the yellow boxes below.

This figure shows the WGF alternative locations (in yellow) for Ellsworth AFB.



This figure shows the facilities and infrastructure planned areas of construction for Ellsworth AFB.

Due to operational security concerns, the specific locations of the facilities cannot be illustrated.

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What is the No Action Alternative?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires the alternatives analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement to include a No Action Alternative.

The No Action Alternative:

- ▶ Provides a baseline against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of potential environmental effects of the action alternatives. The baseline is typically considered the affected environment.
- ▶ The B-21 beddown would not occur at either Dyess AFB, Texas or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota and each individual installation would continue their current missions at current levels.
- ▶ There would be no new construction associated with the No Action Alternative at both locations. However, there would be annually planned demolition, construction, and maintenance activities, which will be reflected in the cumulative impacts analysis in the EIS.



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Public Scoping Brochure

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

for the B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

at Dyess AFB, Texas

or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



March – May 2020

What is the National Environmental Policy Act? The National Environmental Policy Act (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.
- ▶ Public and government agency input.

What is Scoping?



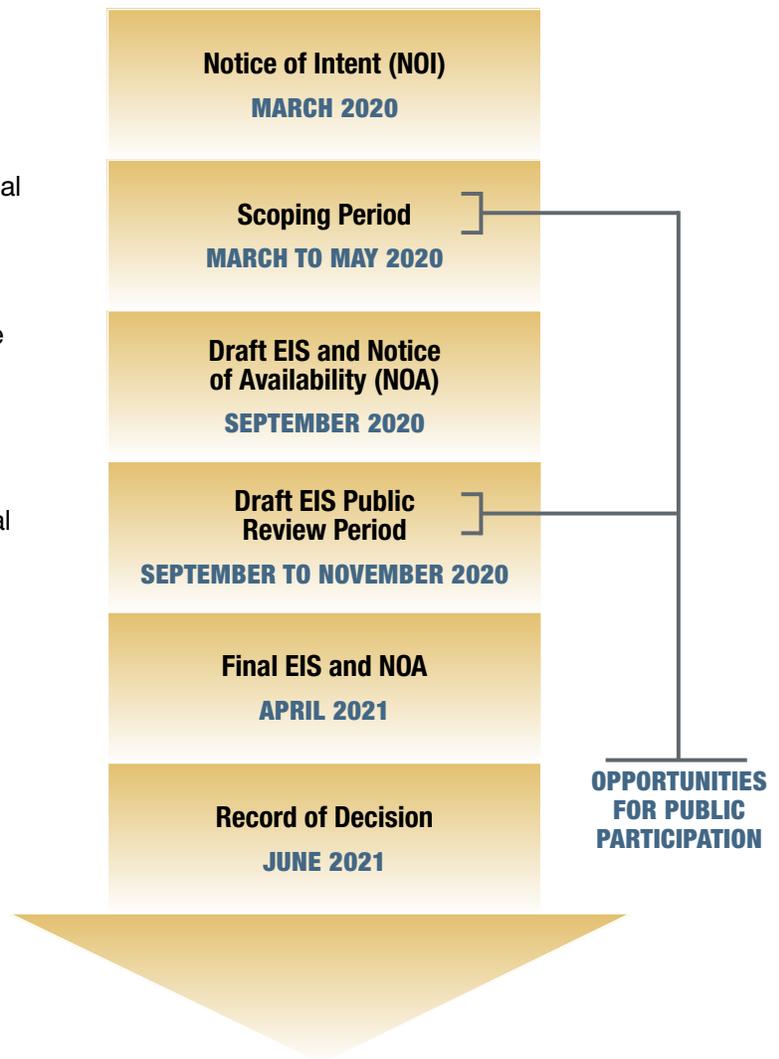
NEPA and Air Force regulations require tribal, government, agency, and public participation throughout the environmental impact analysis process. Scoping is part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with the

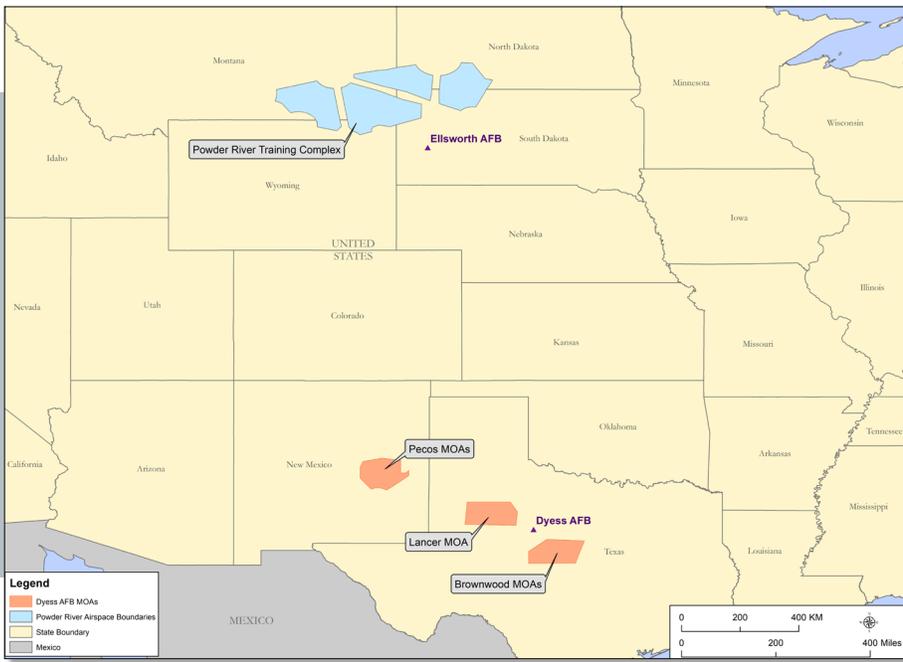
EIS. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all in-person public scoping meetings have been cancelled for this EIS, scoping will occur online, and the scoping comment period is being extended. During scoping, the Air Force is actively seeking feedback from Federal, state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public in development of the EIS.

What Environmental Resources will be Studied in the EIS?

- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Airspace Use and Management
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Earth Resources
- ▶ Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Water Resources

Timeline





THIS MAP SHOWS THE AIRSPACE THE U.S. AIR FORCE MAY UTILIZE DEPENDING ON THE BEDDOWN LOCATION.

What is the Background of the Project?

On October 27, 2015, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) announced that Northrop Grumman Corporation was awarded the contract for Engineering and Manufacturing Development and early production for the Long Range Strike Bomber.

The Secretary of the Air Force announced that the new bomber would be called the B-21 “Raider,” in honor of the Doolittle Raiders of World War II.

The B-21 will operate under the direction of the USAF Global Strike Command. The B-21 will have both conventional and nuclear roles and will be capable of penetrating and surviving in advanced air defense environments.

The B-21 Raider will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The beddown of the B-21 will take place through a series of three Main Operating Bases (MOB), referred to as MOB 1, MOB 2, and MOB 3. The Air Force proposes to beddown MOB 1, which includes B-21 Operational Squadrons, a B-21 Formal Training Unit, and a Weapons Generation Facility in this EIS. The additional two MOB locations (MOB 2 and MOB 3) would be evaluated in future NEPA analyses, after the location for MOB 1 is chosen.

The Environmental Impact Statement will consider two beddown locations for MOB 1, where B-21 Raider training and operational activities would take place: Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

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 will:
 - Carry conventional payloads.
 - Support the nuclear triad by providing a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability.
 - Provide the only stealth bomber capability and capacity needed to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries.
 - Assure allies and partners through the United States’ commitment to international treaties.

THE AIR FORCE’S NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION IS TO:

- ▶ Address the USAF bomber fleet’s lacking technology by providing a new, more technologically capable system to support the nation’s defense and deterrence capabilities.
- ▶ Identify an installation that implements USAF Global Strike Command’s B-21 MOB 1 mission objectives by providing an appropriate location that can:
 - Provide sufficient airfield, facilities, infrastructure, and airspace for B-21 training and operations.
 - Support personnel required for B-21 operation and maintenance.

What are the Elements of the B-21 MOB 1 Beddown?

▶ Personnel

- Personnel associated with the B-21 mission will include military personnel, contractors, and dependents at the chosen basing location.
- The B-21 mission would include initial training, transition/conversion training, refresher/requalification training, and instructor training.
- Students entering the B-21 program would be graduates of undergraduate aviator and maintainer training programs.
- Pilots and maintainers entering the program from another aircraft platform would go through a transitional training program, which would provide the requisite skills to meet the mission-qualified pilot or mission-qualified maintainer graduation criteria.
- MOB 1 Force Structure will consist of two Operational Squadrons and the B-21 Formal Training Unit.



▶ Facilities and Infrastructure

- Existing facilities and infrastructure would be leveraged to maximize facility reuse and minimize cost.
- Requirements would differ depending on the basing location.
- Construction would allow both initial operational flying and flight training activities associated with both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons.

▶ Air Operations

- Both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons would conduct air operations.
- Air operations would occur primarily during the day, with some operations at night.



► Airspace and Range Utilization

- No changes to any existing airspace would occur.
- The Powder River Training Complex would be the primary training area for aircraft operations for either basing location.
- Dyess AFB would utilize additional airspace within the Brownwood MOA, Lancer MOA, and Pecos MOA.
- The B-21 engine noise is expected to be quieter than the B-1B and about the same or quieter than the B-2.
- The B-21 is not expected to use low altitude training routes.



► Weapons Generation Facility

- A facility that is unique to the B-21 mission, which would require new construction at the selected base.
- Provides safer and more secure location for the storage of Air Force nuclear munitions.
- Provides a consolidated facility with 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.
- Munitions Storage Areas for each of the basing locations have adequate capacity for conventional Air Force assets.



What are the Alternatives Being Considered in the EIS?

Commonalities Between the Dyess AFB Alternative and the Ellsworth AFB Alternative

The Proposed Action includes common elements among both candidate bases. These commonalities are associated with personnel, aircraft operations, ordnance use, range utilization, and facilities.

PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ Includes military personnel, contractors, and dependents associated with two Operational Squadrons and one B-21 Formal Training Unit
- ▶ Approximately 3,900 military personnel
- ▶ Approximately 200 contractor personnel
- ▶ Approximately 2,300 spouses
- ▶ Approximately 6,700 children

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ Approximately 9,100 total B-21 operations per year.
- ▶ Approximately 94.5 sorties per month, 40% of which would be conducted between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

WEAPONS GENERATION FACILITIES (WGF) ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ The WGF is a facility that is unique to the B-21 mission and would be newly constructed at the selected base.
- ▶ Provides a safer and more secure location for storage, maintenance, and support functions of U.S. Air Force nuclear munitions within a consolidated facility.
- ▶ Requires an estimated construction footprint of 35 acres, which includes an approximate 52,000-square-foot building.
- ▶ Due to national security, details regarding the infrastructure associated with the WGF is not releasable.

**Dyess AFB Alternative
Establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas**



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNED AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR DYESS AFB.



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE WGF LOCATION (IN YELLOW) FOR DYESS AFB.

Dyess AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas

The Dyess AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas, which includes all common elements plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the Weapons Generation Facility (WGF), as seen in the figures below.

Ellsworth AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

The Ellsworth AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, which includes all common elements plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the WGF, as seen in the figures below. The Ellsworth AFB Alternative has two sub-alternatives associated with the WGF as indicated by the yellow boxes.

No Action Alternative

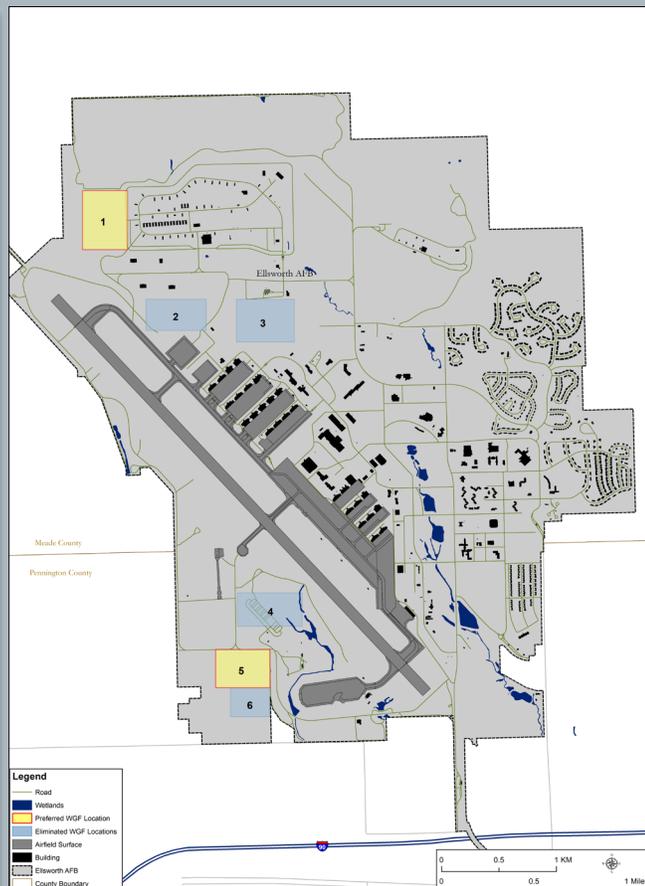
NEPA requires the alternatives analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement to include a No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of potential environmental effects of the action alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative the B-21 beddown would not occur at either Dyess AFB, Texas or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota and each individual installation would continue their current missions at current levels.

Ellsworth AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNED AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR ELLSWORTH AFB.



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE WGF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS (IN YELLOW) FOR ELLSWORTH AFB.



For more information or to submit scoping comments electronically,
please visit the project website at www.B21EIS.com.

Inquiries should be directed to:

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

Written scoping comments can be mailed to:

Leidos
ATTN: B-21 EIS
1456 Woodlawn Way
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

Electronic scoping comments can be submitted on the public website at www.B21EIS.com

Scoping comments must be received or postmarked by May 9, 2020.

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For More Information:

Visit www.B21EIS.com or Contact:

Dyess AFB Public Affairs

325-696-4820

or after hours (325) 268-6554

Ellsworth AFB Public Affairs

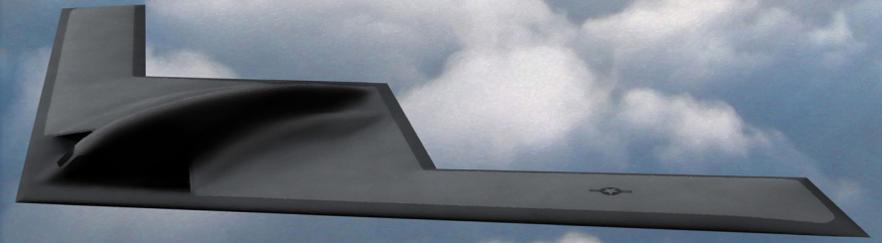
605-385-5056

or after hours (605) 391-7436

Please include "ATTN: B-21 EIS"
on all correspondence.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

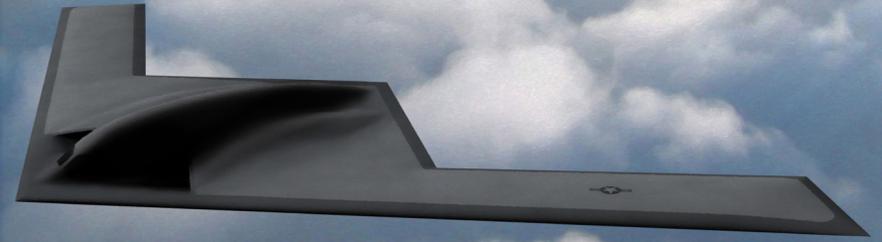


Privacy Act Advisory

Private addresses provided will be compiled to develop the mailing list for those individuals requesting copies of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be included in the EIS document. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the EIS document.

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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Keys to Making Effective Comments:

- ★ Focus your comments on reasonable alternatives and potential environmental issues.
- ★ Let us know what environmental and community factors you consider important for analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- ★ Submit comments that are clear, concise, and relevant to the project.
- ★ Provide constructive solutions with documentation or resources to support your comments or recommendations.
- ★ Substantive comments are most effective and are those that suggest analysis, methodologies, or provide information for study in the Draft EIS; or that identify potential impacts, reasonable alternatives, or feasible mitigation.
- ★ Non-substantive comments are those that express a conclusion, an opinion, a vote for or against the proposed action or a particular alternative, or otherwise state a personal preference or opinion.

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Comment Submittal Process:

Electronic Comments:

<https://www.B21EIS.com>

Submit Written Comments to:

Leidos

ATTN: B-21 EIS
1456 Woodlawn Way
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

Comments must be postmarked by May 9, 2020

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

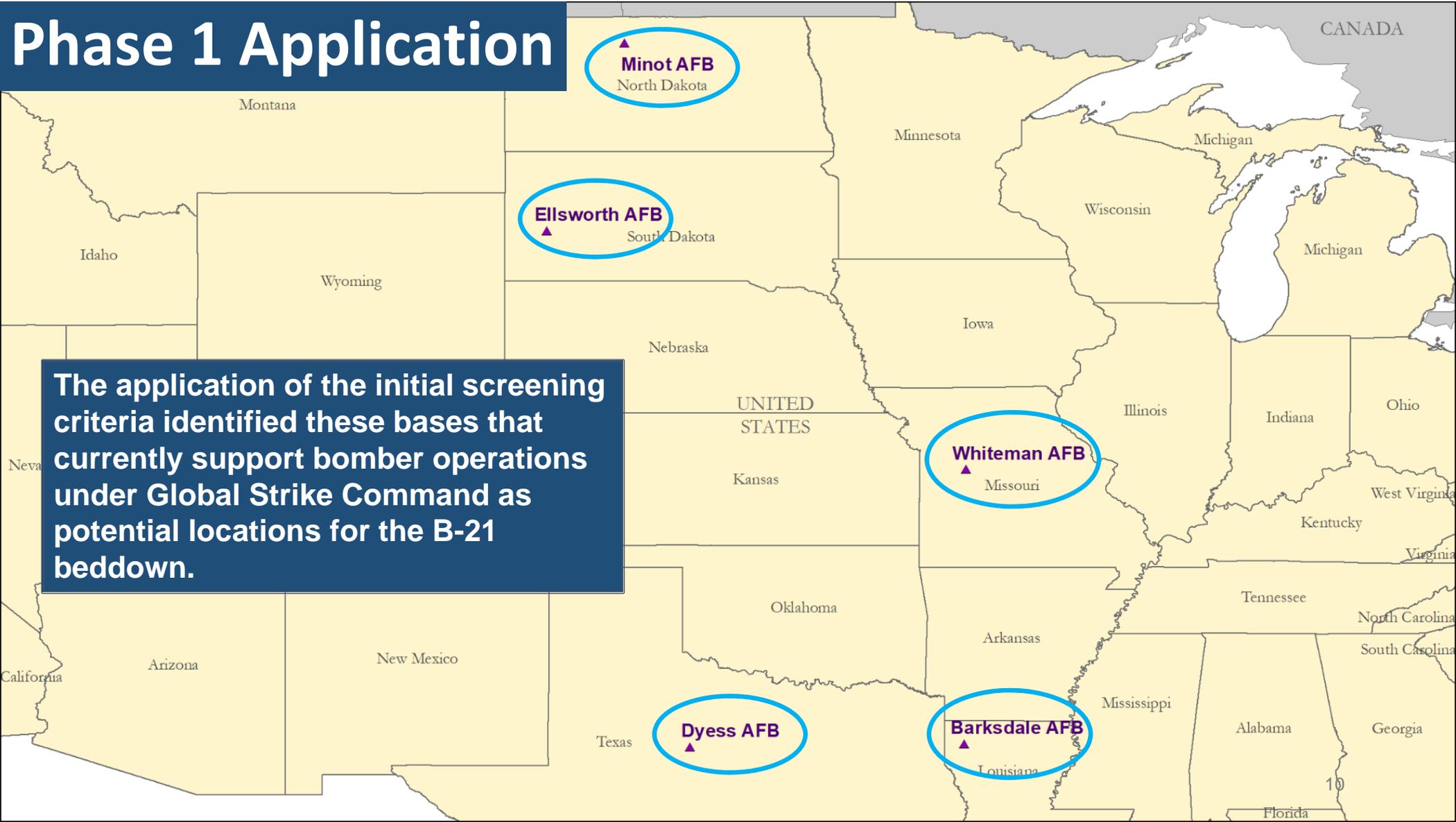
Ellsworth AFB
South Dakota

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

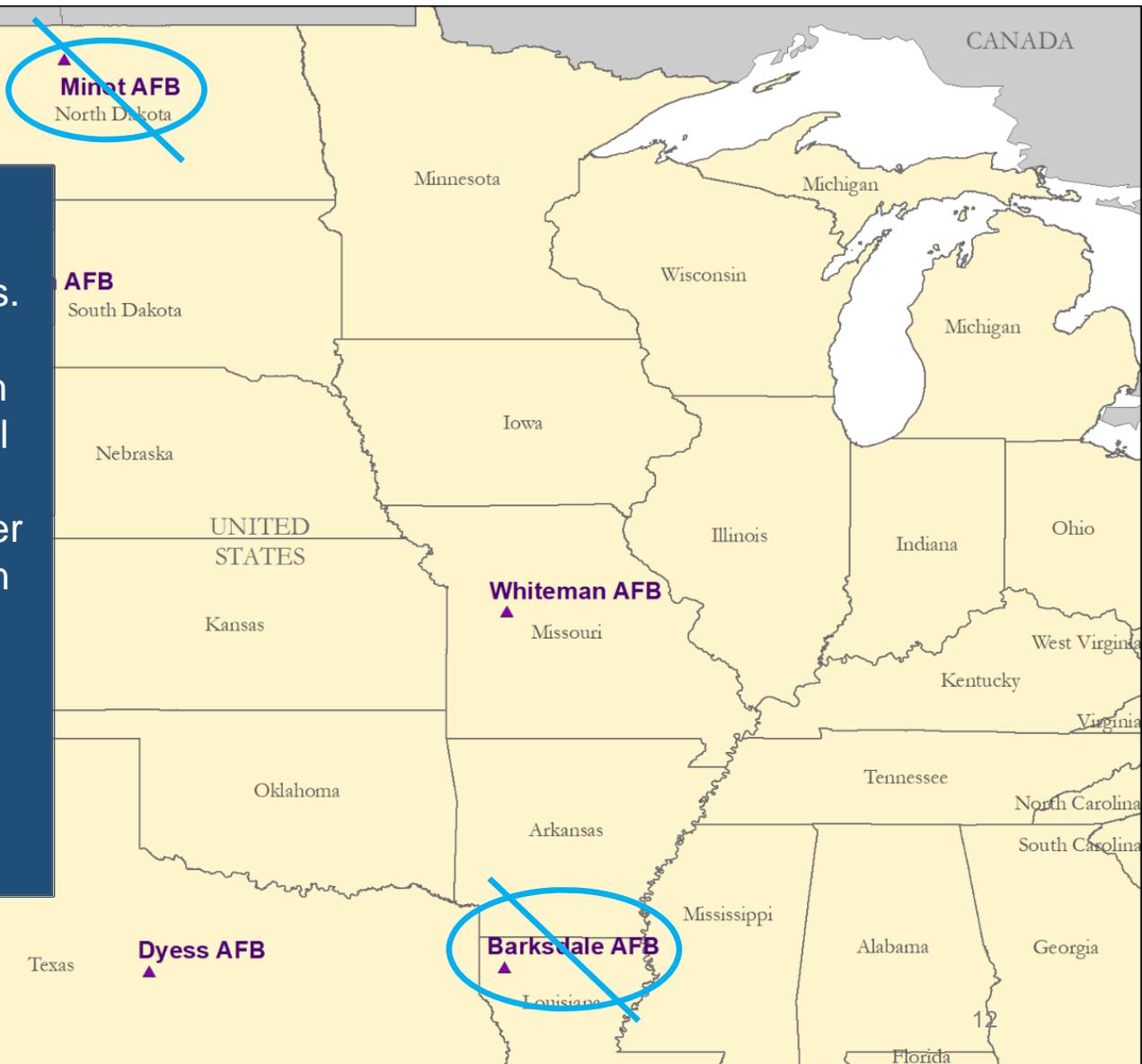


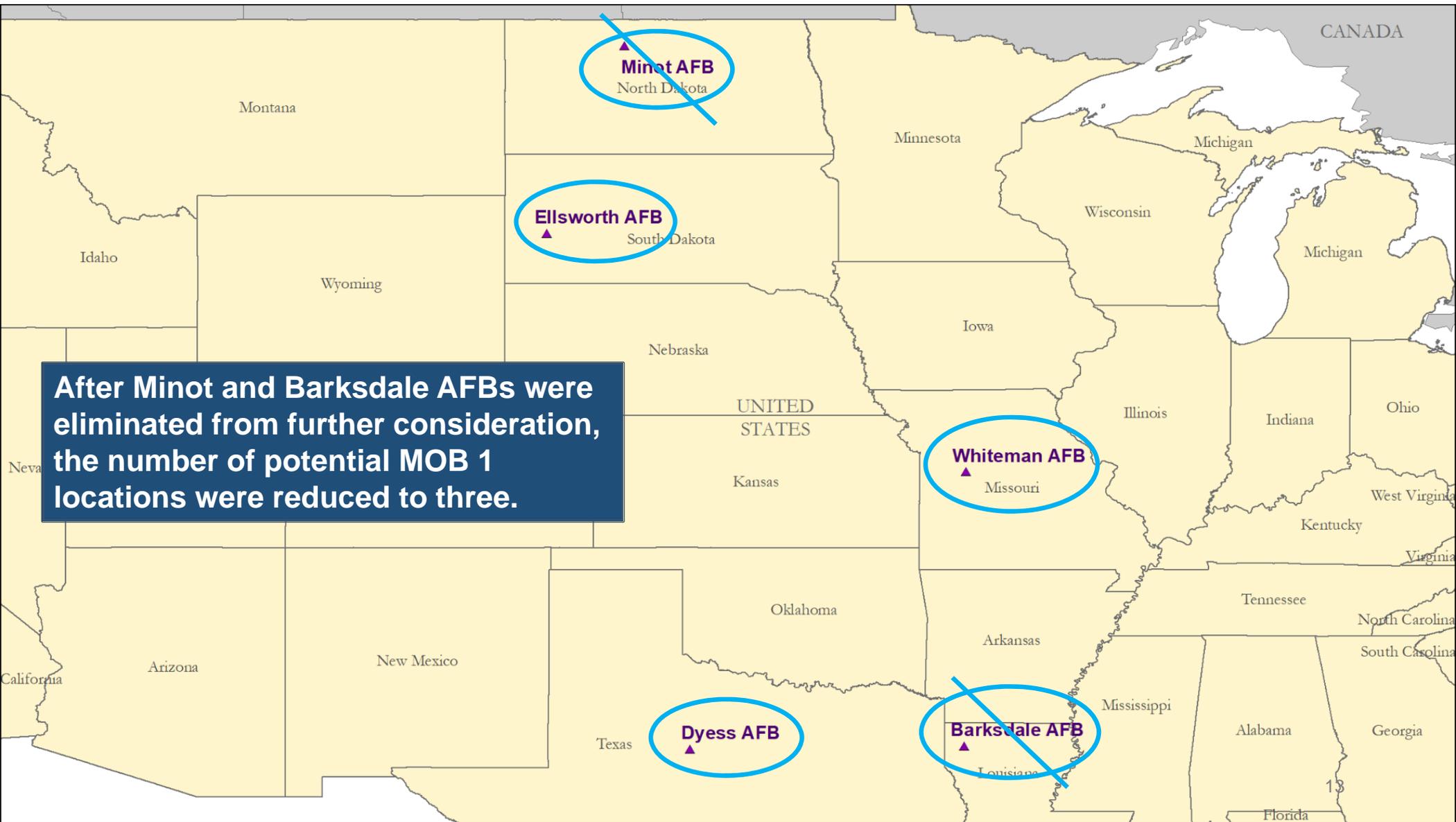
- ▶ The Air Force then implemented Phase 2 of the screening criteria process.
- ▶ Phase 2 evaluated ongoing Global Strike Command missions at each location identified in Phase 1:
 - Barksdale AFB
 - Dyess AFB
 - Ellsworth AFB
 - Minot AFB
 - Whiteman AFB
- ▶ The Air Force then applied military judgement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





Phase 3: Time-Phased Aircraft Drawdown Screening Criteria

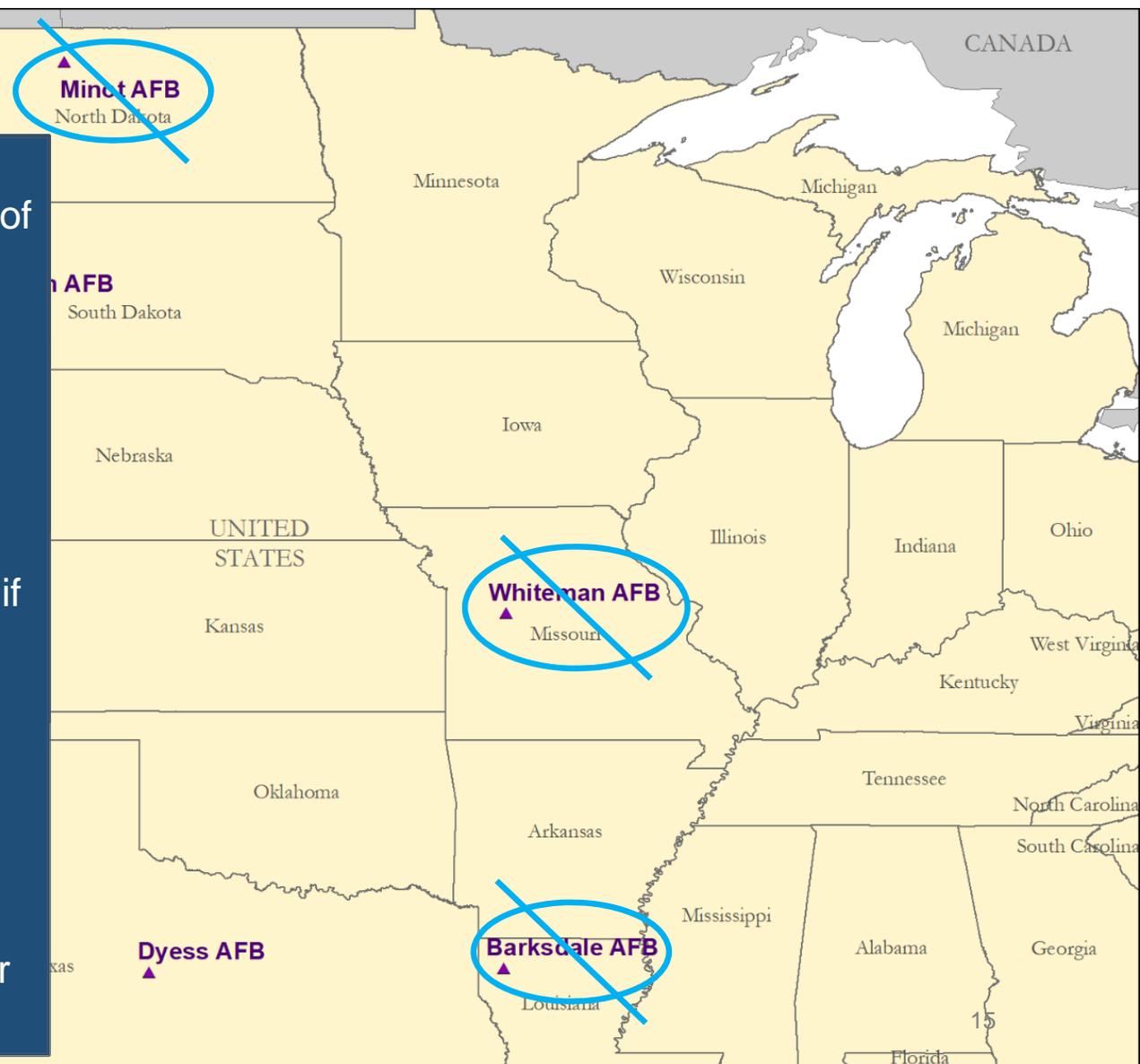


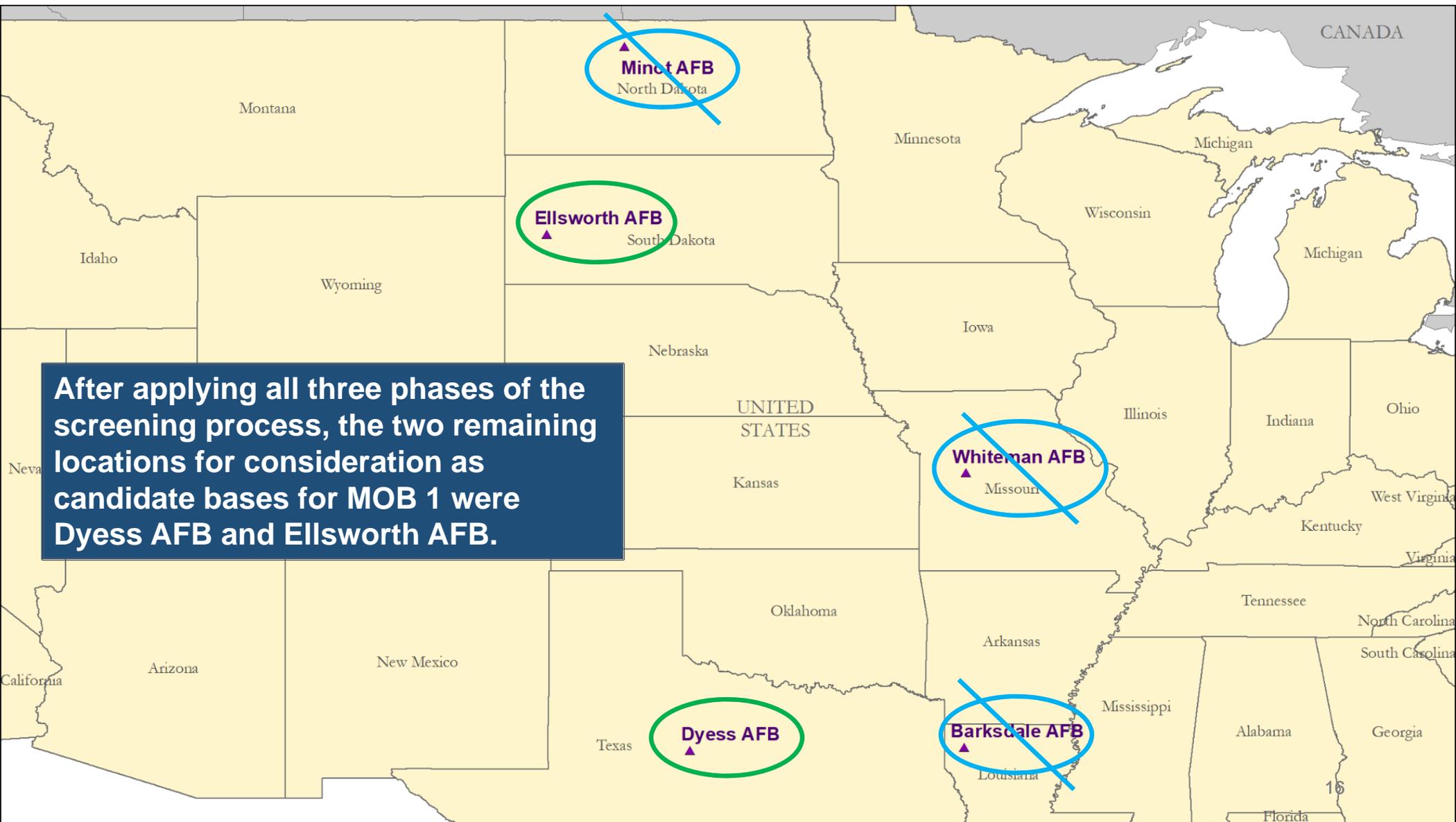
- ▶ After completing Phase 2 of the screening criteria process, the Air Force evaluated the impacts to executing a smooth mission handover between elements of the legacy bomber fleet (B-1 and B-2) and the B-21.
 - The Air Force determined that the aging B-1 fleet would be the first to be phased into 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.





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.

~~Minot AFB
North Dakota~~

Ellsworth AFB
South Dakota

~~Whiteman AFB
Missouri~~

Dyess AFB
Texas

~~Barksdale AFB
Louisiana~~



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)

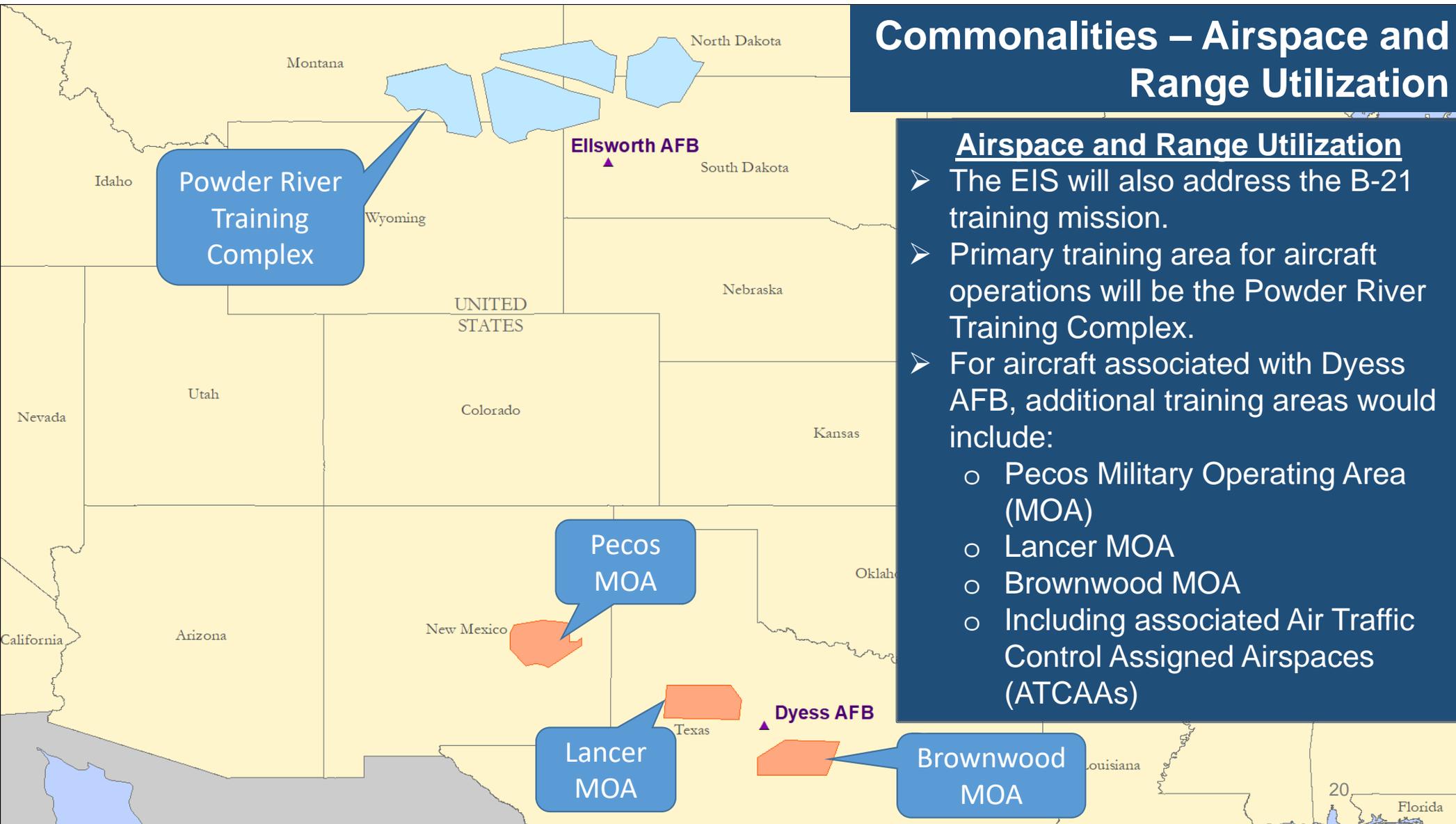
▶ Personnel

- 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)

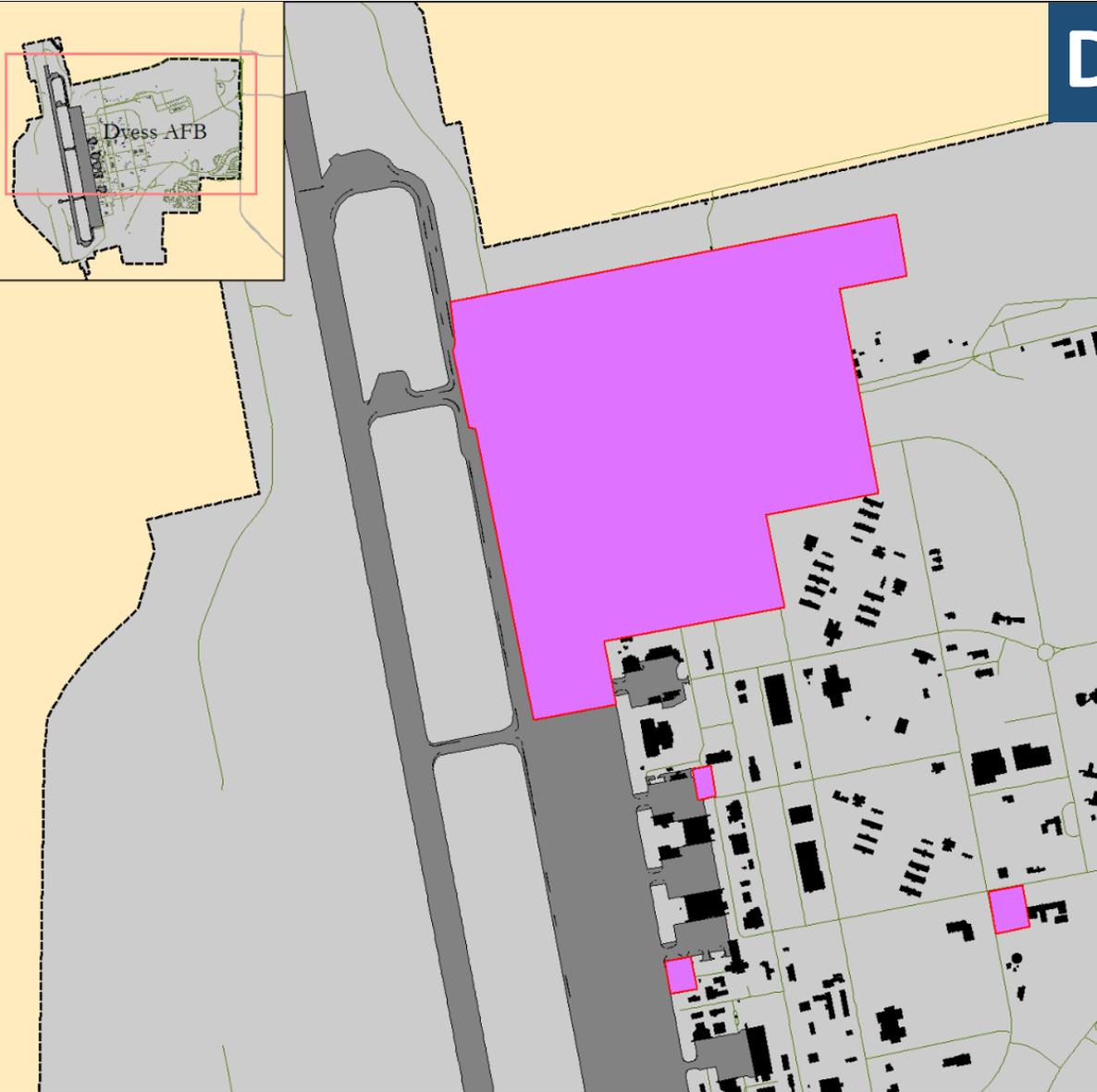
- ▶ Weapons Generation Facility (WGF)
 - Facility requiring new construction at the selected base
 - Requires approximate 35 acre footprint with approximate 52,000 square foot building
 - Provides safer and more secure location for storage of nuclear munitions
 - Provides a consolidated facility within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



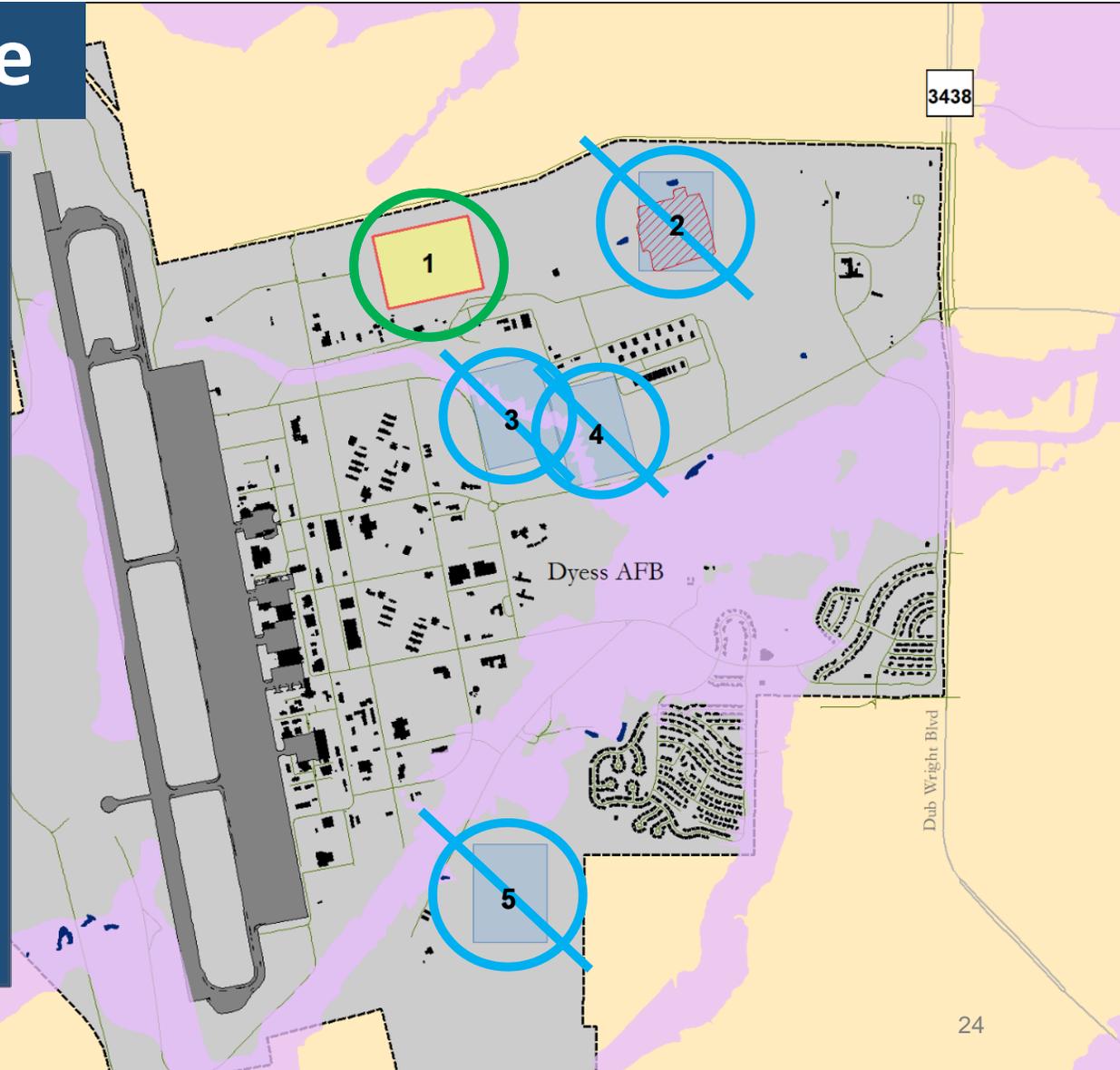
Facilities and Infrastructure

- 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.

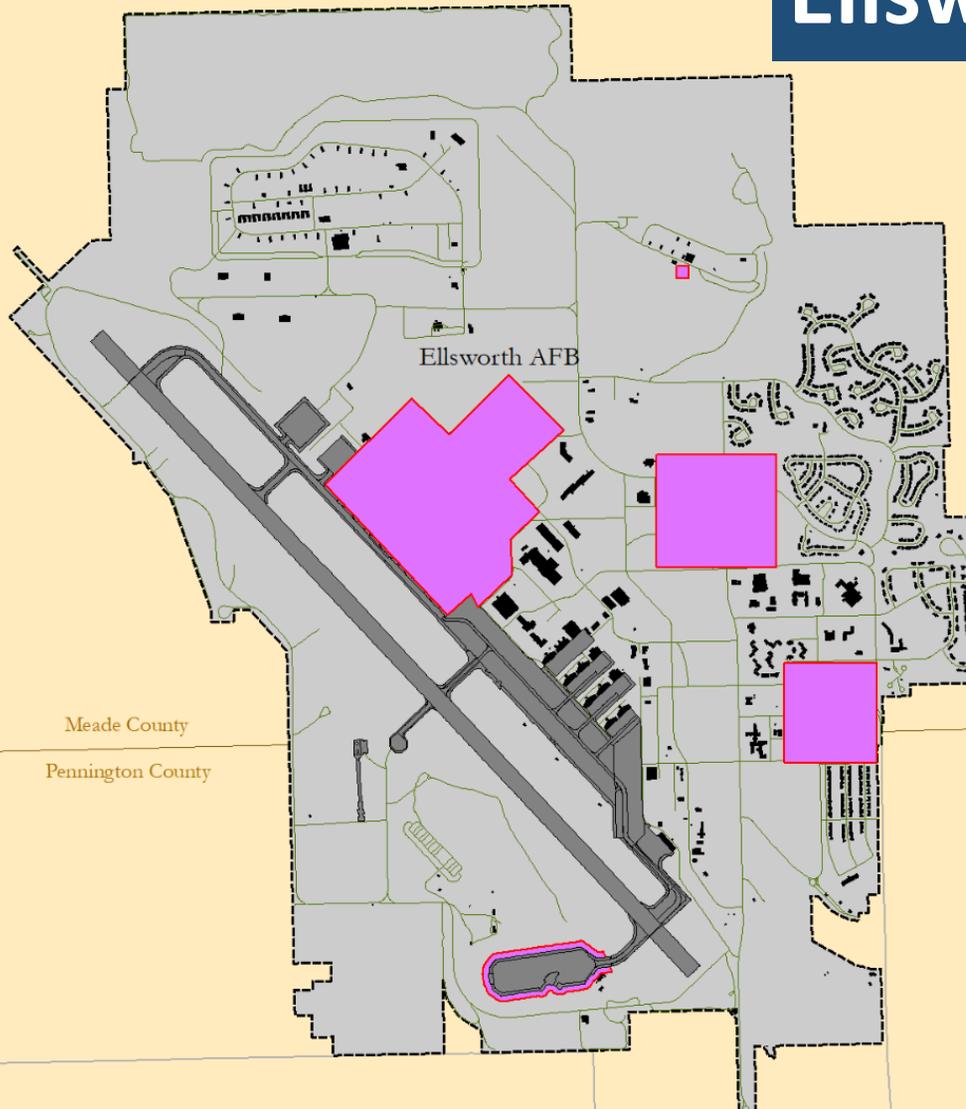




Ellsworth AFB Alternative

- ▶ 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



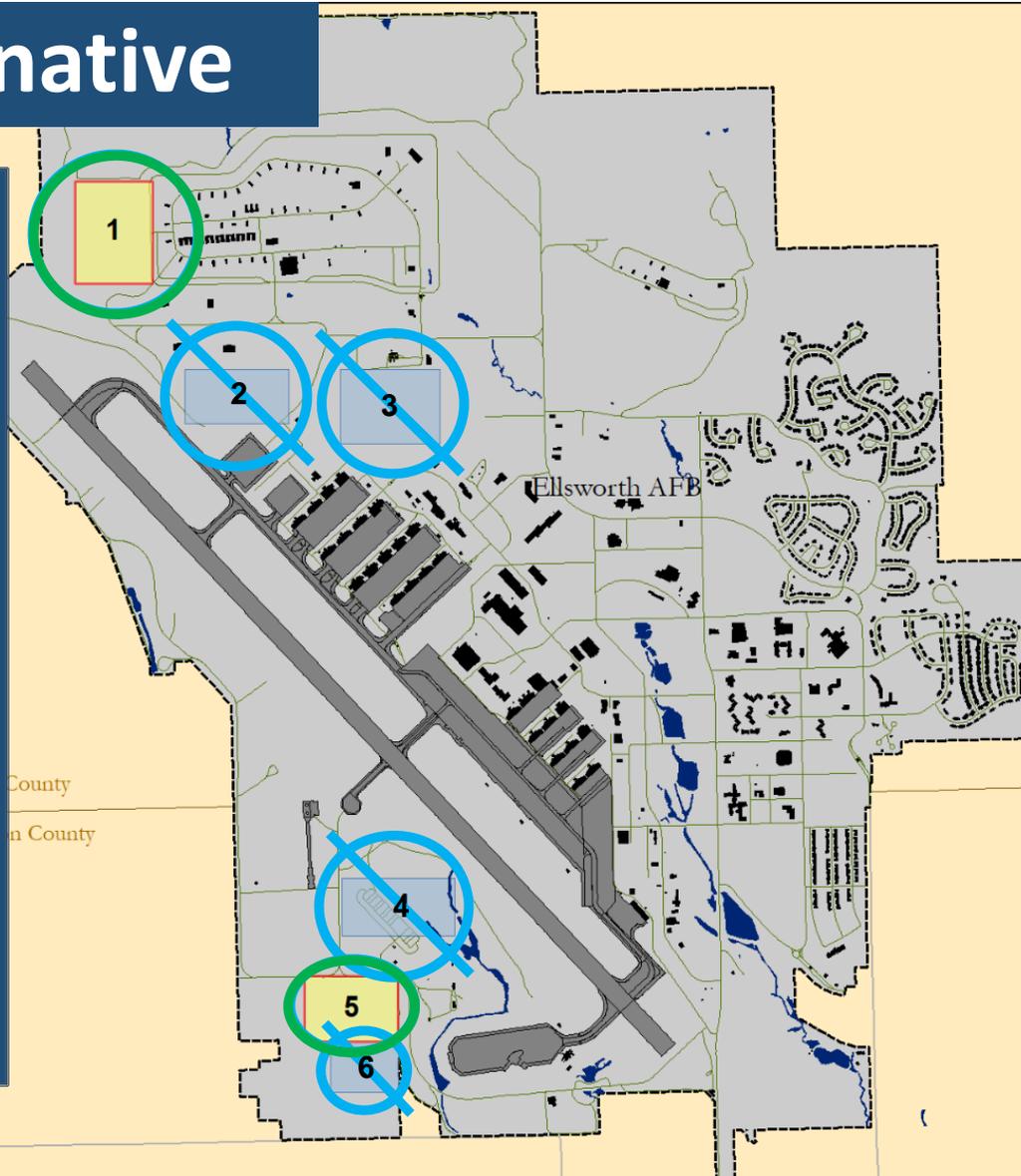
Facilities and Infrastructure

- 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

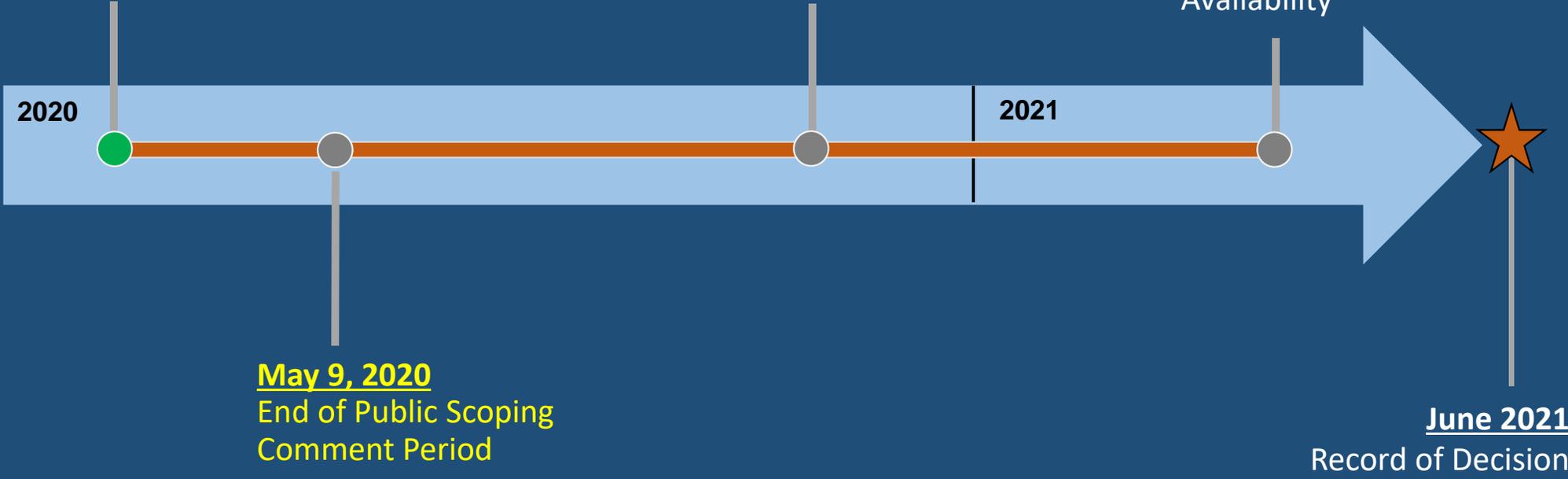
- EIS Notice of Intent
- Start of Public Comment Period

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

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AFFIX
STAMP

Leidos
ATTN: B-21 EIS
1456 Woodlawn Way
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

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