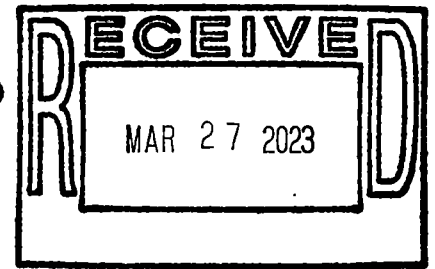




DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 7TH BOMB WING (AFGSC)
DYESS AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS



13 Mar 23

MEMORANDUM FOR Federal, State, and Local Public Agencies
Interested Parties
Members of the Public

FROM: 7 BW/CC
7 Lancer Loop
Dyess AFB TX 79607-1240

SUBJECT: Proposed B-21 Bomber Beddown Main Operating Base (MOB) 2 or MOB 3 at
Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri

1. Notice of Public Meetings

a. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is issuing this notice to inform state and local agencies of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the B-21 Main Operating Base (MOB) 2 or MOB 3 Beddown at Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri. The DAF's notice of intent to prepare an EIS and hold public scoping meetings was published in the *Federal Register* (FR) on March 24, 2023. The EIS will assess the potential environmental consequences of the proposal to beddown the Department of Defense's new bomber aircraft, the B-21 "Raider," which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The EIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508 (85 FR 43359, July 16, 2020, as amended by 87 FR 23453, April 20, 2022), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA; and the DAF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989).

b. This notice also serves to invite early public and agency participation in determining the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS and to identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant. To effectively define the full range of issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS, the DAF is soliciting scoping comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies, interested American Indian tribes, and interested members of the public.

c. The beddown of the B-21 will take place through a series of three MOBs, referred to as MOB 1, MOB 2, and MOB 3. The DAF previously selected Ellsworth AFB as the MOB 1 location and is now preparing an EIS to evaluate the potential beddown impacts of MOB 2 or MOB 3 at Dyess AFB, Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri. The proposed MOB 2 and MOB 3 beddown includes B-21 Operational Squadrons, a Weapons Instructor Course (WIC), and Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) Squadron, as well as a Weapons Generation Facility (WGF). Potential impacts of these four components (i.e., Operations Squadrons, WIC, OT&E, and WGF) will be analyzed in this EIS for both alternative locations, Dyess AFB and Whiteman

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AFB. The EIS addresses the personnel, airfield operations, airspace and range utilization, facilities and infrastructure, and the construction of the WGF associated with the B-21 MOB 2 and MOB 3 beddown. The B-21 will operate under the direction of the Air Force Global Strike Command.

d. It should be noted that since 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 the EIS and construction activities are anticipated to be the same for either MOB location. Therefore, the analysis presented in the EIS represents potential impacts associated with the beddown actions at either location.

e. 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 carry conventional payloads and to support the nuclear triad by providing a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability that will assure allies and partners through the United States' commitment to international treaties. MOB 2 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 the B-21 training and operations.

f. The EIS will analyze Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB as basing alternatives for the Proposed Action, as well as a No Action Alternative. The basing alternatives were developed to minimize mission impact, maximize facility reuse, minimize cost, and reduce overhead, as well as leverage the strengths of each base to optimize the B-21 beddown strategy. At Dyess AFB, proposed activities include an estimated 4.2 million square feet (SF) of construction, 600,000 SF of renovation, and 300,000 SF of demolition. Proposed airspace for B-21 operations out of Dyess AFB include special use airspace (SUA) units over areas in Texas and New Mexico. At Whiteman AFB, proposed activities include an estimated 600,000 SF of construction, 1.7 million SF of renovation, and 85,000 SF of demolition. Proposed airspace for B-21 operations out of Whiteman AFB include SUA units over areas in Missouri and Kansas.

g. The potential impacts of the alternatives and the No Action Alternative that the EIS may examine include impacts to land use, airspace, safety, noise, hazardous materials and solid waste, physical resources (including earth and water resources), air quality, transportation, cultural resources, biological resources, socioeconomic, and environmental justice. The DAF anticipates potential notable noise and socioeconomic impacts from the Proposed Action and action alternatives. Potential noise impacts are expected to be similar to, or less than, those currently experienced at Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB, including associated airspace. Socioeconomic impacts are anticipated to be primarily beneficial due to the creation of jobs and near-term economic benefits as a result of construction, renovation, and demolition activities. A greater demand for public service professionals may be warranted due to an increase in population. Potential permits that may be required include, but are not limited to, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, General Construction, Floodplain Development, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

h. The Proposed Action at Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB is subject to the Clean Water Act Sections 401, 404, and 404(b)(1) guidelines and has the potential occur in a floodplain and/or wetland. Consistent with the requirements and objectives of Executive Order (EO)

11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, and EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, as amended by EO 13690, *Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input*, state and federal regulatory agencies with special expertise in wetlands and floodplains will be contacted to request comment. Consistent with EO 11988, EO 13690, and EO 11990, this notice of intent initiates early public review of the Proposed Action and alternatives, which have the potential to be in a floodplain and/or wetland.

i. The DAF will be holding public scoping meetings in areas potentially impacted by the proposal. During the public scoping meetings, the DAF will provide additional information about the B-21 MOB 2 and MOB 3 beddown EIS. The purpose of the meetings and the scoping period is to further solicit input regarding the scope of issues to be addressed and identify environmental issues to be analyzed in depth. Written comments received by the DAF during the public scoping period will be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. Please provide substantive comments that identify potential alternatives (in accordance with 40 CFR Part 1502.14(a) and 32 CFR Part 989.8), information, or analyses relevant to the Proposed Action.

j. Scoping comments may be submitted to the DAF at the planned public scoping meetings, via the public website (www.B21EIS.com), or mailed. Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, scoping comments should be submitted no later than May 8, 2023.

k. The DAF will host six public scoping meetings to allow members of the public to learn about the project and provide public comments. Public scoping meetings will begin with a 30-minute DAF presentation, followed by an open house/question-and-answer session. Written comments can be submitted at any time during the in-person scoping meetings or submitted electronically via the public website at www.B21EIS.com.

2. Virtual public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST
- Thursday, April 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST

To register to attend a virtual public scoping meeting, visit www.B21EIS.com. Meeting links and instructions will be distributed after registering and prior to all virtual public scoping meetings. All virtual public scoping meetings can be accessed by phone at 888-788-0099, Webinar ID: 813 5934 9395, Passcode: 570587.

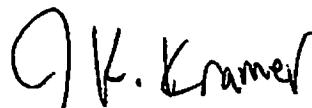
3. In-person public scoping meetings are scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations:

- Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST, University of Central Missouri, 108 W. South St., Warrensburg, MO
- Thursday, April 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST, Knob Noster High School, 504 South Washington Ave., Knob Noster, MO
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST, Abilene Convention Center, 1100 N 6th St., Abilene, TX

- Thursday, April 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CST, Tye Community Center, 103 Scott St., Tye, TX

Additional information on the EIS and the environmental impact analysis process can be found on the project website at www.B21EIS.com. Written comments can be submitted at a public scoping meeting, through the project website, or by mailing them to: Leidos, ATTN: B-21 EIS, 12304 Morganton Hwy #572, Morganton, GA 30560. Inquiries regarding the DAF proposal should be directed to Dyess AFB Public Affairs, ATTN: B-21 EIS, 7 Lancer Loop, Suite 136, Dyess AFB, TX 79607; (325) 696-4820; or 7bwpa@us.af.mil; or Whiteman AFB Public Affairs, ATTN: B-21 EIS, 509 Spirit Blvd., Bldg. 509, Suite 116, Whiteman AFB, MO 65305; (660) 687-5727; or 509bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil. For printed material requests, the standard U.S. Postal Service shipping timeline will apply.

4. Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, scoping comments should be submitted to the website or mailed to Leidos, ATTN: B-21 EIS, 12304 Morganton Hwy #572, Morganton, GA 30560 by May 8, 2023.



JOSEPH K. KRAMER, Colonel, USAF
Commander