



# KC-46A Main Operating Base #4 (MOB 4) Beddown Environmental Impact Statement



## KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown Public Scoping

### Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by regulations implementing NEPA.

The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) has published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, pursuant to NEPA, for the KC-46A Main Operating Base #4 (MOB 4) Beddown. The Proposed Action for the KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown is to base either 24 or 36 KC-46A tanker aircraft at an active duty Air Force Base within the continental United States.

### Background

In April 2006, the Air Force completed an Analysis of Alternatives to determine the most appropriate strategy to modernize the existing tanker aircraft fleet. Based on this analysis, the Air Force concluded that a tanker derived from a commercial aircraft would result in the best value. Therefore, the Air Force plans to recapitalize their existing fleet of tankers, the KC-135 Stratotanker and KC-10 Extender, with the KC-46A Pegasus, which will be the newest aerial refueling aircraft in the Air Force fleet. Congressional authority funded the purchase of 179 KC-46A aircraft by 2028 to modernize the fleet, enhance operations, and increase mission effectiveness.

### What is the Public Scoping Process?

The public scoping process begins with publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* stating an agency's intent to prepare an EIS. Public scoping is an early and open process, conducted in compliance with NEPA, for identifying issues and alternatives to be addressed in an EIS and determining who (e.g., public and government agencies) is interested in the proposed action. Public meetings are conducted as a part of the public scoping process to provide information to interested parties and to receive comments on the proposed action and alternatives. Comments received during the public scoping process are considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. See the timeline on the back of this page for additional information regarding steps in the EIS process.

"Tanker aircraft" are planes that have storage for aviation fuel and are capable of transferring the fuel to other aircraft during flight. This procedure allows the receiving aircraft to remain airborne for a longer period of time. Tanker aircraft also have storage compartments that can be used to transport passengers, cargo, or medical patients.

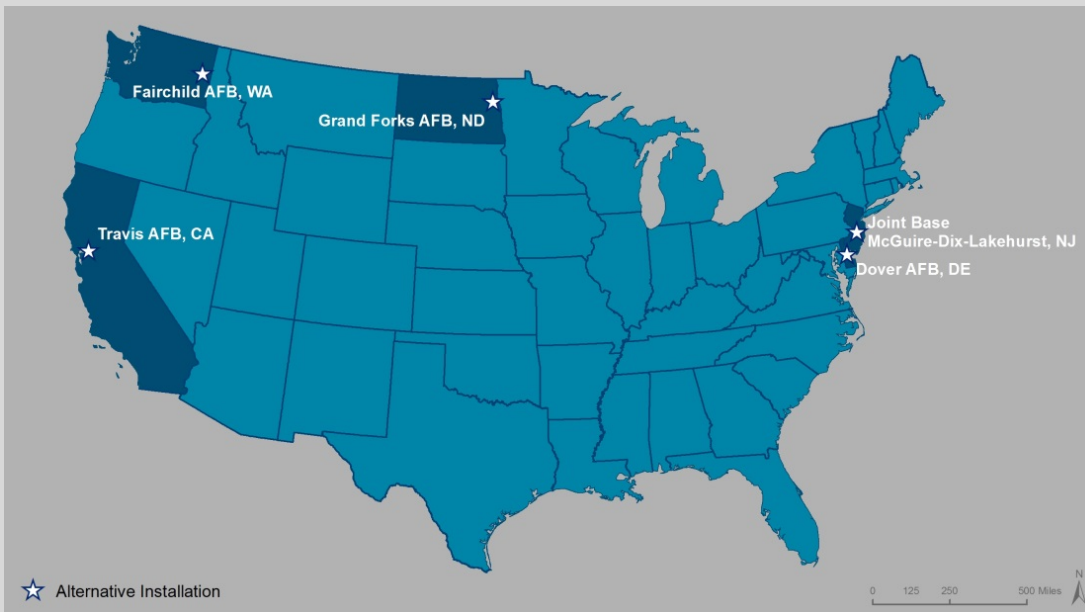


*The KC-46A Pegasus Tanker deploys the centerline boom for the first time. The boom is the fastest way to refuel aircraft at 1,200 gallons per minute. (Boeing photo by John D. Parker)*

## Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to base either 24 or 36 KC-46A tanker aircraft at an active duty Air Force Base (AFB) within the continental United States. The basing action would require infrastructure, facilities, airfield operations, training activities, and personnel to support the KC-46A mission. All flight operations would take place within existing airspace and additions to or alterations of airspace are not proposed. Installation dependent, the Proposed Action would either add to or replace the current flying operations. The Proposed Action would occur in two stages:

- **Beddown Stage:** Construction/retrofit of facilities and infrastructure, which could include renovation, alteration, and demolition. Also includes preparing support facilities for new personnel to support the mission.
- **Operational Stage:** Conduct day-to-day activities (operational missions, maintenance, etc.) at the base, including base flight operations, training in the regional airspace, and use of airfields.



## Alternatives

The Air Force is considering five alternative installations for the KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown. These active duty locations include:

- Dover AFB, Delaware
- Fairchild AFB, Washington
- Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota
- Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
- Travis AFB, California

To submit written comments, please contact:

Mr. Bill Bushman, AFCEC/CZN

Attn: KC-46A MOB 4 EIS

2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155; JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft EIS, please submit comments by February 3, 2017!

## KC-46A MOB 4 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Timeline

Notice of Intent  
Published

Public Scoping Period  
(Current Step)

Preparation of Draft EIS

Notice of Availability (NOA)  
for Draft EIS

Public Comment Period  
on Draft EIS

Review of Public Comment  
on Draft EIS

Preparation of Final EIS

NOA for Final EIS

Waiting Period

Record of Decision



Opportunities for  
Public Review