



KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown Draft Environmental Impact Statement Review Period

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 Availability, pursuant to NEPA, for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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 36 or 24 KC-46A tanker aircraft at one or more active duty installations within the continental United States.

"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.

Background

In April 2006, the Air Force completed an Analysis of Alternatives to determine the most appropriate strategy to recapitalize portions of the existing 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 a portion of the 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.



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)

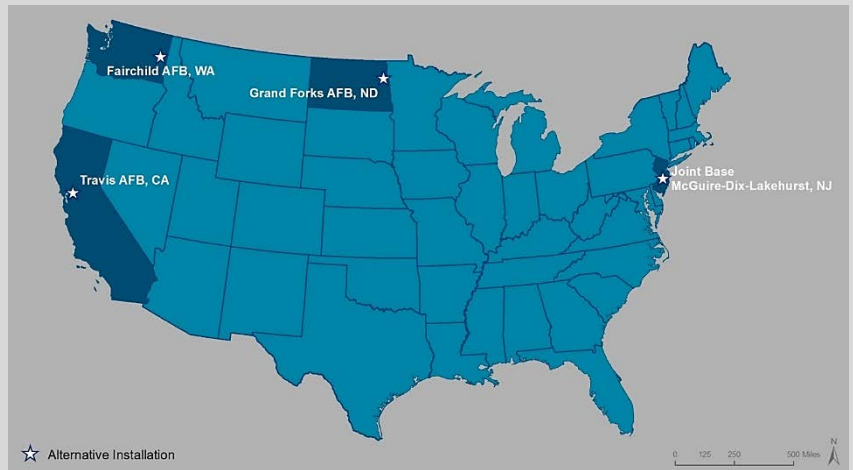
What does the Draft EIS analyze?

The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences from implementing the Proposed Action and Alternatives to that action. The KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown Proposed Action is to base either 36 or 24 KC-46A tanker aircraft at one or more active duty installations 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.

Action Alternatives

The Air Force is considering four alternative locations for the KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown:

- ◆ Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB), Washington
- ◆ Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota
- ◆ Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), New Jersey
- ◆ Travis AFB, California.



For each alternative, proposed changes from the current baseline are presented in the following four tables.

Preferred and Reasonable Alternatives. In January 2017, the Secretary of the Air Force announced that the Preferred Alternative for the KC-46A MOB 4 Beddown is to beddown 24 KC-46A aircraft at: JB MDL; or Travis AFB; or beddown 24 KC-46A aircraft at both of these locations. Fairchild AFB and Grand Forks AFB were announced as reasonable alternatives. All four installations and the option to beddown either 36 or 24 KC-46A aircraft are evaluated as alternatives in the MOB 4 Beddown Draft EIS.

Alternative: Fairchild AFB, Washington

Category	MOB 4 Mission: 36 KC-46A	MOB 4 Mission: 24 KC-46A
Reduction of Current Active Duty KC-135s	-36	-36
Proposed Active Duty KC-46As	+36	+24
Facilities and Infrastructure*	26 projects	19 projects
Population Change (full time military and dependents)	+596	-704
Annual Aircraft Operations	62% increase	25% increase

*Facilities projects could include new construction, demolition, renovation or additions

Alternative: Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

Category	MOB 4 Mission: 36 KC-46A	MOB 4 Mission: 24 KC-46A
Reduction of Current Active Duty Aircraft	0	0
Proposed Active Duty KC-46As	+36	+24
Facilities and Infrastructure*	23 projects	21 projects
Population Change (full time military and dependents)	+4,949	+3,562
Annual Aircraft Operations	62% increase	150% increase

*Facilities projects could include new construction, renovation or additions

Alternative: JB MDL, New Jersey

Category	MOB 4 Mission: 36 KC-46A	MOB 4 Mission: 24 KC-46A (Preferred Alternative)
Reduction of Current Active Duty KC-10s	-30	-30
Proposed Active Duty KC-46As	+36	+24
Facilities and Infrastructure*	23 projects	23 projects
Population Change (full time military and dependents)	+1,247	-166
Annual Aircraft Operations	16% increase	2% decrease
*Facilities projects could include new construction, demolition, renovation or additions		

Alternative: Travis AFB, California

Category	MOB 4 Mission: 36 KC-46A	MOB 4 Mission: 24 KC-46A (Preferred Alternative)
Reduction of Current Active Duty KC-10s	-24	-24
Proposed Active Duty KC-46As	+36	+24
Facilities and Infrastructure	28 projects	31 projects
Population Change (full time military and dependents)	+1,540	+233
Annual Aircraft Operations	11% increase	8% decrease
*Facilities projects could include new construction, demolition, renovation or additions		

Environmental Resources

The Air Force understands the potential for the MOB 4 beddown to affect environmental resources and the human environment. The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated the proposed actions to support KC-46A operation and training, including changes in personnel, construction of facilities, and the completion of KC-46A operations. The environmental resource areas reviewed in the Draft EIS include those listed on the following page.

Please take this opportunity to:

- ✓ Learn more about the proposal
- ✓ Identify community-specific issues
- ✓ Make sure you are included on our mailing list
- ✓ Submit your comments on the Draft EIS

Environmental Resource Areas

Aircraft Operations

- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Air Quality

Natural Resources

- ◆ Biological Resources
- ◆ Geology and Soils
- ◆ Water Resources

Human Resources

- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Socioeconomics
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Environmental Justice and Other Sensitive Receptors

Infrastructure

- ◆ Infrastructure, Utilities, and Transportation
- ◆ Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Cultural Resources

- ◆ Archaeological Resources
- ◆ Historic Architecture
- ◆ Traditional Resources

Reviewing the Draft EIS

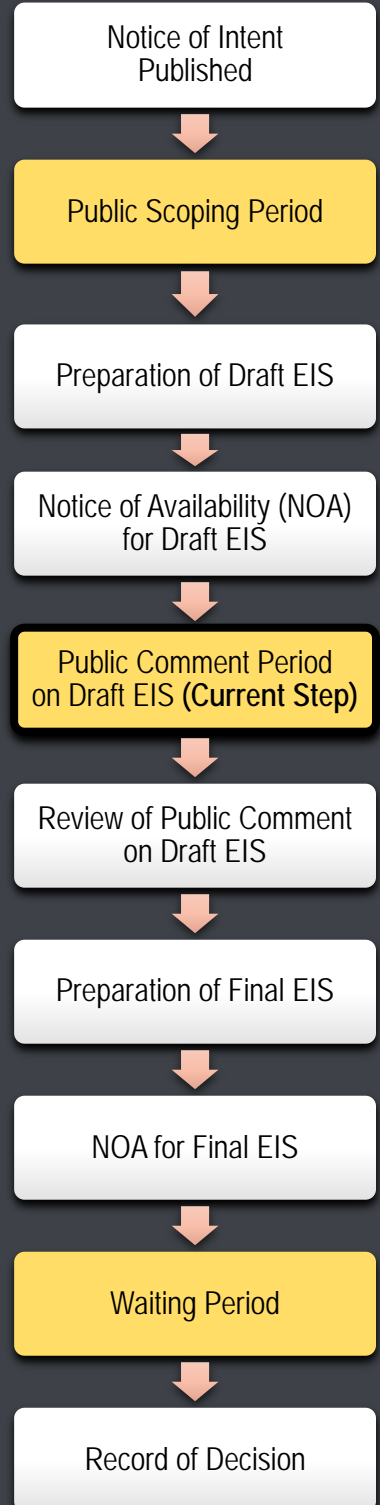
The Draft EIS is available for download on the project website at: www.KC-46A-MOB4.com and can also be reviewed at one of the following libraries:

Installation	Libraries
Fairchild AFB	Fairchild AFB Library
	Spokane Public Library
Grand Forks AFB	Grand Forks AFB Public Library
	Grand Forks Public Library
JB MDL	Burlington County Library
	Pemberton Community Library
	Ocean County Library- Manchester Branch
Travis AFB	Fairfield-Suisun Community Library
	Suisun City Library
	Mitchell Memorial Library
	Vacaville Public Library

To submit written comments, please contact:
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 Attn: KC-46A MOB 4 EIS
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To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft EIS, please submit comments by December 18, 2017!

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



 Opportunities for Public Review