

Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about Federal actions and their effects on the environment. NEPA's main objectives are as follows:

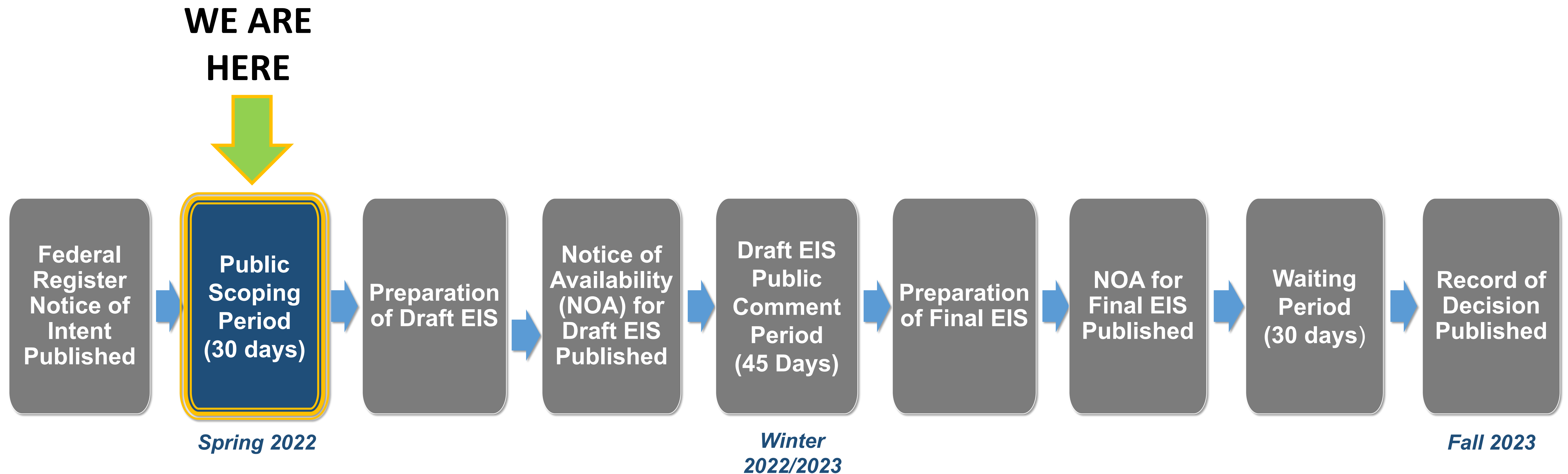
- Ensure analysis of proposed Federal programs, projects, and actions before decision making
- Inform the public of proposed Federal activities that might affect environmental quality
- Encourage and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process.

What is an EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most intensive analysis prescribed by regulations for implementing NEPA. An EIS is a detailed public document describing:

- A proposed action
- All alternative actions that were considered
- Environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.





The public is invited to participate in the scoping process for the U.S. Department of the Air Force's (DAF's) KC-46A Main Operating Base #6 (MOB 6) Beddown proposal.

See the **How To Submit Comments** poster for details.

To ensure the DAF has sufficient time to consider public input, please submit all comments within the 30-day public scoping period.

Public scoping is an early and open process, conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, for identifying issues and alternatives to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and determining who is interested in the proposed action. 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.

The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS for the KC-46A Main Operating Base #6.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING PUBLIC SCOPING?

During public scoping, the DAF:

- Provides information about the proposed action and alternatives being considered
- Corresponds with local and federal stakeholders
- Requests comments

WHAT ROLE DO I HAVE DURING PUBLIC SCOPING?

During the 30-day public scoping period, initiated by publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, the public, government agencies and interested parties are invited to:

- Identify issues and concerns and provide new information, data, and suggestions
- Request information
- Submit comments within the 30-day public scoping period to ensure sufficient time for consideration in the Draft EIS.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PUBLIC SCOPING?

After the public scoping period has ended, the DAF will incorporate public input into their proposal and develop the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is expected to be completed in Winter 2022/2023. The Draft EIS will be made available to the public for review for a minimum of 45 days. The DAF will incorporate all input received into the Final EIS anticipated in Fall 2023. A Record of Decision will be issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is released.



Background

The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) completed an Analysis of Alternatives to determine the best way to modernize their tanker fleet and concluded that a tanker derived from a commercial aircraft would result in the best value. Congressional authority funded the purchase of 179 KC-46A aircraft by 2029 to modernize the fleet, enhance operations, and increase mission effectiveness.

“Tanker aircraft” have storage for aviation fuel and are capable of transferring the fuel to other aircraft during flight. This 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.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

KC-46A Characteristics

- ✓ More refueling capacity
- ✓ Improved efficiency
- ✓ Increased capabilities for cargo and aeromedical evacuation
- ✓ World-wide navigation and communication
- ✓ Ability to refuel any fixed-wing receiver capable aircraft

- **Purpose:** Modernize the DAF aging tanker aircraft with the KC-46A model to better address future mission requirements, offer expanded capability and provide life-cycle cost savings in comparison to continued operation of existing KC-135 models.
- **Need:** Provide a fully capable, combat operational tanker force to accomplish aerial refueling and related worldwide missions.

General Description of the Proposed Action

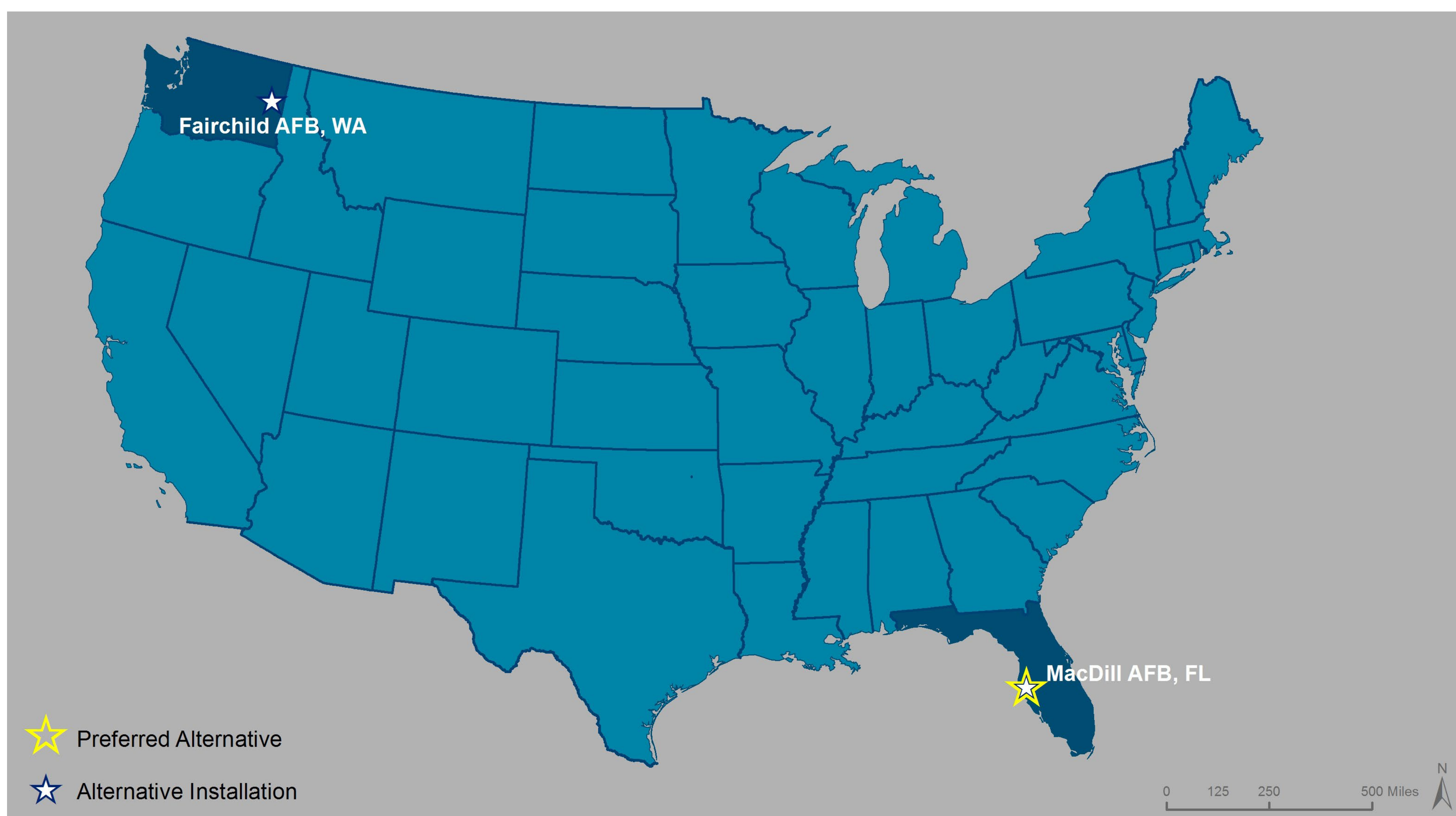
The Proposed Action is to base 24 KC-46A tanker aircraft at MacDill AFB in Florida (Preferred Alternative). This would require infrastructure, facilities, airfield operations, training activities, and personnel to support the KC-46A mission. The 24 KC-46A would replace 24 KC-135 aircraft at the selected installation when those aircraft are relocated or retired from the selected installation, and would result in an increase in overall tanker operations.



The KC-46A Pegasus performs its first-ever aerial refueling Jan. 24, 2016, passing 1,600 pounds of fuel to an F-16 Fighting Falcon. (Boeing photo/Paul Weatherman)

Alternatives Being Considered

The U.S. Department of the Air Force is considering MacDill Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida (Preferred Alternative) or Fairchild AFB in Washington State as the reasonable alternatives for the KC-46A Main Operating Base #6 (MOB 6) Beddown.



Elements of Each Alternative

- Construction/retrofit of facilities and infrastructure (includes renovation, alteration, and demolition)
- Preparation of support facilities for new personnel
- Day-to-day activities (operational missions, maintenance, etc.) at the base and airfields
- Flight operations and training within regional airspace. All operations would take place within existing airspace and additions to, or alterations of, airspace are not proposed.

The following topics will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement:

Biological Resources

- Threatened and Endangered species
- Migratory birds
- Wildlife and vegetation
- Wetlands and floodplains

Water Resources

- Water quality (surface water and stormwater)
- Groundwater aquifers

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources (prehistoric and historic)
- Historic architectural resources
- Traditional resources

Social Resources

- Land use
- Socioeconomics and environmental justice
- Health and safety

Other Considerations

- Geology and soils
- Infrastructure and utilities
- Noise
- Air quality
- Airfield management and aircraft safety
- Transportation
- Hazardous materials and waste

Comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the KC-46A Main Operation Base #6 (MOB 6) proposal may be submitted using one of the following methods:



A KC-46 Pegasus took to the skies for its first flight at Paine Field in Everett, Wa., Sept. 25, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jet Fabara)

- **Mail:** Ms. Helen Kellogg, AFCEC/CZN
Attn: KC-46A MOB 6 EIS
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853
- **Email:** Helen.Kellogg.1@us.af.mil; Subject:
KC-46A MOB 6 EIS
- **Project Website:** www.kc46amob6eis.com

To ensure the U.S. Department of the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft EIS, please submit comments within the 30-day public scoping period.

Thank you for your participation in the public scoping process for the KC-46A MOB 6 Beddown!