

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental consequences of basing and operating the KC-46A tanker aircraft and will require facility, infrastructure, and personnel to support the KC-46A Main Operating Base 5 (MOB 5) mission. The DAF is hosting public hearings in the communities potentially affected by the proposal to gather comments on the Draft EIS analysis. from interested state and federal agencies and interested members of the public.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The NEPA is our national mandate for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. When federal agencies propose projects having the potential to significantly impact the environment, NEPA requires the following process be undertaken as part of planning before final decisions are made:

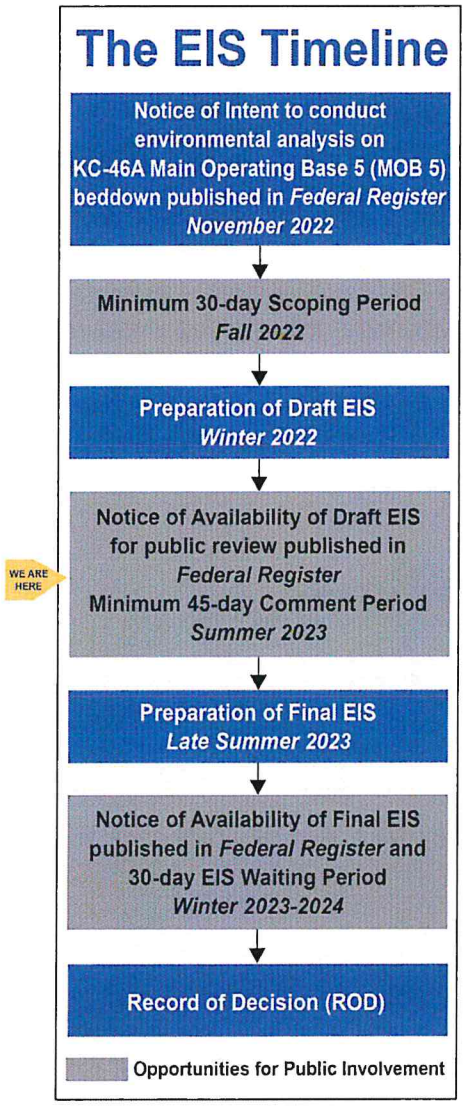
- Evaluation and consideration of potential environmental consequences for projects that may significantly impact the environment, and
- Consideration of public and government agency comments.

Where the potential for significant environmental impacts exists, this evaluation is presented in an EIS, which does the following:

- Identifies and describes the affected environment;
- Evaluates the potential environmental consequences from a range of reasonable alternatives; and
- Identifies environmental permits and specific mitigation measures that could avoid, minimize, or reduce potential environmental consequences.

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS

At this time, the DAF has distributed the Draft EIS to agencies and interested parties as well as filed it with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The notice of availability of the Draft EIS was posted in the *Federal Register* on June 30, 2023, which began the Draft EIS public review and comment period, scheduled to close on August 14, 2023. In late June, the DAF also announced the availability of the Draft EIS via the internet and in newspapers, press releases, and direct mailings to the project mailing list. When the public comment period closes, the DAF will analyze the comments, conduct further analysis as necessary, and prepare the Final EIS.



Proposed Action: KC-46A MOB 5 Beddown

The KC-46A MOB 5 beddown EIS will evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the beddown of 12 KC-46A aircraft and will require facility, infrastructure, and personnel to support the beddown at a single MOB 5 location.

The MOB 5 preferred alternative location follows:

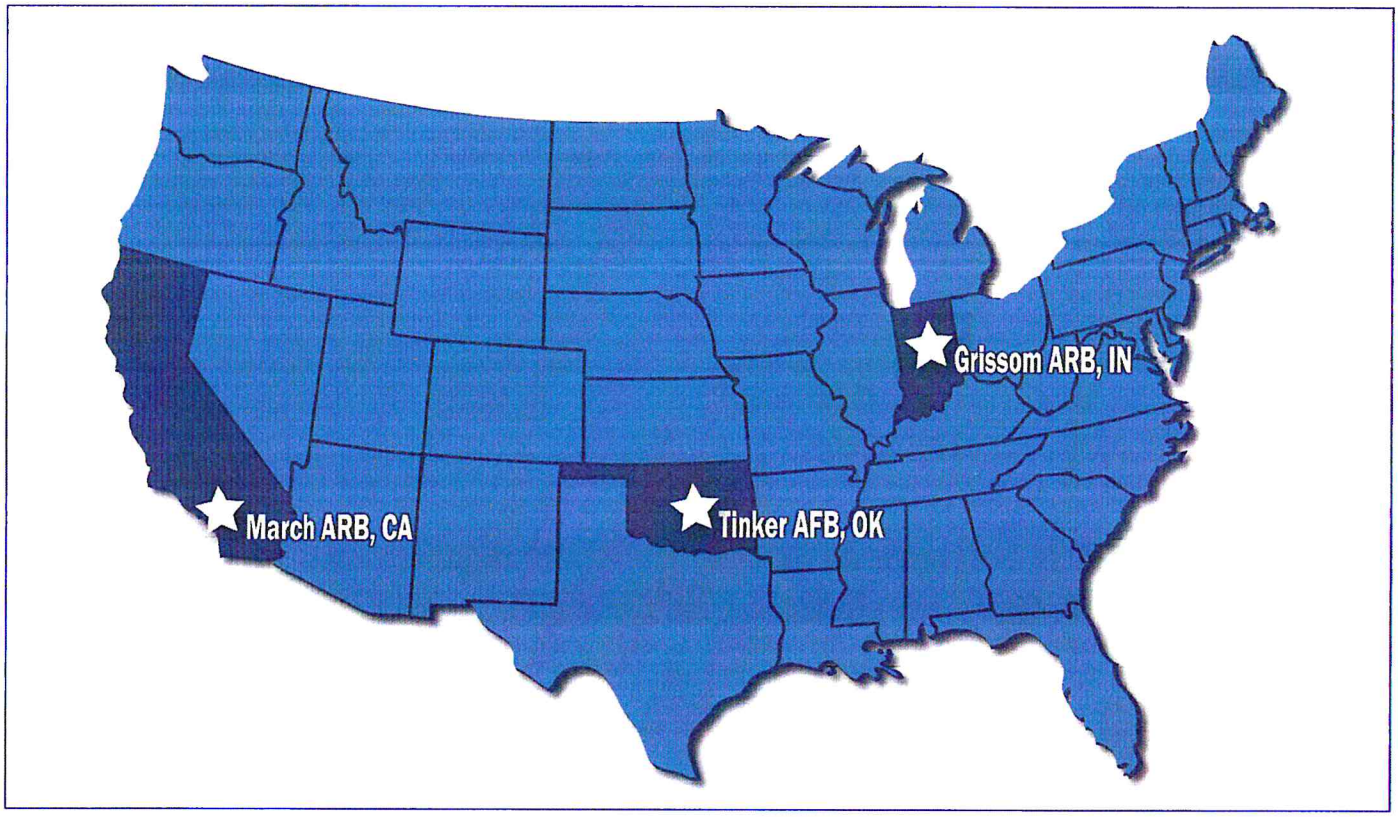
- March Air Reserve Base (ARB), California

The MOB 5 reasonable alternative locations follow:

- Grissom ARB, Indiana
- Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma

Along with the No Action Alternative, all three alternatives are evaluated equally in the EIS.

The DAF's "Preferred Alternative" is not a decision, rather it is the alternative which the DAF believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, considering economic, environmental, technical and other factors. The EIS has been objectively prepared and will not be influenced by the preference of one alternative over any of the other alternatives.



U.S. Map of MOB 5 Basing Alternative Locations

No Action Alternative

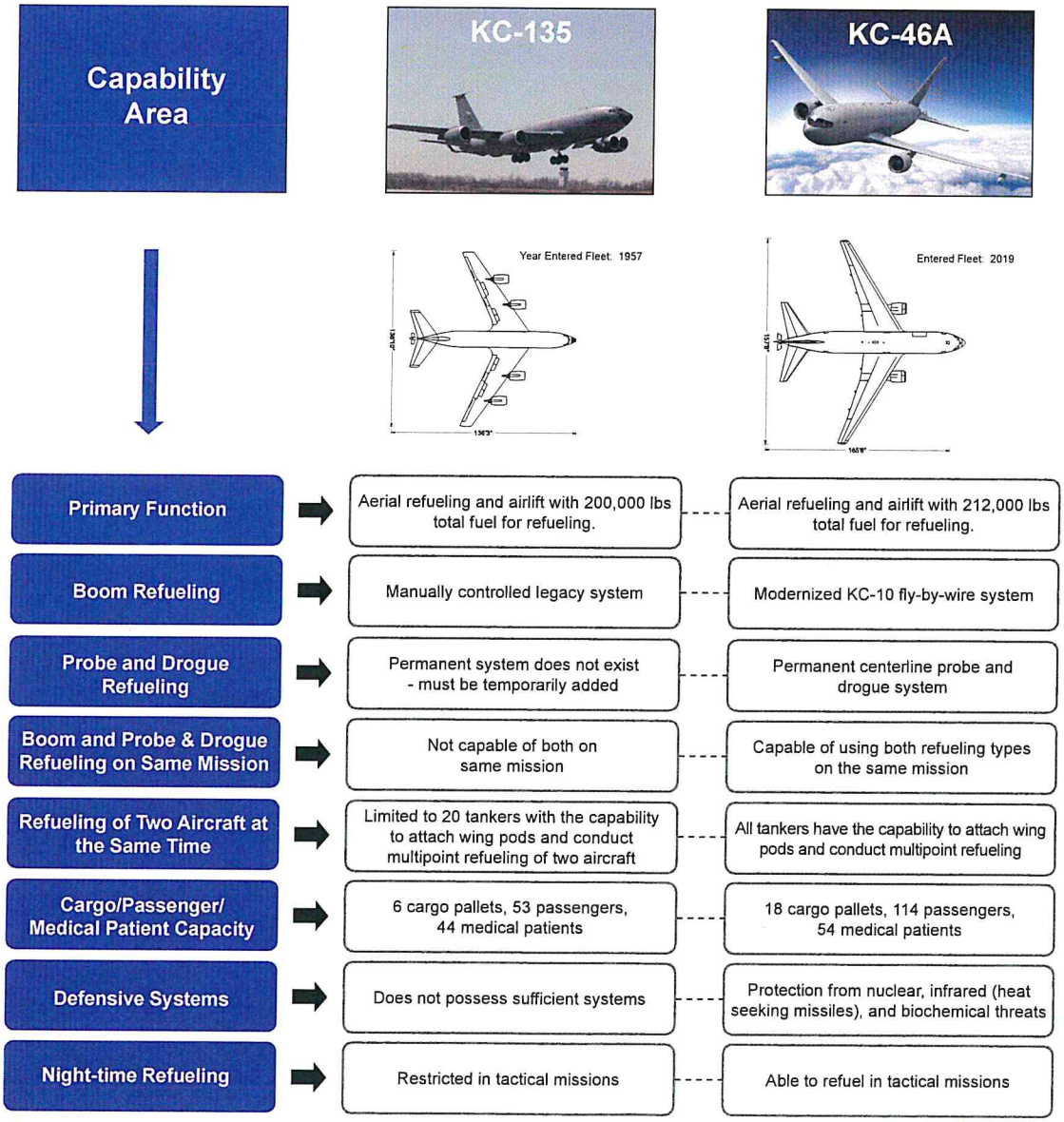
Under the No Action Alternative, beddown of the KC-46A MOB 5 mission would not occur at this time. A No Action Alternative will be evaluated at each proposed beddown location. Evaluation of the No Action Alternative provides a baseline for decision makers.

Purpose and Need: Tanker Modernization

The selected basing locations would need to accommodate training, flight operations, and maintenance support as necessary to support KC-46A pilots and operating personnel. Each KC-46A squadron requires facility, infrastructure, and personnel to support aircraft operations and pilot and personnel training.

The purpose of the KC-46A MOB 5 beddown is to provide locations for training and flight operations. The KC-46A tankers are needed to support a high-threat, multi-role warfighting capability to Commanders worldwide. Trained pilots and personnel must be available to meet necessary KC-46A scheduled inventory replenishment dates as older tanker aircraft are withdrawn from the inventory.

Comparison of KC-135 and KC-46A Aircraft Performance Capabilities



Source: GAO presentation of USAF information; © Boeing Company (KC-46A photo).

Environmental Resources

The DAF understands the potential for the KC-46A MOB 5 beddown to affect environmental resources. As part of the EIS, the DAF will analyze potential environmental consequences associated with changes made to support KC-46A operations, including changes in personnel, construction of facilities, and the inclusion of KC-46A flight operation activities. The environmental resource areas listed to the right are currently under consideration in the KC-46A MOB 5 beddown EIS.

Please take this opportunity to be involved:

- ☑ Learn about the project,
- ☑ Identify community-specific issues, and
- ☑ Make sure you are included on our mailing list.



Public Hearings

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

July 18, 2023
March ARB
March Field Air Museum
22550 Van Buren Boulevard
Riverside, CA 92518

July 20, 2023
Tinker AFB
Delta Hotels Midwest City at
the Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rodgers Road
Midwest City, OK 73110

July 25, 2023
Grissom ARB
Maconaquah High School Cafeteria
256 East 800 South
Bunker Hill, IN 46914

Environmental Resource Areas include the following:

Aircraft Operations



- Noise
- Air Quality
- Safety
  - Flight Safety
  - Ground Safety

Natural Resources



- Geology and Soils
- Surface Water and Groundwater
- Wetlands and Floodplains
- Biological Resources

Cultural Resources



- Archaeological Resources
- Architectural Resources
- Traditional Resources

Human Resources



- Land Use
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

Community Infrastructure



- Infrastructure (utilities and public services)
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Transportation

How to Submit Comments

Submit comments before *August 14, 2023,* at a public hearing or electronically at www.kc-46a-mob5.com or in writing to the following address:

KC-46A MOB 5 EIS
13397 Lakefront Drive
Suite 100
Earth City, MO 63045

Scan with Your Phone to Learn More about the KC-46A MOB 5 Beddown EIS.