

# Proposal to Beddown F-35A Wing

at Tyndall AFB



# Proposal to Beddown MQ-9 Wing

at Tyndall AFB or Vandenberg AFB



## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Welcome to the Scoping Meetings for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing two independent Air Combat Command proposed aircraft beddown actions:

- ▶ 1) the beddown of an active-duty F-35A Wing at Tyndall AFB, FL and
- ▶ 2) the beddown of an MQ-9 Remotely Piloted Aircraft Wing at either Tyndall AFB, FL or Vandenberg AFB, CA.

The United States Air Force (USAF) is conducting scoping meetings for the F-35A Wing beddown at Tyndall AB, FL and the MQ-9 Wing Beddown at either Tyndall AFB FL or Vandenberg AFB CA EIS. The USAF is preparing this EIS to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the beddowns.

### The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and This Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA is our national mandate for making informed decisions while considering environmental consequences of those decisions.

NEPA requires consideration of environmental consequences in federal agency planning and decision making. Where there are possible significant environmental impacts to the environment, NEPA requires the preparation of an EIS as part of the planning process before final decisions are made.

#### This EIS:

- ▶ Explains the **Purpose and Need** for the beddown of the F-35A and MQ-9 Wings.
- ▶ Describes the **Proposed Action and Alternatives** including **No Action**.
- ▶ Incorporates **public and agency comments**.
- ▶ Describes the **baseline or existing conditions**.
- ▶ Evaluates the potential **environmental consequences**.
- ▶ Identifies **mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce environmental impacts**.

#### Notice of Intent and Scoping

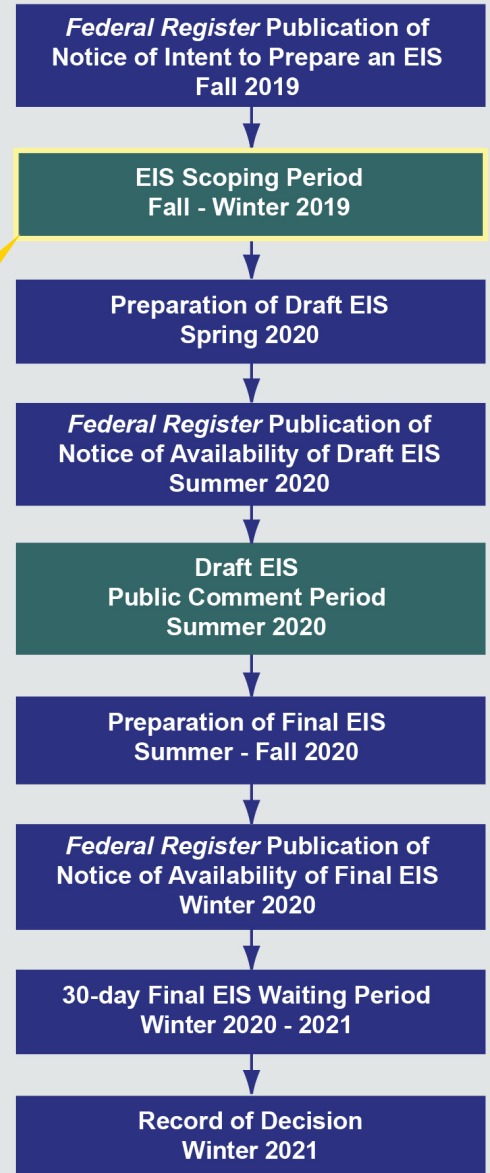
The EIS process begins with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS. The NOI provides basic information on the Proposed Action in preparation for scoping, which is an early and open process for:

- Actively bringing the public and agencies into the decision-making process
- Determining the scope of issues to be addressed
- Identifying the major issues related to a Proposed Action and alternatives

Scoping begins before any significant analysis is completed and public participation is an integral part of scoping. The purpose of soliciting public and agency comments is to identify interested parties and relevant issues so they can be considered in the EIS.

### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Timeline

- Opportunities for Public Involvement
- Where We Are Now



# Purpose and Need for the F-35A Wing Beddown at Tyndall AFB

The U. S. Air Force (USAF) proposes to beddown F-35A operational aircraft at Tyndall AFB, FL, as part of the Combat Air Forces that defend the sovereign airspace of the U.S., as well as deploy worldwide, meeting national defense requirements.

Tyndall AFB is uniquely positioned to locate the three squadron F-35A Wing due to the base's access to excellent training airspace and the base's modernization and restoration following the direct hit from Hurricane Michael on 10 October, 2018. Tyndall AFB was struck by category 5 hurricane wind speeds in excess of 156 miles per hour with the result that every facility sustained from some damage to total destruction. The Air Force temporarily relocated the Tyndall-based F-22 fighter aircraft to Eglin AFB, and has proposed to permanently relocate them to Joint Base Langley-Eustis. The potential reassignment of the F-22 missions from Tyndall AFB, combined with the multi-year restoration of the base, allows the Air Force to optimize its 5th generation fighter fleets.

## Purpose

The purpose of the beddown is to locate an F-35A Operational Wing at Tyndall AFB with: (1) the ability to ensure mission readiness for F-35A aircrews and maintainers, (2) consistent access to airspace with ample dimensions that would permit active-duty aircrews to train to ensure proficiency with all the F-35A expanded capabilities, and (3) available area to beddown three squadrons and to construct facilities required for the F-35A Wing.

## Need

The USAF recognizes a need to optimize its fifth-generation operational fighter fleets to ensure they have adequate training ranges, facilities, and airspace necessary to effectively produce qualified combat pilots. The USAF needs to beddown the F-35A at existing locations providing ready access to existing airspace suitable for the F-35A and offering compatible base infrastructure in order for the Combat Air Forces to organize, train, equip, and support F-35A aircraft to meet a full range of military operations.



The F-35A is optimized to be a multi-role fighter, with the ability to perform air-to-air; air-to-ground; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions

### F-35A characteristics are:

- ▶ **Wingspan:** 35 feet (10.7 meters)
- ▶ **Length:** 51 feet (15.7 meters)
- ▶ **Height:** 14 feet (4.38 meters)
- ▶ **Maximum takeoff weight:** 70,000 pound class
- ▶ **Engine thrust:** 43,000 pounds
- ▶ **Maximum speed:** over Mach 1.6
- ▶ **Mission Duration:** approximately 2 hours
- ▶ **Ceiling:** Above 50,000 feet (15,240 meters).
- ▶ **Crew (remote):** one

# F-35A Wing at Tyndall AFB

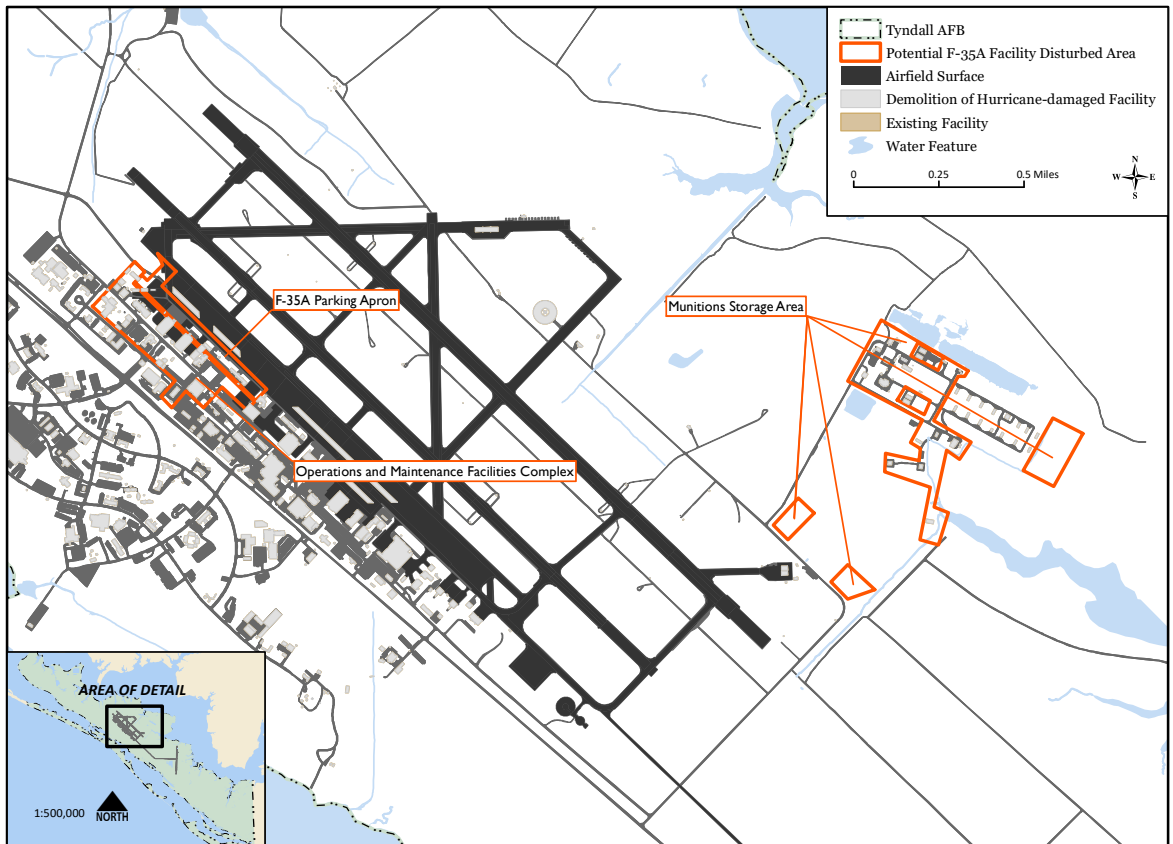
## Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action is to beddown three F-35A Operational Squadrons each with 24 Primary Aerospace Vehicles Authorized and two Backup Aircraft Inventory F-35A aircraft at Tyndall AFB. F-35A aircraft operations and maintenance would be located in the "fighter campus" area of the Tyndall AFB flight line district. A mixture

of restored facilities and new construction on Tyndall AFB would support the three-squadron F-35A Wing. An Alternative is to add a fourth squadron of 5th generation fighter aircraft at Tyndall AFB. The No Action Alternative would consist of not bedding down F-35A aircraft at Tyndall AFB.

### Proposed F-35A Wing Facilities

- ▶ 3 Operations/Maintenance Hangars
- ▶ F-35 Parking Apron
- ▶ F-35 Maintenance Squadron Complex
- ▶ F-35 AGE Facility
- ▶ F-35 Munitions Storage
- ▶ Weapons Load Training Hangar
- ▶ F-35 Flight Simulator Facility
- ▶ Aircraft Maintenance Fuel Cell Hangar
- ▶ Aircraft Wash Rack



## An Alternative: Beddown of a Fourth Squadron of 5th Generation Fighter Aircraft at Tyndall AFB

The Proposed Action is to beddown a three squadron F-35A Wing. An alternative is to beddown a fourth squadron with an additional 24 5th generation fighter aircraft at Tyndall AFB. For this EIS, the four-squadron alternative is assumed to have 96 Primary and 8 Backup F 35A aircraft. Flight line facilities to support the four-squadron alternative operations

and maintenance would be consolidated in the same facilities built for a three-squadron alternative, but would require construction of one additional hangar. Airfield operations, personnel, and airspace and range use associated with a fourth squadron would be comparable to one of the three squadrons in the Proposed Action.



# F-35A Proposed Airspace and Range Training Areas at Tyndall AFB

The Proposed F-35A training areas are the existing Tyndall Military Operations Areas and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace north and east of the base and the overwater warning areas W-151 and W-470.

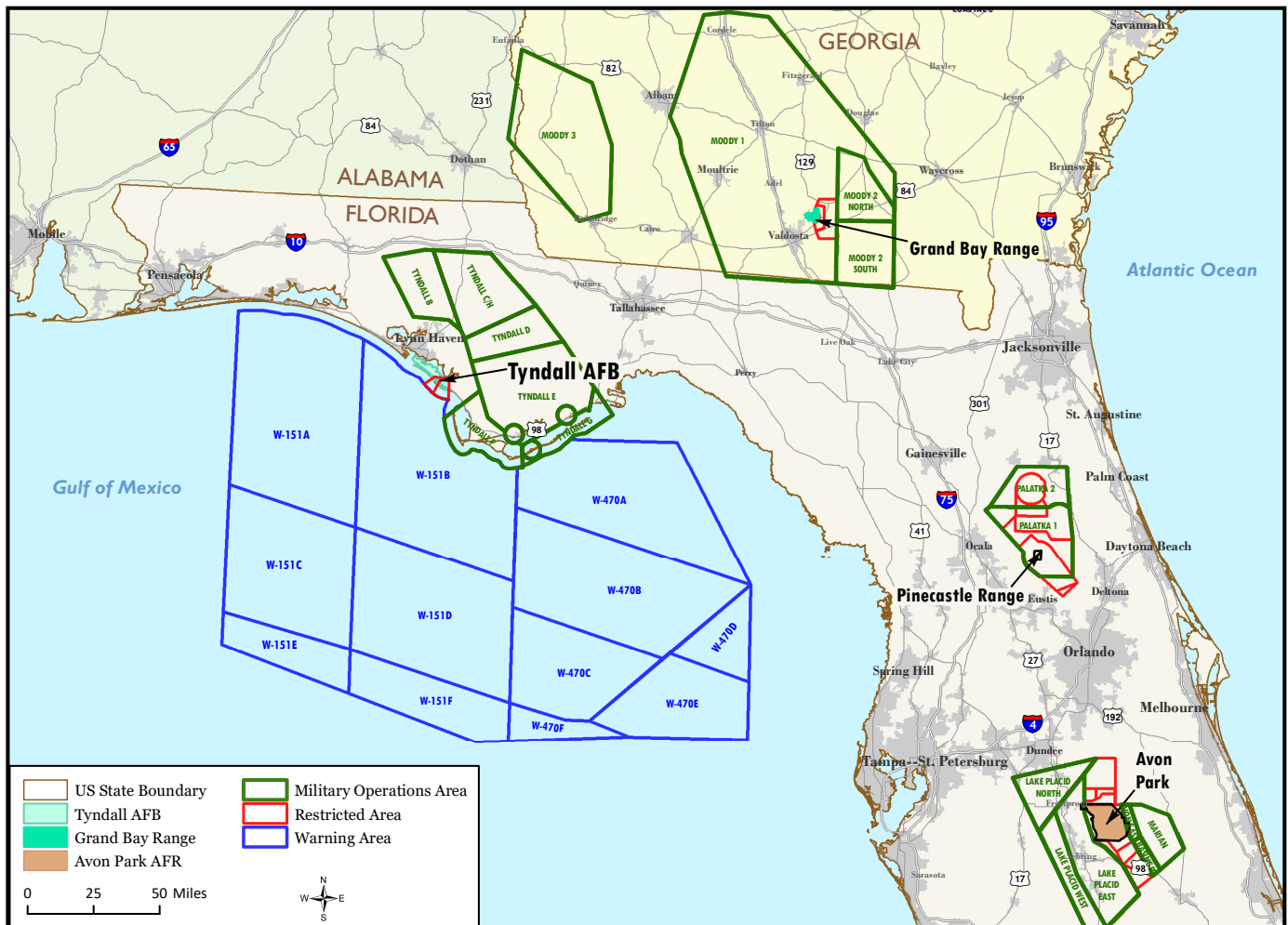
Tyndall AFB-based F-35A fighters would deploy inert munitions at the Avon Park Range, FL, the Grand Bay Range, GA, and the Pinecastle Range, FL.



## F-35A Training

### 72 F-35A Aircraft

Annual 1.5 hour Sorties	11,369
Nighttime Sorties	114
Sorties Deploying Inert Munitions at Ranges	100 deploying 200 inert munitions



# Purpose and Need for the MQ-9 Wing Beddown

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) proposes to locate, or beddown, an MQ-9 Remotely Piloted Aircraft Wing at an active duty USAF base in the continental United States. The beddown would:

- ▶ achieve multiple MQ-9 operational requirements with diversified locations and training opportunities
- ▶ address the objectives identified in Air Combat Command's Culture Process Improvement Program to improve the work environment and the overall quality of life for Airmen and family members

The USAF applied the operational requirements and the Culture Process Improvement Program objectives and identified two alternative bases for the MQ-9 Wing beddown:

- (1) Tyndall AFB in Florida and
- (2) Vandenberg AFB in California.

## Purpose

The purpose of the beddown would be to fulfill the MQ-9 Wing operational requirements while enhancing recruiting for and developing and retaining high quality Airmen, enabling the development of successful leaders, and eliminating obstacles to mission accomplishment. The beddown location would take care of our Airmen while ensuring MQ-9 operational personnel have the capability to accomplish primary functions associated with operating and maintaining an MQ-9 Wing.

## Need

The USAF needs to address MQ-9 operational requirements by providing diversity of operations by not having all of the MQ-9 assets at one location, training in varied airspace and ranges, as well as over water, and by increasing leadership opportunities. The need for the Proposed Action was also identified in the Culture Process Improvement Program, which identified needed improvements in the work environment, retention, readiness, and overall quality of life to prevent the strategic collapse of the USAF Remotely Piloted Aircraft enterprise and enhance and grow opportunities for Airmen and their families.

## MQ-9 Reaper



The MQ-9 Reaper is a remotely piloted aircraft designed to identify and track time-sensitive targets with persistence and precision and to destroy or disable those targets. The MQ-9 is similar in length and height to a Cessna 208 Caravan single-engine turboprop, The MQ-9 is thinner and has a longer wingspan than the Cessna.

### MQ-9 characteristics are:

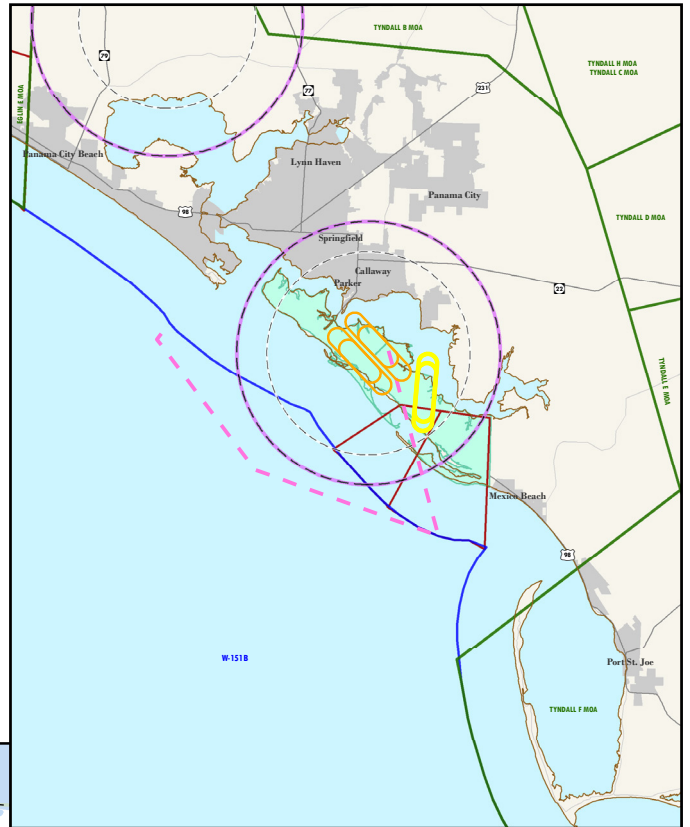
- ▶ **Wingspan:** 66 feet (20.1 meters)
- ▶ **Length:** 36 feet (11 meters)
- ▶ **Height:** 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)
- ▶ **Weight:** 4,900 pounds (2,223 kilograms) empty
- ▶ **Maximum takeoff weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,760 kilograms)
- ▶ **Mission Duration:** approximately 12 hours
- ▶ **Ceiling:** Up to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)
- ▶ **Crew (remote):** two (pilot and sensor operator)

# Proposed MQ-9 Facilities and Airfield Operations at Tyndall AFB

## Overview of Tyndall AFB, Bay County, Florida

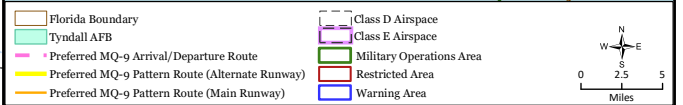
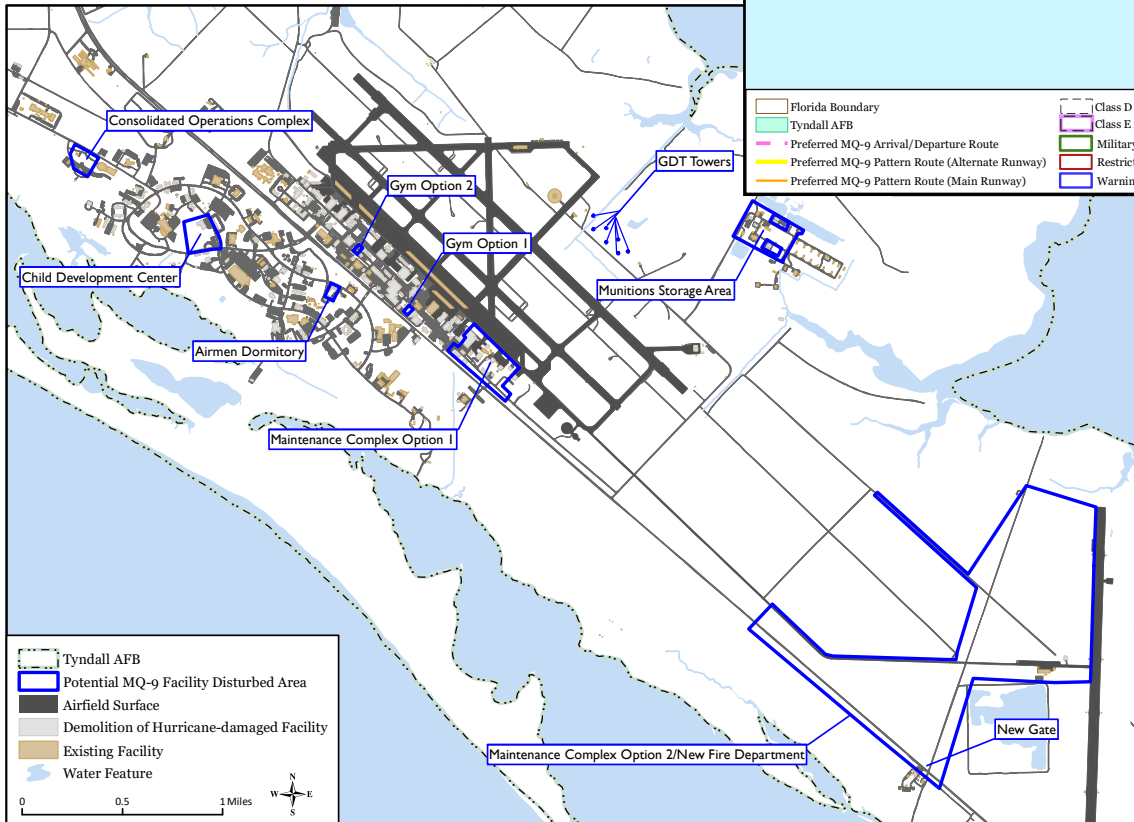
- ▶ 29,000 acres in Bay County, Florida.
- ▶ 18 miles east-west by 3 miles north-south.
- ▶ Divided into the cantonment area south of U.S. Highway 98 and the flight operational area primarily north of the highway.
- ▶ Two parallel 10,000 foot main runways and one 7,000 foot drone runway.
- ▶ 325th Fighter Wing provides F-22 maintenance, and support personnel and includes the QF-16s of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group.
- ▶ Several additional units are located at Tyndall AFB, including the First Air Force 601st Air Operations Center.

## Proposed MQ-9 Airfield Operations at Tyndall AFB



## Proposed MQ-9 Facilities at Tyndall AFB

- ▶ Operations Complex
- ▶ Maintenance Complex (Option 1)
- ▶ Maintenance Complex (Option 2)
- ▶ Child Development Center (CDC)
- ▶ Airmen Dormitory
- ▶ Fitness Center/Gym
- ▶ New Base Entry Control Gate
- ▶ Pavements, Infrastructure and Communication Conduit Extensions
- ▶ Munitions Storage



# MQ-9 Proposed Airspace and Range Training Areas at Tyndall AFB

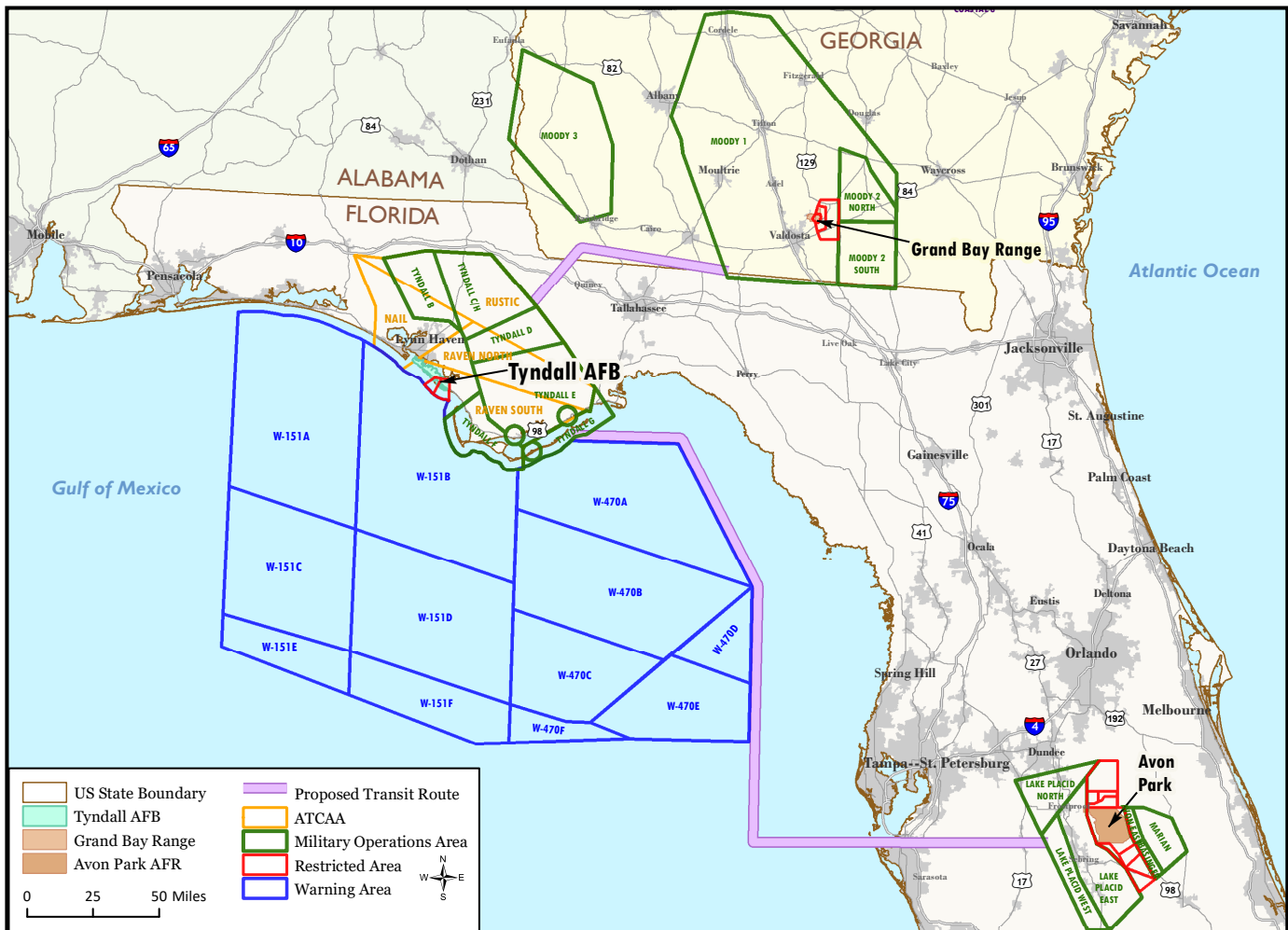
The Proposed MQ-9 training areas are the existing Tyndall Military Operations Areas and associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace north and east of the base and the overwater warning areas W-151 and W-470.

The Tyndall AFB MQ-9 alternative includes corridors (with FAA-issued Certificate of Authorization) for the MQ-9 training aircraft to transit from Tyndall AFB to training airspaces and ranges. Tyndall AFB-based MQ-9 aircraft would deploy inert munitions at the Avon Park Range, FL, and the Grand Bay Range, GA.



## MQ-9 Training

24 MQ-9 Aircraft	
Annual 12-hour Sorties	Up to 2,820
Partially During Nighttime	Up to 2,200 of 2,820
Airfield Pattern Work	4 Hours/day
Sorties Deploying Inert Munitions at Ranges	200 deploying 400 inert munitions





# Analysis of Environmental Consequences

## The Environmental Resource Areas Under Consideration for Each Alternative Include:

- ▶ Airspace Management and Air Traffic Control
- ▶ Acoustic Environment (Noise)
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Water Resources/Wetlands
- ▶ Geology/Soils
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources (Including Native American Concerns)
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Hazardous Materials and Waste Management
- ▶ Infrastructure and Traffic
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Environmental Justice

### Proposed F-35A Wing at Tyndall AFB



**F-35A Wing** project elements that have the potential to result in environmental consequences include:

**Construction:** New facilities will be needed.

**Base Personnel:** Approximately 1,856 USAF new personnel plus 64 contractor personnel would be needed for the mission. An estimated 2,507 dependents, including 921 school-aged children would accompany USAF personnel.

**Training:** Airfield flight operations and training in existing regional military airspace and ranges, including off-shore warning areas.

### Proposed MQ-9 Wing at Either Tyndall AFB or Vandenberg AFB



**MQ-9 Wing** project elements that have the potential to result in environmental consequences include:

**Construction:** New facilities will be needed.

**Base Personnel:** Approximately 1,900 USAF new personnel would be needed for the mission. An estimated 2,600 dependents, including 950 school-aged children, would accompany USAF personnel.

**Training:** Airfield flight operations and training in existing regional military airspace and ranges, including off-shore warning areas.

## Public Scoping Comment Period

Submit comments at the public scoping meetings, or by mail before November 28, 2018 to:

(U.S. Post Office) - F-35A/MQ-9 EIS Project Manager, AFCEC/CZN, 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155, JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

(FedEx & UPS Deliveries) - F-35A/MQ-9 EIS Project Manager, AFCEC/CZN, 3515 S General McMullen, Suite 155, San Antonio, TX 78226-2018  
or through our website: [www.F-35WingandMQ-9WingEIS.com](http://www.F-35WingandMQ-9WingEIS.com)