



SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR

# Expansion of the Foreign Military Sales F-35 Pilot Training Center

at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas



Public Hearing Presentation  
for the

Expansion of the Foreign Military Sales F-35 Pilot Training  
Center at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

September 2025

# WELCOME!

Thank you for attending tonight's Public Hearing for the Expansion of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) F-35 Pilot Training Center (PTC) at Ebbing Air National Guard (ANG) Base, Arkansas Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

- Hearing Schedule:
  - Virtual Hearing
    - Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025
    - Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. CST
  - In-Person Hearing
    - Location: Fort Smith, AR
    - Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025
    - Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. CST
- The same content will be presented at each hearing.
- Refer to the project website for more information: <https://www.fmsptceis.com/>

# Public Hearing Agenda

This hearing will be  
conducted in 3 parts.

- Part 1: Video Presentation
  - Provides background information from the F-35 Joint Program Office
  - Summarizes the SEIS Proposed Action and Alternatives
  - Describes the environmental consequences for select resources
  - Explains the Draft SEIS review process
- Part 2: Informal Q&A Session
- Part 3: Verbal Comments
  - Substantive comments help the Air Force make an informed decision
  - Public and stakeholder input will be recorded, and substantive issues will be addressed in the Final SEIS

# PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Present information regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed expansion of the foreign military sales (FMS) F-35 pilot training center (PTC) at Ebbing Air National Guard (ANG) Base.
- Receive public comments on the Draft SEIS.
- The Draft SEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

# The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

## What is NEPA?

- NEPA is a federal law that requires federal agencies to identify and consider the environmental consequences of implementing proposals.
- Requires federal agencies to follow a rigorous process prior to making a final decision on a proposal, including consideration of comments.
- The analysis of environmental consequences is presented in an EIS, which accomplishes the following objectives:
  - Identifies and describes the affected environment.
  - Evaluates potential effects from the proposed alternatives.
  - Identifies permits or proposed mitigations that would avoid, minimize, or reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects.
- The NEPA process concludes with a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies which alternative is selected and outlines any mitigation measures that will be implemented.

## What is a Supplemental EIS?

- Federal agencies are required to prepare a supplement to an EIS if one of the following two conditions are met:
  - The agency makes substantial changes to the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns, or
  - There are substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of adverse effects.
- When this occurs, the agency must prepare and publish a supplement to an EIS, known as a Supplemental EIS or SEIS.
- The agency generally follows the same NEPA process including:
  - Publication of a Draft SEIS for public comment.
  - Preparation of a Final SEIS.
  - Signing a ROD.

Note that scoping is not required for a SEIS.

# Background of the Proposed Action

## Why is the Air Force Preparing a SEIS?

- In 2023, the Air Force completed an EIS for the *Beddown of a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Pilot Training Center (PTC) at Ebbing Air National Guard (ANG) Base, Arkansas or Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan* (2023 FMS PTC EIS).
- On March 11, 2023, the Air Force signed a ROD selecting Ebbing ANG Base as the location to establish the FMS F-35 PTC, which included:
  - Beddown of 24 F-35 aircraft
  - Relocation of 12 F-16 aircraft from Luke Air Force Base
  - Various infrastructure projects
  - Additional personnel
- After the Air Force signed the ROD, FMS nation customers purchased additional F-35 aircraft and developed new training requirements.
  - The Air Force must expand the scope of the FMS PTC beddown at Ebbing ANG Base to accommodate the additional F-35 aircraft.
  - The changes from the 2023 FMS PTC EIS and ROD are substantial enough to require the Air Force to prepare a SEIS.

# WHAT IS THE SEIS PROPOSED ACTION?

- Beddown 12 additional F-35 aircraft at Ebbing ANG Base
- Refine F-35 training operations at the airfield and in the airspace
  - Include short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) operations for F-35B aircraft
  - Update flight paths and operations to meet current training needs
- Construct new facilities at Ebbing ANG Base and Fort Smith Regional Airport
- Increase personnel to support the additional aircraft



# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SEIS PROPOSED ACTION?

- The **purpose** of the SEIS Proposed Action is the same as the 2023 FMS PTC EIS:
  - Establish a permanent FMS PTC at a single location within the Continental United States to provide consolidated FMS F-35 pilot training for our FMS nation customers.

# WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THE SEIS PROPOSED ACTION?

- The **need** for the SEIS Proposed Action is based on the additional purchases of FMS aircraft by our nation customers.
- The Air Force needs additional F-35 capacity at Ebbing ANG Base to expand beyond the limits authorized in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS and ROD to meet nation customer agreements and training requirements.

# COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
  - Ebbing ANG Base is a tenant at Fort Smith Regional Airport.
  - Since the Proposed Action involves construction of infrastructure on property that is leased to Ebbing ANG Base by the airport, FAA must review and approve an updated Airport Layout Plan before the Air Force can implement the Proposed Action.
  - Therefore, the FAA has jurisdiction by law and special expertise related to the SEIS Proposed Action at Fort Smith Regional Airport.

# COOPERATING AGENCIES (continued)

- U. S. Forest Service (USFS)
  - USFS manages several areas under the training airspace including national forests, Wilderness Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.
  - They have specialized expertise on these resources related to the airspace component of the Proposed Action.
  - As a result, the USFS has contributed to the environmental effects analysis presented in the Draft SEIS and will continue to provide their input throughout the process.

# Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Air Force evaluated three alternatives in the Draft SEIS

- NEPA requires federal agencies to develop and identify reasonable alternatives to a proposed action, including those assessed in a SEIS.
- Alternatives evaluated in the Draft SEIS include:
  - Proposed Action
  - Alternative 1
  - No Action Alternative

# PROPOSED ACTION

- Beddown 12 additional F-35 aircraft at Ebbing ANG Base
  - Operate from Fort Smith Regional Airport airfield
  - Utilize existing designated special use airspace
- Add personnel at Ebbing ANG Base
- Construct new facilities on Ebbing ANG Base and Fort Smith Regional Airport

## **PROPOSED ACTION:** **Aircraft Operations**

### *Airfield Operations and Airspace Events*

- Airfield operations would increase by 8% compared to the 2023 FMS PTC EIS.
  - Incorporates STOVL operations for F-35B aircraft
  - Refines F-35A operations based on updated training needs
- Airspace events would increase by 13% compared to the 2023 FMS PTC EIS.
- Nighttime operations and events would decrease by 9% at the airfield and by 23% in the airspace.

## Airspace and Ranges

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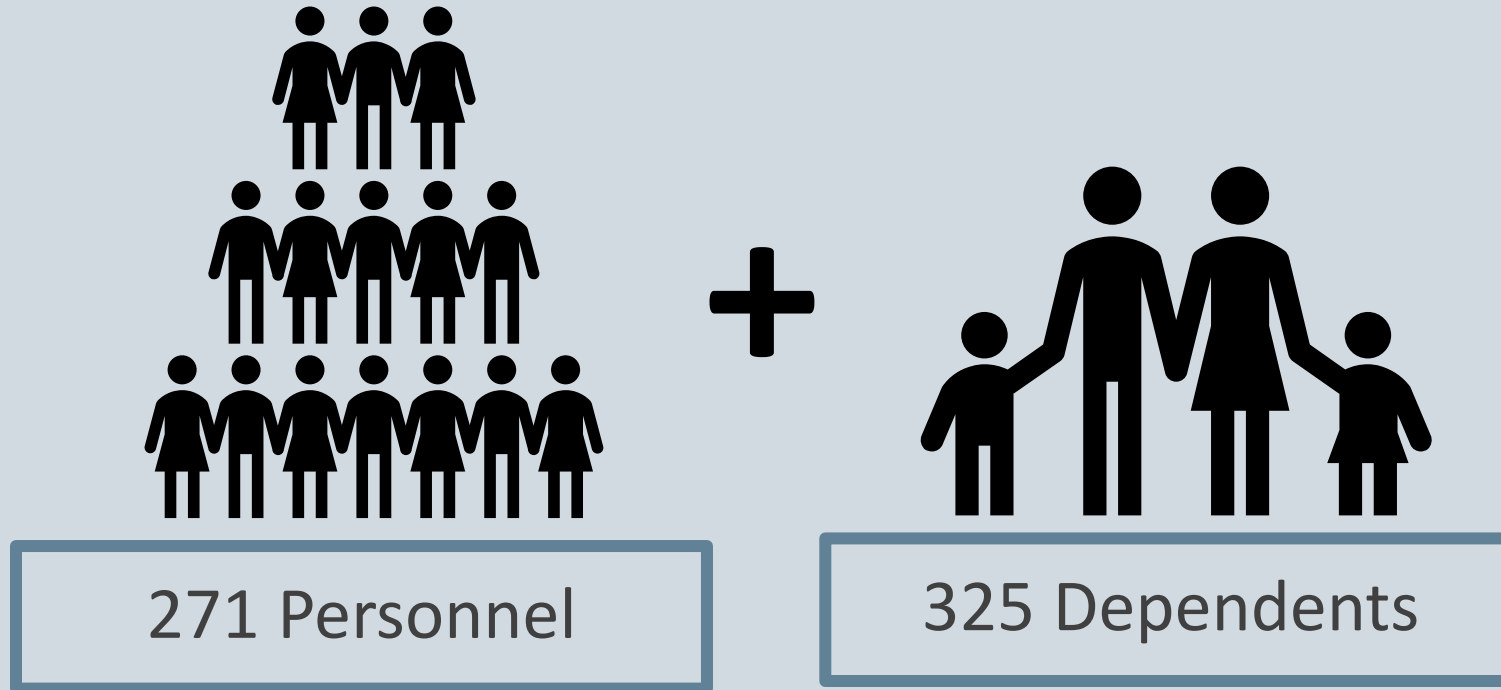


## **PROPOSED ACTION:** **Aircraft Operations**

### *Munitions and Countermeasure Use*

- Munitions and countermeasure use would be conducted in the same authorized ranges and airspace included in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS.
  - Use of live and inert munitions would increase at Fort Polk, Louisiana and Razorback Range.
  - Countermeasure use (i.e., chaff and flares) in authorized airspace would also increase.
- The Air Force would continue to follow restrictions and guidelines in areas approved for munitions and countermeasure use activities.

The Proposed Action would add



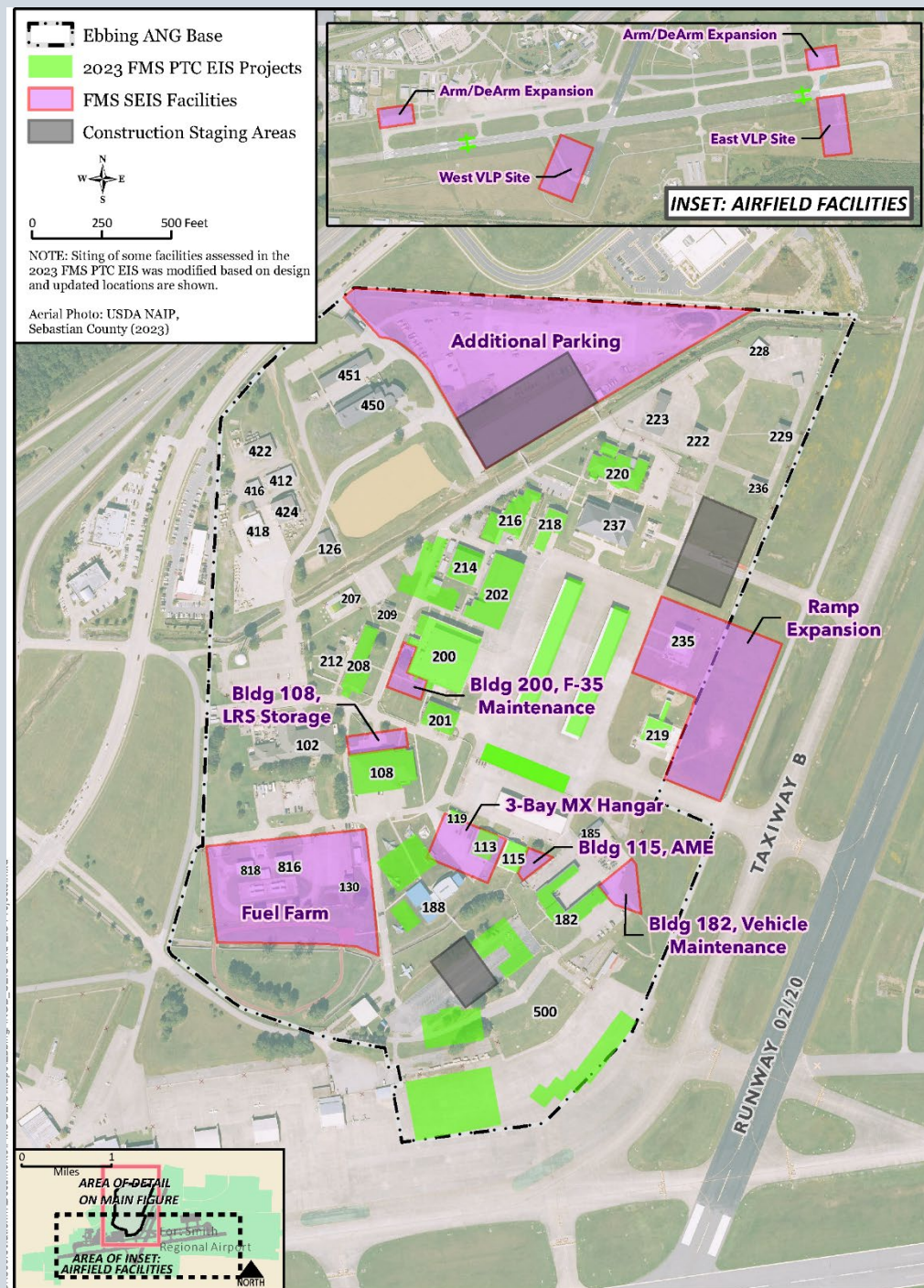
= 596 Total Persons

31% increase in total persons compared to what was authorized in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS ROD

**PROPOSED ACTION:**  
**Personnel**

# New Facilities at Ebbing ANG Base and Fort Smith Regional Airport Under the SEIS Proposed Action

All FMS PTC Facilities at Ebbing ANG Base and Fort Smith Regional Airport



## PROPOSED ACTION: Facility Requirements

# PROPOSED ACTION: VLP Site Subalternatives

- To support F-35B STOVL operations, the Air Force would construct one 220-foot by 220-foot vertical landing pad (VLP), with a 100-foot by 700-foot taxiway within the Fort Smith Regional Airport airfield.
- The Proposed Action includes two subalternatives:
  - The West VLP Site Subalternative
  - The East VLP Site Subalternative





# ALTERNATIVE 1

- The Air Force would not beddown the 12 additional F-35 aircraft at Ebbing ANG Base.
- Operations would be modified for the 24 F-35 aircraft already authorized by the 2023 FMS PTC EIS and ROD to satisfy new requirements and refined operational procedures for F-35A and F-35B aircraft, including:
  - STOVL operations for F-35B aircraft
  - Revised flight tracks and profiles based on an updated training syllabus
  - Afterburner would be used on 95% of F-35 departures
  - No reduced-power departures
- No changes in personnel at Ebbing ANG Base from the 2023 FMS PTC EIS ROD.
- No new facilities would be constructed, except for the VLP to support F-35B STOVL operations.
  - West VLP Site and East VLP Site Subalternatives described under the Proposed Action are also included for Alternative 1

# NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

- The Air Force would not expand the FMS PTC mission at Ebbing ANG Base.
- The Air Force would continue to implement the 2023 FMS PTC ROD signed on March 11, 2023.
- The No Action Alternative serves as a baseline against which the effects of the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 are compared in this SEIS.
- If the No Action Alternative were selected
  - A new basing action would be needed to determine another location for the additional F-35 aircraft, which does not meet the underlying purpose and need.
  - The Air Force would conduct additional NEPA analysis.
- The No Action Alternative would not meet national security agreements with FMS nation customers.

➤ Noise

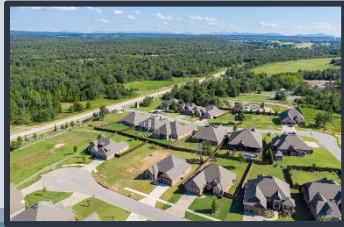
➤ Land Use

➤ Socioeconomics

➤ Physical Resources

➤ Cultural Resources

➤ Biological Resources



**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ANALYZED**

# NOISE EFFECTS

## LAND AREA AFFECTED

### ➤ Proposed Action:

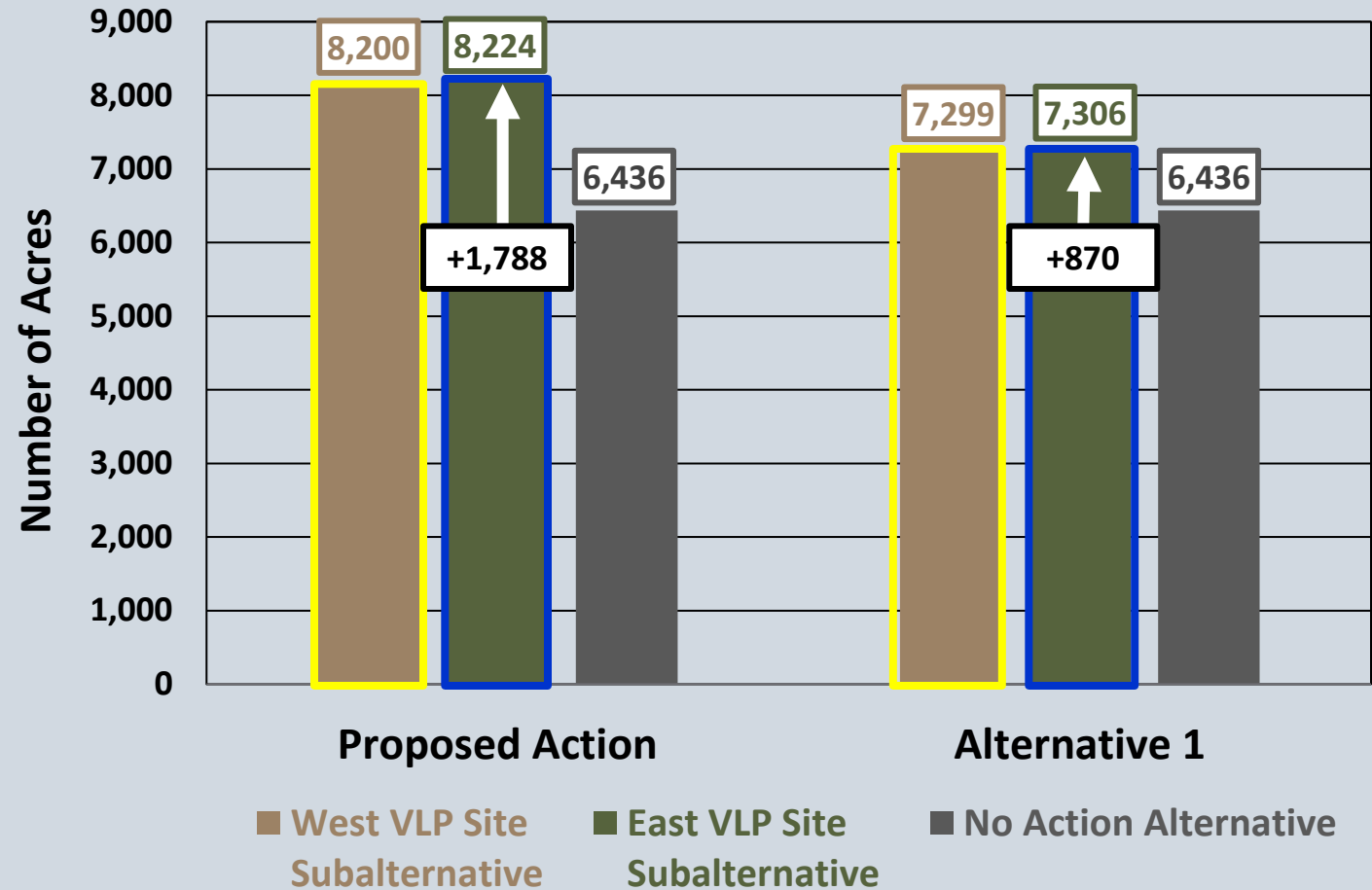
- Up to 8,224 acres of land would be affected by noise levels > DNL 65 dBA
- Increase of 1,788 acres (28%) over the No Action Alternative.

### ➤ Alternative 1:

- Up to 7,306 acres of land would be exposed to noise > DNL 65 dBA
- Increase of up to 870 acres (14%) over the No Action Alternative.

- There is a very minor difference in the acres exposed to DNL 65 dBA between the East VLP Site and West VLP Site Subalternatives.

Off-Base/Airport Acres Exposed to Noise Levels  
Greater than DNL 65 dBA



Note: The West and East VLP Site Subalternative results include all airfield operations.

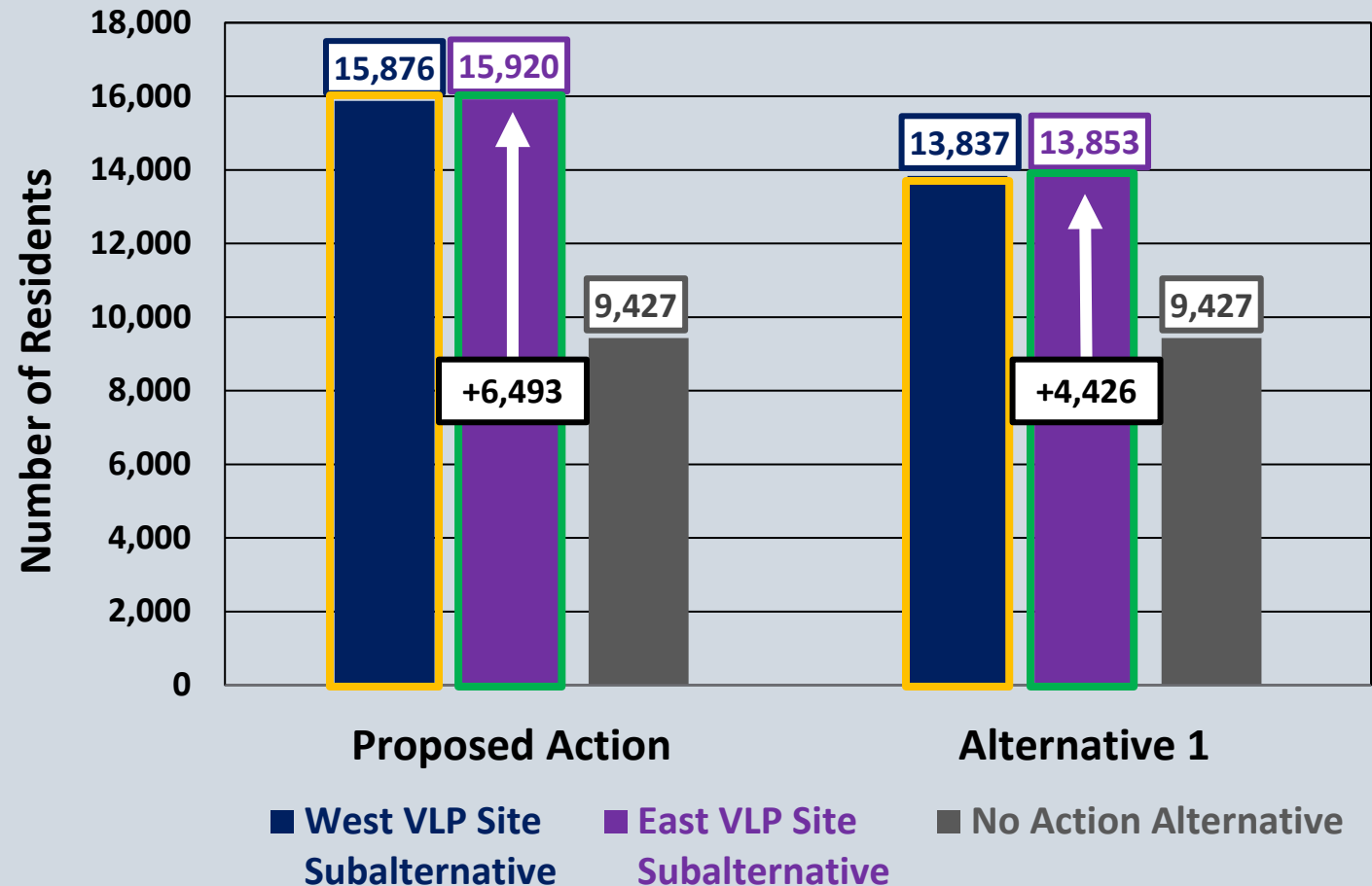


# NOISE EFFECTS

## PERSONS AFFECTED

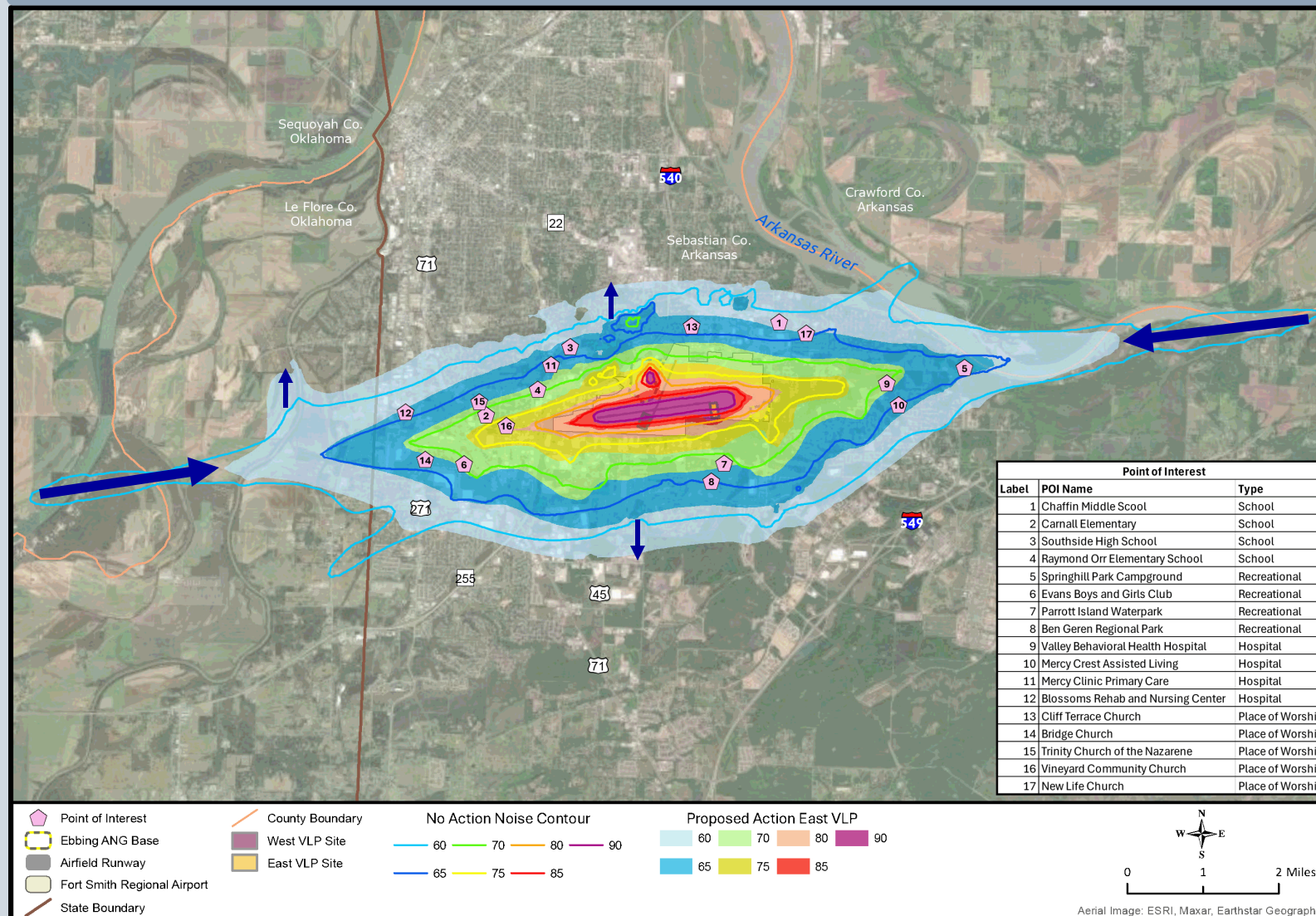
- **Proposed Action:**
  - Up to 15,920 residents would be exposed by noise levels > DNL 65 dBA
  - Increase of up to 6,493 persons (69%) over the No Action Alternative.
- **Alternative 1:**
  - Up to 13,853 residents would be exposed to noise > DNL 65 dBA
  - Increase of up to 4,426 persons (47%) over the No Action Alternative.
- The difference in residents exposed to noise between the West VLP Site and the East VLP Site Subalternatives is marginal.

Residents Exposed to Noise Levels Greater than DNL 65 dBA



Note: The West and East VLP Site Subalternative results include all airfield operations.

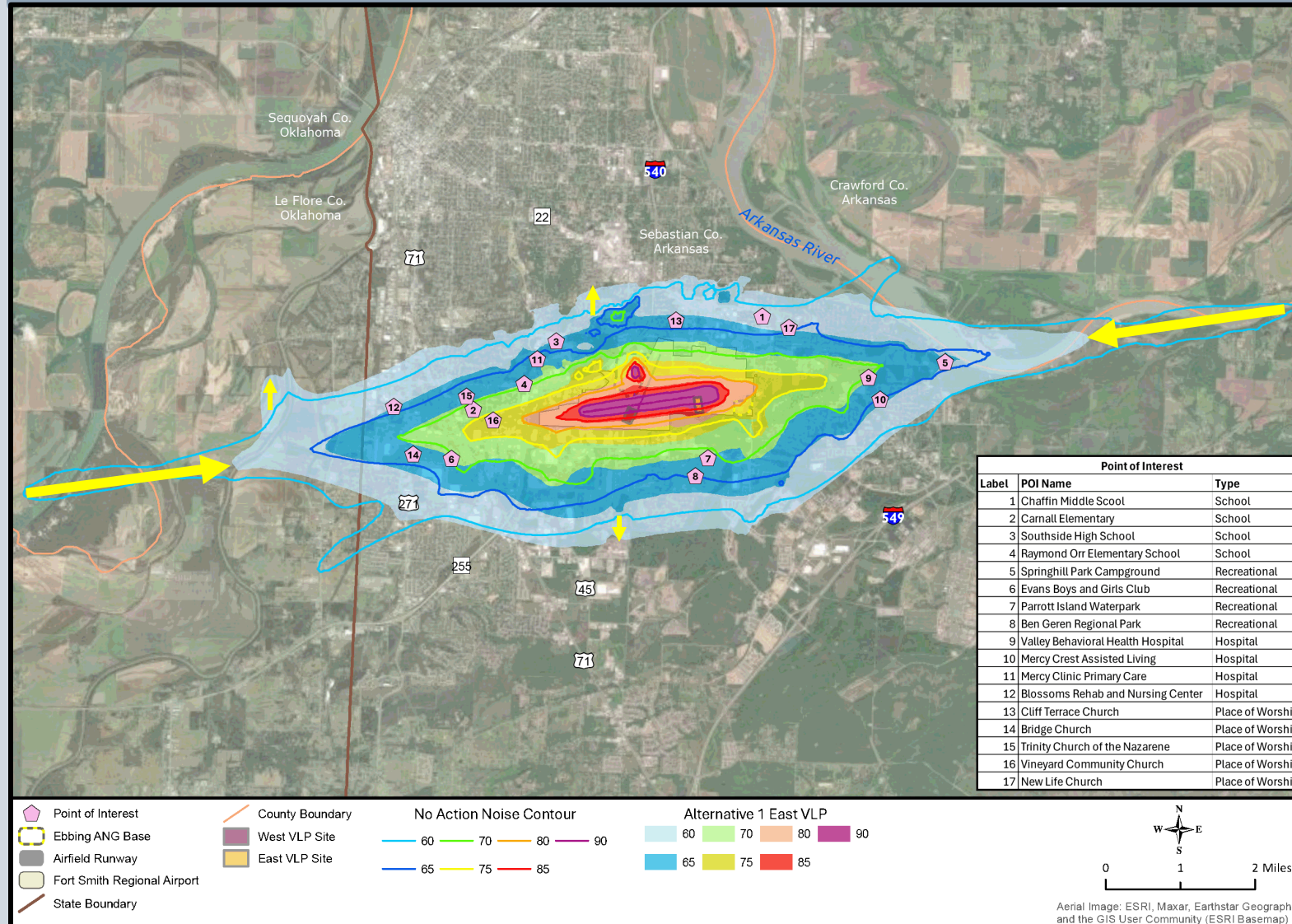
# PROPOSED ACTION NOISE CONTOURS



- Noise exposure would be reduced in areas to the east and west.
- Noise exposure would slightly extend to the north and south.
- Changes in noise contours are from
  - Additional F-35 aircraft
  - 8% increase in airfield operations
  - Incorporating F-35B STOVL operations
  - Revised flight tracks for updated training requirements



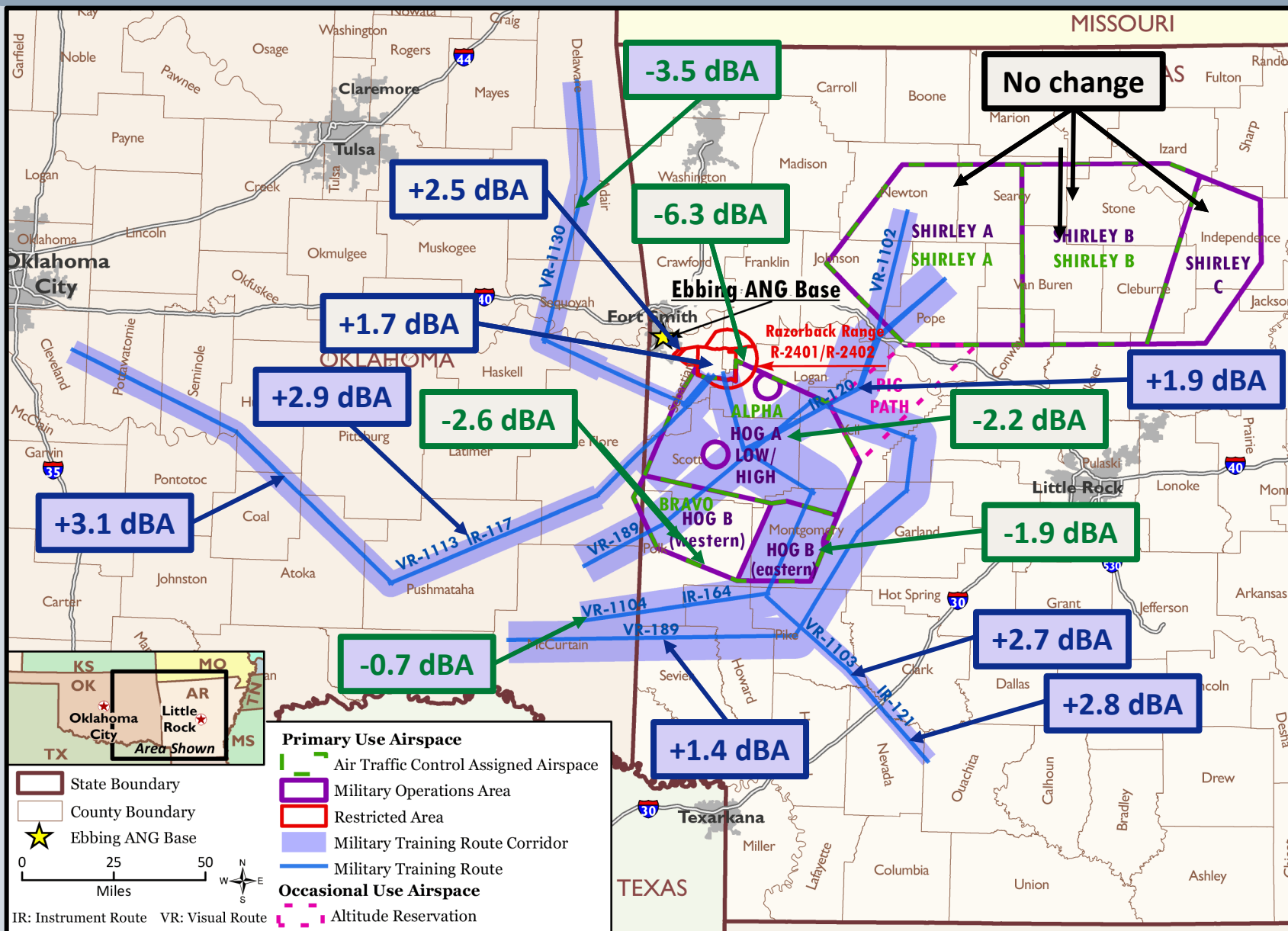
# ALTERNATIVE 1 NOISE CONTOURS



- Changes in noise contours are similar to those for the Proposed Action.
  - Areas east and west of the base would have reduced noise exposure
  - Areas north and south of the base would have increased noise exposure
- Changes in noise contours are from
  - Incorporating F-35B STOVL operations
  - Revised flight tracks for updated training requirements

# PROPOSED ACTION

## AIRSPACE NOISE EFFECTS



➤ In the Military Operating Areas (MOAs)  $L_{dnmr}$  noise levels would

- Decrease by up to 6.3 dBA
  - R-2402B/C (Razorback Range)
  - Hog MOAs
- Increase by up to 2.5 dBA
  - R-2401A
  - R-2402A
- No change in the Shirley MOAs

➤  $L_{dnmr}$  noise levels in the Military Training Routes (MTRs) would

- Decrease by up to 3.5 dBA
- Increase by up to 3.1 dBA

➤ Noise levels would remain below DNL 65 dBA.





# NOISE EFFECTS SUMMARY

## ➤ No Action Alternative

- No additional noise effects would occur above those described in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS

## ➤ Proposed Action

- Up to an additional 1,788 acres of land and 6,493 people around the installation would be affected by DNL 65 dBA or greater.
- Underneath the airspace and ranges, time-averaged noise levels would remain below  $L_{dnmr}$  65 dBA

## ➤ Alternative 1

- Up to an additional 870 acres of land and 4,426 people around the installation would be affected by DNL 65 dBA or greater.
- Underneath the airspace and ranges, time-averaged noise levels would remain below  $L_{dnmr}$  65 dBA

# LAND USE EFFECTS SUMMARY

## Effects to Residential Land Use Surrounding Ebbing ANG Base and Fort Smith Regional Airport

- No Action Alternative
  - Land use effects would continue as described in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS.
  - Significant adverse effects to residential land use surrounding the installation.
- Proposed Action
  - Expose up to 561 additional acres of residential land use to noise levels of DNL 65 dBA and greater, resulting in adverse and significant effects.
- Alternative 1
  - Residential land use areas exposed to DNL 65 dBA and greater would increase by up to 323 acres, resulting in adverse and significant effects.

## Effects to Land Uses Under the Airspace

- Noise levels in the airspace for all alternatives would remain below  $L_{dnmr}$  65 dBA, which is compatible with all land use categories in developed areas.
- For the Proposed Action and Alternative 1, some noise-sensitive land uses would experience small increases in time-averaged noise levels.
  - These noise level increases are not considered significant based on DoD and FAA guidelines for outdoor recreational uses.





# SOCIOECONOMICS EFFECTS SUMMARY

## No Action Alternative

- No new personnel above those authorized in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS and ROD.
- Socioeconomic conditions would continue under existing trends.

## Proposed Action

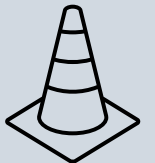
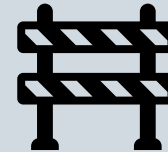
Additional 596 personnel would result in:

- 5% increase in Sebastian County's total population, but remains within the County's projected population 
- Demand for 271 additional housing units 
- 204 additional school-aged children 
  - May require larger class sizes
  - Average class size throughout Sebastian County is below state requirements
  - No significant effects to educational services 
- Potential beneficial effects to employment and income from incoming personnel and construction activities.



## Alternative 1

- No additional personnel over the No Action Alternative.
- Temporary and minor beneficial effects to employment and income could occur during VLP construction activities.

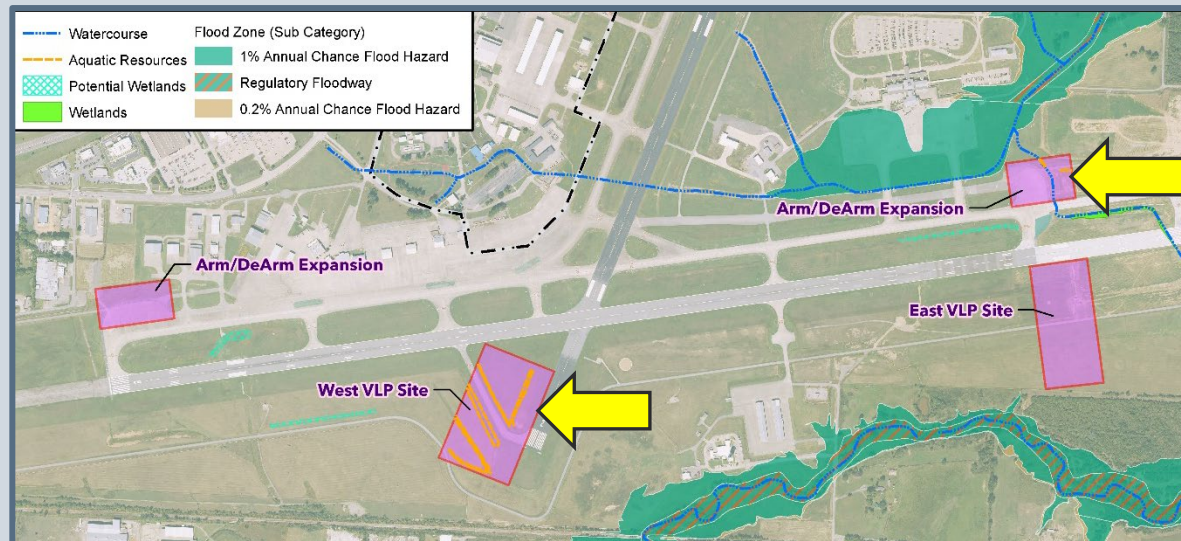




# PHYSICAL RESOURCES EFFECTS SUMMARY

## Installation and Surrounding Area

- Construction activities would not have significant effects to topography, soils, or surface waters and no effects to groundwater, wetlands, or floodplains.
- 2025 surveys identified several aquatic features within the eastern arm/de-arm expansion area under the Proposed Action and the West VLP Site for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1.
  - None of these features fit the definition of waters of the U.S. (WOTUS).
  - Only the USACE Little Rock District, Regulatory Branch can make official determinations.
  - Prior to construction, the Air Force would coordinate with the USACE to obtain either an Approved JD or a Preliminary JD.
  - If jurisdictional WOTUS are designated and cannot be avoided, the Air Force would apply for Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, as necessary.



## Airspace and Ranges

- The Proposed Action would increase the use of chaff and flares within the airspace.
  - Chaff and flare concentrations would not result in discernible changes to soil or water quality.
  - There would be no adverse effects to physical resources beneath the airspace.
- The No Action Alternative and Alternative 1 would not affect physical resources under the airspace because there would be no ground disturbance or changes in countermeasure use.

# CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

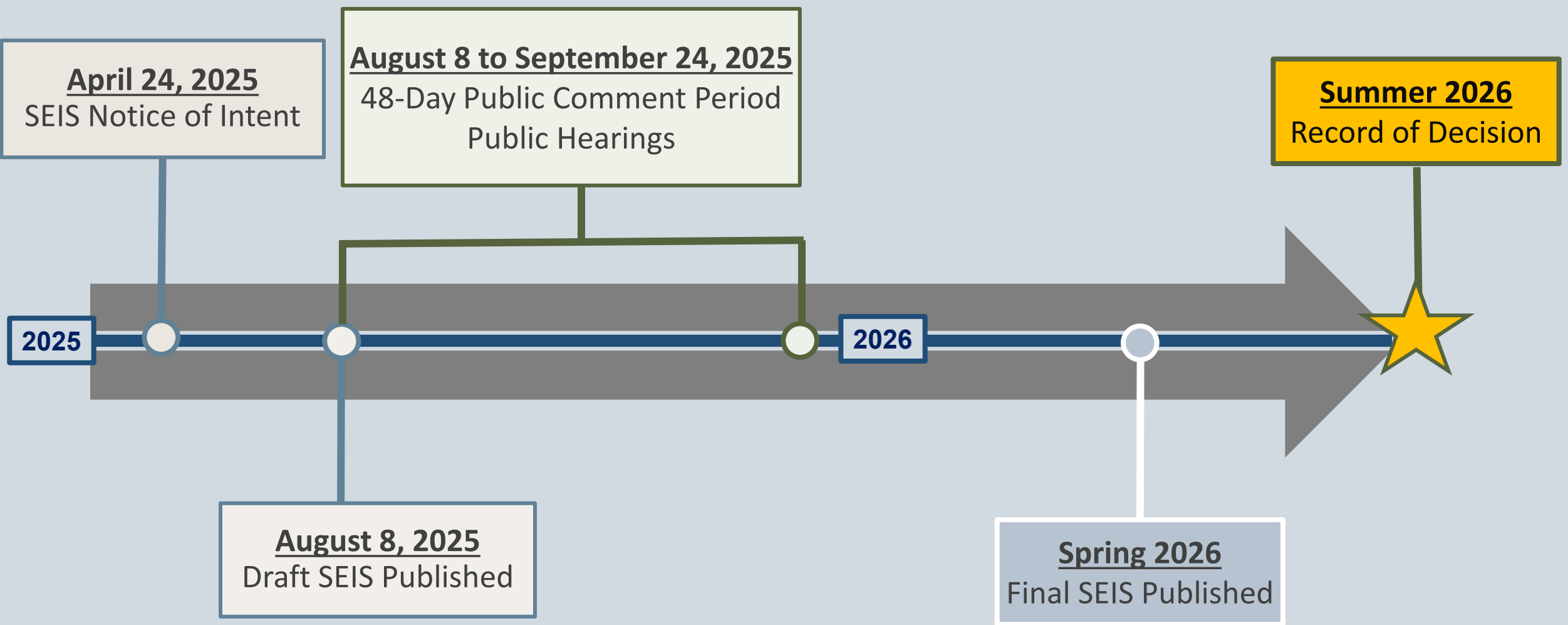
## EFFECTS SUMMARY

### Cultural Resources

- There would be no effects to archaeological or traditional cultural properties and no adverse effects to architectural resources.
- The Air Force is consulting with the Arkansas and Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officers and 24 federally recognized Tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- The results of these consultation efforts will be presented in the Final SEIS.

### Biological Resources

- Airfield operations at Fort Smith Regional Airport *may affect but are not likely to adversely affect* 4 federally-listed bat species.
- Aircraft operations in the airspace *may affect but are not likely to adversely affect* 5 federally-listed bat species and 5 federally-listed bird species.
- The Air Force has completed informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the USFWS Arkansas and Oklahoma Ecological Services Offices.



# Ebbing SEIS Anticipated Milestone Schedule

## Commenting on the Draft SEIS

There are several ways to comment on the Draft SEIS.

Substantive comments identify potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action.

- Provide verbal comments during this hearing, which will be recorded by a court reporter
- Submit comments online via the project website at [www.fmsptceis.com](http://www.fmsptceis.com)
- Mail comments to:

**Department of the Air Force**  
**c/o Leidos**  
**ATTN: Ebbing SEIS**  
**12304 Morganton Hwy #38**  
**Morganton, GA 30560**

- Write down comments using the comment cards
- To be considered in the Final SEIS, all substantive comments should be received or post-marked by no later than **September 24, 2025**.
- All substantive comments received, regardless of format, will be given full and equal consideration and will become part of the official administrative record.

# COMMENT SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Submit Comments online:

[www.fmsptceis.com](http://www.fmsptceis.com)

Or submit comments in writing:

Department of the Air Force  
c/o Leidos

ATTN: Ebbing SEIS  
12304 Morganton Hwy #38  
Morganton, GA 30560

Comments should be postmarked by **September 24, 2025**  
for consideration in the Final SEIS.

**For questions please contact:**

**AETC Public Affairs  
(210) 652-9324**

**AIR FORCE CONTACT INFORMATION**