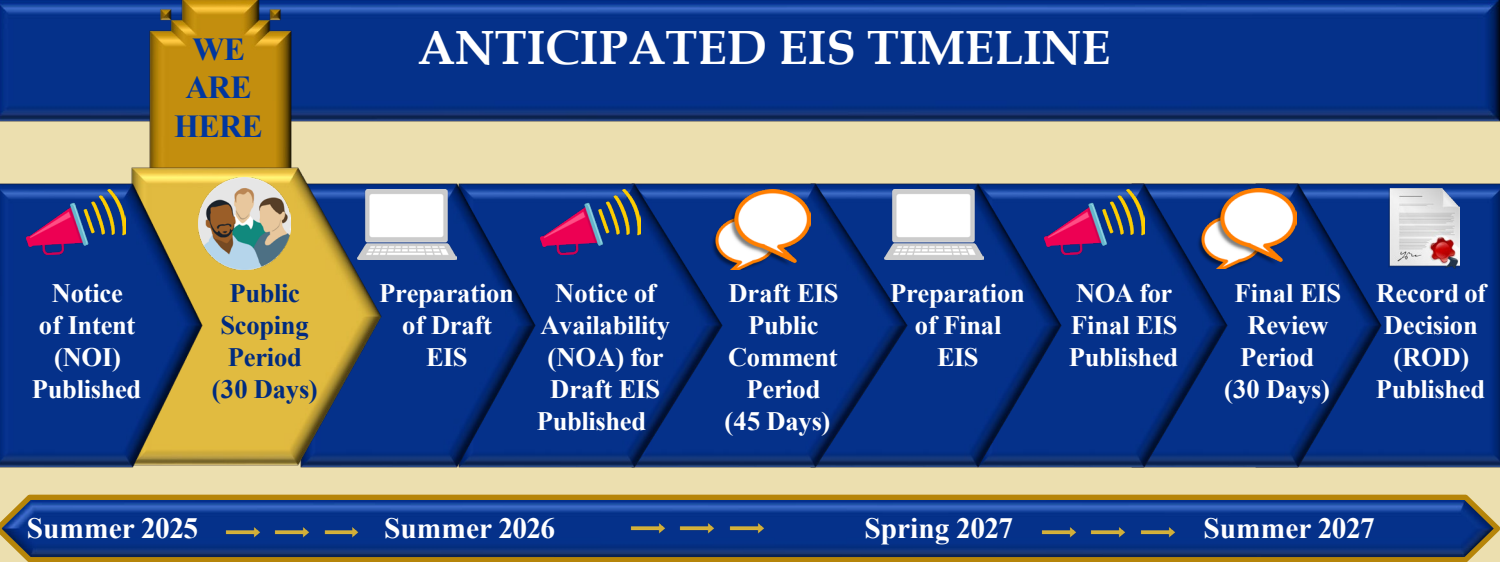


Scoping Process

The scoping process begins with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI provides information on the Proposed Action, possible alternatives, and the agency’s proposed scoping process. The scoping process outlines potential issues, points of contact, project schedules, and ways for the public to be involved. Public scoping meetings are conducted to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed action and provide input into the environmental impact analysis process. Comments received during the public scoping process are considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS.



For Further Information and How to Comment

For questions regarding the Proposed Action, scoping, and EIS development, please contact Moody AFB Public Affairs Office, at (229) 257-4146 or at 23wg.pa@us.af.mil, with “F-35A Beddown EIS” in the subject line.



Comments can be submitted three ways:

- On the project website at moodyafb-f35beddown-eis.com
- Via US mail to ATTN: F-35A Beddown EIS, 4833 Conti Street, Suite 103, New Orleans, Louisiana 70119
- Attend the virtual public scoping meetings

Comments can be submitted throughout the EIS process; however, to ensure your comments are considered in the Draft EIS, please submit your comments by **August 24, 2025**.



F-35A BEDDOWN AT
MOODY AIR FORCE
BASE, GEORGIA

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their Proposed Actions prior to making decisions. Major Federal actions subject to NEPA include projects, policies, permitting, regulations and licensing. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by regulations implementing NEPA.

Proposed Action

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* to prepare an EIS, pursuant to NEPA, for the proposed F-35A beddown at Moody Air Force Base (AFB), Georgia. The Proposed Action would beddown two F-35A aircraft squadrons at Moody AFB. The proposed beddown includes aircraft operations, the necessary personnel to support those operations, and associated facility and infrastructure demolition, construction, and renovation. Although not part of the Proposed Action, the planned A-10C aircraft divestment (i.e., removal) would occur before the first F-35A aircraft would arrive. The DAF anticipates that F-35A aircraft would be operational at Moody AFB by October 2030.

The F-35A aircraft would conduct training operations from the Moody AFB airfield. The F-35A aircraft would conduct training operations in the Moody Airspace Complex and Visual Route- (VR-) 1066, located over portions of southern Georgia and northern Florida, and there would no longer be A-10C aircraft training operations in the Moody Airspace Complex and VR-1066. Training operations would utilize defensive countermeasures within the Moody Airspace Complex where the use of flares are permitted, and ordnance at the Grand Bay Range. Although the planned A-10C aircraft retirement at Moody AFB is not part of the Proposed Action, the changes that would result from the planned A-10C aircraft retirement will be reflected in the analysis.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to expand the DAF’s fifth-generation operational fighter fleet, including the F-35A aircraft, and beddown two F-35A squadrons at an Active Duty operational A-10 Installation not already provisionally identified for mission recapitalization. The Proposed Action is needed to maintain combat capability and mission readiness of existing fighter squadrons following the scheduled divestment of A-10C aircraft.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

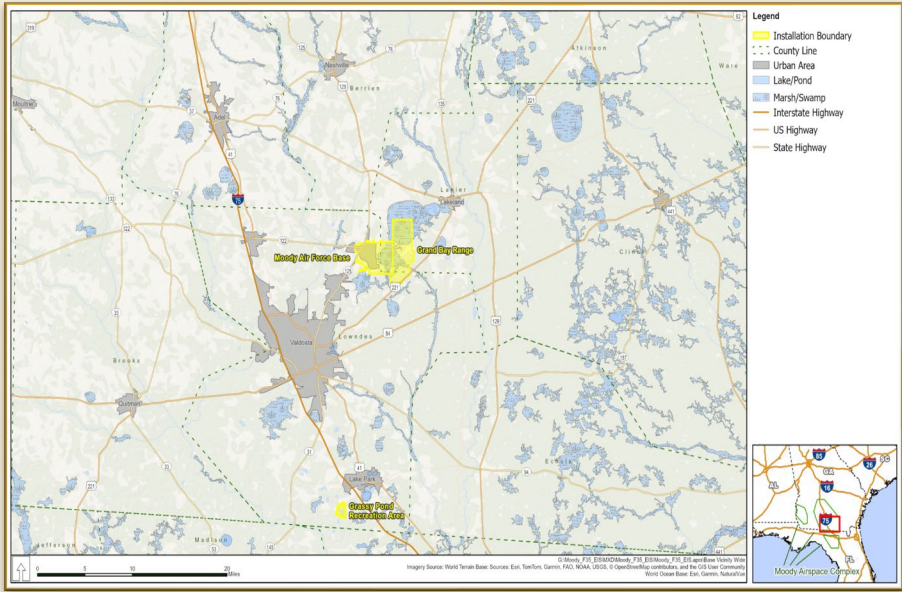
F-35A BEDDOWN AT MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, GEORGIA

Project Background

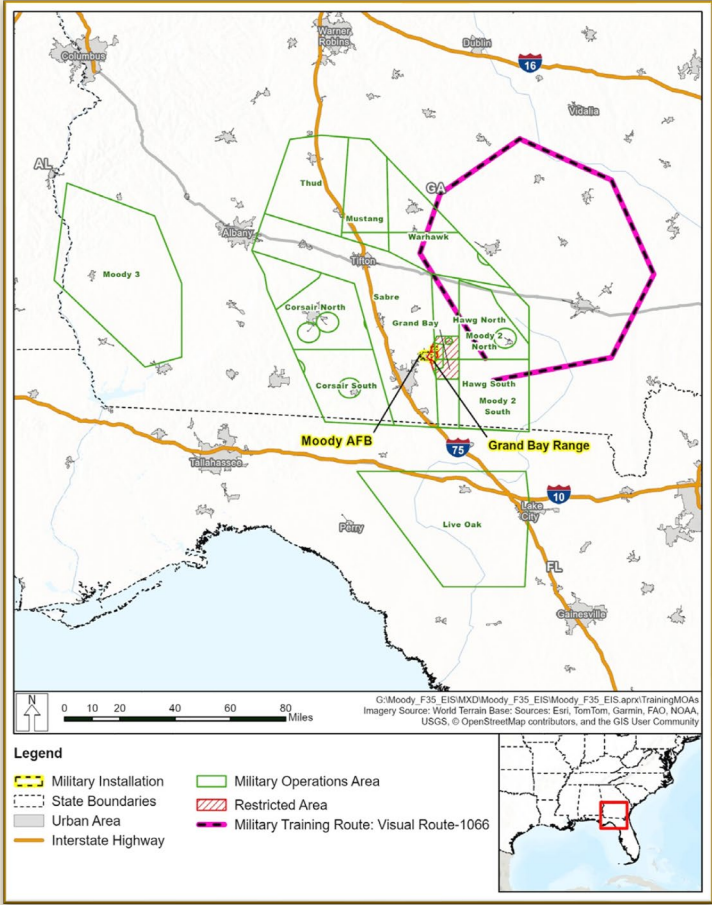
Moody Air Force Base (AFB; shown right) is located in southern Georgia near Valdosta, in Lowndes and Lanier counties. Moody AFB includes the main base (5,224 acres), adjacent Grand Bay Range (GBR; 5,874 acres), and Grassy Pond Recreational Annex (489 acres), which is a geographically separate unit located southwest of the main base. The Moody Airspace Complex, which includes special use airspace (SUA) associated with the GBR and military operations areas (MOAs) controlled by the 23d Wing (23 WG) at Moody AFB, extends over southern Georgia and northern Florida and provides training SUA for Moody AFB-based aircraft.

The F-35A is a supersonic single-seat, single-engine, all-weather, stealth fighter aircraft capable of performing and surviving lethal strike warfare missions. The F-35A aircraft is capable of speeds up to Mach 1.5 and can employ air-to-ground, air-to-air, and guided weapons from an internal weapons bay. The DAF F-35A model possesses a 25-millimeter cannon for close air support and anti-armor missions. In addition, it employs flares as defensive countermeasures, although its stealth characteristics reduce the need for such measures. The F-35A is the conventional takeoff and landing variant of the F-35 aircraft.

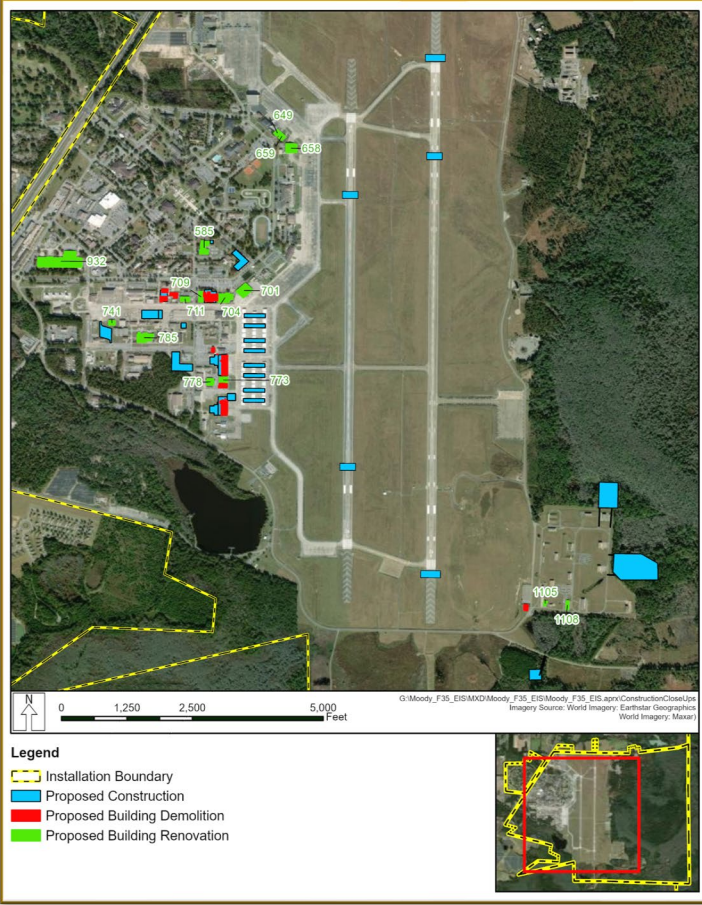
Project Location Map



Airspace Proposed for Training



Proposed Infrastructure Projects



Alternatives

Proposed Action Alternative. The Proposed Action would beddown two F-35A aircraft squadrons at Moody AFB, consisting of 24 Primary Aerospace Vehicles Authorized (PAA) and 2 Backup Aerospace Vehicle Inventory (BAI) in each squadron, for a total beddown of 48 PAA and 4 BAI F-35A aircraft. The planned A-10C divestment will remove two A-10C squadrons from Moody AFB, consisting of 36 PAA and 9 BAI A-10C aircraft.

The total annual number of Moody AFB airfield operations for F-35A aircraft would be approximately 22,536 per year. However, the A-10C aircraft operations will cease with the planned divestment of A-10C aircraft prior to the arrival of the first F-35A aircraft, with an overall anticipated increase of 11,090 aircraft operations at the Moody AFB airfield.

Proposed Airfield Aircraft Operations

Day/Night Operations	A 10C Existing Operations ¹	F 35A Proposed Operations ¹	Total Change in Operations ¹
Day	-11,174	+22,031	+10,857
Night ²	-272	+505	+233
TOTAL	-11,446	+22,536	+11,090

¹ Annual A 10C operations derived from calendar year 2024 Moody AFB tower counts.

² Night is 2200 hours to 0700 hours

The current 21,391 A-10C aircraft training operations in the Moody Airspace Complex and VR-1066 would be replaced annually with 6,411 F-35A aircraft training operations. In the Moody Airspace Complex, where A-10C aircraft from Moody AFB primarily train, the SUA where flare use would occur would remain unchanged with the planned divestment of A-10C aircraft and the proposed beddown of F-35A aircraft.

Proposed Special Use Airspace Aircraft Operations

Day/Night Operations	A 10C Existing Operations ¹	F 35A Proposed Operations ¹	Total Change in Operations ¹
Moody Airspace Complex	-21,371	+6,294	-15,077
VR-1066	-20	+117	+97
TOTAL	-21,391	+6,411	--14,980

¹ An operation is a single aircraft in a SUA for a specified period of time. VR Visual Route; SUA special use airspace

F-35A squadrons would conduct operations that deploy inert munitions at the GBR. The F-35A aircraft would use the Guided Bomb Unit-12 inert variant of the Joint Direct Attack Munition for air-to-ground delivery, as well as the Bomb Dummy Unit-56. All current A-10C ordnance use at the GBR will cease with the planned divestment of the A-10C aircraft under the Proposed Action.

Replacing A-10C aircraft with F-35A aircraft would result in approximately 165 additional personnel at Moody AFB, for a total of approximately 1,609 military and civilian personnel associated with the proposed F-35A mission. A combination of new construction, renovation, and demolition would be required to beddown the two F-35A squadrons at Moody AFB. Under the Proposed Action, the 74th and 75th Fighter Squadrons would convert from A-10C to F-35A aircraft operations, and Moody AFB facilities would be modified to support the conversion in aircraft and associated operations.

No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would not beddown F-35A aircraft at Moody AFB. No proposed F-35A mission activities (i.e., aircraft operations at the airfield or in the SUA, facility and infrastructure projects, and personnel changes) would occur at Moody AFB. Under the No Action Alternative, the planned divestment of the A-10C aircraft based at Moody AFB would occur and the 74 FS and 75 FS would be deactivated. The retirement of A-10C aircraft includes associated personnel, A-10C airfield operations, and A-10C operations in the airspace and at the GBR.