

BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

TOP 10 AIR FORCE BASES AT RISK OF WEATHER IMPACTS

BACKGROUND: The Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 335, required the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to Congress on the vulnerabilities to military installations and combatant commander requirements. This report was to include a “list of the ten most vulnerable military installations within each service”. Following the delivery of this report, in a 4 April 2019 Senate Armed Service Committee Air Force posture hearing, the Secretary of the Air Force committed to providing an updated service-specific list to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

DISCUSSION: The previously-provided “Top 10” list by design only focused on Air Force installations with critical strategic infrastructure vice on all installations. As a result of these limitations the Air Force submits the following interim list while additional analysis is being considered.

Ranking	Base	State
1	Vandenberg Air Force Base	California
2	Eglin Air Force Base	Florida
3	Hurlburt Field	Florida
4	Patrick Air Force Base	Florida
5	Joint Base Charleston	South Carolina
6	Dover Air Force Base	Delaware
7	Homestead Air Reserve Base	Florida
8	MacDill Air Force Base	Florida
9	Tyndall Air Force Base	Florida
10	Joint Base Langley-Eustis	Virginia

As developed, the above list reflects installations susceptible to the consequences of severe weather events: coastal and inland flooding, wildfires, and/or drought; not necessarily 50 – 100 year climatic changes. This list also does not look at any specific critical mission implications (i.e., even if the base is subject to flooding because a portion is within a 100-year flood plain, a mission critical facility may not be impacted because of its location on the base or it is on high ground; e.g., the USSTRATCOM Headquarters Building on Offutt AFB).

Additional analysis should include a more robust analysis of AF installation vulnerabilities related to mission criticality and specific locational aspects within the installation. Once we have a better understanding of the linkage to mission, then we can begin to assess where best to apply resources to improve either resiliency or adaptability.