

JOHN BOOZMAN

3RD DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

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TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AVIATION

HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT, AND PIPELINES

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

POLICY COMMITTEE

SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE FOR A

DRUG FREE AMERICA

DCN: 8318

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2005

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AFRICA, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AND

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

MIDDLE EAST AND
CENTRAL ASIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN,
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

Enclosed you will find a short CD-ROM presentation outlining one of the unique attributes of the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

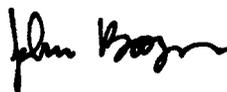
When Col. Brock Strom, the National Guard Bureau Director of Operations, visited the 188th last fall, he witnessed firsthand how the 188th was conducting training exercises that were critical to AEF deployments for Air National Guard flying units and ground personnel, as well as their Joint Force partners. This is training that can not be duplicated elsewhere. When the 188th appeared on the DOD BRAC list, then Col (Ret) Strom joined the Fort Smith BRAC task force having no ties to the city of Fort Smith, or the state of Arkansas. He did so, because he felt the unique attributes of having fighters at this location were critical to the Future Total Force.

This video attempts to highlight the unique capabilities of the 188th Fighter Wing location and the associated military value of retaining fighters on the ramp in Fort Smith, Arkansas. This additional information will allow you make an informed decision that will impact the Future Total Force in one way or another. At the hearing in San Antonio, time was very limited. I respectfully request each of you to take approximately 10 minutes for this critical piece of the puzzle.

When you weigh the key points previously presented by Col. (Ret) Strom, the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, and former Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson, along with the additional information in this video presentation, we hope you will be compelled from a military value standpoint to reverse the decision to realign the 188th Fighter Wing. We believe the DOD substantially deviated from BRAC criteria, where military value was supposed to be the primary consideration for basing the future force.

Thank you for your service to our country in this process and throughout your career.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
Member of Congress

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SITE VISIT BRIEFING

Fort Smith

The Natural Fit

Col Kevin Wear
Vice Commander
188th Fighter Wing

Fort Smith, AR
11 July 2005



Overview – Unique Joint Training Capabilities

- ▶ Organic Capabilities ~ AR National Guard
- ▶ 188th Fighter Wing Resources
- ▶ Fort Chaffee Training Complex
- ▶ Geography



Overview

- ▶ Surrounding Airspace
- ▶ Proximity to Key Assets
- ▶ Dynamic Targeting Training Capabilities



Organic Capabilities ~ AR National Guard

- ▶ 188th Fighter Wing
 - F16C+ with precision munitions and targeting pod
 - Routinely uses Situational Awareness Data Link
- ▶ Fort Chaffee Training Site
 - Owned & Operated by AR National Guard
 - Restricted Area airspace over entire complex
- ▶ Razorback Range
 - Operated by 188th Fighter Wing
 - Embedded within Fort Chaffee ground forces training area



Organic Capabilities ~ AR National Guard

- ▶ Special Operations Forces
 - All teams already utilize Fort Chaffee & Razorback Range
 - Dynamic targeting exercises conducted routinely with 188th
 - Truly Joint Ops – SEALs, AF Special Tactics, Army “Teams”
- ▶ 123rd Intelligence Squadron
 - Imagery analysis and target ID experts
 - Operation and setup similar to CAOC intelligence center
 - Staffed by specialists with extensive real world experience



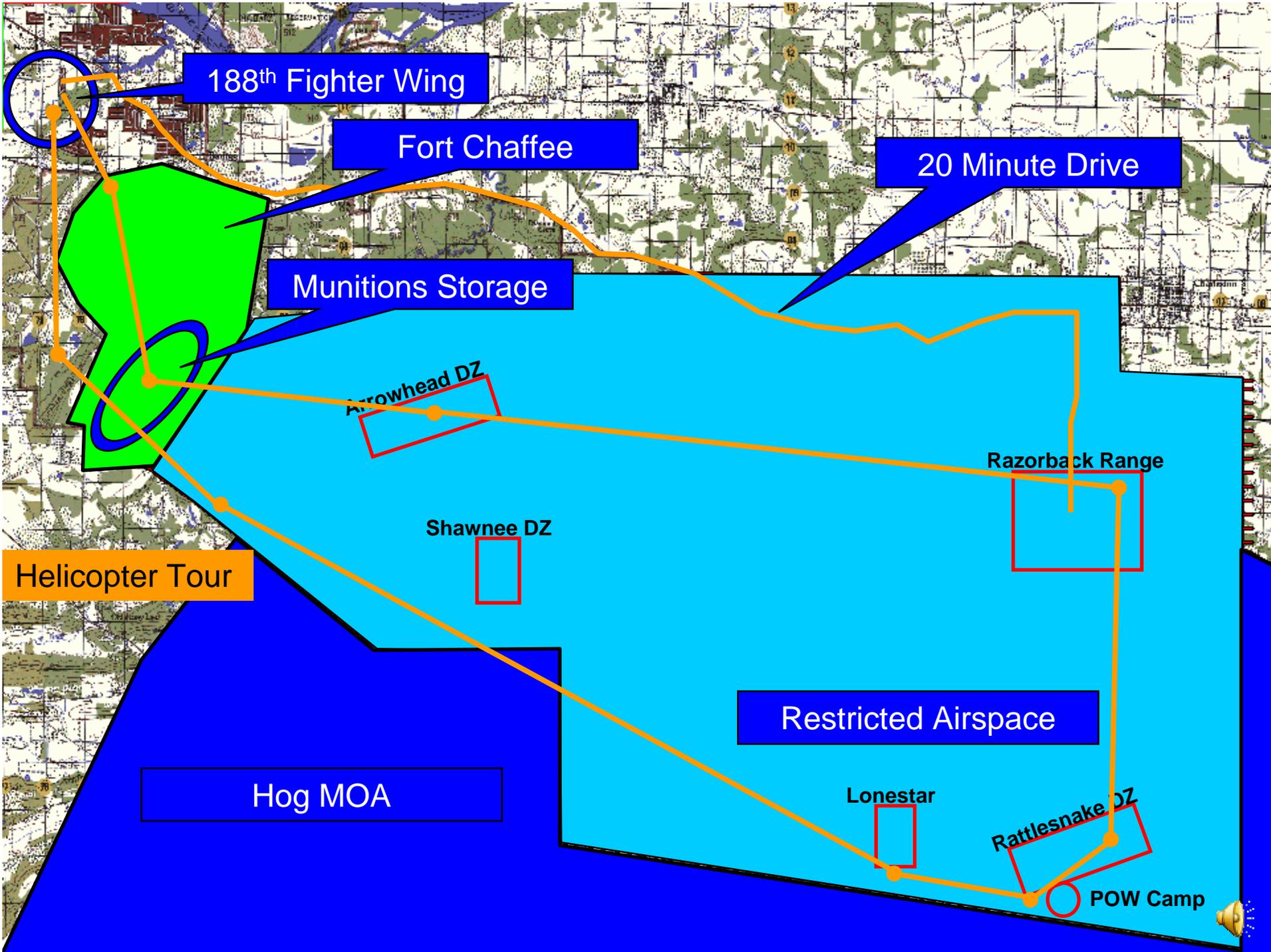
Organic Capabilities - AR National Guard

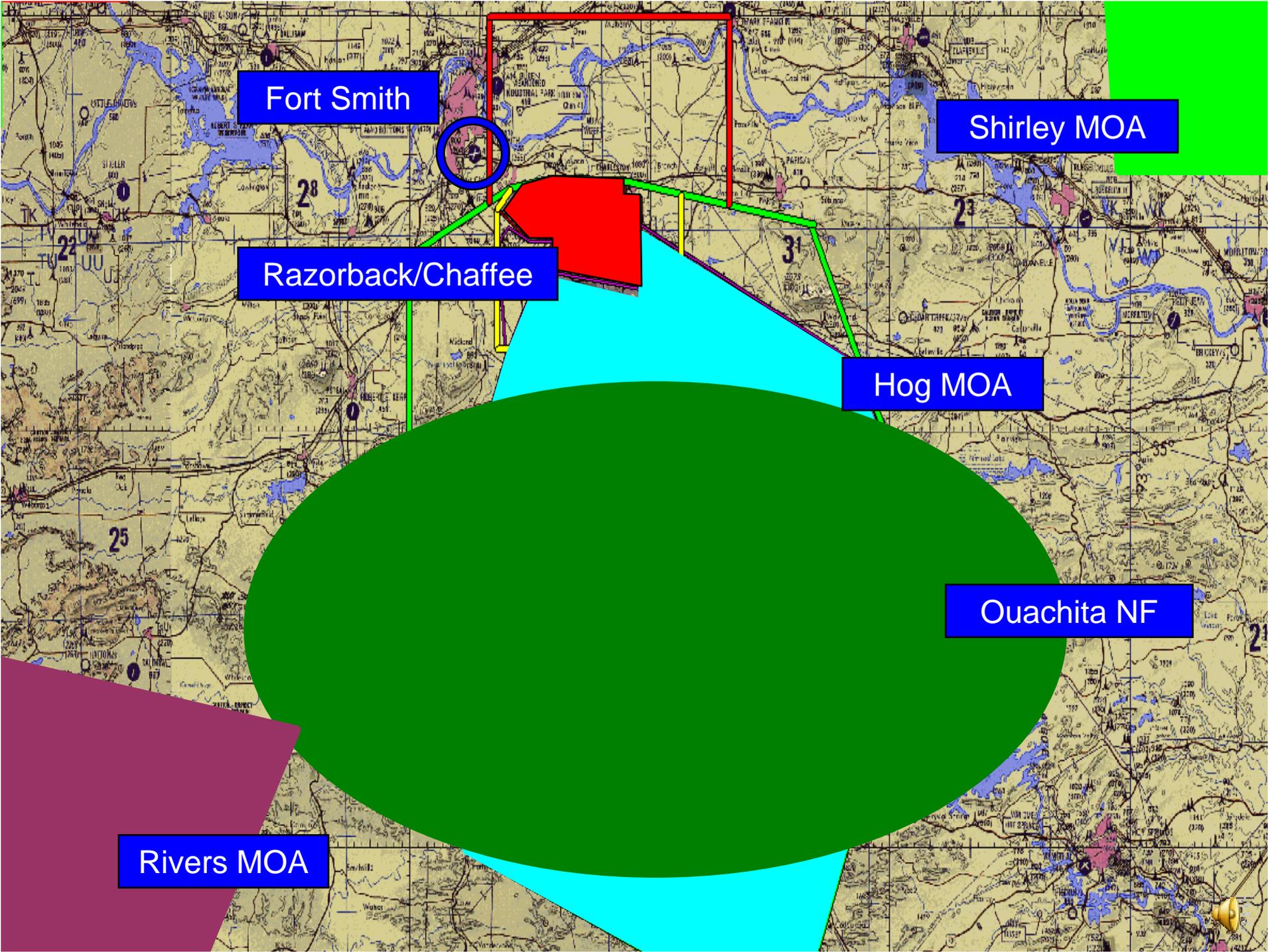
- ▶ 223rd Combat Communications Squadron
 - SATCOM and Datalink specialists
 - CAOC information technology experts
 - Located in Hot Springs
- ▶ Joint Common Ground Station
 - Links J-Stars, Rivet Joint, AWACS into CAOC network
 - Eliminates problem of limited satellite time
 - Located in Fayetteville



188th Fighter Wing Resources







Fort Smith

Shirley MOA

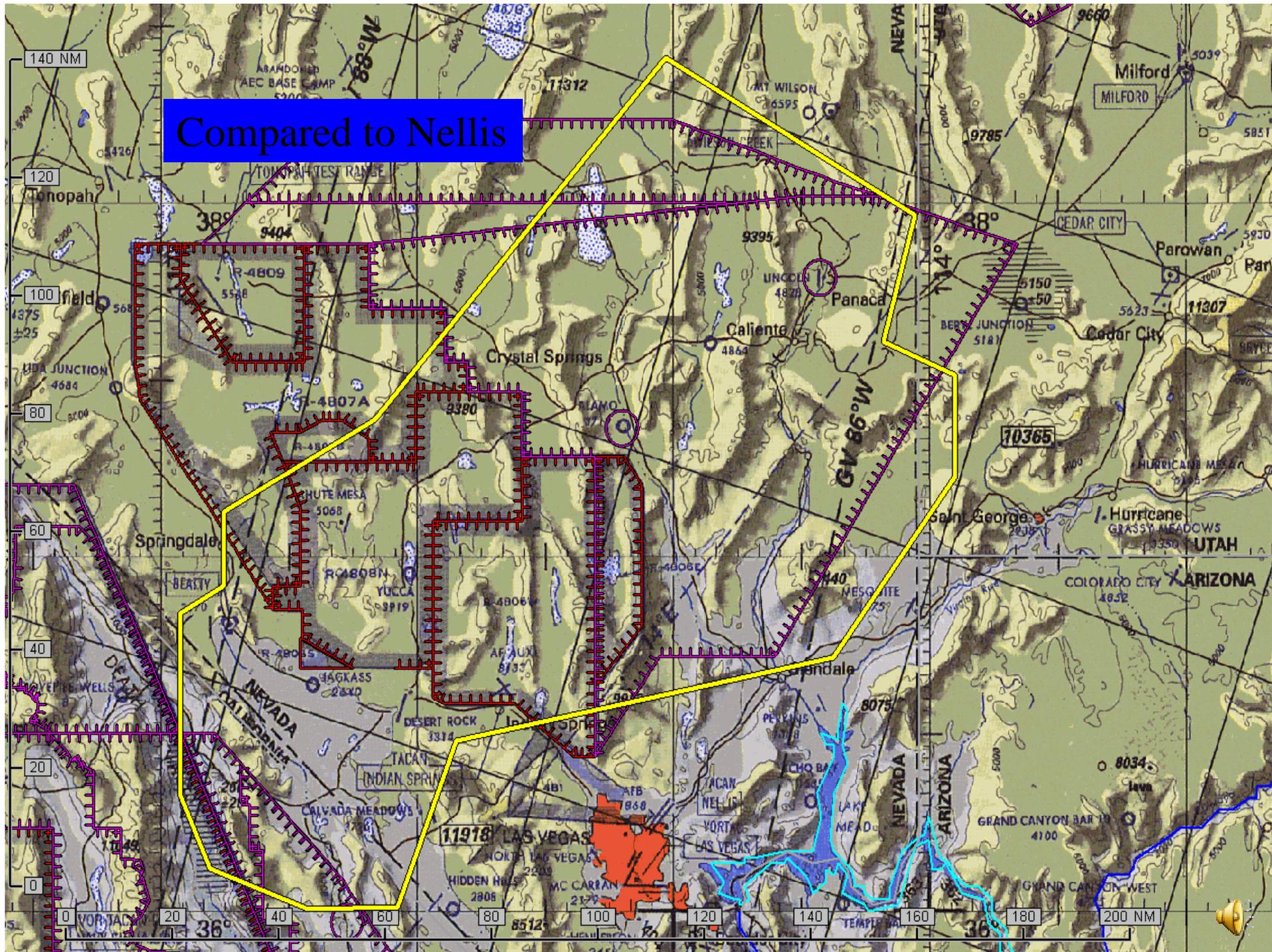
Razorback/Chaffee

Hog MOA

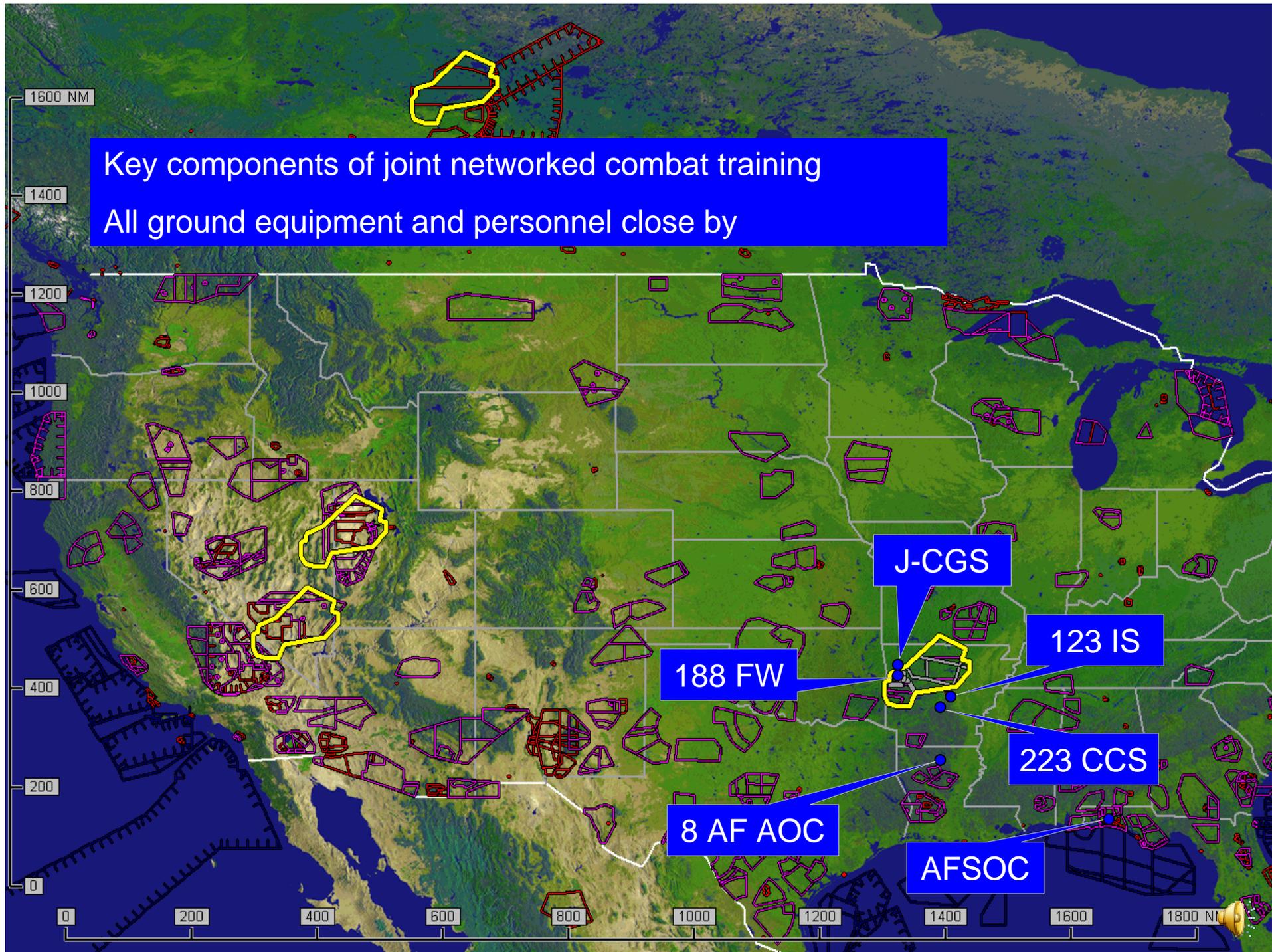
Ouachita NF

Rivers MOA

Compared to Nellis



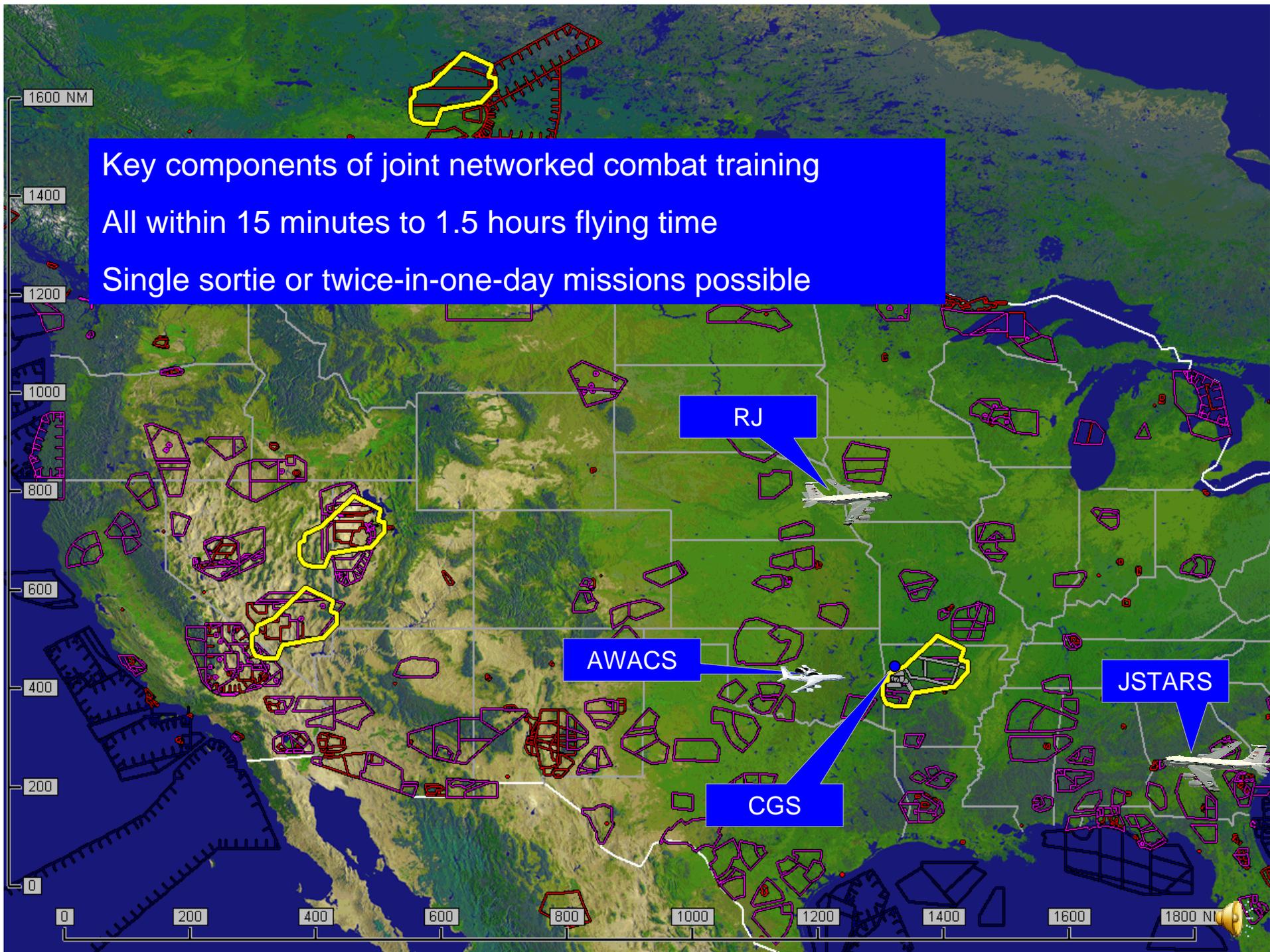
Key components of joint networked combat training
All ground equipment and personnel close by



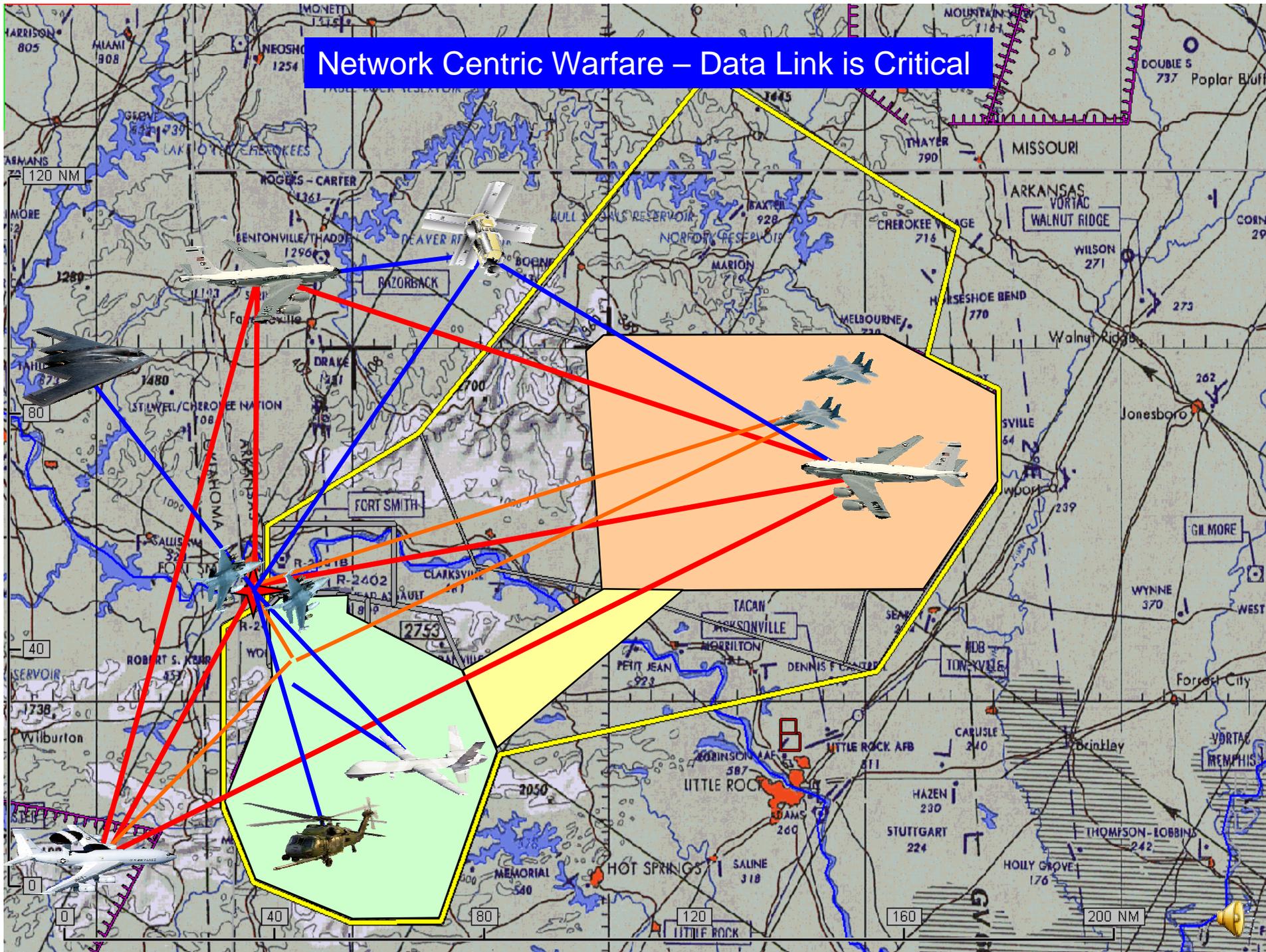
Key components of joint networked combat training

All within 15 minutes to 1.5 hours flying time

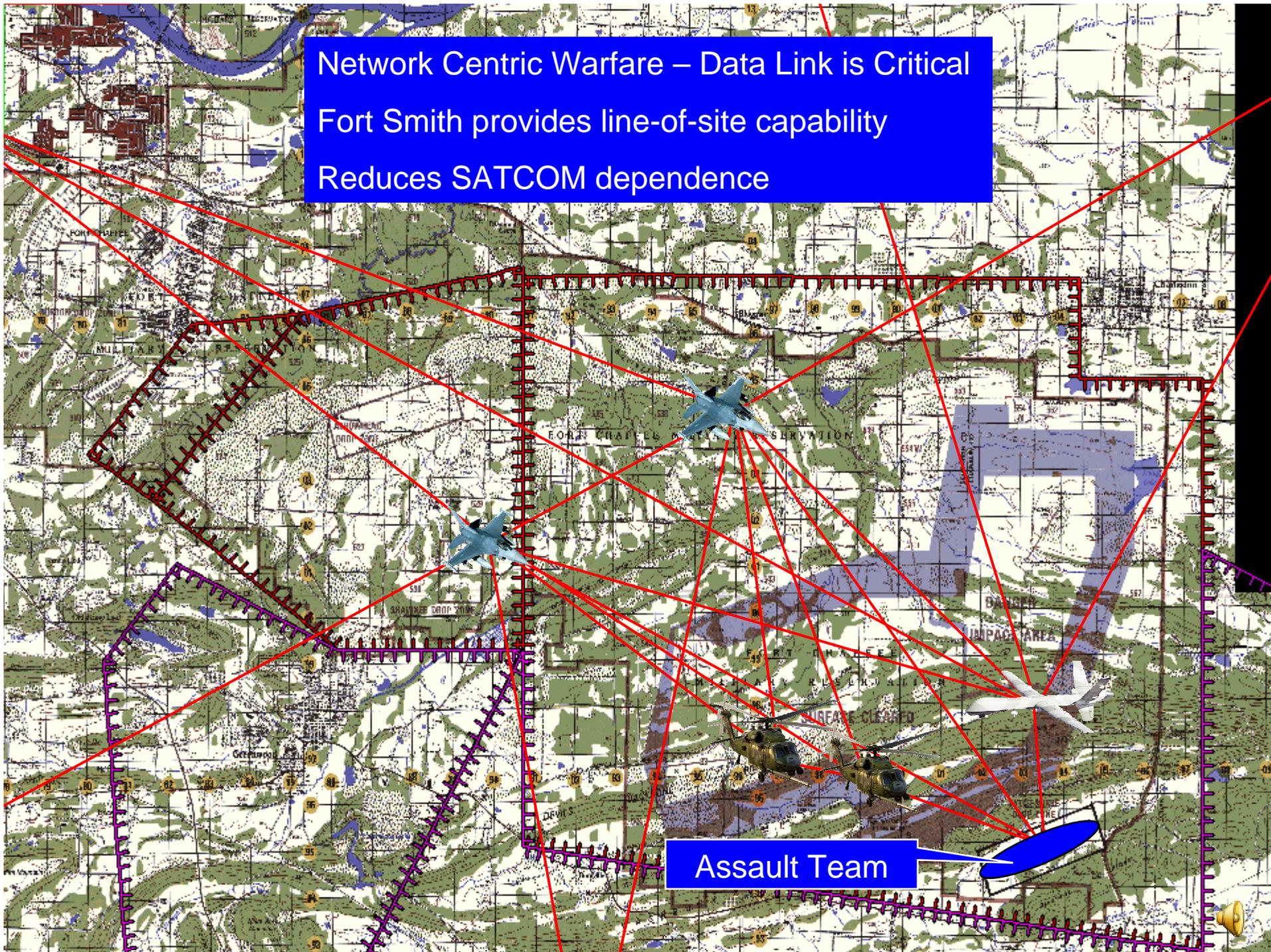
Single sortie or twice-in-one-day missions possible



Network Centric Warfare – Data Link is Critical



Network Centric Warfare – Data Link is Critical
Fort Smith provides line-of-site capability
Reduces SATCOM dependence



Assault Team

Summary

- ▶ Custom-made location for joint networked combat training
- ▶ Airspace and range complex is ideal and irreplaceable
- ▶ Proximity of airfield to range presents truly unique opportunities
- ▶ Line of sight to Restricted Area Airspace reduces dependence on SATCOM
- ▶ Close geographic proximity to “digital kill chain” assets
- ▶ Integration with Special Tactics Teams already routine
- ▶ Ongoing fighter unit presence at Fort Smith is the catalyst
- ▶ Overall collection of unique assets and capabilities unmatched



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0 |-----| .5Km

ARROWHEAD DZ 4 METER

0 |-----| .25Mi



0 |-----| .5Km

SHAWNEE DZ 4 METER

0 |-----| .25Mi



0 100M

LONESTAR 1 METER

0 100yd



0 200M

RATTLESNAKE DZ 2 METER

0 200yd



POW CAMP 1 METER

