

The Importance of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to National Defense I-27 Advisory Committee

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor was designated as a future interstate in Texas and New Mexico in the federal Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill. Interstate 27 (I-27) is part of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor and exists between Lubbock and Amarillo. It is assumed the Corridor will be designated I-27 as it extends south from San Angelo and north from Amarillo. Route numbering is ultimately the responsibility of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the United States Department of Transportation. The **963-mile corridor spans 26 Texas counties** and includes portions of I-20, I-27, I-35, US 83, US 87, US 277, US 287, SH 158, and SH 349.

Important military bases and industries supporting national defense are located along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

The Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)¹

STRAHNET is a network of highways, primarily interstates, that are important to the United States' strategic defense policy, and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.

The Interstate Highway System (IHS)



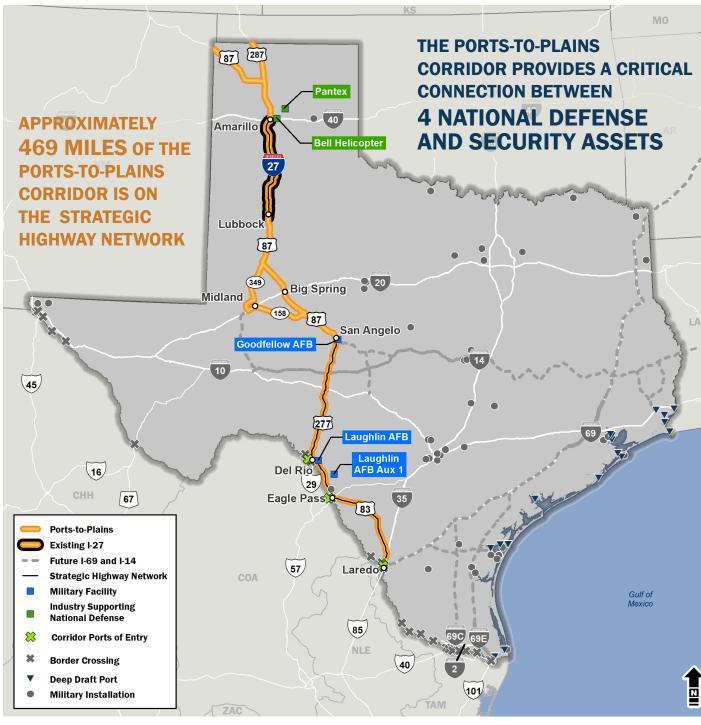
Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act in 1956, becoming the largest public works project in United States History.



The IHS was designed to execute emergency evacuations of large cities and quickly move troops and supplies.



As many military posts are near highways, continuous upgrades to the interstate system help improve the integrity of these roadways, ensuring that the nation is protected at times of war.



Military Assets and Border Facilities



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Military Facilities Along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor

- Laughlin (Del Rio) Air Force Base: Conducts pilot training for fixed wing aircraft including the T-6 Texan II, T-38C Talon, and the T-1A Jayhawk
- **Goodfellow (San Angelo) Air Force Base**: Conducts training installations educating airmen in fire emergency and intelligence professions

Key Industries Supporting National Defense Along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor

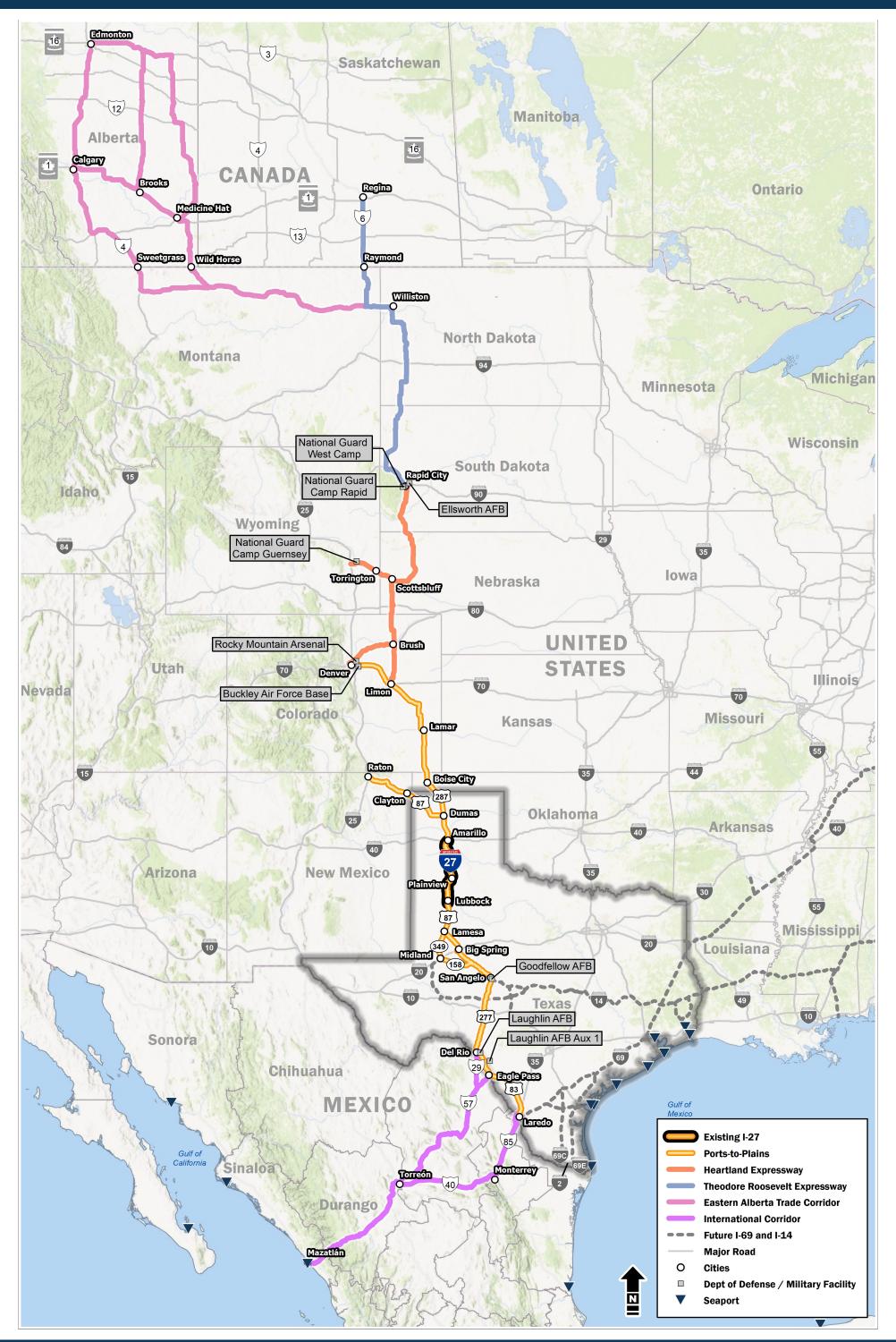
- Pantex (Northeast of Amarillo in Carson County): United States Department of Energy's primary facility for the final assembly, dismantlement and maintenance of nuclear weapons
- Bell Helicopter (Amarillo): Military aircraft assembly and delivery center



Laughlin (Del Rio) Air Force Base

¹TxDOT ArcGIS OpenData

Future U.S. Interstate Highway and International Connections



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