Supporting Information

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Fig. S1. Calculating contour length of Af1521₁₁₋₁₇₇ from simulations. (*A*) Distance between anchoring residues of folded protein L_0 and the length of unfolded protein with intact disulfide C104–C147 (sequestering 42 residues) L; (*B*) plot of the length of a single residue over time shows the average length at 3.8 Å, which was used in calculating the contour length of the protein.



Fig. S2. Af1521₁₁₋₁₇₇ distance-time profiles for CF-1500 simulations depict similar unfolding patterns. The seven hydrogen bonds connecting strands 2 and 7 were monitored over time. A distance of 5 Å indicates that the bonds are fully dissociated.



Fig. S3. Cysteine engineering of polyprotein (Af1521₁₁₋₁₇₇)_n. SDS-PAGE analysis showing fractions (F1, F2, etc.) from nickel-affinity purification, which already exhibits growing chains of the polyprotein. The molecular weight of the protein is ~24 kDa. The asterisks (*) indicate the molecular weight ladder, and P is the polyprotein after ~80 hr of exposure to air at room temperature. Figure redrawn from ref. 1.

1. Dietz H, et al. (2006) Cysteine engineering of polyproteins for single-molecule force spectroscopy. Nat Protoc 1:80-84.



Fig. S4. CF-SMD of Af1521₁₁₋₁₇₇ at constant force 1,500 pN. (A) Intermediate structure **2** is formed by a fully extended disulfide bond and five sacrificial hydrogen bonds between β -strands 3 and 5. (B) Plot of H-bond distance and disulfide bond distance (C104–C147) over time illustrates that the disulfide bond becomes strained prior to rupture of the five hydrogen bonds.



Fig. S5. AFM single-molecule force spectroscopy data for -ssAf1521₁₁₋₁₇₇ (a "reduced" version of Af1521₁₁₋₁₇₇ in which the internal disulfide C104–C147 is substituted by alanine residues). (A) Force distribution is unaffected by the amino acid substitutions, displaying a most probable force similar to that of the domain with intact disulfide at 1, 000 nm s⁻¹. (B) Contour length matches the calculated length gain for the unfolded protein without sequestered amino acids [167 aa × (0.38 nm/aa) – $L_0 = 61$ nm].



Fig. S6. $-\beta \alpha A f 1521_{11-177}$ distance-time profiles for CF-1000 simulations depict similar unfolding patterns where bonds G19—I175 and A17—I175 are broken prematurely.



Fig. S7. CF-1000-1 trajectory analysis for $-\beta \alpha Af1521_{11-177}$. (A) Representative snapshots illustrating water interaction with bond-breaking events between strands 2 and 7 at $\Delta x = 2-11$ Å; water molecules are shown in green; (B) load-bearing strands depicting amino acids; and (C) distance-time plot of the seven load-bearing H bonds.



Fig. S8. Cysteine engineering of polyprotein $(-\beta \alpha Af1521_{11-177})_n$. SDS-PAGE analysis showing fractions (F1, F2, etc.) from nickel-affinity purification, which already exhibits growing chains of the polyprotein. The molecular weight of the protein is ~20 kDa. The asterisks (*) indicate the molecular weight ladder, and P is the polyprotein after ~80 hr of exposure to air at room temperature.



Fig. S9. AFM force distribution histograms for $Af1521_{11-177}$ at various pulling speeds.

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| (i) β -sandwich* | | (ii) β-grasp⁺ | | (iii) Neither [‡] |
|------------------------|--------|---------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1tiu_a | 1byo_A | 1e0z_A | 1wmh_A | 1pge_A |
| 1u2h_A | 1teg_A | 1rfk_A | 1p1a_A | 1mgr_A |
| 1fhg_A | 1tef_A | 1e10_A | 1t0y_A2 | 1tq1_A |
| 1x44_A | 1ag6_a | 1doi_a | 1ef5_A | 1vaz_A |
| 1wit_a | 1oow_A | 1iue_A | 1m94_A | 2bfr_A (Af1521) |
| 2ncm_a | 1plb_a | 1awd_a | 1aar_A | 2cu6_A |
| 2cqv_A | 1byp_A | 1j7b_A | 2bgf_A | |
| 2imn_a | 9pcy_a | 1qoa_A | 2faz_A | |
| 1efq_A | 1suh_a | 1j7c_A | 2bwf_A | |
| 1ci5_A | 1acz_a | 1qog_A | 1tbe_A | |
| 2imm_a | 1kum_a | 1j7a_A | 1f2r_C | |
| 1xau_A | 2c3x_A | 1frd_a | 1wv8_A | |
| 3lve_a | 1cqy_A | 1frr_A | 1vjk_A | |
| 1lve_a | 1ohz_A | 1a70_a | 1sif_A | |
| 1t6w_A | 1lmi_A | 1fxa_A | 1u4a_A | |
| 1hcv_a | 1uwf_A | 1qob_A | 1c9f_A | |
| 5lve_A | 1sp0_A | 1qof_A | 1rlf_a | |
| 1sjx_A | 1tyj_A | 1wju_A | 1p0r_A | |
| 2rhe_a | | 1off_A | 1wm2_A | |
| 1hkf_A | | 1wjn_A | 1l2n_A | |
| 1i9e_A | | 1wgd_A | 1k52_A | |
| 1neu_a | | 1wri_A | 1k53_A | |
| 1npu_A | | 1rax_A | 1hz5_A | |
| 1o7s_A | | 2asq_B | 1hz6_A | |
| 1py9_A | | 1lxd_A | 1kh0_A | |
| 1od9_A | | 1km7_A | 2igg_a2 | |
| 1ehx_A | | 2rgf_a | 1mhx_A | |
| 1pd6_A | | 1v6e_A | 1mi0_A | |
| 1nko_A | | 1wy8_A | 1gb4_a | |
| 1rsf_A | | 1wxv_A | 1fcl_A | |
| 1pko_A | | 1q1o_A | 3gb1_A | |
| 1o7v_A | | 1l7y_A | 1em7_A | |
| 1xt5_A | | 1iyf_A | 1qkz_A | |
| 1cdb_a | | 1v5t_A | 1p7f_A | |
| 1nci_A | | 1h8c_A | 1fcc_C | |
| 1m1s_A | | 1j0g_A | 1igc_A | |
| 1gxe_A | | 1wh3_A | | |
| 1plc_a | | 1jru_A | | |

Table S1. Structural categories of 134 proteins resulting from bioinformatics screening

*Similar to $\beta\mbox{-sandwich}$ using a TM score of 0.50 as cutoff and 1tiu as representative.

 $^{\dagger}\text{Similar}$ to $\beta\text{-grasp}$ using a TM score of 0.50 as cutoff and 1igc_A as representative.

*Similar to neither using a TM score of 0.50 as cutoff.

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