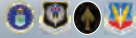


492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



Environmental Impact Statement at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona

Welcome to this Public Scoping Meeting

492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our national charter for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. NEPA requires all federal agencies making a proposal that may significantly impact the environment to consider:

- A range of reasonable alternatives
- Potential environmental or health consequences
- Tribal, government agency, and public input

NEPA Public Involvement

NEPA and the Department of the Air Force (DAF) regulations require tribal, government agency, and public participation throughout the environmental impact analysis process. Tribal, government agency, and public participation is an integral part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The purpose of soliciting input is to identify interested parties and relevant issues so they can be considered in the EIS.

This first stage of the EIS process is public scoping. During scoping, the DAF is actively seeking feedback from federal, state and local agencies, tribes, and the public in development of the EIS. The public scoping phase provides opportunities to learn about

and comment on the project and provides the DAF with the opportunity to identify issues of interest or concern to frame the environmental analysis and more effectively shape the range of alternatives to be considered.

What other NEPA Actions are Ongoing?

The following NEPA actions are occurring in this region; however, they are separate NEPA actions and not part of the scope of the 492nd Special Operations Wing (492 SOW) Beddown EIS, but will be considered, as appropriate, in the EIS analysis:

- Regional Special Use Airspace Optimization to Support Air Force Missions in Arizona EIS
 - Proposes changes to local airspace
- Fourth-Generation Missions Regional Realignment Environmental Assessment at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB)
 - Analyzes partial A-10 retirement



492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



What is the Background of the Proposed Action?



The DAF is proposing to transform the 492 SOW into an Air Force Special Operations

Command (AFSOC) power projection wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

This power projection wing would include the 492 SOW, the 6th and 319th Special Operations Squadrons, an MC-130J squadron, activation of an Intelligence Squadron as a geographically separated unit under the Air Combat Command (ACC) 361st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, and Special Tactics and Special Operations Theater Air Operations Squadrons.

- In 2022, the National Defense Strategy resulted in the AFSOC focusing on the need for an additional power projection wing in the western U.S.
- AFSOC identified locations for a Continental United States (CONUS) based power projection wing
- Additionally, with the adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Presidential Budget and passing of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, the decision to retire A-10 aircraft, inactivate the 354th Fighter Squadron, and downsize the 357th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB was proposed

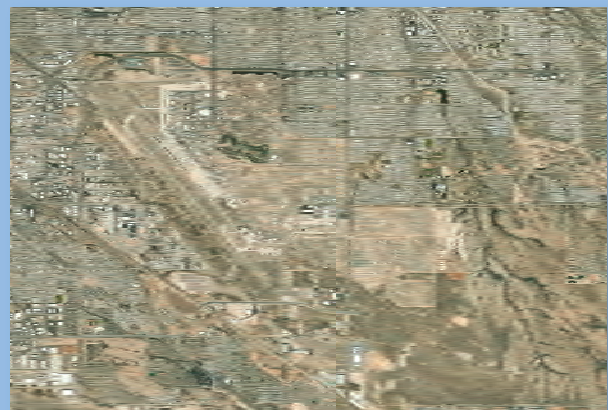
As the DAF's plan to retire the A-10 moves forward, the opportunity to use available A-10 facilities at CONUS bases was evaluated, with the focus on:

- Western A-10 locations
- Available facilities and ramp space
- Proximity to air-to-ground ranges
- Airspace availability and synergies with existing rescue and fighter missions

On August 2, 2023, the DAF announced Davis-Monthan AFB as the preferred location to host the 492 SOW, as an AFSOC CONUS power projection wing.

The power projection wing will:

- Encompass all of AFSOC's mission capabilities (strike; mobility; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; air-to-ground) with the ability to rapidly deploy and sustain power in support of the National Defense Strategy
- Enable the DAF to provide regional forces with specific geographic focus
- Allow AFSOC to further diversify its locations to protect against natural disasters while maintaining the ability to rapidly respond to Executive Office Presidential-directed missions on very tight timelines



Aerial view of Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



Environmental Impact Statement at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona

What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to:

- Create co-located AFSOC and ACC units that have the resources required to optimize the DAF's special operations and special warfare forces to support the National Defense Strategy while maximizing AFSOC's capabilities as a power projection wing that provide U.S. Special Operations Command and combatant commands specialized airpower against the entire range of threats to the U.S. and our allies/partners

The need for the Proposed Action is to:

- Transform AFSOC to properly prepare, prevent, and prevail against any adversary in today's uncertain environment
- Meet the National Defense Strategy through the establishment of a CONUS AFSOC power projection wing

What are the Proposed Alternatives for this EIS?

The proposed alternatives analyzed in this EIS will be:

- No Action Alternative
- Proposed Action Alternative



492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



What are the Baseline Conditions for this EIS?

For this EIS, it is important to understand other actions occurring at Davis-Monthan AFB during the same timeframe.

- The DAF has announced the decision to retire the A-10 aircraft
 - All A-10 aircraft at Davis-Monthan AFB are eventually planned for retirement, which would occur in two phases
 - The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act included the Phase 1 A-10 retirement, including associated personnel and aircraft operations, which is analyzed in the Fourth Generation Missions Regional Realignment Environmental Assessment

■ Therefore, the baseline conditions for this EIS will:

- Reflect the continued operations of the remaining A-10s not included in the Phase 1 A-10 retirement, along with the other ongoing rotary and fixed-wing aircraft missions
- Be included as a comparison to the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives to provide the reader with context during this transition



What is the No Action Alternative?

The EIS will also analyze a No Action Alternative.

- NEPA requires the alternatives analysis in the EIS to include a No Action Alternative
- The No Action Alternative for this EIS means:
 - AFSOC's 492 SOW beddown would not occur at Davis-Monthan AFB
 - ACC's Intelligence Squadron personnel would not come to Davis-Monthan AFB
 - Phase 2 of the A-10 retirement would be implemented, to include associated personnel, airfield operations, and airspace and range utilization
 - Ongoing and currently planned activities, missions, and programs, including associated aircraft operations previously analyzed in separate NEPA documents, which are included in baseline conditions, would continue to occur at Davis-Monthan AFB



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What is the Proposed Action?

The Proposed Action addresses several programmatic basing actions at Davis-Monthan AFB in support of the 2022 National Defense Strategy:

- Relocating the 492 SOW from Hurlburt Field, Florida and transforming it into a power projection wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, to include personnel and aircraft
- Transfer of additional AFSOC units and personnel to Davis-Monthan AFB from:
 - Duke Field, Florida
 - Fort Liberty (Pope Field), North Carolina
 - Cannon AFB, New Mexico
 - Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

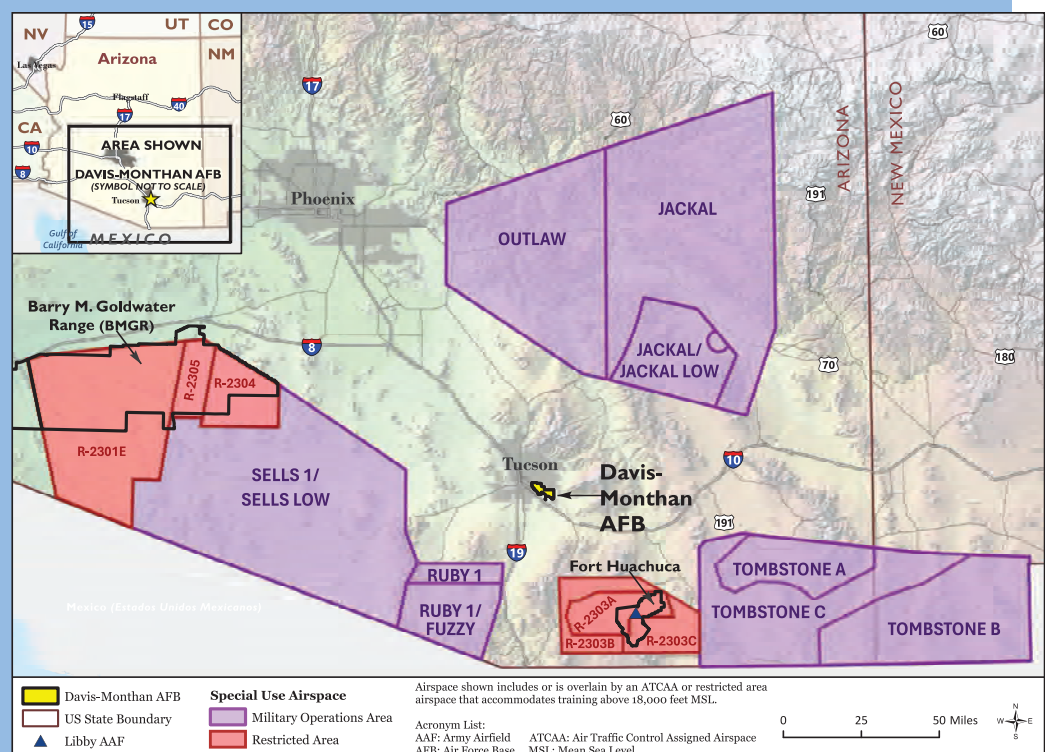
This includes personnel associated with Special Tactics and Special Operations Theater Air Operations Squadrons.

- Activation of an ACC Intelligence Squadron (IS), involving the relocation of personnel from:
 - Hurlburt Field, Florida
 - Cannon AFB, New Mexico

Although not part of the Proposed Action, changes resulting from the planned and eventual Phase 2 of the A-10 retirement from Davis-Monthan AFB will be considered in the analysis.

Overall, the Proposed Action Alternative would include the following elements:

- Personnel Changes
- Airfield Operations
 - OA-1K
 - MC-130J
- Airspace Use
 - No changes to airspace
- Range Use
- Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Potential renovations, demolitions, and new construction



492nd Special Operations Wing Beddown



What is the OA-1K Sky Warden?



Mission:

The OA-1K is a modified Air Tractor (AT) 802 and will deploy to support special operations irregular warfare missions in austere environments. The OA-1K is a multi-role platform that provides close air support, precision strike, and armed intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and delivers agile and tailorable capabilities to military operations. The OA-1K is designed for expedient deployment and can be quickly disassembled to fit inside C-17 cargo aircraft for transport and be reassembled within a single day.

Capabilities:

- Modified AT-802 two-seat turboprop aircraft
- Operations would primarily involve training flights at altitudes greater than 10,000 feet within 100 miles of Davis-Monthan AFB
- Will employ less munitions for training than are currently used by A-10 aircrews

General Characteristics:

Primary Functions: Multi-role—conducts close air support, precision strike, and armed intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

Contractor: L3Harris

Power Plant: 1,600 shaft horse power Pratt & Whitney PT6A-67F

Length: 37.5 feet

Height: 13 feet

Weight: 16,000 pounds

Wingspan: 59.25 feet

Speed: 160 miles per hour

Range: Fuel load dependent

Armament: 2.75 inch rockets and Hellfire air to surface missiles

Initial operational capability: 2026

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What is the MC-130J?



Mission:

The MC-130J flies clandestine, or low visibility, single or multiship, low-level infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces, by airdrop or airland and air refueling missions for special operations helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft, intruding politically sensitive or hostile territories. The MC-130J primarily flies missions at night to reduce probability of visual acquisition and intercept by airborne threats. Its secondary mission includes the airdrop of leaflets.

Capabilities:

- Advanced two-pilot flight station with fully integrated digital avionics
- Fully populated Combat Systems Operator and auxiliary flight deck stations
- Fully integrated navigation systems with dual inertial navigation system and global positioning system
- Integrated defensive systems
- New turboprop engines with six-bladed, all-composite propellers
- Digital autopilot; improved fuel, environmental and ice-protection systems
- Enhanced cargo-handling system
- Universal Air Refueling Receptacle Slipway Installation

General Characteristics:

Primary Functions: Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces by airdrop or airland, air refueling of SOF helicopter/tilt rotor aircraft

Contractor: Lockheed Martin

Power Plant: Four Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3 Turboprops

Length: 97 feet 9 inches

Height: 38 feet 10 inches

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 164,000 pounds

Wingspan: 132 feet 7 inches

Speed: 362 knots at 22,000 feet

Range: 3,000 miles

Crew: 2 pilots, 1 Combat Systems Officer and 2 Loadmasters

Date deployed: 2011

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What are Special Tactics?

Special Tactics are the DAF's special operations ground forces used to enable Global Access, Precision Strike, Personnel Recovery, and Battlefield Surgery. Special Tactics Airmen are dedicated, professional special operators who move, shoot, and communicate alongside a joint force, with an expertise in air power application.

Global Access:

Special Tactics Global Access Teams are tasked with assessing and opening anything from a major international airport to clandestine dirt strips in either permissive or hostile locations, providing strategic access for follow-on forces. These teams ensure U.S. and allied nations can access man-made and natural contested, degraded, and operationally challenged environments, enabling options for assault, maneuver, and power projection.

Capabilities:

- Special reconnaissance
- Austere airfield and assault zone operations
- Pre-staging runway and securing airfields
- Force projection
- Environmental reconnaissance/terrain analysis

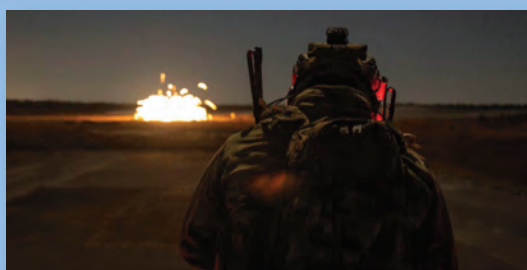


Precision Strike:

Special Tactics Precision Strike Teams are highly trained in kinetic and non-kinetic precision strike; coordinating with aircraft to direct accurate munitions as well as humanitarian aid drops from the ground.

Capabilities:

- Direct action
- Terminal control/guidance operations
- Interdiction and strategic attack
- Joint terminal attack certification



Personnel Recovery:

Special Tactics teams conduct personnel recovery missions, from rapid mission planning to technical rescue, treatment, and ex-filtration. With in-depth medical and rescue expertise, along with their deployment capabilities, Special Tactics Airmen can perform rescue missions in the world's most remote areas.

Capabilities:

- Technical rescue
- Battlefield trauma care
- SOF tailored recovery
- Mountaineering and high-angle rescues



Battlefield Surgery:

Special Operations Surgical Teams, commonly referred to as SOST's, are teams of lightweight, mobile surgical specialists with advanced medical and tactical training to save lives, anywhere and anytime. SOST members are dedicated to their craft, their team, the mission and their patients. Should a special operator fall, SOST will be there to provide the critical care to save lives. This pledge is reflected in their motto: "QUIS ILLOS BELLATORES CUSTODIET," or "Those Who Care for the Warriors."

Capabilities:

- Military/civilian trauma experts
- Forward surgical operations
- Mobile role-2
- Low-light surgery



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Environmental Impact Statement at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona



What Environmental Resources will be Studied in the EIS?

- **Air Quality**
- **Airspace Use and Management**
- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes**
- **Health and Safety**

- **Land Use**
- **Noise**
- **Physical Resources (Water and Soils)**
- **Socioeconomics**
- **Transportation**
- **Utilities**



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHELLEY KAY-FANTOZZI



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN TREVOR T. MCBRIDE

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Environmental Impact Statement at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona

Anticipated EIS Milestone Schedule

Notice of Intent (NOI)

MAY 2024

Scoping Period

MAY TO JUNE 2024

**Draft EIS and Notice
of Availability (NOA)**

WINTER 2024

**Draft EIS Public
Review Period**

WINTER 2024/2025

Final EIS and NOA

SUMMER 2025

Record of Decision

SUMMER 2025

**Opportunities
for Public
Participation**