



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
355TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA

August 8, 2024

GENERAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: 355 CES/CEIE

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Regional Special Use Airspace
Optimization to Support Air Force Missions in Arizona

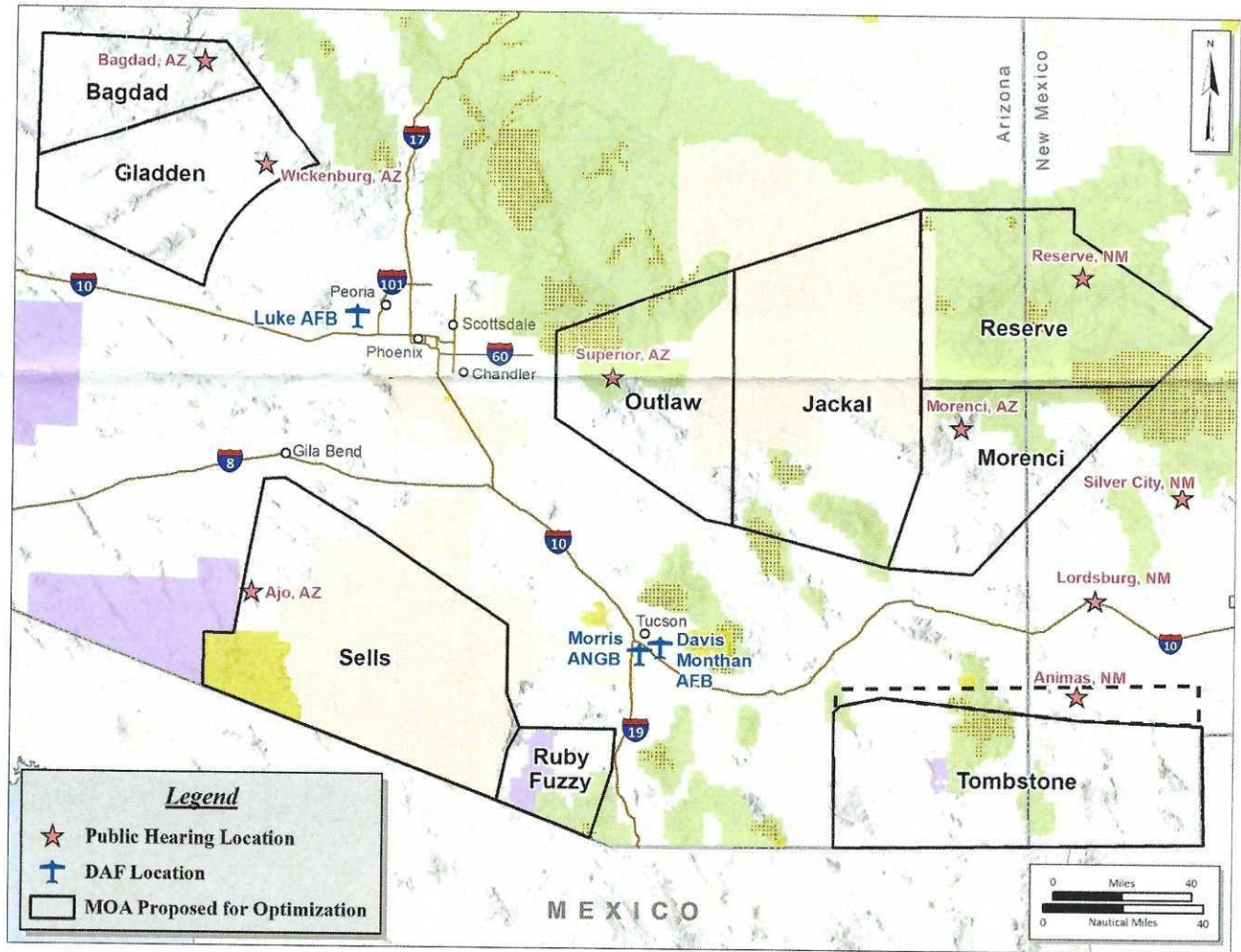
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and its implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), the Department of the Air Force (DAF) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of optimizing the special use airspace available to support Air Force missions in Arizona.

The DAF is proposing to alleviate training shortfalls and address evolving training needs by requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration implement regional airspace modifications to include: adjusting the times of use; adjusting the horizontal dimensions; adjusting the altitudes to support low-altitude training; authorizing supersonic training at lower altitudes; and authorizing the use of chaff and lowering the minimum release altitude for flares. The Proposed Action does not include the creation of new special use airspace or any changes at the installations (personnel, infrastructure, aircraft inventory, or airfield operations), changes to land use beneath the airspace, or weapons release. The special use airspace being addressed in the EIS is located throughout Arizona and a small area of western New Mexico (Enclosure 1). The Draft EIS is available for review and download on the project website: www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com. Paper copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the libraries provided in Enclosure 2.

The DAF will be hosting in-person and virtual public hearings throughout Arizona and New Mexico August 26 through September 13, 2024 (see Enclosure 3 for dates and locations). We request your participation at the hearings and solicit your comments on the Draft EIS. Please provide your comments no later than **October 9, 2024** to ensure consideration in the Final EIS. Verbal comments will only be accepted at the public hearings (in-person and virtual). Written comments may be submitted at the in-person public hearings, electronically on the project website, or by mailing to Arizona Regional Airspace EIS, c/o Stantec, 501 Butler Farm Rd., Suite H, Hampton, VA 23666 (postmarked by the comment deadline). Public comments on the potential effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are being solicited concurrently with the Draft EIS and can be submitted via the same methods described above.

RESCUE & ATTACK!

Enclosure 1



Enclosure 2 Library Repositories

Libraries with Hard Copy of Draft EIS

<i>Library Name</i>	<i>Street Address</i>	<i>City, State</i>
Pinal County Library District – Superior Public Library	99 N Kellner Avenue	Superior, AZ
Globe Public Library	339 S Broad Street	Globe, AZ
Wickenburg Public Library	164 E Apache Street	Wickenburg, AZ
Congress Public Library	26750 S. Santa Fe Road	Congress, AZ
Mesa Public Library	635 N Power Road	Mesa, AZ
Bagdad Public Library	700 Palo Verde #C	Bagdad, AZ
Lake Havasu Campus Library	1977 W Acoma Blvd	Lake Havasu City, AZ
Flagstaff City- Coconino County Public Library	300 W Aspen Avenue	Flagstaff, AZ
Tuba City Public Library	78 Main Street	Tuba City, AZ
Joel D. Valdez Main Library	101 N Stone Avenue	Tucson, AZ
Morenci Library	346 Plaza Drive	Morenci, AZ
Safford City-Graham Library	808 S 7 th Avenue	Safford, AZ
Reserve Library	15 Jake Scott Street	Reserve, NM
Venito Garcia Library	Main Street	Sells, AZ
Salazar-Ajo Library	15 W Plaza #179	Ajo, AZ
Lordsburg Hidalgo Library	208 E 3 rd Street	Lordsburg, NM
Bayard Public Library	1112 Central Avenue	Bayard, NM
Douglas Public Library	560 E 10 th Street	Douglas, AZ
Sunizona Library	6460 E Hwy. 181	Pearce, AZ
Burton Bar Central Library	1221 N Central Avenue	Phoenix, AZ
Silver City Public Library	515 W. College Avenue	Silver City, NM

Enclosure 3

Public Hearing Locations and Schedule		
Date	Time (Local time unless otherwise noted)	Location
August 26, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Ajo High School 111 North Well Road Ajo, AZ 85321
August 27, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Best Western Gold Canyon Inn & Suites* 8333 East Sunrise Sky Drive Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
August 28, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Bagdad High School 500 Sultan Way Bagdad, AZ 86321
August 29, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Wickenburg Community Center 160 N Valentine Street Wickenburg, AZ 85390
September 4, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm MST (6:00 – 9:00 pm MDT)	VIRTUAL HEARING, see website for registration and instructions
September 5, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm MDT (4:00 – 7:00 pm MST)	VIRTUAL HEARING, see website for registration and instructions
September 9, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Morenci Club Hall 314 Plaza Drive Morenci, AZ 85540
September 10, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Reserve Community Center Mountaineer Road (across from the High School) Reserve, NM 87830
September 11, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Western New Mexico University Global Resource Center 1000 West College Avenue Silver City, NM 88062
September 12, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	James H. Baxter Civic Center 313 E 4 th Street Lordsburg, NM 88045
September 13, 2024	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Animas High School 1 Panther Boulevard Animas, NM 88020
<p><i>Note: *A venue in Superior, AZ was not available during the Public Hearing schedule. The meeting in Gold Canyon, AZ is the replacement for that location.</i> MST = Mountain Standard Time MDT = Mountain Daylight Time</p>		