

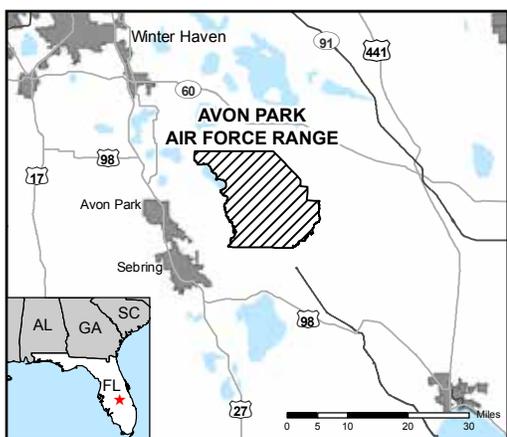


U.S. AIR FORCE :

# AVON PARK AFR : FLORIDA



**A**von Park Air Force Range (AFR) is a 106,000-acre bombing and gunnery range located near the center of the state of Florida. The primary training range for Homestead Air Reserve Base, Avon Park AFR is used extensively by all four Services. The range hosts numerous squadron and unit-level deployments from across the country in addition to nearby Air Force bases with its large restricted airspace and operating area offering a critical training space. The range’s importance may increase with future missions, possibly including F-35



training.

The range’s location in central Florida also connects it with important ecosystems as part of the northern Everglades, as well as working agricultural lands. Restrictive easements on these lands will limit incompatible development and buffer the range in one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Protecting

Avon Park AFR allows the range to maintain existing capabilities and keep pace with increasing requirements of new aircraft. Limiting potential development also avoids noise complaints and prevents light pollution that may impact night training.

The Avon Park AFR REPI project benefits stakeholders and industries important to the Florida economy, such as agriculture, recreation, and ecotourism. Protected lands will preserve water resources and wetlands, including lands important to the Everglades—one of only three designated wetland areas of global importance—and the entire southern Florida water supply. Large landscape-scale protection in this region provides opportunities to better align federal resources and strengthen locally-led conservation initiatives.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects water resources

### MILITARY

- Preserves aviation maneuver and night flying training that produce significant noise or require minimal light pollution
- Provides for future mission growth



Avon Park AFR hosts exercises that simulate close air support targeting under real urban area conditions (top), and integrated air-ground battle tactics for all Department of Defense Services (bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- The Nature Conservancy
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Defense Alliance
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Florida Defense Support Task Force
- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Highlands County
- Polk County
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Florida Division of Forestry
- South Florida Water Management District

## FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

- » Acres preserved: **1,382**
- » Transactions conducted: **2**
- » Partner cost share: **24%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

## CONTACT

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