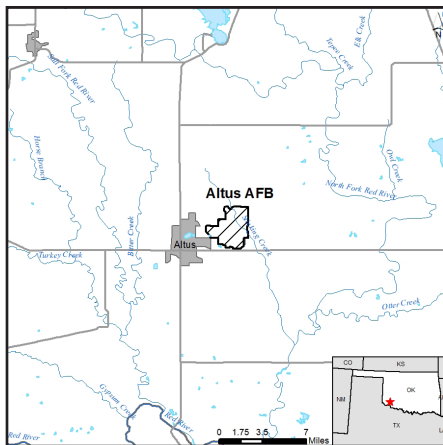




ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE

Altus Air Force Base (AAFB), located in southwest Oklahoma, is home to the 97th Air Mobility Wing and hosts and operates the only heavy mobility and air-refueling schoolhouse in the Air Force for C-17, KC-135, & KC-46 aircraft.

Over 2,000 students participate in initial training, requalification, and instructor training every year at AAFB. AAFB houses 18 full motion flight simulators, 9 refueling simulators and 5 cargo load trainers, as well as 3 runways used for heavy aircraft training. The installation's strategic location and broad aviation capabilities allow the Air Force to continue to effectively train service men and women for worldwide deployment.



Low level airspace is crucial to AAFB's mission. Potential wind energy development in the area poses a serious threat to the viability of the AAFB's mission. Turbines penetrating into low level routes create avoidance areas, limit useable airspace, and reduce the availability of low level, airdrop training areas. AAFB is working with its partners to acquire restrictive use easements on properties surrounding the installation to limit the potential for height obstructions and radar interference.

In addition to mitigating encroachment challenges from wind development, AAFB is also working with the City of Altus and the Tom Steed Master Conservancy District to protect critical groundwater resources in the region. AAFB is dependent on the City of Altus for short-term and long-term water supplies, the majority of which are surface water. Recent droughts illustrate the need to bring groundwater supplies into the City's water portfolio. Limited alternatives exist, but the City of Altus and the Tom Steed Master Conservancy together with AAFB are working to secure water rights to the Tillman Terrace aquifer to alleviate this challenge. This project will grant AAFB access to a reliable supply of water and help deliver secured groundwater to the City's water system, thereby increasing drought resiliency of the base as well as the community.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Drought resiliency
- Access to reliable water supply

MILITARY

- Water security
- Protection of existing airspace and radar capabilities
- Increases operational safety



C-17 with door open on the flightline (top), and a KC-135 at takeoff (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Altus
- Tom Steed Master Conservancy District

CONTACT

ALTUS AFB PUBLIC AFFAIRS:
(580) 481-7700

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2018 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: Initiated

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	—	—	\$0.4 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has expended REPI funds to support the ongoing management or improvement of lands outside the installation.