



REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILES

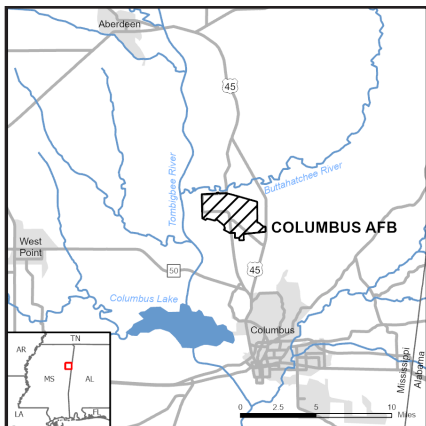
U.S. AIR FORCE | MISSISSIPPI



COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

Columbus Air Force Base (AFB) is home to the 14th Flying Training Wing and is one of three Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training bases.

The Wing is responsible for an intensive 54-week Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program, aimed at substantially increasing the number of pilot trainees for the Air Force. Columbus AFB is also one of just two installations that conduct the Air Education and Training Aviation Leadership Program for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and will be one of the few bases housing the T-X aircraft.



These critical Air Force training missions at Columbus AFB are at risk due to increased encroachment from development pressures created by planned highway expansion and local mine buyouts. Existing incompatible residential development in proximity to aircraft takeoff and landing areas is already creating public safety hazards and mission hindrances at the installation. Additionally, mine development is linked to increased bird concentrations which would pose wildlife collision hazards to aircraft operations. New mining activity would also likely transfer substantial amounts

of sediment into the Buttahatchee River which could also increase the occurrence of flooding in the area. Columbus AFB is aiming to acquire land around the installation through restrictive use easements to reduce incompatible residential and commercial development, including new mine development, around the installation.

The protected area around the installation would also provide ecosystem services such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat. Most notably, these lands contain important habitat for the northern Long-Eared Bat, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, and other threatened and endangered species and protecting it will limit the likelihood that these species seek refuge within installation boundaries.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Protects from environmental degradation associated with mine development
- Supports and enhances current ecosystem services

MILITARY

- Limits lost training days and physical hazards for student pilots
- Protects training capabilities
- Increases ability to support the growth of pilot trainees

FAST FACTS THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: Initiated

Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
—	—	—

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has an established and funded REPI partnership but has not completed any transactions through FY 2023.



The 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus AFB is focused on training world class pilots and providing specialized training in the T-6 Texan II (top), T-38C Talon (bottom), and T-1A Jayhawk aircraft.

KEY PARTNERS

- Wildlife Mississippi

CONTACT

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