



# PRESS RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### **Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate potential environmental impacts of optimizing special use airspace to support Air Force missions in Arizona**

**LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Arizona** – The Department of the Air Force announces its Notice of Availability and Draft Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of optimizing the special use airspace available to support Air Force missions in Arizona on Aug. 9, 2024. The Air Force is soliciting comments on the Draft EIS and inviting all interested parties to attend public hearings. Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act process, the Air Force is conducting National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties.

The Air Force is proposing to alleviate training shortfalls and address evolving training needs by requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration implement regional airspace modifications such as: 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 doesn't include the creation of new special use airspace or any changes at the installations, 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. The Draft EIS is available for review and download on the project website ([www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com](http://www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com)) paper copies may be reviewed in several local libraries (see website for all library repositories).

Comments can be made at public hearings, submitted online at the project website ([www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com](http://www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com)), or by mailing to the address listed below:

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c/o Stantec  
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To ensure full consideration, all comments should be submitted by October 9, 2024. In-person and virtual public hearings are being held throughout Arizona and New Mexico from August 26 through September 13, 2024. See project website for specific times, dates and instructions for participating in hearings.