



Range Reader

Barry M. Goldwater Range East 56th Range Management Office

Summer 2023
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Welcome to summer edition of *Range Reader* - a newsletter to keep you informed of the Barry M. Goldwater Range East happenings. Whether you utilize the Range for recreation or are a member of the local community and enjoy staying informed this newsletter is for you!

This newsletter is in electronic format as well and can be found on our website. Thank you for your interest in the Barry M. Goldwater Range!



Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field

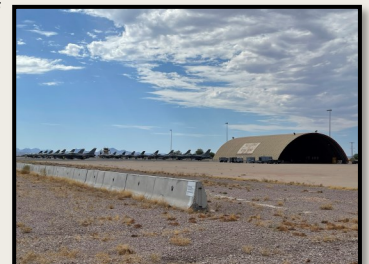


The Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field is located 65 miles southwest of Luke Air Force Base and four miles south of the town of Gila Bend. The airfield encompasses 1,885 acres of land, east of Highway 85. Gila Bend AFAF includes an 8,500-foot runway for fixed-wing aircraft and a heliport. It is managed by the 56th Range Management Office.

Prior to 1994, GBAFAF was a self-sustaining auxiliary airfield with residential, commercial, and community support facilities, in addition to the operational facilities of the airfield. The airfield was operated by military, civilian, and contract personnel in support of the BMGR. In October 1994, the Air Force closed most of the facility, removed all active military personnel, and transferred the management and maintenance of the facility to a civilian contractors.

Today its primary mission is to support users of the BMGR and serve as a hub for range maintenance activity. Military aircraft routinely use GBAFAF for practicing traffic pattern and emergency simulated engine flameout procedures. The airfield is also used for emergency and precautionary recoveries of military aircraft. On August 17, 16 F-16s from Tucson were diverted to GBAFAF due to adverse weather. The pilots were able to return safely to their home station the following day. This is just one recent example of the many uses of the GBAFAF.

It's also currently used for various readiness and deployment exercises (*see page 2 for articles*).



In the News

While most people realize a huge part of the Range is used for operations some are uncertain what that really looks like. While the Range is used daily for flying to help our pilots meet sortie and mission requirements the Barry M Goldwater Range East and Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field are also used for a variety of exercises. Its year-round flying weather and natural open terrain continue to make it a perfect location for both air and ground training. Check out these recent articles below regarding happenings on the Range and GBAFAF.

Luke Airmen exercise ACE during Wild Coyote

Airmen from the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, and the 317th Airlift Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas, executed Agile Combat Employment tactics during exercise Wild Coyote, April 12-13, 2023, at Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field, Arizona.

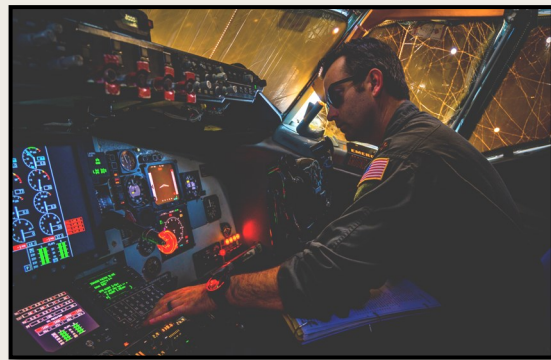
The two-day training exercise included three different groups from the 56th FW operating alongside two C-130J Super Hercules aircraft assigned to the 40th Airlift Squadron.

"Having (the 317th AW) join us adds vital training value for both wings," said Capt. Nicholas Carter, 63rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit director of operations. "With the different mission sets, it gives the Airmen a chance to view more of the Air Force, and gain experience that they can take to a deployment or a different command." With the excess of rains this season and the extra growth there comes additional concerns about potential fires ...



Full article: <https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3374191/luke-airmen-exercise-ace-during-wild-coyote/>

Luke soars during IP War Day



The 56th Fighter Wing worked with Arizona Air National Guard and United States Marine Corps units to launch 52 aircraft during the latest Instructor Pilot War Day at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona, June 23, 2023.

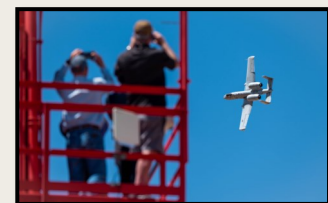
The large-force exercise is a routine event where multiple military units stationed in Arizona cooperate to simulate a large-scale aerial combat operation that included pilots from Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan AFB, Morris Air National Guard Base, Goldwater ANGB, and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

"The intent of IP War Day is to ensure our operators maintain the highest level of tactical proficiency and our instructor pilots are able to distill lessons from the LFE into their day-to-day student training," said U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew

Johnston, 56th Operations Group commander. "IP War Day ensures our Airmen are tactically ready and subject matter experts in our mission to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready Airmen." ...

Full article: <https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3441614/luke-soars-during-ip-war-day/>

56th Fighter Wing hosts Haboob Havoc at Barry M. Goldwater Range



The 56th Fighter Wing hosted the 10th annual fighter pilot competition Haboob Havoc, April 26th to 28th, 2023, at Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona.

Haboob Havoc is a total force competition that provides an opportunity for pilots from various bases to demonstrate their skills across a diverse range of aircraft while also testing their abilities in different mission sets such as simulated dogfighting, strafing, and gun runs.

The competition showcased a diverse range of aircraft. 56th Fighter Wing participation included F-35 Lightning IIs from the 61st Fighter Squadron, 62nd FS, 63rd FS, and 308th FS along with F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 309th FS ...

Full article: <https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3382269/56th-fighter-wing-hosts-haboob-havoc-at-barry-m-goldwater-range/>

Wildfire Efforts and Partnerships



Fire fighters from the Bureau of Land Management Lower Sonoran Field Office, the Air Force Western Regional Fire Management Officer, the Gila Bend Tunista Services Fire Chief, along with others came together with a common objective of fire prevention and safety on the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

The 56th Range Management Office hosted the group and familiarized everyone with the Barry M. Goldwater Range East and this vast terrain. Items discussed included partnership protocols and agency roles.

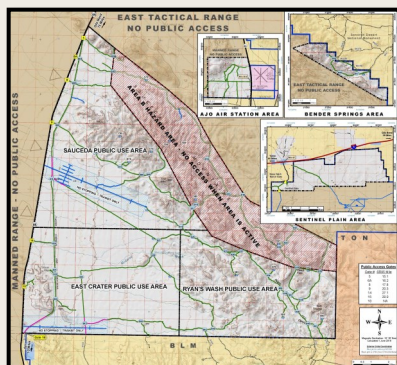
This meeting served helpful as agencies regathered to defeat a wildfire that ignited on the evening of June 22, 2023 on the BMGR East Tactical Range.

Bureau of Land Management provided various aircraft and helicopters along with engines to help suppression the Range fire. The Air Force Wildland Support Module also came down to support. Due to the incredible relationship we have with partner agencies and the diligence of the team the fire was contained on the afternoon of June 25. The fire impacted an estimate of 1,118 acres but without the efforts of the team the fire could have been significantly worse.

Permitting Updates

If you are a regular user of the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge or the Sonoran Desert National Monument public use areas it's time to get a new permit!

But, did you hear? We are now using a different website. Check out our new and improved permitting platform through RecAccess. Visit <https://bmgr.recaccess.com> today for your new permit!



Our new platform should be easier and more user friendly. In addition, with the new platform the permitting system will now be good for a full 365 days from when you sign up for your permit.

The Barry M. Goldwater Range East has a few specific changes we ask you take note of. In addition to the new platform you might notice a few changes to our map to include the Sentinel Plain extension and the segment division of Area B. Also our gate code passes will be changing quarterly and will be given during check-in.



For any assistance with RecAccess please contact 623-856-7216 for BMGR East, or 928-269-3115 for BMGR West.

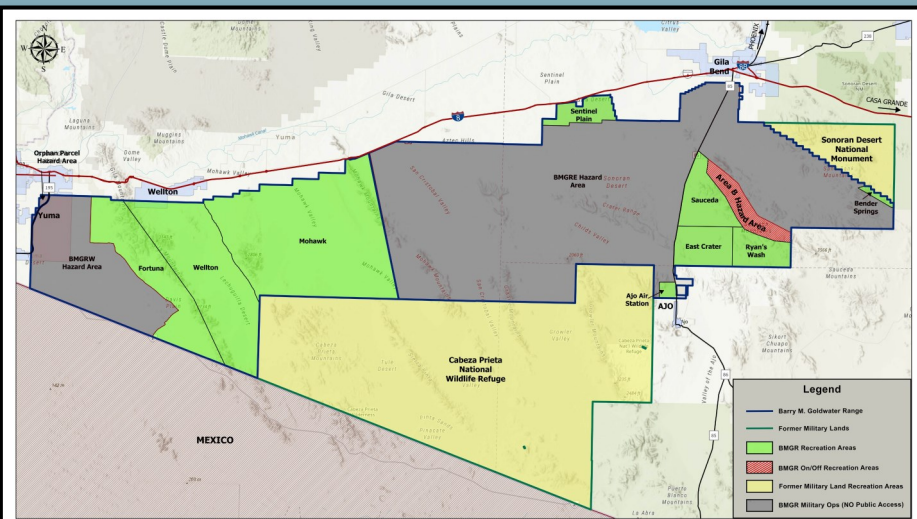
Barry M. Goldwater Range and Former Military Lands Permits

But why is a permit required? Permits are used to alert visitors about safety requirements, natural and cultural protection rules, and other rules of conduct.

We require personnel using the range to familiarize themselves with potential hazards that can be found on the Range.

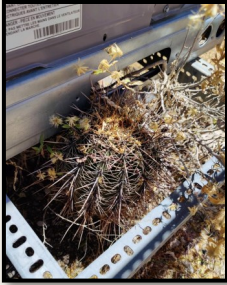
Unexploded ordnance may be present in locations as a result of training from previous years. These areas include the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge along with the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

In addition, the check-in process helps us know the general location of personnel in the event of an emergency that may require evacuation.



Ongoing Conversation Efforts

Saguaro Relocation



The 56th Range Management Office was notified recently that some young saguaro cactus were growing in less than ideal conditions on the Barry M. Goldwater Range East.

While safely moving saguaros is a process, our biologist along with the help of one of our partners at Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge made sure to move them both with the upmost care placing them a few feet within the original location to place in which they could grow and thrive.

Sonoran Pronghorn Summer Maintenance

Forage becomes scarce on the Barry M. Goldwater Range during the harsh summer months making it complicated for our Sonoran Pronghorn to find the food needed for survival.



Generally throughout the months of June through August we along with our partners Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service take turns delivering bales of alfalfa to the Uken Tank feeding station to help supplement as food resources are limited with the absence of precipitation for several months. The catchments are also maintained to ensure our pronghorn along with other wildlife have a reliable water source, which is also scarce on the Range.

The Sonoran Pronghorn was one of the first species declared endangered in, receiving Federal protection under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1967. Throughout the years the Barry M. Goldwater Range has worked closely with other various government agencies to protect and preserve the pronghorn along with all the other protected species on the Range. In 2002 there were only an estimated 21 individuals in the United States. With help from a captive breeding program and active management the numbers are now around 400.

Acuña Cactus Documentation

Wildlife biologists/specialists from Arizona Game and Fish Department and the 56th Range Management Office collaborate to continue their efforts in documenting and understanding the beautiful Acuña Cactus.



Twice a year the specialists come out and check on existing and previously documented cactus and look for new recruits. During their visit in early spring they count flowers and do an extensive search for new seedlings. During their visit in late spring, they monitor the same cactus but are checking to see which flowers are transitioning into fruit.

Documenting measurements, differences, inconsistencies, bug infestations and lack of pollination are a few things they looked for during their most recent visit.

Useful Phone Numbers

56 RMO Public Affairs
623-856-7216

BMGR East Range Security
623-856-5421 or 623-683-5200

BMGR West
928-269-3115

AZ Game & Fish Department
602-942-3000

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
602-242-0210

U.S. Customs & Border Protection
877-227-5511

Communications

We have been working hard to improve our methods of communication with our partners and the community.

One of those ways is through this very newsletter. We hope you find it useful as we plan to do one quarterly and include updates and items of interest along with things we have been up to throughout the quarter. This newsletter will be distributed at our public meetings and can be downloaded from our website.

Another way is through our website. It's still in the works but it has more information and should be easier to navigate for those looking for documents or information.

And also through our official Facebook page. We've been posting about recent happenings and items we feel could benefit our followers.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can help get information out, let us know by reaching out to 56R-MO.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil.

Visit our website
<https://www.luke.af.mil/Units/56th-Range-Management-Office/>

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[@BarryMGGoldwaterRangeEast](https://www.facebook.com/BarryMGGoldwaterRangeEast)

