



NEWS RELEASE

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Modernization of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Training Facilities at Holloman AFB

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Holloman Air Force Base held the grand opening for the new 49th Operations Group building on Friday, May 30. The extensive renovations are part of a modernization effort to remodel existing buildings and construct new buildings that will provide one consolidated campus for all MQ-9 training squadrons.

The fully renovated 49th OG building now houses all personnel from the 49th Operations Group, including the 6th, 9th and 29th Attack Squadrons, and the 16th Training Squadron. Two recently completed buildings nearby also provide training space for personnel.

“The 49th Wing produces the best RPA pilots and sensor operators in the world,” said U.S. Air Force Col. John Ethridge, 49th Wing commander. “The move to consolidate Holloman’s MQ-9 training and attack squadrons in one location will allow us to enhance our collaboration across the training enterprise and improve the quality of our aviators.”

On October 16, 2024, Holloman broke ground on a new, approximately 75,000 square foot training facility for the MQ-9 formal training unit that will be completed in 2027.

The 49th Wing hosts the largest MQ-9 formal training unit in the Air Force so it’s vital that we have the best possible training facilities to help accomplish our training mission. The new and renovated training facilities will provide better and larger academic space, new briefing/debriefing rooms, fixed Ground Control Stations, MQ-9 training simulators, and better and more secure technology.