

Final
Environmental Assessment (EA)
FOR
Operation ALLIES WELCOME (OAW) Support
AT
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico



PREPARED FOR:

Department of the Air Force
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

September 2021

1 COVER SHEET

2 **Responsible Agencies:**

3 Department of the Air Force (DAF), Air Education and Training Command (AETC), 49th Wing

4 **Proposed Action:**

5 Operation ALLIES WELCOME (OAW) Support at Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB), New Mexico

6 **DAF Points of Contract:**

7 Address: ATTN: EA Operation Allies Welcome Support

8 490 1st Street, Building 29, Room 1500

9 Holloman AFB, NM 88330

10 Email: 49wg.paoffice@us.af.mil

11 **Report Designation:**

12 Final Environmental Assessment (EA)

13 **Abstract:**

14 As of result of the resent Afghanistan situation and related evacuations, the DAF prepared this EA to
15 address and analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the providing temporary facilities to
16 shelter Afghan evacuees. The analysis process for this EA was conducted in compliance with the
17 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on
18 Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40
19 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF Environmental Impact Analysis
20 Process (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989). Because the proposed action is not anticipated to rise to the level of
21 an Environmental Impact Statement, the DAF is using its discretion to advance special and emergency
22 provisions pursuant to 32 C.F.R. §§ 989.34(a)-(b), 989.36 and in furtherance of 40 C.F.R. § 1506.12,
23 *Emergencies* and CEQ¹ guidance.

24 Under the Proposed Action, the DAF would provide the following: Buildings 45, and 908 for
25 administrative support, building 105 for reception, Nenninger Balloon and Wherry Housing land sites
26 (Figure 2-1) to support temporary facilities supporting relocation of Afghan evacuees at risk at HAFB,
27 New Mexico. Use existing facilities for reception and temporary facilities for mass sheltering. Support
28 personnel will utilize an existing admin facilities and temporary shelter.

29 Under CEQ, NEPA and DAF regulations, the DAF will also consider taking no action (the No Action
30 Alternative). By taking no action, the DAF would not provide land or access to HAFB to support
31 temporary shelter of Afghan evacuees.

32 Potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action were assessed in this EA. The
33 following resource areas were identified for further study:

Noise	Hazardous Materials and Wastes	Infrastructure / Utilities
Air Quality	Biological /Natural Resources	Earth Resources
Cultural Resources	Safety and Occupational/Public Health	Socioeconomics

34 Due to the urgent and time sensitive nature of the proposal, **public and agency comments were**
35 **requested no later than 13 September 2021** to ensure substantive input can be fully considered.

¹ President’s Council on Environmental Quality, Memorandum for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies, *Emergencies and the National Environmental Policy Act Guidance - Environmental Assessments*, September 14,2020, page 2.

Acronyms

1	
2	49 WG - 49th Wing
3	ACAM - Air Conformity Applicability Model
4	ACM - Asbestos-Containing Materials
5	AETC - Air Education and Training Command
6	AFMAN - Air Force Manual
7	AFH - Air Force Handbook
8	AFI - Air Force Instruction
9	AICUZ - Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
10	APE - Area of Potential Effects
11	APZs - Accident Potential Zone
12	AQCR - Air Quality Control Region
13	BEAR - Base Expeditionary Airfield Resources
14	BISON-M - Biota Information System of New Mexico
15	BMPs - Best management practices
16	CAA - Clean Air Act
17	CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality
18	CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
19	CTO - Construction Tasking Order
20	CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
21	CH ₄ - Methane
22	CO - Carbon Monoxide
23	CO ₂ - Carbon Dioxide
24	DAF - Department of the Air Force
25	dB - decibel
26	DERP - Defense Environmental Restoration Program
27	DoD - Department of Defense
28	DoDI - Department of Defense Instruction
29	DoS - Department of State
30	DHS - Department of Homeland Security
31	DNL - day night average sound level
32	EA - Environmental Assessment
33	EO - Executive Order
34	ESA - Endangered Species Act
35	ERP - Environmental Restoration Program
36	FS - Fighter Squadron
37	FTU - Formal Training Unit
38	GCR - General Conformity Rules
39	GHGs - Greenhouse Gases
40	GPM - Gallons per Minute
41	HAFB - Holloman Air Force Base
42	HAPs - hazardous air pollutants
43	HPD - Historic Preservation Division
44	INRMP - Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
45	IPaC - Information for Planning and Consultation
46	JTF - Joint Task Force

1 JTF-H - Joint Task Force Holloman
2 LA - Laboratory of Archaeology
3 LBP - Lead-based paint
4 HFCs - Hydrofluorocarbons
5 IRP - Installation Restoration Program
6 MG - Million Gallons
7 MGD - Million Gallons per Day
8 MMRP - Military Munitions Response Program
9 MSW - Municipal Solid Waste
10 N₂O - Nitrous Oxide
11 NCP - National Contingency Plan
12 O₃ - Ozone
13 OAW - Operation ALLIES WELCOME
14 OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
15 Pb - Lead
16 PLANORD - Planning Order
17 PM - Particle Pollution
18 NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards
19 NEO - Noncombatant Evacuation Operations
20 NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
21 NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
22 NO₂ - Nitrogen Dioxide
23 NOA - Notice of Availability
24 NO_x - Nitrogen Oxides
25 NH₃ - Ammonia
26 NMCRIS - New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System
27 NMDGF - New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
28 NMED - New Mexico Environment Department
29 NM HWA - New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act
30 NetFOSAA - Nethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid
31 NMeFOSAA - N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid
32 NRCS - Resources Conservation Service
33 NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
34 PFBS - Perfluorobutansulfonic Acid
35 PFCs - Perfluorinated Compounds
36 PFDA - Perfluorodecanoic Acid
37 PFD_oA - Perfluorododecanoic Acid
38 PFHpA - Perfluoroheptanoic Acid
39 PFH_xA - Perfluorohexanoic Acid
40 PFH_xS - Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid PV - Photo Voltaic
41 PFNA - Perfluoronanoic Acid
42 PFOA - Perfluorooctanoic Acid
43 PFOS - Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid
44 PFT_eA - Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid
45 PFT_{ri}A - Perfluorotridecanoic Acid
46 PFUnA - Perfluoroundecanoic Acid

- 1 PPT - Parts Per Trillion
- 2 PSD - Prevention of Significant Deterioration
- 3 PWS - Public Water System
- 4 QRP - Qualified Recycling Program
- 5 RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- 6 ROI - Region of Influence
- 7 RPM - Remedial Project Manager
- 8 SF₆ - Sulfur Hexafluoride
- 9 SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer
- 10 SIP - State Implementation Plan
- 11 SO_x - Sulfur Oxides
- 12 SO₂ - Sulfur Dioxide
- 13 TCPs - Traditional Cultural Properties
- 14 UESC - Utility Energy Service Contract
- 15 TSP - Total Suspended Particulates
- 16 VOC - Volatile Organic Compounds
- 17 U.S. - United States
- 18 USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 19 USEPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency
- 20 UU/UE - Unrestricted use/unlimited exposure
- 21 VOCs - Volatile Organic Compounds
- 22 WSMR - White Sands Missile Range

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- Appendix B: Air Conformity Applicability Model Results

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1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, the President authorized Afghan Special Immigrants including principal visa applicants, their families, and other individuals at risk to be moved out of Afghanistan and into the United States (U.S.). As a result on 13 Aug 2021, the Joint Staff issued Planning Order (PLANORD) for Department of Defense (DoD) Support to the Department of State (DoS) for Afghan Relocation to coordinate U.S. efforts to provide temporary shelter to Afghan evacuees and foreign national evacuees. DAF Secretary Kendall approved Holloman AFB (HAFB) to support DoS request to provide support to Operation Allies Refuge on 24 August 2021 as part of an emergency authorization. The Air Force is completing this environmental assessment in accordance with the special emergency procedures pursuant to 32 CFR 989.34 allowing NEPA analysis to occur after initial actions are taken to support the proposal. This support will be provided through Operation Allies Welcome (OAW).

To assess potential environmental impacts associated with mobilizing temporary shelter on HAFB, the DAF developed this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989).

1.2 LOCATION

HAFB is located in south central New Mexico about 95 miles (mi) north of the Texas border adjacent to White Sands Missile Range and White Sands National Park (**Figure 1-1**). It is in Otero County, New Mexico, six miles southwest of Alamogordo (**Figure 1-2**). The base is comprised of 51,813 acres in Otero County. The airfield and developed area is within the southern 7,000 acres immediately north of US Highway 70. The north area of base is predominantly open space around the High Speed Test Track, Combat Arms Training Range and few other facilities. HAFB supports about 21,000 active duty Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, retirees, DOD civilians and their family members.

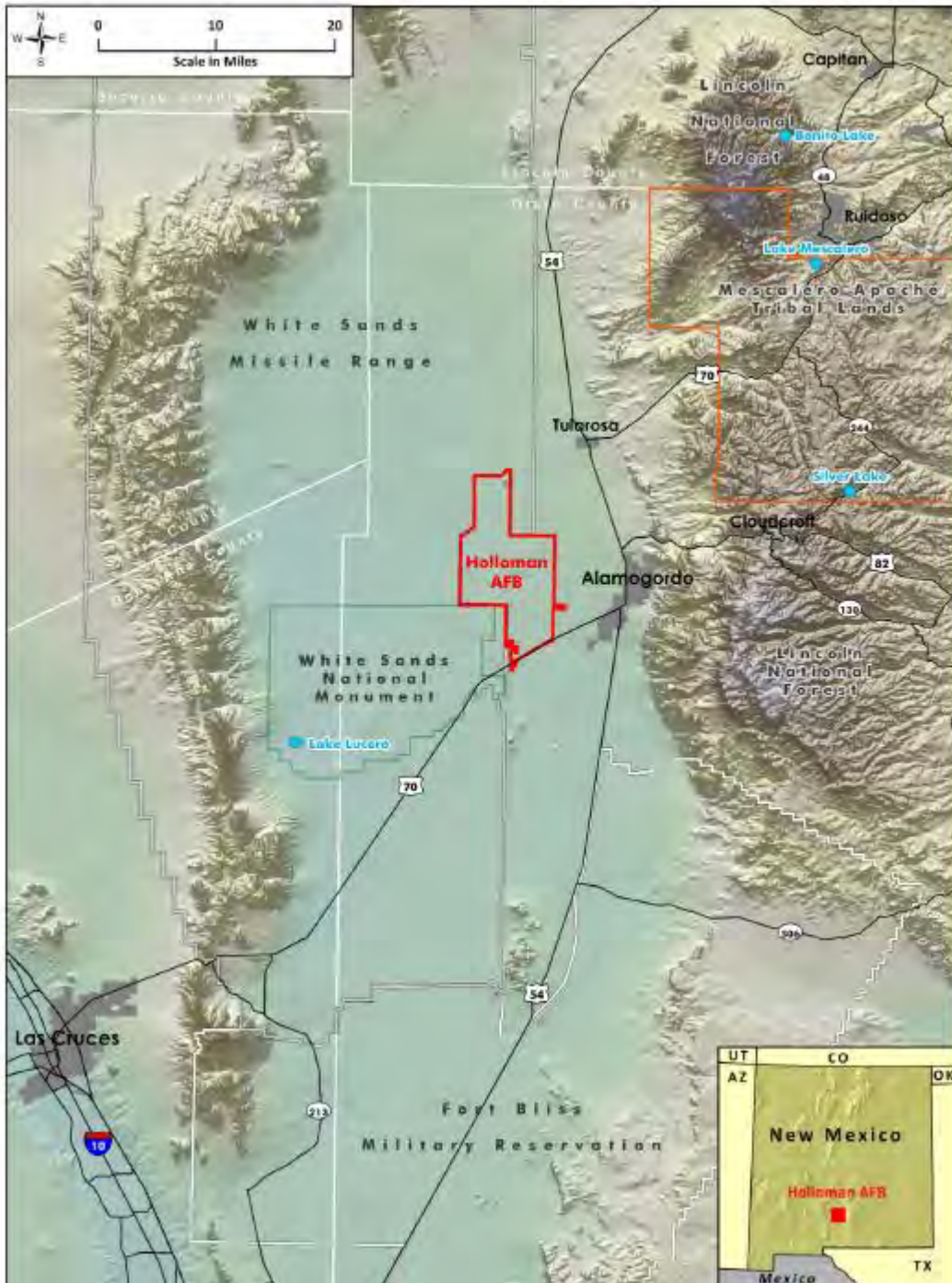
The 49th Wing (49 WG) supports the F-16 Fighting Falcon, T-38 Talon, and MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft. The 54th Fighter Group is an F-16 Formal Training Unit (FTU) and a unit of the 49 WG. HAFB is also home to 635th Material Maintenance Group and 704th Test Group.

HAFB provides support for the US Army's White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) military testing area as well as the White Sands Space Harbor for National Aeronautical and Space Administration missions. The world's longest and fastest rocket sled test track, Holloman High Speed Test Track, is located on base

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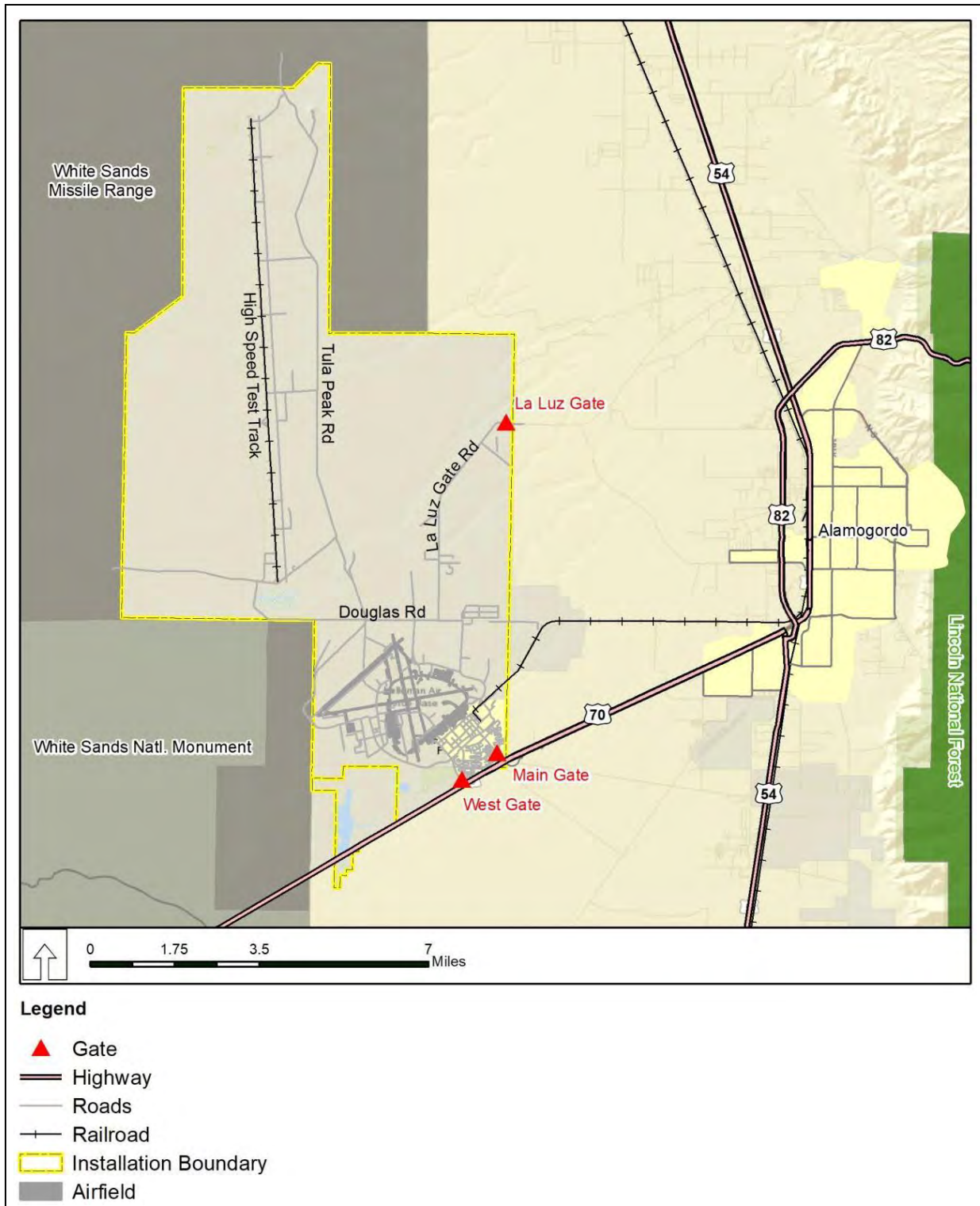
Figure 1-1: Location of Holloman Air Force Base (Regional View)



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Figure 1-2: Location of Holloman Air Force Base (Local View)



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Final EA for Operation ALLIES WELCOME Support at Holloman AFB

1 1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

2 The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support U.S. government noncombatant evacuation
3 operations (NEO) in accordance with DoD 3025.13 (Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Designated
4 Aliens from Threatened Areas Abroad), Executive Order (EO) 12656 (Assignment of
5 Emergency Preparedness Procedures) and the 13 August 2021 PLANORD by housing Afghan
6 evacuees who supported the US mission and forces in Afghanistan for the past 20 years. On 24
7 August 2021, Secretary Kendall approved use of HAFB to support the DoS in support of the
8 NEO to furnish shelter for the Afghan evacuees. OAW will provide support for Afghan
9 evacuees beginning 29 August 2021 on.

10 The need for the Proposed Action is to provide safe haven and shelter at HAFB for Afghan
11 evacuees who assisted the U.S. and our allies in response to an increasingly unstable and
12 deteriorating security situation caused by insurgent Taliban operations in Afghanistan. Taking no
13 action would likely result in a considerable humanitarian crisis and harm to those who have
14 furthered U.S. and allied operations and interests in Afghanistan.

15 1.4 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

16 This EA evaluates impacts associated with the provision of temporary shelter which consists of
17 existing facilities and temporary facilities (e.g., a tent city) for Afghan evacuees and associated
18 support personnel at HAFB. The Proposed Action also involves the use of existing facilities in
19 addition to establishment and operation of temporary facilities with minimal land disturbance
20 and low potential to disrupt existing conditions and environmental resources. Environmental
21 analysis included in this EA is proportional to this Proposed Action.

22 1.5 DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

23 As the lead agency, the DAF developed this EA in accordance with the National Environmental
24 Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental
25 Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code
26 of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF *Environmental Impact Analysis*
27 *Process* (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989).

28 The DAF has enacted emergency EIAP procedures pursuant to 32 CFR 989.34, Special and
29 emergency procedures in development of this EA allowing work to proceed in advance of EIAP
30 completion.

31 1.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PUBLIC AND AGENCY 32 PARTICIPATION

33 **Government-to-Government Coordination / Consultation**

34 The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part
35 800, and Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02, Interactions with Federally-
36 Recognized Tribes, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 90-2002, Air Force Interaction with
37 Federally-Recognized Tribes, direct the Air Force to consult with Federally-recognized Indian
38 tribes when a proposed action could affect properties of religious and cultural significance (also
39 known as Traditional Cultural Properties, or TCPs) to the tribes. Federally recognized tribes
40 historically affiliated with the HAFB geographic region were invited for consultation on the
41 Proposed Action. On **3 September 2021**, DAF sent a letter to the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and
42 is provided in **Appendix A**.

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1 **Historic Preservation Coordination / Consultation**

2 Per the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, findings of no
3 effect and request for concurrence were transmitted to the New Mexico State Historic
4 Preservation Officer (SHPO). HAFB held a conference call to discuss the project on **1**
5 **September 2021**. SHPO requested additional information on **1 September 2021** requesting
6 additional information about structures on the stable site. DAF replied on **1 September 2021**
7 that after further review the stable sight was removed from further considerations due to
8 nonconformance with site selection criteria. The SHPO concurred with the Air Force's definition
9 of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) A Finding of No Adverse Effect
10 on **2 September 2021**. Consultation letters and records of communication are provided in
11 **Appendix A**.

12 **Biological Coordination / Consultation**

13 Per the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing
14 regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, HAFB consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
15 (USFWS). HAFB initiated informal consultation with the USFWS in a letter dated **1 September**
16 **2021**, and found that the Proposed Action is Not Likely to Adversely Affect a Federally-listed
17 species because no suitable habitat is present. The USFWS replied concurring with Not Likely
18 to Adversely Affect on **15 September 2021**. Correspondence between HAFB and USFWS is
19 provided in **Appendix A**.

20 **Public and Agency Review of the EA**

21 A Notice of Availability (NOA) for public review of the Draft EA invited review and comment
22 during the 5 days of public review beginning on **8 September 2021** and ending on **13**
23 **September 2021**. The NOA was published in the Alamogordo Daily News and Las Cruces Sun
24 News on **10 September 2021**. The Draft EA was also made available for public review at the
25 Alamogordo Public Library (920 Oregon Avenue Alamogordo, NM 88310) and Ahrens
26 Memorial Library, HAFB (596 Fourth Street, Bldg 224 Holloman AFB, NM 88330). The Draft
27 EA was also made available electronically on the HAFB Environmental Information website at
28 <https://www.holloman.af.mil/Environmental-Information/>. One generally supportive public
29 comment was received and is included within **Appendix A**.

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2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action involves the provision of temporary shelter for up to 20,000 Afghan evacuees constructed upon the former Nenninger Balloon site Facility 13850, Facility 92021 and its surrounding land not to exceed 250 acres of disturbance, and a reception facility, building 105. Facilities will include existing buildings and establishment of new temporary shelters (e.g., a tent city). **Figures 2-1** through **Figure 2-8** detail the proposed site and constraining factors. Up to 5,000 support personnel would support OAW operations at HAFB as part of the Proposed Action. These support personnel will be housed in temporary shelters at former Wherry Housing site and operate from buildings 45 and 908 for administrative functions (**Figure 2-3**).

The DAF initially coordinated with DoS to provide temporary shelter for Afghan evacuees. Enduring operations will be coordinated through DHS to facilitate temporary shelter for a minimum of 180 days up to 18 months. The DAF would award a support contract and utilize limited support personnel to support the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action includes the following onsite modifications:

- Construction of ingress/egress, temporary shelters and perimeter fence not to exceed 250 acres of disturbance for housing Afghan evacuees
- Utilities connections, as applicable

The Proposed Action area, would provide sufficient support structures, construction laydown area, and security fencing to separate the temporary facilities from other areas and functions at HAFB. DAF in coordination with DHS would be responsible for adherence to all applicable local, state, and federal regulations associated with implementation of the Proposed Action. Construction efforts as part of the Proposed Action are estimated to require up to 30 days to reach full operational capabilities. Afghan evacuees and support personnel would begin arriving on a timeline to be determined, but align with staging and construction timelines.

The Proposed Action would implement the following actions to support the mission:

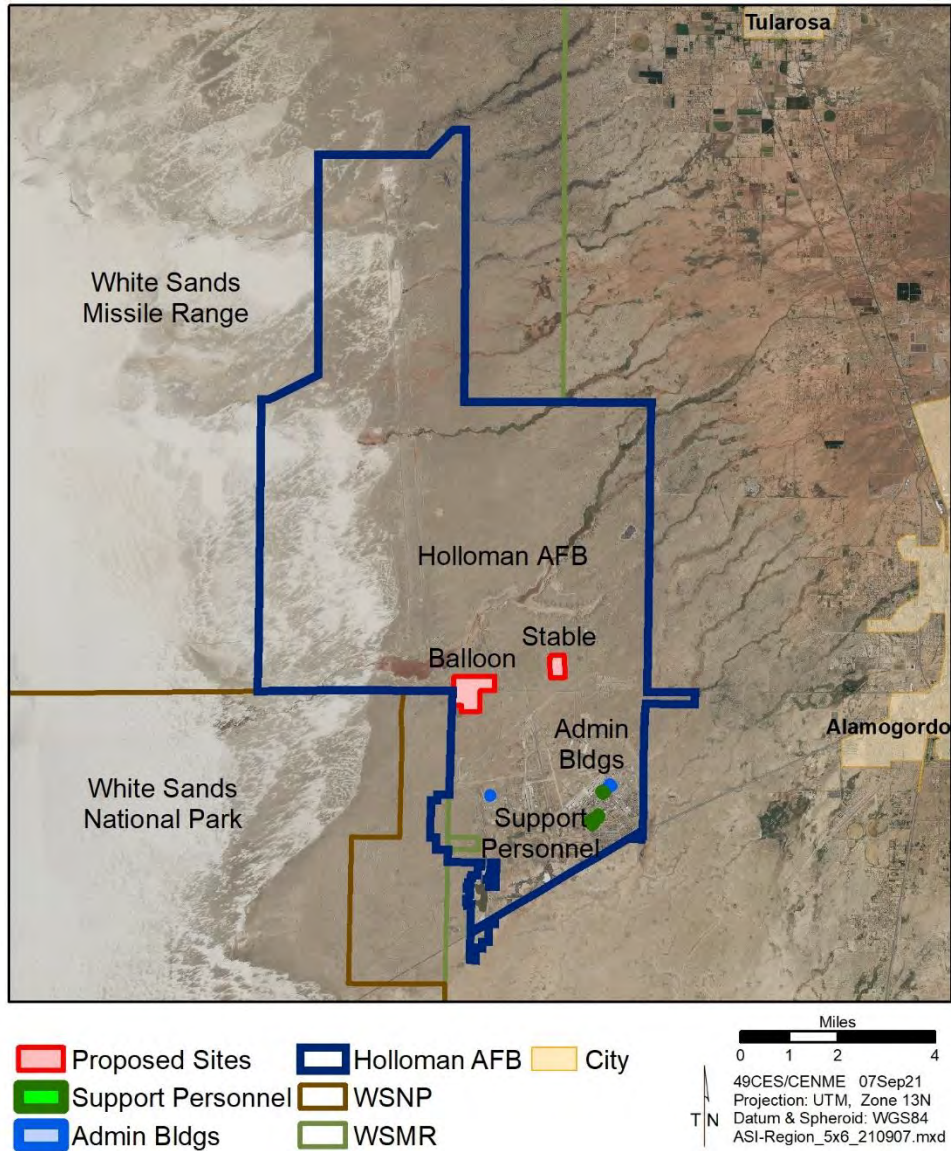
- Site prep
 - Temporary shelter would be erected on a flat suitable site
 - Layer of sandbags, as appropriate, would be placed around exterior perimeter of each tent to control runoff where needed
 - There are some minor terrain irregularities in the areas proposed for temporary shelter facilities, those would be filled or graded to control runoff and/or ponding
 - Gravel areas/walkways would remain in place after conclusion of the effort
 - Electric generators would be stationed as necessary for power distribution/ connections and ease of access for servicing
 - Temporary shelters for arriving individuals, support personnel, logistics processes and supplies management would be built
 - Lodging Operations/Billeting Desk and Operations

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- 1 • Processing Center
- 2 • Transportation (busses / vans)
- 3 • Transition of Afghan Special Immigration to sponsors
- 4 • Temporary facilities
- 5 • Facilities & stand-alone utilities (hauling water, hauling sewage, electrical
- 6 production/generation)
- 7 • Fencing around compound
- 8 • Hygiene, meals, and Basic Life Services
- 9 • Showers/shaves/latrines
- 10 • Accommodations
- 11 • Meal service
- 12 • Laundry service
- 13 • Refuse collection/removal
- 14 • Custodial services in common areas
- 15 • Medical Services
- 16 • Religious support
- 17 • COVID Testing
- 18 • Child and youth services
- 19 • Public Affairs
- 20 • Retail (purchase of necessities - Afghan considerate)
- 21 • Barber services
- 22 • Linens, pillows, blankets, towels, hygiene kits
- 23 • Grounds maintenance
- 24 • Pest management
- 25 • Dust mitigation/control
- 26 • Site security
- 27

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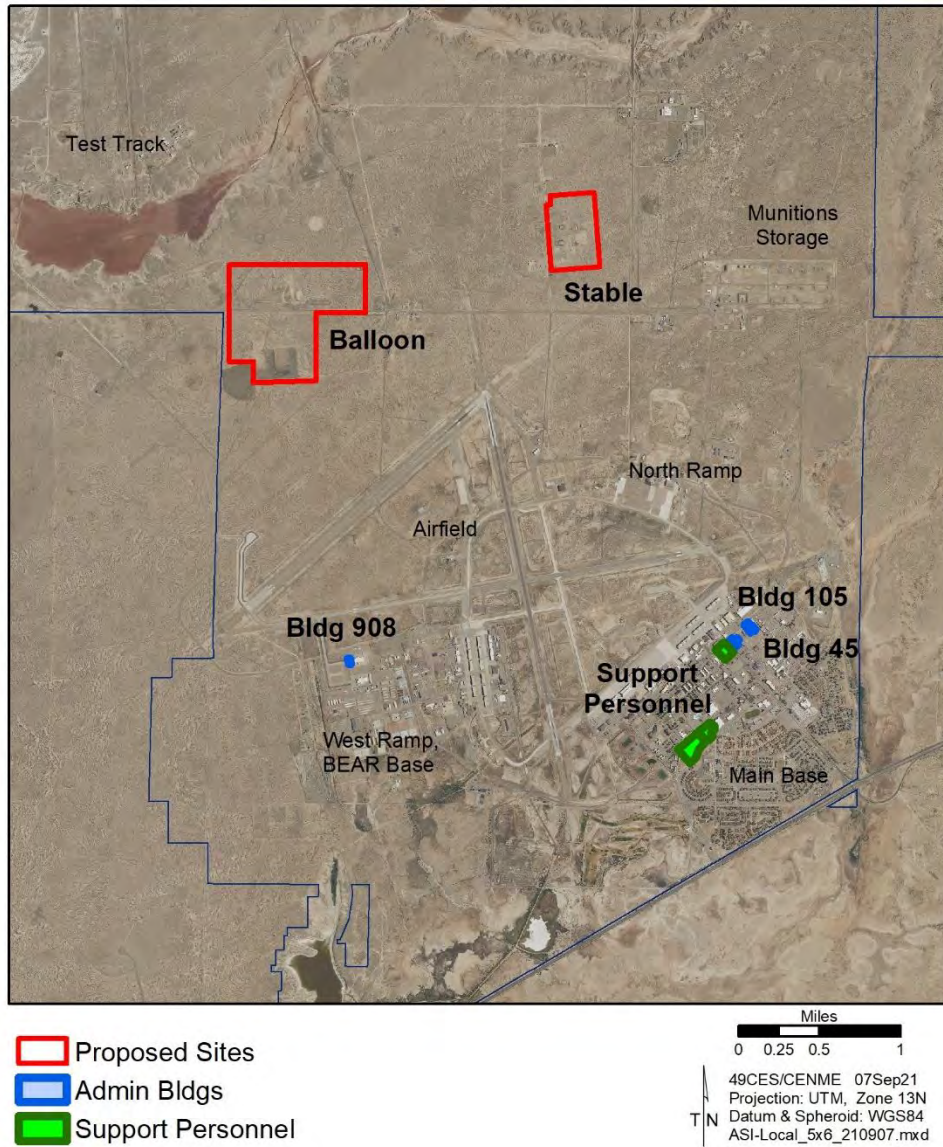
Figure 2-1: Proposed Sites (Regional View)



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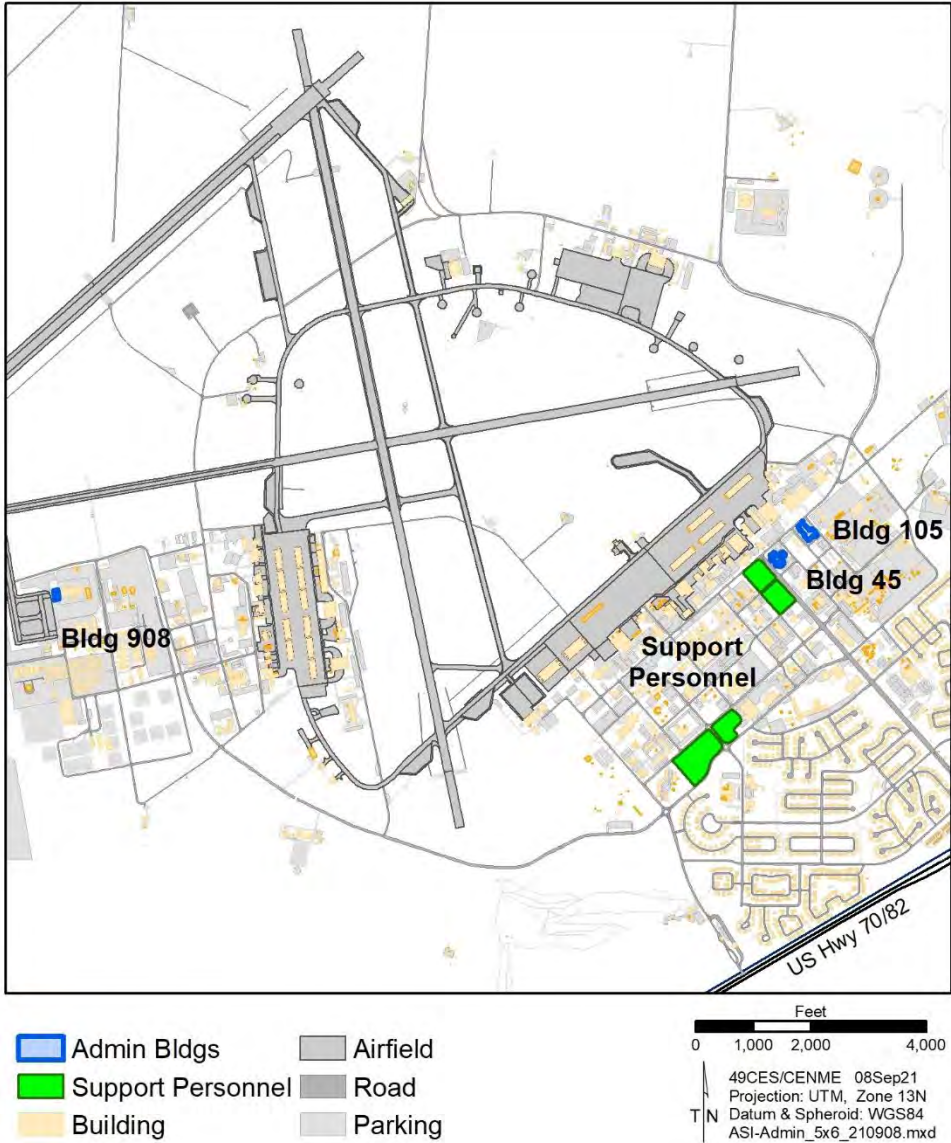
Figure 2-2: Proposed Sites (Local View)



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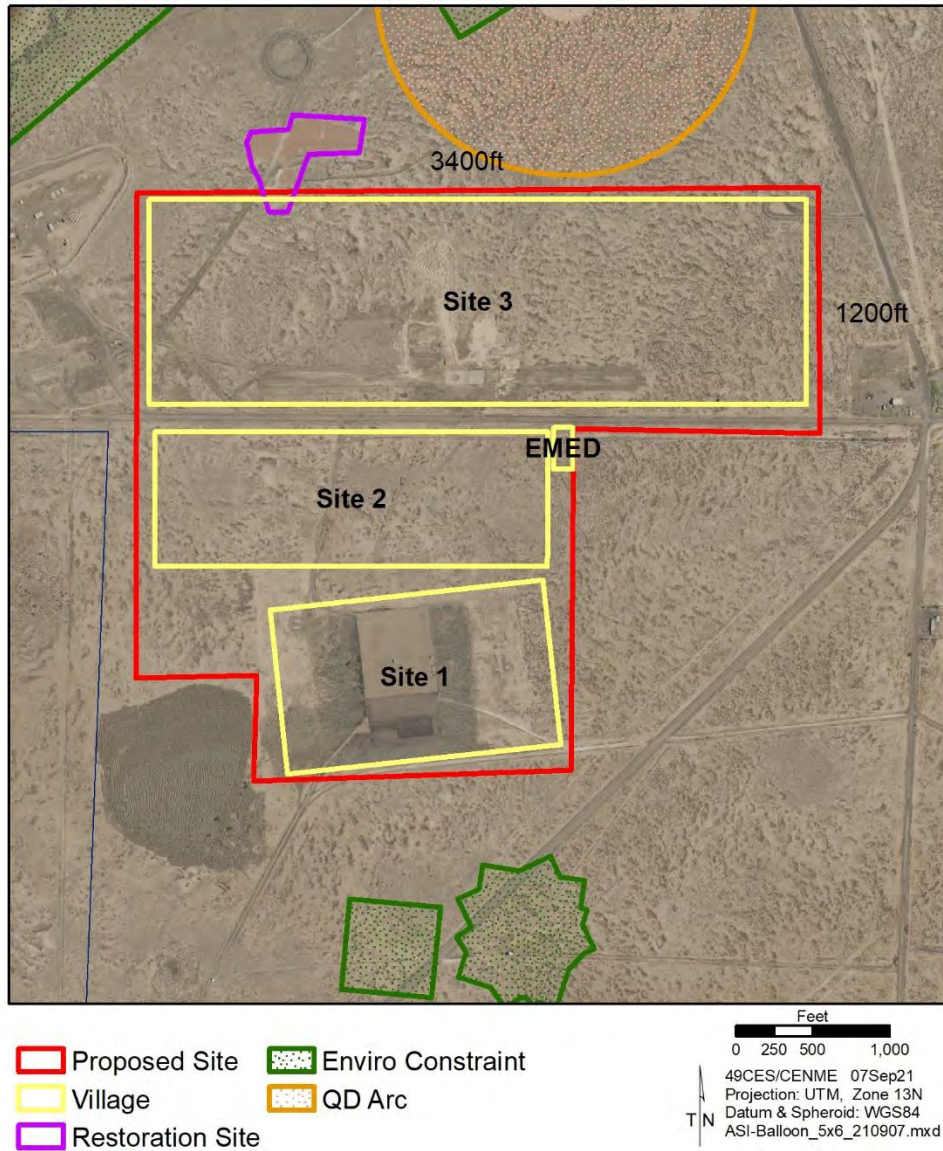
Figure 2-3: Proposed Sites (Local View – Main Base)



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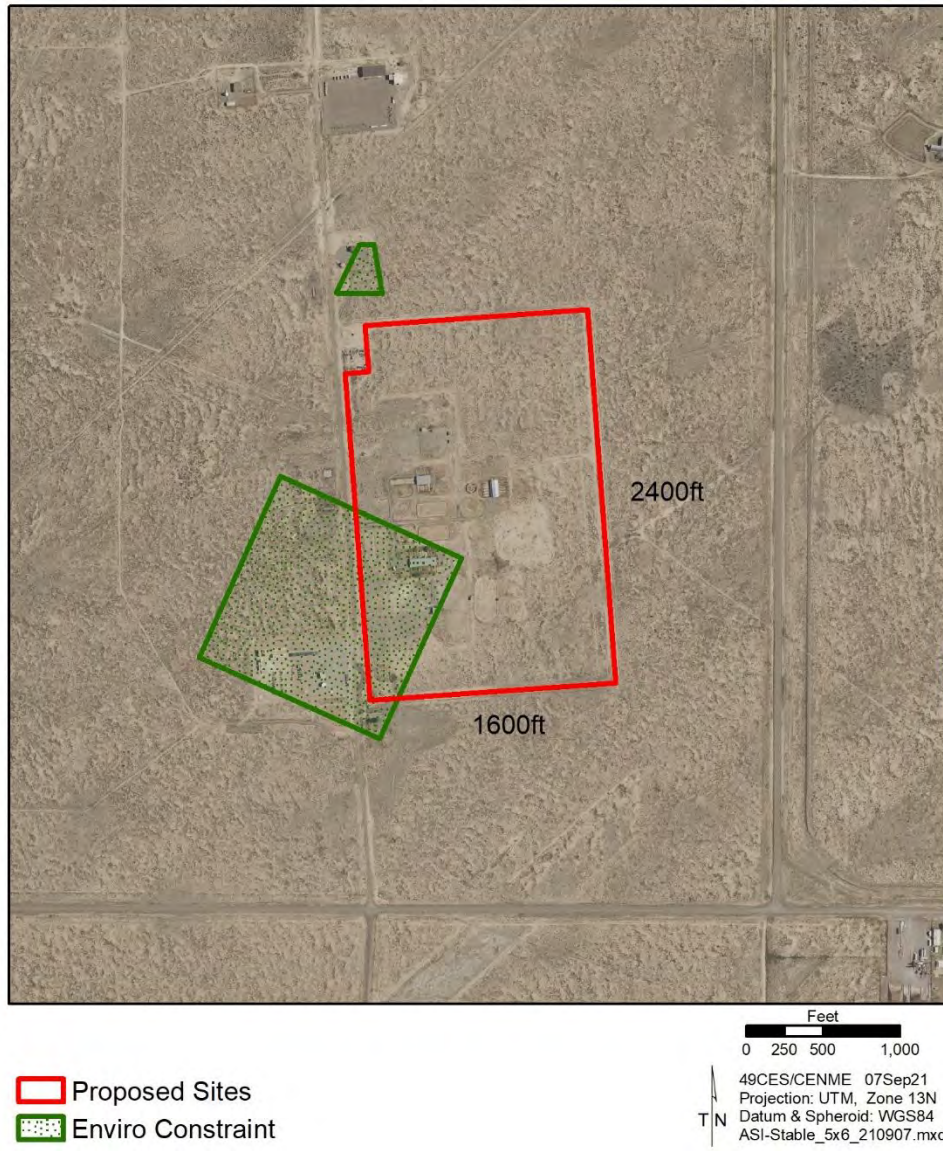
Figure 2-4: Proposed Sites (Local View – Balloon Site)



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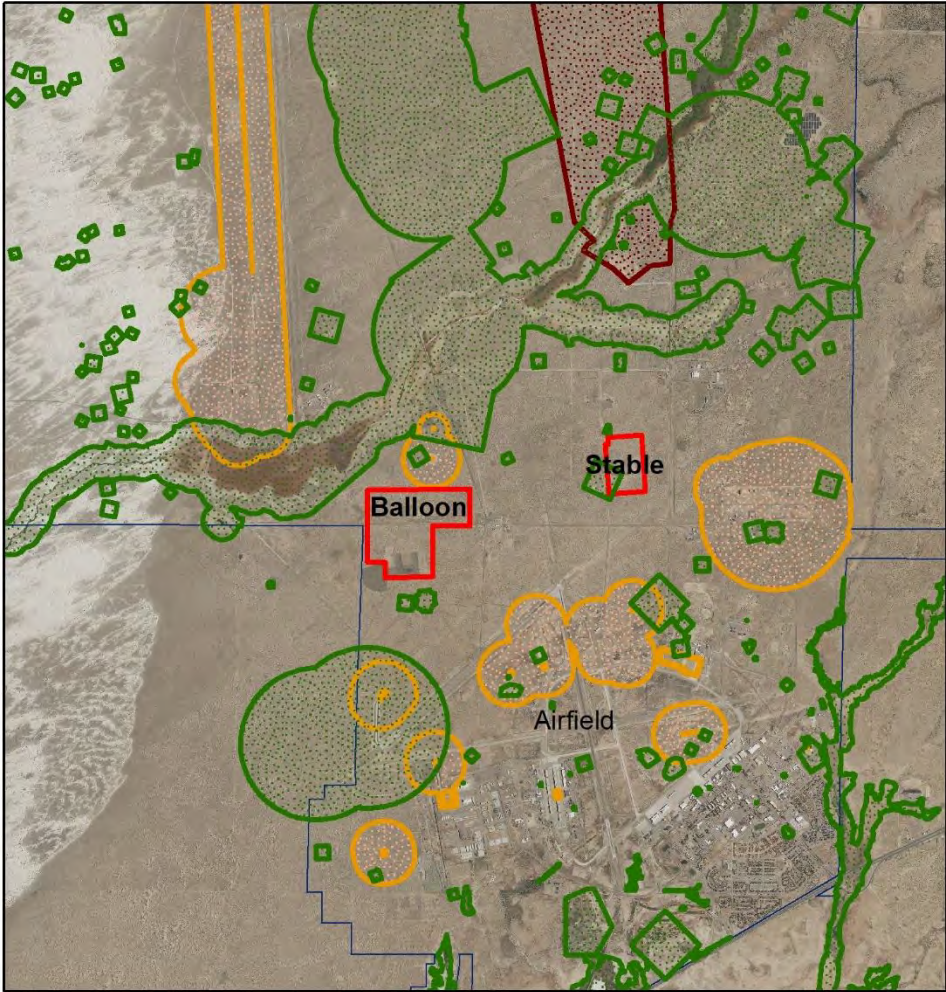
Figure 2-5: Proposed Sites (Local View - Stable)



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Figure 2-6: Proposed Sites (Constraints View)



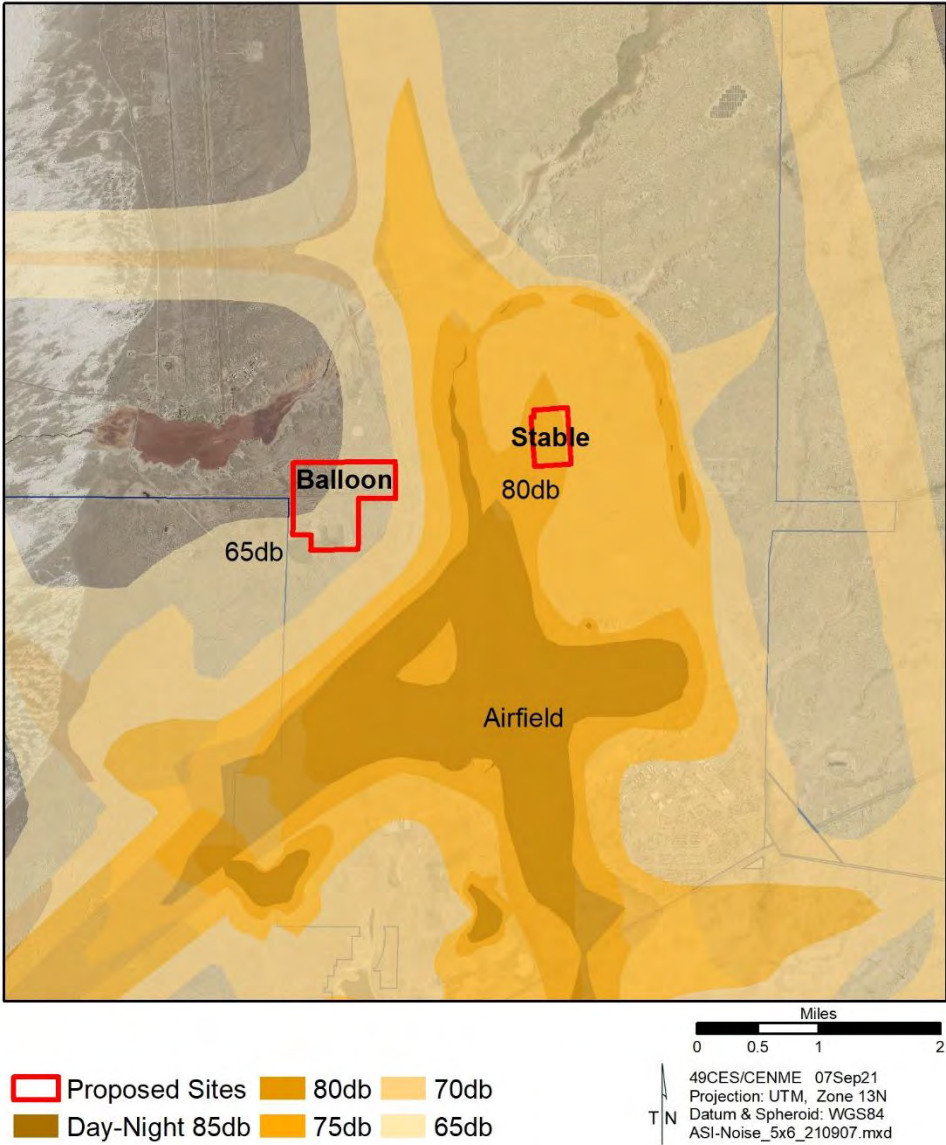
- Proposed Sites
- QD Arc
- Enviro Constraint
- CATM Range
- Holloman AFB

Miles
0 0.5 1 2
49CES/CENME 07Sep21
Projection: UTM, Zone 13N
Datum & Spheroid: WGS84
ASI-Constrain_5x6_210907.mxd

2

1

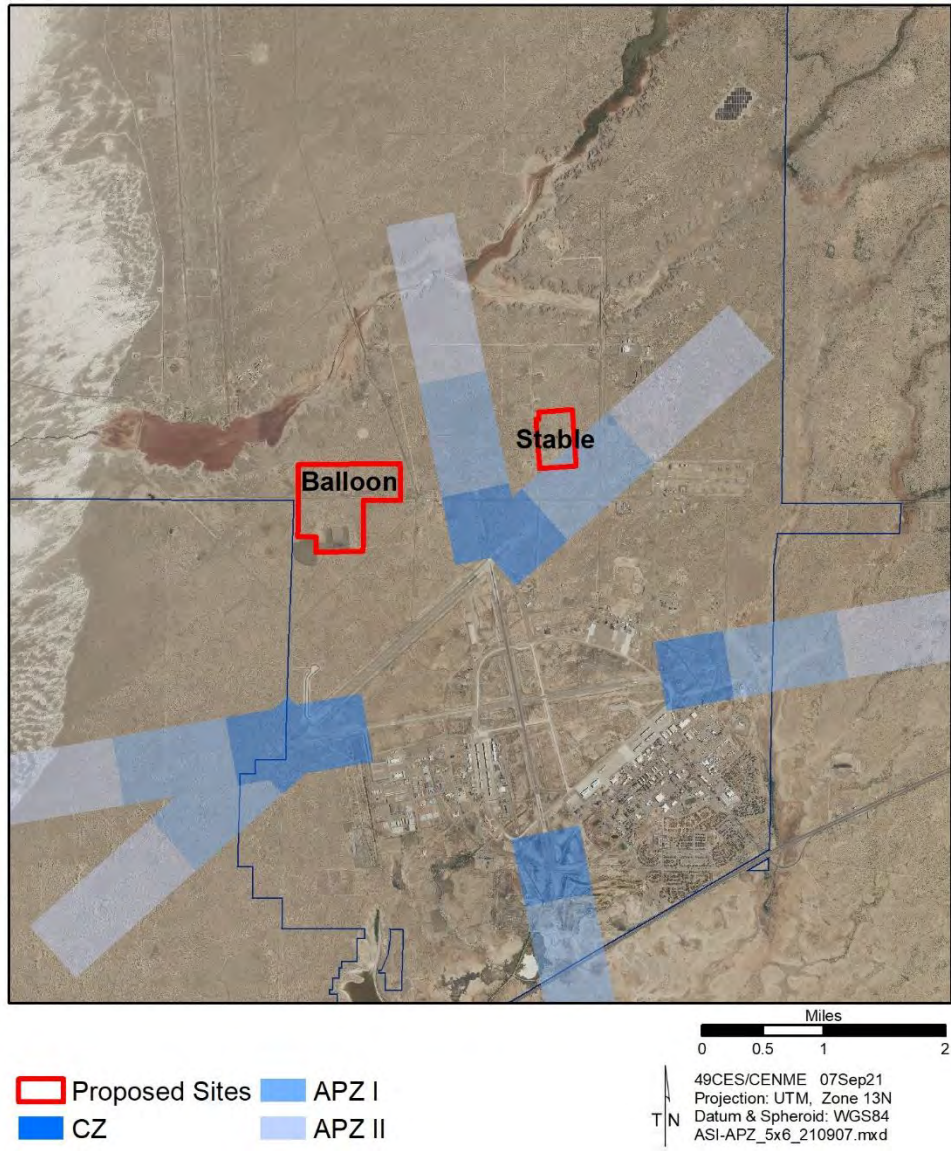
Figure 2-7: Proposed Sites (Noise Contours View)



2

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1 **Figure 2-8: Proposed Sites (Clear Zone and Accident Potential Zones View)**



2

1 **2.2 SCREENING CRITERIA**

2 The DAF developed the Proposed Action and alternatives carried forward for analysis by
3 weighing all possible courses of action capable of meeting the Purpose and Need. Siting location
4 for the Temporary Facilities and use of Existing Facilities would be essentially similar under any
5 action alternative and is based on required capacity to temporarily shelter for Afghan evacuees.
6 These Screening Criteria for siting of grounds for temporary shelter for Afghan evacuees are
7 based on needs with respect to providing temporary, short-term shelters for Afghan evacuees,
8 and are listed below:

- 9 • Site is suitable for temporary human habitation
- 10 • Site is at least 32 up 250 acres
- 11 • Staging area for service trailers
- 12 • Road access to the site
- 13 • Ability to tie to existing utilities
- 14 • Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) compliance for density of people and noise
- 15 • Allows the base to effectively maintain necessary security of the site and its ongoing
- 16 missions
- 17 • Site would limit impacts to existing base operations and missions
- 18 • Utilize existing base facilities for military support personnel

19 **2.3 ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS**

20 **2.3.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

21 The CEQ regulation, 40 CFR §1502.14(d), requires the inclusion of a No Action Alternative in
22 the NEPA analysis. The No Action Alternative would not conduct onsite modifications or
23 construct temporary shelters. Due to the critical nature of the deteriorating security and
24 instability in Afghanistan, shelter locations are urgently needed to house Afghan evacuees and
25 U.S. support personnel. Without sufficient temporary shelter options, taking no action would
26 likely result in mission risk to provide aid to Afghan evacuees.

27 **2.3.2 PROPOSED ACTION**

28 Proposed Action as described in **Section 2.1** was carried forward for detailed analysis.

29 **2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER**
30 **ANALYSIS**

31 Another site on HAFB, previous Stable Area and former Library/NCO Club was reviewed for
32 suitability based on the siting criteria (**Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3**). Support for Afghan evacuees
33 in the former Stable location was removed from further consideration due to AICUZ criteria. The
34 location fell within the 70db noise contour (**Figure 2-7**) and Accident Potential Zone (APZ) 1 for
35 Runway 04 (**Figure 2-8**). Air Force Handbook 32-7084 *AICUZ Program Manager's Guide*,
36 Table A2.1. Land Use Compatibility in APZs does not permit high density personnel use within
37 APZ 1. Former Library/NCO Club, located near building 45 (**Figure 2-3**) was removed from
38 further consideration due to impacts to existing base operations, distance to dining facilities and
39 site capacity.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes current / baseline conditions of each resource area (Affected Environment), while outlining potential consequences associated with implementation of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative (Environmental Consequences).

The Region of Influence (ROI) of the Proposed Action is considered to be Otero County, New Mexico. During the initial planning for the Proposed Action an integrated planning team of DAF personnel assessed the ROI for impacts to resources. This resulted in four resource areas being eliminated from further consideration. **Table 3-1** provides rationale for eliminating resources from further consideration.

The following resource areas are carried forward for detailed analysis:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Biological /Natural Resources
- Safety and Occupational/Public Health
- Infrastructure / Utilities
- Earth Resources
- Socioeconomics

Table 3-1: Resource Areas Eliminated from detailed Analysis

Resource Area	Reason Eliminated from Detailed Analysis
Airspace	The Proposed Action does not include components impacting airspace or airfield operations.
Water Resources	The Proposed Action would have no impact on surface waters as the Proposed Action area does not contain any surface waters. The Proposed Action would not impact the quality or quantity of groundwater at HAFB as temporary shelter would only involve the placement of gravel and sandbags and would not have the potential to disturb groundwater occurring below the surface level. In addition, the Proposed Action area does not contain floodplains or wetlands. Therefore, water resources were not considered for detailed analysis. The impacts to water supply and storm water are discussed in Section 3.7 Infrastructure / Utilities. Implementing the Proposed or No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts to water resources.
Land use	The Proposed Action to temporarily shelter Afghan evacuees would not impact Land Use. The areas proposed for existing facilities are temporary and align with existing land use. Temporary facilities are being constructed in areas of prior disturbance and existing training locations. The Proposed Action would not alter or impact the parcels in a way that would preclude it from future use. Additionally, land uses adjacent to the parcel are considered to be compatible with the temporary shelter site.
Environmental Justice	There is no potential for adverse environmental justice impacts to occur as a result of the Proposed action per EO12898, <i>Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income</i> , and EO 13045, <i>Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks</i>

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1 3.1 NOISE

2 3.1.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3 The noise environment at HAFB is primarily a result of daily flights of DAF F-16 aircraft,
4 executing pilot training operations on and above the airfield. Normal ground traffic and four
5 other on-base functions add a minor fraction to the base total noise. The MQ-9 aircraft
6 operations contribute very low levels of noise. Army Air UH-60 helicopters, based on HAFB to
7 serve test missions on WSMR, conduct few flights per month. The High Speed Test track
8 conducts a few rocket sled test runs per month, and intermittent training activities at the Combat
9 Arms Training Range, add low quantities of noise.

10 A noise-sensitive receptor is commonly defined as the occupants of any facility where a state of
11 quietness is a basis for use, such as a residence, school, hospital, or church. On-base sensitive
12 receptors include the HAFB Elementary School, Child Development Center, Youth Center, and
13 the residential areas southeast of Arizona Drive in the 65 to 70 decibel (dB) day night average
14 sound level (DNL) noise contours. Off-base sensitive receptors include the Amber Skies
15 development at Amber Skies Avenue and U.S. 70 and is located several miles east of the 65 dB
16 DNL noise contour and not appreciably affected by based aircraft.

17 3.1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

18 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
19 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with noise are anticipated
20 since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to Afghan evacuees.

21 3.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

22 Noise associated with the Proposed Action would be due to site preparation and construction
23 using a mixture of commercial shelters and Base Expeditionary Airfield Resources (BEAR)
24 including material delivery, in processing of Afghan evacuees and support personnel, operations,
25 and teardown at the conclusion of the action.

26 Site preparation and construction would likely be the loudest activity while using material
27 handling equipment such as delivery trucks and Gradall excavators. Noise levels for a Gradall
28 excavator would be about 85 dB at 50 feet distant. Assuming Gradall excavators and other
29 BEAR equipment, several trucks, and a variety of other small equipment operating at the same
30 time generate noise levels of roughly 85 dB at the site. At 3 miles, noise at the nearest on-base
31 receptor would be well below 65 dB and would be completely subsumed by the existing aircraft
32 noise. Off-base noise receptors would be too distant for noise at the proposed site to be heard
33 above ambient levels.

34 Transportation noise would dominate the in-processing portion of the action and noise would be
35 generated by busses and vans bringing people to the site. Assuming Afghan evacuees arrive by
36 standard busses, averaging 50 seats per bus, 500 bus trips would be required to accommodate
37 25,000 people. This would be accomplished over a 30-day period and noise would be dispersed
38 over that time-frame and would be short-term ending once all Afghan evacuees and support
39 personnel have arrived.

40 Once the facilities become fully operational, the nearest residents in the area would be expected
41 to experience noise from the sound of people and ancillary equipment such as generators. For a

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1 large gathering, crowd noise can be synchronous or random in time. Cheering for a score in a
2 sporting event is a synchronous noise event, while a babble of individual conversations with
3 occasional individuals yelling, laughing, or cheering would be the latter. The closest sensitive
4 receptors, Child Development Center, Youth Center, and residences, from the Proposed Action
5 would be over 3 miles. Estimates associated with crowd noise for a typical outdoor football game
6 is estimated to be 79 dB at 360 feet. For a typical soccer game, the noise level would be
7 estimated to be approximately 78 dB at 90 feet (Hayne et al. 2006). The expected noise levels for
8 the Proposed Action would be random in nature, be less than any of these events, and too distant
9 from any residences, so it would be unlikely that residents would experience these noise levels
10 and would be considered a negligible impact.

11 3.2 AIR QUALITY

12 3.2.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

13 The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established primary and
14 secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
15 (42 U.S.C. §§7401-7671 et seq.). The CAA also set emission limits for certain air pollutants
16 from specific sources, set new source performance standards based on best demonstrated
17 technologies, and established national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. According
18 to the CAA, a source whose potential emission of all criteria pollutants exceeds 100 tons per year
19 (tpy) would be considered a major stationary source. A major stationary source for the emission
20 of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) would exceed the individual 10 tpy and aggregate 25 tpy
21 emissions thresholds defined by the CAA. Based on this criteria HAFB is considered a major
22 facility.

23 The CAA, which was last amended in 1990, requires USEPA to set NAAQS (40 CFR part 50)
24 for six principal pollutants which can be harmful to public health and the environment. The CAA
25 identifies two sets of standards – primary and secondary – for each regulated air pollutant.
26 Primary standards define levels of air quality necessary to protect public health, including the
27 health of sensitive populations such as people with asthma, children, and the elderly. Secondary
28 standards define levels of air quality necessary to protect against decreased visibility and damage
29 to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

30 The federal air quality standards are currently established for six pollutants (known as criteria
31 pollutants), and include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur
32 oxides (SO_x), commonly measured as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead, particulate matter equal to or
33 less than 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter equal to or less
34 than 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}). Although O₃ is considered a criteria
35 pollutant and is measurable in the atmosphere, it is often not considered as a pollutant when
36 reporting emissions from specific sources, because O₃ is not typically emitted directly from most
37 emissions sources. O₃ is formed in the atmosphere from its precursors – nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
38 and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – that are directly emitted from various sources. Thus,
39 emissions of NO_x and VOCs are commonly reported instead of O₃. The NAAQS for the six
40 criteria pollutants are shown in **Table 3-2**.

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1

Table 3-2: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant		Primary/Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Carbon Monoxide (CO)		primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
			1 hour	35 ppm	
Lead (Pb)		primary and secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 µg/m ³ ⁽¹⁾	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)		primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb ⁽²⁾	Annual Mean
Ozone (O ₃)		primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm ⁽³⁾	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
Particle Pollution (PM)	PM _{2.5}	primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
	PM ₁₀	primary and secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)		primary	1 hour	75 ppb ⁽⁴⁾	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

2 Note: Units of measure for the standards are parts per million (ppm) by volume, parts per billion (ppb) by volume,
 3 and micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³).

4 (1) In areas designated nonattainment for the Pb standards prior to the promulgation of the current (2008) standards,
 5 and for which implementation plans to attain or maintain the current (2008) standards have not been submitted and
 6 approved, the previous standards (1.5 µg/m³ as a calendar quarter average) also remain in effect.

7 (2) The level of the annual NO₂ standard is 0.053 ppm. It is shown here in terms of ppb for the purposes of clearer
 8 comparison to the 1-hour standard level.

9 (3) Final rule signed October 1, 2015, and effective December 28, 2015. The previous (2008) O₃ standards are not
 10 revoked and remain in effect for designated areas. Additionally, some areas may have certain continuing
 11 implementation obligations under the prior revoked 1-hour (1979) and 8-hour (1997) O₃ standards.

12 (4) The previous SO₂ standards (0.14 ppm 24-hour and 0.03 ppm annual) will additionally remain in effect in
 13 certain areas: (1) any area for which it is not yet 1 year since the effective date of designation under the current
 14 (2010) standards, and (2) any area for which an implementation plan providing for attainment of the current (2010)
 15 standard has not been submitted and approved and which is designated nonattainment under the previous SO₂
 16 standards or is not meeting the requirements of a SIP call under the previous SO₂ standards (40 CFR 50.4(3)). A
 17 SIP call is an EPA action requiring a state to resubmit all or part of its State Implementation Plan to demonstrate
 18 attainment of the required NAAQS.

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1 The USEPA classifies the air quality within an Air Quality Control Region (AQCR) according to
2 whether the region meets federal primary and secondary air quality standards. “Unclassified”
3 indicates that air quality in the area cannot be classified and the area is treated as attainment. An
4 area may have all three classifications for different criteria pollutants.

5 The CAA requires federal actions to conform to any applicable state implementation plan (SIP).
6 USEPA has promulgated regulations implementing these conformity requirements in 40 CFR
7 §51 and §93. General conformity refers to federal actions other than those conducted according
8 to specified transportation plans (which are subject to the Transportation Conformity Rule).
9 Therefore, the General Conformity rule applies only to non-transportation actions in non-
10 attainment or maintenance areas. Such actions must perform a determination of conformity if the
11 emissions resulting from the action exceed applicability thresholds specified for each pollutant
12 and classification of nonattainment. Both direct emissions from the action itself and indirect
13 emissions that may occur at a different time or place but are an anticipated consequence of the
14 action must be considered. The Transportation Conformity Rule does not apply to this Proposed
15 Action.

16 Regional Air Quality

17 HAFB is located in Otero County, which is an attainment area for all pollutants, in the State of
18 New Mexico. HAFB is not subject to the General Conformity regulations (40 CFR §§6, 51 and
19 93).

20 HAFB is a major stationary source as defined by Title V of the CAA, and a synthetic minor PSD
21 source under Title I. Potential emissions of all criteria pollutants should not exceed the 250 tpy
22 major PSD source threshold. HAFB is also considered a synthetic minor stationary source for the
23 emission of HAPs because allowable emissions are below the individual 10 tpy and aggregate 25
24 tpy emissions thresholds. Table 3-3 presents the HAFB 2020 actual air emissions from stationary
25 sources.

26 **Table 3-3: Holloman AFB 2020 Actual Air Emissions from Stationary Sources**

Pollutant	Tons per year (tpy)
CO	13.3
NOx	17.5
PM-10	1.5
SO2	1.4
TSP	1.5
VOC	33.3

27 CO = Carbon Monoxide

28 NOx = Nitrogen Oxides

29 PM-10 = Particulates under 10 microns

30 TSP = Total Suspended Particulates

31 VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds

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1 **Greenhouse Gases**

2 There are six primary Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) of concern: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane
3 (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur
4 hexafluoride (SF₆).

5 Only three of the GHGs are considered in the emissions from the Proposed Action. CO₂, CH₄,
6 and N₂O, represent the majority of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) associated with the
7 Proposed Action operations. The other GHGs were not considered in the potential emissions
8 from the Proposed Action as they are presumed to be not emitted. HFCs are most commonly
9 used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems; PFCs and SF₆ are predominantly emitted from
10 various industrial processes including aluminum smelting, semiconductor manufacturing, electric
11 power transmission and distribution, and magnesium casting, none of which are a part of the
12 Proposed Action.

13 Direct emissions of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O occur naturally to the atmosphere but human activities
14 have increased global GHG atmospheric concentrations. The 2011 total U.S. GHG emissions
15 were 6,702,300,000 metric tons of CO₂eq (USEPA 2013). U.S. total GHG emissions have risen
16 8.4 percent from 1990 to 2011 (USEPA 2013).

17 HAFB is currently not subject to the annual reporting requirements of CO₂eq from stationary
18 source fuel combustion, as required by 40 CFR §98 - Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting.

19 **3.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

20 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
21 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with air quality are
22 anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to Afghan
23 evacuees.

24 **3.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

25 The following factors were considered in evaluating air quality: (1) the short- and long-term air
26 emissions generated from facility construction and on-road vehicle activities; (2) the type of
27 emissions generated; and (3) the potential for emissions to result in ambient air concentrations
28 that exceed one of the NAAQS or SIP requirements. The air pollutant emission calculations for
29 the Proposed and No Action Alternative included in sections below are detailed in **Appendix B**.

30 The Proposed Action would result in short-term emissions during the assembly of new facilities.
31 The only new air emissions that would be associated with the Proposed Action are direct and
32 indirect emissions sources resulting from the construction activities, additional personnel, and
33 vehicle supply trips. Emissions from construction activity can cause temporary and localized
34 increases in air emissions. Generators will be used during construction activities to connect
35 temporary shelters to electricity, until connection to overhead electrical is accomplished.
36 Generator use is minimal, with some temporary shelters being directly connected to overhead
37 electric. There would be no long-term significant increases in air emissions, as the construction
38 is not indefinite nor is the operation of the refugee camp.

39 An Air Quality Impact Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidance in the DAF
40 Quality EIAP Guide and 32 CFR Part 989.30 which refers to AFI 32-7040, which has been
41 rescinded and replaced with AFMAN 32-7002. While General Conformity is not applicable to
42 this Action, a NEPA Air Quality Impact Assessment is still required under AFMAN 32-7002.

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1 Under the DAF guidance, a Net Change Emissions Assessment was performed which compared
 2 all net (increases and decreases caused by the federal action) direct and indirect emissions
 3 against insignificance indicators. Insignificance indicators were used in the analysis to provide
 4 an indication of the significance of potential impacts to air quality based on current ambient air
 5 quality relative to the NAAQS. These insignificance indicators are the 250 tpy Prevention of
 6 Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold for actions occurring in areas that are
 7 “Clearly Attainment” (i.e., not within 5% of any NAAQS) and the General Conformity Rules
 8 (GCR) de minimis values (25 tpy for lead and 100 tpy for all other criteria pollutants) for actions
 9 occurring in areas that are “Near Nonattainment” (i.e., within 5% of any NAAQS). These
 10 indicators do not define a significant impact; however, they do provide a threshold to identify
 11 actions that are insignificant. Any action with net emissions below the insignificance indicators
 12 for all criteria pollutants is considered so insignificant that the action will not cause or contribute
 13 to an exceedance on one or more NAAQS.

14 The Net Change Analysis was performed using the DAF’s Air Conformity Applicability Model
 15 (ACAM) for criteria pollutants (or their precursors) and GHGs. The results of the ACAM
 16 assessment are summarized in **Table 3-4** (see **Appendix B** for details).

17 **Table 3-4: Results of ACAM**

Pollutant	Action Emissions (tpy)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (tpy)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	11.548	250	No
NOx	11.996	250	No
CO	126.743	250	No
SOx	0.079	250	No
PM 10	0.302	250	No
PM 2.5	0.270	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.700	250	No
CO2e	11155.6		

18 The emissions estimates resulting from the Proposed Action shown in Table 3-4 are for 2022
 19 which is the worst case year for emissions. All emission are below the 250 tpy (and 25 tpy for
 20 Lead) insignificance indicator, and therefore there would be no significant short-term or long-
 21 term impacts to regional air quality.

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1 Greenhouse Gases

2 Under the Proposed Action approximately 11,156 metric tons of CO₂eq would be released due
3 to the Proposed Action. The amount of CO₂eq released under the Proposed Action represents
4 less than 0.00029 percent of the 2011 U.S. anthropogenic emissions of CO₂eq. This is a limited
5 amount of emissions that would not contribute significantly to climate change, but any emission
6 of GHGs represents an incremental increase in global GHG concentrations. The DAF is poised
7 to support climate-changing initiatives globally, while preserving military operations,
8 sustainability, and readiness by working, where possible, to reduce GHG emissions.

9 Activities under the Proposed Action are not subject to the requirements of the USEPA National
10 Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule. Therefore, no impacts to GHGs would result from the Proposed
11 Action.

12 3.3 BIOLOGICAL / NATURAL RESOURCES

13 3.3.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

14 Portions of the proposed action occur in areas on the installation that include existing buildings,
15 facilities (land), and would not require any potential habitat disturbance. These existing
16 buildings 45, 105, and 908. The part of the proposed action to use building 105 as a reception
17 facility would occur in an existing, currently unused facility and have no potential to impact
18 endangered or threatened species. The part of the proposed action to use buildings 45 and 908 to
19 support personnel administrative functions would occur in an existing area and have no potential
20 to impact endangered or threatened species. The part of the proposed action to use former
21 Wherry Housing site for the beddown of support personnel would occur in an existing disturbed
22 area and would have no impact to endangered or threatened species. The temporary shelter
23 beddown site, the Nenninger Balloon site, was considered to have the potential to impact
24 biological/natural resources. Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, a Federal agency is
25 required to determine whether the proposed action may affect threatened and endangered species
26 or designated critical habitat. There are no federally listed critical habitats located within the
27 proposed action area. The species listed were obtained from the 2018 Holloman Integrated
28 Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), the USFWS Information for Planning and
29 Consultation (IPaC) website, and the NMDGF Biota Information System of New Mexico
30 (BISON-M).

31 **Table 3-5: HAFB Potential Endangered & Threatened Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	State Status*
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	-	T
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	-	T
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i>	-	E
Mexican Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T	-

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	State Status*
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	-	T
Northern Aplomado Faclon	<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>	E	E
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	-	T
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	T	-
New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus dusonius luteus</i>	E	E
White Sands Pupfish	<i>Cyprinodon tularosa</i>	-	T
Kuenzler Hedghog Cactus	<i>Echinocereus fendleri var. kuenzleri</i>	T	-
Sacramento Mountains Thistle	<i>Cirsium vinaceum</i>	T	-
Sacramento Prickly Poppy	<i>Argemone pleiacantha ssp. pinnatisecta</i>	E	-
Todsen's Pennyroal	<i>Hedeoma todsenii</i>	E	-

1 *T=Threatened, E= Endangered

2 Of the above species, 6 have been officially recorded during surveys in the past and/or have
3 reported sightings on HAFB. **Table 3-6** below lists these species. None of the listed species
4 have been documented or reported to occur within the proposed action area during surveys on
5 HAFB. Baird's Sparrow, the Bald Eagle, the Least Tern, and the Neotropic Cormorant all have
6 been potentially documented in the past or have reported sightings on HAFB. Baird's sparrow
7 has not been observed on HAFB during recent surveys, but is considered vagrant due to its
8 potential to occur within New Mexico. The Bald Eagle and Neotropic Cormorant have reported
9 sightings in 2016 and 2009/2015 at the Holloman Wastewater Evaporation Pond, but have not
10 been officially documented in surveys on the installation. The Least Tern is considered a rare
11 vagrant to Southern New Mexico and an accidental visitor to the Holloman Wetlands during its
12 migration period. The Peregrine Falcon occasionally occurs on Holloman AFB, and has been
13 documented using the Holloman Wetlands as foraging habitat. The White Sands pupfish have
14 refuge populations located in Lost River, Malone Draw, and Bradford Springs on the installation.

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1

Table 3-6: HAFB Endangered and Threatened Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	State Status*	Presence on HAFB
Baird’s Sparrow	<i>Ammondramus bairdii</i>	-	T	Vagrant
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	-	T	Vagrant
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i>	-	E	Vagrant
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	-	T	Vagrant
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	-	T	Rare to Occasional
White Sands Pupfish	<i>Cyprinodon Tularosa</i>	-	T	Translocated Refuge Population

2 *T= Threatened, E= Endangered

3 Using the Holloman INRMP, IPac, and BISON-M, an effects determination for all potential
 4 federal and state listed endangered and threatened species was completed.

5

Table 3-7: Effects Determination

Species	Effect Determination	Rationale
Baird’s Sparrow	May Affect, is not likely to adversely Affect	The species listed as a vagrant species for HAFB as of 2017. Suitable habitat occurs within the proposed action area
Bald Eagle	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.
Least Tern	No effect	The species is listed as a vagrant species for HAFB as of 2017. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.
Mexican Spotted Owl	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.
Neotropic Cormorant	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.

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Northern Aplomado Falcon	May affect, is not likely to adversely affect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does occur within the proposed action area. An Experimental population was released on White Sands Missile Range in the past, and the closest to HAFB the species has ever been recorded was about 120km southwest.
Peregrine Falcon	May effect, is not likely to adversely effect	The species rarely to occasionally occurs on HAFB. Suitable habitat does occur within the proposed action area. BISON-M lists suitable habitat as desert grasslands. However, the species has not been documented within the proposed action area and has been documented to use the Holloman wetlands for foraging.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May affect, is not likely to adversely affect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.
New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse	May affect, is not likely to effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur within the proposed action area.
White Sands Pupfish	No effect	The proposed action would not impact aquatic habitat
Kuenzler Hedgehog Cactus	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur in the proposed action area
Sacramento Mountains Thistle	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur in the proposed action area
Sacramento Prickly Poppy	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur in the proposed action area
Todsen's Pennyroyal	No effect	The species has not been recorded on HAFB. Suitable habitat does not occur in the proposed action area

1

2 **3.3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

3 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
 4 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with biological / natural

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1 resources are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to
2 Afghan evacuees.

3 **3.3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

4 **Table 3-5** to **Table 3-7** covers the species that have the potential to occur within the ROI and
5 HAFB. Baird's Sparrow, Northern Aplomado Falcon, and Peregrine Falcon has suitable habitat
6 that occurs with the Proposed Action. This habitat does not meet the standard to be federally
7 designated critical habitat. There are no documented occurrences of the federally designated
8 critical and state threatened and endangered species listed above within the Nennering Balloon
9 site boundaries. There are no documented occurrences of the federally designated critical and
10 state threatened and endangered species listed above within the Nennering Balloon site
11 boundaries, and there are no federally designated critical habitats on HAFB. There is State-listed
12 critical habitat for the white sands pupfish, but the habitat is not within the proposed action area.
13 No wetland habitat is present within the proposed action area. Up to 250 acres within the
14 proposed action area would be subject to disturbance by earthwork for ingress/egress, temporary
15 shelters, and walkways. Desert vegetation consisting primarily of four-wing salt brush would be
16 removed. Consultation with USFWS was required only for Northern Alpomado Falcon. HAFB
17 determined that the Proposed Action would Not Likely to Adversely Affect any federally or state
18 listed species. USFWS concurred the Proposed Action is Not Likely to Adversely Affect on **15**
19 **September 2021.**

20 **3.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE**

21 **3.4.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

22 **Hazardous Materials**

23 Hazardous material use and management at HAFB are regulated by Occupational Safety and
24 Health Administration (OSHA) under the Toxic Substance Control Act, Emergency Planning
25 and Community Right-to-Know Act, and DAF Occupational Safety and Health Standards. The
26 regulations require personnel using hazardous materials to be trained in the application,
27 management, handling, and storage of material; to know the location of safety data sheets for all
28 hazardous materials that they are using; and to wear the correct personal protective equipment
29 required for materials that are being used.

30 **Asbestos**

31 The USEPA regulates Asbestos under the OSHA, 29 U.S.C. §§669 et seq. Emissions of asbestos
32 fibers to ambient air are regulated under Section 112 of the CAA. All facilities are post 1980s
33 construction and were not constructed with any Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM).
34 However, the priority index values for all ACM were below the action levels. Material poses no
35 risk, if not disturbed.

36 **Lead-Based Paint**

37 The Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 regulates the use and disposal
38 of lead-based paint (LBP) at federal facilities. Federal agencies are required to obey all
39 applicable federal, state, interstate, and local laws relating to LBP activities and hazards. In the
40 Proposed Action administration and reception facilities were all constructed after 1980 and do
41 not contain LBP.

42 **Radon**

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1 Radon, a radioactive gas that seeps out of rocks and soil, comes from uranium in the ground
2 (USEPA 1998). It can occur in high concentrations in soil and rocks containing uranium,
3 granite, shale, phosphate, and pitchblende, and may also occur in soil contaminated with
4 industrial waste byproducts from uranium or phosphate mining (USEPA 2012b). The only
5 known health risk associated with exposure to elevated levels of radon is an increased risk of
6 developing lung cancer. Typically, outside air contains very low levels of radon (USEPA 1998).
7 However, radon can accumulate in enclosed indoor spaces. The USEPA recommends
8 consideration of radon mitigation measures at 4 picoCuries per liter, which is based on the
9 assumption that an individual would be exposed to those levels at least 75 percent of the time, a
10 situation usually found only in residences (USEPA 2012b). Radon has been assigned a moderate
11 risk zone by the EPA in the geographical area of HAFB and based on previous surveys no
12 mitigation systems currently exist on the installation.

13 **Hazardous Waste**

14 Hazardous wastes are defined by the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource
15 Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which was further amended by the Hazardous and
16 Solid Waste Amendments, RCRA subtitle C (40 CFR, §§260-270). HAFB has one State issued
17 RCRA Part B permit for one Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and maintains
18 installation solid and hazardous management plans to ensure compliance with all regulations.

19 **Environmental Restoration Program**

20 In accordance with the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the DAF
21 established the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The ERP provides for the
22 environmental cleanup of contamination whose release is attributable to the Air Force, to include
23 immediate actions taken to remove imminent threats to human health and the environment. The
24 ERP has three program categories: Installation Restoration Program (IRP), Military Munitions
25 Response Program (MMRP), and building demolition and debris removal. At Holloman, work at
26 IRP sites is performed pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the
27 New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (NM HWA), or it is performed pursuant to Comprehensive
28 Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National
29 Contingency Plan (NCP). MMRP work is performed IAW CERCLA, the NCP, and the Defense
30 Environmental Restoration Program DERP statute (10 U.S.C. §§ 2700-2711). IRP cleanup under
31 RCRA and the NM HWA is regulated under the corrective action provisions of the HAFB
32 RCRA Operating Permit, with oversight primarily by the New Mexico Environment Department
33 (NMED). For IRP and MMRP cleanup under CERCLA, the EPA plays a more active role in
34 reviewing and providing concurrence on documents.

35 HAFB has 12 active IRP sites and one active MMRP site. One of the sites, TS862A, has been
36 deemed suitable for Corrective Action Complete without controls by the NMED, which confirms
37 that this site has been remediated to residential standards and requires No Further Action. To
38 date, the NMED has not formally modified the HAFB RCRA Permit to administratively close
39 site TS862A, however all remediation has been completed and the NMED letter providing
40 concurrence that the site is suitable for No Further Action is included in this EA in Section 5,
41 (References). No other sites are located within the ROI, and all other sites are located more than
42 2,000 feet from the ROI.

43 Several historical inactive IRP compliance sites were located on or near the ROI. These sites
44 have met the conditions for unrestricted use/unlimited exposure (UU/UE), as agreed to by
45 NMED, require no additional investigation or remediation, and have been closed within the ERP.

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1 These sites no longer pose a threat to human health or the environment and are safe for
2 residential use. However, out of an abundance of caution, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center
3 Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for Holloman should be consulted before developing the
4 portion of the project area that overlaps TS862A, so the RPM can advise on any specific steps to
5 ensure human health and safety are protected from unexpected debris or contamination that may
6 remain at the site.

7 3.4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

8 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
9 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with hazardous materials
10 and waste are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to
11 Afghan evacuees.

12 3.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

13 Hazardous Materials

14 In the Proposed Action the existing facilities are currently in use by HAFB personnel and radon
15 issues do not pose concerns. Because the temporary facilities would not be constructed as
16 permanent structures, radon impacts would not be expected from the Proposed Action. During
17 all operations, the use or storage of hazardous materials would be handled according to local,
18 state, and federal regulations. No significant impacts would be expected to result from the
19 Proposed Action.

20 Hazardous Waste

21 Hazardous waste oversight and hazardous waste disposal would be handled by HAFB under the
22 existing contracts and in accordance with the State issued RCRA Part B permits for the
23 Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility. However, the facilities would be operated pursuant to
24 the applicable Memorandum of Agreement, which will address waste management training and
25 on-site responsibility to ensure compliance with federal, state, local, and DoD regulatory
26 requirements for hazardous waste storage and disposal and consistency with installation
27 hazardous waste management plan. Temporary shelter operations will utilize limited generators
28 resulting in minimal Hazardous Waste. This waste will be incorporated into existing HAFB
29 process and will not result in significant change in hazardous waste generation. In the event of a
30 hazardous spill, immediate action would be taken by to contain and clean up the spill in
31 accordance with the appropriate regulation. The generation and storage of regulated medical
32 waste would be managed in accordance with all local, state, and federal guidelines while removal
33 and disposal would be handled under the existing contract managed by 49 MDG. Treatment of
34 Afghan evacuees will generate medical waste which is to be handled in the existing medical
35 waste disposal process. Depending upon the level of patients and care an increase of waste will
36 occur. This increase can be accommodated within existing processes and not be a significant
37 impact. Any hazardous waste generated due to the Proposed Action would be jointly handled by
38 complying with local, state, and federal regulations. No significant impacts would be expected to
39 result from the Proposed Action

40 3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

41 3.5.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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1 All properties under management or use by HAFB have been surveyed for Cultural Resources.
2 An annual program of resurvey and site re-evaluation continues to update the status and
3 condition of archaeological sites on HAFB. The built environment structures and facilities on
4 HAFB were recorded and evaluated by several projects in the mid-1990s. Base
5 structures/buildings were re-evaluated in 2008-2009 in the "HAFB Cold War-Era Historic
6 Property Survey" provided by Air Combat Command. All of the information and determinations
7 of significance have been coordinated with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
8 (HPD), State Historic Preservation Office, and the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information
9 System (NMCRIS), and given state "LA"(Laboratory of Archaeology) numbers.

10 **3.5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

11 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
12 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with cultural resources are
13 anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to Afghan
14 evacuees.

15 **3.5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

16 According to 36 CFR 60.4, properties less than 50 years old are generally not eligible for the
17 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Review of the main base locations involved in the
18 proposed action finds that buildings 45, and 105 were built in the late 1980s and will not be
19 eligible for the National Register until 2040. Building 908 was constructed in 2004 and will not
20 be eligible until 2054. Two open locations for support personnel and equipment encampment are
21 under consideration. One is on two adjacent city blocks across the street west of building 45.
22 These blocks were the previous location of the Base Library and the NCO Club, and associated
23 parking areas. The other location is the former location of Wherry Housing units, across the
24 street south from building 581, Club Holloman. The Wherry Housing was demolished under an
25 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment. The Library and NCO Club were
26 demolished some years ago due to structural deficiencies. Both sites are previously disturbed
27 from facility demolition and restored to a built environment of a level maintained surface without
28 any historic or archeological significance.

29 The Afghan evacuee site is proposed to occupy 300 acres in an open area northwest of the base
30 cantonment, disturbing more than 250. In the proposed action area, two debris fields
31 representing WWII and later military training or recreational activities were recorded as
32 archaeological sites, HAR 082 and HAR-085. Both are remains of shooting activities, a skeet
33 range and firing positions for other weapons. The skeet range (Poorman Range) was a munition
34 response site that was cleaned and restored resulting in a "no further action required" record of
35 decision on 16 November 2017. Poorman Range does not pose a risk of safety and is located in
36 the purple section of **Figure 2-4**. Determination of potential significance of each was
37 coordinated with NM SHPO: HAR-082 (LA104440) was determined not significant on 27 April
38 1994, HPD Log # 43524; and HAR-085 (LA105389) was determined not significant on 24
39 August 1994, HPD Log# 44741. Subsequent visits to the area have not observed any further
40 remains of possible archaeological interest. It is reasonable to expect that potentially NRHP-
41 eligible resources will be affected by the proposed action.

42 HAFB determined that a Finding of No Adverse Effect on cultural or historic properties. SHPO
43 concurred with this determination by email on **2 September 2021**.

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1 3.6 EARTH RESOURCES

2 3.6.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3 HAFB is located within the Tularosa Valley, a closed desert basin with no outlet for surface
4 water to flow.

5 Soil Types and Characteristics

6 Under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, Federal agencies are required to protect lands with
7 prime or unique farmland distinctions and prevent conversion of these lands for local or
8 nonagricultural use. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for New
9 Mexico, soils must be comprised of over 50 percent prime, unique or statewide importance to be
10 protected under the Farmland Protection Policy Act. The soils in the project area are not prime,
11 unique or of statewide importance.

12 The soil type within the proposed action area is composed of Alamogordo-Gypsum land
13 complex. The Alamogordo-Gypsum land complex is found on 0 to 5 percent slopes in the
14 Tularosa Basin. This complex is comprised of 50 percent Alamogordo soil and 30 percent
15 gypsum land. It does not meet hydric selection standards, nor is it classified as important or
16 prime farmland.

17 Alamogordo soil

18 Alamogordo soil consists of gypsiferous alluvium and eolian deposits found on piedmont fans
19 and the perimeter of the basin floor. It is moderately saline and slightly sodic within 30 inches of
20 the soil surface. This soil is classified as well drained, and is neither flooded nor ponded.
21 Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 80 inches, and water movement in the most
22 restrictive layer is moderate. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate, and its shrink-
23 swell potential is low. This soil has slight to moderate erodibility.

24 Gypsum land

25 Gypsum land consists of gypsiferous alluvium and eolian deposits found on piedmont fans and
26 basin floor. According to the Web Soil Survey, it is not identified as a major soil component of
27 the proposed action location. Many miles of gypsum land are not far west in the basin floor.

28 3.6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

29 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
30 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with earth resources are
31 anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to Afghan
32 evacuees.

33 3.6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

34 The Proposed Action would require earthwork for ingress/egress, temporary shelters, and
35 walkways for approximately 250 acres of the 300 acre Proposed Action area. However, the soils
36 within the proposed action area are not classified as prime, unique, or of statewide importance.
37 Therefore no potential impacts to earth resources are anticipated.

38 3.7 INFRASTRUCTURE / UTILITIES

39 3.7.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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1 Infrastructure and utility resources refer to systems and structures that contribute to the basic
2 functionality of inhabited areas. Infrastructure and utility components at HAFB include
3 transportation systems, electricity, solid waste disposal, potable water, and wastewater treatment
4 services.

5 **Electricity**

6 HAFB site selection criteria required access to electrical utilities. The Nennering Balloon site
7 and Wherry Housing site both have existing overhead electrical utilities lines. Temporary
8 facilities will be connected into the existing overhead electrical distribution. Use of facilities 45,
9 105 and 908 would not exceed the capacity of the building's systems, and would not have a
10 significant impact on the base electrical grid.

11 **Water Supply**

12 Drinking water is supplied to HAFB by the HAFB public water system (PWS). HAFB is a
13 community water system, registered with the New Mexico Environment Department – Drinking
14 Water Bureau, PWS#NM3562719, which serves approximately 13,000 residents. HAFB has
15 historically relied on a combination of surface water, supplied and treated by the City of
16 Alamogordo (40 percent), and groundwater, supplied by HAFB owned wells (60 percent).
17 However, due to the 2012 Little Bear Forest fire, the surface water source has been unavailable,
18 and will remain so, until possibly late 2021 or early 2022. Therefore, HAFB currently relies
19 solely on the production of groundwater via multiple wells located between 8 and 25 miles from
20 the base, near the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains.

21 Groundwater is drawn from a total of 15 wells, with only 11 of them currently active. The wells
22 have an average depth of 450 to 550 feet, but up to a maximum depth of 2,000 feet. The 4 wells
23 that are currently inactive have been re-drilled, and re-activation of those wells is anticipated
24 before the end of 2021. The 15 wells are located within five well fields, all located within the
25 Bolson Aquifer in the Tularosa Basin: Douglas, Boles, Escondido, San Andres, and Frenchy.
26 The wells pump water to two storage tanks, located in the Boles and San Andres well fields, with
27 a total storage capacity of 0.9 MG. From there, the water is conveyed approximately 11 miles to
28 HAFB, where it is disinfected, prior to storage, with sodium hypochlorite. After storage and
29 prior to entering the distribution system, the water is disinfected again. These water storage
30 tanks are constantly being filled to prevent water deficits from occurring on-base. Ten years ago,
31 average daily water demand on-base was approximately 2.1 million gallons per day (MGD) (6.4
32 acre-feet) or 766.5 MG per year. The average for 2019 was 0.89 MGD or 326.1 MG per year.
33 The water system has a total storage capacity of 3,450,000 gallons over 4 tanks on base and an
34 additional 900,000 of off base storage within 2 tanks. The total pumping capacity of the system
35 is 2,000 gallons per minute (GPM).

36 On **19 May 2016**, the EPA's Office of Water issued new Lifetime Health Advisory levels
37 (LHAs) for two perfluorinated compounds (PFCs): Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS):
38 Publication EPA 822-R-16-004 Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA): EPA 822-R-16-005.

39 The EPA LHAs are 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for both PFOS and PFOA, individually or as the
40 sum of the two. While PFAS has been detected at HAFB groundwater monitoring wells, all
41 drinking water wells are located between 8 and 25 miles off-base. In March 2019 samples taken
42 from the water system point of entry were tested for the presence of PFOS/PFOA resulting in a
43 non-detect for all PFOS/PFOA contaminants. Samples have been tested annually thereafter with

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1 no detectable amounts of POFS/PFOA. Samples were taken from the water system point of
2 entry and results are provided below.

3 **Table 3-8: 2019 Annual Water Report PFOA/PFAS Sampling**

Contaminants	Result
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	ND
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ND
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ND
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	ND
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ND
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	ND
Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTriA)	ND
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	ND
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeA)	ND
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	ND
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ND
N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSAA)	ND
N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NMeFOSAA)	ND

4

5 **Sanitary Wastewater**

6 The sanitary wastewater at the HAFB is managed by the Civil Engineering Water Treatment
7 Plant. The wastewater system operates an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility with a
8 daily treatment capacity of 4.5 MGD. There is available capacity in this system. The current
9 system is treating an average of 1.0 MGD with the highest peak at 2.2 MGD during heavy
10 sustained rainfall.

11 **Storm water**

12 Storm water on HAFB is not regulated as it has been determined that there are no Waters of the
13 US on base. The base storm sewer system drains into a canal. The canal starts north of Lagoon
14 G and extends southwest of the Lagoon to Holloman Evaporation Pond. The drainage basin for
15 the storm sewer system is roughly 13 acres.

16 **Solid Waste**

17 HAFB manages their solid waste in accordance with AFMAN 32-7002, DoDI 4715.23, 40 CFR
18 261.2, 40 CFR 266.202, and New Mexico Environmental laws. As such, many factors attribute
19 to the proper management of their solid waste program. HAFB has a very successful Qualified
20 Recycling Program (QRP), diversion and recycling is a large part of their non-hazardous solid
21 waste program. Their success is based on the on-base recycling contractor and the Municipal
22 Solid Waste (MSW) contractor providing accurate and monthly records. The HAFB Integrated
23 Solid Waste Management Plan, documents the effectiveness and success of the program. All
24 records are submitted to the HAFB Solid Waste Program Manager on a monthly basis. These
25 records are compiled and submitted for review and validation each April and October.

26 **Transportation**

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1 There are three gates for entrance onto HAFB, the Main Gate located off of US Highway 70 on
2 the southern portion of the installation, the West Gate also located off of US Highway 70
3 approximately a mile west of the Main gate, and the La Luz Gate, located on La Luz Rd on the
4 northern portion of the installation. There are no significant existing issues with traffic
5 congestion on HAFB. The sanitary wastewater at the HAFB is managed by the Civil Engineering
6 Water Treatment Plant. The wastewater system operates an activated sludge wastewater
7 treatment facility with a daily treatment capacity of 4.5 MGD. There is available capacity in this
8 system. The current system is treating an average of 1.0 MGD with the highest peak at 2.2 MGD
9 during heavy sustained rainfall.

10 **3.7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

11 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
12 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with infrastructure /
13 utilities are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to
14 Afghan evacuees.

15 **3.7.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

16 **Electricity**

17 The Nenninger Balloon site if fully developed up to the maximum 20,000 Afghan evacuees
18 would require installation of additional transformers which will be ground mounted on concrete
19 pads. Transformer installation will disturb minimal areas of soils to construct the transformer
20 pad. This action would not result in significant electrical loads. No additional site grubbing
21 would be required to install the transformers. Therefore, no significant impacts to the electrical
22 service at HAFB would be anticipated to result from the Proposed Action.

23 **Water Supply**

24 The proposed site for beddown of temporary shelters at the Nenninger Balloon site is near
25 existing potable water lines. The Proposed Action would occur in a phased approach and
26 includes providing bottled water and potable water. There is existing water supply capacity at
27 HAFB which is more than sufficient for the total estimated number of maximum Afghan
28 evacuees and there would be no effect to water supply for duration of the Proposed Action.

29 **Sanitary Wastewater**

30 Wastewater created as a result of the Proposed Action would be collected at the site and
31 transported from the Proposed Action area to be treated at the Holloman Wastewater Treatment
32 Plant. Wastewater would also travel through existing infrastructure to be treated at that water
33 treatment plant. An increase of 20,000 population from the tent city should contribute roughly
34 1,000,000 GPD of additional wastewater. It is assumed that any use of contingency barracks
35 would result in no significant increase vs. normal usage of the barracks. A potential increase of
36 1,000,000 GPD would not present a challenge to the plant given the design flow of 4.0 MGD and
37 current average flow of 1.5 MGD. Any handling of sanitary wastewater by government
38 employees or contractors, would be completed in accordance with all applicable federal, state,
39 and local laws and regulations. Therefore, no significant impacts to the wastewater system at
40 HAFB would be anticipated to result from the Proposed Action.

41 **Storm water**

42 The Proposed Action area would require clearing, grading or excavation that disturbs up to 250
43 acres of land. The temporary erection of shelter would increase impervious cover that would

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1 result in a temporary increase in storm water runoff. No long-term effects are expected. Best
2 management practices (BMPs) would be applied to limit the impact of the temporary increase.
3 Gravel walkways would be placed to prevent erosion from foot traffic. Standard BMPs such as
4 silt fencing and soil stabilization would be used during the temporary operation if deemed
5 applicable.

6 Storm Water is not regulated on HAFB due to no Waters of the U.S. being located on the
7 installation. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not impact storm water resources HAFB.

8 Solid Waste

9 Non-hazardous solid waste disposal/recycling would occur under the Proposed Action. It is
10 expected that the Proposed Action would include divert non-hazardous solid waste as much as
11 possible. MSW would be collected and landfilled off-site, as required by the contractor working
12 for the DoD. Recycling would be collected and recycled on-site or off-site, as determined by the
13 contractor working for the DoD. Construction and Demolition would be collected and
14 disposed/recycled off-site, as required by the contractor working for the DoD. All tonnage and
15 costs would be reported to the HAFB Solid Waste Program Manager for inclusion in semi-
16 annual reporting. However, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in significant impacts
17 to solid waste.

18 Transportation

19 The Proposed Action would result in increased traffic from construction vehicles, delivery and
20 supply trucks, and passenger vehicles for transportation of Afghan evacuees and support staff.
21 Afghan evacuees would be transported to the temporary shelter in phases as they arrive in the
22 U.S., so they would not all be arriving at HAFB at the same time. The La Luz gate would be
23 used for the delivery of construction materials and supplies. The Proposed Action would not
24 change the Level of Service on local off-installation roads, and there would be no significant
25 impacts to transportation when the temporary shelters are fully operational. The Proposed Action
26 would have short-term, minor, less than significant impacts on transportation during the
27 construction period and for the duration of the temporary shelter operations.

28 3.8 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL / PUBLIC HEALTH

29 3.8.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

30 Operations, maintenance, and construction activities would be performed by trained and
31 qualified personnel in accordance with applicable regulations and standards. Construction site
32 safety is managed by adherence to regulatory requirements and by implementation of operational
33 practices that reduce risk of illness, injury, death, and property damage. The health and safety of
34 construction contractors are safeguarded by the OSHA regulations 29 CFR §1910 and 29 CFR
35 §1926. These standards specify the amount and type of training required for industrial workers,
36 the use of PPE, engineering controls, and maximum exposure limits for workplace stressors.
37 Contractors responsible for construction and demolition/deconstruction activities would be
38 responsible for compliance with the applicable OSHA regulations and identifying appropriate
39 protective measure for employees.

40 Disease Control

41 HAFB currently maintains an Integrated Pest Management Program in order to prevent or
42 control pests and disease vectors that may adversely impact readiness or military operations by

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1 affecting the health of personnel, or by damaging structures, material, or property. Public Health
2 assets will perform regular food and sanitization inspections on guest facilities and deployed
3 facilities to identify and correct problems.

4 **Explosive Quantity Safety Distance Arc**

5 Air Force Manual 91-201 *Explosives Safety*, governs safety sitting criteria within the Air Force
6 on creation and management of Explosive Quantity Safety Distance (EQSD) arcs. The
7 Nennering Balloon site is located south of the Explosive Ordnance Disposable (EOD) training
8 location. This EOD training location is one of two on base and capable of providing the HAFB
9 EOD team a training and disposable location.

10 **3.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

11 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
12 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with safety and
13 occupational health are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary
14 shelter to Afghan evacuees.

15 **3.8.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

16 Construction activities would be conducted in accordance with federal OSHA regulations and are
17 conducted in a manner that does not increase risk to workers or the public. OSHA regulations
18 (29 CFR §1910 and 29 CFR §1926) address the health and safety of people at work and cover
19 potential exposure to a wide range of chemical, physical, and biological hazards, and ergonomic
20 stressors. The regulations are designed to control these hazards by eliminating exposure to the
21 hazards via administrative or engineering controls, substitution, use of personal protective
22 equipment, and availability of Safety Data Sheets. During construction activities associated with
23 the Proposed Action, additional measures would be implemented in order to protect both the
24 construction workers and military personnel.

25 The safety and security of the residents in the temporary facilities would be a high priority.
26 Serious injuries or illness would be treated at emergency rooms closest to HAFB. DAF and DoS
27 would work with the local law enforcement and community government to address security
28 issues. Adverse impacts resulting from the safety and security issues associated with this
29 Proposed Action would be anticipated to be minor. Given the employment of the safety
30 measures discussed above, no significant effects to safety would be anticipated as a result of the
31 Proposed Action.

32 **Disease Control**

33 All disease control would follow all DoD guidelines and policies related to disease control along
34 with HAFB Integrated Pest Management Program.

35 Under the Proposed Action, Afghan evacuees would initially be evaluated during the reception
36 process. Initial evaluation would include COVID-19 screening (referenced Binex antigen
37 testing) and an initial medical screening. If an Afghan evacuees tests positive or have evidence
38 of other infectious diseases including tuberculosis, measles, or Hansen's disease, that individual
39 and their family would go to a quarantine location. If an individual comes up negative, they
40 would be assigned a shelter location (not in the quarantine area). Individuals would also be

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1 screened for other medical concerns, and if there are non-COVID-19 concerns, they would be
2 brought to an aid station to have their concerns addressed. Treatment of medical conditions will
3 be treated on base first and if required transferred to an off base facility.

4 **Explosive Quantity Safety Distance Arc**

5 The EOD training location EQSD does not overlap with the Nenninger Balloon site and the
6 temporary structures. During the utilization of the site EOD personnel will utilize the alternate
7 location until the site is now longer utilized. Taking into account the non-overlapping EQSD and
8 management practice to an alternate location the EOD EQSD (**Figure 2-4**) is not an impact to the
9 Proposed Action.

10 **3.9 SOCIOECONOMICS**

11 **3.9.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

12 Socioeconomics Resources comprise the basic attributes and resources associated with the
13 human environment, particularly population and economic activity.

14 The ROI for Socioeconomic Resources is Otero County, New Mexico. The population in Otero
15 County has experienced a 5.7% increase in population between 2010 and 2020 as compared to
16 the State of New Mexico's 1.8% population growth) and the U.S. (6.3% population growth).
17 The poverty level in Otero County is 20.1% is slightly higher than New Mexico overall (18.2%)
18 but significantly higher than the U.S. average of 10.5%. HAFB currently supports 3,720 Military
19 and 1,650 civilian workers.

20 There are several hospitals, clinics, and fire departments within Otero County. HAFB is home to
21 the 49th Medical Group and Holloman Clinic.

22 **3.9.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

23 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in
24 the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with socioeconomics are
25 anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to Afghan
26 evacuees.

27 **3.9.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

28 As part of the Proposed Action all required materials and supplies, including temporary facilities,
29 would be provided or sourced. Staff would be present on-site. Therefore, the Proposed Action is
30 not expected to result in any long-term changes to employment within Otero County.

31 As part of the Proposed Action, routine medical and social services would be provided on base
32 and if level of care is necessary, off base treatment as appropriate. In the event that emergency
33 services are needed beyond what is provided onsite, there is sufficient capacity on HAFB and
34 within Otero County.

35 Minor construction would be necessary to stand up the temporary facilities, including portable
36 toilets, temporary shelters, or other temporary structures. The local economy would likely
37 experience minor, short term beneficial impact if local employees were utilized.

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1 Up to 5,000 site support staff and would be staying in temporary facilities on HAFB for the
2 duration of the Afghan evacuees support. Personnel would create demand for goods, services,
3 and incidentals within the local economy during their stay, which would result in a beneficial
4 economic impact. Overall impacts to socioeconomic resources in Otero County would be
5 beneficial and less than significant.

**4.0 PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE
PLANNED ACTIONS**

This EA also considers the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned action which may result in environmental impacts with a close causal connection to the Proposed Action.

A list of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at HAFB and the surrounding area that could result in additional adverse impacts when combined with Proposed Action are shown in Table 4-1. Future actions which are not reasonably foreseeable would be evaluated under separate NEPA documentation, if required, by the appropriate federal agency.

Table 4-1: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Action	Location	Timeframe	Description
Basing Decision	Holloman Main Ramp	Present	The 8th Fighter Squadron is currently based at Holloman AFB under an interim basing decision. However, the permanent basing decision is being evaluated under EIAP to shift from interim to permanent. Additionally, the same EIAP document is assessing a potential fourth F-16 FTU squadron simultaneously. No cross impacts between the F-16 FTU mission and Joint task Force Holloman (JTF-H) mission are anticipated at this time.
Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC)	Holloman Base-wide	Ongoing/Future	The installation recently awarded a \$10M UESC to New Mexico Gas Company (ESG is ESCO) and will likely continue to pursue future UESC and PPA Photo Voltaic (PV) expansion.
Construction Tasking Order (CTO)	Holloman	Future	Renovation of facility 45 is included in the FY22 Construction Tasking Order (CTO) for use as the MQ-9 FTU Academic Facility. The project is Design-Build and is planned for phased execution, beginning with the bottom floor (no impact to JTF-H mission or vice versa). B105 is being submitted as the Wing's #1 BCAMP requirements for future renovation to house the F-16 FTU Flight Simulator Facility. No impacts between JTF-H mission and impending request anticipated unless JTF-H mission should extend past 24 months.

Noise: The Proposed Action for permanent basing of the 8th Fighter Squadron (FS) and an additional F-16 FTU at HAFB is being assessed in a separate EIAP document. As this is still being assessed the potential noise may impact the Proposed Action of the Afghan evacuees sites cannot be reasonably quantified and is excluded from further consideration. UESC ongoing operations are considered part of the existing conditions. Continuation or future expansion of the UESC or PV expansion may generate temporary construction-related noise, these impacts would be minor and spread out base-wide, so would not generate additional noise from any source close to the Proposed Action. CTO projects in building 45 and 105 would occur inside existing

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1 facilities and be limited to the period of construction. There would be minor, temporary noise
2 increases due to construction related traffic from the Proposed Action and past, present, and
3 reasonably foreseeable projects. This increased noise would be temporary for the duration of the
4 Proposed Action and would not result in significant impacts to the noise environment at HAFB.

5 **Air Quality:** Some of the other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions may
6 generate expected to result in increased impacts to air quality when combined with the Proposed
7 Action. Specifically the utilization of generators and increase in F-16 FTU at HAFB could
8 represent an increased action to air quality. To reduce the impacts to air quality the temporary
9 structures are minimizing the use of generators and some will be constructed directly to existing
10 utilities and never utilize generators.

11 **Infrastructure / Utilities:** The Proposed Action would result in temporary increase of
12 impervious cover which would result in temporary, minor impacts to storm water systems;
13 however, other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions which would result in
14 ground disturbing activities are remote to the project site. There would be minor increases to
15 traffic on and off base as a result of the Proposed Action and past, present, and reasonably
16 foreseeable planned actions. These impacts would be minor and only last for the duration of the
17 Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would not result in additional adverse impacts to
18 infrastructure and utilities when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned
19 actions. The addition of another F-16 FTU if overlapping would result in increased impacts to
20 traffic on base, due to the additional increase in personnel.

21 **Cultural Resources:** The proposed action does not entail impacts to potentially significant
22 cultural resources. The reasonably foreseeable actions may impact historic properties if the
23 expansion of the flying mission requires modification or replacement of structures, or
24 construction expansion into currently unmodified natural terrain, but any such impacts will be
25 addressed as they are defined, and would not have any appreciable cumulative interaction with
26 the currently Proposed Action.

27 **Safety and Occupational / Public Health:** Public Health actions including initial medical
28 screening followed by a comprehensive medical evaluation will be completed to decrease the
29 risk of spread of infectious disease to the general population. The Proposed Action would not
30 result in adverse impacts to Safety and Occupation Health. Activities under the Proposed Action
31 such as standard construction site safety practices, installation of a perimeter fence and COVID-
32 19 related precautionary measures would minimize risks to health and safety. Due to standard
33 practices and enforced protocols, it is reasonable to expect that there would be no significant
34 increase in adverse Safety or Occupational Health incidents, whether from the current proposed
35 action, or in combination with the reasonably foreseeable actions.

5.0 REFERENCES

Federal Law, United States Code (U.S.C.) and Code of Federal Regulation (CFR)

National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508)

Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989)

Occupational Safety and Health (29 CFR §1910 & 29 CFR §1926)

Executive Orders

12656 *Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Procedures*

Department of Defense Instruction

3025.13 *Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Designated Aliens from Threatened Areas Abroad*

4710.02, *Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes*

Air Force Instruction 90-2002 *Air Force Interaction with Federally-Recognized Tribes*

Air Force Handbook 32-7084 *AICUZ Program Manager's Guide*

Air Quality

National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§7401-7671 et seq.)

General Conformity regulations (40 CFR §§6, 51 and 93)

Air Force Instruction 32-7040 *Air Quality Compliance and Resource Management*

Air Force Manual 32-7002 *Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention*

Cultural Resources

The National Historic Preservation Act implement regulations (36 CFR Part 800)

Air Force Manual 32-7003 *Environmental Conservation*

HAFB. 2017 Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan. 4 May 2017

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System (NMCRIS) 2019. Available at <https://nmcris.dca.state.nm.us/NMCRIS/>

Environment Restoration Program

SR864 Poorman Range Munitions Response Site, Record of Decision, Dated 16 November 2017

TS862A Jeep Target Area Skeet Range, Non-time Critical Removal Action, Completion Report February 2019

Biological Resources

Holloman Natural Resources Management Plan, Dated 27 August 2018

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Information Planning for Consultation. 2021. Accessed 27 August 2021. Available at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

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New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Biota Information System of New Mexico. 2021. Accessed 27 August 2021. Available at: <https://bison-m.org/Index.aspx>
Endangered Species Act (50 CFR Part 402)

Earth Resources

Holloman Natural Resources Management Plan, Dated 27 August 2018

Hazardous Materials and Waste

Occupational Safety and Health (29 U.S.C. §§669 et seq)

Holloman AFB 2020. Hazardous Waste Management Plan. April 2020

Holloman AFB 2015. Hazardous Waste Permit, RCRA Part B, NM6572124422. February 2015

Holloman AFB 2020. Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. October 2020

Holloman AFB 2020. Asbestos Management Plan. September 2020

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (40 CFR, §§260-270)

Defense Environmental Restoration Program (10 U.S.C. §§ 2700-2711)

Infrastructure and Utilities

40 CFR 261.2: 18 August 2021. United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 40: Protection of Environment; Chapter I – Environmental Protection Agency; Subchapter I – Solid Wastes; Part 261 – Identification and Listing of Hazardous Wastes

40 CFR 266.202: 18 August 2021, United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 40: Protection of Environment; Part 266 - Standards for the Management of Specific Hazardous Wastes and Specific Types of Hazardous Waste Management Facilities; Subpart M - Military Munitions

DoDI 4715.23 *Integrated Recycling and Solid Waste Management*

DoD Integrated Solid Waste Management Metrics Memo. 16 March 2020

Air Force Manual 32-7002 *Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention*

Holloman AFB Annual Water Consumer Confidence Report. 2020

Socioeconomics

United States Census Bureau (USCB). 2021. QuickFacts: Otero County, New Mexico; United States. Accessed 27 August 2021. Available at:
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/oterocountynewmexico,US/PST045219>
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Holloman AFB Economic Impact Statement 2016, Accessed 27 August 2021. Available at:
<https://www.holloman.af.mil/Portals/101/Environmental%20documents/EIS%202016.pdf>

Environmental Justice

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Accessed 27 August 2021. Available at: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>