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*Final*

# Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

for the Environmental Assessment Addressing Installation Development at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

*United States Air Force*
*Air Force Special Operations Command*
*27th Special Operations Wing*

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| AFB | Air Force Base |
| AFSOC | Air Force Special Operations Command |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| DAF | Department of the Air Force |
| DAFI | Department of the Air Force Instruction |
| DoD | Department of Defense |
| DOPAA | Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives |
| DWTP | drinking water treatment plant |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIAP | Environmental Impact Analysis Process |
| EO | Executive Order |
| FONPA | Finding of No Practicable Alternative |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| HVAC | heating, ventilation, and air conditioning |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NOA | Notice of Availability |
| PFAS | per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances |
| PFC | perfluorinated chemicals |
| POL | petroleum, oils, and lubricants |
| SBR | sequencing batch reactors |
| SCADA | Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| SOSFS | Special Operations Security Forces Squadron |
| SOW | Special Operations Wing |
| UFC | Unified Facilities Criteria |
| USAF | United States Air Force |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| WWTP | wastewater treatment plant |

## COVER SHEET

**FINAL**
**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ADDRESSING INSTALLATION DEVELOPMENT AT CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO**

**Responsible Agencies:** United States Air Force (USAF), Cannon Air Force Base (AFB), Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW).

**Affected Location:** Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

**Proposed Action:** Installation Development at Cannon AFB.

**Report Designation:** Final Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA).

**Abstract:** This DOPAA was developed in compliance with the USAF's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) in support of Cannon AFB, AFSOC, and 27 SOW. It supports a proposal by Cannon AFB to implement eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon AFB. These projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area, (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house, (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility, (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse, (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system, (6) renovating the existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), (7) renovating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and (8) fencing the flightline. Each of these projects would support AFSOC mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. Further, certain projects (specifically the WWTP renovation) could cause the shutdown of Cannon AFB and the DWTP upgrades are required to meet new United States Environmental Protection Agency water regulations by 2029.

**PRIVACY ADVISORY**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) will be provided for public comment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, (Title 42 United States Code (USC) Section 4321 et seq.), and 32 CFR Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*.

The Environmental Impact Analysis Process provides an opportunity for public input on DAF decision making, allows the public to offer input, and solicits comments on DAF's analysis of environmental impacts. Public commenting allows the DAF to make better-informed decisions. Letters or other written or oral comments provided may be published in the Final EA. As required by law, comments provided will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Private addresses may be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the EA. Only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed in the Final EA. Personal information, home addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses will not be published in the Final EA.

The EA will be verified to be compliant with the 75-page limit, not including appendices. A "page" means 500 words and does not include maps, diagrams, graphs, tables, and other means of graphically displaying quantitative or geospatial information. This document is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This allows assistive technology to be used to obtain the available information from the document. Due to the nature of graphics, figures, tables, and images occurring in the document, accessibility is limited to a descriptive title for each item.

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## APPENDICES

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# 1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Cannon Air Force Base (AFB), home of the 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW), lies in the high plains of eastern New Mexico near the Texas Panhandle. The installation is 8 miles west of the town of Clovis on 4,397 acres of land at an elevation of 4,295 feet above sea level (see **Figure 1-1**). In 2007, Cannon AFB became home to the 27 SOW, which operates AC-130J Ghostrider, MC-130J Commando II, CV-22B Osprey, U-28A Draco, and the MQ-9 Reaper. 27 SOW is one of six United States Air Force (USAF) active-duty SOWs within the Air Force Special Operations Commands (AFSOC). The primary mission of the 27 SOW is to execute unconventional airpower any place, any time, anywhere.

## 1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) lays the framework for the Environmental Assessment (EA), detailing the proposed activities under the Proposed Action. The EA is a planning and decision-making tool that will be used to guide Cannon AFB in implementing the Proposed Action in a manner that complies with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and is consistent with Department of the Air Force (DAF) standards for environmental stewardship. This DOPAA supports a proposal by the USAF and Cannon AFB to implement eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon AFB (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-2**).

### 1.2.1 Site Preparation for Food Court and Recreational Area

This project would include site preparation for the construction of up to four modular restaurants with outdoor seating and a recreational area within the northwestern portion of the installation in the grassy area adjacent to the existing parking lot (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-3**). This area previously housed barracks, and asbestos piping is known to exist in the area. All remediation regulations such as permits and/or notifications, safety precautions, and proper removal and disposal procedures would be followed. Preparation would include installation of concrete pads and tying into potable water, gas lines, sewage lines, plumbing, and electrical.

### 1.2.2 Construct Replacement Pump House

This project would include demolition of the current, undersized, diesel pump house and construction of a new pump house (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-4**) to include three electric motor driven fire pumps with all required piping, equipment, and appurtenances. The new, approximately 30- by 50-foot metal building would sit on a concrete slab on grade foundation and consist of pre-engineered, structural steel framing, overlapping metal wall panels, and mechanically seamed metal roof panels over vinyl batt insulation. The building would have one exterior manual roll up door and one steel man door with steel framing to the building and panic hardware. The concrete foundation would have equipment pads for three new, electric fire pumps and their support equipment. Pump requirements would include controllers, piping, equipment and appurtenances, control valves, discharge check valves, and relief valves. Fire pumps would be rated for 2,500 gallons per minute at 165 pressure per square inch. This project would include all utilities necessary to tie into the existing fire water supply infrastructure, to include the existing water storage tanks. The new pump house would be capable of supplying fire suppression water to five hangars. Demolition of the old pump house and decommissioning of utilities would occur

once the new pump house is operational. Additionally, underground lines from the hangars and water tanks would need to be rerouted to the new pumphouse.

### 1.2.3 Addition to Security Forces Facility

This project would include construction of a 10,000-square foot addition to the existing Security Forces Facility (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-5**) to provide a complete and usable complex for the 27th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron (SOSFS) compliant with the most up to date regulations. The addition would include an 8-cell confinement module, an armory space with a restroom, and a training area. The addition would ensure vehicle access to the rear of building, a parking area for four vehicles, and an adequate standoff distance to satisfy all antiterrorism/force protection requirements outlined in UFC 4-010-01, *Department of Defense (DoD) Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings*. The project would also include alterations to the existing facility such as converting current cells to usable office space and replacing the armory door with a Class 5 vault door. Construction activities could include, but are not limited to, earthwork, site improvements, exterior lighting, sidewalk installation, and the associated foundation work necessary to support the addition. The addition would also require installation of utilities as well as the necessary security and communications systems to meet the requirements set forth for 27 SOSFS.

### 1.2.4 Construct Furnishing Management Warehouse

This project would include the construction of an approximately 10,000-square foot, climate-controlled warehouse (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-6**) to be used for the storage of dormitory housing furnishings/appliances and recreational support equipment. The warehouse would serve all eight existing dormitories as well as an anticipated new dormitory. Construction would include a concrete foundation; pre-engineered building with roll-up door; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units; utilities; and a parking lot/loading dock. Access to the warehouse would also be required from the parking lot to the north and access road to the west of proposed project area.

### 1.2.5 Construct Constant Pressure Fuel System

This project would include the construction of a modified Type IV constant pressure fuel system with all stainless steel pipe and fittings (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-7**). Construction would include the installation of three 30,000-gallon aboveground tanks; receipt filtration; two fixed, hot refueling points complete with fixed pantographs and flow controls; issue filtration; issue pumps; eyewash station; and all necessary components required for a Department of Defense Type IV hydrant fueling system. The new system would meet the following requirements including UFC 3-460-01 and the National Fire Protection Association 30, DoD Standard Design AW 78-24-29, and Antiterrorism and Force Protection requirements. Site preparation would include demolition of the two existing 25,000-gallon tanks, piping, pumps, filters, pantographs, and valves downstream of the pig launch/receipt pad. Site improvements would include sidewalks, site restoration, and landscaping. Site electrical work would include lighting, transformers, lightning protection, grounding, communications, control wiring, emergency fuel shut off systems, and control stations. The existing emergency generator would remain and be reconnected to the new system. Site civil work would include excavation and earthwork as well as water utility and stormwater management requirements.

### 1.2.6 Renovate Drinking Water Treatment Plant

The existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP) infrastructure includes multiple groundwater wells, chlorination systems, high-service booster pumps, distribution networks, storage tanks, and associated laboratory and office facilities (see **Appendix A**, **Figures 1-8**, **1-9**, and **1-10**). Building 336 serves as the main water plant office housing administrative spaces, a laboratory, and

monitoring systems connected to the installation's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Water from wells is chlorinated and stored in aboveground and underground tanks, with capacities ranging from 50,000 to 271,000 gallons. The distribution network consists of asbestos cement pipes, which, although repaired as needed, require further assessment and upgrades. Key facilities include Building 336, which has water softening systems, emergency eyewash units, and fuel gas systems, and the Building 337 pump station, which has multiple high-capacity pumps essential for water distribution. Additionally, buildings housing wells (such as Wells 5 and 9) include electrical systems, HVAC units, and safety equipment crucial for maintaining operational efficiency and safety.

Several significant issues were identified in the current DWTP system. One of the most pressing concerns is per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in groundwater sources, which poses serious health risks. Infrastructure deterioration includes aging electrical systems, inadequate HVAC units, and corroded storage tanks. Structural problems in buildings housing the wells and pump stations, such as corroded piping and non-compliant safety equipment, further compromise the reliability and safety of the water supply system. These issues collectively threaten public health and the installation's operational readiness. To address these challenges, several key upgrades and renovations are proposed including refurbishing the existing DWTP to include interior renovation of Building 336, perimeter fence upgrades from 6- to 7-feet high, installation and incorporation of drinking water treatment filtration systems, incorporation of drinking water treatment filtration system at Wells 5 and 9, interior and exterior refurbishment of the Chavez drinking water holding tank, and replacement of two pumps and motors in Building 337. The project would also add a water storage tank at the Chavez water pump plant and associated underground piping to connect to existing infrastructure.

To address issues with PFAS removal, Cannon AFB proposes to implement Granular Activated Carbon filtration systems at Buildings 336, 4672, and 5035. These systems are effective in removing both long- and short-chain PFAS compounds and would significantly improve water quality. Renovations to Buildings 336 and 337 would include upgrading electrical and HVAC systems to handle the increased demands of new treatment processes. Structural enhancements, such as reinforcing storage tanks and repairing corroded piping would be implemented to prevent leaks and ensure the long-term durability of the infrastructure. The project would also include installing new safety showers and eyewash stations to meet safety standards. Additionally, new buildings would be constructed to house advanced water treatment equipment.

### 1.2.7 Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant

The existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) at Cannon AFB has a rated capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day, receiving a mix of domestic and industrial waste, with source activities including aircraft maintenance and washing, corrosion control, and vehicle washing. The plant is equipped with two headworks, sequencing batch reactors (SBRs), blowers, an aerobic digester, multiple pumping stations, chlorine contact basins, Parshall flume flow metering, two lined storage basins for raw and treated water, sludge drying beds, and effluent flow pumping systems for irrigation at the nearby Whispering Winds Golf Course.

Potential contaminants of concern at the plant are perfluorinated chemicals (PFC); metals; and petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL)[1]. Observable impacts on the WWTP's performance and effluent quality have included foam releases, oil sheens, pH imbalances, and disruptions to

[1] All disturbed soil would undergo hazardous waste characterization and PFAS sampling. If PFAS is present, Cannon AFB would follow DAF PFAS disposal guidance.

microbial populations. The presence of PFC compounds in the soil has resulted in temporary shutdowns of reclaimed-water irrigation activities at Whispering Winds Golf Course in the past. Moreover, many components within the plant are either inoperable, deficient, or beyond their service life. Therefore, a series of improvements are recommended to modernize and optimize the plant's performance. The proposed improvements include demolition and replacement of the existing headworks, new treatments systems, mechanical repairs, electrical repairs and SCADA system enhancements, and civil/site improvements (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-11**). These projects are further detailed below:

- The existing Headworks 1 and 2 (which screen solids, grit, and grease from the wastewater) would be demolished and replaced. Replacement of these units would include mechanical bar screens, influent pump station, fine screen, vortex grit removal, dissolved air flotation, magnetic flow meter, sluice gates, peristatic pumps, and electrical connections.
- The SBRs would be restored with the coating of the existing structure, new equipment to include restoration of one idle SBR, repair of electrical components, and installation of a floating scum pump.
- The composting area of the sludge drying beds would be crack-sealed and a slurry coat would be applied. The chlorine contact chamber would be replaced with mixer motors along with circuit conductors.
- The effluent tank reuse pumping station would receive a new effluent pump with valves and reuse of the pump and basket strainers (one-for-one replacement).
- For the control building, the existing insulation on the exterior ductwork would be demolished and replaced. Air diffusers and grilles throughout the facility would be cleaned and repaired. Polyvinyl chloride condensate piping and a new laboratory sink basin and faucet would be installed. Electrical repairs would be completed and the SCADA system replaced.
- For the blower building, the HVAC unit, exterior and interior ductwork, generator and fuel tanks, safety switches, blower motors, transfer switches, and related electrical components would be replaced. Additionally, the motorized louver would be repaired, interior lighting upgraded, and emergency lighting installed.
- For the chlorination building, fans, roof exhaust, electric heaters, chlorine dosing pumps and piping, and an injection pump including piping, totes, and mixers would be installed. A new water heater would also be installed to provide tempered water to the emergency shower/eyewash station.
- At the treated basin, aerators including wiring, pumps, and a hyperboloid mixer would be installed.
- The raw basin would be converted into an equalization basin to balance the nutrient load and would require two pumps, including installation and piping, and a floating scum pump.
- An enclosure with ventilation and all utility connections would be constructed for the new Headworks 2 to prevent freezing in the winter. This project would include fire detection and suppression and methane detection.
- A new chlorine contact chamber would be constructed as redundancy for the existing chlorination chamber. This redundant chamber would ensure complete disinfection during down times for routine cleaning of settled solids. The structure would be approximately

9 feet by 22 feet and include steel stairs and steel grating at platform areas. This chamber would be located adjacent to the existing structure and partially below grade. The depth would be approximately 13 feet.

- Three new facilities with a block or metal enclosure, HVAC, electrical, and piping and equipment for filtration of chemicals and heavy metals would be constructed to reduce levels in the effluent treated water to non-detect levels. Two granular activated carbon filtration systems would remove PFAS from the effluent water, a dissolved air flotation building would enable advanced grease removal, and an arsenic filtration building would remove heavy metals from the effluent water.

### 1.2.8 Installation of Flightline Fence

This project would consist of enclosing the flightline area with approximately 5.6 miles of 6-foot tall, chain link fence with 3-strand barbed outriggers for protection of the flightline (see **Appendix A**, **Figure 1-12**). The project would include the installation of 10 electronic gates and additional surveillance equipment. The Type A2 chain link fence would be composed of 9-gauge steel wire with 2-inch square mesh and wrought iron fencing and posts. All fencing would be constructed to meet wingtip clearance requirements per Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 3-260-01, *Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design*. The project would include all supporting facilities such as site improvements, pavements, communications, and utilities necessary to provide a complete and useable facility.

## 1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support AFSOC mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use by personnel and residents at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness will deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. The need for each individual project is detailed in the following sections.

**Site Preparation for Food Court and Recreational Area.** Cannon AFB is designated as remote and isolated; therefore, offering a variety of food establishments on the installation would enhance the environment and be desirable to the military community, particularly for the convenience of personnel who have limited transportation and cannot travel off-installation for meals. This project would benefit mission accomplishments and the morale and welfare of installation personnel.

**Construct Replacement Pump House.** The diesel pumps that currently feed water to the hangars have reached the end of their lifecycle. Replacement parts are no longer manufactured and are extremely difficult to acquire. The new, electric pumps proposed to replace the old, diesel pumps are larger and would not fit into the current pump house. Additionally, the current pump house has a void beneath one of the equipment pads that has caused the pump to become unstable, rendering the equipment unusable. If a new pump house is not provided with updated electric pumps to comply with UFC 3-600-01, *Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities*, fire suppression capabilities could be diminished, which could result in aircraft losses. Additional pumping capacity is also required to meet the requirements of planned renovations to Hangars 125 and 126.

**Addition to Security Forces Facility.** Security Force's updated guidance requires more personnel to share workspace within close proximity for accessibility. The current Security Forces Facility has space limitations and does not comply with space requirements. Further, the current armory door does not meet DAF requirements. Inadequate administrative and confinement space

would degrade the 27 SOSFS ability to protect 27 SOW personnel and assets. Additionally, if the project is not completed, 27 SOSFS would not meet criteria to become a regionally accredited military detention center, leaving the southwest region without required military detention capabilities.

**Construct Furnishing Management Warehouse.** Excess furnishings for dormitories are currently stored in a facility that is not designed as a storage space for furnishings and is not climate controlled. As a result, various furnishings have been damaged and improper accountability of assets has occurred. Future construction of additional dormitory space and renovation of older dormitories also creates a need for additional storage space to protect furnishings.

**Construct Constant Pressure Fuel System.** This new system would provide faster and more efficient refueling for aircraft. The new system would increase turn times by 30 percent during simultaneous refueling operations due to the higher flow rate at each hot refuel point and would save an average of 3 hours per 12-hour training window. Dual point hot refueling is a critical element in the installation's ability to carry out the continuation training plan. The flexibility that hot refueling offers the squadron when scheduling continuation training is vital. Hot refueling capability allows departure for each sortie with a more flexible fuel plan so the installation can engage in focused training events like helicopter landing zone terminal area training immediately after takeoff.

The existing system was constructed in early 1996 and commissioned in 1998 using obsolete equipment from base closures and functional remnants from other installations that received upgrades. The system has outlived its expected lifecycle and does not meet constant pressure hydrant refueling system criteria as published in operational standards. Today, the system is fueled via two 25,000-gallon tanks with one 450-gallons per minute pump per tank. Additionally, the hot pits require the constant transfer of fuel to maintain operations from these two 25,000 tanks. By increasing storage to 90,000 gallons, system transfers would be reduced from bulk storage. Further, the existing system would continue to degrade until failure and operations would continue to take place using non-compliant equipment. Constructing a complete Type IV system would reduce aircraft refuel time because the system would be operating at a better regulated system pressure with increased pumping rates. Current operations require 650-man hours per year for routine maintenance and checks on the system and requires approximately 330-man hours per year as civil engineer personnel have to perform regular inspections on the distribution line, storage tanks, pumps, breakers, associated tank cleaning, and markings. Upgrading the current system would save civil engineers maintenance man hours from upkeep of an outdated system with degraded pumping capability.

**Renovate Drinking Water Treatment Plant.** Several significant issues have been identified in the current DWTP system. One of the most pressing concerns is PFAS contamination in groundwater sources. Although all PFAS levels are currently under regional screening levels and in legal compliance, contaminants will need to be minimized by 2029 to meet new United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations and to protect the health of the installation’s population, who rely on the DWTP as their sole source of water. In addition, infrastructure deterioration includes aging electrical systems, inadequate HVAC units, and corroded storage tanks. Structural problems in buildings housing the wells and pump stations, such as corroded piping and non-compliant safety equipment, further compromise the reliability and safety of the water supply. These issues collectively threaten public health and the installation’s operational readiness.

**Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Several issues have been identified in the current WWTP system. In the past, the presence of PFC in the soil have resulted in temporary shutdowns of reclaimed water irrigation activities at the Whispering Winds Golf Course on the installation. Additionally, many of the components within the plant are either inoperable, deficient, or beyond their service life.

**Installation of Flightline Fence.** Physical security of the restricted flightline area is a requirement of Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 31-101, *Base Defense Operations*, to provide protection to Air Force assets where a threat of terrorism is imminent or likely. Personnel entering a restricted area must enter through an established Entry Control Point. Security fencing would provide added protection of assets by delaying any adversary until Security Forces can reach the target. The flightline and associated facilities are not currently secured from vehicular or pedestrian access. This lack of barrier creates a situation where the flightline and assets are vulnerable to threats, particularly during escalated Force Protection Condition status. If this project is not completed, the perimeter of the protected areas and the restricted areas of the flightline and hangars that contain Air Force assets is not clearly defined. These areas would remain vulnerable to terrorist threats and manpower to maintain security would need to be increased. Clearly defined access to the restricted areas would act as a deterrent to entry and would prevent unauthorized personnel from entering.

## 1.4 DECISION TO BE MADE

The EA will evaluate whether the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts on the environment. If significant impacts are identified, Cannon AFB would undertake mitigation to reduce impacts to below the level of significance, undertake the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement addressing the Proposed Action, or abandon the Proposed Action. If significant impacts are not identified, then the EA would be finalized and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be signed. The decision would be made by the approving official and could incorporate the Proposed Action, its alternatives, or any combination of the Proposed Action and alternatives. The EA will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, (42 United States Code Section 4321 et seq.) and the USAF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Regulations at 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 989.

Because the EA will include the evaluation of actions proposed to occur within a floodplain, if it is determined that a FONSI is appropriate, a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) and approval from Headquarters AFSOC would be required. In accordance with 32 CFR Part 989 and Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Protection of Floodplains*, because the Proposed Action would occur within a floodplain, a FONPA would need to accompany the FONSI to discuss why no other practicable alternatives exist to avoid impacts. Impacts would be reduced by the maximum extent practicable through project design and implementation of environmental protection measures. Additionally, appropriate permits would be obtained from applicable regulatory agencies to address impacts and determine potential mitigation measures, if required. As required by EO 11988, an early public notification for potential floodplain impacts will be published in *The Eastern New Mexico News*.

## 1.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND CONSULTATIONS

### 1.5.1 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination and Consultations

EO 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, as amended by EO 12416, requires federal agencies to provide opportunities for consultation by elected officials of state and local

governments that would be directly affected by a federal proposal. In compliance with NEPA, Cannon AFB will notify relevant stakeholders about the Proposed Action and alternatives (see **Appendix B** for all stakeholder coordination materials). The notification process will provide these stakeholders the opportunity to cooperate with Cannon AFB and provide comments on the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Per the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 17) including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, findings of effect and a request for concurrence will be transmitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A brief summary of comments received will be provided in the EA and all correspondence with the SHPO and USFWS will be included in **Appendix B**. Additionally, correspondence regarding the findings, concurrence, and resolution of any adverse effect will be included in **Appendix B**.

### 1.5.2 Government to Government Coordination and Consultations

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800 require federal agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes historically affiliated with the area of potential effects for the project to determine the presence of and resolve adverse effects to Traditional Cultural Properties. To comply with legal mandates, federally recognized tribes that are historically affiliated with the geographic region will be invited to consult on all proposed undertakings that have a potential to affect properties of cultural, historical, or religious significance to the tribes (see **Appendix B** for all tribal coordination materials).

Consultation letters will be provided to Native American tribes whose ancestors were historically affiliated with the land underlying Cannon AFB, inviting them to consult on the proposed undertakings outlined within the EA.

## 1.6 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF DRAFT EA

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EA will be published in *The Eastern New Mexico News* announcing the availability of the Draft EA. Letters will be provided to relevant federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribal governments informing them that the Draft EA is available for review. The publication of the NOA will initiate a 30-day comment period. Copies of the Draft EA will be made available for review at the following libraries:

Clovis-Carver Public Library
701 N Main Street
Clovis NM 88101-6658

Portales Public Library
218 S Avenue B
Portales NM 88130-6248

A copy of the Draft EA will also be made available for review online at https://www.cannon.af.mil under the Environmental tab. At the closing of the public review period, applicable comments from the general public and interagency and intergovernmental coordination and consultation will be incorporated into the analysis of potential environmental impacts performed as part of the EA, where applicable, and included in **Appendix B** of the Final EA.

# 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

## 2.1 SELECTION STANDARDS

The scope and location of each project and, where applicable, their alternatives, will undergo extensive review by AFSOC personnel, local government agencies, and supporting installation and USAF staff specialists. Potential alternatives were evaluated against the following selection standards:

- **Selection Standard 1**: The alternative(s) must be consistent with all Cannon AFB internal planning documents and zoning requirements, applicable installation architectural compatibility guides, and relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and must accommodate applicable, known man-made and natural development constraints (e.g., Environmental Restoration Program sites, protected plant or animal species habitat, known cultural resources, or floodplains—the relevant constraints vary depending on the project).
- **Selection Standard 2**: The alternative(s) must avoid and/or mitigate direct and indirect, adverse impacts on safety, cultural or natural resources, or other environmental constraints, such as impacts on an environmental restoration site.
- **Selection Standard 3**: The alternative(s) must make a much use as possible for existing land and facilities, avoid creating or maintaining redundant space or infrastructure, avoid or minimize operational inefficiencies, and represent the most cost-effective and sustainable alternative.
- **Selection Standard 4**: The alternative(s) must maintain or improve the quality of life enjoyed by personnel and dependents at Cannon AFB.

## 2.2 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

### 2.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Cannon AFB would implement the eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon AFB. These projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area (see **Section 1.2.1**), (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house (see **Section 1.2.2**), (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility (see **Section 1.2.3**), (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse (see **Section 1.2.4**), (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system (see **Section 1.2.5**), (6) renovating the existing DWTP (see **Section 1.2.6**), (7) renovating the existing WWTP (see **Section 1.2.7**), and (8) fencing the flightline (see **Section 1.2.8**).

### 2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Cannon AFB would not implement the eight projects detailed in **Sections 1.2.1** through **1.2.8**. Current deficiencies would not be addressed, and mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. The following outcomes would be expected from each of the projects:

- **Site Preparation for Food Court and Recreational Area.** Cannon AFB would continue to lack food establishments for installation personnel.

- **Construct Replacement Pump House.** The current pump house would continue to not meet fire codes and one of the pumps would continue to be out of service, resulting in decreased fire suppression for the hangars, which could result in aircraft losses.
- **Addition to Security Forces Facility.** The current building has space limitations and would continue to be out of compliance with Security Forces updated guidance. Inadequate administrative and confinement space would continue to degrade the ability for 27 SOSFS to protect 27 SOW personnel and assets and 27 SOSFS would not meet criteria to become a regionally accredited military detention center.
- **Construct Furnishing Management Warehouse.** Furnishings stored in the current facility would continue to be damaged and/or stolen. Additionally, future construction of additional dormitory space and renovation of older dormitories would result in a lack of storage space to protect furnishings.
- **Construct Constant Pressure Fuel System.** Connections would continue to not meet constant pressure hydrant refueling system criteria as published in operational standards and continue to degrade until failure.
- **Renovate Drinking Water Treatment Plant.** The current facility would become non-compliant with USEPA guidance on PFAS for drinking water becoming effective in 2029. Infrastructure deterioration would continue further compromising the reliability and safety of the installation's water supply.
- **Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant.** The current WWTP would continue to be deficient as many of the components within the plant are either inoperable or beyond their service life.
- **Installation of Flightline Fence.** The flightline would remain vulnerable to threats, particularly during Force Protection Condition status, and be non-compliant with DAFI 31-101.

The USAF EIAP (32 CFR Section 989.8[d]) requires consideration of the No Action Alternative; therefore, this alternative will be carried forward for detailed analysis in the EA. However, the No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action as described in **Section 1.3**.

## 2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The following alternatives were considered but eliminated from further consideration based on the selection standards outlined in **Section 2.2** and other reasons as explained below.

### 2.3.1 Site Preparation for Food Court and Recreational Area

Two alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including the construction of a new, permanent facility to house the new food establishments and leasing additional space off the installation for the new food establishments. Construction of a new, permanent facility was eliminated due to it being more costly and time consuming than using pre-built, pre-loaded modular structures. This project would have also resulted in more of an environmental impact as construction activities for a permanent structure would have caused more disturbance (Selection Standard 2). Leasing additional space off the installation was eliminated due to its impracticality and the necessity to be close to military personnel for the benefit to mission accomplishment and the morale and welfare of installation personnel (Selection Standard 4).

### 2.3.2 Construct Replacement Pump House

One alternative was considered but eliminated for this project, renovating the existing pump house. However, this alternative was eliminated due to renovation not being possible as there is not enough space to fit the new, electric pump system. The current diesel pumps are aging, and parts are becoming more difficult to locate.

### 2.3.3 Addition to Security Forces Facility

Three alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including leasing space in the local community, constructing a new building, and using a similarly suitable vacant building for occupancy. Leasing space was eliminated due to the need to keep squadron personnel and resources together and the need to keep sensitive material and equipment more secure on the installation (Selection Standard 3). Constructing a new building was eliminated due to its high cost and additional impact to the environment (Selection Standard 2). Using a similarly suitable vacant building was eliminated due to space being limited at Cannon AFB and there not being another option close enough to the existing building (Selection Standard 3).

### 2.3.4 Construct Furnishing Management Warehouse

Two alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including renting storage units off the installation to store furnishings and acquiring a relocatable facility. Both alternatives were eliminated due to their high cost, logistic and operational challenges, as well as the need to ensure the security of inventory (Selection Standard 3).

### 2.3.5 Construct Constant Pressure Fuel System

Three alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including replacing the existing tanks, relocating the existing tanks, and extending the pipeline aboveground instead of underground. Replacing the existing tanks was eliminated due to the new system still needing to be relocated in proximity to the flightline. Relocating the tanks was eliminated due to not having a location available close enough to the flightline (Selection Standard 3). Extending the pipeline aboveground was eliminated due to high costs and increased environmental concerns (Selection Standards 2 and 3).

### 2.3.6 Renovate Drinking Water Treatment Plant

Two alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including forming a partnership with the Northeastern New Mexico Water Authority and constructing a new water supply building and laboratory. A partnership with the Northeastern New Mexico Water Authority was eliminated due to the waterline construction project to provide supplemental water to Cannon AFB, the city of Clovis, and several communities is incomplete, and the outdated conditions of Cannon AFB facilities would still remain (Selection Standards 1 and 5). Construction of a new water supply building was eliminated due to high costs and the construction of the facilities for the filtration equipment would still be required (Selection Standard 3).

### 2.3.7 Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant

No additional alternatives were considered for this project because no other alternatives exist. Not only would the cost to construct a new WWTP be excessive, but there is also no available land on the installation to construct a new plant.

### 2.3.8 Installation of Flightline Fence

Two alternatives were considered but eliminated for this project including relocating the hangars that contain unmanned aircraft and installing cameras to monitor activity. Relocating the hangars was eliminated due to its impracticability and high costs (Selection Standard 3). Installing cameras was eliminated due to it not addressing the response time for addressing threats (Selection Standard 4).

# APPENDIX A

# FIGURES

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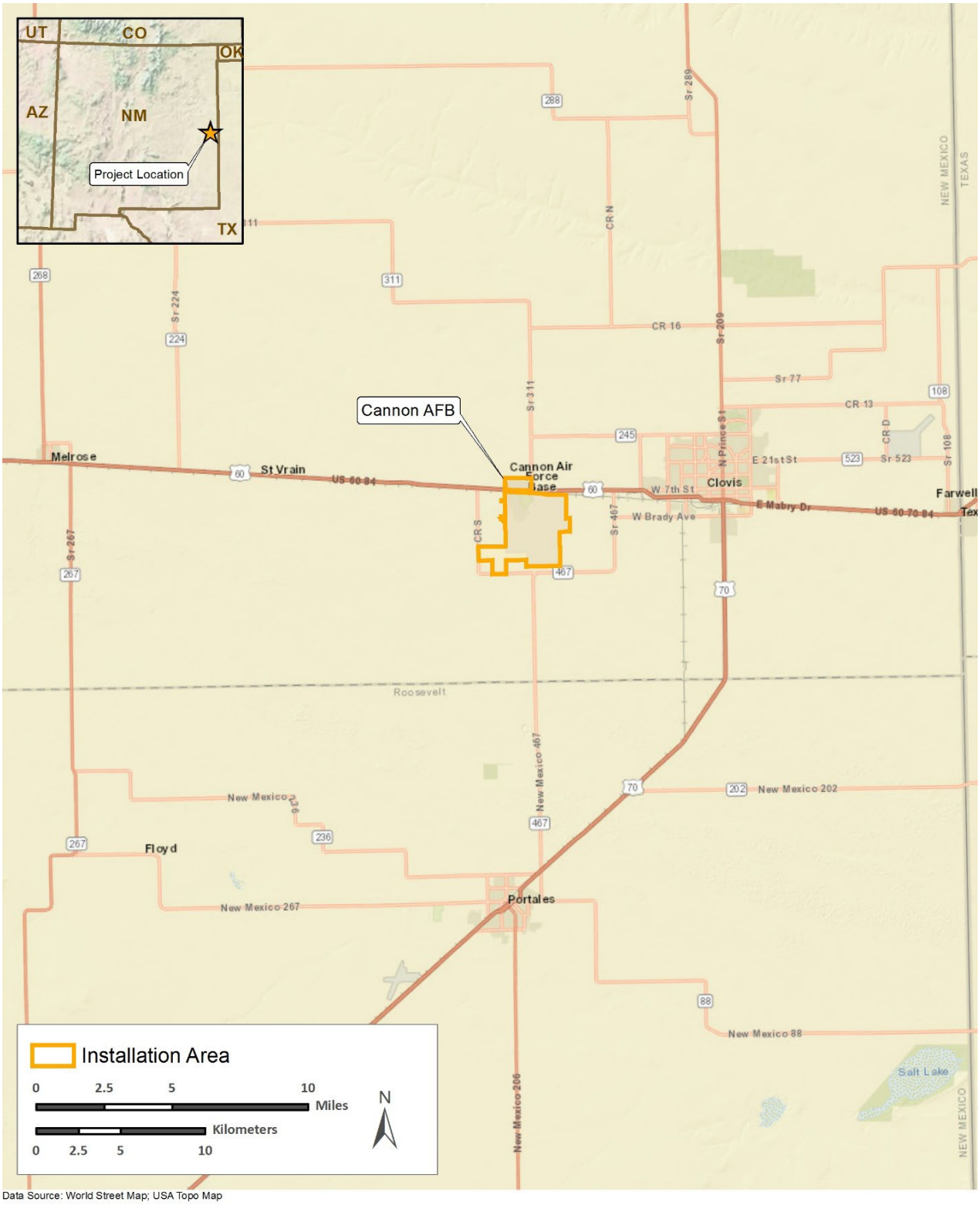


Data Source: World Street Map; USA Topo Map

**Figure 1. Cannon AFB Vicinity Map**

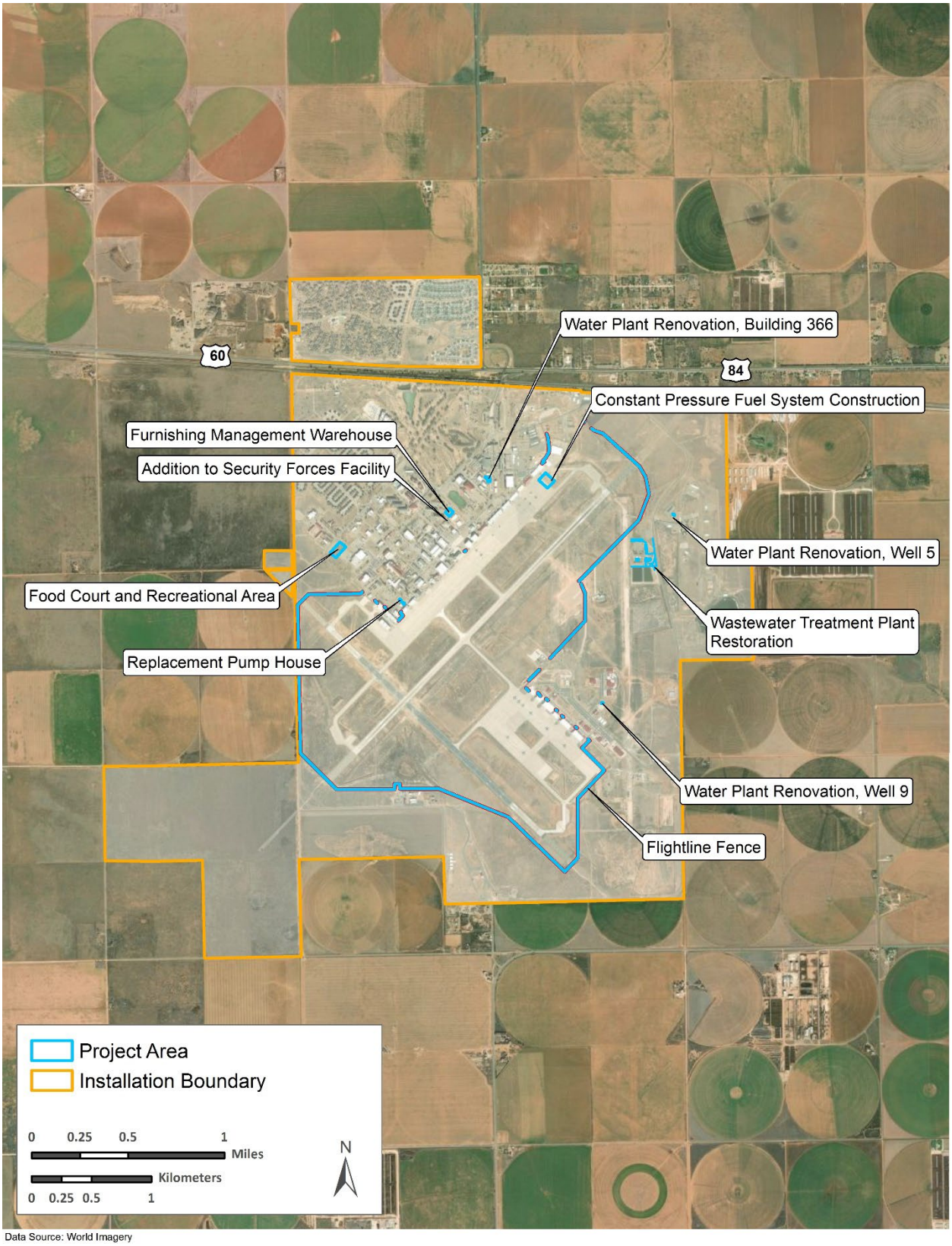


**Figure 2. Project Areas Overview**


**Figure 3. Project Location for Food Court and Recreational Area Preparation**


**Figure 4. Project Location for Replacement Pump House**


**Figure 5. Project Location for Security Forces Facility Addition**


**Figure 6. Project Location for Furnishing Management Warehouse**

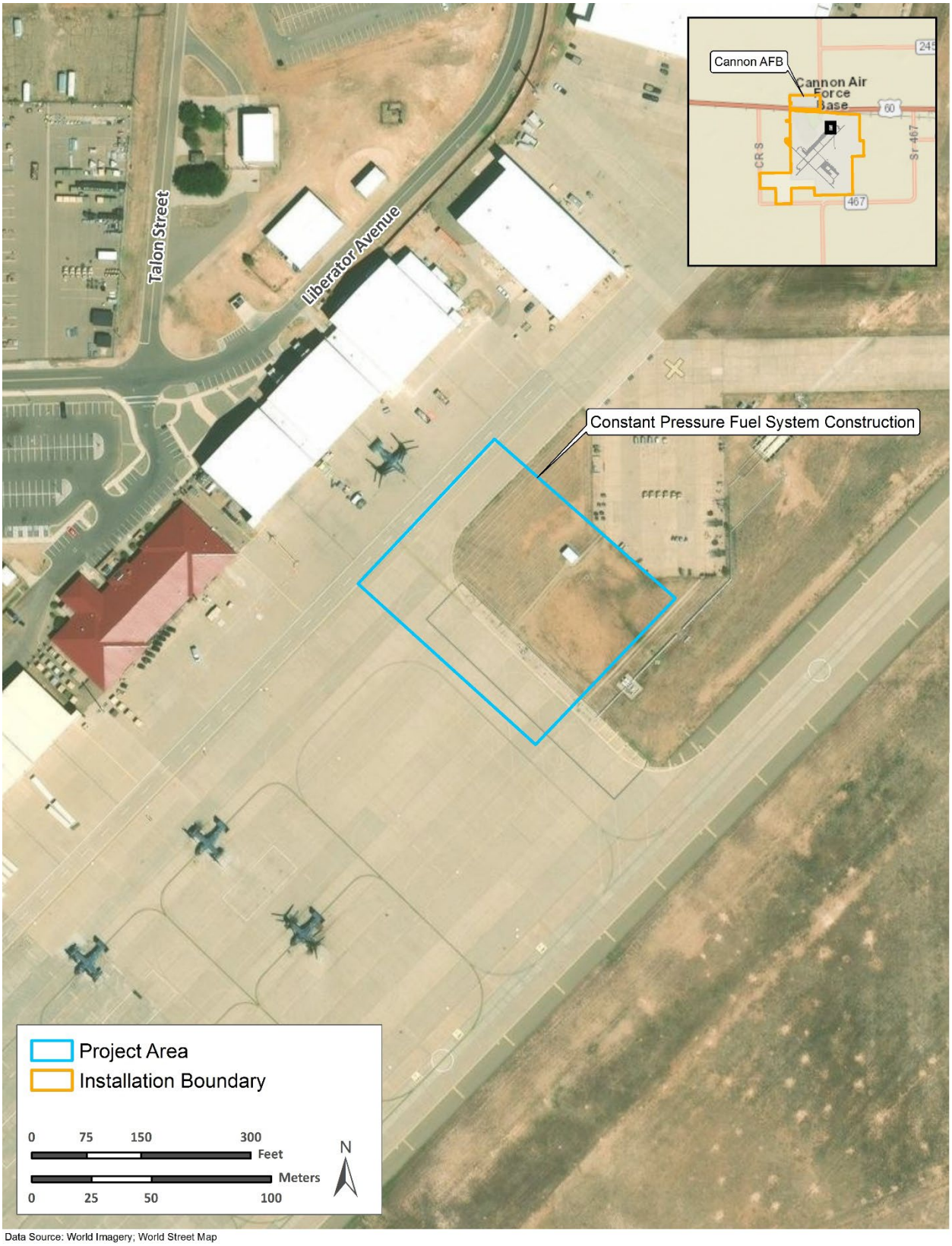


**Figure 7. Project Location for Constant Pressure Fuel System**

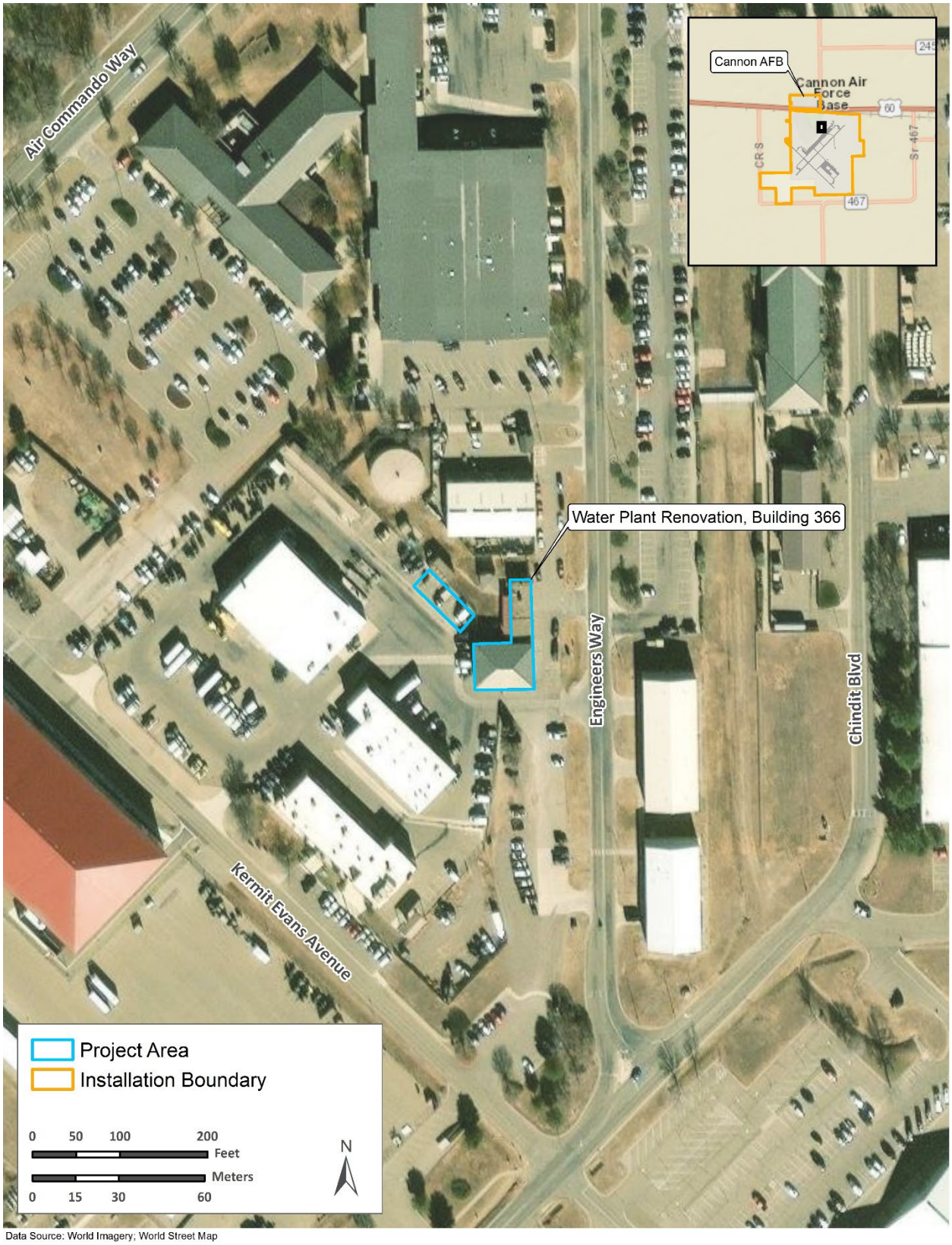


**Figure 8. Project Location for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Renovation**


**Figure 9. Project Location for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Renovation (Well 5)**


**Figure 10. Project Location for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Renovation (Well 9)**

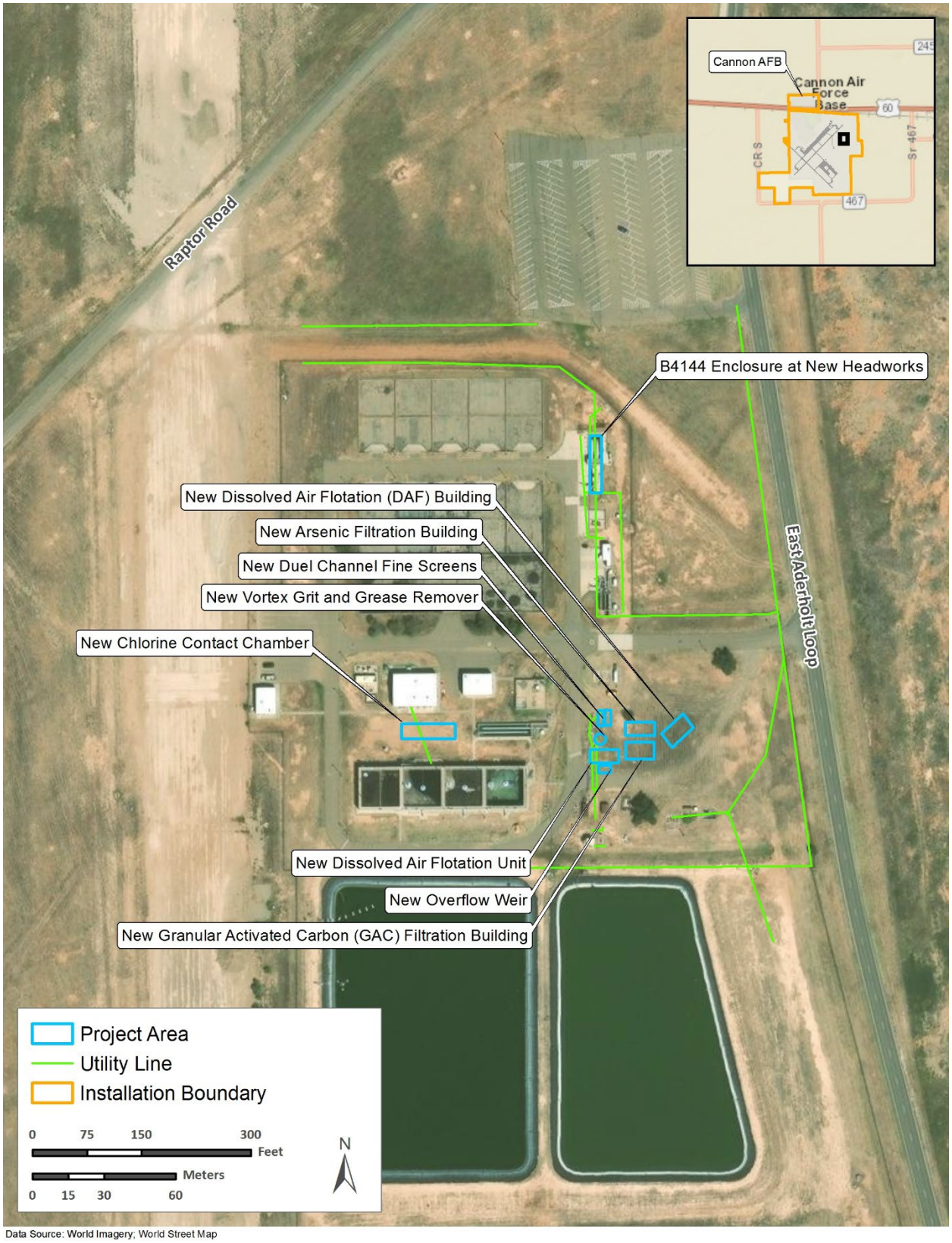


**Figure 11. Project Location for Wastewater Treatment Plant Restoration**


**Figure 12. Project Location for Flightline Fencing Project**

# APPENDIX B

# INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MATERIALS

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# Appendix B

## Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning and Public Involvement Materials

**Federal, State, and Local Agencies – Scoping Letter Distribution List**

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Senator, New Mexico
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-0001

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Senator, New Mexico
United States Senate
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-0001

The Honorable Gabe Vasquez
State Representative, New Mexico
United States House of Representatives
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
State Representative, New Mexico
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
State Representative, New Mexico
United States House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0001

Dr. Earthea Nance, Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas TX 75270-2162

Ms. Cheryl Prewitt
Regional Environmental Coordinator
US Forest Service, Southwestern Region
333 Broadway Boulevard SE
Albuquerque NM 87102-3426

Mr. Rob Lowe, Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth TX 76177-1524

Ms. Patricia Mattingly, Regional Director
and Regional Environmental Specialist
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southwest Regional Office
1001 Indian School Road NW
Albuquerque NM 87104-2303

Ms. Sabrina Flores, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District Office
100 Sun Avenue NE
Pan American Building, Suite 330
Albuquerque NM 87109-4676

Ms. Becky Collins, Regional Environmental Officer
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Albuquerque Region
US Department of the Interior
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348
Albuquerque NM 87104-2303

Ms. D'Llaynn Bruce, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clovis Service Center
918 Parkland Drive
Clovis NM 88101-4432

Mr. Matt Wunder, Chief
Ecological & Environmental Planning
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe NM 87507-9210

Ms. Danielle Galloway, Chief
Environmental Resources Section
US Army Corps of Engineers - Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque NM 87109-3435

Board of Directors
Mid-Region Council of Governments
809 Copper Avenue NW
Albuquerque NM 87102-3009

Mr. Jeff M. Witte, Director/Secretary
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
PO Box 30005, MSC 3189
Las Cruces NM 88003-8005

Mr. Bruce Baizel, Director
Office of Compliance and Enforcement,
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe NM 87502-5469

Ms. Stephanie Garcia Richard
Commissioner of Public Lands
New Mexico State Land Office
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe NM 87501-2708

Ms. Melanie A. Kenderdine, Cabinet Secretary Designate
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Wendell Chino Building
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe NM 87505-4225

Mr. Lance A. Pyle
Curry County Manager
Curry County Manager's Office
417 Gidding Street, Suite #100
Clovis NM 88101-7500

Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua
City of Clovis
PO Box 760
Clovis NM 88101-0760

Mr. Robert Murphy
Groundwater Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe NM 87502-5469

## Federal, State, and Local Agencies – Example Scoping Letter

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

24 June 2025

Colonel Robert L. Johnston
Commander
27 Special Operations Wing
511 North Chindit Blvd
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510–0001

Dear Senator Heinrich

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and United States Air Force (USAF) NEPA regulations, the USAF is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with implementing eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon Air Force Base (AFB). These projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area, (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house, (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility, (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse, (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system, (6) renovating the existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), (7) renovating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and (8) fencing the flightline. Each of these projects would support Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use by personnel and residents at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. Further, certain projects (specifically the DWTP renovation) could cause Cannon AFB to shut down as upgrades are required to meet new EPA water regulations by 2029.

If you have additional information regarding impacts of the Proposed Action on the natural environment or other environmental aspects of which we are unaware, we would appreciate receiving such information for inclusion and consideration during the NEPA compliance process. A copy of the *Final Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Environmental Assessment Addressing Installation Development at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico* is available at https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/. A hardcopy can also be provided upon request. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this process. Please respond within 30 days of the date of this letter to ensure your concerns are adequately addressed in the EA.

THE STEADFAST LINE

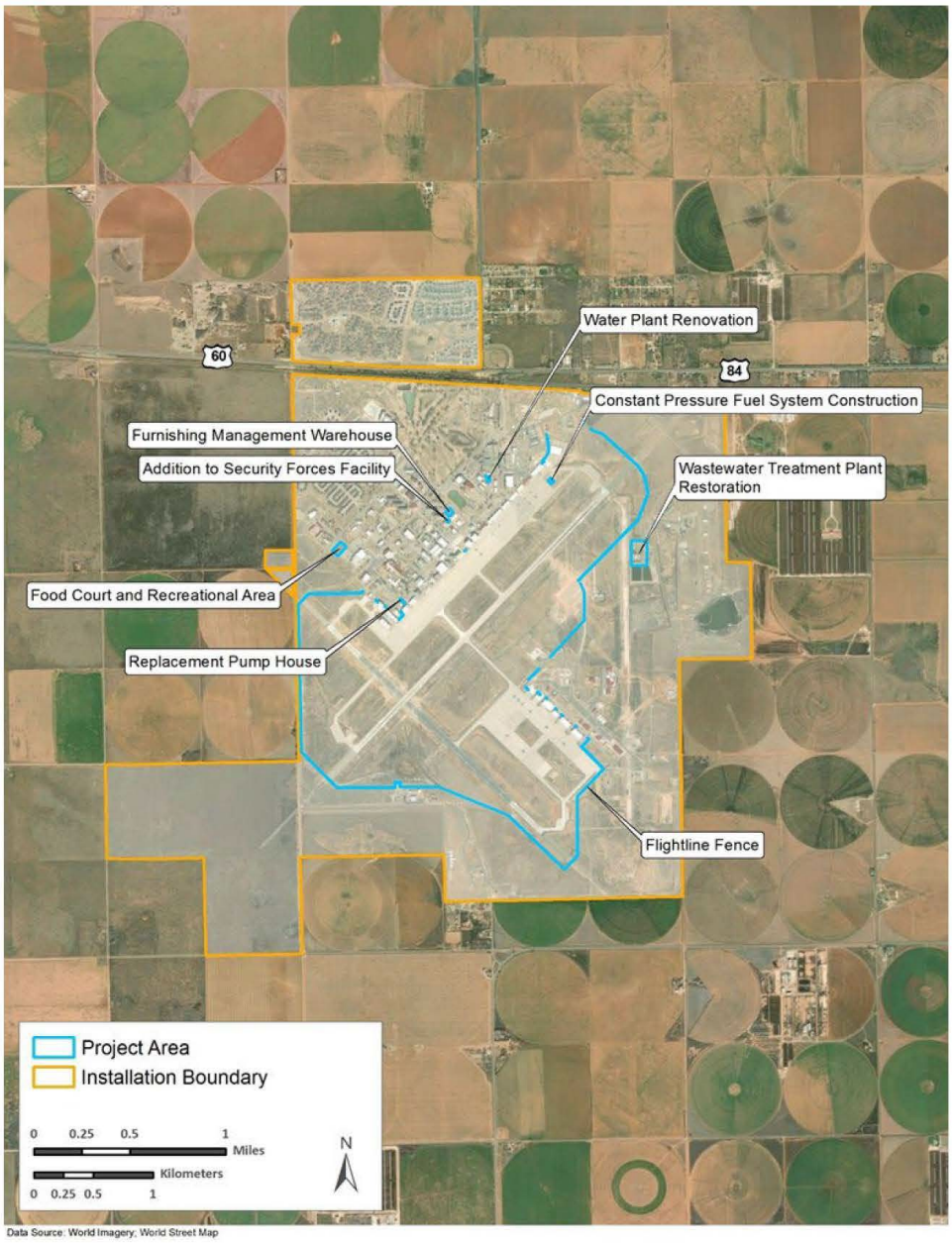
Please send your written responses to Ms. Shannon Prior, 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, 506 North Air Commando Way, Cannon AFB, NM 88103-5108, or by email to 27SOCES.CEIE.Environmental@us.af.mil. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Sincerely

ROBERT L. JOHNSTON, Col, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Map of Proposed Project Locations

THE STEADFAST LINE




**Map of Proposed Project Locations**

THE STEADFAST LINE

**State Historical Preservation Office – Scoping Letter Distribution List**

Ms. Michelle Ensey, State Historic Preservation Officer and Director
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe NM 87501-2834

## State Historical Preservation Office – Example Scoping Letter

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

24 June 2025

Colonel Robert L. Johnston
Commander
27 Special Operations Wing
511 North Chindit Blvd
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

Ms. Michelle Ensey, State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe NM 87501-2834

Dear Ms. Ensey

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the United States Air Force (USAF) would like to consult with your office on the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for installation development at Cannon Air Force Base (AFB), New Mexico. The proposed projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area, (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house, (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility, (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse, (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system, (6) renovating the existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), (7) renovating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and (8) fencing the flightline. Each of these projects would support Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use by personnel and residents at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. Further, certain projects (specifically the DWTP renovation) could cause Cannon AFB to shut down as upgrades are required to meet new EPA water regulations by 2029.

The USAF has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of the eight geographically separate project areas (see Table 1 and Attachment). Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 (36 CFR Part 800), as amended, the USAF would like to initiate consultation to allow you and your designee the opportunity to identify any comments, concerns, and suggestions relevant to the NEPA compliance process concerning the Proposed Action.

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**Table 1. Proposed Project Areas**

| Project Type | Proposed Project Name | Area |
|---|---|---|
| Construction | Food Court and Recreational Area | 74,112.3 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Replacement Pump House | 2,065.0 $ft^2$ |
| Demolition | Demolish Old Pump House | 1,354.2 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Addition to Security Forces Facility | 4,378.2 $ft^2$ |
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| Construction | Constant Pressure Fuel System | 15,113.8 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Renovate Drinking Water Treatment Plant | 9,761.3 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant | 295,756.7 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Flightline Fence Installation | 5.58 miles |

Notes: $ft^2$=square feet

A copy of the *Final Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Environmental Assessment Addressing Installation Development at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico* is available at https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/. There is one known cultural site (LA 64777) within the APE. This site is 60.5 meters east of a portion of the proposed flightline fence installation project. LA 64777 is a small prehistoric surface scatter consisting of lithic debitage; however, it was determined in 2016 that the integrity of the site had been destroyed by mechanical grading. Therefore, the site was recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and SHPO concurrence with this determination was received on 9 January 2017. However, due to the high probability of buried cultural resources on Cannon AFB, this undertaking does have the potential to effect cultural resources. To ensure any potential buried site is appropriately accounted for, all work will cease if cultural resources are discovered. The site will be recorded, and a new determination of effects and eligibility will be performed in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, Assessment of Adverse Effects.

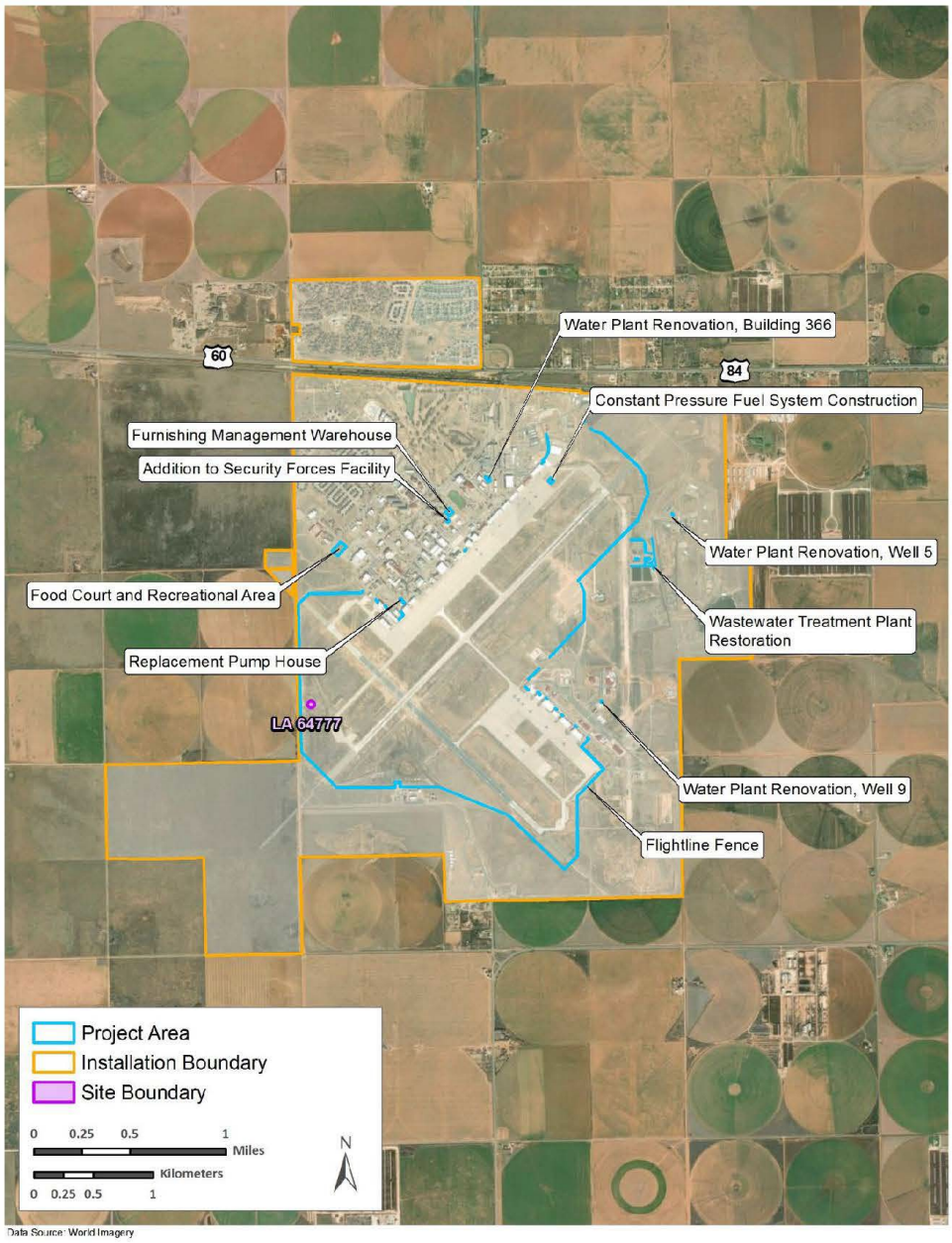
As noted above, the USAF would like to initiate consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA concerning this undertaking and is seeking concurrence on the APE, as defined. Please send your written responses to Ms. Shannon Prior, 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, 506 North Air Commando Way, Cannon AFB, NM 88103-5108, or by email to 27SOCES.CEIE.Environmental@us.af.mil. Please contact Ms. Taylor McCoy (575) 904-6739, taylor.mccoy.2@us.af.mil or Ms. Alicia Washington (575) 904-6747, alicia.washington.2@us.af.mil if you have any technical questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Sincerely

ROBERT L. JOHNSTON, Col, USAF
Commander

THE STEADFAST LINE

Attachment:
Map of Proposed Project Locations




**Map of Proposed Project Locations**

THE STEADFAST LINE

**US Fish and Wildlife Service - Scoping Letter Distribution List**

Ms. Amy Lueders, Regional Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Regional Office
500 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque NM  87102-3118

## US Fish and Wildlife Service – Example Scoping Letter

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

27 June 2025

Colonel Robert L. Johnston
Commander
27 Special Operations Wing
511 North Chindit Blvd
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

Ms. Amy Lueders, Regional Director
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Regional Office
500 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque NM 87102-3118

Dear Ms. Lueders

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and United States Air Force (USAF) NEPA regulations, the USAF is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with implementing eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon Air Force Base (AFB). These projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area, (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house, (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility, (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse, (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system, (6) renovating the existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), (7) renovating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and (8) fencing the flightline. Each of these projects would support Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use by personnel and residents at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. Further, certain projects (specifically the DWTP renovation) could cause Cannon AFB to shut down as upgrades are required to meet new EPA water regulations by 2029.

Pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 United States Code 1531, et seq.), Cannon AFB conducted an effect determination for the Proposed Action. All interrelated and interdependent actions were analyzed during that review. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Official Species and Habitat List was received on 19 November 2024 under Consultation Code 2025-0021412. The USFWS IPaC tool listed two federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species with the potential to occur within the project area, the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). There is a potential for the monarch butterfly to be impacted; however, best management practices

THE STEADFAST LINE

would be implemented to minimize any potential impacts. An updated species list from USFWS is required to be obtained within 90 days of starting construction activities.

The environmental analysis for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the USAF in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to NEPA of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we solicit your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequence of the action. If you have additional information regarding impacts of the Proposed Action on the natural environment or other environmental aspects of which we are unaware, we would appreciate receiving such information for inclusion and consideration during the NEPA compliance process. A copy of the *Final Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Environmental Assessment Addressing Installation Development at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico* is available at https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/. A hardcopy can also be provided upon request. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this process. Please respond within 30 days of the date of this letter to ensure your concerns are adequately addressed in the EA.

Please send your written responses to Ms. Shannon Prior, 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, 506 North Air Commando Way, Cannon AFB, NM 88103-5108, or by email to 27SOCES.CEIE.Environmental@us.af.mil. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Sincerely

ROBERT L. JOHNSTON, Col, USAF
Commander

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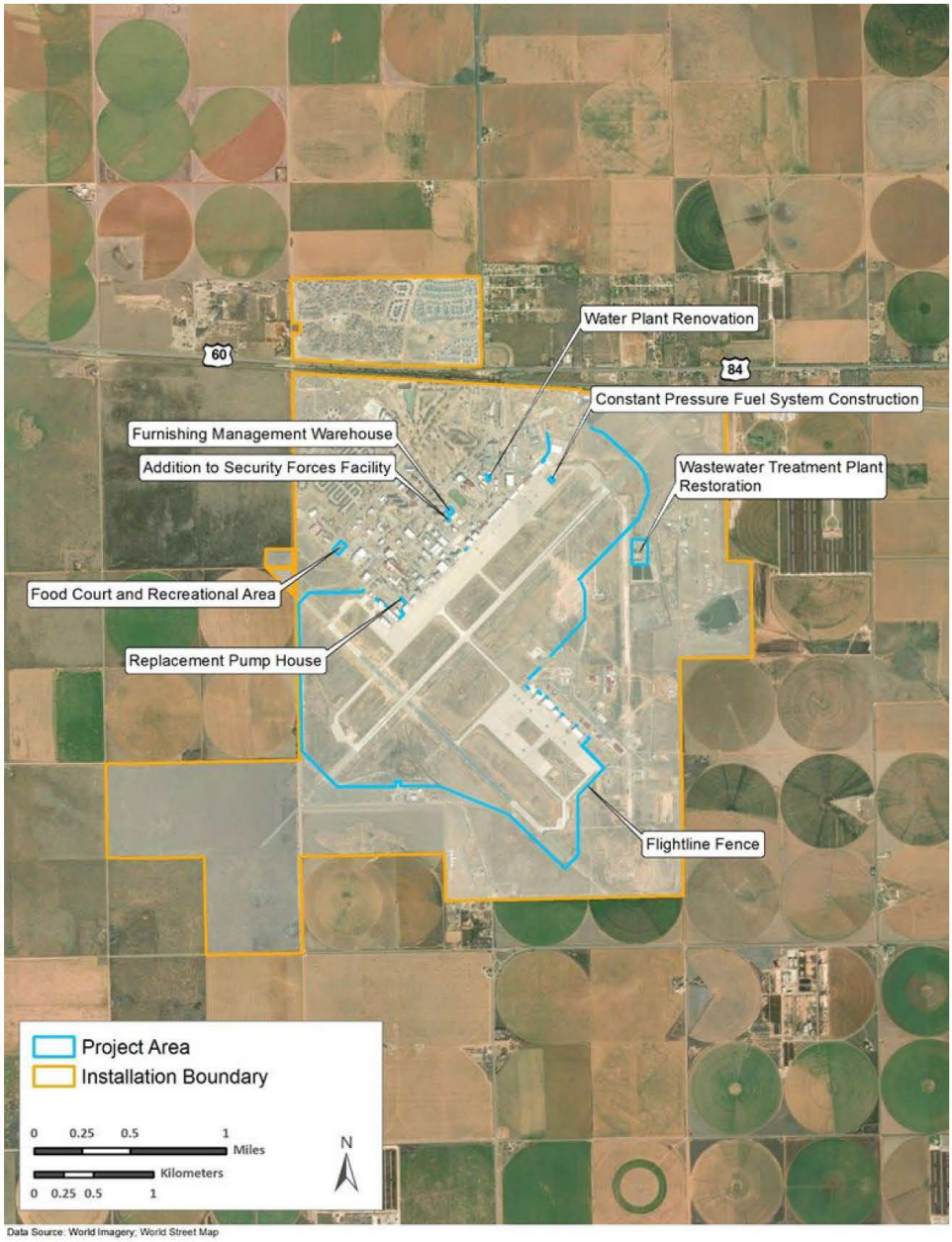
Map of Proposed Project Locations




**Map of Proposed Project Locations**

THE STEADFAST LINE

**Native American Tribes – Scoping Letter Distribution List**

Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
The Hopi Tribe
PO Box 123
Kykotsmovi AZ 86039-0123

President Adrian Notsinneh
Jicarilla Apache Nation
PO Box 507
Dulce NM 87528-0507

Madam President Thora Walsh-Padilla
Mescalero Apache Tribe
PO Box 227
Mescalero NM 88340-0227

Governor E. Michael Silvas
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
119 S Old Pueblo Road
PO Box 17579
El Paso TX 79907-7579

Chairman Durell Cooper
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko OK 73005 -1330

Chairman Lawrence SpottedBird
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 369
Carnegie OK 73015-0369

Chairman Forrest Tahdooahnippah
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box 908
Lawton OK 73502-0908

## Native American Tribes – Example Scoping Letter

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

27 June 2025

Colonel Robert L. Johnston
Commander
27 Special Operations Wing
511 North Chindit Blvd
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

Chairman Durell Cooper
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko OK 73005-1330

Dear Chairman Cooper

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and United States Air Force (USAF) NEPA regulations, as well as the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the USAF is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with implementing eight separate projects in support of installation development at Cannon Air Force Base (AFB). These projects include (1) conducting site preparation for a food court and recreational area, (2) constructing a replacement pump house and demolishing the old pump house, (3) constructing an addition to the existing Security Forces Facility, (4) constructing a Furnishing Management Warehouse, (5) constructing a constant pressure fuel system, (6) renovating the existing drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), (7) renovating the existing wastewater treatment plant, and (8) fencing the flightline. Each of these projects would support Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) mission requirements by improving the facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for current and future use by personnel and residents at Cannon AFB. If current deficiencies are not addressed, mission effectiveness would deteriorate as mission and regulatory demands outpace installation capabilities. Further, certain projects (specifically the DWTP renovation) could cause Cannon AFB to shut down as upgrades are required to meet new EPA water regulations by 2029.

THE STEADFAST LINE

The USAF has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of the eight geographically separate project areas (see Table 1 and Attachment). The USAF is currently conducting research and investigations to identify historic properties within the APE to determine the potential effects, if any, of the undertaking.

**Table 1. Proposed Project Areas**

| Project Type | Proposed Project Name | Area |
|---|---|---|
| Construction | Food Court and Recreational Area | 74,112.3 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Replacement Pump House | 2,065.0 $ft^2$ |
| Demolition | Replacement Pump House | 1,354.2 $ft^2$ |
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| Construction | Renovate Wastewater Treatment Plant | 295,756.7 $ft^2$ |
| Construction | Flightline Fence Installation | 5.58 miles |

Notes: $ft^2$=square feet

Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR Part 800) and Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, the USAF would like to initiate government-to-government consultation concerning this undertaking to allow you and your designee the opportunity to identify any comments, concerns, and suggestions you might have. Cannon AFB does not know of any historic properties of religious and/or cultural significance with tribal association on the installation. Nevertheless, we ask for your assistance in identifying any historic properties of which we may be unaware, particularly those which may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

A copy of the *Final Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Environmental Assessment Addressing Installation Development at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico* is available at https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/. A hardcopy can also be provided upon request. There is one known cultural site (LA 64777) within the APE. This site is 60.5 meters east of a portion of the proposed flightline fence installation project. LA 64777 is a small prehistoric surface scatter consisting of lithic debitage; however, it was determined in 2016 that the integrity of the site had been destroyed by mechanical grading. Therefore, the site was recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and SHPO concurrence with this determination was received on 9 January 2017. However, due to the high probability of buried cultural resources on Cannon AFB, this undertaking does have the potential to effect cultural resources. To ensure any potential buried site is appropriately accounted for, all work will cease if cultural resources are discovered. The site will be recorded, and a new determination of effects and eligibility will be performed in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, Assessment of Adverse Effects. As we move forward through this process, we welcome your participation and input.

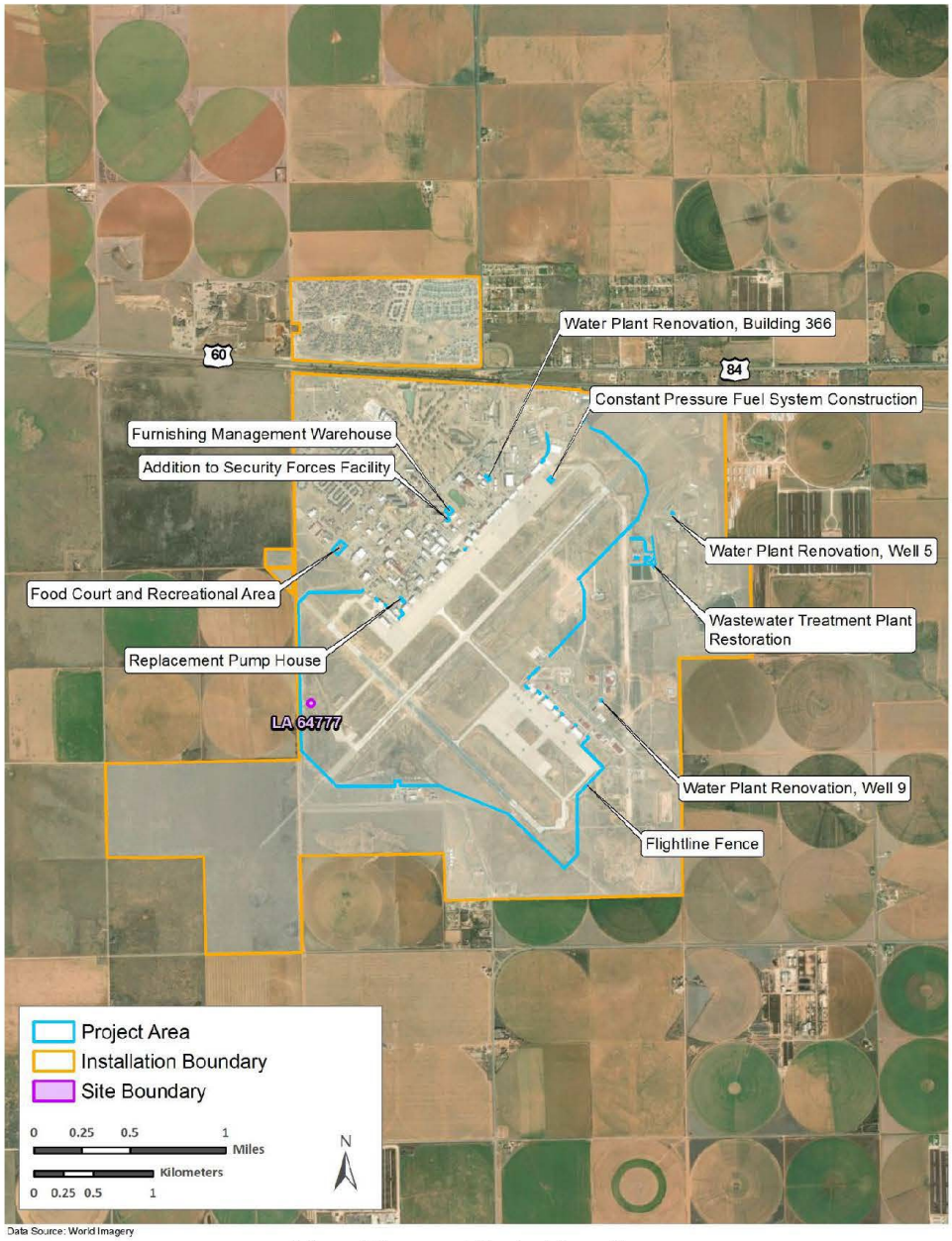
As noted above, the USAF would like to initiate government-to-government consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA concerning this undertaking and is seeking concurrence on the APE, as defined. For technical information, please contact Ms. Taylor McCoy (575) 904-6739, taylor.mccoy.2@us.af.mil or Ms. Alicia Washington (575) 904-6747, alicia.washington.2@us.af.mil. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Sincerely

ROBERT L. JOHNSTON, Col, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Map of Proposed Project Locations

THE STEADFAST LINE




**Map of Proposed Project Locations**

THE STEADFAST LINE

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