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**Operations**

**CIVIL AIRCRAFT USE OF UNITED STATES  
AIR FORCE AIRFIELDS**

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The Air Force establishes and uses its airfields to support the scope and level of operations necessary to carry out missions worldwide. The Congress funds airfields in response to Air Force requirements, but also specifies that civil aviation access is a national priority to be accommodated when it does not jeopardize an installation's military utility. The Air Force engages in dialogue with the civil aviation community and the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure mutual understanding of long-term needs for the national air transportation system and programmed military force structure requirements. To implement the national policy and to respond to requests for access, the Air Force must have policies that balance such requests with military needs. Civil aircraft access to Air Force airfields on foreign territory requires host nation approval.

**1.** The Air Force will manage two programs that are generally used to grant civil aircraft access to its airfields: civil aircraft landing permits and joint-use agreements. Other arrangements for access will be negotiated as required for specific purposes.

1.1. Normally, landing permits will be issued only for civil aircraft operating in support of official Government business. Other types of use may be authorized if justified by exceptional circumstances. Access will be granted on an equitable basis.

1.2. The Air Force will consider only proposals for joint use that do not compromise operations, security, readiness, safety, environment, and quality of life. Further, only proposals submitted by authorized local Government representatives eligible to sponsor a public airport will be given the comprehensive evaluation required to conclude a joint-use agreement.

1.3. Any aircraft operator with an inflight emergency may land at any Air Force airfield without prior authorization. An inflight emergency is defined as a situation that makes continued flight hazardous.

**2.** Air Force requirements will take precedence on Air Force airfields over all civil aircraft operations, whether they were previously authorized or not.

3. Civil aircraft use of Air Force airfields in the United States will be subject to Federal laws and regulations. Civil aircraft use of Air Force airfields in foreign countries will be subject to US Federal laws and regulations that have extraterritorial effect and to applicable international agreements with the country in which the Air Force installation is located.
4. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:
  - 4.1. As the program manager for joint use, the Civil Aviation Branch, Bases and Units Division, Directorate of Operations (HQ USAF/XOOBC), ensures that all impacts have been considered and addressed before forwarding a joint-use proposal or agreement to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations (SAF/MII), who holds decision authority. All decisions are subject to the environmental impact analysis process as directed by the Environmental Planning Division, Directorate of Environment (HQ USAF/CEVP), and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (SAF/MIQ). The Air Force Real Estate Agency (AFREA/MI) handles the leases for Air Force-owned land or facilities that may be included in an agreement for joint use.
  - 4.2. HQ USAF/XOOBC determines the level of decision authority for landing permits. It delegates decision authority for certain types of use to major commands and installation commanders.
  - 4.3. HQ USAF/XOOBC makes the decisions on all requests for exceptions or waivers to this policy directive and related Air Force Instructions. The decision process includes consultation with other affected functional area managers when required. Potential impacts on current and future Air Force policies and operations strongly influence such decisions.
  - 4.4. Major commands, direct reporting units, and field operating agencies may issue supplements to establish command-unique procedures permitted by and consistent with this directive and its implementing instructions.
5. This policy directive applies to all regular United States Air Force (USAF), Air National Guard (ANG), and United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) installations with airfields. This policy directive also applies to civil aircraft use of Air Force ramps at civil airports hosting USAF, ANG, and USAFR units.
6. This policy directive implements Title 49, United States Code, Sections 44502 and 47103.
7. Related publications include AFI 10-1001, *Civil Aircraft Landing Permits*, and AFI 10-1002, *Agreements for Civil Aircraft Use of Air Force Airfields* (formerly AFR 55-20).
8. See attachment 1 for measures of compliance with this directive.

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## Attachment 1

### MEASURING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

**A1.1.** The Air Force assesses compliance with this policy directive by tracking landing permits and unauthorized landings. Specifically, HQ USAF/XOOBC tracks the number of landing permits issued annually at HQ USAF and the number of annual unauthorized landings at Air Force airfields. This information is compiled and displayed on a chart that shows trends in progress (figure A1.1) toward the goal of reducing the number of unauthorized landings.

**Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of HQ USAF Approved Permits and Landings Without Permits.**

