



## Establishment of Low Altitude Training Area for Cannon AFB, New Mexico

### Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish an adequate training area for 27 SOW aircrews that meets the special operations low altitude training requirements shown below:

### Mission and Tactics Required for 27 SOW Aircrews Conducting Low Altitude Training

Mission/Tactic	Definition
Combat Mission Planning	Highly detailed pre-mission planning effort that accounts for mission objective, threat planning, route selection, tactics, timing considerations, and terrain considerations.
Threat Scenario Planning	Concentrated and complex planning effort that describes the nature of the expected threats along an enroute low altitude mission and prescribes appropriate threat reactions based on the expected threat.
Low Level Combat Training	Air Force Instruction (AFI) 11-2MC-130V3 defines 'low level' as "operations conducted below 3,000 feet (ft) Above Ground Level (AGL)." For 27 SOW aircrews, this translates to the employment of tactical aircraft in low altitudes (especially at high altitudes) to simulate ingress and egress of non-permissive environments to avoid detection by populations or military anti-aircraft defenses.
Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance	The use of airborne radar equipment that allows an aircraft to navigate above the terrain at a selected altitude and to avoid vertical obstacles.
Simulated Threat Maneuvers	Focuses on those procedures used by 27 SOW crews to react to actual anti-aircraft threats, either ground or air based. All maneuvers are in reaction to simulated threats and involve rapidly displacing the aircraft from the simulated threat.
Simulated Airdrop Procedures	The simulation of an actual delivery of personnel or supplies via parachute delivery system or equivalent. The aircraft executes an enroute slowdown to airdrop speeds, cargo or personnel doors may be opened, airdrop is simulated, all doors are closed, and aircraft resumes enroute speed.
Aircraft Rejoin Procedures	The simulation or actual rejoin procedure where two or more low altitude aircraft join into one formation from diverse routes.
Tilt Rotor Aerial Refueling (AR)	Airborne fuel offloaded by C-130 aircraft to a helicopter or tilt rotor aircraft. Proposed C-130/CV-22 Aerial Refueling (AR) tracks would be established in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) concerning appropriate low altitude route segments outside the existing local training area.

### Need

The aircrews of 27 SOW require a low altitude training area which enables them to train as they are expected to fight, and to prepare for worldwide operations under their global response commitment. This low altitude training area must be an adequately sized area, that overlays appropriate types of terrain, is generally void of large population centers, and is capable of efficiently supporting effective, challenging, realistic training for the full range of C-130 and CV-22 low-level mission capabilities.

