



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

CV-22 Osprey

Mission

The CV-22 Osprey is a tilt rotor, twin-engine aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover, and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency, and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft.



The CV-22 Osprey adds new capability and fills a long-standing United States Special Operations Command requirement to conduct long-range infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply and air refueling missions during night operations.



Features

The CV-22 Osprey can take off vertically and, once airborne, the nacelles (engine and prop-rotor group) on each wing can rotate into a forward position. This versatile, self-deployable aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft, and can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.



The CV-22 Osprey has an advanced electronic warfare suite and a multi-mode radar, a retractable aerial refueling probe, and four crew positions in the cockpit. The CV-22 is equipped with integrated threat countermeasures, terrain-following radar, forward-looking infrared sensor, and other advanced avionics systems that allow it to operate at low altitude in adverse conditions and medium- to high-threat environments, and can cruise at 220 knots indicated airspeed.



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C-130

Mission

The C-130 flies clandestine or low visibility, single-or multi-ship low-level missions intruding politically sensitive or hostile territory to provide air refueling for special operations aircraft. These aircraft primarily fly missions during darkness to reduce probability of visual acquisition and intercept by airborne threats.



Secondary mission capabilities may include airdrop of leaflets, small special operations teams, bundles and combat rubber raiding craft, as well as night vision goggle (NVG) use, and in-flight refueling as a receiver. Simulated training would occur in the proposed area with no items leaving the aircraft.



Features

The C-130 features improved navigation, communication, threat detection, and countermeasures systems. They have a fully-integrated inertial navigation and Global Positioning System (GPS), and NVG compatible interior and exterior lighting. The C-130 is also equipped with forward looking infrared, radar and missile warning receivers, chaff and flare dispensers, NVG compatible heads-up display, satellite and data-burst communications.



The C-130 can fly in the day against a low threat. At night, the crews fly at low-levels, performing air refueling and formation operations using NVGs. To enhance mission success and survivability by avoiding detection, employment tactics include blacked-out flights with no external lighting or communications. Lights and communication would be utilized during the Cannon AFB-scheduled airspace training.