



COMPREHENSIVE AIRSPACE INITIATIVE FOR MOODY AIR FORCE BASE

Introduction - Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by regulations implementing NEPA. The US Air Force (Air Force) has developed a Draft EIS for the Comprehensive Airspace Initiative for Moody Air Force Base (AFB), and published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS pursuant to NEPA. The Proposed Action addressed in the Draft EIS is to configure new low-altitude Military Operations Areas (MOAs) beneath existing special use airspace (SUA) of the Moody Airspace Complex.

A MOA consists of airspace below 18,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) established to separate military activities from instrument flight rules traffic and to identify where these activities are conducted for the benefit of pilots using visual flight rules.

Project Background

Moody AFB is located in south central Georgia near Valdosta in Lowndes County. The Moody Airspace Complex, which overlies Moody AFB and portions of south Georgia and north Florida, supports training in the SUAs associated with the Moody Airspace Complex for close air support (CAS) and combat search and rescue (CSAR) missions for combat support to US forces and allies. An EIS has been prepared to assess the potential environmental consequences associated with modifying existing and creating new SUA in the Moody Airspace Complex.

Since the establishment of Moody AFB, aircraft and training missions at the installation have transitioned many times. Within the last 20 years, these changes included shifting from support of high-altitude tactical fighter/bomber training missions to support of various low-altitude CAS, low-altitude engagement and attack, and personnel recovery/CSAR missions. At no point during the shift in mission training were the Moody Airspace Complex's mid-altitude MOAs and associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA), which range from 8,000 feet above MSL to Flight Level (FL) 230 (23,000 feet)—realigned or reconfigured to more appropriately accommodate the training missions at low altitude (lower than 8,000 feet MSL).

Special Use Airspace within the Moody Airspace Complex

