

Fort Drum Compatibility | Issue: Airspace Competition

Fort Drum manages and uses both land and air space to accomplish testing, training, and operational missions. These resources must be available and of a sufficient size, cohesiveness, and quality to accommodate effective training and testing.



Why It Happens

Airspace above installations may be designated as Restricted Use, Special Use, or as a Military Operating Area (MOA) to make sure that safe and effective military operations can occur. Development and civilian activities around airfields can infringe on these spaces, potentially reducing the level of training that can occur there.

Height hazards can contribute to the loss of navigable airspace and can inhibit safe and efficient aircraft operation, particularly in airfield approach or departure areas. Tall structures can potentially affect Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. Large industrial wind projects may have the potential to reduce navigable airspace and/or interrupt radar operations, and should be coordinated with planners at Fort Drum and in the civilian community who will work with developers to mitigate impacts.

Drones may be another concern. Currently, military drone usage takes place over the installations within the military airspace. Civilian drone use typically takes place within civilian airspace and less than 500 feet above ground level in order to reduce safety hazards from mid-air collisions. Civilian drone pilots are not permitted to fly drones into restricted military airspace and must coordinate with an air control tower when operating near an airfield.

What You Can Do

Future collaboration between local government planners and Fort Drum to minimize the impacts is crucial. Establishing setbacks is one technique that can address flight issues and reduce interference with line-of-sight communication equipment.

If your community has a project that may use airspace near Fort Drum, consult with the Development Authority's Director of Regional Development, Michelle Capone, by calling (315) 661-3200 or emailing mcapone@danc.org.

For more information on this compatibility issue or to see other compatibility issues, please visit www.fortdrumcompatibility.org

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