

Arizona Army National Guard

WESTERN ARMY AVIATION TRAINING SITE: ARIZONA

Established in 1986, the Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, or Western Army Aviation Training Site (WAATS), is located on the Silverbell Heliport, which itself is located on the privately owned Pinal Airpark. Enshrouded by the vast Sonoran desert, WAATS is



on the edge of the City of Marana, Arizona. Its remote desert location lends itself perfectly to unencumbered, year-round aviation training.

The Arizona Army National Guard manages WAATS. As such, it is one

of the Army's premier aviation training locations for attack and scout helicopters, and it is home to a state-of-the-art flight simulator complex. Although it is primarily a training facility for the Army National Guard, WAATS trains personnel from all three components of the U.S. Army; the regular Army, the Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard as well as allied countries in Europe and Asia.

It is estimated that the Arizona National Guard had an economic impact of approximately \$515 million in 2009.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Pinal County, AZ (near Marana, AZ)**
- » Land Area: **160 acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **3600 nm²**
- » Military Personnel: **~ 260**
- » Civilian Personnel: **~ 350**



Above: Local firefighters extinguish a fire during a training exercise at WAATS (Arizona National Guard photo)

Left: The view inside a UH-60 simulator. (Arizona National Guard photo)

MISSION STATEMENT

Conduct aviation training courses, operate simulator devices, and to provide and maintain aviation support operations for the Army, the State of Arizona and international military customers.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Located on Silverbell Heliport/Pinal Airpark, which is one of the world's largest storage facilities for non-military aircraft
- » Contains, among other things, two Combat Mission Simulators; a Cockpit Weapons Emergency Training Device; and a Blackhawk Flight Simulator.
- » Sole trainer of the AH-64A helicopter in the U.S. Army
- » Uses the East Tactical Range at the Barry M. Goldwater Range for live-fire training

CONTACT

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