

U.S. Air Force

## CANNON AIR FORCE BASE : NEW MEXICO

Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) is located on the high plains of Eastern New Mexico, near the Texas panhandle. It is named in honor of the late Gen. John K. Cannon, former commander of the Tactical Air Command. Beginning as a small passenger facility for



civilians in the 1920's, the military established a presence at the air base in 1942.

The 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW) is the host unit of Cannon AFB. From 1959 until 2007, Cannon AFB hosted a fighter wing. Today, Cannon AFB is the location of one of only four active-duty Special Operations Wings within Air Force Special

Operations Command.

Cannon AFB had an estimated economic impact of \$688 million on the local economy in 2011.

### FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Curry County, NM (near Clovis)**
- » Land Area: **3,789 acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **188,222 nautical miles<sup>2</sup>**
- » Military Personnel (est.): **4,600**
- » Civilian Personnel (est.): **600**



**Top:** Air Commandos from the 27th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron position themselves for the final flight of "Heavy Metal," an AC-130H Spectre gunship, prior to its retirement April 8, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo)



**Bottom:** Air Commandos with the 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron practice putting out an aircraft fire during an exercise Aug. 14, 2015. Airmen conducted joint fire training on base with a Clovis, N.M., fire department as part of a mutual aide agreement. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**Left:** An AC-130H Spectre gunship soars over the Jockey 14 memorial. This unique airframe has since been retired from military service. (U.S. Air Force photo)

### CONTACT

Public Affairs Office  
(575) 784-4131

## UNIT MISSIONS

**27th Special Operations Wing (27th SOW):** The primary mission of the 27th SOW is to execute specialized airpower from a premier installation. The wing's core missions include close air support, agile combat support, information operations, precision strike, forward presence and engagement, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations, and specialized mobility. Includes wing staff agencies and the following groups:

- **27th Special Operations Group:** Conducts infiltration/exfiltration, combat support, tilt-rotor operations, aerial refueling, close air support, unmanned aerial vehicle operations, non-standard aviation and other special missions. Includes the 27th Special Operations Support Squadron; 3rd, 9th, 12th, 16th, 20th, 33rd, 318th, and 524th Special Operations Squadrons; and the 56th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron.
- **27th Special Operations Maintenance Group:** Executes global special operations tasks as an Air Force component member of U.S. Special Operations Command. Responsible for all flightline and backshop maintenance in support of assigned AC-130W, MC-130J, CV-22, U-28A, C-146A, and MQ-1/9 aircraft. Provides contract oversight of civilian maintenance on two Non Standard Aviation program aircraft types. Includes the 27th and 727th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons, and 27th Special Operations Maintenance Squadron.
- **27th Special Operations Mission Support Group:** Provides housing, facilities/infrastructure, fire protection, environmental management, explosive ordnance disposal, disaster preparedness, food service, law enforcement and security, communications, personnel support, and other base services, as well as recreation activities for the base. Includes the 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron; 27th Special Operations Communications Squadron; 27th Special Operations Contracting Squadron; 27th Special Operations Force Support Squadron; 27th Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron; and the 27th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron.
- **27th Special Operations Medial Group:** Provides a wide range of services to include: family practice, pediatrics, women's health, optometry, flight medicine, human performance training, dental, public health, allergy/immunizations, mental health, family advocacy, bioenvironmental engineering, laboratory services, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy and health and wellness. Includes the 27th Special Operations Aerospace Medicine Squadron; 27th Special Operations Medical Operations Squadron; and the 27th Special Operations Medical Support Squadron.

For more information, please see < <http://www.cannon.af.mil> >



**Above:** The 26th Special Tactics Squadron performs push-ups dedicated to the memory of Senior Airman Mark Forester, Sept. 29, 2015. Forester was killed in action when he put himself in direct line of fire to save a teammate's life in Afghanistan on Sept. 29, 2010. He posthumously received the Silver Star medal for his heroism in battle against an enemy of the United States. (U.S. Air Force photo)

### BASE COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

### TESTING & TRAINING RANGES

Melrose Air Force Range

### UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Began as a civilian air field in the 1920s
- » Over 50 years of consecutive service
- » Began purchasing wind power in 2002
- » Several at-risk species are in the vicinity of the range, including lesser prairie chickens and burrowing owls
- » Base Realignment and Closure threatened to close Cannon in 2005; however, an intense effort by eastern NM communities, the State of New Mexico, and the Congressional Delegation resulted in the assignment of a new mission to Cannon.