

**2026 AICUZ STUDY**

# CITIZEN'S BOOKLET



**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE**  
**FAIRBANKS • ALASKA**

## Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Program

The Department of Defense's (DoD's) Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) Program balances the needs of military air and ground operations with community concerns by focusing on the Air Force's policy of promoting public health, safety, and general welfare in areas surrounding air installations while seeking development that is compatible with the defense flying mission.

This 2026 Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) AICUZ Study replaces the 2018 version. It provides the installation's flight tracks, Clear Zones, Accident Potential Zones, and noise contour information, presenting the most accurate representation of current military activities. With this information, the AICUZ Program allows surrounding communities to consider both current and potential activities when making land use decisions.

## History and Mission

Eielson AFB is the home of the 354th Fighter Wing and the 168th Wing of the Alaska Air National Guard.

These units represent the majority of the flying mission at Eielson AFB, though the installation has several other tenants. In addition to the based tenants and missions, Eielson AFB hosts many training exercises, such as Red Flag-Alaska and Arctic Defender, making it an integral part of ensuring the Air Force and its partners are best prepared to execute their individual missions in a coordinated and efficient manner.



The origins of Eielson AFB trace back to the Second World War, initially constructed as an auxiliary airstrip to nearby Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright) in Fairbanks in the early 1940's.

Following the war, the base was briefly shuttered but reopened in 1946. It was then that the first unit was assigned to the base: the 57th Fighter Group. A year later, it became an independent base with the Alaskan Air Command. In 1948, it was renamed Eielson AFB after the famed arctic aviator Carl Ben Eielson.

The 354th Fighter Wing (FW) is a part of the Pacific Air Forces Command. The Airmen on Eielson are known as the "Icemen" and the Wing's motto is, "Ready to go at fifty below!"



 **Ben Eielson**

Eielson AFB is the namesake of Carl "Ben" Eielson (1897-1929).

## Local Economic Impacts

The economic impact of a military installation is based on annual payroll (jobs and salaries), annual expenditures, and the estimated annual dollar value of the jobs created in the local community based upon the presence and operations of the military installation.

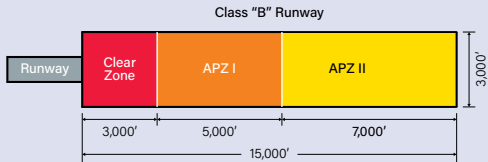
For Fiscal Year 2023, Eielson AFB boasted an annual federal payroll of over \$456 million and annual expenditures of \$165 million, both of which are considered direct economic impacts. Eielson AFB annually generates approximately \$116 million in indirect job creation, with over \$730 million in total annual economic impact. That makes the base's economic footprint enormously important for both the region and state.

The military provides direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits to local communities through jobs and wages. Based on the Fiscal Year 2023 Economic Impact Statement from Eielson AFB (published in January 2024), there are 4,630 total personnel within Eielson AFB, including over 3,098 military personnel, 728 personnel in the Air National Guard/Reserve, and approximately 804 civilians. There are also nearly 3,000 military family members that live within the community.

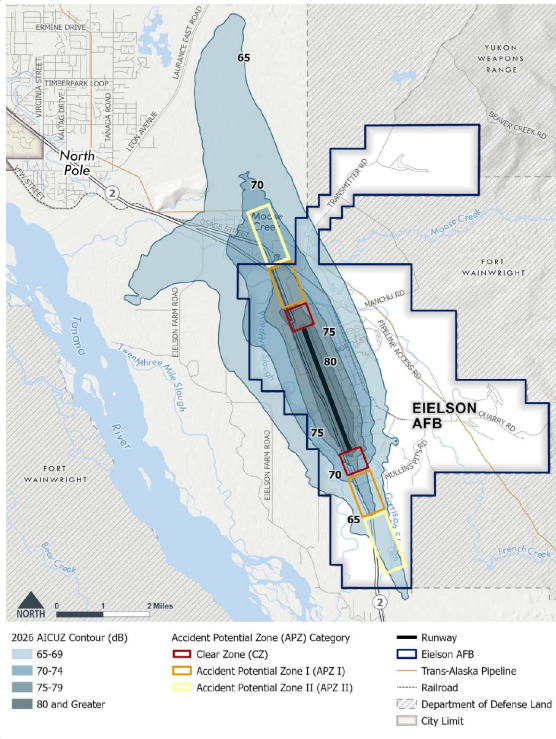


# Noise, Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones

Under the AICUZ Program, the DoD provides noise zones to define aircraft noise exposure, using the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The DNL metric is based on the number of average daily aircraft operations over a 24-hour period. The DoD provides Clear Zones (CZs) and Accident Potential Zones (APZs) for Class A and Class B Runways as planning tools for local agencies. CZs and APZs define the areas where an aircraft accident is likely to occur if an accident occurs.



**Eielson AFB Clear Zones, Accident Potential Zones, and AICUZ Noise Contours**



## Compatible Development

The AICUZ Program includes guidelines for land use compatibility within noise zones, CZs, and APZs. In general, these guidelines recommend that noise-sensitive land uses be placed outside of high noise zones and that people-intensive uses not be placed within APZs. Land development should be compatible with noise zones, CZs, and APZs near military airfields. Eielson AFB is in a relatively undeveloped area of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The noise zones associated with Eielson AFB extend beyond its boundaries, affecting areas in Moose Creek and parts of North Pole to the northwest. To the east and west, DoD designated land uses are primarily open/agriculture/low-density. These Fort Wainwright lands, including the Yukon Weapons Range, are adjacent to Eielson AFB to the east, and across the Tanana River to the west.



## Hazards to Aircraft Flight Zone

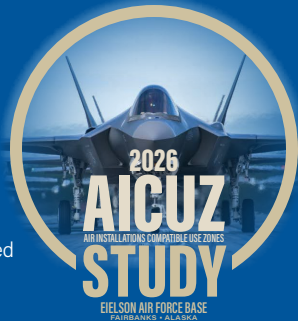
Other land uses and activities that can pose potential hazards to flight include:

- ✓ Height
- ✓ Visual interference
- ✓ Light Emissions
- ✓ Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)
- ✓ Radio Frequency/ Electromagnetic Interference
- ✓ Drones/Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

The Hazards to Aircraft Flight Zone (HAFZ) is a consultation zone within which the Air Force requests that project applicants and local planning bodies consult with the Air Force to ensure the project is compatible with installation operations relative to these concerns.



AICUZ Study implementation must be a joint effort between Eielson AFB and the surrounding communities. The Eielson AFB 2026 AICUZ Study provides the best source of information about the roles the Air Force, local government, and the community can play to ensure land use planning decisions are compatible with a future installation presence.



For a copy of the Eielson AFB 2026 AICUZ study, please contact the Eielson AFB Public Affairs Office. Eielson AFB PA can also be contacted via email or a call may be placed to PA directly.

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