



FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet
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Nellis Air Force Base



Mission

Nellis Air Force Base, a part of the United State's Air Force's Air Combat Command, is located approximately eight miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nev. The base itself covers more than 14,000 acres, while the total land area occupied by Nellis and its restricted ranges is about 5,000 square miles. An additional 7,700 miles of airspace north and east of the restricted ranges are also available for military flight operations.

Nellis is a major focal point for advanced combat aviation training. Its mission is accomplished through an array of aircraft, including fighters, bombers, refuelers, and aircraft used for transport, close-air-support, command-and-control and combat search-and-rescue. The Nellis work force of about 9,500 military and civilians makes it one of

the largest single employers in Southern Nevada. The total military population numbers more than 40,000, including family members and military retirees in the area.

Background

Nellis began as the Las Vegas Army Air Base, hosting the Army Air Corps Flexible Gunnery School in 1941, initially training B-17 gunners. During the height of World War II, more than 600 B-17 gunners and 215 co-pilots graduated from the school every five weeks. In March 1945 the B-17 gunnery program gave way to crew training for the new B-29. Following the end of the war, the base was placed on temporary standby status, finally closing in January 1947.

The base was reopened in 1949 and renamed the next year in honor of Lieutenant William Harrell Nellis, a Nevada resident killed in action Dec. 27, 1944, on his 70th P-47 combat mission over Luxembourg.

Today, units at Nellis continue to provide training for composite strike forces that include every type of aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory, along with air and ground units of the Army, Navy, Marines and air units from allied nations. It is the headquarters for the Air Warfare Center, which manages advanced pilot training and integrates many of the Air Force's test and evaluation requirements. Major units in this center at Nellis includes the 57th Wing, 99th Air Base Wing and the 98th Range Wing. The center also has the 53rd Wing, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., but some of that wing's assets, mission and people are located Nellis during operational test and evaluation, as well as tactics development

The 57th Wing is the operational element of the center. The wing's major units are the 57th Operations Group, 57th Maintenance Group, 57th Operations Support Squadron, 414th Combat Training Squadron (Red Flag), U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron (The Thunderbirds), U.S. Air Force Weapons School, United State Air Force Air Ground Operations School, 66th and 58th Rescue Squadrons, 11th 15th and 17th Reconnaissance Squadrons, 547th Intelligence Squadron and the 548th Combat Training Squadron (Air Warrior).

The 99th Air Base Wing is the host wing for Nellis. Three groups are assigned to the wing: 99th Security Forces Group, 99th Mission Support Group, and the 99th Medical Group. Staff agencies include chaplain services, base comptroller, inspector general, manpower and organization, and military equal opportunity offices.

The 98th Range Wing is responsible for the 2.9 million acre Nevada Test and Training Range, located just north of Las Vegas. The range wing commander coordinates, prioritizes, and approves government and commercial activities on the range. The wing also integrates and provides support for test and training programs, which have a direct effect on the warfighting capabilities of the combat aerospace forces. The 98th Range wing does this through the 98th Operations Group, 98th Operations Support Group and the 98th Range Squadron.

Tenant units at Nellis include the Defense Commissary Agency; 820th Red Horse Squadron; Field Training Detachment 918, Air Force Audit Agency; 39th Intelligence

Squadron; and the 896th Munitions Squadron. Other tenant units include the Area Defense Counsel; Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office; Detachment 8, Air Combat Command Training Supply Squadron; Detachment 206, Air Force Office of Special Investigations; and the Federal Prison Camp.

(Current as of January 2003)