

# DOVER AIR FORCE BASE & THE DELMARVA PENINSULA:



# Partners in **ONE** Community



# DOVER AIR FORCE BASE & THE DELMARVA PENINSULA: PARTNERS IN ONE COMMUNITY

Much like the “First State” in which it resides, Dover Air Force Base (AFB) has a rich history. The base’s origin dates back to the succeeding days of the Pearl Harbor attack when the Dover Municipal Airfield was quickly transformed to provide wartime support. Originally a platform for submarine patrols and combat flying training during World War II, the base’s mission changed to a focus on strategic airlift in 1952 under the control of the Military Air Transport Service, now known as Air Mobility Command (AMC). Throughout its history, the base has worked to be a positive neighbor to the Dover and Kent County region and receives warm support from the community in return.

Dover AFB’s location in central Delaware near the state capital and county seat places it at the heart of community engagement and planning. This *Partners in One Community* brochure was developed as part of a 2015 encroachment planning analysis that considers areas of shared interest between Dover AFB and the surrounding community. This document highlights actions that the base and neighboring organizations can take to strengthen community sustainability while preserving the national security mission at Dover AFB.

## COMMUNITY

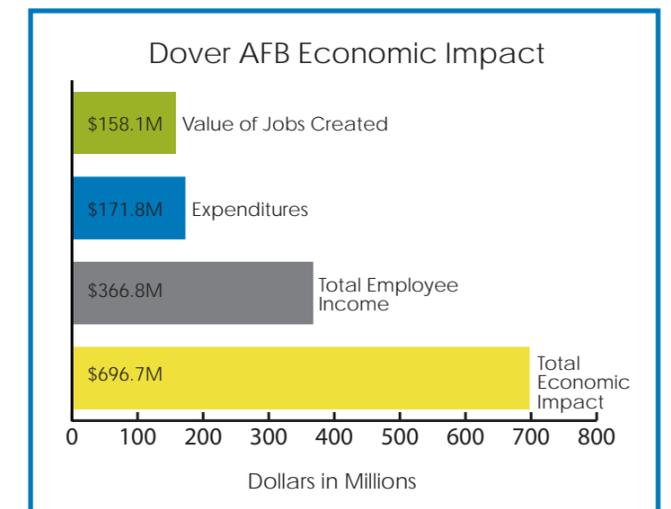
The success of Dover AFB’s mission is strengthened by the ongoing support of community leaders, local businesses, and residents. Base personnel and community stakeholders regularly work together in a variety of capacities to ensure future growth and development are compatible with the training and operational missions of the base. Base-community partnerships range from compatible land use planning to social events and volunteer efforts.

## MISSION

Dover AFB and its host unit, the 436th Airlift Wing (436 AW), run the busiest and largest air freight terminal in the Department of Defense (DoD). The 436 AW works around the clock to transport personnel and cargo to all corners of the world in fulfillment of its rapid global mobility mission. Dover AFB is also home to Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations (AFMAO), the largest and only joint-service mortuary facility in the nation. AFMAO conducts dignified transfers for the fallen and provides support for their families. See page 4 to learn about other units at Dover AFB.

## ECONOMY

As one of the top employers in the region, Dover AFB has a significant impact on the strength of the local economy. Approximately 10,000 people are employed by the base and approximately 10,000 base employees and former service men and women have retired to the area, and continue to contribute to the local economy. The graph below displays the economic impacts of Dover AFB as outlined by a 2014 Dover AFB Economic Impact Report. Other key contributors to the City of Dover and Kent County economies include local and state government, manufacturing, retail, and healthcare and social services.



Source: Dover AFB Economic Impact, 2014

## ENVIRONMENT

Dover AFB and the surrounding communities are located in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plains ecoregion, an area rich with environmental resources. Much of the natural landscape is dominated by wetlands and forests in addition to 50 miles of Delaware Bay coastline. Approximately 700 acres of natural habitat are located on Dover AFB. Many local, state, and regional organizations, such as the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and National Wildlife Refuges, spearhead initiatives to conserve wildlife and habitat in the region, both on and offshore. The nearby St. Jones Reserve has designated protected waters in proximity to the reserve in order to contribute to Delaware Bay stewardship efforts. A few of the many ecosystem services these natural habitats provide include flood protection, water purification, sediment retention, and carbon sequestration.



Members of the Dover AFB Honor Guard fold an American flag while a group of Honorary Commanders look on. Performing the ceremony are: Senior Airman Gene Kellenberger, left hand visible, Airman 1st Class Michael Laity, right hand visible, Airman 1st Class Abner Lopez, left foreground, Senior Airman Tavin Alford, right foreground, Senior Airman Lance Wright, left background and SrA James Korte, right background. The 2015 Dover AFB Honorary Commanders took part in a tour of the 436th Mission Support Group to better understand the Group’s mission. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)

“Dover Air Force Base is a proud member of the City of Dover and Kent County community. Continuing the positive trends of outstanding teamwork, innovation, and continuous engagement between the base and the community will support plans to achieve a high quality of living, while preserving the natural environment, and allowing the base to ‘Deliver Excellence’ as America’s Preeminent Expeditionary Airlift Team.”

- Michael Grismer Jr., Colonel, USAF, Commander, 436th Airlift Wing

# DOVER AFB AND THE COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

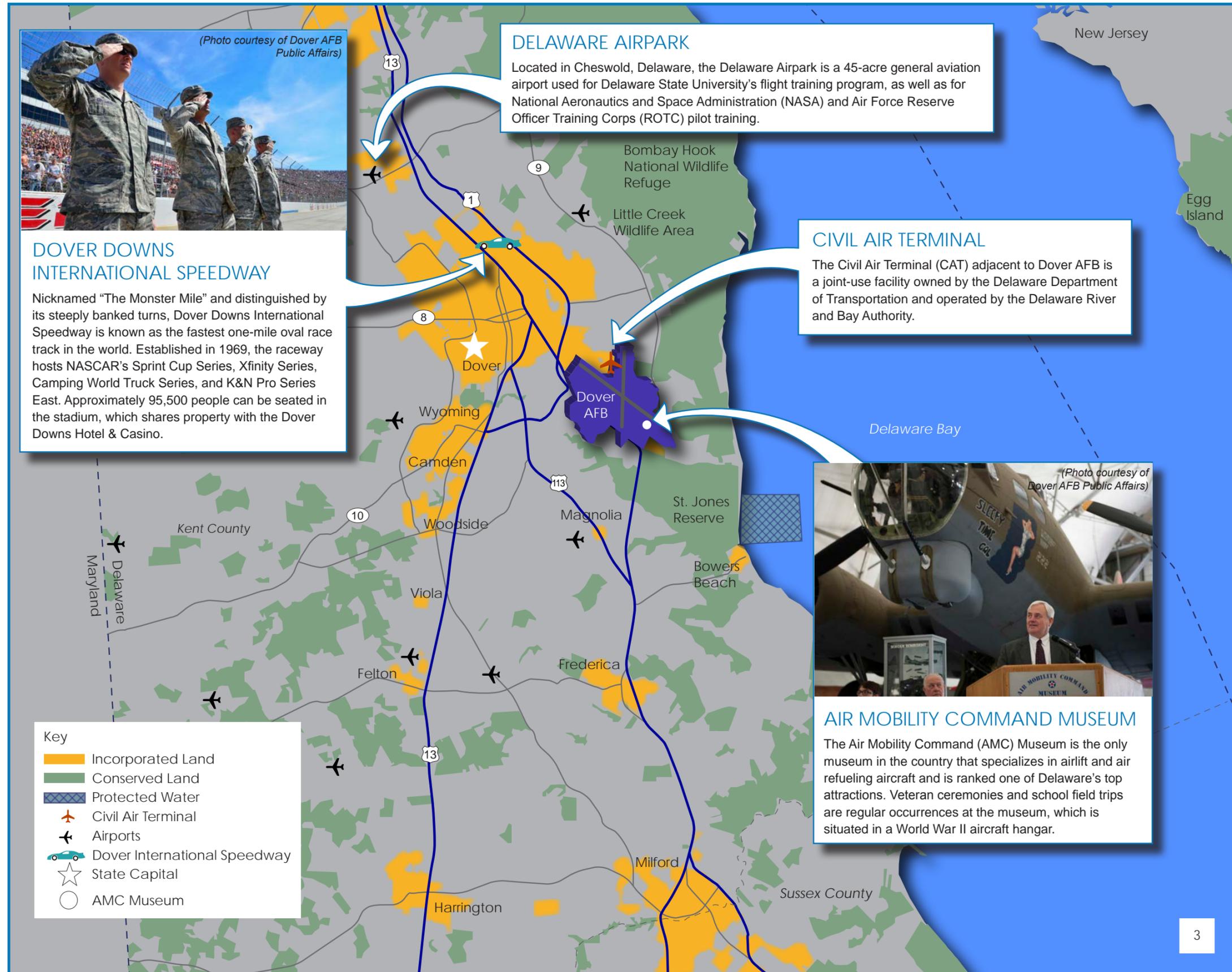
The City of Dover is the state capital of Delaware and has the largest area of any city in the Delmarva Peninsula. Dover's robust population and economy continue to expand, driven by growth in employment and manufacturing. Shopping, historical attractions, and the arts and entertainment are also abundant in the city of Dover. The state's tax-free shopping status has made Dover a shopping destination for neighboring states. With roots dating back to 1683, the City of Dover has endless historic sites, many of which are linked by the First State Heritage Park. The Schwartz Center for the Arts and Dover Downs International Speedway provide diverse entertainment opportunities. Hiking, birding, kayaking, and many other outdoor activities can also be enjoyed within the area's many green spaces, such as the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Little Creek Wildlife Area or the St. Jones River Greenway.



Major Rayna Lowery, 436th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, passes the Special Olympics torch to Bobby Opiela, Special Olympics athlete from the Virginia team, during the Special Olympics of Delaware Cycling Competition. Dover AFB is committed to community partnership and has hosted dozens of events annually to support the greater community. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Dover AFB and the community partner on a wide variety of initiatives. Military personnel frequently volunteer with organizations such as Kent County Parks and Recreation, Special Olympics of Delaware, and at NASCAR races. Base representatives also frequently attend and contribute to local and regional planning meetings. Dover AFB's Honorary Commander Program is a popular program among community members, in which civic leaders throughout the state partner with the base to establish relationships and learn about the Dover AFB mission. Additionally, the community provides supportive assistance and opportunities for the base. For instance, the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension runs Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs for military children both on- and off-base, and the Delaware Estuarine Research Reserve organizes canoe retreats for Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations personnel. In 1999 and 2008 the City of Dover received the Air Mobility Command (AMC) Community Support Award in recognition of their outstanding supportive relationship with Dover AFB.



# THE DOVER AFB MISSION

-  The 436th Airlift Wing (436 AW) or "Eagle Wing" is the host unit at Dover AFB. The 436 AW flies the C-5M Super Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft to deliver personnel and outsized cargo all over the world.
-  The 512th Airlift Wing (512 AW) or "Liberty Wing" is an Air Force Reserve unit that supports worldwide airlift operations, and it is the only Air Force Reserve unit in Delaware.
-  Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations (AFMAO) has the mission and privilege of conducting dignified transfers of the fallen to the Charles C. Center for Mortuary Affairs before delivering them to their final destination.
-  The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) determines the cause and manner of death of all active duty members who die during combat within federal jurisdiction, and identifies the decedent. AFMES also provides expertise in forensic pathology, forensic anthropology, DNA sciences, forensic toxicology, mortality surveillance, and forensic psychiatry to a variety of government agencies.
-  The Joint Personal Effects Depot (JPED) inventories and determines the final disposition of personal effects of those killed in action, wounded, or missing from all branches of the military.
-  Detachment 3, 373rd Training Squadron, is a unit within the Air Education Training Command (AETC) that provides aircraft maintenance training for the C-5M cargo aircraft.
-  The Aero Club Flight Training Center offers flight training and testing to Department of Defense (DoD) ID card holders, their dependents, and civilian contractors who wish to earn a pilot's license.
-  The 436th Aerial Port Squadron operates the largest and busiest air freight terminal in the DoD.

## NEXRAD WEATHER STATION

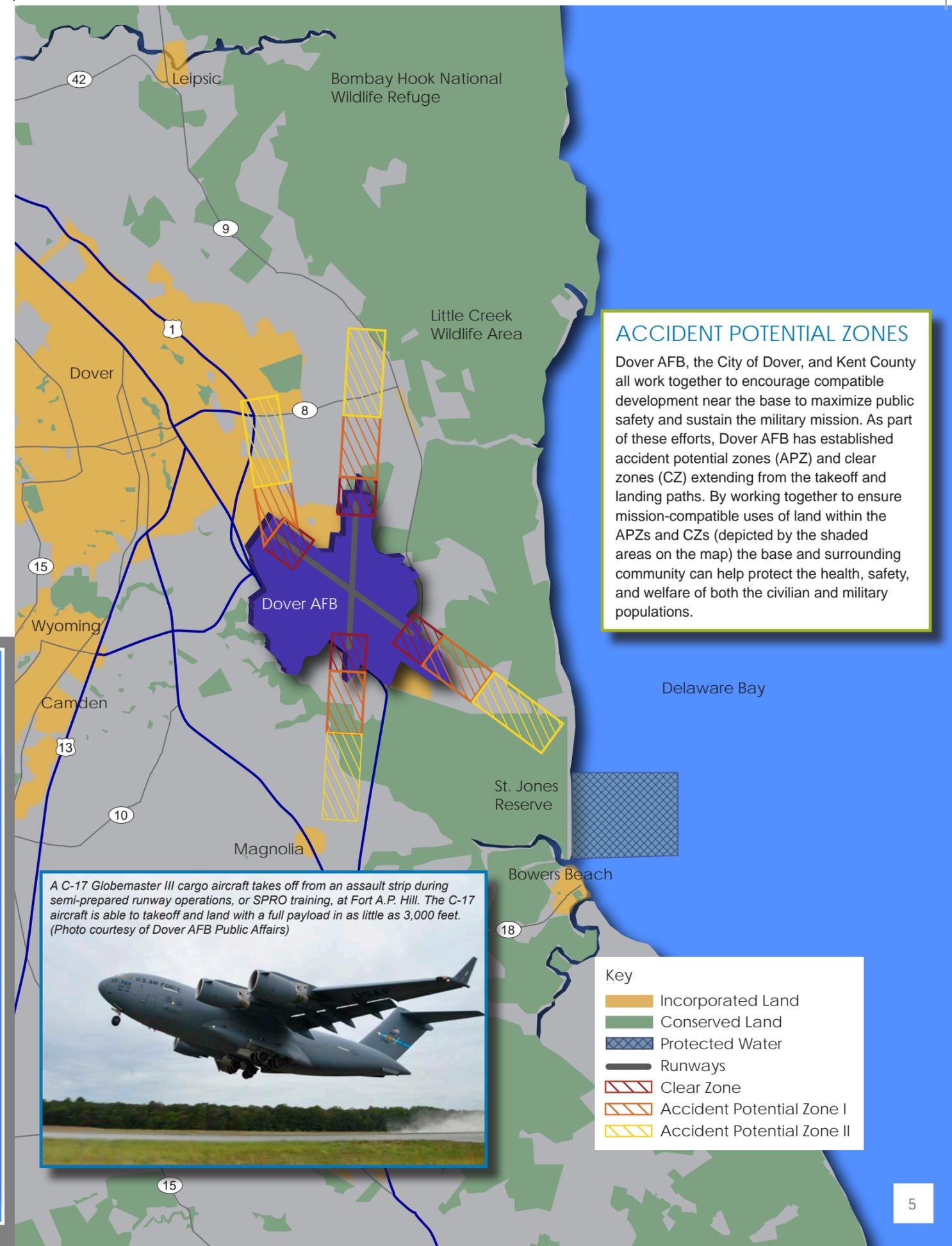
Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) weather surveillance helps Dover AFB plan for inclement weather and supports weather forecasts throughout the country developed by the National Weather Service.

Dover AFB

- Key
-  Airspace used by Dover AFB
  -  Monster Mile

## AIRSPACE USED BY DOVER AFB

Dover AFB uses airspace around the globe to carry out its mission and across the United States for training purposes. Other bases own and manage the airspace used by Dover AFB aircraft, excluding the Monster Mile, a low-level training route flown at 500 feet above ground level. Additionally, Dover AFB frequently uses DoD airfields and civilian airports to practice landings and contingency response. Dover AFB regularly coordinates with these bases and airports to guarantee the effectiveness of their mission and protect the safety of military and civilian aircraft.



## ACCIDENT POTENTIAL ZONES

Dover AFB, the City of Dover, and Kent County all work together to encourage compatible development near the base to maximize public safety and sustain the military mission. As part of these efforts, Dover AFB has established accident potential zones (APZ) and clear zones (CZ) extending from the takeoff and landing paths. By working together to ensure mission-compatible uses of land within the APZs and CZs (depicted by the shaded areas on the map) the base and surrounding community can help protect the health, safety, and welfare of both the civilian and military populations.

A C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft takes off from an assault strip during semi-prepared runway operations, or SPRO training, at Fort A.P. Hill. The C-17 aircraft is able to takeoff and land with a full payload in as little as 3,000 feet. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)



- Key
-  Incorporated Land
  -  Conserved Land
  -  Protected Water
  -  Runways
  -  Clear Zone
  -  Accident Potential Zone I
  -  Accident Potential Zone II

# SHARED INTEREST, SHARED ACTION

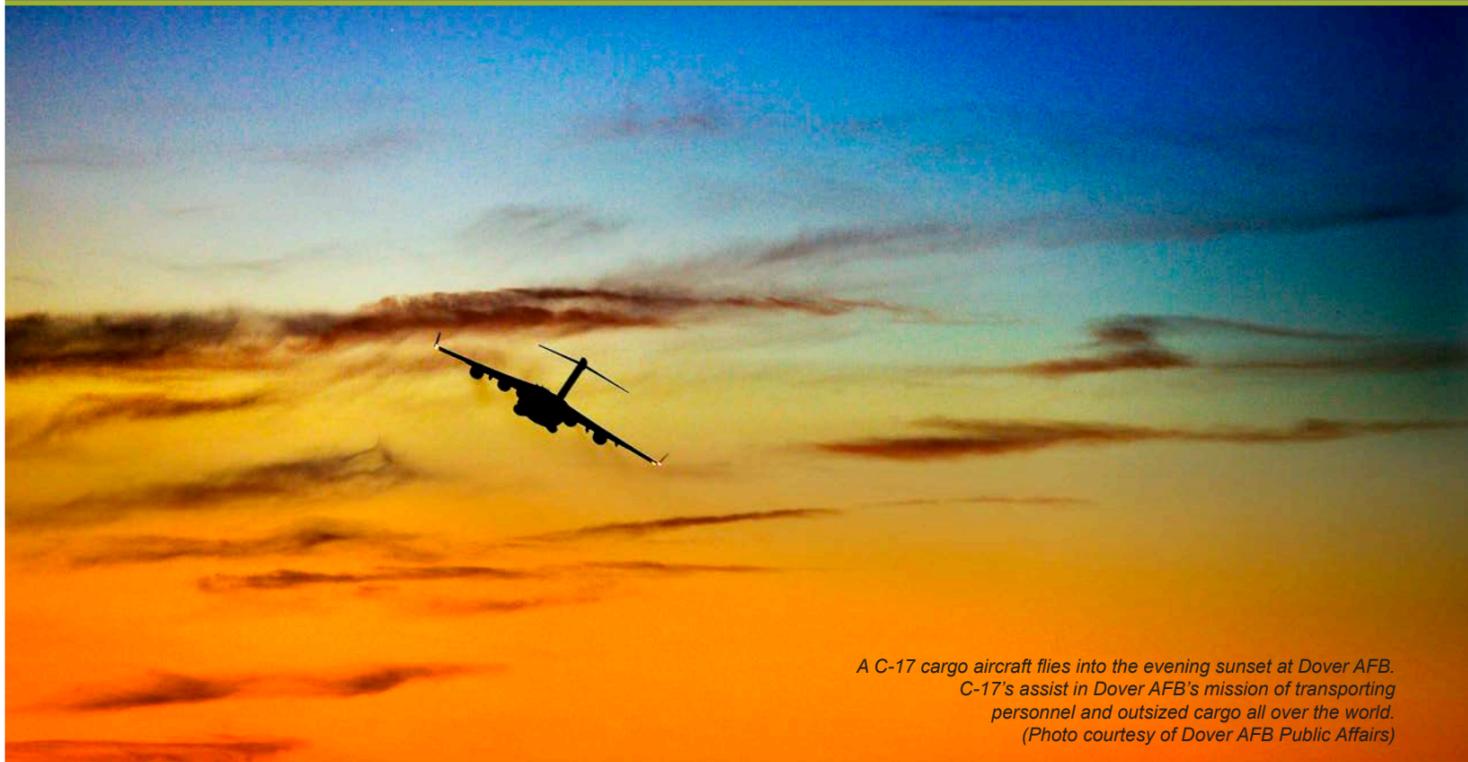
Dover AFB strives to be a good neighbor and committed community partner by building and maintaining relationships with community stakeholders and collaborating on important issues. These strong relationships benefit everyone in the Dover and Kent County region. The base has formalized its commitment to public-public, public-private partnership with its participation in the Air Force Community Partnership Program. Through partnerships and collaborative efforts, Dover AFB and the surrounding communities can continue to

- identify mutually beneficial opportunities,
- leverage resources,
- resolve common issues, and
- strengthen communication.

Current partnership initiatives include expanded public transportation, joint use of facilities, and mutual support of emergency and health care services. This section highlights several areas of shared interest between Dover AFB and the community. We welcome your comments and questions—please see the contact information listed on the back of this publication.

## AIRBORNE NOISE

Dover AFB supports large aircraft that generate noise when used for mission operations and training. Due to the remarkable size of these aircraft, when viewed from the ground, the aircraft appear to fly significantly lower and slower than their actual altitude and velocity. Additionally, there are other military bases in the region that fly aircraft, contributing to airborne noise impacts on the local community. To minimize noise disturbances, Dover AFB modifies flight tracks and advises pilots to avoid wildlife habitat, several local residential areas, historical areas, and other small individual structures. The City of Dover and Kent County actively work with the base to ensure development is compatible with its mission and to help proactively minimize noise impacts on the community. They have also instituted Airport Environs Overlay Zones (AEOZs) based on the Dover AFB Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) guidance. Dover AFB responds directly to members of the community who have submitted noise complaints to resolve these issues in a timely manner.



A C-17 cargo aircraft flies into the evening sunset at Dover AFB. C-17's assist in Dover AFB's mission of transporting personnel and oversized cargo all over the world. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)

## STORM SURGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

As the state with the lowest mean elevation, Delaware is prone to flooding from coastal storms and will experience sea level rise in the future. These natural hazards present challenges for Dover AFB and the community, such as damage to regional infrastructure, temporary relocation of mission operations, reduced crop yield, and degradation of wildlife habitat. Dover AFB welcomes opportunities to collaborate with state, local, and regional stakeholders to increase the coastal resiliency of the Delmarva Peninsula community. Dover AFB is committed to working with local planning offices and emergency management agencies to best prepare for impacts from natural factor-related hazards such as flooding and hurricanes.



A marsh restoration project at Prime Hook Wildlife Refuge will close this beach, aiding in the marsh's regeneration and benefiting local communities by helping to decrease impacts from storm surge and sea level rise. (Photo courtesy of USFWS)



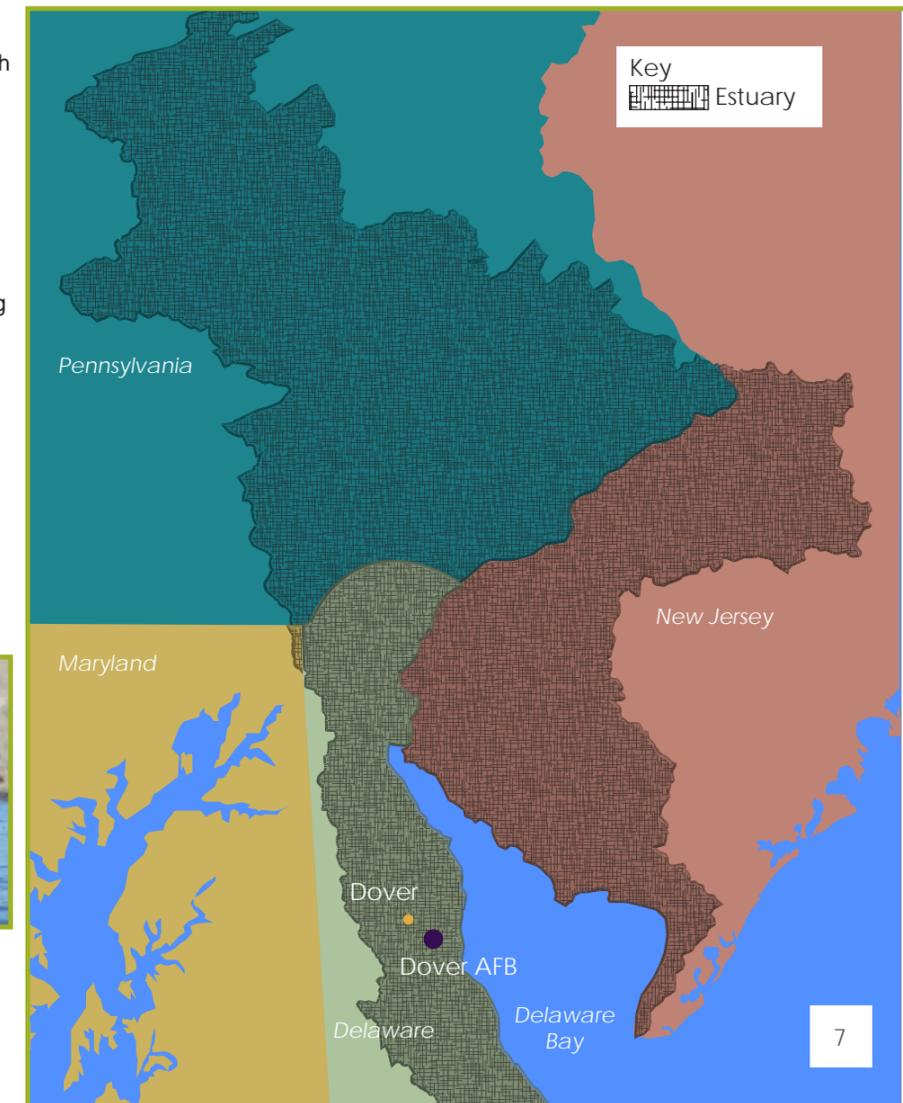
Dunes at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo courtesy of USFWS)

## THE DELAWARE BAY AND ESTUARY

The Delaware Bay is a 782 square-mile brackish body of water off the coast of Delaware that is part of the larger Delaware Bay and Estuary Basin, a vital ecosystem stretching from portions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Delaware. Its calm waves and tidal wetlands provide important habitat for spawning fish and resting migratory birds. As part of the Atlantic Flyway, the bay serves as an important stopping point for birds such as the threatened rufa red knot. More than 130 species of fish, as well as oysters, clams, and crabs; including the largest population of spawning horseshoe crabs in the world, inhabit the Delaware Bay and Estuary Basin. The estuary and its extensive wetlands and water bodies not only support a diverse range of flora and fauna, but also provide storm and flood protection and support the economies of the many communities encompassed by the basin.



A tagged rufa red knot walks in the water in Delaware. The red knot is a federally recognized threatened migratory bird species that feeds on horseshoe crab eggs in the Delaware Bay. (Photo courtesy of USFWS)



Key  
 Estuary

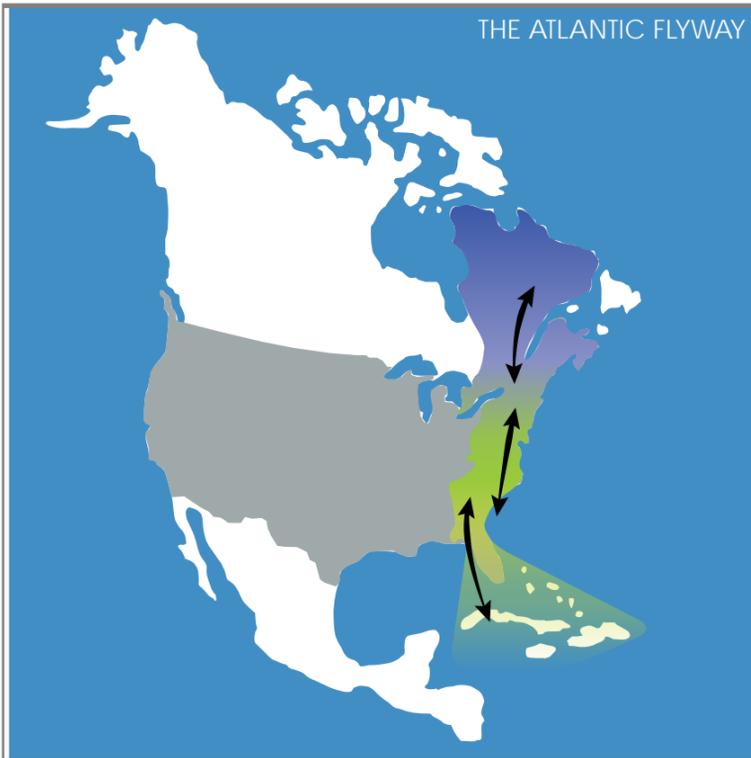


A flock of snow geese flies over the runway at Dover AFB. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)

### BIRD/WILDLIFE AIRCRAFT STRIKE HAZARDS

Dover AFB is located in an important migratory route for birds called the Atlantic Flyway. As a result, there is a high risk for birds striking aircraft, depending on the season and time of day. Bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazards can damage aircraft, incur great costs for Dover AFB, and create severe safety risks for pilots and residents below flying routes. Through the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazards program, Dover AFB actively works to reduce bird strikes by monitoring bird populations, limiting flying during times of high bird volume, using a border collie to disperse bird flocks, and changing flight patterns when necessary.

Dover AFB continues to work and coordinate closely with neighboring land owners to manage bird populations near the airfield to minimize bird/wildlife aircraft strikes and protect the safety of the surrounding community. Currently, Dover AFB holds agreements with neighboring property owners, as well as property rights around the base that prevent incompatible development. These documents legally protect the safety and health of the public through the mitigation of bird strikes. Additionally, the base is committed to working with stakeholders such as the Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation Program, National Wildlife Refuges in the area, and Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Division of Fish and Wildlife, to stay up-to-date on local bird population trends and prevent birds from being deliberately attracted to land in proximity to the base.



THE ATLANTIC FLYWAY



Left: The Atlantic Flyway is a 3,000 mile migratory bird corridor that stretches from Canada to the Caribbean. Birds such as the rufa red knot and the snow goose use this route when migrating to their breeding grounds. Dover and the Delaware Bay region serve as an important stopover point for birds along the Flyway.

Above: Snow geese take off at the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo courtesy of USFWS)

### WIND ENERGY

Due to Dover AFB's proximity to the coast, renewable energy sources, such as wind power, have the potential to increase in the region surrounding the base. Wind farms and individual wind turbines can interfere with the radar capabilities of the base and, as a result, diminish the base's ability to manage air traffic, monitor weather, and perform security surveillance. Furthermore, wind turbines and associated infrastructure have the potential to impose tall structure flight restrictions on pilots and limit their ability to perform low-flight operations and training. Dover AFB recognizes the economic and environmental benefits of wind energy and supports compatible wind energy development. The base encourages wind developers and local planning departments to communicate potential wind turbine and wind energy projects to the base as soon as possible, to discuss mission compatibility.



A wind turbine stands high above a stand of trees. Wind turbines are a growing source of renewable energy in the United States. (Photo courtesy of USGS)



Dover Airmen and members from Germain Racing, Chip Ganassi Racing, and NASCAR pose for a group photo in front of a C-17 cargo aircraft before a community relations orientation flight at Dover AFB. Race related aircraft are one of the primary users of the CAT. (Photo courtesy of Dover AFB Public Affairs)

### CIVIL AIR TERMINAL

A state-owned Civil Air Terminal (CAT) provides non-military aircraft access to Dover AFB's runways and taxiways through a joint-use agreement with the Air Force. The CAT is used primarily by civilian, commercial, or chartered aircraft, as well as NASCAR race related aircraft. Twice a year NASCAR events bring approximately 100 aircraft to the terminal over the course of four days. An expansion to the CAT has been proposed, which would increase parking capacity of the site, reducing time and fuel costs associated with temporarily moving aircraft to other locations for longer term parking. Close engagement between the base and the community will be required in pursuing future development options for the CAT.

### NEXT STEPS

Dover AFB is committed to establishing routine teamwork and engagement with community stakeholders in the region to proactively manage challenges that are pertinent to their mission and the well-being of the community. The base will seek out opportunities to work with stakeholders to prevent, plan, and prepare for impacts from storm surge and sea level rise, bird and wildlife aircraft strike hazards, airborne noise, wind energy development, and urban growth. Dover AFB encourages community stakeholders to reach out to them regarding partnership opportunities.

Dover AFB has been identified as one of several Air Force bases across the country to take part in the Air Force Community Partnership Program. The Air Force Community Partnership Program is designed to leverage military and local community capabilities and resources to obtain value and benefit in support of the Air Force mission. This program explores cost-saving opportunities through innovative partnerships and shared services with local communities, government agencies, and businesses. It consists of a series of meetings between the community and the base that set the stage for long-term collaboration. To learn more about this program, or to contact the base for more information regarding other topics from this brochure, please see the back page for contact information.



## AIR FORCE ENCROACHMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*Partners in One Community* highlights several areas of mutual cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between Dover AFB and the community. It was developed as part of a 2015 encroachment planning analysis, conducted at Dover AFB which considered 13 different topics, ranging from airspace to security. The focus of the analysis process is managing encroachment, described as both the impact of a stakeholder's actions on current and future military activities, and the impact of the military's actions on stakeholders. Encroachment impacts from natural factors and climate effects are also considered in the analysis.

Bases around the country are completing encroachment planning analyses as part of the Air Force Encroachment Management Program. The Air Force is committed to ongoing engagement with its many community stakeholders in order to preserve mission capability, conserve environmental resources, and maintain quality of life for community residents and military personnel.

For more information, please contact:

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