



South Western Oklahoma Development Authority FACT SHEET

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SUPPORT FOR AIR FORCE TRAINING

SWODA provides critical support to the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base and other military installations, which use the airport facilities for pilot training. These installations are a part of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) headquartered at Randolph Air Force Base near San Antonio, TX. As a former U. S. Air Force installation, the airport runway, tower, and crash rescue fire department provide important facilities for these military activities. SWODA, under contract with the Air Force, carries out important functions to make these training activities beneficial and to aid them in carrying out their missions.

AETC Mission

The mission of the AETC is “To develop America’s Airmen today . . . for tomorrow.”

97th Air Mobility Wing Mission

The mission of the 97th Air Mobility Wing is “Forging Combat Military Forces . . . Deploying Airman Warriors.”

Air Traffic Control

In compliance with U. S. Air Force regulations and to ensure safety in the air, SWODA employs six fulltime Federal Aviation Administration certified air traffic controllers. These controllers provide air traffic control in the facility’s territory for all airport users, including general aviation. They support Altus Air Force in night vision goggle training to facilitate the use of the airport so AETC training timelines can be achieved.

Crash Rescue

Equally as important as safety in the air, immediate and well trained crash rescue and

fire suppression capabilities are necessary. Twenty-five highly skilled and trained firefighters are employed. Firefighters are on duty during all hours of the scheduled use by the AETC. Modern up-to-date fire fighting and crash rescue vehicles are on hand to ensure rapid response in the event of a real or potential emergency. SWODA firefighters carry out continuing education and training to ensure they acquire and retain a very high level of skills in these critically important endeavors.

Facilities Maintenance

A well-equipped and trained maintenance department is also part of SWODA’s responsibilities under the military training contract with Altus Air Force Base. Maintenance activities are much the same as carried out at many major airports and military installations. Inspections of the runway are made daily and any foreign object debris (FOD) is removed to prevent damage to large jet powered aircraft. These inspections are also made to identify necessary repairs to the runway and taxiways. Controlling growth in vegetation through proper mowing activities and weed control is another important activity to minimize attracting birds to the facility, which poses hazards to all aircraft. A heavy equipment mechanic is on duty to ensure all equipment including fire apparatus is ready to respond to the needs of the Air Force.

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