



Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Laughlin Air Force Base

2022

OVERVIEW

Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) is tasked with training military pilots and deployable mission team members. Laughlin AFB utilizes three training aircraft: the T-6A Texan II, the T-1A Jayhawk, and the T-38C Talon. The T-6A Texan II is a single engine aircraft designed to train students in basic flying skills used by the Air Force and Navy. The T-1A Jayhawk is a twin engine aircraft used in advance training for students who will later fly airlift or tanker aircraft. Navigator training is also taught. The T-38C Talon is a twin engine, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of advanced training.

UNITS & MISSIONS

The **47th Flying Training Wing (47th FTW)** includes the 47th Operations Group, 47th Mission Group, and 47th Medical Group. The 47th FTW’s overall mission is to train combat ready pilots for American and foreign allies’ air forces. The **47th Operations Group (47th OG)** provides specialized undergraduate pilot training for the United States Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and foreign allies’ air forces using the T-6A, T-38, and the T-1A aircraft. Additionally, the 47th OG manages, controls, and standardizes and evaluates all aspects of flying training operations, aircraft maintenance, and airfield management. The **47th Mission Support Group (47th MSG)** is responsible for all base support operations, which includes military and civilian personnel management, security and resource protection, disaster preparedness, and recreational activities among many other responsibilities. The **47th Medical Group** is comprised of two squadrons, both giving direct support to the military and civilian population on Laughlin AFB.

PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Val Verde County was awarded two grants in support of Laughlin AFB: (1) \$864,874 for renovations to the aerospace physiology building and (2) \$1,407,111 for renovations to airfield infrastructure. Laughlin AFB and Del Rio have a strong, reciprocal relationships. The aircraft maintenance program “Grow Your Own” at Southwest Texas Junior College was part of a previous DEAG award. The Roberto “Bobby” Barrera Elementary STEM Magnet School was opened in 2018 on Laughlin AFB. Barrera Elementary brings new opportunities to the base, while also being the first STEM school ever built on a military installation. This is a small knit community that works hard to support their base.

Variable	Total Impact
Employment (Direct)	3,290
Employment (Direct & Indirect)	8,694
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$1.59
GDP (in millions)	\$946.86
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$595.74

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2021

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates the population directly affiliated with Laughlin AFB contributed at least **\$1.6 billion** to the Texas economy in 2021. The Comptroller’s economic impact analysis represents a conservative estimate of the economic importance of Laughlin AFB to Texas. Each installation’s distinctive characteristics contribute to the Texas economy in different ways. This analysis uses a consistent model to determine the economic impact of each of the state’s military installations to the state’s economic growth.

For more information about this assessment, please visit <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/military/2021/>.

