

12th Flying Training Wing Partners with USDA Wildlife Services and the City to Mitigate Bird Hazards

VULTURE DISPERSAL EFFORTS MAP



The 12th Flying Training Wing is working closely with a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services biologist and the City of Schertz to proactively mitigate wildlife hazards that pose risks to both military flight operations and local communities.

This partnership is focused on addressing the seasonal presence of large birds—particularly vultures—that have established roosts within the T-38 Talon and T-6 Texan II training aircraft traffic pattern. These roosts, located near residential areas and under low-altitude flight paths, present a significant safety concern for aviators and the public.

Initial dispersal efforts will begin in the vicinity of Schertz Elementary School.

Residents who on Winburn Ave and Brooks Ave between Randolph Avenue and Beacon Avenue, will be closest to any pyrotechnics or noise associated with the dispersal.

Residents are advised that they may hear loud bangs or sounds similar to fireworks during these periods. These noises are intentional and part of the effort to humanely encourage the birds to relocate away from residential and flight-critical areas.

Bird dispersal operations will be conducted around sunset, lasting approximately one to two hours, and occurring one to three evenings per week, depending on the season. These operations, conducted under the direction of USDA Wildlife Services, utilize approved dispersal techniques that may include the use of pyrotechnics or other noise-making devices.

The collaborative effort includes identifying attractants, adjusting habitat, and safely dispersing the birds in accordance with federal wildlife management best practices. These actions protect the integrity of flight training missions while maintaining ecological responsibility and community safety.

By working together, the 12th FTW, USDA Wildlife Services, and the City of Schertz are ensuring safer skies for pilots and safer neighborhoods for residents, all while preserving the balance of the local ecosystem.

If you have questions about the dispersal efforts or the process, please contact Emi Chan, Wildlife Biologist – JBSA RND, USDA Wildlife Services, at 210-652-2250.

For general concerns or to report issues, residents can contact the Schertz Police Department non-emergency dispatch line at 210-619-1200.