

Department of Agriculture signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to address aircraft-wildlife strikes issues. The MOA acknowledges each signatory agency's respective mission. Specifically, the MOA assists the agencies by establishing the procedures necessary to coordinate their missions to more effectively address existing and future environmental conditions that contribute to aircraft-wildlife strikes throughout the United States. It is essential that personnel engaged in wildlife-safety issues at airports become familiar with the MOA in order to help minimize wildlife risks to aviation and human safety, while protecting the nation's valuable environmental resources.

(P17) NWRC'S OHIO FIELD STATION: RESEARCH TO ALLEVIATE WILDLIFE-AVIATION CONFLICTS

USDA, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Ohio Field Station, 6100 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky OH 44870 USA

Wildlife-aircraft collisions (wildlife strikes) pose a serious risk to aircraft and cost civil aviation in the United States an estimated \$490 million annually. The Ohio Field Station of the USDA, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC's OFS), located in Sandusky, Ohio, works with a variety of stakeholders, including the FAA, USDA, Wildlife Services, academic institutions, and private industry to develop science-based recommendations, policies, and procedures to control hazardous wildlife on airports and other locations where they present a hazard to aviation safety. Research conducted by NWRC's OFS covers a spectrum of high priority topics important to both the FAA and USDA, Wildlife Services related to understanding the nature of wildlife hazards at airports and developing management tools to reduce those hazards. Current research being conducted by NWRC's OFS can be divided into three broad categories: (1) wildlife habitat management and other land-use studies, (2) wildlife control methods for airports, and (3) avian sensory perception studies to develop new wildlife deterrents.

(P18) USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES ASSISTANCE TO NORTH CAROLINA AIRPORTS

USDA, Wildlife Services, North Carolina Airport Safety Section, 6213-E Angus Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617 USA

North Carolina stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Appalachian Mountains. Three distinct geographic regions (i.e., the mountains, Piedmont, and coastal plain) of the state support a wide array of wildlife populations. Increasing populations of white-tailed deer, Canada geese, gulls and vultures contribute to wildlife hazards at airports within the state. North Carolina Wildlife Services (NC WS) personnel have assisted airports since the late 1970's with the potential and realized hazards posed by these populations in each region. Increasing national trends in overall flights and passenger use is mirrored by work requests. The state Division of Aviation recently requested services to assist all general aviation airports with initial consultations, wildlife hazards recognition training and technical or operational management activities. Also reflected is an increase in requests for professional comments on wetland mitigation and storm water drainage projects related to aviation-wildlife safety concerns. The cornerstone of the program remains the variety of work provided to the Department of Defense. NC WS currently maintains

full-time staff at three military sites where comprehensive services are provided. Programs at U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps airbases are recognized nationally within their respective service branches as model programs both by WS and military personnel. As part of these programs, personnel provide services to military air bases in foreign countries. The program also continues to work with the USDA, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center and Smithsonian Institute Bird Identification Laboratory on new research initiatives and DNA data collection.

(P19) WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT AT ARIZONA AIRPORTS

USDA, Wildlife Services, Arizona Airport Safety Program, 8836 N. 23rd Avenue, Suite 2, Phoenix, Arizona 85201 USA

Under Congressional mandate, Wildlife Biologists and Specialists with the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) program in Arizona (AZ) work with numerous airports throughout the state of Arizona to reduce hazards associated with wildlife strikes to aircraft. Hazard reduction efforts focus on the airfield and in several critical zones surrounding the airfield requiring the cooperation of many federal, state, and private entities. A diversity of wildlife can be found in the Arizona airport environment. Commonly found birds include doves, pigeons, blackbirds, birds of prey, corvids, and wading birds. Additionally, mammals such as prairie dogs, ground squirrels, coyotes, cats, rabbits, and bats are commonly observed at Arizona airports. AZ WS has full and part-time personnel specifically trained to manage wildlife hazards in airport environments using a variety of techniques including: exclusion, dispersal, lethal and nonlethal removal, and habitat modification. WS personnel also provide assistance in the form of recommendations and guidance and assistance is provided to airports and the aviation industry to increase wildlife strike reporting. AZ WS personnel are also equipped with the knowledge and experience to train airport personnel to identify potentially hazardous wildlife in and around the airport.