



Department of Defense
Partners in Flight

Our Mission

Managing birds and bird habitats to sustain and enhance the military testing, training, operational and safety mission



Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)

Supporting a Safer Mission through Avian Management and Conservation

The Cost of Sharing Air Space

Each year, civilian and military aircraft strike thousands of birds. The FAA reported 156,114 wildlife strikes from 1990 to 2014 involving civilian aircraft. For the 10-year period of 2007 through 2016, the USAF reported 45,440 wildlife strikes with a damage estimate of over \$251 million, and the USN reported 11,112 wildlife strikes with an estimated damage of over \$119 million. These data highlight the significance of Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strikes (BASH) on flight safety, as a hazard to pilots, damage to infrastructure, and the negative impacts on the military mission. Mission costs include fiscal stress, mission alterations, damaged or destroyed aircraft, and personnel injury or loss.

To provide the safest flying conditions possible, DoD develops and implements aviation safety policy, regulations, guidance, and programs. The primary BASH programs are implemented at the installation level and operated currently by Air Force and Navy. These programs include unique installation-level BASH teams comprised of military and civilian personnel from air operations, aviation safety, and natural resources that work together to reduce BASH risk.

Tools for BASH Prevention

Complete and accurate bird strike data is among the most valuable tool. Staff use strike information to make management and mitigation decisions to reduce the probability of additional bird strikes. Reporting all wildlife strikes is a mandatory DoD requirement, yet it is estimated that only 20 percent of actual bird strikes are reported.

Installation BASH teams need to work diligently to improve strike reporting so better BASH avoidance tools and techniques can be developed for the most problematic birds.

Military installation staff designated to support the local BASH program also are key to reducing strike hazards, and vital for the mitigation and management of real-time BASH risks. Personnel duties include wildlife observational reporting, real-time hazard monitoring, habitat manipulation recommendations and bird/wildlife harassment.



Bird strikes impact missions through increased costs for BASH management and infrastructure damage; and loss of life.

Habitat management is a valuable tool for BASH mitigation. By monitoring wildlife, managers can identify habitats on or near an airfield that are bird/wildlife attractants. Once identified, a BASH team can mitigate these risks. Radar is another valuable tool for reducing BASH risk, and can be used to track real-time movements of diurnal and nocturnal individual or flocks of bird over and through the airfield environment during all seasons.

These are only a few of the many tools that are available for a successful BASH program. Each installation BASH Program must find their own mix of tools for the effective mitigation of local airfield BASH hazards.

For further resources and useful links visit <https://www.denix.osd.mil/dodpif/groups/bash/>

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