



## Fort Sumner Municipal Airport

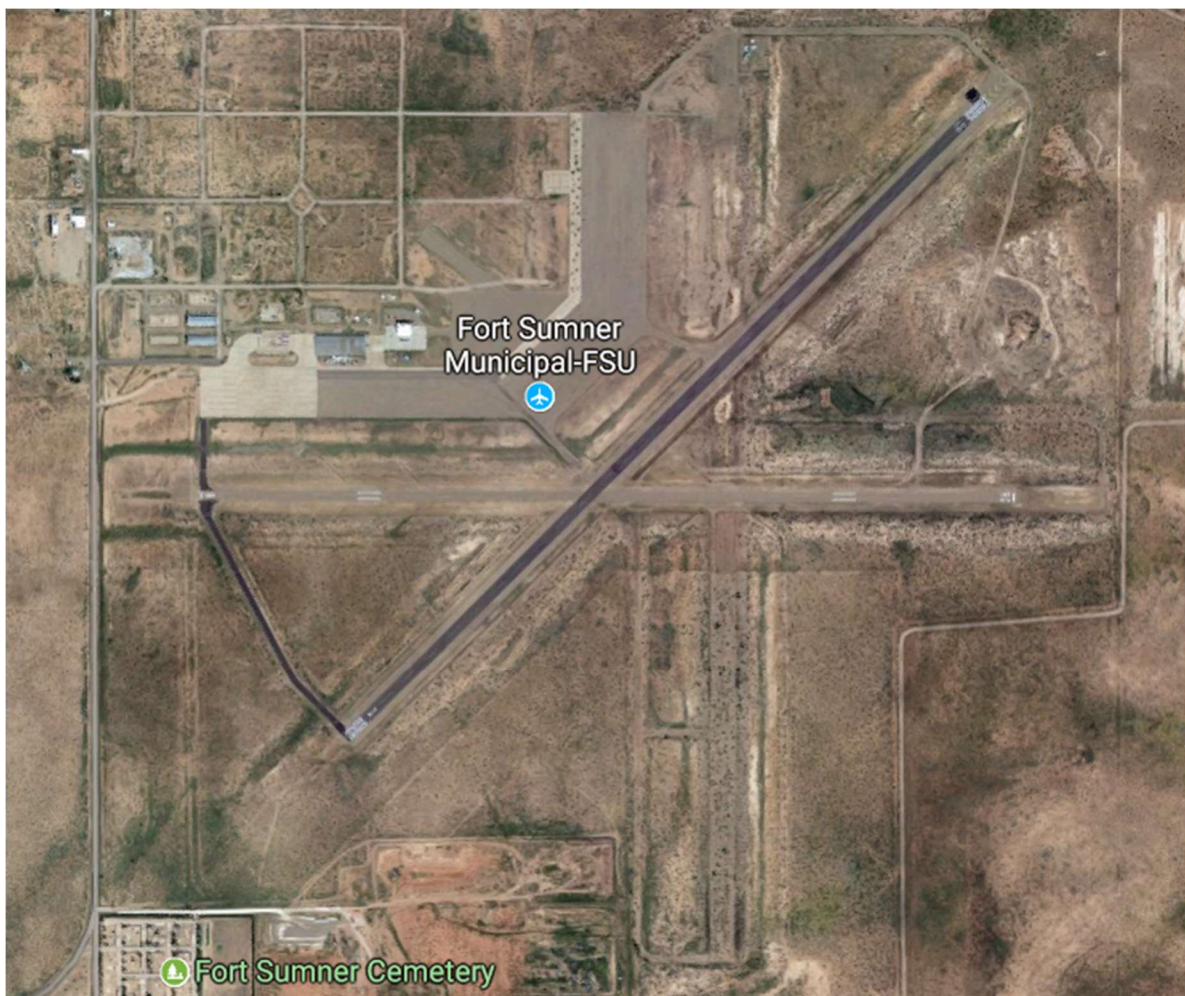
The Fort Sumner Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport serving Fort Sumner and De Baca County, New Mexico. It is located two miles northeast of the city of Fort Sumner, New Mexico. The airport was initially constructed in the late 1920's by Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT) for use as an emergency landing field along a flight path between Albuquerque and Clovis, New Mexico. Albuquerque and Clovis were two of many stops along the carriers' coast-to-coast flight route that began in 1929. By 1930 however, the flight route was redirected to operate from Albuquerque to Amarillo rather than Clovis and the airport at Fort Sumner was abandoned.

The airfield was reopened in 1941 and significantly expanded in 1942 by the United States Army Air Forces for use as a World War II training field. It was assigned to the Army Air Field (AAF) Flying Training Command West Coast Training Center and was renamed to the Fort Sumner Army Air Field. There were several other auxiliary training fields constructed in the area, one of which was the Fort Sumner Auxiliary AAF #5 located about 15 miles to the northeast, and another was Fort Sumner AAF #7 which is now the Tucumcari Municipal Airport. In 1944 the airfield was transferred to the Second Air Force where it became a replacement facility for the B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator crew training. The Fort Sumner Army Air Field was inactivated on November 15, 1945 after World War II had ended. It was then returned for use as a general aviation facility for the city of Fort Sumner.

In the 1980's, the airport was chosen for NASA's High altitude balloon program where NASA continues to use old World War II hangars and storage areas. Two of the three runways are still in use however the airport now sees very little aircraft activity.



Considerable ramp space and a massive World War II hangar still in use at the Fort Sumner Airport.



Fort Sumner Municipal Airport aerial view. A former north-south runway and taxiway can still be seen.