



## Bagram Air Base

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The **US President** warned **Afghanistan** of consequences if [Bagram air base](#) isn't returned, hinting at possible **military action**. The base was vacated by **US forces** before their **2021 withdrawal** from **Afghanistan**.

- **About:** Located about **60 km north of Kabul**, **Bagram Airfield** is Afghanistan's largest military base, positioned in the vital **Parwan province**.
  - The province acts as a strategic gateway, with the **2.6 km Salang tunnel** linking Kabul to **Mazar-e-Sharif** and other northern cities.
  - In addition, highways from Parwan connect Kabul to **Ghazni and Kandahar** in the south and [Bamiyan](#) in the west, making it central to Afghanistan's connectivity and control.
- **Historical Evolution:** The base was **constructed by the Soviet Union in the 1950s** and rose to prominence during the [Cold War](#) and the **Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989)**.
  - Following the **US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001**, Bagram became the main **operational hub for American forces**, serving as a logistics, intelligence, and command centre throughout the War on Terror.
- **Strategic Significance:** Despite the withdrawal of US forces, Bagram continues to hold immense **strategic value**.
  - Its location offers a vantage point over regional dynamics. With **China building closer ties with the Taliban**, the airbase's role gains new relevance.
  - The significance is amplified by proximity to sensitive Chinese sites—**Lop Nur nuclear test site in Xinjiang** is just **2,000 km away**, while the **Koko Nur nuclear weapons facility** lies further east in Qinghai province.



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