

# Moody Air Force Base

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA



## The Helios Energy™ Impact

The U.S. Air Force was seeking to substantially reduce energy consumption and add clean, solar energy production for this historic and vital military installation. Key to the success of this initiative was a value-engineered 2.5 MW solar array, designed and built by the Helios Energy team in partnership with Schneider Electric.

- Size of project - **2,460 kWdc or 2,000 kWac ground mount system**
- Annual energy produced - **2,978 MWh/year**
- Panels used - **370 W mono Heliene x 6,648**
- Inverters - **String transformerless SMA Core1 62kW x 32**
- Application - **Supply the daytime energy load for Moody AFB, while offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with Department of Defense initiatives**
- Time to build - **9 months, during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- Reducing **2,978,000 kWh** per year on this project is equivalent to avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from **455 vehicles** per year, **2,320,044 pounds** of coal burned, and sequestering the amount of carbon equivalent to **2750 acres** of U.S. forest per year.

## OVERVIEW

Helios, in partnership with Schneider Electric, implemented a 2.5 MW on-site solar array. The solar installation was part of a base-wide energy efficiency and clean energy project.

## CHALLENGE

Design a value engineered solar solution for Schneider Electric and the U.S. Government.

**Need 1:** Meet megawatt hour production goals

**Need 2:** Deliver high-quality solar array against aggressive budget targets

**Need 3:** Maximize limited available and usable physical space on the facility

**Need 4:** Restore the site from an environmental perspective

**Need 5:** Complete installation on an aggressive timeline during the COVID-19 global pandemic

## THE HELIOS ADVANTAGE

When exploring partners to design, build and employ the 2.5 MW solar array, Schneider electric sought out Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB). With a SDVOSB status and tenured solar PV expertise, partnership with Helios Energy became the logical next step. There are many veterans on the Helios Team, who with their civilian colleagues, are grateful to be delivering the solar PV system to the men and women of the famed Flying Tigers.



## About Moody Air Force Base



**Moody Field** began as an Army Air Corps pilot training base during World War II. The concept of an Army Air Field in Valdosta originated with Valdosta and Lowndes County citizens in 1940. Local leaders faced the probability of a coming war and looked for a way they could join the national defense efforts. Valdosta Mayor J. D. Ashley appointed six members to a city planning board in June 1940 to develop a plan of action.

In October 1940, Emory Bass, who was then serving as the president of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote Georgia Senators Walter George and Richard Russell to request their assistance in obtaining a defense project. Senator George agreed to a meeting several days later in Vienna, Georgia.



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The original plan was to obtain an Army Air Corps flying school at the Valdosta Regional Airport, but this plan fell through when Weaver noticed a marsh in aerial photos of the airport. Their backup plan, the 9,300-acre site that had been the Lakeland Flatwoods Project, became the focus. This area was located approximately 10 miles northeast of Valdosta and had been the site of the T. J. Davis Plantation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture had been leasing the acreage since 1938 to do experiments in forest grazing.

The Department of War granted the final approval for construction on June 2, 1941 and construction began July 28, 1941. Just a few months earlier, on May 5, U.S. Army Maj. George Putnam Moody, a 1929 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was killed in Wichita, Kansas. Maj. Moody had been involved in the aircraft trials for the Beech AT-10 "Wichita" that was to become the new trainer at the base being constructed in Valdosta. In June Maj. Gen. Weaver recommended that Maj. Moody's name be added to the list of potential sources for the name of the Valdosta airfield. When word of his possible selection reached the citizens of Valdosta they immediately began referring to their airfield, now fully under construction, as "Moody Field."

In 2012, the 79th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB began receiving the new HC-130J "Combat King II." This aircraft replaced the aging HC-130P models and provided enhanced cargo management capability and extended range. In 2013, the 71st Rescue Squadron at Moody AFB received their first HC-130Js and by 2016 the last of nine aircraft had been delivered.

In September 2015 the 598th Range Squadron was reactivated at Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla. The 598th RANS was activated the first time in 1943 at MacDill Field, Fla. as the 598th Bombardment Squadron, but they were moved to the Avon Park Bombing Range several months later. After the end of World War II the 598th was inactivated. They are currently responsible for overseeing and managing 106,074 acres, approximately 78,000 of which are open to the public.

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## About Our Partner: Schneider Electric



**At Schneider**, we provide energy and automation digital solutions for efficiency and sustainability. We combine world-leading energy technologies, real-time automation, software and services into integrated solutions for Homes, Buildings, Data Centers, Infrastructure and Industries. We are committed to unleash the infinite possibilities of an open, global, innovative community that is passionate with our Meaningful Purpose, Inclusive and Empowered values. We are the most local of global companies; our unmatched proximity to you, enables us to better understand, anticipate and adapt with agility to support your business continuity with high ethical standards in everything we do.



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