



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

March 11, 2014

Resolution No. 2014-____
Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors
in Support of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Introduction

The US Secretary of Defense, in late February, recommended deep defense cuts in military spending and programs, including the proposed retirement of the entire A-10 fleet. This announcement launched discussions at the national level about the impacts and wisdom of such reductions.

The retirement of the A-10 will have significant implications for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, which is an integral part of the economic and social fabric of this region.

This community has been proactive in facing past challenges; from Base realignment decisions to sequestration impacts, and has supported investments in the Base to ensure its longevity. We anticipate that support to continue; particularly since it is as crucial as ever that we work together to retain the presence of flying and other missions at Davis-Monthan.

To reaffirm our region's deep commitment to retaining a military presence at Davis-Monthan, the attached resolution in support of the Base has been placed on the Board's March 11, 2014 Addendum. This resolution includes an expression of support for the A-10 mission and any other additional missions that may be assigned to Davis-Monthan or other regional bases.

The Base has not only helped shape our community, with its unique culture and tradition, but has made substantial economic contributions to the region. In return, the base has effectively served national security through a combination of ideal flying weather, demonstrated community support, and proximity to critical training grounds and other military installations.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base has been a fixture for generations. We look forward to its contributions to our local community and our national defense for generations to come.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve and adopt Resolution No. 2014-____ in support of continued operations at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – March 5, 2014
Attachment

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT OF DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE AND THE A-10 MISSION; REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FLYING MISSIONS; SUPPORTING EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF BASE MILITARY OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base has been a fixture in Pima County since the nucleus of what would ultimately become the base was formally dedicated in 1927 by Charles Lindbergh, months after his crossing of the Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Davis-Monthan transitioned to full military operations in 1940; and

WHEREAS, the first production A-10 Thunderbolt II jet aircraft was delivered to Davis-Monthan in October 1975 and it is now the main aircraft stationed at the Base; and

WHEREAS, the venerable jet has effectively served ground troops and been hailed for its maneuverability at low speeds and altitudes, as well as its ability to loiter near combat areas for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, significant financial investments have upgraded the aircraft's electronics and wings as a means to extend its life until at least 2028, and

WHEREAS, Davis-Monthan plays a key role in keeping America safe, with as many as 2,000 airmen deployed around the world, engaged in combat operations; and

WHEREAS, based on our unparalleled flying weather and training environment, which includes our proximity to critical training ranges, such as the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Davis-Monthan has assisted the United States Air Force in producing proficient and professional combat pilots; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2012, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base contributed approximately \$1.1 billion to the local community, employing more than 3,300 civilians and creating nearly 4,700 jobs in the region; and

WHEREAS, Pima County voters have long supported protecting Base operations, approving a 2004 bond question in the amount of \$10 million to purchase open space to reduce the threat of encroachment by protecting the departure corridor; and

WHEREAS, Pima County is in the final stages of investing \$500,000 to improve the road to the new South Wilmot Gate, which was built with funds from the 2012 Commander-In-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence designating Davis-Monthan as the #1 Base in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Davis-Monthan is a positive contributor to our environment with the recent dedication of a 16.4 megawatt solar array that is the largest of its kind on any United States Department of Defense installation; and

WHEREAS, Davis-Monthan personnel are not only contributors to our economy, they are our neighbors and friends; and

WHEREAS, the Pima County region is proud of the role Davis-Monthan plays in the defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Pima County Board of Supervisors is strongly committed to supporting an ongoing presence and multiple missions at Davis-Monthan to assist the broad defense objectives of the United States Department of Defense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors supports Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the A-10 mission. Additionally, if the United States Air Force transitions to another mission at Davis-Monthan, the Board of Supervisors would be fully supportive of any new mission, flying or otherwise, that could be supported by Davis-Monthan or other bases in our region.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County this _____ day of March, 2014.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney

TOBIN ROSEN