



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

March 11, 2020

AFCEC/CZN
ATTN: Mr. Hamid Kamalpour
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland Air Force Base, TX 78236-9853

Re: Statement of Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry Regarding Davis-Monthan Air Force Base F35 Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing Comments for the Proposed Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) F-35A Operational Beddown

Dear Mr. Kamalpour:

Pima County has a 40-year history of cooperating with and supporting Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB). Community support for DMAFB has been enduring and diversified.

In the 1980s, Pima County managed and implemented major transportation improvements on the periphery of DMAFB, improving accessibility to DMAFB and travel times throughout the growing urban region. These transportation projects led to the development of the Swan and Craycroft Roads Gates as they now exist.

In 2004, the voters of Pima County overwhelmingly approved a \$10 million County bond program to reduce unwise urban encroachment in the DMAFB Flight Departure Corridors and Accident Potential Zones. The County has responsibility for land use planning in the unincorporated area and in this same timeframe, participated in a land use study designed to protect DMAFB flight and military operations from incompatible urban encroachment in a study known as DMAFB Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The JLUS was approved and codified by the Board of Supervisors, to guide and control future development, primarily in the Departure Corridor, thereby preserving military flight missions of DMAFB as well as improve overall safety for both the community and DMAFB.

In 2013, Pima County successfully applied for and received State Military Installation Funds to improve Wilmot Road from Valencia Road north to the south entrance of DMAFB. Based on a long-range plan to downsize and secure the Swan entrance, all commercial and major truck traffic access to DMAFB will be moved to a more secure facility at a new gate located on Wilmot Road. Today, County and regional funded road improvements for the intersection of Wilmot and Valencia Roads are underway, which allows for major intersection improvements to accommodate the heavy volume of truck traffic anticipated to use this new entrance to DMAFB.

Mr. Hamid Kamalpour

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The County continues to work cooperatively with DMAFB on the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program to fund and mitigate incompatible urban encroachment on DMAFB to ensure military training flights, testing and operations are not limited or impeded. Working as a funding partner with DMAFB, the base has been awarded \$7.25 million in REPI funding. The County has matched this funding to date with \$6.5 million in property restrictions based on County land acquisitions to minimize or eliminate urban encroachment.

The County has also worked with DMAFB to provide continuity of employment for separating military veterans to find meaningful and professional employment for spouses of military personnel assigned to DMAFB and to work on a host of other community engagement activities, including library, health, job training, recreation and other services delivered to the public as well as DMAFB personnel.

The cooperation and support exhibited by the County over the last 40 years will continue and we value DMAFB as an important military and community asset. We have and will support ongoing, future and expanded missions that may be assigned to DMAFB by the US Air Force.

With regard to the **Proposed Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) F-35A Operational Beddown**, I have read and agree with the analysis and conclusion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and support the F-35A operational beddown at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, provided noise mitigation occurs for those areas subjected to substantially increased noise levels.

Mitigation funding can and should be supported by federal, state and local sources, similar to past efforts to reduce urban encroachment in flight corridors. Mitigating noise impacts caused by this specific mission is no different than past actions to prevent encroachment. Preventing encroachment also insures future impacts from noise will be reduced.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: The Honorable Ramón Valadez, Vice Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Steve Christy, Member, Pima County Board of Supervisors
John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator
Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Economic Development Office