Board of Supervisors Memorandum

December 3, 2013

Allocation to the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance

Introduction

A consortium of interests have gathered to form the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance (SADA) to protect the employment and economic benefits associated with Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Pilot Training Mission of the 162nd Fighter Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard. SADA is composed of members of DM 50, the 162nd Fighter Wing Guardians Committee, Tucson Metro Chamber, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Tucson Association of Realtors, the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, Visit Tucson and Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc.

The combined employment and economic impacts of DMAFB and the 162nd Fighter Wing are significant. DMAFB employs 10,870 Civilian and military personnel, and the Arizona Air National Guard employs 1,766. The Base's impact on the community, including 19,000 retirees, is $1.6 billion, and the Air National Guard's impact is $280 Million.

It is clear federal budget constraints, including sequestration, will continue to adversely impact the military in general and the continuing missions of the existing military facilities in Pima County. A strong community coalition needs to assist in conveying the message to military and political leadership that the continuation of viable operations for both military installations is essential and supported by the community.

To assist SADA, a small funding allocation is appropriate and such allocations have been provided by many of the organizing entities.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors authorize an appropriation in the amount $5,000 from Board Contingency to support the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – November 22, 2013

c: Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Office of Strategic Planning