



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 20, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Southern Arizona Defense Alliance Community Survey Findings**

On March 19, 2014, the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance (SADA), a coalition of business and community leaders aligned to promote the importance of our local military installations, unveiled the results of a community survey that reflect significant support for the military bases throughout the region. The community sentiments expressed in the survey align very closely with the priorities approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2014 when the Board unanimously approved a resolution in support of the A-10 mission at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, as well as for any future mission that may be assigned.

Among the key findings from SADA's late 2013 survey of respondents from throughout Pima, Yuma, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties:

- 92 percent of southern Arizonans surveyed support our military installations, with the vast majority of those characterizing their support as "strong" or "very strong."
- Strong support for the bases cuts across all demographics, from age to gender to ethnicity, income and political party.
- Support was roughly comparable between those living near bases and in other geographic areas.
- 62 percent of southern Arizonans surveyed had some awareness of the F-35 aircraft; and of those, 82 percent favor having the F-35 stationed in southern Arizona.
- Support for the F-35 was only slightly lower, at 80 percent, for those living near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.
- 88 percent of respondents agreed the military installations are beneficial to the local economy.
- Nearly 70 percent, including those living near the Base, agreed the benefits of a strong military presence outweigh any noise issues. Only 18 percent felt that aircraft noise had a negative effect on their quality of life.

The survey of 617 respondents has a margin of error of four percent. Additional information may be found on SADA's website at www.missionstrongaz.org.

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Pima County has long supported Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the important role it serves in our national defense. Voters in 2004 decisively approved a bond question allocating \$10 million to purchase open space to protect the departure corridor, and the County is investing \$500,000 to improve the road to the new South Wilmot Gate, built with funds from the 2012 Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence designating Davis-Monthan as the Number One Base in the Air Force.

The Board remains strongly committed to supporting an ongoing presence and multiple missions at Davis-Monthan to assist the broad defense objectives of the Department of Defense.

CHH/mjk