

SUPPORT DMAFB & OUR FUTURE – SPEAK UP FOR F-35s

The United States Air Force must conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine what if any environmental consequences would result from a change of mission at any of its bases. An EIS is being conducted for Davis Monthan, which is being considered as an alternate basing site for 24 F-35A aircraft. The primary site being considered is in Fort Worth, Texas.

Below are some areas you might consider covering - please do not copy them verbatim.

1. DMAFB is the best place for F-35A training, and all flying missions because:

- Tucson is free from natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes, and Tucson weather provides for year-around training capabilities.
- DM's close proximity to The Goldwater Range- the finest range in the nation - makes it economical for DM airplanes to get to the range quickly and spend longer time training.
- Our open skies, with perfect weather, are uncongested by civilian air traffic and are further protected by Military Operations areas, providing virtually unrestricted flying space.

2. The Southern Arizona community supports any flying mission that the Air Force proposes to bring to Davis-Monthan. Surveys show there is clear support for DM among Tucsonans. 73% of the residents strongly support flying missions at DM and a majority (92%) of residents close to DM are supportive of the base.

3. DM and Tucson have grown together over the years as the city's population boomed and the base added a variety of mission sets. DM contributes \$2.6B annually to the local economy and is one of the top three major financial contributors to the Southern Arizona economy. It is important to keep this asset in Tucson by supporting changes to its missions as they evolve over the years.

4. The support of the citizens of Southern Arizona, the benefits of living in the diverse metropolitan Tucson area and the unbeatable weather makes for a good living experience for the Airmen stationed at Davis-Monthan. It was the CINC award winner in 2012 and 2018 as the best base in the Air Force.

5. Statistics produced by the Tucson Association of Realtors demonstrate that DMAFB has had a positive impact on housing prices within 1-mile of the base. Home prices in the DM area have risen steadily over the last 5 years surpassing the increase in home prices for the greater Tucson area each year.

6. The impact of DMAFB on the local economy is:

- \$2.6B overall impact to the Tucson economy.
- 19,321 military retirees in the local community with annual retirement pay of \$514M.
- 6,460 indirect jobs with an approximate value of \$292M in wages alone.
- 68,000 hours of direct community support.
- Combined operation and maintenance outlays total more than \$292M annually.

7. The Draft EIS received negative comments on the potential of more noise to the U of Arizona area and around the base, specifically the Roberts and Julia Keen neighborhoods. They calculate increases of up to 5 dB to a total of 60 dB. This is the same noise level as from a conversation or an air conditioning unit. The noise level from a dishwasher or washing machine are at 70 dB, and city traffic is at 80 dB, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This should be an acceptable noise level.

Southern Arizona has a history of tolerating aircraft noise. There have been complaints involving 1.5% of all flights at DM over 3 years - however, of the 1.5%, 63% of the complaints have been from 2 individuals. The highest number of complaints have occurred during the years with the least number of flights.

Potential noise contours shown in this EIS are nearly identical to those contemplated in the 2004 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), and therefore both Pima County and City of Tucson have already addressed compatibility of uses in their zoning codes.

To make written public comment you can email them to: HQAFRC.F-35.EIS@us.af.mil or mail them to: AFCEC/CZN ATTN: Mr. Hamid Kamalpour 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 15 JBSA Lackland Air Force Base, TX 78236- 9853. San Antonio, TX 78226-1710. The deadline for submitting comments is March 31, 2020.