



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 27, 2024

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

From: Jan Leshar 
County Administrator

Re: **DM50 Contract for FY 2024-2025 and Accompanying 2023-2024 Annual Activity Report**

Pima County and Davis-Monthan Air force Base (DMAFB) have worked in partnership since the military activation of the former municipal airport in 1941. DMAFB remains a powerful economic engine in Pima County with 9,856 military and civilian employees and an estimated economic output of more than \$2.5 billion, according to the 2023 Economic Impact Analysis prepared for the State of Arizona's Military Affairs Commission.

An important support organization for DMAFB is the non-profit, volunteer organization DM50. The Pima County Board of Supervisors has for many years provided a contract between Pima County and DM50 to further DM50's advocacy and support services at DMAFB. As part of that contract, DM50 provides an Annual Activity Report, which describes their efforts.

The DM50 contract will be on the Board of Supervisors July 2, 2024 agenda for consideration. In advance of that consideration, please see the 2023-2024 Annual Activity Report provided by DM50 Chair Jay Bickley. In the report, you will find information related to their activities in support of DMAFB that include:

- Public policy efforts related to the retirement of the A-10 mission and developing new missions for DMAFB.
- Community outreach and military appreciation events.
- Fundraising events.
- Membership updates.
- Base event support.

Pima County Economic Development Director Heath Vescovi-Chiordi and his staff are available for any questions you may have or any additional information you may require.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director, Economic Development
Jay Bickley, Chair, DM50

JUN 27 2024 10:03 PM CDO KOF-80

3



Supporting The Airmen Who Protect Our Freedom

2023-2024 Year in Review

Public Policy

Public Policy has been very busy again this year, providing ongoing advocacy for new missions to DM as the A-10 retirement becomes a reality. We have been in constant contact with the Arizona delegation, particularly with Senators Kelly and Sinema and their staff. We have also established a very good relationship with Congressman Juan Ciscomani, who is a huge DM supporter on the House side, particularly with his Appointment to the Appropriations Committee. Throughout the year we have had several virtual meetings and one in-person meeting with basing leadership at the Pentagon.

Members Tom Murphy and Linda Morales represent DM at the Air Force leadership level as members of Air Combat Command Commander's Group. In January, they visited Joint Base Langley-Eustis for a meeting, gaining knowledge of long-term AF programs that will affect DM and the Air Force at large. Additionally, Linda currently represents DM as a member of the civic leader group for the Air and Space Force Commander.

In March, DM50 hosted a reception for General Kenneth "Cruiser" Wilsbach, the new Commander of Air Combat Command, and key members of his staff at the Mountain Oyster Club. DM reports to ACC. During his remarks to our members, he reassured us that the missions at DM are critical to our national security and it will continue to be a vital base long into the future. He briefly discussed the changes coming for DM, the movement of rescue assets from Nellis AFB, the standup of the new Special Operations Power Projection Wing, as well as the bedgown of the new EC-37 Compass Call mission. He was very complementary of the DM50, stating that our organization is the "gold standard" of community advocacy and base support groups in the Air Force.

DM50 continues to have a high level of influence and respect on the Hill and in the Pentagon. We are continually assured by these leaders that DM's future is bright and that it is considered a gem within the Air Force. As a result, DM's post-A-10 future is looking very positive, with two new wings proposed, no loss of personnel and continued high levels of economic benefit to Pima County.



Supporting The Airmen Who Protect Our Freedom

Tailgate

Our tailgate was in September 2023 at a Wildcat home game. Airmen and their families had a great time eating Sonoran Dogs from El Charro, enjoying Italian Ice from Slice and Ice, and beverages from Hensley, Finley, and Coca-Cola. Over 2,000 DM Airmen, their families, and guests attended. Among the special guests attending were Congressman Ciscomani and his family. Additionally, members of both Senator Kelly and Sinema's staff and their families attended. Also, President Robbins and Athletic Director Heeke visited. As always, UA recognized Airmen at halftime, and did the game ball presentation to Col. Mills and Chief Becker before the game. We have been doing Tailgate since 2005, and it keeps getting better every year. The planning for our 2024 Tailgate is already underway and we're looking forward to an even larger event.



Picnic & Car Show

On April 13th, we held our Picnic & Car Show. Some quick data:

- Estimated that 1,900 people attended
- Served 816 Hotdogs & 1,050 Hamburgers
- 126 Car Show Entries (raised \$5,000 for the Kachina Fund)
- Handed out 125 bike helmets
- Handed out 45 booster seats



Supporting The Airmen Who Protect Our Freedom



Cologuard Classic Military Appreciation Concert.

With an attendance of over 5,300 the concert was a great success. Every year this event helps raise awareness for DMAFB and DM50. This year we raised \$99,925 which will be used to support youth activities in Tucson, and the DM50 received 30% of the proceeds which will be used to support the Airman and their Families on base.



Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament was held in October at Randolph North Golf Course. Each foursome included an Airman, creating new and stronger connections. It was



Supporting The Airmen Who Protect Our Freedom

a huge success, with strong attendance. The event raised over \$30,000, all of which went to the Kachina Fund for the base commander to use to fund miscellaneous otherwise unfunded needs on the Base.

Changes of Command/Retirements/Recognitions

DM50 had a presence at every single change of command (25 last year!), as well as retirement ceremonies and awards programs, which is an important and appreciated way to show community support of individual Airmen.

Membership

DM50 continues to grow, with eight new members joining the ranks this spring.

Loft Dinners

Every Sunday night, community groups host a dinner for Airmen living in the dorms at the Loft, a social area run by the Chaplain's office. DM50 hosts this dinner once a quarter. The turnout has doubled in the last year, with 60-70 airmen regularly attending. It's an important opportunity to get these kids out of the rooms and connected to Tucsonans. This May, DM50 also supported a special "Dorm Bash" with a barbecue and fun for this same group of the youngest Airmen.

Other Support

DM50 provided financial support for several base events, including the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony, the Chief Master Sergeant recognition ceremony and the Annual Awards Banquet.

DM50 has been working closely with the Military & Family Readiness Center (MFRC), and their Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and their Hearts Apart Program. The EFMP program is an Air Force wide program that is designed to support military family members with special needs, and the Hearts Apart Program provides support to families with deployed members.