




# MEMORANDUM

Date: June 14, 2023

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

From: Jan Leshe   
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the June 20, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting – DM-50 Annual Services Contract – Year in Review**

Pima County has partnered with municipalities, the business community and nonprofits to advocate for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and to support its personnel and operations since the airfield's military activation in 1941. One effective mechanism for supporting Davis-Monthan is by Pima County's funding of DM-50 through an annual professional services contract, the most recent of which will be on the Board of Supervisors June 20, 2023 agenda. In advance of Board of Supervisors consideration of the contract, attached is DM-50's 2022-2023 Year in Review for the Board's information.

DM50 was formed in 1986 as a nonprofit volunteer group that advocates for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and its airmen. DM-50 raises funds and supports initiatives to improve the quality of life for military personnel at Davis-Monthan and to protect the future of the Base and to expand its vital missions here in Southern Arizona. DM-50 also works to raise awareness among the general public and to inform the military that the Southern Arizona community welcomes and truly values the presence of Davis-Monthan throughout the region. DM-50 also plays a key role in advocating for continued base operations, improvements and expansion. DM-50 members meet regularly with Davis-Monthan leadership, the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

This advocacy was of exceptional importance over the last year due to the impending retirement of the A-10C "warthog" attack aircraft over the next five years, which would result in deactivation of critical Air Force units at Davis-Monthan. This posed a serious concern that the divestment of the A-10 would result in significant reduction of aircraft and people at the Air Force Base and reduce the more than \$2.6 billion in economic impact to our region that Davis-Monthan generates annually. The Air Force has identified new missions that will replace the deactivated A-10C units and our Arizona Congressional delegation has expressed support for this effort. With the proposed new missions, Davis-Monthan is expected to maintain the same number of personnel at conclusion of the transition and experience new construction to facilitate the change in mission.

For more than 80 years, Pima County has been a proud host for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and recognizes the tremendous sacrifices made by its service members and families who live and work as part of our community. The relationship between Pima County and Davis-Monthan greatly enhances our local economy while ensuring our national security. DM-50 has played a critical role in effective advocacy and promotion of Davis-Monthan's missions in Pima County.

## Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator

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## 2022-2023 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 begun 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, in March, Linda was appointed to represent DM in the civic leader group for Air and Space Command.

In March, DM50 helped host the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Joanne Bass. Several board members and past presidents had the pleasure of joining her at dinner and bragging about all the ways the Tucson community supports DM. She left very impressed with both the base and the support.

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 and no loss of personnel and continued high levels of economic benefit to Pima County.



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## *Tailgate*

Our tailgate was on September 10, 2022 at the Wildcat's first home game of the 2022 season vs the Mississippi State Bulldogs. 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 1,300 DM Airmen, their families, and guests attended. Among the special guests attending were Senator Kelly, Gabrielle Giffords, and their family and staff. Country music star Phil Vassar stopped by before his concert on the mall and gave the Airmen a shout-out during his show. 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 Council before the game. We have been doing the Tailgate since 2005, and it keeps getting better every year. The 2023 Tailgate will be September 16th vs UTEP.



## *Picnic & Car Show*

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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



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### *Cologuard Classic Military Appreciation Concert.*

With an attendance of over 5,300 this 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 DM50 received 30% of the proceeds which will be used to support the Airman and their Families on base. The Tucson Conquistadors announced that the tournament will be held at La Paloma next year.



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### *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 a huge success, with strong attendance. The event raised over \$17,000, all of which



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go 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 has 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 six new members joining the ranks last fall, and seven more individuals pending membership approval 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 barbeque and fun for this same group of the youngest Airmen.

### **Other Support**

The Air Force turned 75 this year, a milestone that was celebrated at the Air Force Ball. DM50 provided financial support to the Ball, which was held September 17 at Ventana Canyon. DM50 also provided financial support for several other 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. In conjunction with Raytheon employees, we provided funding for a family outing at Patagonia Lake, quarterly Gaslight Outings, and monthly Deployed Family Dining