

MP211



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
10TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
USAF ACADEMY COLORADO

Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy J. Jeoun, USAF
Commander
10th Civil Engineer Squadron
8120 Edgerton Drive, Suite 40
USAF Academy CO 80840-2400

Mr. Mark Gebhart
Deputy Director
El Paso County
2880 International Circle, Suite 110
Colorado Springs CO 80910

Dear Mr. Gebhart

The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input during the master planning process for El Paso County. Airfield operations and watershed degradation are two primary topics of interest that USAFA desires to address as part of the County's master planning process. As part of our input, we want to make sure the County is aware of our finalized Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) Study, attached. We would like to encourage the County to incorporate the applicable recommendations found on pages 83 – 84 of the Study:

- Continue collaboration and partnership between county planning and development departments and the Academy installation planning team, including consultation on proposed planning and zoning actions with potential to impact air operations;
- Consider AICUZ policies and guidelines when developing or revising comprehensive plans and use AICUZ overlay maps and Air Force Land Use Compatibility Guidelines (Appendix A of Study) to evaluate existing and future land use proposals;
- Update land use plans and ordinances to reflect AICUZ recommendations for development in Clear Zones/Accident Potential Zones and noise zones;
- Recognize the Academy Airfield as an airport to ensure that development complies with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and protects public safety;
- Consider development of an area plan for unincorporated land around the Academy;
- Consider creation of an Intergovernmental Joint Airport Advisory Commission with development review authority and chartered to preserve private, commercial and military aviation capacity with El Paso County;
- Develop and adopt an Airport Overlay for the Academy Airfield; extend/amend current county and municipal zoning codes in accordance with CRS 24-65.1-202 and 43-10-113;
- Implement height and obstruction zoning ordinances that reflect Title 14 CFR Part 77 obstruction standards and FAA filing requirements; and

- Ensure compliance with FAA regulations and refer all types of development within 20,000 feet of airfield for review for public safety, flight safety, and vertical obstructions.

We are also concerned about development within the Monument Creek watershed that is causing degradation of the watershed through USAFA's property and loss of Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat. Incorporating contemporary stormwater design criteria would be a good first step to protect the watershed. Additional mitigation measures, to include downstream channel protection and stabilization and reducing sedimentation and other pollutants, are also important to protect this valuable regional resource. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with the County on this topic as development around USAFA occurs. We also welcome the opportunity to work cooperatively on safety and security measures for the New Santa Fe Trail.

In addition, we are interested in protecting our ability to use our Jacks Valley property for training and would be concerned about any future plans to subdivide the adjoining properties. Finally, for Bullseye Auxiliary Airfield and our eastern training areas, we are interested in the zoning remaining status quo and not introducing vertical obstructions like cell towers and wind farms that could interfere with air operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your ambitious master planning effort. We are interested in continuing to partner with El Paso County to encourage and ensure compatible development around our main installation, Bullseye Auxiliary Airfield, and under our training areas. If you have any questions, or to follow up on any of the recommendations of the AICUZ Study, please contact Amy Kelley, Community Initiatives Director, at 719-333-8395 or amy.kelley.3@us.af.mil.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. J. Jeoun', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

JIMMY J. JEOUN, Lt Col, USAF

Attachment:
AICUZ Study

cc:
Craig Dossey, Planning Director, El Paso County
Brian Potts, PPACG, JLUS Program Manager