

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Secretary
U.S. Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Kendall:

We're writing you today concerning the long-term future of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. Given the advantages the base offers to the Air Force, from its very favorable year-round flying conditions and considerable range space to its proximity to leading defense industry partners, it should and must maintain a critical role in our national defense.

In recent days, we have been briefed by the Air Force on its plan for the base's mission over the next five years, and we were encouraged by the Air Force's intention to bring new, durable flying missions to the base. It's our understanding that at the end of this five-year plan, there will be nearly the same number of airmen and civilians employed at the base. Working with Congress and the Defense Department, the Air Force has identified opportunities to modernize capabilities based at Davis-Monthan, and bring new enduring missions, including special operations capability, to our state.

Our hope is to work together, alongside the Air Force and the local Tucson community, to secure the long-term future of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and protect our national security. As Congress continues its work on the annual National Defense Authorization Act and Appropriations, including policy decisions related to the Air Force, we ask that you respond to and follow through on the following items.

Community Engagement: We understand that in addition to briefing us, you have also briefed key Tucson defense stakeholders at our encouragement, including DM-50 and the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance. We want to reiterate the requests we made in our briefing that you and your staff expand community engagement, to include briefings with other elected and community leaders, including the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, the Tucson Metro Chamber, the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Air Force Association Tucson Chapter 105, Sahuarita Mayor Tom Murphy, Oro Valley Mayor Joe Winfield, Marana Mayor Ed Honea, South Tucson Mayor Bob Teso.

Regular Updates: The Air Force has laid out an ambitious timeline for executing this transition at Davis-Monthan through a series of facility reviews, military construction,

and incoming flying missions. Delivering on this five-year plan requires meeting a number of targets that must be consistently met to avoid delays that negatively impact the base and the local economy. We ask that you and your staff regularly brief our offices on progress, beginning with the work of the Site Activation Task Force (SATAF) that we understand is convening in April. Additionally, we ask that you continue to keep the Arizona Delegation, and the Congressional defense committees, informed of specific budget lines supporting this plan, and any additional resources or authorities required to execute.

Thank you for your attention to these issues of importance for Arizona and the modernization of the Air Force.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress