

SECTION 6 IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Implementation of the AICUZ Study must be a joint effort between the Air Force and adjacent communities. The role of the Air Force is to minimize impact on the local communities by Tinker AFB aircraft operations. The role of the communities is to ensure that development in the surrounding area is compatible with accepted planning and development principles and practices.

6.2 AIR FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

In general, the Air Force perceives its AICUZ responsibilities as encompassing the areas of flying safety, noise abatement, and participation in the land use planning process.

Well-maintained aircraft and well-trained aircrews do a great deal to assure that aircraft accidents are avoided. Despite the best aircrew training and aircraft maintenance intentions, however, history clearly shows that accidents do occur. It is imperative flights be routed over sparsely populated areas as regularly as possible to reduce the exposure of lives and property to a potential accident.

Commanders are required by Air Force policy to periodically review existing traffic patterns, instrument approaches, weather minima, and operating practices, and evaluate these factors in relationship to populated areas and other local situations. This requirement is a direct result and expression of Air Force policy that all AICUZ plans must include an analysis of flying and flying-related activities designed to reduce and control the effects of such operations on surrounding land areas. Noise is generated from aircraft both in the air and on the ground. In an effort to reduce the noise effects of Tinker AFB operations on surrounding communities, the installation routes flight tracks to avoid populated areas.

Preparation and presentation of this Tinker AFB AICUZ Study is one phase of continuing Air Force participation in the local planning process. It is recognized that as the local community updates its land use plans, the Air Force must be ready to provide additional input when needed.

It is also recognized that the AICUZ program is an ongoing activity even after compatible development plans are adopted and implemented. Tinker AFB personnel are prepared to participate in the continuing discussion of zoning and other land use matters as they may affect, or may be affected by the Base. Base personnel also are available to provide information, criteria, and guidelines to state, regional, and local planning bodies, civic associations, and similar groups.

Participation in land-use planning can take many forms. The simplest of these forms is straightforward, consistent two-way discussion and information sharing with both professionals and neighbors. Copies of the AICUZ Study, including maps, will be provided

to regional planning departments and zoning administrators. Through this communication process, the Base reviews applications for development or changed use of properties within the noise impact and safety areas, as well as other nearby parcels. The Base coordinates closely with surrounding communities and counties on zoning and land-use issues.

6.3 LOCAL COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Residents in the area neighboring Tinker AFB and Base personnel have a long history of working together for mutual benefit of the area around the airfield. Local jurisdictions have taken a proactive approach in incorporating land use regulations into local plans and ordinances which consider the Tinker AFB flying operations when considering development proposals. Adoption of the following recommendations will strengthen this relationship, increase the health and safety of the public, and help protect the integrity of the installation's flying mission:

- Continue to incorporate AICUZ policies and guidelines into the comprehensive plans of Oklahoma County and the cities of Oklahoma City, Midwest City, and Del City. Use overlay maps of the AICUZ noise contours and Air Force Land Use Compatibility Guidelines to evaluate existing and future land use proposals.
- Modify existing zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations to support the compatible land uses outlined in this study.
- Modify building codes to ensure new construction within the AICUZ area has the recommended noise level reductions incorporated into its design and construction.
- Implement height and obstruction ordinances which reflect current Air Force and FAR Part 77 requirements.
- Keep the DoD Office of Economic Adjustment apprised of any development near Tinker AFB that may impact the program for Joint Land Use Studies.
- Continue to inform Tinker AFB of planning and zoning actions that have the potential of affecting Base operations.
- Support the Joint Land Use Study Program for the Tinker AFB area to protect the area from encroachment.