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ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

21 E. Main Street, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK, 73104

www.acogok.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Media contact: Jerry Church, 234-2264

SECURING FUTURE OF TINKER AIR FORCE BASE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC MEETING on OCT. 18

Cooperation, collaboration and future visioning are key tenets to a study that is currently being conducted between Tinker Air Force Base and the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan region.

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) serves as the primary sponsor of the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), which is funded by the US Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment.

The study is a cooperative land use planning effort. It is designed to promote community growth and development that is compatible with Tinker's training and operational missions.

Public involvement and interaction is a primary component of the JLUS process. Citizens interested in the study and living in the vicinity of Tinker are invited to the first public meeting. The meeting will be held October 18, at 7 p.m. at the Reed Center, 5750 Will Rogers Road, in Midwest City.

ACOG serves as the study's sponsor. Partners are: Midwest City, Del City, Oklahoma City, Spencer, Choctaw, Nicoma Park, Oklahoma County, Cleveland County, the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning commission, and Tinker Air Force Base.

While the focus of the JLUS is to protect the communities as well as address encroachment threats to the base, it will also strengthen Tinker's position when it comes to the next round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) hearings.

Periodically, Congress initiates a BRAC process based on federal defense budgets, defense infrastructure and the relationships of communities with military installations in their hometowns. During the past two BRAC reviews, Tinker has not been negatively impacted by the process.

With the prospect of another BRAC process occurring in the coming years, the Central Oklahoma communities most impacted by Tinker's presence want to be prepared to fend off any efforts to close, or reduce its current missions.

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The annual economic impact of Tinker AFB is \$3.4 billion. Employed at the base are 8,900 military personnel and 18,970 civilians. The annual payroll is \$1.23 billion.

During the JLUS process, the consulting team of DFW Advisors, Michael R. Coker Company and Pavlik and Associates will study how Tinker interacts with adjacent cities and neighborhoods by analyzing existing development codes. Compatibility among all entities and property owners is key. Take off and landing patterns of planes at Tinker are reflected in what are referred to as noise contours and accident potential zones. Land uses within these areas will be studied in depth. The consulting team may ultimately recommend changes to zoning ordinances, subdivision regulation policies and building codes. Individual cities would then follow their own process for updating their ordinances and land development policies on a volunteer basis.

“The mayors, councilmembers and county commissioners of Central Oklahoma do not take Tinker Air Force Base for granted,” said Zach D. Taylor, Executive Director of ACOG. “Tinker’s continued vitality remains the number one legislative priority for our region.”

For more information, visit www.acogok.org/JLUS or call Jerry Church, 234-2264.