



News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sponsors Intergovernmental Agency meeting Luke Air Force Base Departure Corridor Project

PHOENIX, ARIZ. – Representatives of federal, state and local government agencies participated in an interagency meeting last week to discuss potential partnering opportunities for compatible land use in the Luke Air Force Base flight corridors.

The Air Force announced plans in March to acquire perpetual land use restrictive easements in key portions of Luke's southern and northern accident potential zones. The fiscal year 2003 and FY04 military construction appropriations included approximately \$21 million for flight corridor acquisitions. An additional \$6 million from the FY03 appropriation is targeted for land acquisition and associated security construction projects around the base's munitions storage area.

"There was a great deal of organizational information brought to the table," said Capt. James DeLapp, the Corps of Engineer's Arizona/Nevada Area commander. "I believe it was a very productive step forward in the partnering process."

The Air Force's basic acquisition plan was outlined March 31 at a public Stakeholders Forum in Peoria, Ariz.

During that forum, Air Force officials said the process is designed to maximize the acquisition power of the FY03 and FY04 appropriations through the use perpetual land use restrictive easements and by actively seeking partnership opportunities with other government organizations.

"We now have a much stronger idea of where such partnership opportunities may exist, said Captain DeLapp.

The State of Arizona, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, Air Education and Training Command, Maricopa County, 56th Fighter Wing and surrounding municipalities were among the government agencies represented at Tuesday's meeting.

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2-2-2 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY MEETING

The meeting was sponsored by the Phoenix field office of the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is the Air Force's executive agent for a real estate acquisition program designed to preserve the operational integrity of key sectors in the Luke flight corridors and to sustain F-16 fighter access to the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

For additional information about the Luke flight corridor acquisition project, contact the Phoenix Field Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (602) 640-2015, the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs at (213) 452-3925 or our website www.spl.usace.army.mil.