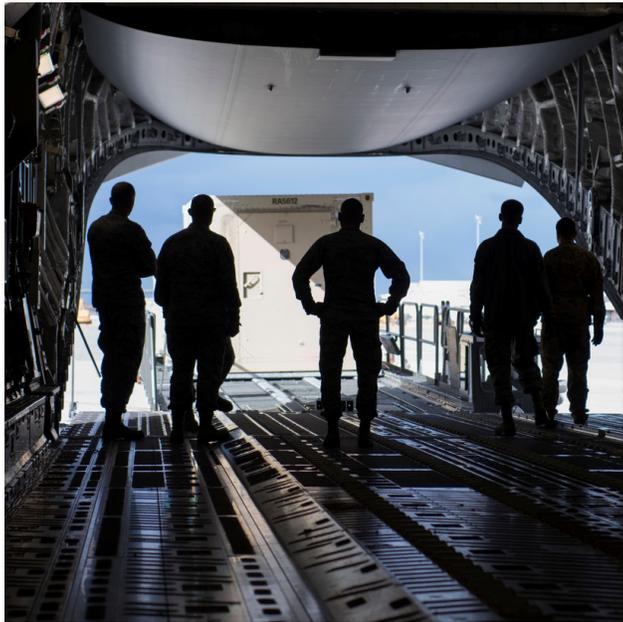


12.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) is an essential part of the City of Mountain Home. The base has been a major employer in Mountain Home for over six decades, and its mission inspires the community and visitors. Regular community events are held in the base's and troops' honor, and the community as a whole identifies as a "base-town". One of the most important economic engines for the community, the City has long recognized the critical nature of MHAFB and is committed to preserving its function as part of the community.



12.2 BACKGROUND

Located twelve miles southwest of Mountain Home and installed in 1942, Mountain Home Air Force Base is and has been a key strategic Air Force installation in the western region. The base controls and maintains sites within a 7,412-square mile operational training range in southern Idaho. Serving many uses over the past sixty years, today, Mountain Home Air Force Base is home to the 366th Fighter Wing—three fighter squadrons with the wing population consisting of more than 4,800 military and civilian members, and approximately 5,200 family members.

Part of the base has been appointed as a Census-Designated Place (CDP) which means that, while not a self-governing city or town, its population is still counted for the purpose of gathering statistical and census data. According to the US Census Bureau, the CDP of Mountain Home consists of a total area of 9.9 square miles.

The CDP of Mountain Home Air Force Base will tend to experience wide ranges in fluctuation based upon the current mission of the base; so while a census may show significantly different populations from one decade to the next, that may not necessarily be a true indicator of population on the base, as base population tends to remain relatively consistent.

THE CITY'S GOALS REGARDING THE BASE

When it comes to planning for the future of the community, the City always considers the base and how planning may affect it. The City's priorities for the next decade that directly tie in with the base are Housing and Land Use / Community Design.

Housing is one of the most critical factors being addressed with this Comprehensive Plan update as there remains a shortage of housing not only in the community, but also on base; the City's goal with the focus on housing is to provide solutions to both the civilian community, as well as the base community. And, as Community Design and Land Use both tie in to Housing, those chapters (5, 6 and 8) provide details regarding the City's approach to these topics and how they relate to the Air Force Base.



12.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The base's impact on the community of Mountain Home is incredibly important. The base is a major employer in the area employing 650 - 799 civilian members of the community. Having a military installation within the community allows for diversity in population that most rural towns would never otherwise benefit from.

The 366th Wing's Fiscal Year 2012 direct financial impact on the "local area" is approximately \$760-million⁷. To be clear, not all of the fiscal impact stays in Mountain Home as the "local area" is a regional area of the state. However, it's still clear that it is a critically important contributor to the community of Mountain Home.

12.4 FUTURE PLANNING

To demonstrate the City's strong support for Mountain Home Air Force Base, and to emphasize the City's commitment to ensuring the continued successful operation of the base, following are the goals and policies that the City will use to ensure sustained and seamless integration into the fabric of the community.

12.5 GOAL 1

Ensure that future land uses are compatible with the continued operations of Mountain Home Air Force Base.

- A. The City shall not allow development or annexation of areas that encroach into potential base expansion and/or operation areas.
 - The City shall require that certain plans, area plans, regional plans or Planned Unit Developments address compatibility issues associated with operations at MHAFB.
 - The City shall coordinate closely with jurisdictions, agencies, organizations and tribal governments near MHAFB to ensure the policies and regulations as applicable are consistent with continued operations of the base.
 - The City shall protect the future mission of MHAFB through the use of appropriate open space and buffer requirements as it nears MHAFB operations and/or working perimeter.
- B. The City shall as a Policy notify the base of proposed development activities in the vicinity of MHAFB.
- C. The City's annexation policy shall be updated to plan for and address land use compatibility with MHAFB to ensure future development shall not conflict with the viability of the base.



12.6 GOAL 2

Protect the viability and success of Mountain Home Air Force Base to accommodate expansions and/or new missions.

- A. The City will cooperate and work collaboratively with MHAFB officials in identifying strategies to meet the housing needs of military personnel and their families.
- B. Future planning will consider the needs of MHAFB personnel and families when it relates to commercial development, open space and parks, to serve as an expansion to the needs of residents on the base.
- C. During the next technical review of the City's Water Facilities and Wastewater Facilities Studies, studies should include possible projected need for MHAFB expansion (both facilities and/or personnel).
- D. An update to the Mountain Home Master Transportation should be considered to include base transportation needs, both defense related and personnel related.

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