



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND



Lieutenant General Darryl L. Roberson  
Commander, Air Education and Training Command  
1 F Street, Ste 1  
JBSA-Randolph TX 78150-4324

The Honorable Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas  
Austin TX 78768-2910

Dear Lieutenant Governor Patrick,

I would like to take a moment to thank you and the entire Texas State Legislature for the hard work and outstanding support you provide to our Nation's Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members. The State of Texas has an exceptional appreciation for the sacrifices our military members and families make each day to serve our country, and we value our partnership with this great state.

Air Education and Training Command (AETC) conducts training throughout Texas, both in wide open spaces far from development and near the communities where our Airmen and their families live. Adequate and usable training space in the air and on the ground is essential for our mission. However, development around our installations can adversely affect and limit the use of this space. Therefore, we must rely on local planning, zoning and land use controls to ensure local land uses do not adversely affect military missions.

We are aware of the annexation reform debate currently before the Texas Legislature, and as the senior military commander for the San Antonio Region, I am concerned that it may affect compatible land use and encroachment prevention efforts already underway at AETC's installations in Texas, especially Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA).

JBSA and its neighboring cities and communities have prepared Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS) using existing state law. These studies coordinated efforts between the Department of Defense (DoD), military installations and their surrounding communities to effectively manage development in a mutually beneficial manner. It is important to note that the cities and towns surrounding the affected installation are charged with implementing the land use planning strategies. If the ability of a city or town to annex is limited and/or their authority in their extraterritorial jurisdiction is curtailed by annexation reform, then implementation of JLUS initiatives becomes very difficult.

I believe that JBSA-San Antonio is an excellent example of the positive impact of proposed limits on compatible land use and encroachment prevention tools. Almost every Army medic, Navy corpsman and Air Force medical technician in the Department of Defense now

trains in San Antonio. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston is the lynchpin of medical field training because nearby JBSA-Camp Bullis is able to provide ideal training conditions. Their JLUS helps regulate urban lighting, allowing for realistic and effective night vision goggle training, a competency required of all DoD medical personnel.

The community around JBSA-Randolph is experiencing significant growth and development. It is critical that we have dialogue, such as JLUS agreements, to ensure that urban growth does not encroach upon Randolph's operational flying mission. To address this issue, Bexar County is planning to purchase and restrict development in 180 acres surrounding JBSA-Randolph. This project will provide a level of certainty that incompatible development adjacent to and near the base will not take place, ensuring that the JBSA-Randolph's flying mission and 12,000 associated jobs can remain in Bexar County.

These examples highlight the challenges that JBSA has addressed and will continue to address with state and local officials. Although annexation reform concerns San Antonio, it is important to maintain compatible land use and encroachment prevention tools throughout Texas. Ensuring adequate and usable space for our military missions will make Texas an important training location for our nation's military for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darryl L. Roberson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

DARRYL L. ROBERSON  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander