



The AICUZ Program

Encroachment

All airports attract development. Housing is constructed for airport employees who want to live nearby, and businesses are established to cater to the airport. As development encroaches upon the airfield, more people experience the noise and accident potential associated with aircraft operations. Incompatible development, a form of encroachment, has become commonplace on lands in the vicinity of military installations.

The AICUZ Program

In the early 1970s, the Department of Defense (DoD) established the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) Program in response to growing incompatible urban development (encroachment) around military airfields. Today, this Program provides land use guidelines for use by local governments. The goal is to achieve compatible civilian land use patterns and activities in the vicinity of a military installation.

The AICUZ program promotes compatible land use through participation in local, regional, state and federal land use planning by:

- Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of civilians and military personnel;
- Protecting Navy and Marine Corps installation investment;
- Reducing noise impacts caused by aircraft operations while meeting operational, training; and
- Informing the public about the AICUZ program and seeking cooperative efforts to minimize noise and aircraft accident potential impact.

Goal

The goal of the AICUZ program is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of those living and working on or near military installations while ensuring the continued flight operations.

The core of the AICUZ program is the AICUZ study, which is developed for each military air installation. The study includes recommended land uses for areas exposed to different levels of **noise** and **accident potential**, as well as height and obstruction criteria for flight safety. These recommendations indicate the areas (both on and off base) that are exposed to both high levels of noise and/or aircraft accident potential.

Noise Zones

Noise is unwanted sound. The main sources of noise at airfields are flight operations, which include takeoffs, landings, touch-and-go operations, and engine maintenance run-ups. The Navy considers how its operations impact the local community by calculating the day-night average sound level (DNL).

Accident Potential Zones (APZs)

APZs are areas where an aircraft accident is most likely to occur IF one is to occur. They do not reflect the probability of an accident. APZs follow departure, arrival, and pattern flight tracks and are based upon analysis of historical data.

These AICUZ requirements are derived from OPNAVINST 11010.36B – *Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Program*.

For further information, contact

Don Zimmerman
Community Plans and
Liaison (361) 961-2248

