



# *Fact Sheet*

## **United States Air Force**

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### **Proposed Rezoning of Apex Industrial Park**

Nellis Air Force Base officials agree with Clark County staff's recommendation to reject rezoning of land near Nellis from industrial to residential.

The U.S. military and allied countries fly more 55,000 annual sorties from the base, carrying 1.3 million pounds of live bombs each year. That is 50 percent of all the live munitions used by Air Force units in the United States annually. A sortie is a take off and landing by one aircraft.

Nellis Air Force Base is unique. It is the only place in the world that is capable of providing advanced, composite force training for the Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps, as well as allied air forces. Such training frequently involves launching and recovering more than 100 combat and support aircraft in less than three hours, twice a day. It also performs operational testing and evaluation, and develops and evaluates advanced combat tactics.

The base is located about seven miles from downtown Las Vegas. Development on the south end of the runways prompted the Air Force in the mid-80s to voluntarily restrict live-ordnance take offs to the north only. If weather makes a northern launch impossible, the mission does not fly that day.

Every sortie with live ordnance flies directly over the Apex Industrial Park. Typically, an aircraft with live munitions would pass over the area at 1,500 feet above the ground. The Air Force has no other option than to fly live munitions directly over the Apex Industrial Park due to nearby McCarran International Airport air-



**An F-15E Strike Eagle assigned to Nellis drops 500-pound bombs on the Nevada Test and Training Range.**

space and high terrain.

Additionally, a portion of the proposed residential area lies within an increased noise area, identified in a recent Air Force study that considered noise levels around the base when F-22 fighters are based at Nellis next year. While noise attenuation is possible, the Air Force believes it will not eliminate all noise concerns. As a voluntary operational practice to reduce noise for the residents to the south, most aircraft take off to the north between 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

The Air Force is concerned about the safety of all its neighbors, including the tens of thousands of people who might someday live in the proposed 31,000-home Apex Industrial Park residential development. The Air Force is particularly apprehensive about flying large numbers of explosive-laden aircraft, at low altitudes, over an area that is densely populated.

# Typical Exercise Launch and Recovery to the north; 80 aircraft, 90 minutes elapsed time

