



FACT SHEET

ONIZUKA AIR FORCE STATION – Update 3

Planning for Closure and Transition to Civilian Use

Since 1960, Onizuka Air Force Station has been a military communication station which also supports mission control for NASA missions. In 2005, the Department of Defense (DOD) slated Onizuka for closure when its military mission is transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base in 2011.

Onizuka Air Force Station Site Summary

- The approximately 23-acre site (18+ acres of developable land and almost four acres of easement) contains 507,457 square feet of space in 33 buildings.
- In 2006 the 21st Space Operations Squadron hosted Onizuka operations with nine military, 150 federal civilian and 200 contract employees. This is down from 1995 when DOD relocated the 750th Space Group and the Space and Missile Systems Center to Falcon Air Force Base in Colorado, resulting in a workforce reduction of nearly 3,000 jobs.
- Location: Mathilda Avenue just north of SR 237 and U.S. 101 in Sunnyvale.

Background

- The Department of Defense (DOD) purchased 11.4 acres of land from Lockheed for \$1 in 1960 and built the Air Force Satellite Test Center, which later became Sunnyvale Air Force Station and then was renamed Onizuka Air Force Station.
- Most operations at Onizuka are classified, but since the 1960s Onizuka has performed satellite monitoring and communications as well as NASA mission control.
- In 2005, the President's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended Onizuka AFS for closure, and the president endorsed the action. Onizuka's Air Force missions will be transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County.

Steps in the Reuse Planning Process

- In November 2005, the BRAC Commission's closure list became law, and in 2006, DOD designated the City of Sunnyvale as the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for Onizuka. In this role, the City is the primary point of contact

for all matters relating to base closure and is responsible for planning the property's transition from military to civilian use.

- As permitted by law, the Department of Veteran Affairs expressed interest in acquiring Onizuka's headquarters' offices and parking area. DOD declared the remaining Onizuka property as surplus.
- In 2006, Sunnyvale City Council formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee of 12 community stakeholders to advise Council in planning for Onizuka's civilian reuse. In compliance with federal statutes, the City began a local screening process, requesting notices of interest for reuse from public agencies and local nonprofit organizations.
- In December 2006, two nonprofit housing agencies submitted notices of interest in seven-plus acres to construct 245 housing units. These would address the need for housing for the homeless and those with low and very low incomes, as set forth in Sunnyvale's 2005/10 Consolidated Plan. BRAC mandates require the LRA to balance community needs for development with homeless needs for housing.
- In spring 2007, the City concluded the first phase of planning by adopting five conceptual reuse options for further analysis: low-density VA-style offices, corporate offices, hotel/conference center, auto-retail and homeless-residential.
- In fall 2007, DOD agreed to fund an independent professional analysis of the reuse options; the City subsequently selected Bay Area Economics to assist Council in choosing the preferred option(s) for the final reuse plan.
- In summer 2008 the Onizuka Citizens Advisory Committee recommended to the LRA the following uses for Onizuka AFS (in priority order): #1: auto center; #2: hotel/conference with office; and #3: corporate office.
- In fall 2008, the City is scheduled to select its preferred land reuse option(s); the City's deadline for submission of the reuse plan to DOD and HUD is December 15, 2008.
- Following submission of the reuse plan, DOD has up to one year to issue a formal Record of Decision describing the process for Onizuka's disposition.
- The statutory deadline to complete Onizuka's realignment and closure is September 15, 2011.

For more information, including reports and meeting schedules, visit the City's Onizuka base transition Web pages at *Onizuka.InSunnyvale.com*, or contact Robert Switzer, the City's Onizuka AFS Project Manager at (408) 730-7512, TDD (408) 730-7501, or by e-mail at *rswitzer@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us*.