



KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

A LOW-COST, EFFICIENT INSTALLATION

Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is one of the largest and most complex installations in the Department of Defense. With over 120 organizations on base, representing two executive departments (Department of Defense and Department of Energy, including Sandia National Laboratories), four major air commands, direct reporting and multi-service units and the National Guard and Air Force Reserve, it is a unique base. Over the years, due to the wide variety of missions on base, partnerships were found to be a very effective way to reduce costs and make the base more efficient.

PARTNERSHIPS REDUCE COSTS

Sandia National Laboratories pays the Air Force nearly \$3 million annually in return for a variety of support services.

Other non-Air Force activities on base reimburse the Air Force for support services provided.

Utilities costs are negotiated by the Department of Energy for the entire base, with significant cost savings.

Security staffing, including base gates, is supported by the Department of Energy and Sandia National Laboratories.

The active runways are maintained by the City of Albuquerque and used by military aircraft, with a low annual landing fee paid to the City. Avoiding major expenses involved in runway and taxiway maintenance and improvements has resulted in sizeable cost savings to the Air Force.

The “free world’s largest weapons storage complex” is located on KAFB and as an underground facility saved the Air Force almost 350 manpower authorizations for security; this has resulted in \$14 million annual cost savings for the Air Force.



KAFB and the Veterans Administration established the first Air Force/VA Medical Center in the US. This arrangement has served as a cost-savings model, saving not only annual operating costs but saving the Air Force from building a stand-alone hospital.

Privatization has resulted in over 867 military housing units being built on KAFB by Hunt Building Company of El Paso and managed by a private firm, involving a fifty-year lease.

OUTSOURCING PRODUCES COST SAVINGS

Outsourcing, which means the Air Force retains oversight but the work is done by contractors, has resulted in significant cost savings on KAFB:

Civil Engineering: Run by private contractor, with 316 manpower slots saved and \$19 million cost savings annually.

Communications: 228 manpower authorizations and \$6.6 million in annual cost savings.

Food Services: 16 authorizations and \$400,000 cost savings annually.

Education and Training: 12 authorizations and \$28,000 saved annually.

Non-Appropriated Fund Activities (library, recreation): 16 authorizations and \$100,000 annual savings.

Kirtland Technology Park/Phillips Institute:

A 15-year, four-phase project which makes KAFB the first Air Force Base to have “Enhanced Use Leasing” reduces red tape and results in significant cash and in-kind income to the base.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Kirtland AFB partnerships have avoided construction costs and created significant savings to the Air Force Operating Budget. Our estimate is over 950 authorizations saved, for an annual cost savings of \$43.7 million, and \$200 million in construction costs avoided. Partnerships have saved the Air Force people and money and helped make Kirtland Air Force Base a low-cost, efficient installation!

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Prepared by the Kirtland Partnership Committee (KPC), a non-profit organization of business and civic leaders, formed in 1996 to support Kirtland Air Force Base.