



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**598TH RANGE SQUADRON**  
**AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE, FLORIDA AND MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

December 23, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR POLK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Mr. Robert Beltran, Chair  
Polk County  
330 W. Church Street  
Bartow, FL 33831-9005

FROM: 598 RANS/ROO  
29 South Blvd  
Avon Park Air Force Range, FL 33825

SUBJECT: Polk County LDCPAL-2024-15 and LDCT-2024-24.

Dear Chairman Beltran,

1. On behalf of Lt Col Albert Chang, Commander, 598<sup>th</sup> Range Squadron, Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), United States Air Force, I am sending this letter to formally share our viewpoint regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code (LDC) text amendments. The proposed Indian Lakes Estates (ILE) Comp Plan and LDC amendments do not present mission sustainment/encroachment concerns for APAFR. We would emphasize, however, increases in residential density underneath military Special Use Airspace (SUA) could result in noise complaints; will increase risk to public safety should an aviation mishap occur; and set a concerning precedence for future compatibility with APAFR.

2. APAFR is the largest USAF training range in the eastern U.S., providing world-class military training for DoD units from across our nation. APAFR's extensive air and ground space provide our nation's warfighters the ability to train like they fight. In consideration of APAFR's airspace, Polk County established Military Compatibility Zones (MAZ) 1 and 2. One segment of airspace, Restricted Airspace R-2901D WEST, extending from 1000 ft to 4000 ft, is located directly above ILE. Development of duplexes underneath low-altitude restricted airspace would typically be a significant encroachment concern, however inclusion into an established residential community, should not have additional negative impact to APAFR's mission.

3. Thank you for your consideration. We sincerely hope this information helps inform your evaluation of these proposed amendments. If you have any questions or want any additional information, please contact me by email at [charles.maclaughlin.1@us.af.mil](mailto:charles.maclaughlin.1@us.af.mil) or at my duty mobile number – 813-857-7109.

CHARLES E. MACLAUGHLIN, GS-12, USAF  
Range Operations Officer

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