CITY OF TUCSON

DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB
BACKGROUND

- Two public schools, K-5 on DM until 2006 (Tucson Unified School District (TUSD))
  - TUSD down-sizing and financial issues
  - Consolidated to one K-5 school
  - Defaulted on vacant school deed
  - 58-year old school returned to Base
BACKGROUND

- Assigned TUSD middle school (6-8) in local community
  - Labeled “failing” three straight years
  - Over-crowded
  - Underfunded
  - Bus ride to other school over 1 hour
PROCESS

- Survey of base parents and Town Hall meeting
  - “Overwhelming response” – need on-base middle school
- DM Charter School Working Group formed
  - Work options/advantages to local middle school
  - Incorporated experts from:
    - Plans and Legal Offices
    - Engineers, Contractors, Force Support and Security Forces
Davis-Monthan Charter School

PROCESS

- Team Strategy
  - *Reuse 58-year old school*
  - *Wing Plans Office submitted beddown to HQ Air Force -- Approved 17 Nov 08*
  - *Transparent communication with families/leadership*
    - Town Hall meetings
    - Wing and Group meetings
    - Open e-mail discussion
  - *Researched charter schools in Arizona*
    - Contacted 327 charters schools
TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE

- Establish Source Selection Team (SST)
- Developed Request for Proposal (RFP)/Statement of Objectives
- Operating Agreement (OA) developed
- Basis for Award – competitive Best Value
  - Technical Properties (educational standards)
  - Financial (Pass/Fail)
  - Lease for facility (Pass/Fail)
- Advertised plan through Arizona Charter School Association
DAVIS-MONTHAN CHARTER SCHOOL

PROCESS

- Charter School Selection
  - Streamlined technical evaluation cut 50%
  - Results to Fighter Wing Commander (selection authority)
  - Final selection coordinated with:
    1) Air Combat Command
    2) Air Force Real Property Agency
    3) Secretary of the Air Force
    4) Congress
  - Selection of Sonoran Science Academy (SSA) approved, July 2009
  - School opened August 2009 with 120 students
Davis-Monthan Charter School

Impact and Results

- Selected Sonoran Science Academy (SSA)
  - Embraced “Excellence”
    - “Love for Learning – Independent Thinking”
  - Arizona Charter School of the Year, 2009
  - No. 1 of 502 in Charter School Organization
  - Eliminated substandard middle school education program
    - Ranked 50th in pupil spending in all Arizona Public Schools
  - Quality education – tuition free!
**Davis-Monthan Charter School**

**Impact and Results**

- **Facility and Lease**
  - *Army Corps of Engineers – Lease Agreement*
    - Determined “No Fee-Based” lease
    - Quality education – minimal cost to charter school (SSA)
      - *More money spent on students*
  - *Savings to the Air Force – over $940,000*
    - Demolition cost of 58-year-old facility – $910,000
    - Grounds maintenance cost – $31,000
IMPACT AND RESULTS

- SSA Program
  - 19 classes and 11 extra-curricular classes to students – 1st year
  - Technology in Teaching – internet in every class
  - Programs for special needs students
  - Student/teacher ratio = 10:1
  - Focus on learning and college preparation
  - Teacher tracking to every student level
IMPACT AND RESULTS

- SSA provides an environment of emphasis on high academic achievements
  - Opportunity for Airmen’s children to attend a top technical math and science school
  - Student aptitude – test results show exceptional increase in one year (6-8 grades)
    - Reading up 46%
    - Writing up 53%
    - Math up 60%
  - Phenomenal return on investment!
Unprecedented success!

- Military families, parents and students excited about opportunities
- DM process sought by 6 Air Force installations

SSA plans for 2010/2011 school year

- Adding high school 1 grade per year to 12th grade
- Renovation plans for computer lab
- Expanded full-sized gym in 3 years
SURROUNDED BY QUALITY HOUSING THROUGH SUCCESSFUL PRIVATIZATION USING RENEWABLE ENERGY
Davis-Monthan Charter School Working Group

- Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force declared July 2010 – July 2011 - “Year of the Family”

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