

Review of: "Airbase Compatibility with Spatial Planning: A Case Study of Airbase Waterkloof (South Africa)"

Wael F. Galal¹

¹ Assiut University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper discusses the factors that determine the size of an air force base, including restricted airspace, aerial approach zones, and safety areas. The paper also raises questions about the jurisdiction of air traffic and the required expertise to deal with it. The paper presents a qualitative approach to investigate the harmony between the City of Tshwane and the SAAF, looking at development frameworks, policies, acts, regulations, rules, and any other orders or directions of any government or statutory body. The paper also discusses potential recommendations to overcome the lack of integration and accommodate the presence and mission readiness of an airbase. Overall, the paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between Airbase Waterkloof and its surrounding urban environment. However, there are some potential areas for improvement and enhancement. For example:

- The paper could benefit from a more detailed discussion of the specific noise emission and aviation safety concerns associated with Airbase Waterkloof and how they impact the surrounding urban environment.
- The paper could also provide more information on the qualitative approach used to investigate the harmony between the City of Tshwane and the SAAF, including the specific questions asked during the unstructured interview process.
- The potential recommendations provided in the paper could be further developed and expanded upon to provide more actionable solutions for improving the integration between Airbase Waterkloof and its surrounding urban environment.

Overall, the paper provides a solid foundation for further research and exploration into the relationship between airbases and their surrounding environments.

Here are some comments the author could consider to enhance the research:

1. Conduct a quantitative analysis of the noise footprint generated by Airbase Waterkloof and its impact on the surrounding urban environment. This could involve measuring noise levels at various distances from the airbase and comparing them to established noise standards.
2. Conduct a survey of residents living near Airbase Waterkloof to gather their perceptions of the noise and safety issues associated with the airbase. This could provide valuable insights into the lived experiences of those most affected by the airbase's presence.
3. Explore the potential economic impacts of Airbase Waterkloof on the surrounding urban environment. This could

involve analyzing the economic benefits of the airbase (e.g., job creation, tourism) as well as the costs associated with noise pollution and safety concerns.

4. Conduct a comparative analysis of other airbases in South Africa or other countries to identify best practices for integrating airbases with their surrounding urban environments. This could provide valuable insights into how other jurisdictions have addressed similar challenges.

5. Consider the potential impacts of climate change on Airbase Waterkloof and its surrounding urban environment. This could involve analyzing the potential for increased extreme weather events (e.g., flooding, heatwaves) and how they could impact the airbase's operations and the surrounding community.