



News Release

United States Air Force

**Air Combat Command, Office of Public Affairs
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AIR FORCE WELCOMES PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE Va. (ACCNS) -- Air Combat Command is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the potential environmental consequences of a proposed expansion and enhancement of the Air Force's existing Powder River Complex.

The proposed plan to restructure and reconfigure the existing PRC Military Operations Area will provide a versatile, scalable complex with more realistic, effective, and efficient air combat training needed by B-1 and B-52 aircrews flying from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and Minot AFB N.D., respectively. Proposed changes include creating new airspace with a floor of 500 feet above ground level (AGL), eliminating some existing airspace, authorizing use of training chaff and flares, and permitting supersonic flight above 10,000 feet AGL throughout the special use airspace.

The following locations have the potential of being affected by the proposal's overhead training airspace: Montana--Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations and the counties of Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone; North Dakota--Standing Rock Reservation and Adams, Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Morton, Sious, Slope and Start counties; South Dakota--Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Reservations, and Butte, Corson, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, and Ziebeck counties; and Wyoming--Campbell, Crook, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

Open communication is a critical element of the EIS process, and the Air Force will host a series of public scoping meetings to receive public input on the proposal and alternatives, as well as to gain a better understanding of the potential issues and concerns related to this proposal.

During the meetings, Air Force representatives will describe the proposed action and alternatives, explain the National Environmental Policy Act, and, to the extent possible, answer questions about the proposal.

The schedule and locations of the open house scoping meetings are provided below. All meetings will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend anytime within these hours. Dedicated meetings for members of Native American tribes who have the potential of being affected by the proposed training airspace are being planned.

Comments will be accepted throughout the environmental analysis process and will be used to help shape and refine the proposal and assist the Air Force in making informed decisions.

All public input should be received by Aug. 4 to ensure inclusion in the Draft EIS. People wishing to mail comments or provide further input should send them to: Ms. Linda DeVine, HQ ACC/A7PP, 129 Andrews St, Room 317, Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

- June 16: Rapid City, S.D., Rapid City Public Library at 610 Quincy Street
- June 17: Belle Fourche, S.D., Community Center at 1111 National Street
- June 18: Sundance, Wyo., Crook County Public Library at 414 E. Main Street
- June 19: Gillette, Wyo., Campbell County Fire Dept at 106 Rohn Ave.
- June 20: Sheridan, Wyo., Sheridan Senior Center, North Entrance at 211 Smith St.
- June 23: Harding, Wyo., Chamber of Commerce at 10 E. Railroad St.
- June 24: Colstrip, Mont., Isabel Bills Community Learning Center at 520 Poplar Dr.
- June 25: Miles City, Mont., Miles Community College at 2715 Dickinson
- June 26: Ekalaka, Mont., St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall at Church Street
- June 27: Broadus, Mont., Powder River County District High School at 500 North Trautman
- July 8: Baker, Mont., Baker High School at 1015 S. Third Street, West
- July 9: Bowman, N.D. City Hall Meeting Room at 101 First St., SW
- July 10: Elgin, N.D. Elgin Community Center at 305 N. Main St
- July 14: Buffalo, S.D., Harding County Memorial Recreation Center, at West Allison Street
- July 15: Bison, S.D., Bison School Cafeteria at 200 E. Carr St.

Media Notes: Interview opportunities with Air Force subject matter experts will be available to media 45-minutes prior to each scoping meeting. Interested media should bring valid photo identification and credentials. **Air Force officials will be unable to provide interviews to media who do not arrive for the designated interview period or do not bring credentials.** As this process continues, additional media releases may be distributed and information may be posted at www.accplanning.org or at www.ellsworth.af.mil. For questions about Ellsworth B-1 flying operations, contact the 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office at 605-385-5056. For questions about Minot B-52 flying operations, contact the 5th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office at 701.723.6397. Other questions may be directed to Air Combat Command (ACC) Public Affairs at (757) 764-5007.