SAMPLE IICEP LETTER 5



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

Chippewa-Cree Business Committee Rocky Boy Route, Box 544 Box Elder, MT 59521

Dear Sir/Madam,

The United States Air Force (Air Force) is in the process of preparing an EIS to assess the potential environmental consequences of a proposal to expand and enhance the existing Powder River Complex (PRC) near Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) SD. The proposal would create the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). The PRTC would more effectively use limited resources and finite flying hours by providing locally the realistic training needed by B-1 and B-52 aircrews flying from Ellsworth AFB SD and Minot AFB ND, respectively. This airspace proposal addresses the training and other limitations affecting the existing PRC training assets as they are currently configured.

The proposed action would restructure and reconfigure the existing Powder River Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs). The PRTC proposal would establish two air refueling routes, create additional low altitude MOA (500 feet Above Ground Level [AGL] up to, but not including, 18,000 feet above Mean Sea Level [MSL]) and high-altitude ATCAA (18,000-60,000 MSL) combinations in portions of South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The proposal would support additional ground-based assets to simulate threats and an increase in aircraft training flights, permit the use of training chaff and flares, and authorize supersonic flight above 10,000 AGL. Three action alternatives and a no-action alternative have currently been identified for analyses and are discussed in the attached meeting brochure (Atch 1).

As part of this Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the Air Force would like to consider your concerns and initiate Government-to-Government consultation regarding the proposed action. We are in the early stages of gathering information concerning previous archaeological and historic studies for the areas under the affected region. We would appreciate any assistance you could provide in identifying and retrieving this important information, as well as concerns you may have about the potential effects of the proposal on significant cultural resources. All or portions of the following locations have the potential of being affected by the proposal's overhead training airspace due to one or more of the alternatives: *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, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties; *South Dakota*—Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Reservations, and Butte, Corson, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Ziebach counties; and *Wyoming*: Campbell, Crook, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

The Air Force is committed to community outreach. Recognizing that open communication of issues is a critical element of the EIS process, the Air Force will host public Global Power For America

meetings in communities underlying and/or adjacent to the proposed airspace as identified in the meeting flyer at attachment 2. The Air Force intends to coordinate public involvement for the purpose of Section 106 review under the NHPA with public involvement in the EIS prepared under the Environmental Impact Analysis Process. Meetings with public, agency, and Native American stakeholders during this scoping process will help identify the full range of reasonable alternatives, potential impacts, and key issues to be considered in the environmental impact analysis process.

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider your input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, please provide information and/or comments to Ms. Linda DeVine, HQ ACC/A7PP at the above address not later than August 4, 2008. If you have any specific questions about this proposal, please feel free to contact Ms. Linda DeVine at (757) 764-9434, or by electronic-mail at acc.prtc@langley.af.mil. You may also obtain information including the two attachments to this letter, from our website at www.accplanning.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Acting Chief, Programs Division

Attachment:

- 1. Scoping Meeting Brochure
- 2. Flyer

The National Environmental Policy Act guides the PRTC EIS.

potential environmental consequences of proposed actions and reasonable alternatives, including a No-Action Alternative in an EIS. The EIS complies NEPA requires federal decision makers to consider with environmental regulations and documents potential impacts to the natural and human environment

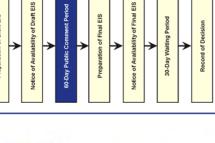
Resources initially identified for analysis in the EIS include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Airspace Operations Airspace, Noise, Air Quality, and Safety (ground and air)
- Biological Resources Cultural Resources

Natural Resources

Physical and

- and Historic Resources American, Traditional, Cultural, Native
- Land Use, Quality of Life, Socioeconomics, Human Resources and Environmental



Your input is essential to the environmental analysis process!

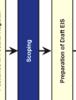
Ms. Linda DeVine

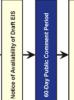
HQ ACC/A7PP

n this Parti ES are requested partiant to the NEPA, 42.12C-431, et seq. All written communis received during the common is an additionable to the globic and considered during the greatment with contract and excess information with your common is a set as a decises information will good example the common of t Public comments on this Draft EIS are requested pursuant to the NEPA period will be made available to the public and considered during EIS voluntary. Your private address information will not be released in the

The EIS Process Opportunities for Public Inv Timeline



















Providing Comments

To provide comments, please fill out a comment sheet. Please give your comments to an Air Force representative or place it in the comment box. Comment forms, or your own letter, may also be mailed to:

129 Andrews Street, Room 317 Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

To ensure your comments are considered in the Draft EIS, please submit your comments before August 4, 2008.



Douder River



for the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Meetings

Welcome

The United States Air Force is conducting scoping PRTC. The PRTC would allow for more effective use of limited resources and finite flying hours by providing, locally, the realistic training needed by B-1 and B-52 aircrews flying from Ellsworth and expand the Powder River Complex to create the Minot AFBs. The options being analyzed could: environmental consequences of a proposal to meetings for the PRTC EIS. The Air Force is preparing an EIS to determine the potential

- associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) and add new MOA/ATCAA airspace PRC Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and with a floor of 500 feet above ground level Restructure and reconfigure the existing
- 2 Increase sortie-operations (aircraft training) in the new and modified training airspace.
- Support additional ground-based simulated threat emitters under the MOAs. 0
- throughout the new and modified airspace. Authorize use of training chaff and flares
- S Permit supersonic flight above 10,000 feet AGL



PRTC and provide input into this environmental provide the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed Scoping meetings

impact analysis process The scoping process helps us identify and address community-specific issues and concerns regarding the proposed airspace use.

Meeting Agenda

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Open House.

- View video presentation Visit information booths
- Discuss proposal with Air Force personnel Submit written comments

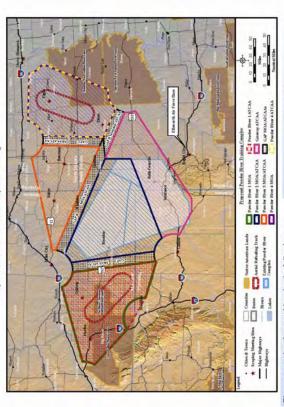
The Air Force is committed to community outreach and will consider your input to determine the

scope of the issues to be addressed and to help environmental issues to be analyzed in depth. Your involvement and input are vital to help us focus the environmental analysis. identify the significant

Why is the PRTC Needed?

- Aircrews need adequately sized, configured, and available airspace to train as they fight during worldwide deployment.
- Increasing training in local airspace optimizes the limited amount of training hours allocated.
- ranges like Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) reduces fuel consumption. Reducing commute time to remote training
- deploy defensive countermeasures as they Use of chaff and flares allows aircrews to would in combat.
- Supersonic training assists aircrews to train for show of force and for quick reaction to enemy
- threats in combat.
 - More effectively use limited resources and finite flying hours.

Proposed Alternative A Airspace Changes



The proposed action would make the following modifications to the existing PRC.

(500 feet AGL - 17,999 feet MSL) MOA airspace and new high altitude (18,000 - 60,000 feet MSL) ATCAA airspace and restructure and reconfigure the existing Create PRTC Airspace: create new low altitude PRC MOAs and ATCAAs.

Increase Flight Operations: increase number, frequency and variety of sortie-operations. Employ Large Force Exercises (LFE): use entire proposed PRTC for LFEs of 4 to more than 20 aircraft during scheduled exercises (typically once a quarter)

Support Training Transmitters: support additional ground based simulated emitters under the MOAs. Permit Supersonic Flight: authorize above 10,000 feet AGL within the proposed PRTC. Authorize Defensive Countermeasures: allow training chaff and flare deployment throughout the proposed PRTC.

Alternative A

Under Alternative A training aircraft in high-altitude ATCAAs would overfly approximately 37,800 square miles and training aircraft in low-altitude MOAs, under the ATCAAs, would overfly Expand existing Powder River A/B MOAs and rename expanded airspace - Powder River 2 MOA (500 feet AGL to 17,999 feet MSL). approximately 31,700 square miles.

- Establish Powder River 1, 3, and 4 MOAs (500 feet AGL to 17,999 feet MSL).
- Combine and modify existing Crossbow and Powder River 1 ATCAAs to overlie Powder River 2 MOA and rename the ATCAAs Powder River 2 ATCAA.
- Modify the Gateway ATCAA to lie adjacent to Powder River 2 ATCAA
- Create the Powder River 1, 3, and 4 ATCAAs to connect/correspond with underlying MOAs.
- Establish Gap MOAs and ATCAAs between the Powder River 1, 2, 3, and 4 MOA/ATCAAs.

Alternative C

Same as Alternative A except no low-altitude MOAs under proposed Dave Five 4 or proposed Gab CATCAA. Training aircraft in high-altitude ATCAAs would overfly approximately 37,800 square miles and training aircraft in low-approximately 37,800 square miles and training aircraft in low-approximately 24,500 square miles.

No-Action Alternative

Training aircraft would continue to train in the existing PRC and to overlify parts or all of the following counties: Montana: Carter, Custer, Powcer River; South Dakota: Butte, Custer, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington; Wyoming: Campbell, Crook, Weston.

Training aircraft in high-althude ATCAAs would continue to overfly approximately 14.100 square miles and training aircraft in low-althude MCAs, under the ATCAAs, would continue to overfly approximately 5.500 square miles.

Alternative C: Same ATCAAs as Alternative A: Low-altitude MOAs throughout the training airspace except no low-altitude MOAs under Powder River 4 ATCAA, Gap C ATCAA, Gateway ATCAA, or Gap B Extension ATCAA. Pender Kiter 3 MOA. Galgway ATCAA

Northern View from South 3D representation only - not to scale

Alternative A: Low-altitude MOAs throughout the training airspace; ATCAAs above all MOAs; No MOAs under Gateway ATCAA or Gap B Extension ATCAA.

Pawder River 2 MOA

Proposed Action: Create Powder River Training Complex (PRTC)

Alternative B: Same ATCAAs as Alternative A: Low-altitude MOAs throughout the training airspace except no low-altitude MOAs under Powder River I ATCAA, Gap A ATCAA, Gateway ATCAA, or Gap B Extension ATCAA.

All or portions of the Blouning Reservations/counties have the potential of being affected by the training alingace under one or more of the alternatives. Mourtand. Chow and Northern Cheyener Reservations and Adams, Blings, Bowman, Golden Waley, Gardt, Herdings Monton, Stour, Stope, and Stark Yestowstone, Monto Dawkors, Stouring Rock Reservations and Adams, Blings, Bowman, Golden Waley, Gardt, Herdings Monton, Stour, Stope, and Stark Herdings Monton, Stour, Stope, and Stark Leading Monton, Stour, Stope, and Stark Stouring Campole, Chock Schadular, and Ottack Conson, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perfors, and Zabeks rounties, and Wyoming Campolel, Crock Schadular, and Version countries.

Alternative A Continued

- Configuration of the MOAs matches their corresponding and overlying ATCAAs, except Powder River 1 MOA
- Locate two aerial refueling tracks (one each in Powder River 1 and 4 ATCAA).

Alternative B

Same as Alternative A except no low-altitude MOAs under proposed Powder River I or proposed GapA ATCAA. Training aircraft in high-altitude ATCAAs would overfly approximately 37.800 square miles and training aircraft in in low-altitude MOAs, under the ATCAAs, would overfly approximately 22.800 square miles.



Please Attend!

Scoping Meetings for the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

> Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), South Dakota proposes to modify their training airspace.



Please attend a public scoping meeting to:

- Learn more about the proposal
- ☑ Provide community-specific input
- Be included on our mailing list



Community Scoping Meetings

Public invited to attend at any time. Information will be available throughout.

South Dakota

McLaughlin Friday, July 11, 2008 3 - 5 p.m. Bear Soldier District Gym

Buffalo Monday, July 14, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Harding County Memorial Recreation Center West Allison Street

Bison Tuesday, July 15, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Bison School Cafeteria 200 East Carr Street

Dupree Wednesday, July 16, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Multi-Purpose Building Rodeo Drive, Highway 212 West Side

Wyoming

Gillette
Thursday, June 19, 2008
4 - 7 p.m.
Campbell County
Fire Department 106 Rohan Avenue

Sheridan
Friday, June 20, 2008
4 - 7 p.m.
Sheridan Senior Center
North Entrance
211 Smith Street

Crow Agency Monday, June 23, 2008 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Apsaalooke Center 8731 South Heritage Road

margin Monday, June 23 4 - 7 p.m. Hardin Chamber of Commerce 10 E. Railroad Street

Colstrip Tuesday, June 24, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Isabel Bills Community Learning Center, 520 Poplar Drive

Montana

Miles City
Wednesday, June 25, 2008
4 - 7 p.m.
Miles Community College
2715 Dickinson

Broadus Friday, June 27, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Powder River County District High School 500 North Trautman

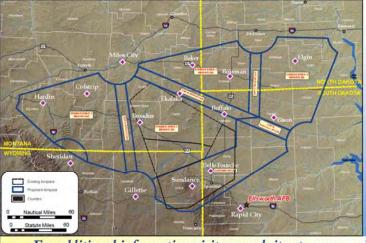
North Dakota

Bowman Wednesday, July 9, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. City Hall Meeting Room 101 1st Street Southwest

Elgin Thursday, July 10, 2008 4 - 7 p.m. Elgin Community Center 305 North Main Street

Fort Yates Friday, July 11, 2008 6 - 8 p.m. AJ Agard Community Center

Ellsworth AFB Proposed Airspace Expansion Area



For more information about the meeting contact:

28th Bomb Wing Ellsworth AFB, Public Affairs (605) 385-5056

Send comments to:

Ms. Linda DeVine EIS Project Manager HQ ACC/A7PP 129 Andrews Street, Room 317 Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

For additional information visit our website at www.accplanning.org

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Chippewa-Cree Business Committee Rocky Boy Route, Box 544 Box Elder, MT 59521

Turtle Mountain Tribal Council PO Box 900 Highway 5 West Belcourt, ND 58316

Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council 404 Frontage Road New Town, ND 58763

Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council 15 North Fork Road PO Box 538 Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Rosebud Sioux Tribe PO Box 430 Rosebud, SD 57570

Arapaho Business Council PO Box 396 Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Oglala Sioux Tribal Council PO Box 2070 Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe PO Box 278 51383 Highway 93 North Pablo, MT 59855

Fort Belknap Community Council RR1, Box 66 Harlem, MT 59526

Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board PO Box 1027 501 Medicine Bear Road Poplar, MT 59255

Spirit Lake Sioux Tribal Council PO Box 359 Fort Totten, ND 58335