

Mission Sustainability - Related Articles



22 October 2010



Navy AICUZ/RAICUZ
Center of Excellence



Dear Reader:

The enclosed articles are mission sustainment-related issues from the United States and abroad. They represent the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of the military/community interface on issues of mission sustainability.

While we will attempt to cover the whole spectrum of issues, we will no doubt miss some items of interest. If you see any articles that you think may be of interest to others concerning encroachment, please forward them to us. We will be sending out an updated compilation weekly.

Please let us know if you would like to be dropped from the distribution list.

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COLORADO

Trinidad Times Independent

County listens to concern about military flights

By Steve Block

Staff Writer

October 22, 2010

...Speaking in the public forum part of Tuesday's meeting, Stan White asked the commission to consider adopting a resolution opposing low-altitude training flights over the county proposed by the Air Force. White said the flights amount to an invasion of the rights of property owners. He said the noise of the engines at low altitude would be disruptive for both people and livestock. Wind-generated energy from the area's many wind turbines was promoted by White as a better use of the area, both in terms of generating income through energy sales and promoting a safer, healthier environment...

The full text of the article is available on the Trinidad Times Independent website found here:
<http://trinidad-times.com/county-listens-to-concern-about-military-flights-p1042-1.htm>

NEW MEXICO

KOAT, Albuquerque

Anxiety Soars Over Low-Altitude Flights

Cannon Air Force Base Considers 200-Foot Test Flights

KOAT

POSTED: 11:38 am MDT October 15, 2010

UPDATED: 11:52 am MDT October 15, 2010

SANTA FE, N.M. -- High anxiety is cropping up in northern New Mexico as Cannon Air Force Base considers training flights that could dip as low as 200 feet.

Air Force officials met with about 100 concerned residents in the Santa Fe area on Thursday to explain why Cannon wants to conduct low-altitude flights over rural areas...

The full text of the article is available on the KOAT, Albuquerque website found here:

<http://www.koat.com/news/25403737/detail.html>

SOUTH DAKOTA

Bismarck Tribune

Neighbors worry about noise from proposed Air Force bomber training grounds

By NICK PENZENSTADLER

Lee Newspapers

Posted: Thursday, October 21, 2010 12:45 am

...To give pilots more realistic training, the Air Force has proposed increasing their range from 7,000 to 28,000 square miles in South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The training includes allowing supersonic flights and flybys as low as 500 feet. The public has until Nov. 13 to comment on the proposal that will be decided upon next fall...

...Amid all the contention over noise in the new range is a little-known procedure already used by the Air Force to be good neighbors: designating "noise avoidance areas."

Currently, pilots fly around 17 noise sensitive areas, many of them private residences or ranches...

The full text of the article is available on the Bismarck Tribune website found here:

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_65a042d4-dcd4-11df-9575-001cc4c002e0.html

GUAM

Pacific Daily News

Buildup Update: Navy Opens Doors for Discussion on Military Buildup

October 20, 2010

The Navy is scheduled to host an open house meeting regarding the proposed Guam/CNMI military realignment Programmatic Agreement from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 4 at Okkodo High School in Dededo, according to a press release from the Joint Guam Program Office.

Attendees will have the opportunity to review the proposed Programmatic Agreement, learn about the Section 106 consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act, discuss the Navy's efforts to protect and preserve historic properties affected by the military build-up, and submit comments.

"Public involvement is an important part of the consultation process," said Don Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment. "We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the proposed agreement and how it will enable us to protect Guam's historic properties."

The open house is being organized in coordination with the Guam State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. JGPO is the office leading the transfer of about 8,600 Marines and their 9,000 dependents from Okinawa to Guam.

The proposed Programmatic Agreement, a product of over three years of discussions between the Navy and various consulting parties, will be available for download and review prior to the meeting on the Guam SHPO's website at historicguam.org

Guam News Watch

Marine Corps Director: Litigation Last Resort For Guam Firing Ranges

Written by Jeff Marchesseault

Guam News Watch Anchor

Thursday, October 21, 2010

... "I'm a lifelong lawyer and the last thing I ever want to see is litigation. The most important thing for the Marine Corps is we do have to have individual firing ranges somewhere here on Guam in order to train the Marines. We simply can't do it anywhere else -- it would ruin our operations here."...

The full text of the article is available on the Guam News Watch website found here:

<http://guamnewswatch.com/201010213360/Local-News/Marine-Corps-Director-Litigation-Last-Resort-For-Guam-Firing-Ranges.html>

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News

Offshore wind a 'mixed bag': University of Maryland study

Contact: Neil Tickner

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Offshore wind power offers a feasible way for Maryland to help meet its renewable energy goals, but presents some economic and political hurdles, concludes a new study by the University of Maryland Center for Integrative Environmental Research (CIER)...

...Among the study's key findings, offshore wind development will have to address two serious hurdles to move forward:

Likely interference with the NASA Wallops radar installation, as well as military operations...

The full text of the article is available on the GEBN website found here:

<http://www.genengnews.com/industry-updates/offshore-wind-a-mixed-bag-university-of-maryland-study/97737204/>

BOMBING RANGE

Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System

News: Range offers vast array of considerations

By Samuel Nelson

Courtesy Story

... "We work in partnership with A3A and 4th Civil Engineer Squadron to provide range-sustainable environmental conservation support at the Dare County Bombing Range," said Robert Barrett, Asset Management Division chief. "We support...cooperative red-cockaded woodpecker management with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission...to avoid encroachment and maintain land operational flexibility and capacity. We work daily to ensure mission capability and strive to be good stewards of the environment." ...

The full text of the article is available on the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System website found here: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/58430/range-offers-vast-array-considerations>

JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

WEAR ABC 3 (Pensacola, FLA)

Air Force New Joint Strike Fighters Disturbing Residents

WEAR ABC 3 (Pensacola, FLA)

Wednesday, October 13 2010

VALPARAISO - The Air Force has released how the new "Joint Strike Fighter" that's coming to Eglin Air Force base could impact the environment...

...Birds singing and the sound of aircraft off in the distance is what a lot of Valparaiso residents hear when they step outside throughout the day. But right now, there's a lot of concerns in neighborhoods like this... that the quiet could drastically change with the arrival of the new Joint Strike Fighter. And there are a lot of people here who say the military has had enough time to prevent that problem from happening...

The full text of the article is available on the WEAR ABC 3 website found here:

http://www.weartv.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wear_vid_11520.shtml

Island Packet

Beaufort Air Station still in line to get five fighter squadrons

By Patrick Donohue

Published Tuesday, October 19, 2010

...The Navy's final environmental impact statement deviated little from a draft released in May, recommending that MCAS Beaufort receive both Joint Strike Fighter pilot training squadrons and three active-duty squadrons. MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., would receive eight active-duty squadrons. If approved, MCAS Beaufort would receive 88 jets, each of which is worth up to \$90 million...

..."We're disappointed," said Joey Gazdak, spokesman for Best 4 Beaufort, a group of more than 180 nearby residents who oppose the Navy's preferred option. "We're not going to give up just because the Navy printed the same report again..."

The full text of the article is available on the Island Packet website found here:

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/10/19/1413424/beaufort-air-station-still-in.html#ixzz12vEz7VHI>

Durango Herald

Plan calls for low-altitude training flights over San Juan Mountains

By Dale Rodebaugh

Herald Staff Writer

Article Last Updated; Wednesday, October 20, 2010 12:00AM

Air Force proposal faces opposition

The majority of 50 people who attended a U.S. Air Force public meeting this week said they don't want pilots training at low altitude over the San Juan Mountains...

...During Monday's meeting at the Durango Public Library, they said low-altitude sorties - even the maximum three a day planned by the Air Force - would bring noise, air and water pollution, possible avalanches and airplane crashes, spooked livestock and wildlife, conflicts with other aircraft and disruption of the peace and quiet residents cherish...

The full text of the article is available on the Durango Herald website found here:

http://durangoherald.com/sections/News/2010/10/20/Air_Force_proposal_faces_opposition/

MCAS YUMA NEWS

Final F-35 basing impact report out for public review

By Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon

The final environmental impact statement regarding the future of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter was released Oct. 14, 2010, for one last public review before the anticipated December decision determines how many jets are coming to Yuma.

The monthlong public comment period ends Nov. 22, 2010, after which the Secretary of the Navy will decide on the JSF's basing...

The full text of the article is available on the MCAS Yuma News website found here:

<http://yuma.usmc.mil/desertwarrior/2010/10/21/feature2.html>

Port Stephen Examiner --

RAAF noise changes released

BY NICK HANSEN

20 Oct, 2010 01:00 AM

RESIDENTS at Brandy Hill, Riverview Ridge and Lakeside appear a step closer to escaping their aircraft noise fears with the Department of Defence to release new noise forecasts this week...

The full text of the article is available on the Port Stephen Examiner website found here:

<http://www.portstephenexaminer.com.au/news/local/news/general/raaf-noise-changes-released/1973880.aspx>

MARINE MAMMALS

Sign on San Diego

Scripps dives into study of marine sounds

By Lily Leung

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 6 a.m.

A team of scientists including some at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography have collected loads of data about the effects of sound on marine mammals, with special focus in whether naval sonar can harm them...

Researchers will take months to analyze nearly 400 hours of data from tags, and thousands of photographs of the marine mammals...

The full text of the article is available on the Sign on San Diego website found here:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/oct/19/delving-deeper-how-marine-mammals-hear/>

ABC News, Australia

Dolphins, dugongs escorted from war games zone

Posted Tue Oct 19, 2010 6:12am AEDT

A Senate estimates hearing has been told that military personnel try to move wildlife such as dolphins and dugongs away in the lead up to military exercises in a sensitive marine area...

The full text of the article is available on the ABC News, Australia website found here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/19/3041801.htm?section=justin>

The Dutch Harbor Fisherman

NOAA seeks comment on proposed military exercises

By MARGARET BAUMAN

Published on October 19th, 2010 3:42 pm

NOAA's Fisheries Service is seeking comment through Nov. 18 on its proposed rule to authorize impacts to marine mammals during Navy training exercises in the Gulf of Alaska.

NOAA officials said that the proposal includes protective measures designed to minimize effects on marine mammals.

Navy officials want authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, because the mid-frequency sound generated by tactical sonar, and the sound and pressure generated by detonating explosives, may affect the behavior of some marine mammals, or cause a temporary loss of their hearing sensitivity, NOAA officials said, in announcing the comment period on Oct. 19.

Spokesmen for NOAA's Fisheries Service said they do not expect the exercises to result in serious injury or death to marine mammals, and have proposed that the Navy use mitigation measures to avoid injury or death. However, exposure to sonar in certain circumstances has been associated with the stranding of some marine mammals, and some injury or death may occur despite the best efforts of the Navy, according to NOAA. The proposed authorization allows for a small number of incidental injuries to marine mammals.

NOAA's Fisheries Service has made a preliminary determination that these effects would have a negligible effect on the species or stocks involved, and that under authorization, the Navy would have to follow mitigation measures to minimize effects on marine mammals, including establishment of marine mammal safety zones around each vessel using sonar.

The Navy would have to use observers to shut down sonar operations if marine mammals are seen within designated safety zones, and use exclusion zones to ensure that explosives are not detonated when animals are detected within a certain distance;

NOAA officials said they have worked with the Navy to develop a robust monitoring plan to use independent, experienced vessel-based marine mammal observers (as well as Navy watch standers), and passive acoustic monitoring to help better understand how marine mammals respond to various levels of sound and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

The Navy has been conducting training exercises, including the use of mid-frequency sonar, in the Gulf of Alaska for more than 30 years, NOAA officials said. However, unlike Navy training activities in other areas that occur year round, the exercises in the Gulf of Alaska will only take place between April and October. These activities will consist of one or two exercises, each lasting up to 21 days. Activities range from large-scale, multi-day joint exercises using multiple surface vessels, submarines and aircraft, to multi-hour exercises designed to target specific skills or weapons systems, such as submarine or missile tracking. Some exercises involve explosives.

Bob Shavelson, executive director of Cook Inletkeeper, said the matter is one of the most important states' right issues involving the health of wild fisheries, "yet the state chose to sit on the sidelines. Massive bombing exercises offshore will clearly impact our coastal fisheries," Shavelson said. "All the state had to do was request a seat at the table. Now we have no say in

what happens to our offshore fisheries."

Spokespersons for United Fishermen of Alaska and the United Fishermen's Marketing Association at Kodiak were not immediately available for comment, but Theresa Peterson, Kodiak outreach coordinator for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, said "we are not in support of this testing in the rich Gulf of Alaska waters. We believe the risk to the marine environment outweighs the benefits of the convenience space for Navy exercises."

Peterson said there was much concern over "the unknown impacts of the way the sound travels with our large underwater canyons in the Gulf of Alaska, primarily with the sensitivity of the fin, right, mink and orca whales, amongst others in the area and the lack of confidence that those on board will be able to spot whales in rough seas. The right whale is already listed as an endangered species."

The Natural Resources Defense Council said in an earlier statement that the Navy does not set forth adequate measures to mitigate harmful effects of sonar.

"It's proposed mitigation measures basically boil down to 'safety zones' (1,000 yard power-down and 200 yard shut down) around the sonar maintained primarily by on-board visual monitors.

"These are the same measures that federal courts have found to be woefully inadequate and ineffectual," the council said.

Comments to NOAA fisheries should be addressed before Nov. 18 to Michael Payne, Chief of the Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Electronic public comments may be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov> using the identifier 0648-BA14.

2KTUU, Alaska's News Source

Public comment sought on Navy's Gulf of Alaska sonar plans

by Channel 2 News staff

9:17 p.m. AKDT, October 20, 2010

ANCHORAGE, Alaska —

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is seeking public comment on proposed Navy sonar training in the Gulf of Alaska. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is seeking input on allowing impacts on marine mammals during the Navy's training exercises...

The full text of the article is available on the 2KTUU website found here:

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-noaa-navy-sonar-training-public-comment-102010,0,1643220.story>

New Zealand Herald

Marine noise 'worth inquiry'

By Isaac Davison

5:30 AM Friday Oct 22, 2010

The possible connection between undersea noise and mass whale strandings in New Zealand deserves more attention, say marine scientists...

..Overseas studies had already made significant developments in this area. United States-initiated research in the Canary Islands and the Bahamas directly linked US naval activity, especially sonar, to mass strandings of beaked whales...

The full text of the article is available on the New Zealand Herald website found here:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/environment/news/article.cfm?c_id=39&objectid=10682135

OUTLYING LANDING FIELD – NC & VA

Tidewater News

No details from Navy on airport use

By Nicholas Langhorne

Published 11:07am Saturday, October 16, 2010

FRANKLIN—Two weeks after the Navy announced its plans to use the Franklin airport for practice landings of two types of turboprop aircraft, details remain scarce, officials say.

“We really don’t have anything yet to know exactly how it’s going to shape up, so we’re not quite sure what the economic benefits are going to end up being,” Franklin Mayor Jim Council said Thursday.

The Navy wants to conduct touch-and-go landings for the E-2 Hawkeye, an early-warning-system aircraft, and the C-2 Greyhound, which is used for logistical purposes. The Navy hopes to achieve initial operating capability at the airport by January 2012.

Council said the Navy plans a “fly day” on Wednesday, Oct. 27, when planes will fly the anticipated training pattern so residents can get a feel for the noise and other effects. In case of rain, the demonstration will be held Thursday, Oct. 28.

When the federal government deeded the Isle of Wight County airport to the then town of Franklin in 1947, it retained the right to use the airport for operations without charge.

“They’ve been very appropriate about that,” Council said. “Even though they have the legal access, what they want to do is make sure they compensate the city for services rendered and for any interruptions in services or revenue that might occur because of their use of the airport.”

It’s not yet clear what services the Navy would require from the city, Council said.

City Attorney Taylor Williams said Thursday the city has “had talks” with the Navy, but formal negotiations on services and compensation have not started.

Across the Blackwater River in Isle of Wight, county officials also are waiting to hear specifics of the Navy’s plans.

“We are really at the front end of trying to get some information from the Navy so that we can work with them to make sure that the impact on our community is a positive impact,” said county spokesman Don Robertson. “If there are any negative impacts, we certainly want to minimize those to the degree that we can.”

“Whether or not there’s some financial opportunity, none of us really know that yet,” Robertson said.

Phillip Bradshaw, chairman of the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors, said a team of county officials is gathering information on the issue to share with citizens. He noted concerns about possible effects on emergency services in the southern end of the county.

“We are working on a regional basis together with the city of Franklin and Southampton County since it will have an impact on all three localities,” Bradshaw said.

Ted Brown, a media relations officer for the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, said turboprop aircraft are “much quieter” than jets.

He said the sound exposure in the landing pattern for the C-2 and E-2 aircraft is approximately 89 decibels, compared with 100 decibels for an ambulance siren from 100 feet or 96 decibels for a power lawn mower from 3 feet.

Brown said the Navy plans to complete about 40,000 “operations” over a 12-month period. Takeoffs, landings, approaches and departures are counted as separate operations, he said. The Navy wants to complete fewer than 20,000 touch-and-gos at the airport annually.

Training would occur about 200 days per year, depending on the deployment schedule of ships at Naval Station Norfolk.

“There will be times of busy operations that will typically be followed by a time of a few or no operations,” he said. “Whenever possible, we will strive to complete our operations each day by 10 p.m.”

The practice flights will simulate landing on the deck of an aircraft carrier, which Brown said is “the most difficult thing to do in aviation.”

Rick Ivey, who lives on North High Street in Franklin, said he isn’t necessarily opposed to the Navy’s using the airport but has questions about noise and safety issues.

“While these aircraft individually may make no more noise than a King Air, according to the mayor, there will be several of these at any time circling overhead, accelerating and decelerating, five to seven nights a week, as late as necessary, 52 weeks a year,” he wrote in an e-mail. “I hope the city manager and the mayor and others involved have not given short shrift to those considerations for the sake of short-term gain.”

Ivey and other concerned citizens aren’t alone, according to Council.

“We had the very same concerns and would not have pursued any kind of relationship had we not gotten some satisfaction that it appeared that it would be beneficial without doing any harm to the citizens,” he said.

Lucille Jenkins lives in Beaver Brook Manor, a community in Isle of Wight just across Route 258 from the airport. She isn’t pleased with the prospect of the Navy using the facility for training.

“I’m not for it at all,” she said, adding that the current airport traffic is “bad enough.”

“These helicopters, sometimes when they go down over that road, you think they’re going to crash,” she said.

Robertson said most of the residents he’s heard from aren’t necessarily against the plan but want more information.

“We intend to make sure that we protect the interests of the impacted citizens in that community,” he said. “I don’t think the Navy is going to come in and be a bad partner in this; I think they want to do the right thing as well. It’s just a matter of determining what, if any, impact there’s going to be and who’s going to try to address those impacts.”

Council said public meetings will be scheduled and information from the Navy will be passed on

to the public.

“We will be as transparent and as quick about that as we possibly can,” he said.

WAVY (NORFOLK)

Navy Plans E-2 Demo at Franklin Airport

21 OCT 10

NORFOLK, Va. - The Navy is inviting the public to watch - and hear - two demonstration flights with E-2C Hawkeye at Franklin Municipal Airport on Wednesday. The aircraft will be conducting Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) at the airfield.

The Navy announced on Oct. 1 that it plans to negotiate with the City of Franklin to conduct FCLP operations at Franklin Municipal Airport for E-2/C-2 squadrons based at Naval Station Norfolk Chambers Field.

The Navy had sought the use of an airfield for E-2/C-2 aircraft in order to provide a near term, interim solution to Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress FCLP capacity shortfalls. NALF Fentress is located in Chesapeake.

A turboprop aircraft, the E-2/C-2 is significantly quieter than jet aircraft. The decision to begin negotiations with Franklin came after the Navy confirmed it held an existing real estate interest in Franklin Municipal Airport.

During Wednesday's demonstration, two aircraft will launch from Naval Station Norfolk, Chambers Field, at about noon, and enter the pattern over Franklin Municipal Airport at about 12:30 p.m. Each aircraft will then simulate four "touch and go" landings, descending to about 10 feet without actually touching down, as the airfield is not presently configured for FCLP landings. The two aircraft will then repeat the four simulated FCLPs approaching from the opposite direction. For those unable to attend the 12:30 demonstration, the Navy will repeat the same demonstration at 6:00 p.m. Details of the flight plans and altitudes of the plane at various points in their approaches are available in the adjacent images.

The Navy is encouraging Franklin residents to observe the flights at locations where they may have concerns about these operations, whether that is from home, place of worship, or a local school. For the 12:30 p.m. demonstration, the Navy will have representatives to answer questions from residents at three locations - the airport, at Southampton Memorial Hospital and at the Isle of Wight/Franklin Skating Rink located at 32510 Walter's Highway.

The Navy hopes to begin E-2/C-2 FCLP flights in Franklin by January 2012.

In the event of inclement weather on Wednesday, the flight demonstrations will be re-scheduled for Thursday.