



Mission Sustainability- Related Articles

24 September 2010

Fred Pierson
&
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Navy East Coast AICUZ/RAICUZ
Center of Excellence



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ARIZONA



City's growth continues while protecting Luke

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Kathryn Stafford Special to The Glendale Star

Glendale's growth and development opportunities increased while the city further diminished the threat of encroachment on Luke Air Force with the City Council's annexation of 193 acres in the far west planning area Sept. 14.

Four parcels were included in the annexation which had previously been part of Maricopa County. The bulk of which, 163 acres, is the Falcon Dunes Golf Course, clubhouse and restaurant at Northern Avenue and Reems Road. The private 18-hole golf course and complex is owned and operated by the base.

The additional properties include 19 acres of the Dysart Drain, which carries water from Luke to the Agua Fria River; 10 acres of the Bethany Home Alignment, which the city acquired for waterlines; and one acre on the northeast corner of Glendale Avenue and Litchfield Road, proposed for redevelopment.

Glendale Planning Director Jon Froke said it took three years for the city to get federal approval to annex the golf course. On Feb. 26, 2010, the Secretary of the Air Force gave final approval to the city's request to annex both Falcon Dunes and the Dysart Drain.

The council's objective was to strengthen the city's ties with Luke, bring city-owned facilities and property into the corporate limits of the city and require any future development to meet Glendale General Plan requirements and development standards.

The City of Glendale originally annexed Luke in 1995 to protect the base from incompatible land use encroachment. The city's General Plan designations for the annexed properties include Luke Compatible Land Use and a Business Park.

If poor lighting was a reason keeping patrons out of the Glendale Main Library, soon they will need another bright idea.

Council awarded a bid for Glendale Main Library lighting improvements. City Manager Ed Beasley was authorized to enter into a Construction Agreement with AJP Electric Inc. for replacement lighting at the library. Council expressed its concern for not only improving lighting at the library, but doing so by conserving energy. Council said one of its goals is to manage operations in a fiscally sound manner.

The program will result in an upgrade of light fixtures, providing better illumination for library visitors and reducing energy consumption through more energy efficient fixtures.

The bid is one of several energy efficiency projects produced by the Energy Efficiency Community Development Block Grant (EECBG) program through the United States Department of Energy.

The \$2.3 million project consists of replacing exterior lighting. Fluorescent lamps and other materials would conserve more energy. The improvements are expected to decrease electricity operating costs by \$14,000 annually.

In an attempt to continue support with combating drugs in our state, council adopted a resolution authorizing the police chief to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for the assignment of two Glendale detectives to the Phoenix DEA Task Force.

Those in favor contend the request supports council's goal of community committed to public safety. Participation in the Task Force benefits the Police Department by enhancing the sharing of information, which leads to operations that suppress drug importation and sale.

Council also approved an ordinance to abandon a waterline easement to make way for a new school building. The portion of waterline easement is west of 67th Avenue and south of Patrick Lane on the Mountain Ridge High School campus.

City Engineer Larry Broyles said the school district is expanding the campus to accommodate a new building, and wished to relocate a portion of the waterline.



Marine Corps begins environmental review

September 24, 2010 3:23 PM

BY JAMES GILBERT - SUN STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Marine Corps has taken the first step to continue using the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Bombing and Gunnery Range, which is located in southeastern California approximately 60 miles northwest of Yuma.

“Department of Defense combat pilots have trained at the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range and in its airspace since World War II,” said Col. Mark A. Werth, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, which manages the range. “In order to continue to train as we fight and provide our aviators with the most realistic terrain possible, we need the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range and the special-use airspace that supports range training activities.”

The Department of the Navy published a Notice of Intent (NOI) on Friday in the Federal Register to prepare a legislative environmental impact statement (LEIS) to renew the withdrawal of lands that form the Chocolate Mountain Range from public use and continue its use as a military reservation for another 25 years.

The renewal request process requires the preparation of an LEIS. The current military withdrawal for the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Bombing and Gunnery Range expires in October 2014.

The Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range consists of approximately 459,000 acres located within desert mountain terrain in Riverside and Imperial counties in Southern California.

The military training range supports military aircrew training in air combat maneuvering and tactics; airborne laser system operations; air-to-air gunnery; and air-to-ground bombing, rocketry and strafing. Artillery, demolitions, small arms and Navy Special Warfare training are also conducted within the range.

The Marine Corps has developed four options for potential evaluation of the LEIS, which will also evaluate the effects of no-action-taken option.

Options being considered include a full renewal of the use as a military training range and out of public use, minor modifications of the range's border to enhance training efficiency and public safety, and potential new land and resource management alternatives that could enhance management and efficiency throughout the range.

Input provided during a 90-day public comment period will help shape the final set of

alternatives for study in the LEIS.

“We have enjoyed excellent relationships with our neighbors and key stakeholders and it is important that we continue to maintain these partnerships throughout the next phase to ensure that we develop the best path to sustain the vital capabilities of this training facility,” Werth said.

The 90-day public comment period will include four public scoping meetings at which oral and written comments from stakeholders on the proposed renewal of the range will be recorded.

The public scoping meetings will be as follows:

Monday, Dec. 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Yuma County Library, Rooms B-C
2951 S. 21st Drive
Yuma

Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Holiday Inn Express – El Centro
Conference Room B
350 Smoketree Drive
El Centro, Calif.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Holiday Inn
1800 E. Palm Canyon
Palm Springs, Calif.

Thursday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
San Diego Planning Commission Hearing Room
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego

Arizona's prop. 110 proposal would protect military sites

by **Dianna M. Náñez** - Sept. 24, 2010

The Arizona Republic

Editor's note: This story is the second in a series explaining the 10 propositions that will appear on the Nov. 2 general-election ballot.

PROPOSITION 110 State trust land changes Proposition 110 would change how Arizona's state trust lands are sold, leased and exchanged for public or private property.

The proposition would amend the state Constitution, making it legal to sell or lease state trust land without a public auction or notice in order to prevent land use that state officials determine would interfere with military sites' operations.

Prop. 110 also would allow state officials to exchange trust land for private or public property when the exchange is done for land-management purposes or to protect military sites. Land exchanges would be allowed only after state officials provide public notice, hold a hearing and secure voter approval.

BACKGROUND: The Legislature referred this proposition to the ballot.

When Arizona was a territory, the federal government began to set aside land to benefit schools. By 1929, there were about 10.9 million acres of Arizona state trust land. As of fiscal year 2008, about 9.2 million acres remained in the trust.

State officials sell or lease the land through a public auction to provide funds for primarily K-12 schools and other trust entities.

Although Arizona has authorized land swaps for decades, including exchanges to create larger blocks of trust land, state leaders never amended the state Constitution to allow land exchanges.

In the 1990s, the Arizona Supreme Court determined that land exchanges were illegal without the constitutional amendment. Prop. 110 would rectify that.

If Prop. 110 passes, some state leaders say they could better protect operations at military sites such as Luke Air Force Base, which has been threatened by encroachment from nearby communities wanting to develop the land.

The Legislature has made several attempts in recent years to pass similar measures, but voters have rejected changing the Constitution.

SUPPORTERS: Arizona Education Association, Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, Gov. Jan Brewer, Arizona Farm Bureau and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

PRO ARGUMENTS: Supporters say the measure is needed to protect the state's military sites from development that could interfere with military operations. Protecting such sites, they say, is important to national security and maintaining the jobs and economic benefits associated with Arizona's multibillion-dollar military industry.

Conservation groups in favor of the measure say land exchanges could create larger preserves for wildlife habitat through a public process that requires voter approval.

OPPONENTS: No one filed official ballot arguments in opposition.

CON ARGUMENTS: Some conservationists, including the Sierra Club, have opposed past measures to authorize land exchanges, worrying that the measures lacked transparency and oversight.

Groups seeking extensive reform of state trust land management have argued that Prop. 110 does not go far enough to protect military sites, citing the public vote as a hurdle.

There have been questions about the extent to which Prop. 110 could protect Luke Air Force Base because there is not much state land near the base.

Sources: The Arizona State Land Department, Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, Secretary of State's Office, Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy

FLORIDA



SRC and Base Partner to Protect NASWF Mission

By Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field Community Liaison

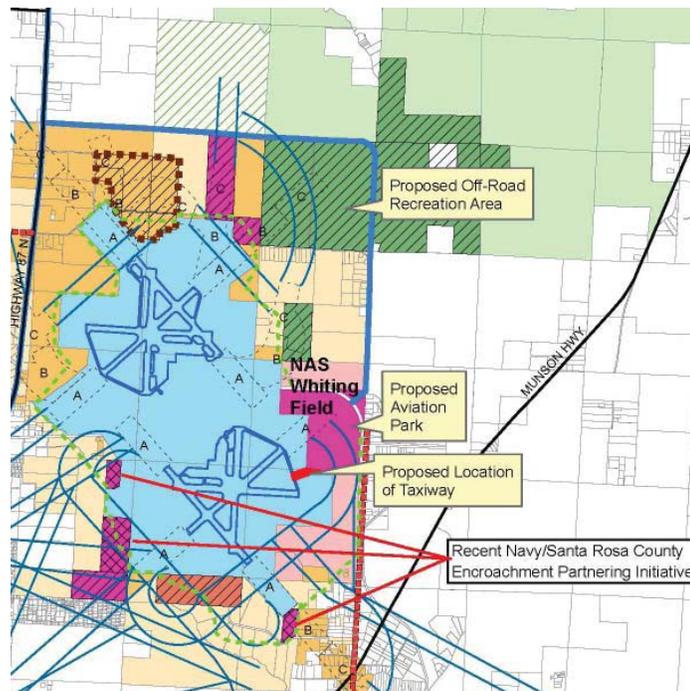
Naval Air Station Whiting Field partnered with Santa Rosa County in the recent closing on 128 acres of land adjacent to the southeast and southwest sections of the base. Under this agreement, Santa Rosa County granted "restrictive easements" to the Navy, fostering efforts in environmental preservation and incompatible development.

Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter envisions the southwest portion of the purchase to expand existing nature trails and provide access for recreational activities. The southeast parcel could eventually be used for compatible light industrial development. Both parcels will help to restrict residential encroachment near base property.

"The Santa Rosa County / NASWF partnership continues to be one of the most unique partnerships in the country, where local government and the Navy work hand-in-hand to protect the mission of the base and the largest economic engine in the county. The property the county purchased is an investment, not only to protect the future of Whiting, but to continue to provide land for public use," Salter said.

The Navy's contribution to the project of \$189,750 dollars was funded by the Navy through assets allocated specifically to protect the missions of Naval bases. These parcels are located within accident potential zones, high noise contours, flight tracks, and within an established military planning zone one-half mile around the base.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the Navy's "Crown Jewel" supporting primary and advanced helicopter training for aviators from the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and foreign countries. Flight operations typically exceed 160,000 flight hours and average more than 1.5 million flight operations annually.



"The encroachment partnering efforts of Santa Rosa County and U.S. Navy is touted as the model program throughout the Department of Defense. These types of purchases and the tremendous relationship between the county and Navy continue to protect the mission of the Navy's busiest air station, through the reduction of incompatible use from areas where the operational noise might be intrusive or by keeping incompatible development away from potential accident zones," Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field community liaison said.

September 23, 2010

Duke or Eglin Main?: Air Force narrows Eglin's list of F-35 runway choices

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement released this week

Mona Moore

EGLIN AFB — The Air Force has narrowed down the primary airfields for the Joint Strike Fighter to Eglin Main and Duke Field.

In a draft of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) released this week, the Air Force said the JSF will bed down, be maintained, launched and recovered at one of the two fields. Exactly which field will be decided after a string of public hearings and released in the final EIS.

The public got its first look at the Air Force's 18 options for Eglin's F-35 operations last August at a series of scoping meetings. Many of the options presented involve building additional runways at a cost that was not included in the original BRAC funding.

The Air Force added a 19th option after the scoping meetings. The suggestion was to use Duke Field and Choctaw Field plus build one new runway at Eglin.

The list of 19 was narrowed down to seven options that underwent a detailed analysis. Five options called for Duke Field to be the Main Operating Base. The Main Operating Base was defined as "the primary base in which the aircraft would be launched and recovered; where aircraft maintenance would occur; where the logistical support would be and where the ramp for nighttime beddown would be," according to the draft SEIS.

Most of the options included the use of Eglin's runway 12 and Choctaw Field as auxiliary fields. After scoping meetings, the Air Force learned that runway 19, the one closest to Valparaiso, would still have to be used because it is the primary runway for instrument flight rules (IFR) activities, the draft SEIS said.

The other two options used Eglin Main as the Main Operating Base and fly missions out of Duke and Choctaw fields. One would build an additional runway; the other suggested using the existing runways.

Once the draft SEIS is listed in the federal register, the 45-day public review will officially start and public hearings can be held. If the draft SEIS is listed in Friday's federal register as expected, public hearings may start as early as Oct. 12.

NORTH CAROLINA

Sun Journal

Evening aircraft noise expected near Cherry Point

August 31, 2010 3:57 PM

Sun Journal Staff

CHERRY POINT — Jet aircraft noise can be expected in the vicinity of Cherry Point air station later than in the day than usual Wednesday and Thursday, and Sept. 6-9.

Marine AV-8B Harriers are scheduled to conduct night operations training as late as midnight daily during these periods, a Cherry Point Public Affairs spokesman said.

The later-than-usual flight hours are scheduled to provide pilots important night flight training, including night take-off and landing qualifications.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Augusta Chronicle

SC Air Force base warns of nighttime jet noise

Associated Press

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. - Neighbors of a South Carolina Air Force base are being warned of nighttime noise as F-16 fighter pilots prepare for combat.

Officials at Shaw Air Force Base are warning residents in central South Carolina on Wednesday that the night flying activity will create some noise as the jets take off, land and perform specific training runs. The aircraft will be flying in restricted areas so that they don't conflict with commercial airlines.

The night time exercises give the pilots the opportunity to train with their night vision equipment.

Officials say the exercises continue through Friday.

The F-16 jets, dubbed Fighting Falcons, are used to protect troops on the ground or battle other aircraft in air-to-air encounters.

TEXAS



Dallas Plan Commission defers decision on gas well in Oak Cliff

12:17 PM CDT on Friday, September 17, 2010

By ROY APPLETON / The Dallas Morning News

Alarms have sounded. Now what about those wells?

That will be a question before the Dallas Plan Commission Oct. 21, when it again addresses a request to drill what would be the city's first natural gas well.

XTO Energy is seeking a specific-use permit to drill and produce gas from ultimately 12 wells at a four-acre site it leases from the city in far west Oak Cliff.

But after hearing presentations, asking questions and listening to concerned residents, the commission voted Thursday to postpone a decision.

Earlier, speakers had urged the panel to either reject the proposal or shelve it, pending further study and discussion of the health and environmental impacts of natural gas drilling.

"We deserve to have a voice about whether drilling will be allowed in our neighborhoods," said Jenny Land, after calling for a six-month moratorium on city drilling permits and creation of a task force to consider concerns about gas production.

Land, a North Dallas resident, recently organized a group she calls Dallas Citizens for a Temporary Moratorium on Gas Drilling.

Others talked about potential air and water pollution and the regulation and monitoring of wells.

"We all breathe the same air. We all drink the same water. This is not about politics. It's about stewardship," said Raymond Crawford, organizer of Dallas Area Residents for Responsible Drilling.

Anne Rowe, a Dallas attorney, urged caution. "We need to go slowly and be considerate until we open the floodgates," she said. "Once you start letting in drilling, how do you stop it?"

Army Col. Jeff Long and Lt. Col. Jim Hardy told commissioners they don't oppose drilling, just this project at Hensley Field, the former Dallas Naval Air Station.

Their Texas Army National Guard detachment trains pilots of the Singapore Air Force near the proposed drilling site. The protrusion of rigs is a flight safety concern, they said. Earlier, Long said bright lights at the site would impede training with night-vision goggles.

In a brief review of the project, Walter Dueease, XTO's senior regulatory affairs coordinator, reminded commissioners that the city would reap royalties and taxes from gas production on its land.

XTO, a subsidiary of Exxon Mobile, and Keystone Exploration's Trinity East Energy paid the city \$34.9 million in 2008 to lease 2,243 acres. And when the gas flows, the city will receive 25 percent of the proceeds.

Dueease he said the wells being proposed, which would be less than 900 feet from the nearest home, "won't impact the health, safety and welfare of the area and neighborhoods."

And without going into details, he later said some of the information presented by speakers was inaccurate. He told commissioners his company had discussed the proposed site with city staff "at least two times" since leasing it and surrounding land at Hensley Field in 2008.

He opposed the call for a local task force and said a "majority of studies" had concluded that "the air around our operating wells is safe." He said there is no evidence that hydraulic fracturing, the practice of blasting water, sand and chemicals into gas-containing shale, contaminates groundwater.

And when questioned about the chemicals used in the process, he told Commissioner Michael Davis that information could be made available. "Disclosure is not something we're uncomfortable with," he said.

Plan commissioner Mike Anglin acknowledged concerns that Congress had reduced federal oversight of the oil and gas industry. As for opponents' concerns, "I understand the fear," he said, adding later that residents should have raised concerns when the city's drilling ordinance was being discussed.

Approved in 2008, the ordinance regulates drilling hours, noise, traffic and other matters, as well as requiring specific-use and drilling permits from the city. The city has granted five use permits with five more awaiting hearing dates.

Anglin offered a motion to approve the specific-use permit, including several environmental oversight provisions.

But several commissioners said they wanted the residents' concerns addressed. Some said they wanted to study Anglin's proposal. And the matter was postponed.

Before the vote, Commissioner Liz Wally said the city faces a dilemma: The nation needs energy, but the true health and environmental impact of drilling is unknown.

"We feel responsible for the citizens of Dallas," she said.

VIRGINIA



Study of northern land use sought

By Carol Vaughn • Staff Writer • September 25, 2010

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved applying for a federal grant to fund a Joint Land Use Study, which would give recommendations to the county about future land use in the northern part of Accomack County near NASA and U.S. Navy facilities.

The cost of the plan could be up to \$135,000 and the grant covers 90 percent, County Administrator Steve Miner said in a memo to the board.

The plan's objective is to address encroachment issues raised by current or future development near federal facilities, Miner said.

Outcomes would likely include recommendations about local ordinances pertaining to land use, radio communications frequencies and other matters, "to ensure that hopefully we have a studied approach to dealing with our federal agencies," Miner said.

Congress in 1985 authorized the Department of Defense to make community planning assistance grants available to state and local governments to help incorporate military technical studies into local planning programs.

A JLUS is a cooperative effort between the military installation and local government and is usually completed in 12 months, according to information from the Office of Economic Development, which manages the program.

WASHINGTON

ptleader.com

Daily news, connections for Port Townsend & Jefferson County, Washington

Navy Seeks Comments On Expanded Military Training Area

September 22, 2010

The U.S. Navy has completed its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on future plans for a large military training area that includes inland and coastal areas of Washington, Oregon and northern California.

Called the Northwest Training Range Complex, the training area incorporates many facilities and locations, ranging from Idaho in the east to northwest coastal waters extending out 250 miles to sea.

The complex is the principal range for aviation, surface ships, submarine and special warfare units based in Washington State and has been a military training area since World War II.

The completion of the EIS follows several years of research, analysis and public involvement, including five public scoping meetings and six public hearings, according to Sheila Murray, a Navy public information officer.

Included in the study was research into geology and soils, air quality, hazardous materials, water resources, acoustic environment, marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, terrestrial biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and public safety, according to Murray.

Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the EIS is published before the agency may take final action. During that period, the public and other agencies can comment on the EIS prior to final action. More information is available on the project website

<http://NWTRangeComplexEIS.com>.

EIS comments must be postmarked or received by Oct. 12, 2010.

MARINE MAMMALS



September 20, 2010

Study Finds Noise Pollution Affects Marine Life

European and US scientists believe they have discovered a revolutionary way of understanding the effects of high-intensity sounds on marine mammals including whales and dolphins.

Increased shipping, petroleum exploration and production, and military exercises have amplified noise levels in the ocean in recent years, according to the researchers. As much of their work focused on the use of sonar, they hope that naval forces will use their software in the future in order to decide when and where it is safe to use sonar. The findings were recently published in the Public Library of Sciences (PLoS) ONE journal.

The researchers from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in the US and Kolmården Zoo in Sweden have developed a method of monitoring the effects of sound on marine mammals that integrates advanced computing, X-ray CT (computerised tomography) scanners, and modern computational methods.

This technology allows scientists to simulate sounds propagated through the virtual specimen and reveal the interactions between the sound and the mammal. It also offers them the opportunity to study a three-dimensional (3D) picture of the inside of the head of those mammals, such as Cuvier's beaked whale, which is known to be affected by noise pollution such as sonar.

'Our numerical analysis software can be used to conduct basic research into the mechanism of sound production and hearing in these whales, simulate exposure at sound pressure levels that would be impossible on live animals, or assess various mitigation strategies,' explained Professor Petr Krysl, a UC San Diego structural engineer who developed the computational methods for this research. 'We believe that our research can enable us to understand, and eventually reduce, the potential negative effects of high intensity sound on marine organisms,' he added.

'Humans introduce considerable amounts of sound and noise into the oceans of the world' and this can cause serious problems as 'many marine organisms make acute use of sound for their primary sensory modality because light penetrates so poorly into water', Dr Krysl explained. He pointed out that the researchers focused their work on the Cuvier's beaked whale because 'some

have stranded and died in the presence of navy sonar' and 'the discoveries we made with regard to the mechanisms of hearing in the beaked whale also apply to the bottlenose dolphin and, we suspect, to all types of toothed whales and perhaps other marine mammals.'

Dr Krysl insisted that the project 'significantly advances our knowledge of the basic biology of marine mammals' since 'hearing is an essential sensory ability for life under water where sound is used for hunting, navigating, and social interaction'. However, he added that the team's research had particular significance concerning the navy's need to use sonar.

According to the UCSD researcher, the navy needed to be able to answer questions such as 'is sonar safe to use and under what conditions' and 'can we minimise the impact on marine life and how'. He insisted that this was 'not possible without a basic understanding of biology and acoustics of the ocean inhabitants' and hence the importance of his research.

The study was partly sponsored by the US Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and Dr Krysl said his team would continue its 'current line of research on the beaked whale and conduct validation experiments with the bottlenose dolphin'. He added that it also planned 'additional modeling refinements that will allow us to investigate the entire sound pathway from the sea water to the entrance to the cochlea' and said that these projects 'address several primary objectives in the navy's plan to understand demographics, acoustic exposure thresholds, and mitigation strategies for living marine resources'.

CORDIS News is a daily online news service provided by the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) the European Union's official research and innovation information service.

OVERSEAS



Guthertz To Bice: 4,000 Navy Acres Wide Open For Machine Gun Practice; Keep It Inside The Fence

Written by Jeff Marchesseault, Guam News Watch Anchor

Sunday, September 19, 2010

GUAM - As the Record of Decision on Guam's military buildup edges ever closer to release, Buildup Chair Sen. Judi Guthertz is demanding that the Department of Defense drop proposed plans to build a firing range near culturally sensitive Pagat Village and keep target practice inside lands it already controls on island.

Here is the official news release from Guthertz' office, followed by Guthertz' letter to Joint Guam Program Office Executive Director Maj. Gen. David F. Bice, USMC (Ret.):

September 19, 2010

SENATOR GUTHERTZ TO GENERAL BICE: THERE'S A PLACE FOR MACHINE GUN TRAINING ON GUAM, BUT IT'S NOT NEXT TO PAGAT

With literally hours to go until the signing of the Record of Decision bumps the Guam military buildup to warp speed, Senator Judi Guthertz is not dropping her opposition to the military's favored site for a military range complex adjacent to the ancient Chamorro village of Pagat.

In a letter to the Executive Director of the Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO), Major General David Bice, USMC (Ret.), Senator Guthertz said, "the bottom line is that there must be some place that is already owned or leased by the military that is suitable for a machine gun range."

As the clock ticks down to the issuance of the final ROD, General Bice has been making the rounds of Guam media and service clubs to present the case for major provisions of the buildup, including the Pagat siting of the range complex. At one such appearance last Wednesday, Bice said the requirement for a safety zone including Pagat was only because machine gun training is one element of the range complex.

General Bice also said that Northwest Field was not suitable for a machine gun training range, but Senator Guthertz said that hardly exhausts potential sites on Guam or in the CNMI, recalling her previous proposal that the Naval Munitions Area, where Fena Lake and ammunition bunkers occupy the northern half, be used. The area already has a sniper firing range, but about half of its 8,000 acres are not utilized.

"Surely, you should be able to site a machine gun range somewhere inside the 4,000 acres in the southern half of the NMA," Senator Guthertz said.

General Bice has said several times that the NMA site was rejected after unnamed island mayors objected to putting many more military vehicles on southern roads. Senator Guthertz suggested the mayors would have felt otherwise if they had known the alternative was more landtaking for the military. She said another option would be to fly Marines in by helicopter to the NMA for that portion of their training.

"I implore the military to use its existing land for all the firing ranges to support the buildup and to not intrude on the Pagat area. By so doing, peace and harmony can exist between our communities and we can move forward together as one in ensuring the best interests of everyone who calls Guam home," Senator Guthertz concluded.

September 17, 2010

Major General David Bice, USMC (Ret.)

Executive Director

Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO)

PSC 455 Box 152

FPO AP 96540-1000

Dear General Bice:

I laud the efforts of the Department of Defense in planning for, as part of the military buildup, enhanced necessary medical services. The new Naval Hospital, the new VA clinic, and the two planned medical clinics inclusive of dental services and pharmacies, for Big Navy and the Main Cantonment Area will go a long way to meeting the needs of our military, our eligible veterans; and their families in Guam.

I trust that with a price tag of \$98 million for each medical clinic, these centers will be outfitted with the very latest in medical technology and will ably meet the needs of our veterans and military folks and provide the requisite quality care and substantive medical capability that they truly deserve. The addition of the pharmacy and dental services at these centers will also be welcomed as I understand that these services at the Naval Hospital are often near capacity. Our eligible retirees, veterans and their families will be most grateful with these added venues for medical care, treatment and services.

I also write regarding the "safety zone" over the Pagat site that you referenced during a luncheon presentation yesterday. It was reported that you stated that the safety zone arc overlapping the Pagat historic site was only needed because of the machine gun firing range requirements. You then went on to argue that Northwest Field is not suitable for a machine gun range.

As you know, I have already proposed that the Naval Munitions Area (NMA) be used for machine gun training. The NMA is 8,000 acres. It is my understanding that approximately 400 acres is all that is needed for a machine gun range. There is already a sniper firing range located at the NMA. The ammunition bunkers and Fena Lake only use the northern half of the NMA. Surely, you should be able to site a machine gun range somewhere inside the 4,000 acres in the southern half of the NMA.

You informed my Chief of Staff at a prior JGPO hosted briefing that the NMA was suitable for the firing range requirements; however, back in 2007 during the Scoping process, island mayors stated that they did not want a lot of military vehicles on the roads. This concern may be lessened

once the mayors realize that it is competing with the acquisition of additional Guam land for a firing range. Further, is every Marine, required to be trained on a machine gun? If not, why not transport them to the NMA via helicopter? Alternatively, the military could consult with the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands regarding using the island of Tinian for the machine gun training and to that end; I urge the military to further consult with the CNMI's Governor Fitial, the Commonwealth Legislature and the officials and people of Tinian.

General Bice, the bottom line is that there must be some place that is already owned or leased by the military that is suitable for a machine gun range. The requirements of your small arms training could be accommodated by utilizing other properties within the extensive DoD inventory in Guam.

In short—it remains my firm opinion and that of many others in Guam—that a successful military buildup must avoid any acquisition of additional land by the federal government. I implore the military to use its existing land for all the firing ranges to support the buildup and to not intrude on the Pagat area. By so doing, peace and harmony can exist between our communities and we can move forward together as one in ensuring the best interests of everyone who calls Guam home.

Senseramente,

Judith P. Guthertz, DPA

C: All senators

STARS AND STRIPES

September 20, 2010

Navy Finalizes Plans for U.S. Military Buildup on Guam

Travis J. Tritten

The U.S. Navy firmed up plans Tuesday for a military buildup on Guam that could lead to a historic shift in military forces in the Pacific region.

The Navy's record of decision finalizes where facilities will be built for 8,600 Marines scheduled to move to the island territory from Okinawa by 2014 and how to pace the massive construction effort, according to a brief released by the Department of Defense Joint Guam Program Office.

But the Navy delayed decisions on controversial plans to build military training ranges on Guam ancestral land and to dredge coral in Guam's main harbor for an aircraft carrier berth, according to the brief.

The full report on the buildup was not available immediately after it was signed by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Jackie Pfannenstiel early Tuesday. The joint program office said it would post the full document online by Wednesday.

The start of realignment construction will depend on funding, upcoming decisions from a new military-civilian panel, and further reviews of ancestral land and harbor dredging proposals, said Gen. David Bice, executive director of the joint program office.

"We don't anticipate any construction activity until the first of next year," Bice said in a Tuesday morning phone interview with Stars and Stripes from his office on Guam.

Utilities funding from the Japanese government is critical to future construction, he said.

The United States is in talks with Japan and the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation over the country's \$740 million contribution for wastewater, power and water upgrades on Guam.

Japan agreed in 2006 to fund the upgrades as part of the shift of Marines from Okinawa.

Improvements to Guam's underdeveloped utilities are needed before construction crews and servicemembers can begin arriving on the island.

A piece of the Japan funding will pay to tap wells on military land and connect the supplies to Guam public water utilities, Bice said.

"We need to have the funding for the water," he said. "We need that pretty quick, by next year."

Before the end of the year, the government of Guam, the U.S. military and federal agencies will also form a new coordinating council, which will help guide construction and solve concerns over the influx of workers on the island, he said.

The governor of Guam, who first proposed the idea, will appoint members to the council, Bice said.

Meanwhile, a federal historic preservation review will determine the fate of Guam's Pagat land, an area with remnants of pre-colonial Chamorro culture.

The land is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but is a preferred site for Marine Corps training ranges.

Pfannenstiel delayed the decision on using Pagat for training until the end of a review required by the National Historic Preservation Act, Bice said.

The Navy will also study the health and quality of coral in Apra Harbor after public concern over planned dredging for the carrier berth, he said.

Plans call for aircraft carriers to make port stops, but there will be no carrier home-ported on Guam.

"We have agreed to defer a decision on a specific site, even though Polaris Point is the preferred site," Bice said.

It was not immediately known Tuesday morning how long the studies of the Pagat land and Apra Harbor would take.

Call to close gun range to aid tourism

23 September 2010

By Patricia Devlin

A CALL has been made to close a local military firing range whilst cruise ships are in the area.

County Donegal man James McLaughlin spoke to the Sentinel this week after witnessing a 550 international tourists dock on Lough Foyle's Greencastle port. Mr McLaughlin said "deafening" gun fire could be heard from the Magilligan MoD firing range, used to train British army soldiers. The local man said that, in the interests of tourism, the British Army should be asked to refrain from target practise when cruise ships are anchored in Lough Foyle.

Mr McLaughlin said: "I am used to the sound, all local people are, but the worry would be the tourists who are coming off the many cruise liners that come into the area. I'm sure the sound of gun fire isn't something they would expect or want when they dock off at a place they are going to visit.

"If I were on a cruise liner anchored off the coast of Israel or Gaza and I heard similar sounds, I would be very reluctant to go ashore," added Mr McLaughlin. Greencastle is one of the disembarkation ports for a high volume of cruise ships visiting Londonderry. Due to the tidal nature of the Foyle Estuary, it is sometimes too shallow for cruise ships to make their way to Lisahally docks in city and docking on Lough Foyle close to the village saves five hour round sailing trips. Many tourists also travel on the Lough Foyle Ferry to Magilligan. Last week Limavady SDLP councillor Gerry Mullan called for complete closure of the army training base after the International Princess Daphne ship docked on September 3.

The ship, which is a regular visitor to the area, docked to allow passengers on a number of excursions around County Donegal. Councillor Mullan said last week: "This type of activity is detrimental to our tourism,"

An MoD spokesman last week defended the practice, and said that any concern on activity at the Limavady firing range could be raised through a civil representative.

He said: "We have strict procedures in place regarding training at Magilligan and remain amenable to concerns and issues. These can be raised through the civil representative."