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Environmental Impact Analysis Process

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

EXPANSION OF THE MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE
CURRY AND ROOSEVELT COUNTIES., NEW MEXICO

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

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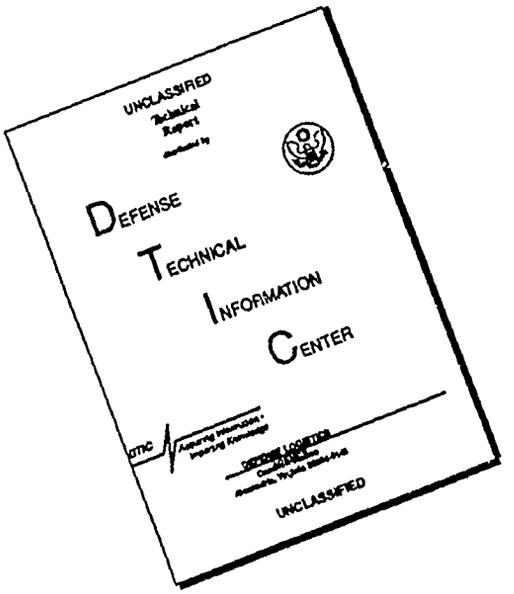

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330 -1000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 18, 1985

TO: ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS

Attached is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. The document is provided in compliance with the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

The Final EIS addresses the proposed action of expanding the Melrose Air Force Range. A decision on the proposed action will be made after May 27, 1985.

While the Air Force is not having a comment period, interested parties may provide information to:

Mr. Roy L. Barker
Headquarters, Tactical Air Command/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

GARY D. VEST
Deputy for Environment and Safety
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations, Environment and Safety)

1 Attachment
Final EIS

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COVER SHEET

(a) Responsible Agency: United States Air Force

(b) Proposed Action: Expansion of Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico.

(c) Responsible Individual: Roy L. Barker, HQ TAC/DEEV, Langley AFB, VA. 23665, Telephone (804) 764-4430

(d) Designation: Final Environmental Impact Statement

(e) Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, proposes to increase the size of the Melrose Air Force Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, from 22,120 to 77,120 acres. This expansion by fee, easement, and lease acquisition will allow an increase in the number of targets and attack headings, thereby alleviating existing training deficiencies. It will also place under minimal Air Force control lands which will be overflown by aircraft making tactical maneuvers, and lands which fall within hazard descriptors of the weapons used. This will eliminate existing safety restrictions on maneuvers. Actual numbers of aircraft using the range would not increase.

Several alternatives, including the no-action alternative, were investigated. Alternatives involving more use of other, existing ranges were found impractical, mainly due to high existing use levels at those ranges. Alternatives involving construction of a replacement range at another location were not practical due to incompatible airspace or land-use. The Air Force's preferred alternative is to expand the existing range by acquiring the minimum interests in land and minerals necessary to eliminate safety and training deficiencies. This will involve fee purchase, restrictive easements, and leases. As a direct result of landowner and mineral rights owner concerns raised during the environmental impact analysis process, the Air Force modified the real property interests to be acquired. Fee acquisition will be reduced from 55,000 acres to 27,760. The remaining minimal real property interests in 27,240 acres will be a combination of easements and leases. Additionally, mineral rights will be acquired only where exploriation and exploitation would be impossible due to surface restrictions.

The primary public concerns associated with the proposed action are socio-economic, focusing mainly on loss of mineral and water rights, land, and tax revenues, and on decreased viability of two small school districts. The primary environmental concerns were over lack of knowledge of (and therefore threat of inadvertant damage to) archaeological/cultural sites. Other concerns raised include damage to vegetation and wildlife resources, and loss of utilities and roads. Under the no action alternative, present conditions would remain the same: aircraft noise, occasional small fires, and possible inadvertant disturbance of archaeological sites. If the proposed action were adopted, air and water quality would not change, and noise impacts would improve somewhat on the east side of the range. There would be minor negative effects on soils and vegetation caused by expanding the target arrays. Archaeological resources would be surveyed and protected, although inadvertant loss of undiscovered sites could occur during construction. Economically, some lands would be withdrawn from existing uses, and other lands would shift from agriculture to grazing. Private property and utility lines would be purchased. A few families would be forced to relocated. Some of the mineral

Keywords: Environmental impact statements. (EDC) 4

SUMMARY SHEET

1. Type of Action: Administrative (X) Legislative ( )

2. Description of Proposed Action:

The Air Force proposes to expand the Melrose Air Force Bombing Range, New Mexico, from 22,120 acres to 77,120 acres. The proposed expansion area covers 55,000 acres surrounding the existing range. There are 43 private surface land owners and 55 tracts within the proposed expansion. In addition, the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management have tracts.

The 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico is the prime user.

Melrose is currently less than one third of the size (land area) required by Air Force Regulation 50-46 to provide a bombing/gunnery range. Because of this the existing range is functionally inadequate for current tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements. Existing deficiencies produce a "canned" training environment. After a few missions on the range, aircrews can easily identify the limited target array. Versatility and realism in training are greatly reduced. The overall result is that student and mission ready aircrews receive extremely limited training dealing only with the basics of their aircraft's capabilities.

An expanded range would meet or exceed all operational criteria for a range primarily serving a tactical fighter wing. In summary, expansion would:

a. Eliminate limitations placed on practice deliveries or simulated nuclear and conventional ordnance.

b. Allow complexity and realism in attack maneuvers.

c. Provide space for development of target arrays similar or identical to those that may be found in actual combat situations.

3. Public Review of the Draft EIS:

The public review and comment period for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) ran from March 15, 1984 to June 30, 1984, having been extended at public request. During this period, public comments on the DEIS were solicited. Written comments were submitted to Headquarters, Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Verbal comments were received at the public hearing held in Floyd, New Mexico on June 6, 1984.

The primary public concerns associated with the proposed action are socio-economic, focusing mainly on loss of mineral and water rights, land, and tax revenues, and on decreased viability of two small school districts. The primary environmental concerns were over lack of knowledge of (and therefore threat of inadvertant damage to) archaeological/cultural sites. Other concerns raised include damage to vegetation and wildlife resources, and loss of utilities and roads.

After receiving public comments, the Air Force substantially reorganized the DEIS (including this Summary), incorporating in the document responses to many comments and questions. For this reason, many responses to comments direct the reader to portions of the EIS.

As a direct result of landowner and mineral rights owner concerns raised during the environmental impact analysis process, the Air Force modified the real property interests to be acquired. Fee acquisition will be reduced from 55,000 acres to 27,760. The remaining minimal real property interests in 27,240 acres will be a combination of easements and leases. Additionally, mineral rights will be acquired only where exploration and exploitation would be impossible due to surface restrictions.

4. Summary of Impacts:

Air quality would not be significantly impacted because the number of aircraft using the range would not increase, nor would ground activities substantially increase. Increased acreage subject to mission-related fires would cause temporary degradation to air quality during these fires.

Noise impacts would remain substantially the same. The 65 DNL noise level contour would be expanded because of the addition of a second approach path and flight pattern: however, the 75 DNL area will decrease on the east side of the range.

Water quality would be unaffected as the site has no surface water. Modifications in land use could reduce demand on the aquifer, and underground water quality would not be affected.

No threatened or endangered species are found in the area of the proposed action. Existing agreements with state and federal wildlife management agencies will ensure that adequate continuing attention will be given wildlife.

Approximately 400 acres of vegetation will be removed for the creation of fire lanes, targets, run-in lines, and target maintenance roads. Additionally, the increased area over which targets are dispersed will subject additional land to increased mission-related fires.

The Air Force, in consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, has an agreement to pursue and aggressive program to identify and protect significant cultural sites on the existing Melrose Range and the proposed expansion area (if acquired). The SHPO has recognized in formal correspondence the Air Force's commitment to identify, nominate, and conserve cultural sites on the proposed acquisition property. A Memorandum of Agreement to that effect between the Air Force and the State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau will be prepared if the proposed expansion is authorized.

Of the 55,000-acres required, 27,760 would be purchased outright. Croplands would revert to grazing lands, and existing grazing lands would generally continue in their present use, although some restrictions in the interest of safety would probably be enforced. Restrictive easements on 15,680 acres would prohibit inhabited structures, or structures greater than 100 feet high, but would otherwise permit existing land uses. Lands leased from the state (11,560 acres) would be sub-leased for grazing wherever possible. In general, land use patterns are not expected to be significantly altered.

Approximately 18 people (including eight school-age children) in six structures would be dislocated by the proposed action. Up to ten people could

lose employment. However, the continued agricultural use of the land makes it quite possible that some of these people would relocate nearby and continue in their present employment. This would also make it possible that some of the affected children would remain within their current school district.

Although the proposed expansion would not affect the ultimate potential of any mineral resources in the area, their exploitation could be indefinitely delayed if such could not be accomplished in a manner compatible with Air Force operations. While the Air Force normally acquires mineral rights when it acquires surface rights, the Air Force will, because of landowner concerns, attempt to accommodate mineral exploration and exploitation.

Some owners of mineral rights may, however, be required to sell their minieral rights. They would be paid fair market value for their property. The Air Force has modified its original plan (i.e., to purchase all mineral rights in the expansion area) to one allowing the minimum purchase of these rights, while allowing the maximum amount of exploration and exploitation compatible with the Air Force mission.

Mineral exploration and exploitation activities on lands where the surface was acquired in fee would have to be carried out with no surface disturbance. If the individual mineral rights owners on such lands believe the minerals are so located that they can explore and exploit the mineral under these circumstances, the Air Force would consider allowing the mineral rights owner to retain ownership. If, however, the mineral rights owners are of the opinion that these restrictions effectively restrict them from access to the minerals on their tract, their mineral rights would be purchased at fair market value.

Owners of mineral rights on land over which the Air Force acquired a restrictive easement would be able to either carry out exploration or extraction under the terms of the easement (i.e., no structures over 100 feet tall), or receive approval from the Commander, Cannon AFB, for exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Acquisition patterns are planned to avoid severance damages to water users. However, should such damages occur, the Air Force will consider making arrangements to provide continued water access.

Some public roads would be closed. None are through roads, so the local transportation network would not be affected. One road will be laterally moved (at Air Force expense) two miles, increasing its length, but otherwise having no impact.

Gas, power, and telephone lines serving secondary facilities to be acquired would be purchased and severed. Trunk lines would be relocated at Air Force expense. Other than the purchase of the lines to be abandoned, and payment of relocation costs, utilities would receive no compensation for lost customers.

Tax revenues come primarily from land ownership, mineral severance, and gross receipts. Although land ownership has been halved from the original proposal, a decrease in property tax revenues will occur. Based on the 1982 county budgets, lost property taxes under the original proposal would be about $5340, or less tha 0.1% of the total annual budgets. The Floyd School District would lose about 0.2% ($3051) of its annual revenues, while the total annual loss in Curry County would be about $50.

The Air Force reduction of fee acquisition by 50% will, of course, reduce the amount of lost revenues. Currently, no minerals are being extracted from the proposed area. Acquisition procedures will minimize lands excluded from exploration/extraction, but some lands may be precluded from this. The presence of minerals in the area is a matter of professional debate. Gross receipt taxes from agricultural production will be reduced somewhat. Cropland in the fee acquisition area produces approximately 0.6% of the income for the two counties.

In conclusion, the Air Force does not foresee significant impacts on schools, tax revenues, land-use patterns, mineral extraction, or vegetation. Potential impacts on wildlife and archaeological/cultural sites should be minor, but the Air Force has made commitments to work with the appropriate agencies to ensure that both initial and long-term impacts are minimal.

5. Alternatives Considered:

Taking no action would mean continuation of unsafe and deficient training activities.

In addition to the no action alternative, the actions considered included:

a. Using other existing ranges. This was not operationally feasible because the high current use rates of the other ranges did not allow additional use.

b. Construct a new range at other military installations. This was not operationally feasible because of land and airspace conflicts with other military users.

c. Construct a new range at a new location. Although several sites were investigated, airspace and/or ground use considerations positively eliminated them from consideration.

In respose to public comments regarding the alternative of cnstructing a new range in the Lon-Mesa area, the Air Force conducted another extensive evaluation in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration. As documented in this EIS, the Air Force again concludes that no site there will provide the airspace and ground area needed. Sites there could, at best, duplicate the deficient training capabilities of the existing Melrose Range with similar impacts on land use, but at greater cost and with disruption of air traffic in general. The FAA strongly objected to all Lon Mesa alternatives.

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1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED:

The Air Force proposes to expand the Melrose Air Force Bombing Range, New Mexico, from 22,120 acres to 77,120 acres. The proposed expansion area (55,000 acres) surrounds the existing range. The State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management own 16,040 acres and 48 acres, respectively, in the proposed expansion area. The remainder is privately owned. (See Figure 1 and 2).

The purpose of the proposed expansion is to remove the severe training limitations currently experienced at Melrose Air Force Range. Currently, range size does not meet prescribed safety standards or operational requirements for tactical fighter air-to-surface training events.

F-111D aircraft assigned to the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, are the primary users of the range. Cannon AFB has a combat mission which encompasses tactics ranging from close air support to strategic nuclear deployment in all types of weather, day or night. Navy and Air Reserve forces also use the range and account for approximately 4% of the range's activity.

Melrose Range is located approximately 13 miles southwest of Melrose and 13.3 miles west-northwest of Floyd, Roosevelt County, New Mexico. The range originally occupied 7,771 acres leased in the early 1950s to support training requirements of aircrews assigned to Cannon AFB, New Mexico. In 1969, the range was expanded to its present size (22,120 acres) to help meet the needs of a newer generation of tactical fighter aircraft. However, even at that time, several types of tactical aircraft using the range had capabilities beyond the range's capacity.

The assignment of F-111D aircraft to Cannon AFB in 1971 intensified the need for a training range that can accommodate enhanced tactical conventional and nuclear delivery maneuvers.

A bomb training range must present target arrays similar or identical to those that may be found in actual combat situations. It should allow sufficient unrestricted maneuver airspace for aircrews to practice their tactics against the targets. Air Force Regulation 50-46, "Weapon Ranges", gives the general requirements for a training range. As required in this specific instance, they are:

a. A ground buffer (safety) zone which allows all air-to-surface tactics to be practiced without endangering residents in the area. This requires the availability of suitable and sufficient land meeting minimum range size requirements of 10 x 10 statute miles (64,000 acres) with at least one approach corridor of 2.0 x 3.36 statute miles (4,300 acres). Acquisition of private lands should be minimized.

b. Airspace for establishment of a 25 x 25 nautical mile special-use airspace over the range. These dimensions are based upon the F-111D requirement for routes with a twelve mile target run-in. Assuming a target within a mile of the range center, an umbrella over an omni-directional run-in pattern is approximately 25 x 25 nautical miles.

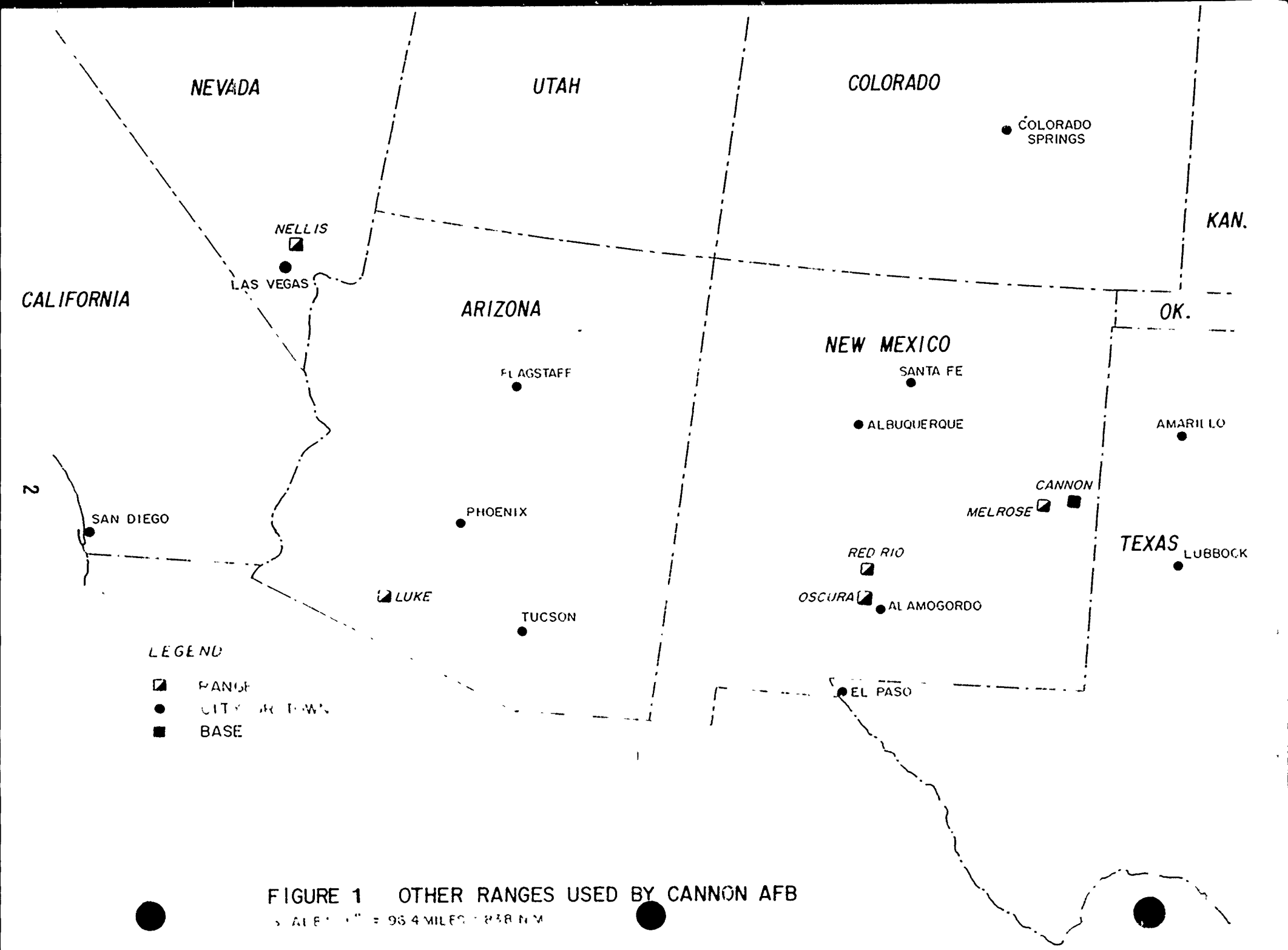


FIGURE 1 OTHER RANGES USED BY CANNON AFB

1" = 96.4 MILES = 838 NM

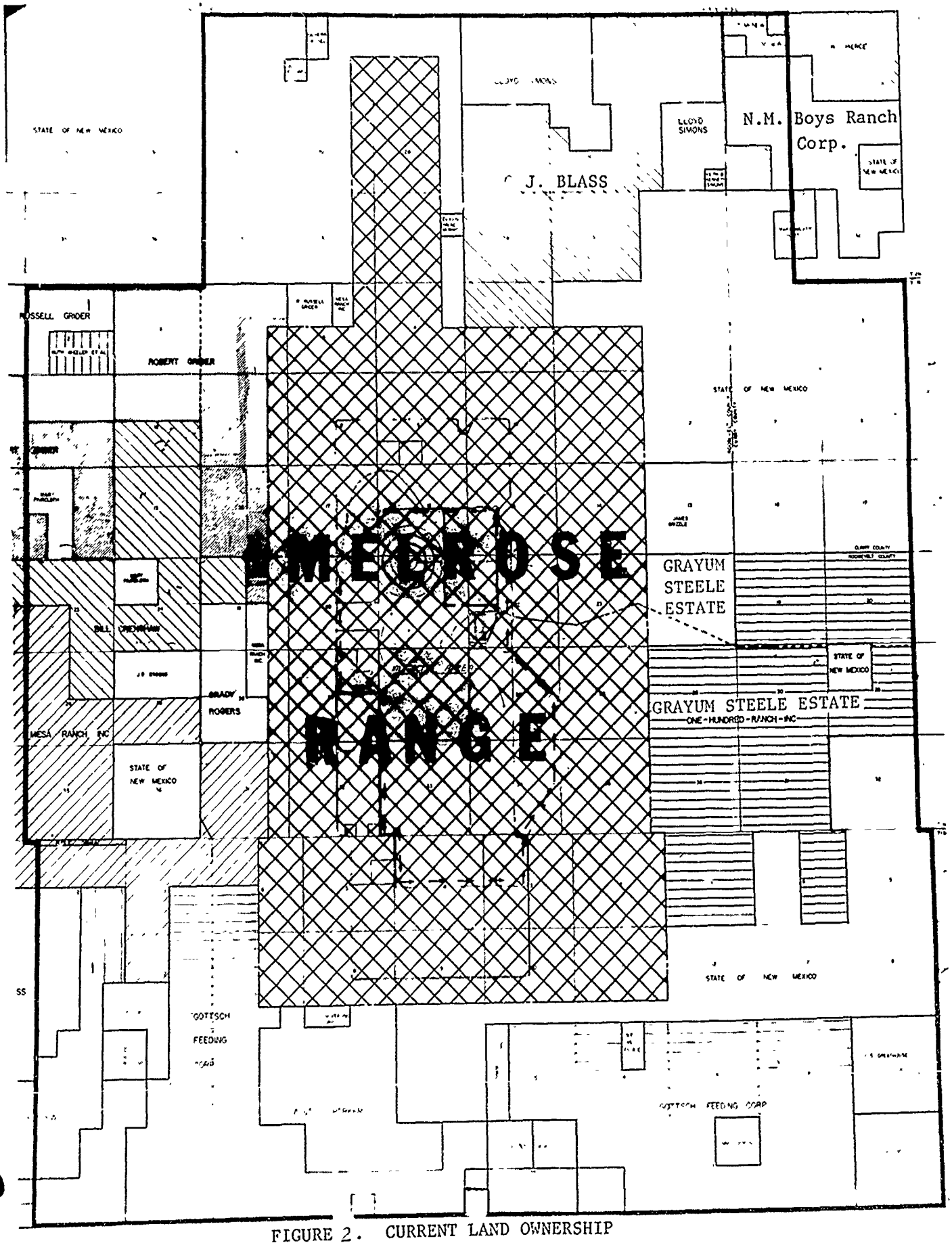


FIGURE 2. CURRENT LAND OWNERSHIP

c. Location within 250 nautical miles (the practical training range of an F-111D) of the home base. This is close enough to allow present usage to remain the same. In other words, an aircraft taking off from the home base should be able to reach a range via a low level military training route, spend a half hour to an hour realistically training on the range, and return home via either a low level military training route or a high altitude return route with sufficient fuel reserves to allow two approaches before a safe landing.

d. Two-tower configuration.

e. Strafe targets/area.

f. Skip Bomb Target.

g. Forward Edge of the Battle Area (FEBA) target array depicting aggressor tactics.

h. Nuclear Weapons Delivery layout.

i. Scoring for all targets.

j. Day and night use capability.

k. Range maintenance/support personnel with facilities to support them.

l. Terrain suitable for access by ground maintenance crews to maintain target areas.

The existing range is functionally inadequate for current tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements. The basic size is about 4.3 x 7.3 statute miles with a 1 x 3 mile approach corridor. The 4,951 acre target area is surrounded by a safety (buffer) zone (including the approach corridor) totaling 17,169 acres. Because of current insufficient size and inherent safety considerations, training is adversely affected by limitations on:

a. Practice deliveries of ordnance.

b. Complexity and realism of tactical maneuvers.

c. Strafing activities for guns larger than 20mm, and

d. Realistic target locations.

These limitations produce a "canned" training environment. After a few missions on the range, aircrews can easily identify the limited target array, and versatility and realism in training are seriously handicapped. The overall result is that the student and mission-ready aircrews receive extremely limited training dealing only with the basics of their aircraft's capabilities. If the target area could be expanded to encompass the entire existing range, training requirements could be met, but safety considerations would be unacceptably deficient due to loss of the buffer zone.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives in solving the above problems are:

a. Expand Melrose Range to provide training and safety requirements as set forth in AFR 50-46. This is the preferred alternative.

b. Continue to use Melrose as much as possible within constraints, and use other, larger, existing ranges (or develop a new range in another location) for those training activities not possible at Melrose.

c. Close Melrose and perform all training at other existing ranges, or develop a new range in another location.

d. Continue in the present status and train within the limitations dictated by range size constraints.

Only two of these courses of action, when evaluated, were found to be feasible:

Alternative A. Expand Melrose Range to provide training and safety requirements as set forth in AFR 50-46.

Alternative D. Continue in the present status and train within the limitations dictated by range size constraints.

Alternatives b and c were found to be infeasible: that is, they either did not resolve the initial problem, or presented difficulties which made it impractical to pursue them further.

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION - EXPAND MELROSE BOMBING RANGE:

This proposal has four major facets:

a. Expand the existing Melrose Range to a 10 x 10 statute mile (64,000 acres) target area and safety buffer zone by moving the boundary approximately 2.25 miles to the south, 2.75 miles to the west, 0.5 miles to the north and 3.0 miles to the east. (See Figure 3)

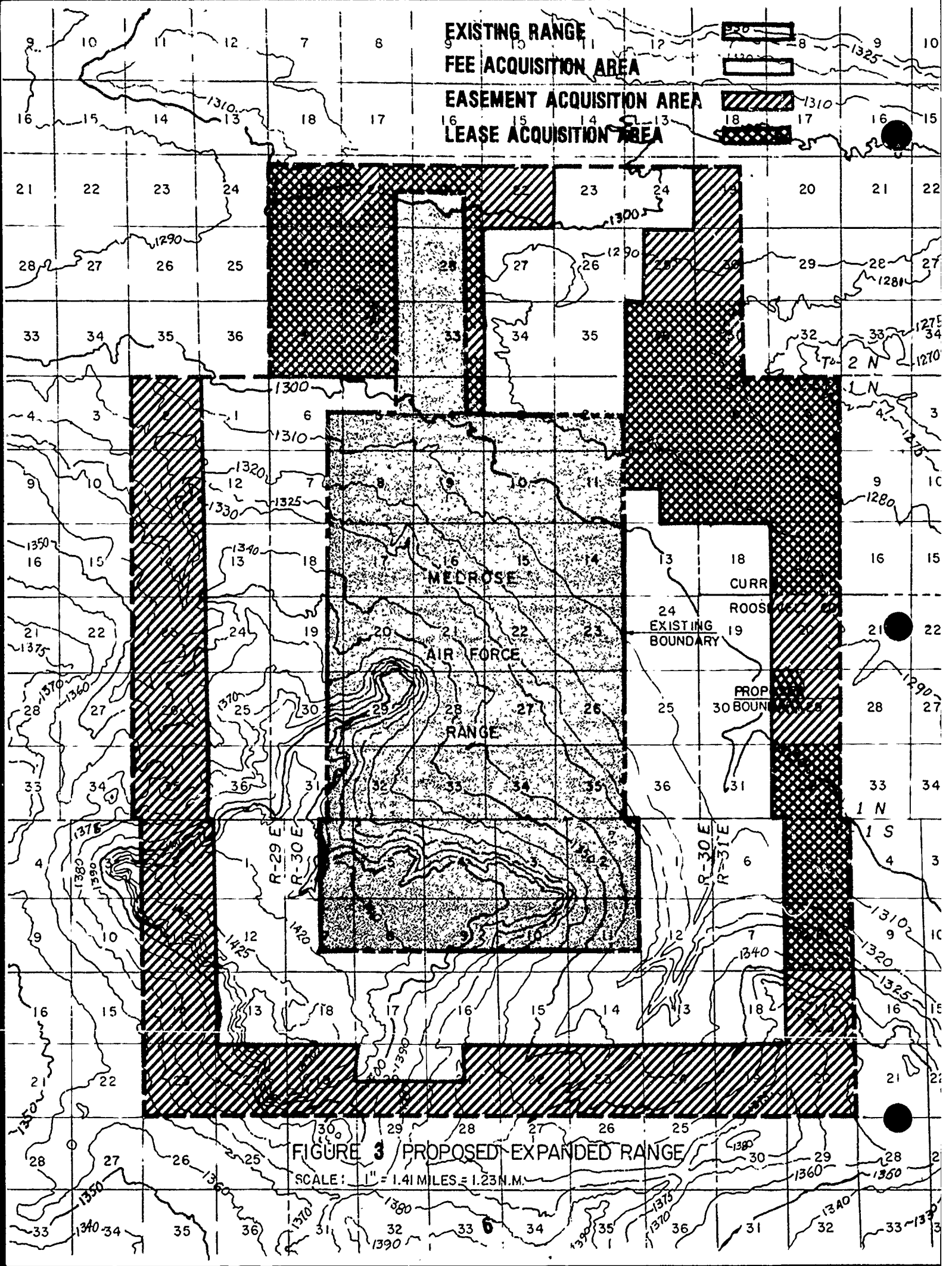


FIGURE 3 / PROPOSED EXPANDED RANGE

SCALE: 1" = 1.41 MILES = 1.23 N.M.

b. Expand the existing approach corridor beyond the minimum 2 x 3.36 statute miles (required by AFR 50-46) to about 2.9 x 6.8 statute miles. To accomplish this, another approach corridor would be created parallel to the existing approach corridor.

c. Possible revision of the existing 30 x 15 nautical mile restricted airspace above the existing range.

d. Designate the existing range (minus the existing approach corridor) as the area to be used exclusively for targets and range facilities. This includes 15,249 acres (current buffer area minus the approach corridor).

All acquired land would be buffer (or safety zone) area, and as such would have minimal surface disturbance. The Air Force would place no targets or major facilities on these lands. The total proposed expansion area covers approximately 55,000 acres surrounding the existing range. (NOTE: previous calculations given in the DEIS had set the proposed expansion acreage at approximately 54,496 acres. The figure of 55,000 acres does NOT represent a change in the proposal, but only a refinement of data.) Total expanded range size would be about 77,120 acres. Appendix B contains a legal description of the lands to be acquired.

The Air Force does not foresee increasing activity (number of sorties or total flying time) on Melrose Range. Construction of additional targets is required to optimize training time. The design and location of the targe s has not been finalized.

2.2 CONTINUE IN "NO ACTION" STATUS:

This alternative would result in a continuation of current activities on the Melrose Range. If Melrose Range were to continue in its existing use pattern, training of aircrews would continue to be deficient, and safety levels would remain unsatisfactory.

The current range size and use (described in Section 1.0) would not change.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED AS INFEASIBLE:

Information gained at a public scoping meeting in Melrose, New Mexico, in June 1980 and through later correspondence indicated an interest in:

(1) Relocating the range, or

(2) Not expanding the range, but using it in a limited capacity.

The taking of privately owned land and/or mineral rights was the primary concern identified in the DEIS public hearing in Floyd, New Mexico in June, 1984. Additionally, several representatives of the State of New Mexico have expressed concern over the idea of using state lands for this project. In response to these concerns, the Air Force has evaluated these options with care, and has extensively re-investigated one suggested site (Lon-Mesa).

2.3.1 CLOSE MELROSE RANGE AND BUILD A NEW RANGE ELSEWHERE:

A map review of the area within a 250 mile radius of Cannon AFB revealed the following (Figure 4).

a. Federal lands with sufficient acreage to contain a 10 x 10 mile bombing/gunnery range are National Forest Land, White Sands Missile Range, and Fort Bliss Military Reservation.

National Forest lands within a 250 mile radius of Cannon AFB and with sufficient area to contain a 10 x 10 mile range are mountainous terrain. The possibility of using Forest Service land was not further pursued because targets must be built, policed, maintained, and scored. The rough terrain would make access by ground crews impractical.

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is an intensely used facility which supports missile development and test programs for the Army, Navy, Air Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other government agencies. Airspace use and availability above WSMR is a major limiting factor restricting additional uses of the WSMR. Even if suitable land area was identified within the WSMR, airspace use conflicts and restrictions would still prevent adequate training. This has been documented in the Final EIS for the Reserve Supersonic MOA. For this reason, the WSMR was eliminated from further consideration.

A site on the Fort Bliss Reservation in close proximity to the McGregor Missile Range was suggested by the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. The site is shown in Figure 4 (page 9). To the west of the site lies White Sands Missile Range, and to the northwest lies Holloman AFB. Due to the military training and testing activities conducted within this area, coordination of existing airspace use with new bombing range training would present unacceptable obstacles and limitations. Additionally, the low level training routes entering and departing this site are extremely limited and the possible training scenarios stereotyped. This site was considered infeasible and eliminated from further consideration.

b. Areas composed of State land or a combination of predominantly Federal and State lands sufficient in size for a bombing range are identified below (See Figure 4).

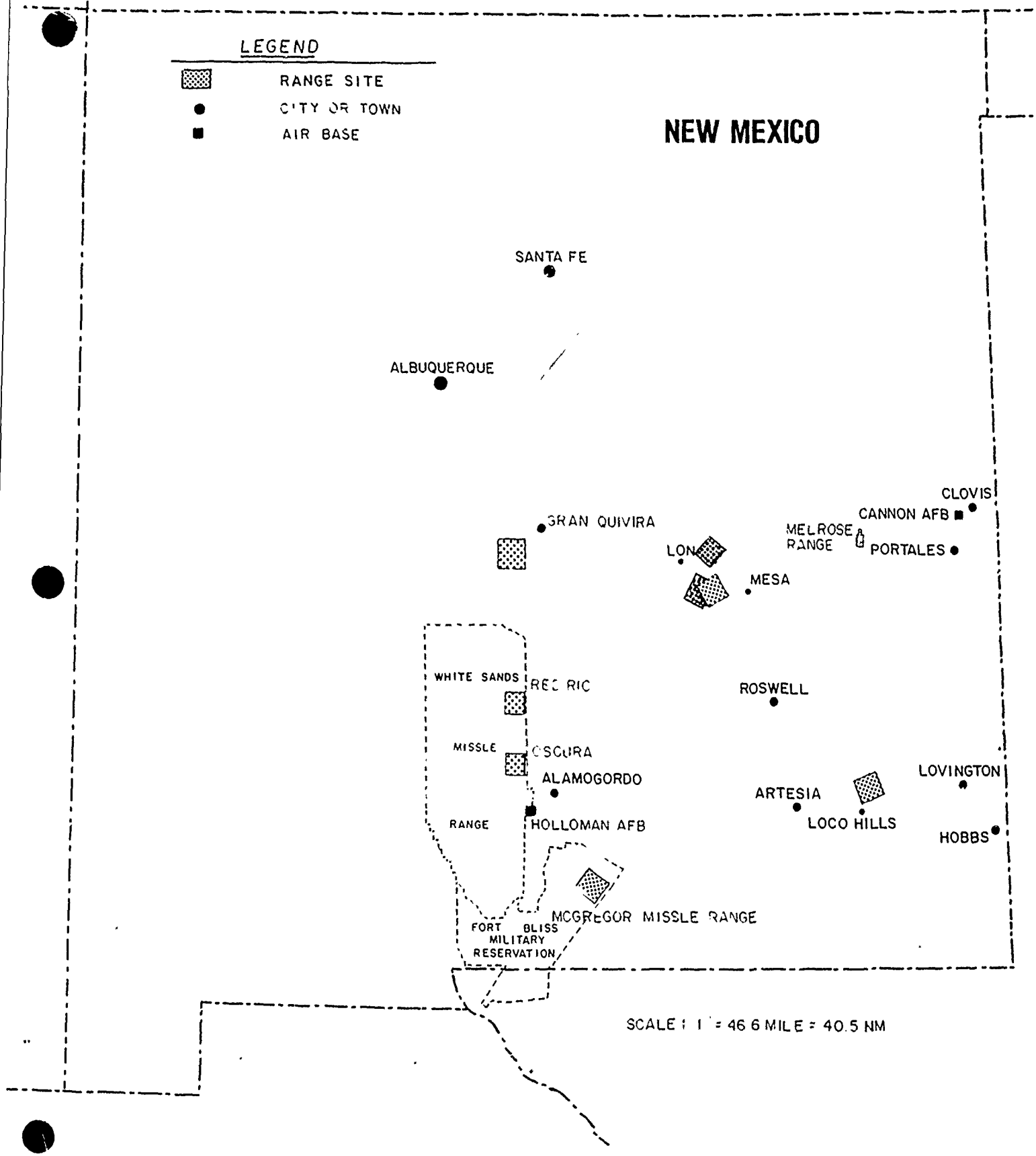


FIG. 4 LOCATION OF RANGE SITES IN RELATION TO CANNON A F.B. AND MELROSE A.F. RANGE

Gran Quivira Site

This is a block of state-owned land, roughly 15 x 15 miles in size, centered about 10 miles southeast of Gran Quivira National Monument. The southern half of this area extends beneath the White Sands Missile Range (Restricted Air Space R-5107 C). The northern portion of the state-owned land is beneath commercial air route V264 and borders commercial air route V68S serving Albuquerque International Airport. This site was considered infeasible due to airspace conflicts and eliminated from further consideration.

Loco Hills Site

This site is located approximately 40 miles west of Lovington, New Mexico and 25 miles east of Artesia, New Mexico near the village of Loco Hills. Land ownership is about 85% Federal, 11% State and 4% private. Numerous oil and gas wells are located in the southern portions of the site, and a major underground pipeline crosses the northern portion of the site.

A restricted airspace umbrella for the site would sever commercial airways V68 and V68S between Roswell and Hobbs. The possibility of realigning the commercial air routes was not pursued because the presence of a large developed oil and gas field makes the establishment of a bombing gunnery range infeasible. The land to the north of this site has virtually the same deficiencies. For the above-stated reasons, this site was considered infeasible and eliminated from further consideration.

Lon-Mesa Site

This site is situated approximately 50 miles northwest of Roswell, New Mexico between the villages of Lon and Mesa. Land ownership is about 75% Federal, 20% State and 5% private. This site meets many of the criteria for selecting a bombing range site. However, a restricted airspace umbrella would sever commercial airways V68 - V83 and V68N - V83E, the only airways between Roswell and Albuquerque. A 24 June 1981 letter from the Federal Aviation Administration (Appendix A, Reference #24) strongly objects to realigning these commercial air routes. A portion of that letter outlining reasons for their objections is quoted as follows:

"1. The proposed LON-MESA site would completely block V68-V83 and V68N-V83E. These airways are the main arteries between Roswell, New Mexico, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The possibility of realignment of V68-V83 is completely out of the question because of the existing BEAK A and PECOS MOAs. The additional mileage would be 8-nautical miles to the south through BEAK A MOA and 17-nautical miles to the north through PECOS MOA.

2. The close proximity of the LON-MESA site to the Roswell Airport would add to the complexity of departures proceeding to the northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast.

3. The LON-MESA site would require changes in existing IR routes 133 and 113; also in VR-125."

For the above reasons, the establishment of a bombing/gunnery range between the villages of Lon and Mesa was initially considered infeasible. However, in response to comments made at the DEIS public hearing as well as in

correspondence, a more intense evaluation of the operational feasibility of the Lon-Mesa site was conducted by Cannon AFB. Five additional site visits were conducted, and the Federal Aviction Administration (FAA) Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) and the Southwest Regional Office were consulted in a meeting at Cannon AFB and by letters.

Three specific sites in the Lon-Mesa area were analyzed. Figure 5 shows topography, highways, and underground pipelines in the area. Site 1 (Figure 5-1) was the original location identified above. Site 2 (Figure 5-2) was recommended at the DEIS public hearing. Site 3 (Figure 5-3) was identified to minimize the conflict of range operations with existing commercial air routes. Only one commercial air route overlies Site 3. Figure 5-4 shows existing restricted airspace areas and commercial airways above the Lon-Mesa area.

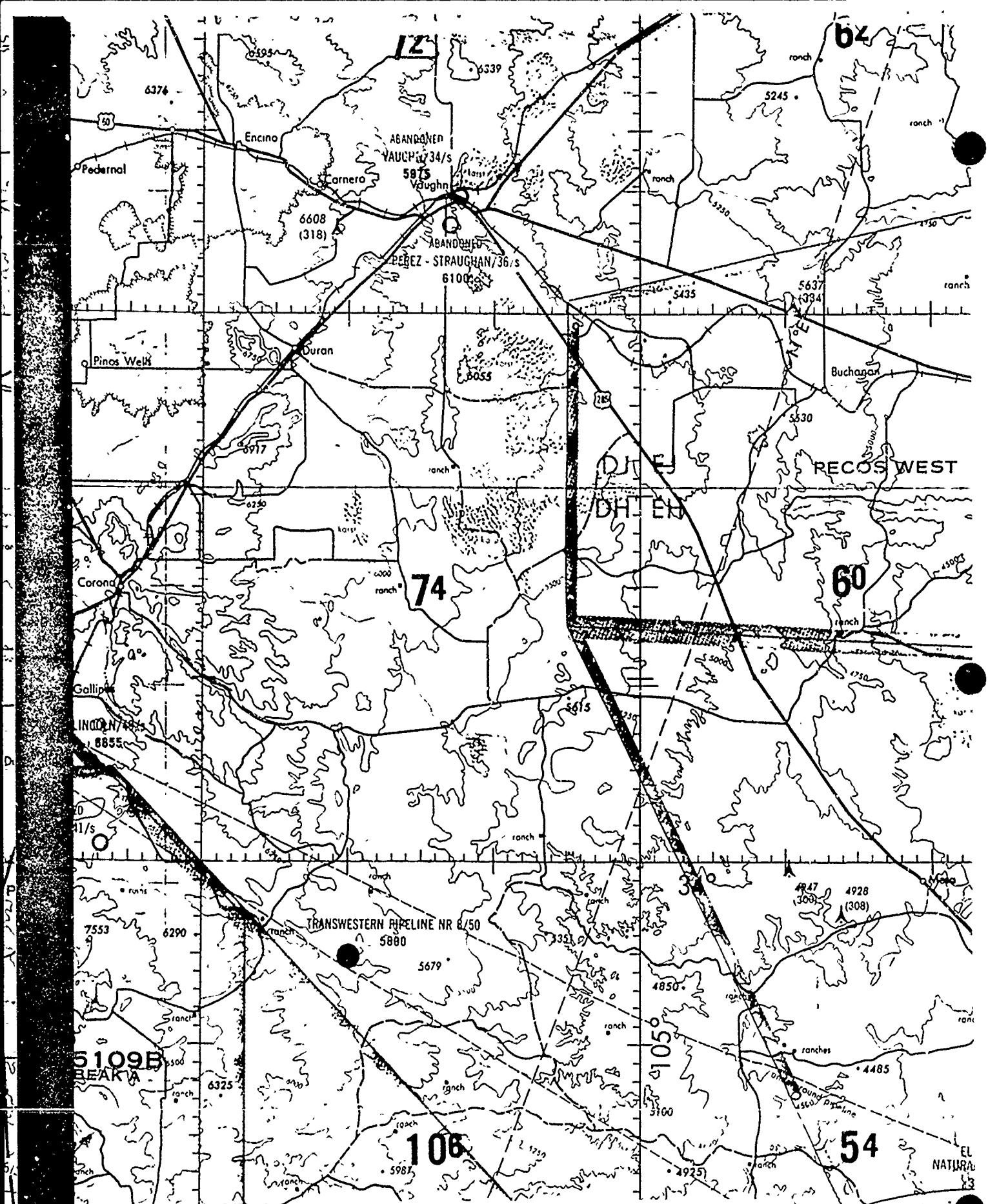


FIG. 5 LON-MESA TOPOGRAPHY

SCALE: 1"=8 Miles

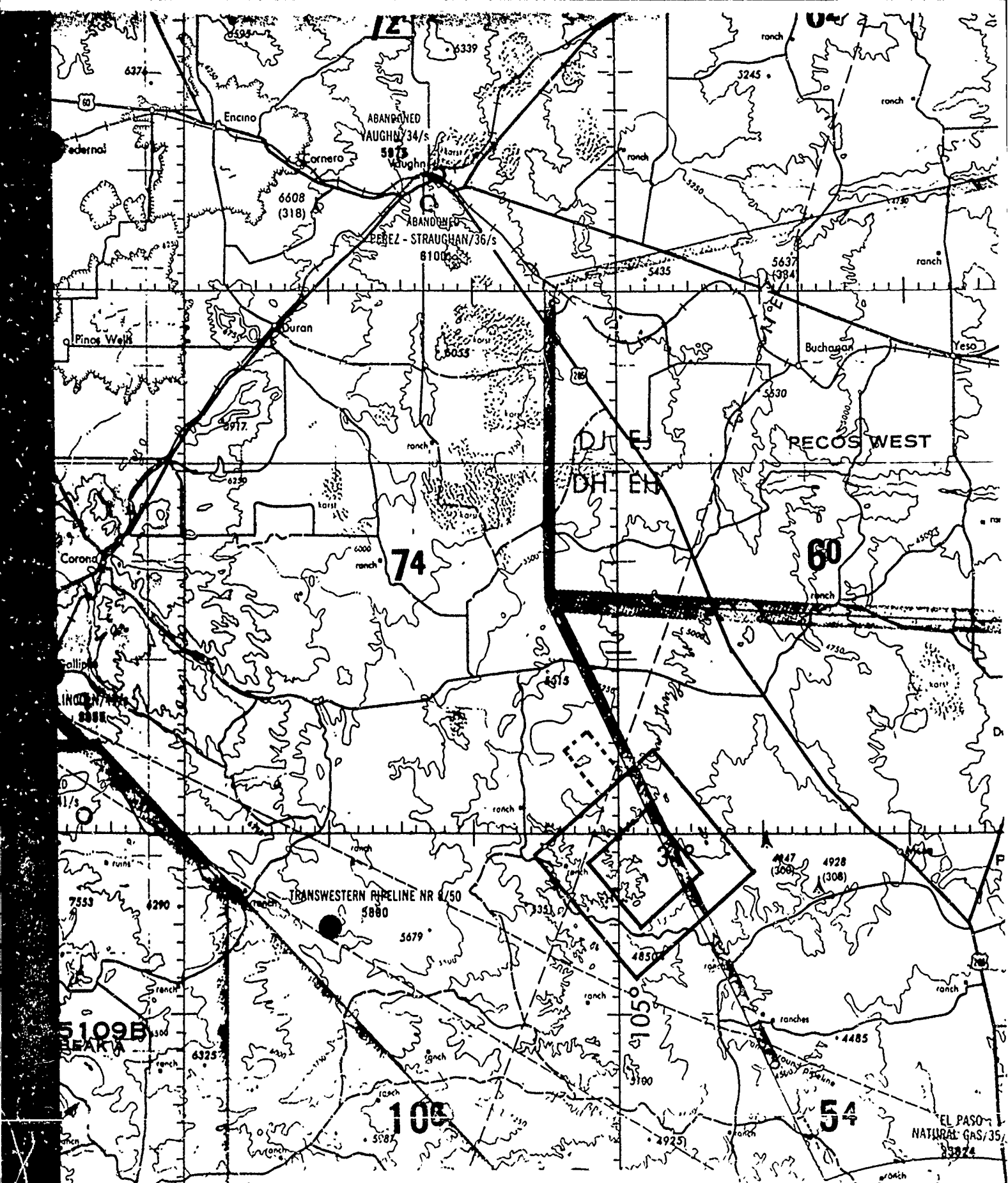


FIG. 5-1 LON-MESA SITE 1

SCALE: 1"=8 Miles

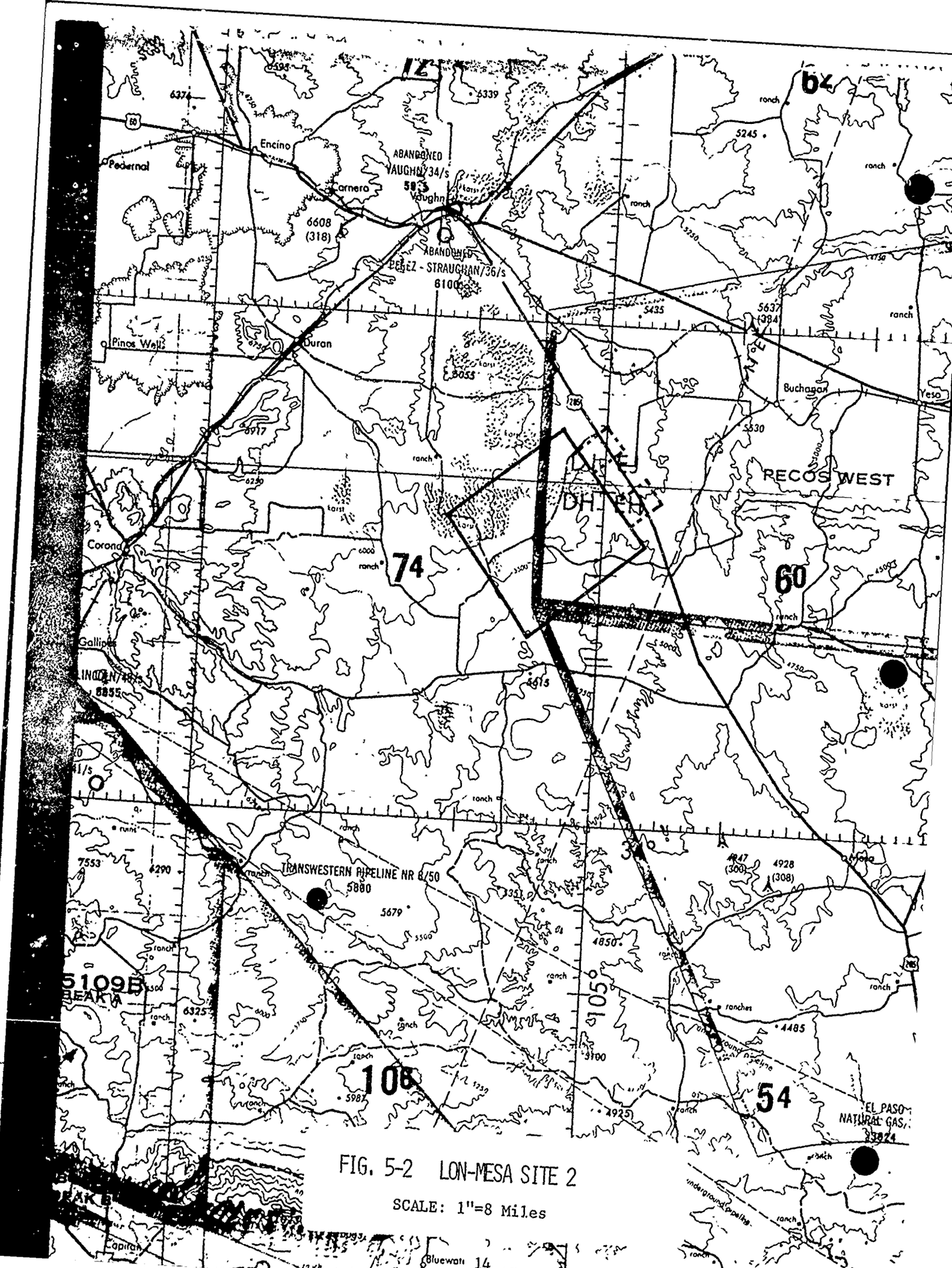


FIG. 5-2 LON-MESA SITE 2

SCALE: 1"=8 Miles

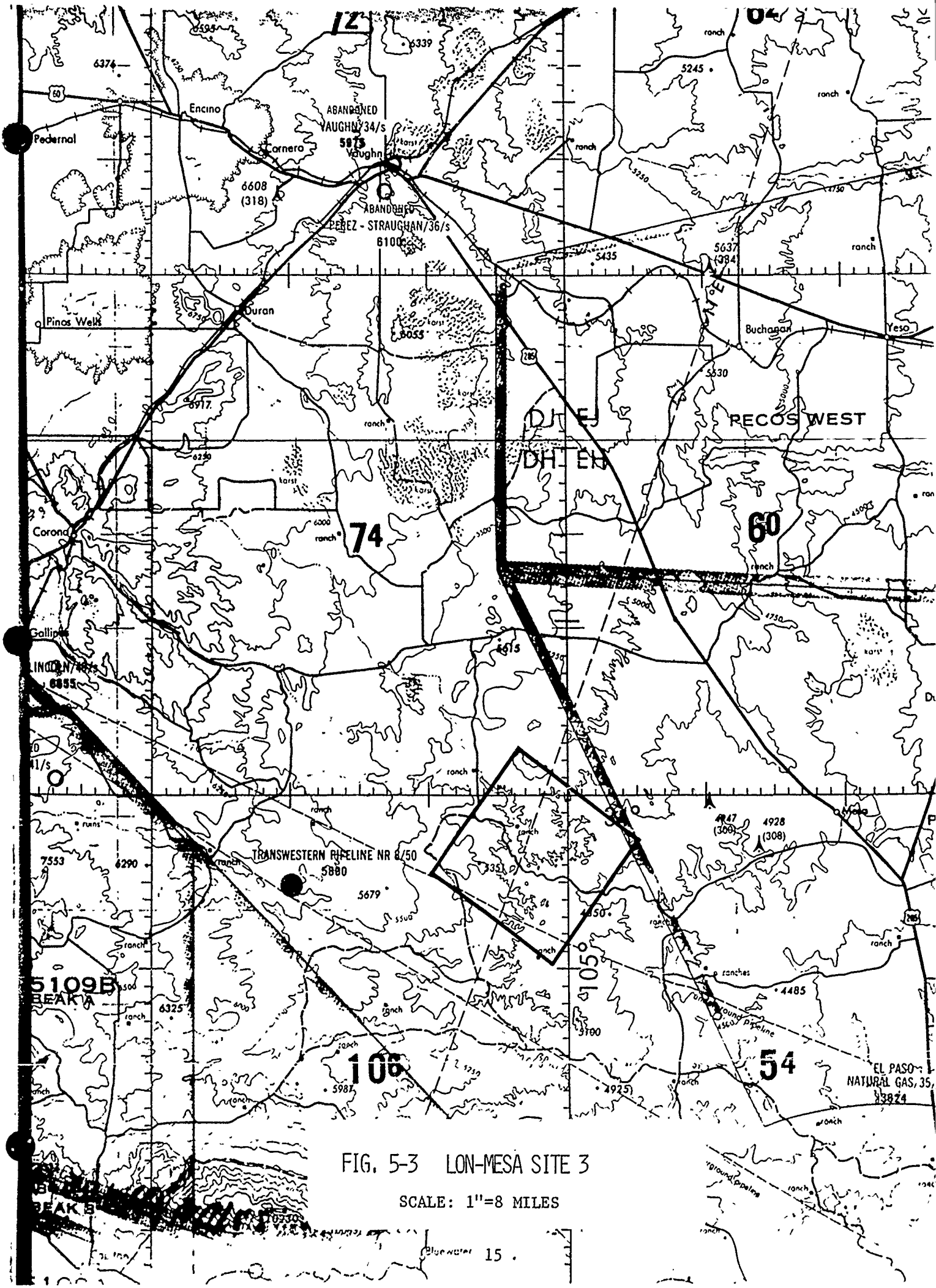


FIG. 5-3 LON-MESA SITE 3

SCALE: 1"=8 MILES

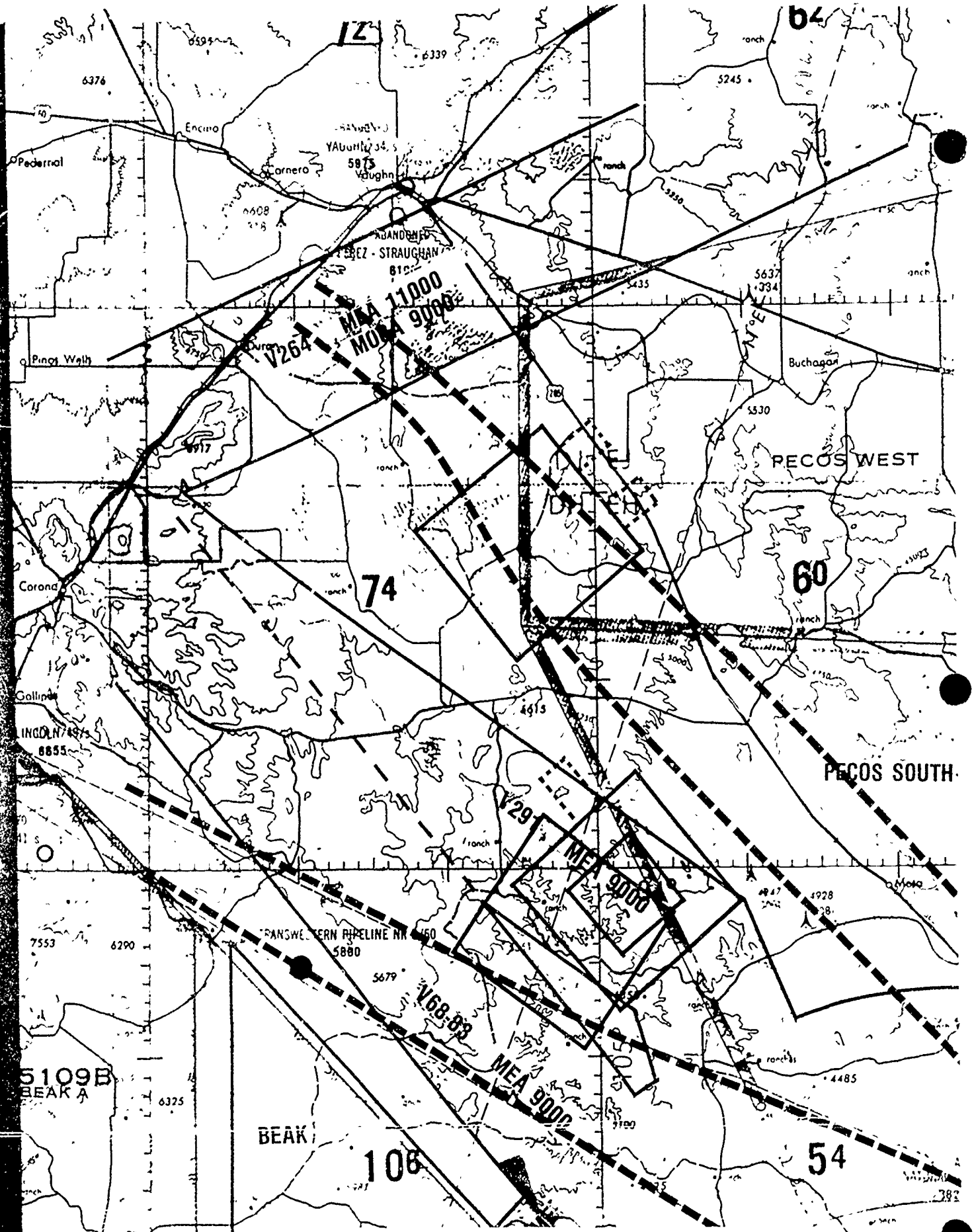


FIG. 5-4 LON MESA RESTRICTED AIRSPACE & COMMERCIAL AIRWAYS

SCALE: 1"=8 MILES

The FAA - the regulatory agency for aviation/airspace use and safety throughout the entire United States - objected strongly to all three alternatives because the special use space umbrella necessary above a new range in the Lon-Mesa area would severely limit flexibility for current airspace users. The Lon-Mesa area is a natural funnel for air traffic moving between the Albuquerque/Santa Fe/Ski Resorts area and southeastern New Mexico. The FAA notes that a potential Lon-Mesa special use airspace would overlap part of the low-altitude airway structure and a major VFR funneling of traffic from every direction. It could be expected that the special use airspace would receive heavy use not only from Cannon AFB, but also from the 150th TFG (Kirtland AFB), 49th TFW (Holloman AFB), and the 140th TFW (Buckley ANGB), among others. Additionally, the use of this airspace will continue to grow in total aviation importance. "Spill-outs" of high-speed military traffic from the special use airspace can be expected, creating "close calls". This would force air traffic to fly higher, and some aircraft would not be capable of complying with this safety requirement. The flight safety problems associated with mixing general, commercial, and military aviation are compounded in the Lon-Mesa area, where there is limited air traffic control radar availability. In other words, the Lon-Mesa area is currently used by several types of aviation traffic that are already in occasional conflict. The addition of activities associated with an air-to-ground range would make this coexistance untenable.

Relocation of air traffic routes is controlled by many of the same restrictions as are imposed upon Air Force training routes: flight mileages, fuel consumption, and the location of permanent navigational facilities. The additional radar necessary in this instance would, according to the FAA, cost up to $9 million or more, and could take ten years to fund and develop.

Independent of FAA objections, the Cannon AFB analysis of the operational feasibility of an air-to-ground range in the Lon-Mesa area identified the following operational restrictions:

a. None of the sites would offer omni-directional approaches because of the Roswell approach zone and commercial airways in the vicinity. Target site development at the Lon-Mesa Range would only result in single target capability and tactical approach options. These same deficiencies are major reasons Melrose Range is in need of expansion.

b. Aircraft pattern "spill-outs" at Lon-Mesa are potentially more dangerous than those at Melrose because of adjacent federal airways and control zones.

c. Site 2 is constrained by the presence of three underground pipelines, a microwave tower, and a federal highway.

d. The limited radar coverage noted by the FAA would cause hazardous arrival and departure procedures for fighter aircraft using the range.

e. Information provided by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Roswell District Office, indicates the value of mineral rights in the Lon-Mesa area is much more than those in the proposed Melrose expansion area. Annual lease rates for mineral rights average $472/acre in the site 2 area, $706/acre in the site 1 area, and $1/acre in the proposed Melrose expansion area. This would indicate that acquisition costs at Lon-Mesa would be substantially greater.

f. The lands in the Lon-Mesa area are used for grazing, and have facilities on them which would have to be purchased, much as at the Melrose range.

After re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa area, the Air Force again concludes no site there will provide the airspace and ground area needed for the performance of the Cannon AFB mission. Sites there could, at best, duplicate the deficient training capabilities of the existing Melrose range, with similar impact on land use, but at greater cost, and with disruption of air traffic in general.

2.3.2 TRAIN AT OTHER RANGES (EITHER PARTIALLY OR WHOLLY):

Cannon AFB aircraft currently accomplish five percent of their training requirements at four other ranges - Nellis, Luke, Red Rio, and Oscura. (The location of these ranges in relation to Cannon AFB is shown in Figure 1., page 2) These ranges do not meet the "less than 250 miles from Cannon AFB" distance criteria, thus making refueling of the aircraft necessary. Because of time spent in transit, viable training time will be reduced, without a corresponding increase in flying hours. More importantly, these other ranges are often not available to secondary users at the times training is desired. Availability to aircraft stationed at Cannon AFB is limited to surplus range time (that is, when the primary using organization has no scheduled need for the range facilities), for which other units are also competing. Approximate use rates of these ranges by their primary users are:

Nellis	100% of available time
Luke	75%
Red Rio	70%
Oscura	90%

Selecting this alternative would result in each Cannon AFB F-111D aircrew receiving insufficient training, or each current user losing a proportional share of its required training, thereby reducing combat effectiveness for each unit. Additionally, if Cannon AFB aircraft were to conduct all their training at other existing ranges, with Melrose Range closing, units presently sharing Melrose Range with the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing would also have to use other ranges more frequently. This increase in demand on the other ranges would further decrease their availability to the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Continuing to use Melrose within its limitations, and developing another range at another location to handle those missions Melrose cannot handle is impractical. The size requirements for the new range would mean it could also accommodate those missions "left" at Melrose. This would make Melrose completely redundant, and the discussion in paragraph 2.3.1, "Close Melrose Range and build a new range elsewhere", would apply.

For the above-stated reasons, the initial alternatives of using the existing range in conjunction with other ranges, or closing the range and training elsewhere were considered infeasible, and eliminated from further consideration.

2.4 SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The only two feasible alternatives are the proposed range expansion or the no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, present conditions would remain the same: aircraft noise, occasional small fires, and possible inadvertent disturbance of archeological sites. If the proposed action were adopted, air and water quality would not change, and noise impacts would improve somewhat on the east side of the range. There would be minor negative effects on soils and vegetation caused by expanding the target arrays. Archaeological resources would be surveyed and protected, although inadvertent loss of undiscovered sites could occur during construction. Economically, some lands would be withdrawn from existing uses, and other lands would shift from agriculture to grazing. Private property and utility lines would be purchased. A few families will be forced to relocate. Some of the mineral resources would remain undeveloped, and small losses in local tax revenues would occur.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

3.1 AIR QUALITY:

The Melrose Range is located in the Pecos-Permian Basin Interstate Air Quality Control Region. While there are no monitoring sites on or adjacent to the range, quality of the local air resources can be inferred from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) position on Curry and Roosevelt County's status of meeting the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

EPA indicates that ambient concentrations of particulates and sulfur oxides are better than the national standards; ozone, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides cannot be classified or are better than the standards. The area has not been designated as an Air Quality Maintenance Area for any of the criteria pollutants discussed above.

Although military aircraft are exempt from emission regulations set forth in the Clean Air Act, the emissions can add to the area's total pollutant load. Table 1 indicates the present pollution (by source) occuring on the range. These emissions have been occurring for the past few years and were a part of the area's pollutant load when EPA ruled on the attainment status of the national ambient air quality standards.

TABLE 1

CURRENT POLLUTANT EMISSIONS - MELROSE RANGE

SOURCE	ANNUAL HOURS	FUEL FLOW (lb/hr)	ANNUAL CONSUMPTION (1000 lb)	POLLUTANT EMISSION RATE (lb/1000 lb fuel) CO	HC	NOx	PART	SOx	POLLUTANT EMISSIONS (lb/yr) CO	HC	NOx	PART	SOx
F-111D[1]	2,104	14,516	30,542	0.8	0.1	20.0	0.35	1.0	24,434	3,054	610,840	10,690	30,542
A-7[1]	527	8,419	4,437	1.8	0.2	21.0	0.67	1.0	7,987	887	93,177	2,973	4,437
F-4C[1]	23	17,859	411	2.2	0.2	8.9	2.2	1.0	904	82	3,658	904	411
HH-53BC[2]	19	2,856	54	2.4	0.9	23.3	2.9	1.0	130	49	1,258	157	54
F-111A[1]	7	14,516	102	0.8	0.1	20.0	0.35	1.0	82	10	2,040	36	102
60 kw Generator and Power Plant[3]	-	-	37	0.7	0.14	2.5	0.34	0.1	26	5	92	13	4
Vehicles:[3]													
Gasoline-Powered	-	-	21	64.0	7.86	9.1	1.1	0.23	1,340	165	191	23	5
Diesel-Powered	-	-	119	6.3	1.0	4.62	0.33	0.62	752	120	550	39	74
								TOTAL	35,655	4,372	711,806	14,835	35,629

NOTE: Calculations based on military mode only.

Reference Source:
1 Aircraft Air Pollution Estimations-ACEE, CEEDO-TR-78-33, Sep 78.
2 Aircraft Engine Emissions Catalog, R/S NAVAIDEWORKFAC 13790-4, Feb 76.
3 Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, AP-42, 3rd Edition, Aug 77.

3.2 EXISTING NOISE ENVIRONMENT:

Noise comes from many different sources; transportation, industrial, contruction, household, and people and animal noise are all large-scale offenders. Noise is commonly defined as unwanted sound. In the context of protecting the public health and welfare, noise implies adverse effects on people and the environment. Noise can be annoying, involving anger and frustration; it can disrupt sleep, communications, and individuals' thoughts and performance capability. Loud noises can cause temporary and permanent hearing loss. In recent years many articles have been published that indicate a possible link between noise and physiological ill-health.

Several factors beyond the magnitude of exposure have been found to influence community reaction. These factors include: (a) duration of intruding noises and frequency of occurance, (b) time of year (windows opened or closed), (c) outdoor noise level in community when intruding noises are present, (d) history of prior exposure to the noise source, and (e) attitude toward the noise source.

The method adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Air Force for describing noise and evaluating its effects on people and their activities is the average A-weighted day-night sound level (DNL). The procedure uses the "A-weighted" sound level (which approximates the human ear response) and averages the energy over the duration of a single event. The single event level for the number of events occurring during the day and night (with a 10dB penality for night time events) are then averaged to give a single value for the 24 hour period.

A DNL of 55dB is recognized by HUD, DOT, and EPA as a goal for outdoors in residential areas in protecting the public health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. The goal is not a regulatory goal; it is a level defined by negotiated scientific concensus without concern for economic and technological feasibility. Most urban areas exceed 55 DNL. HUD considers noise levels between 65-75 DNL as "normally unacceptable" for construction of new noise sensitive uses (residences, schools, hospitals, and etc.) unless attenuation measures are incorporated in the project design. Levels above 75 DNL are considered "Unacceptable" for noise sensitive uses bu HUD.

Figure 6 shows the 65-75 DNL contours for existing operations on the range. There are no schools or hospitals in the 65-75 DNL contours; however, Figure 6 shows several ranches. Nine ranches are within the 75 DNL contour and 15 within the 65 DNL contour.

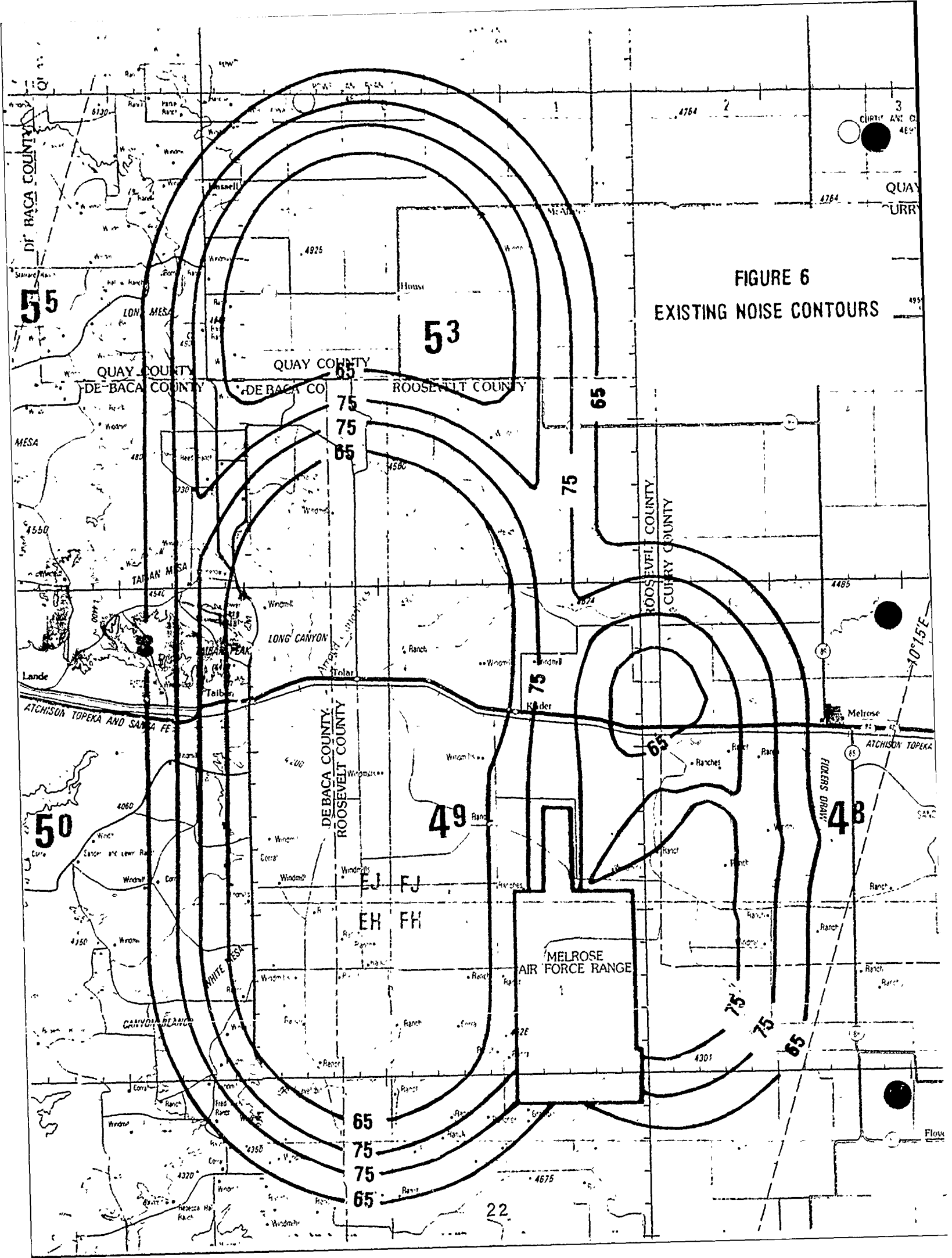


FIGURE 6
EXISTING NOISE CONTOURS
55
53
49
50
48
65
75
75
65
75
65
75
75
65
65
75
75
65
DE BACA COUNTY
QUAY COUNTY
ROOSEVELT COUNTY
CURRY COUNTY
LONG CANYON
TAIBAN MESA
WHITE MESA
CANYON BLANCO
ATCHISON TOPEKA AND SANTA FE
ATCHISON TOPEKA
Lande
Taiban
Tolar
Melrose
FIXERS DRAW
MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE
EJ FJ
EH FH
22

3.3 WATER RESOURCES:

There is no permanent surface water on the proposed expanded range. Irrigation on the High Plains (Llano Estacado) in Texas and New Mexico has grown from a few watered rows in 1910 to more than 5.5 million acres. The Llano Estacado (30,000 square miles) encompasses the agricultural community in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas and is the largest uninterrupted area of semi-arid climate in North America. The Ogallala Formation, an underground aquifer, supplies water for irrigation in this area. Most authorities consider the Ogallala Formation and the Portales Valley Fill, which underlies the Melrose Range, as a single hydrologic unit. The two underground basins which are a part of the Ogallala Aquifer extending into the boundaries of the proposed Melrose Range expansion are the Fort Sumner Basin and the Portales Basin. A representative of the New Mexico State Engineer's Office indicates these are the only designated or declared aquifer basins extending into the proposed expanded range. (Declared basins are designated by the State Engineer for the purpose of insuring orderly development of the water resources.) The proposed Melrose range is shown with respect to the two declared basins on Figure 7. A portion of the Fort Sumner Basin comprises approximately four square miles and the Portales Basin approximately 30 square miles of the proposed expansion.

The natural recharge to the aquifer system is insignificant in relation to total drawdown in the region. In 1968 the State Engineer estimated that annual withdrawal was five times greater than recharge. The Portales area showed a decline of as much as 50 feet between 1932 and 1960. The New Mexico State Engineer Basic Data Report, "Ground Water Levels in New Mexico, 1976" by J. D. Hudson, and supplied by the US Geological Service, Water Resources Division, Albuquerque, indicates that the average annual drop in the ground water table in the five years preceding 1977 was approximately 2.50 feet.

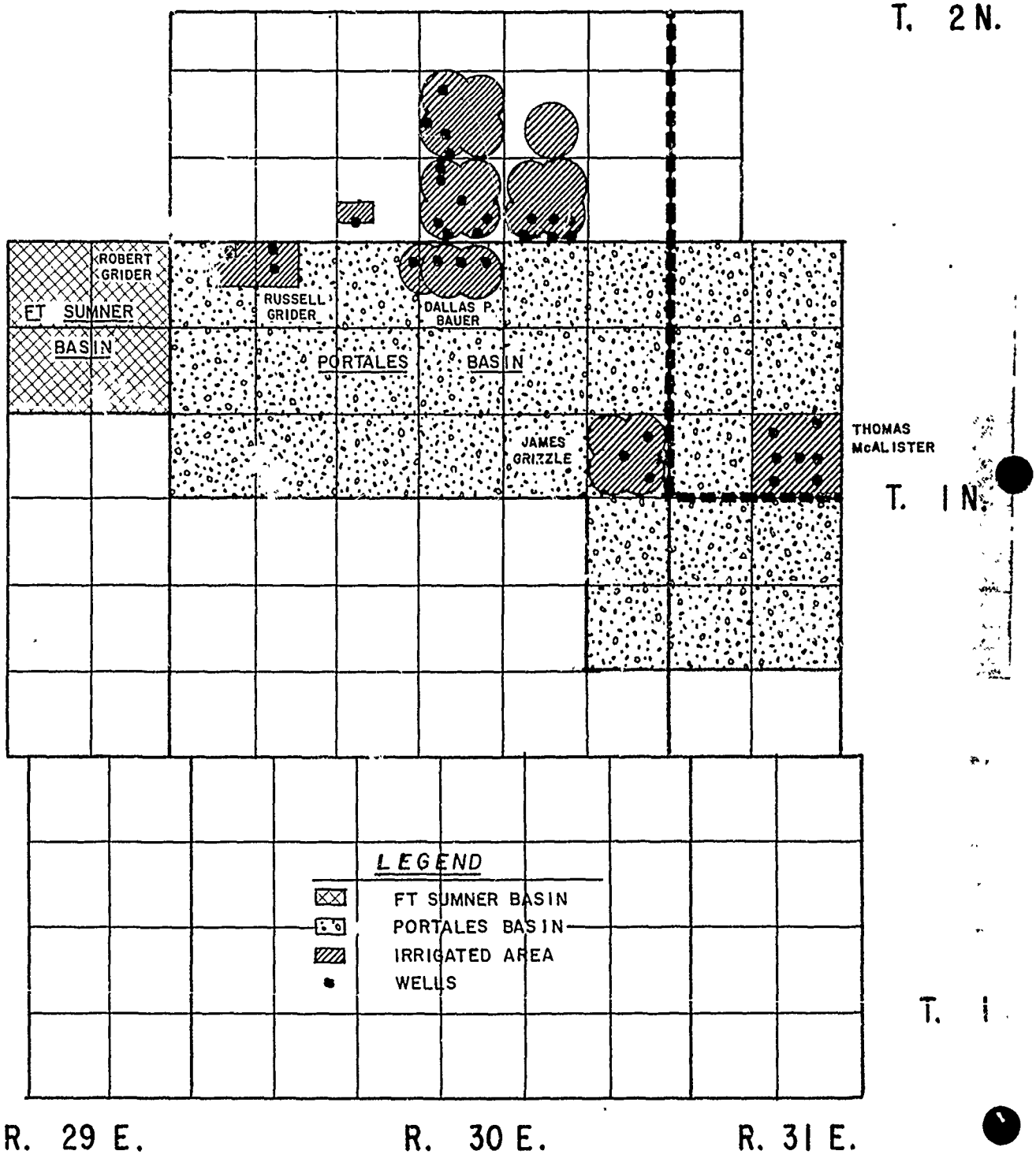
Figure 7 shows the location of 36 irrigation and livestock wells licensed by the State Engineer. There is no requirement for a license for wells located outside declared basins. Wells within a declared basin must be licensed and drilled by a state licensed driller. If water rights are not available for land purchased in a declared basin, a well may be drilled by a licensed driller, but annual capacities are restricted to 3 acre feet of water to supply 1 house, trees, and grass and garden on 1 acre of land. During the preparation of the DEIS and through the public comment process a total of 47 wells of various size, use, and location have been identified within the proposed expanded range; two have unknown owners. The locations and known owners of the wells is provided in Appendix C.

WELL LOCATIONS — IRRIG.

PROPOSED MELROSE RANGE EXPANSION

1979

SCALE: 1" = 1.75 MILES = 1.52 N.M.



. EXTRACTED FROM STATE ENGINEER'S VESTED WATER RIGHTS MAP

FIGURE 7 OGALLALA AQUIFER BASINS

3.4 WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

Maps and surveys made by the Natural History Museum at Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico indicate the count of native terrestrial wildlife in Roosevelt County is approximately 106 species of birds, 40 species of mammals and 34 species of reptiles. Additionally, the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for Cannon AFB and Melrose AFR, which was prepared by the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game, contains a fauna list which is reproduced below.

3.4.1 MAMMALS:

Species likely to be found on the proposed expansion area include:

pronghorn	mule deer
black-tailed jackrabbit	desert cottontail
coyote	swift fox
plains pocket gopher	thirteen-lined ground squirrel
spotted ground squirrel	black-tailed prairie dog
badger	bobcat
striped skunk	Ord's kangaroo rat
banner-tailed kangaroo rat	silky Pocket mouse
plains pocket mouse	hispid pocket mouse
deer mouse	plains harvest mouse
western harvest mouse	pinon mouse
white-footed mouse	southern plains woodrat
northern grasshopper mouse	hispid cotton rat
porcupine	long-tailed weasel
ringtail	pallid bat
Brazilian freetailed bat	

3.4.2 BIRDS:

The Melrose Range area has a diverse bird life, primarily because it is located within an area where species can disperse throughout many varied biomes. Although some overlap occurs, bird species are characteristic to each of the four seasons. Spring and fall seasons are characterized by migrants, while summertime brings the common nesters, numbering more than 20 species. Representative species include:

western kingbird	burrowing owl
white necked raven	scaled quail
lesser prairie chicken	loggerhead shrike
roadrunner	American kestrel
marsh hawk	ferruginous hawk
roughlegged hawk	golden eagle
prairie falcon	Cooper's hawk
sharp-shinned hawk	Swainson's hawk
red-tailed hawk	Mississippi kite
barn owl	great horned owl
flamulated owl	turkey vulture
red-headed woodpecker	lark bunting
sage sparrow	ladder-backed woodpecker
blue grosbeak	mockingbird
common nighthawk	domestic pigeon
black-throated gray warbler	brown-headed cowbird

tree sparrow
summer tanager
horned lark
evening grosbeak
scissor-tailed flycatcher
western meadowlark
black-chinned hummingbird
savannah sparrow
house finch
Wilson's warbler
ruby-crowned kinglet
American goldfinch
morningdove
bobwhite quail
mountain chickadee
red-shafted flicker
white-crowned sparrow
Bullock's oriole
hermit thrush
western wood pewee
brown thrasher
chipping sparrow
eastern meadowlark
barn sparrow
killdeer
lark sparrow
Mac Gallivray's Warbler
song sparrow
roadrunner
scaled quail
starling
English sparrow
Oregon junco

3.4.3 FISH:

No natural bodies of water or streams exist within the proposed Melrose Range boundaries.

3.4.4 REPTILES:

Species likely to be found on the proposed expansion area include:

yellow mud turtle
lesser earless lizard
great plains skink
Texas horned lizard
side-blotched lizard
tiger salamander
western spadefoot
great plains toad
red-spotted toad
Texas blind snake
western coachwhip
western diamondback rattlesnake
gopher (bull) snake
corn snake
California milk snake
checkered garter snake
plains black-headed snake
massasauga
box turtle
six-lined racerunner
collared lizard (mountain boomer)
eastern fence lizard
round-tailed horned lizard
plains spadefoot
Couch's spadefoot
green toad
ground snake
prairie ringneck snake
Kansas glossy snake
prairie rattlesnake
western hognose snake
central plains milk snake
Texas long-nose snake
plains garter snake
Texas night snake

3.4.5 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:

As determined by the Area Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, no threatened or endangered animal species are known to inhabit the Melrose Range or immediate vicinity (Appendix A, page A-2). A pair of golden eagles nest approximately 1/2 mile outside the northeast boundary of the proposed expanded range. Although not listed as threatened or endangered, golden eagles are protected under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. Additionally, the Melrose Range is within the historic range of three endangered species: the black-footed ferret (Mustela nigripes), the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), and the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus). Whooping cranes could occur as transients to the area.

3.5 VEGETATION RESOURCES:

The High Plains (Llano Estacado) of Eastern New Mexico lie primarily within the Upper Sonoran life zone. The vegetation in this area is characteristic of a native mixed or shortgrass prairie dominated by various grass species. The High Plains rangeland or shortgrass prairie (which is included in the proposed Melrose expansion) is dominated by such grass species as blue grama, sideoats grama, hairy grama, and galleta. Big bluestem, sand bluestem, little bluestem, buffalograss, cine mesquite, and alkali sacaton occur on the sandier portions of the range. Mimosa, rubber rabbitbrush, juniper, snakewood, yucca, etc., are found occasionally, and may become numerous with certain climatic conditions in the shortgrass prairie. In general, moderately grazed rangeland areas of this type are highly productive in terms of both forage quality and quantity. The rangeland on the Melrose range usually supports 15 to 20 head of cattle per section depending upon the rainfall. Large trees do not normally exist except where they have been planted around homes, farms, and ranch headquarters. No threatened or endangered plant species exist on the Melrose range or within the immediate area.

The principal crops produced in Curry and Roosevelt Counties are wheat, grain sorghum, corn, barley, cotton and cotton seed, hay (alfalfa and other types), peanuts and potatoes. Wheat, barley and potatoes are harvested in late spring and early summer. Alfalfa hay harvest begins in May and ends in late October. Other crops are harvested in the fall. The monetary value of crops produced in the two counties during 1979 was $78,888,200. There are approximately 455,000 acres in cultivation in Curry County and 350,000 acres in cultivation in Roosevelt County. About 50% of land cultivated in Curry County and about 35% in Roosevelt County is irrigated.

3.6 SOIL:

The land within the proposed range expansion area is, in general, highly susceptible to wind erosion and tends to form sand dunes. The topsoil in many places is thin and usually consists of a light sandy loam that does not support top agricultural production. The three major classes of soil existing in the proposed area are:

a. Amarillo-Clovis loamy fine sands association: Deep and moderately deep sandy land.

b. Amarillo-Clovis fine sandy loams association: Deep and moderately deep, moderately sandy land.

c. Amarillo-Clovis loam association: Deep and moderately deep hardlands.

The soils of all three associations are underlain, for the most part, by soft caliche at a depth commonly less than four feet. The soils underlain by soft caliche generally have sufficient silt and clay through their solum for the construction of ponds and dams. All of the soils are suitable for terraces, diversions, waterways and other small earthen structures. The US Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office in Clovis, NM, indicates that none of the land proposed for acquisition in Roosevelt or Curry Counties is classified by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as prime or unique farmland. Prime farmland and unique farmland are defined by the USDA as follows:

Prime Farmland - "Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farmining methods. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding. Examples of soils that quality as prime farmland are Palouse silt loam, 0 to 7 percent slopes; Brookston silty clay loam, drained; and Tama silty clay loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes."

Unique Farmlands - "Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality and/or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Examples of such crops are citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables."

Review of SCS maps indicate that approximately 3,500 acres of land classified by the USDA as additional farmlamd of statewide importance might be impacted. The USDA definition of this classification of land is as follows: "This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage and oil seed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the appropriate State agency or agencies. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable. In some States, additional farmlands of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have designated for agriculture by State law."

3.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The land which comprises and surrounds the existing Melrose Range lies within an area called the Eastern Peripheral Zone. This zone forms the eastern periphery of the Puebloan cultural area, and is expected to contain artifacts from the paleo period (Clovis, Folsom and Midland cultures) and the Archaic ("Picosa" or basketmaker materials). In addition to these earlier cultures, artifacts from several nomadic groups such as Apache, Comanche and Navajo may occur in this area. Although this portion of the state has not been intensely explored in archaeological terms, artifacts from all groups have been encountered within a 100-mile radius of the range.

In an effort to gain an understanding of archaeological/cultural features of the existing Melrose Range, Cannon AFB took steps to have a professional survey performed. The resulting Statement of Work was developed with recommendations from Eastern New Mexico University's Agency for Conservation Arhaeology, and was approved by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office. This contract focused on the existing Melrose Range, which is the site where most (if not all) ground disturbance would occur under this proposal, and called for a 10% survey following a specified sampling design, with a 100% survey of areas that would be impacted during possible future ground disturbing activities. The survey identified twenty cultural sites in the 10% area survey in 1981. These sites consisted of possible former quarries, campsites, temporary shelter locations and in one instance, a burial site. None of the sites were recommended or identified as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Because deficiences have been identified in the survey, it will be reaccomplished. In the interim, construction sites would be investigated prior to disturbance. Identified sites which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be protected in any case, usually by proper selection of target location.

The proposed expansion area has not been surveyed. The Air Force, in 1980, expressed its commitment (Appendix A, page A-46) to identify, nominate, and protect eligible cultural sites on lands in the proposed expansion area should that land be acquired. To formalize this commitment, the Air Force requested that, following authorization of the acquisition, a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Bureau be initiated. This was agreed to by the Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

3.8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

3.8.1 POPULATION STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC BASE:

The proposed expansion would affect land in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. The nearby village of Melrose has a population of 649 (1980 census). Government, including Cannon Air Force Base and the city of Clovis, is the largest source of employment in Curry County, with agriculture employing the next largest number. In Roosevelt County, agriculture is the number one source of employment.

	CURRY COUNTY	ROOSEVELT COUNTY
Population (1980)	39,043	14,431
Per Capita Income (1978)	$6,767	$6,107
Rank in state	7	14
Unemployment Rate (1984)	6.5%	4.3%

3.8.2 OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE:

Ownership (Surface Lands)

The proposed expansion area (55,000 acres) surrounds the existing range located in Roosevelt County, and would also include 5198 acres in Curry County. (See Figure 2, page 3.) There are 55 tracts with a total of 43 owners, including private individuals, the State of New Mexico, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Ownership (Mineral Rights)

A review of local abstract maps of the proposed expansion area shows over 200 tracts with over 100 owners, including private individuals, the State of New Mexico, and the US government. The State of New Mexico owns mineral rights on 6,400 acres of privately-owned surface lands in addition to lands on which it owns the surface.

Land Use

Zoning or formal land-use planning is not actively pursued by either Roosevelt or Curry County. The Eastern Plains Council of Government, the New Mexico Council of Government, and the New Mexico State Planning Office classify the land surrounding the existing Melrose Range as agricultural land.

	CURRY COUNTY Acres	ROOSEVELT COUNTY Acres
Dryland Farming	0	2500
Irrigated Farming	640	2860
Private Rangeland	878	36622
Leased Rangeland (State)	3680	7820
Totals	5198	49802

The land is predominantly used for cattle grazing (about 49,000 acres). A total of six inhabited dwellings are located on four ranches within the proposed expanded range boundaries. The locations of these dwellings are shown on Figure 8.

There are no known mineral exploration or exploitation activities ongoing in the proposed expansion area.

3.8.3 MINERAL RESOURCES:

Sixty-five percent of the proposed expansion area is under oil and gas lease. The breakdown is:

Owner	Total Mineral Acres	Approx. Acres Under Lease	Percentage
State	21,980	18,407	84.0
Federal	3,227	3,211	99.5
Private	29,290	14,070	48.0
Total	54,497	35,688	

In 1974, the State of New Mexico classified the Melrose, New Mexico area as having a high potential for the discovery of oil and gas. The developed oil and gas fields to the south have been steadily expanded to the north and are now within 30 miles. There are two producing gas wells in De Baca County approximately 12 miles southwest of the proposed Melrose Bombing Range. Over the past 50 years, 25 test wells have been drilled in the Melrose and Floyd area. Except for the two gas wells identified above, all exploration has resulted in dry holes.

The proposed expansion is located within Potash Reserve Number 6, New Mexico Number 1 dated 11 March 1926. This reserve was created on the presumption that where salt exists so does potash. To date, no salt or potash is produced in the area and, as far as can be determined, none is planned for the future.

3.8.4 ROADS:

Roads (See Figure 8). Approximately 45 miles of public road are located within the area proposed for expansion. Additionally, New Mexico Highway Department maps show 7.25 miles of public road adjacent to the proposed boundary of the expanded bombing range. The roads vary in width from 8 feet for the primitive roads to 20 feet on low-type bituminous surface roads. The New Mexico State Highway Department functionally classifies all of the public roads within the proposed expansion area as local roads. However, Roosevelt and Curry County officials view the north-south road between Range 29E and Range 30E and the east-west road (State Road 25) between the third tier of sections in Township 1 South as major county roads. Both of these roads are school bus and mail routes. State Road 25 (which would remain open) is the only hard surface road in the proposed expansion area. The New Mexico Highway Department reports the daily traffic count for this farm-to-market type road is seven vehicles per day.

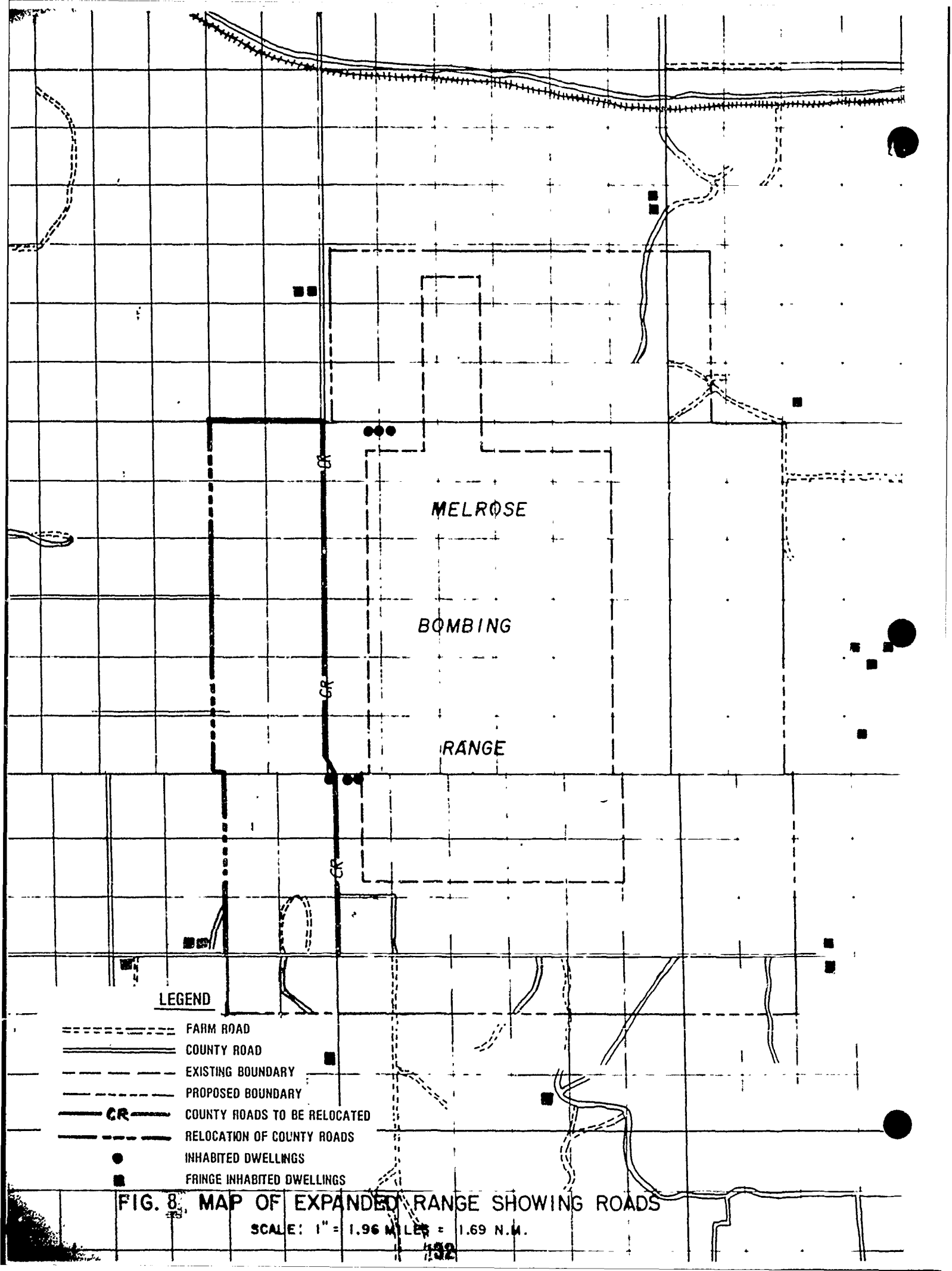


FIG. 8. MAP OF EXPANDED RANGE SHOWING ROADS

SCALE: 1" = 1.96 MILES = 1.69 N.M.

3.8.5 UTILITIES:

Gas Lines (See Figure 9). The Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association has approximately 13.75 miles of 2 inch PVC gas line within the proposed expansion area, servicing dwellings and 24 irrigation wells.

Power Lines. There are approximately 39.5 miles of power lines within the proposed expansion area, serving improvements there.

Telephone Lines. There are about 17 miles of underground telephone lines, and 7 miles of overhead lines, within the proposed expansion area, serving improvements there.

Other Utilities. A steel radio tower is located in the northeast corner of Section 24, T1S, R29E (Figure 9).

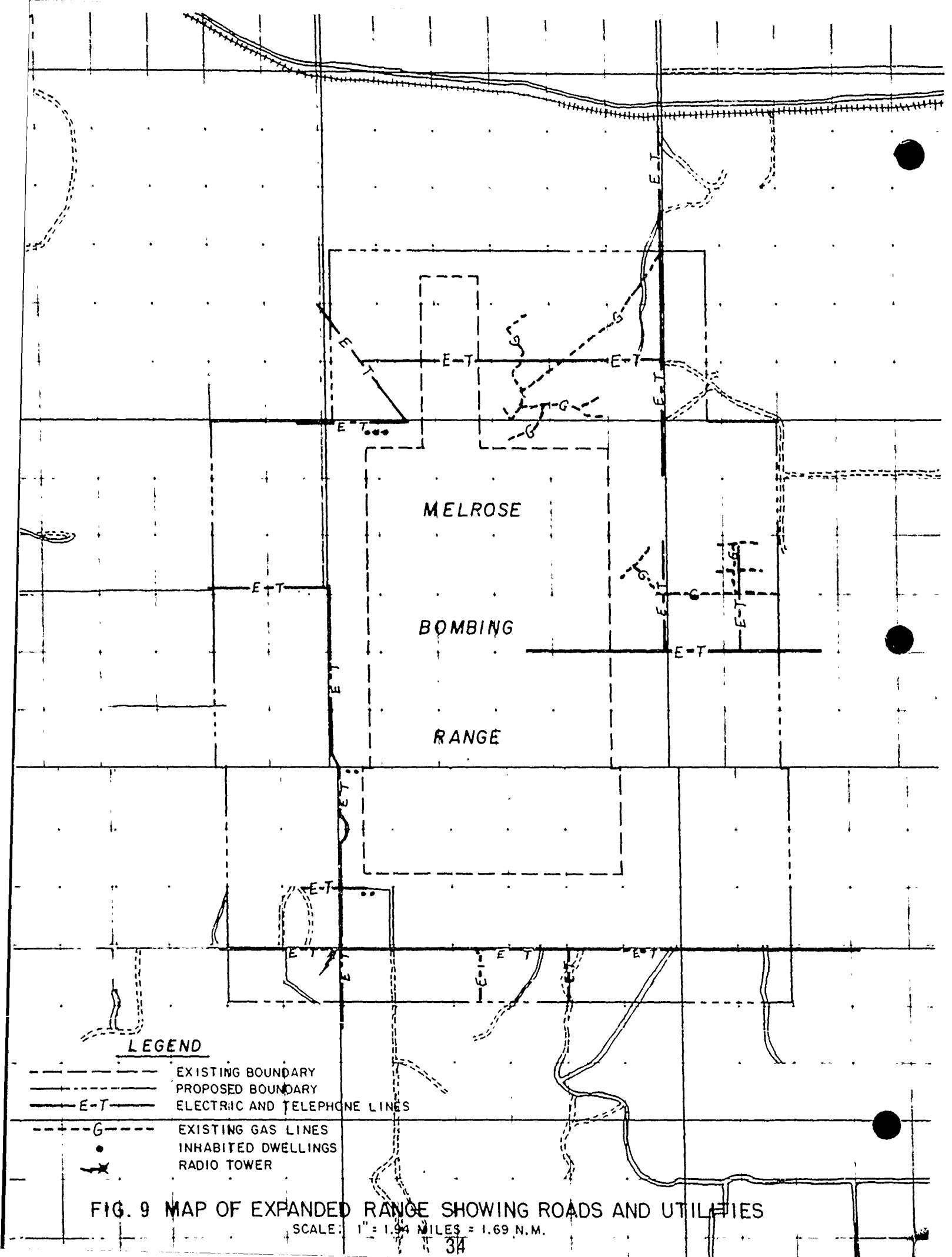


FIG. 9 MAP OF EXPANDED RANGE SHOWING ROADS AND UTILITIES

SCALE: 1" = 1.94 MILES = 1.69 N.M.

3.8.6 TAX REVENUE:

Curry County. Most of the land in the proposed 5198-acre expansion into Curry County is state-owned, and is out-leased for agricultural purposes. The 940 acres of privately-owned land return annual (1982 figures) taxes of $50.83. The FY 82 budget for Curry County was $1,996,874.

Roosevelt County. Approximately 38,000 acres of the proposed expansion area into Roosevelt County is privately-owned. It has an assessed value (1982) of $499,148, and returns annual taxes of $5,288.64. The FY82 budget for Roosevelt County was $1,542,309.

The New Mexico gross receipts tax is 3.75% (collected by the state) with Curry County receiving an additional .375%, and Roosevelt County receiving an additional .125%, on transactions outside a municipality but within their respective counties.

TABLE 2

TAX REVENUE FROM PROPOSED EXPANSION AREA (1982)

Acres	Assessed Value	Total Tax Rate	Annual Tax
Curry County:			
940	$5,922	25.647 mills/dollar x 1/3 assessed value	$50.63
Roosevelt County:			
37,700	$499,148	31.786 mills/dollar x 1/3 assessed value	$5,288.64

Annual Tax Fund

Floyd School District Tax Rate = 18.339 mills/dollar	$3,051.29
Highway Maintenance Tax Rate - 12.697 mills/dollar	$2,112.56
Hospital Tax Rate - 0.750 mills/dollar	$ 124.79
Total	$5,288.64

4.0 IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND THE ALTERNATIVES:

4.1 AIR QUALITY:

The no action alternative (continuation of current on-going activity) would result in no change to the local air quality.

Pollutant contribution to local air quality would continue to be generated in the form of fugitive dust and particulate and gaseous emissions from aircraft operations. Dust generated from open sources is termed "fugitive" because it is not discharged to the atmosphere in a confined flow stream. Potential sources of fugitive dust on the range are vehicular traffic and target construction activities.

Atmospheric dust arises from the mechanical disturbance of granular material exposed to the air. The dust generation process is caused by pulverization and abrasion of surface materials by application of a mechanical force through implements and entrainment of the particles by the action of turbulent wind currents. When a vehicle travels an unpaved road, the force of the wheels on the road surface causes pulverization of the surface macerial. Particles are lifted and dropped from the rolling wheels, and the road surface is exposed to strong air current in turbulent sheer with the surface. The turbulent wake behind the vehicle continues to act on the road surfa.e after the vehicle has passed.

The potential drift distance of particles is governed by the initial injection height, the particle's terminal settling velocity, and the degree of atmospheric turbulence. EPA AP-42 (Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors) has evaluated theoretical drift distances for fugitive dust emissions, as a function of particle diameter and mean wind speed. These results indicate that, for a typical mean wind speed of ten miles per hour, particles larger than about one-hundred micrometers are likely to settle out within twenty to thirty feet of the road. Particles that are thirty to one-hundred micrometers in diameter are likely to settle with in a few hundred feet. Smaller particles, thirty micrometers and below, tend to remain suspended for longer distances. The following quantities of fugitive emissions are based on thirty micrometers and smaller sized particles.

Using EPA emission factors (AP-42) and assuming that the proposed range expansion would result in about ten more miles of road on the range, it is projected an increase of approximately six tons of fugitive dust would be generated each year.

Maintenance and construction of fire breaks, targets, run-in lines, and target maintenance roads would clear approximately 400 acres of land. This acreage was erroneously estemated as ten acreas in the DEIS. Tilling operations to soften the impact area around targets and creating fire breaks could subject the cleared acreage to increased wind erosion. The tilling operations are anticipated to result in about twenty pounds of particulates per acre being lofted into the air.

The quantity of fugitive emission is not considered a significant impact to the local air quality and is not expected to cause the area to exceed the Federal ambient particulate standard.

The military aircraft would continue to emit particulate and gaseous emissions into local range atmosphere. The proposed range expansion is not expected to result in increased aircraft activity; therefore, there would be no change in aircraft emissions.

4.2 NOISE:

Figure 10 shows the 65-75 DNL noise contours for the flight tracks that would be used if the range were expanded. Comparison between the existing operations (no action alternative as shown in Figure 6, page 22) and the proposed expansion indicates a significant reduction in the overall noise level on the east side of the range, but with a slight increase on the west. This is due to dispersing the sorties on additional flight tracks that could be created if the range were expanded. The 65 DNL contour on the east side of the range would be over a portion of the town of Melrose; whose 1980 census population was 649 people. The school in Melrose is also on the edge of the 65 DNL contour. There are no hospitals in the affected area.

Noise levels above 75 DNL are of concern in respect to potential hearing loss. The proposed action would reduce the 75 DNL contour, and consequently, the number of people affected. The level of hearing loss for the average person exposed to this noise level continuously for a 40-year period is expected to be less than 1-2 dB, which is below the 5 dB level EPA believes to be significant.

For the purpose of identifying protective noise levels, annoyance is quantified by using the percentage of people who are annoyed by the noise. This is felt to be the best estimate of the general adverse response of people, and in turn, is viewed as reflecting activity interference and the overall desire for quiet. The National Academy of Science through its Committee on Hearing Bioacoustics, and Biomechanics (CHABA) has provided guidelines (CHABA-69 Report) that estimate 15 percent of the 65 DNL-exposed population are expected to be annoyed; 37 percent of the 75 DNL are expected to be annoyed. The actual number of individuals which would be annoyed, file complaints or take other action depends to a large degree on socioeconomic factors and the attitude of the individual toward the noise source. Complaint records at Cannon AFB indicate from March 4, 1982 until October 26, 1984 a total of 26 noise complaints were recorded from the area of Melrose range. These complaints came from nine different people; one person made four and another made fourteen. This level of complaints would be expected to continue if the Melrose range does not expand. If the expansion option is adopted, the number of complaints could increase due to more people being impacted by the 65 DNL contour.

The Air Force has reviewed the current scientific consensus on potential non-auditory ill-health effects from noise in environmental impact statements prepared for the RF/F-4 Beddown at Bergstrom AFB, TX, Supersonic Flight Operations in the Valentine Military Operations Area, and Supersonic Flight Operations in the Reserve Military Operations Area. These documents reviewed both sides of the issue - authors advocating measurable effect and those indicating no effect.

CHABA has taken the position that current evidence is suggestive, but it does not provide definitive answers on the long-term health effect issue. CHABA encourages more definitive research with adequate controls for other known risk factors. Dr. Shirley Thompson of the University of South Carolina School of Public Health summarized her research team's evaluation on the epidemiologic evidence available regarding the effects of noise on the cardiovascular system in a paper given at the May 1983 meeting of the Acoustic Society of America. Of some 800 potential publications, 83 were chosen for critical review. Each selected article was critiqued independently by an epidemiologist, a cardiologist, and and audiologist. The conclusion derived by the reviewers plus an additional set of consultants was "Our analysis indicated that studies to date are inadequate for establishing cause-effect relationships between noise and cardiovascular disease." Thompson's report rated the literature and concluded that no American literature and only four of foreign literature, rated higher than four on a scale of zero to nine. These ratings indicate the literature is less than fully informative for the task of judging the association between noise and cardiovascular effects. It may be several years before enough data is available for a firm scientific basis to state there is a cause and effect relationship between noise and physiologic ill-health. In the interim, decisions must be made based on current scientific consensus.

Effects of noise on animals and wildlife was also covered in the above discussed environmental impact statements. The article in Appendix D gives an overview of current literature and provides a basis for concluding that noise would not result in a significant effect on or around the Melrose Range.

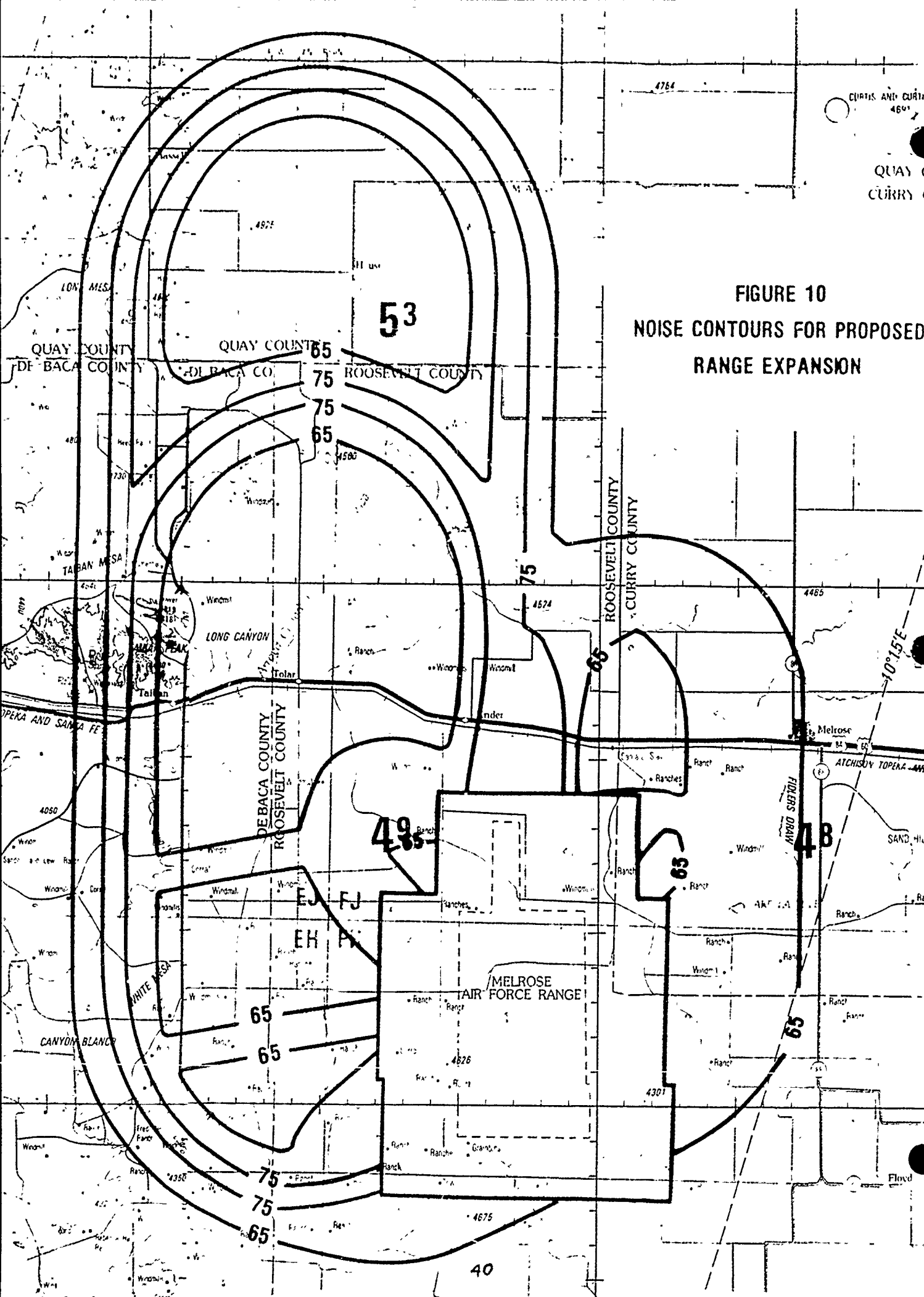


FIGURE 10
NOISE CONTOURS FOR PROPOSED
RANGE EXPANSION

4.3 WATER RESOURCES:

Since the proposal requires no increase in the number of personnel working on the range, there would be no increase in water demand or waste disposal. With the reduced activity in the area, it could even drop. As there is no continuous running surface water, no surface water pollution is anticipated. Similarly, the proposed expansion would have no impact on ground water quality.

Continuation in present status would result in no change in existing impacts on water resources.

Fee acquisition for the proposed expansion would include approximately 40 wells and water rights when lands are purchased in fee. Wells on lands acquired by restrictive easement or by lease from the state (See Section 4.8.2.1) would continue in use as the owner sees fit, within the conditions of the easement.

Acquisition policy would be to eliminate instances where wells on fee purchase lands serve lands not acquired in fee. If, however, ultimate land acquisition does create severance damages to a remainder, the Air Force would consider providing continued use of the well.

4.4 WILDLIFE HABITAT/THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:

No known threatened or endangered species inhabit the range. Selection of the no action alternative would cause no change in existing effects on wildlife.

The expansion proposal is within the historical range of the endangered black-footed ferret, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. However, these species are currently not found there. The Air Force believes there would be no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

Golden eagles nesting nearby might be subjected to increased aircraft noise. Aircraft using the proposed expanded Melrose Range would fly at subsonic speeds and at low altitude. Most published studies regarding the effect of aircraft noise on wildlife (and domestic animals) deal with sonic booms (generated by supersonic flight). Studies suggest that animals generally respond to low level jet aircraft by some demonstration of increased alertness. Frequently, this is in the form of a temporary startle reflex. However, no study has indicated a long term adverse effect on wildlife. There is no indication that wildlife on or near the present range are disturbed by the existing low level flying activity and no reason to believe wildlife would be adversely impacted by low level flying activity should the range expand. A joint Air Force and US Fish and Wildlife Service study regarding the effect of low altitude training on nesting behavior of raptors (birds of prey) indicates they are extremely tolerant of low-level jet overflight. This study is reviewed, with other studies regarding the responses of wildlife and farm animals to low level jet overflight, at Appendix D. To positively protect the nesting golden eagles, a "no-fly" area could be established around the nest site during the nesting season to insure the birds are not disturbed.

Antelope commonly graze on the range now. Expanding boundaries of the range is not expected to affect them.

The existing Melrose range has a Wildlife Managment Plan (prepared by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)) as required by Air Force Regulations. This plan has been revised to cover a potentially expanded range. Wildlife would be protected and managed in coordination with the New Mexico Fish and Game Department.

A formal cooperative agreement with the USFWS and NMDGF for the protection, development and management of wildlife resources at Melrose Air Force Range was signed on 28 Jan 85. This agreement provides for the Air Force, USFWS and NMDGF to jointly develop, maintain and manage the wildlife resources at Melrose Range in the best interest of the people of New Mexico and the United States.

4.5 VEGETATION RESOURCES:

The long term effect on vegetation from the impact of practice ordnance and the rare use of full-size inert ordnance would be minor. The largest effect practice ordnance would have on the vegetation would be from fires resulting from the detonation of the explosive charge. During the dry months, frequent grass fires of one to five acres in the impact area are currently experienced, and result in the destruction of the top growth. The root structure of the rangeland grasses is normally not damaged, and the grasses recover during the next growing season. Frequency of fires is also self-limiting, as burned lands will not be susceptible to another fire until a sufficient fuel load is regenerated. However, because there would be a larger number of targets dispersed over a larger area, total land area subjected to this fire potential would increase. The amount of land area affected cannot be established because target design and location has not been determined.

Continuing existing use would not change existing effects on vegetation.

4.6 SOIL:

Approximately 400 acres of vegetation would be removed in the construction

of new firebreaks, target areas, run-in lines, and target maintenance roads. Some short-term damage would result from practice ordnance. This could result in increased potential for wind erosion.

Soil erosion and invasion by undesirable plant species can be prevented via procedures developed in consultation and coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soils Conservation Service (SCS). Cannon AFB has pledged to work with the SCS on this matter.

Currently about 696 acres are maintained devoid of vegetation. This includes a 60 foot wide firebreak around the existing impact area and a 40 foot wide firebreak around the existing range perimeter. Additional or new range perimeter firebreaks are not proposed for the expanded range. Although specific locations and designs have not been finalized, new target arrays are included in the proposal. This involves the destruction of vegetation and softening of the soil in the immediate vicinity of each target to minimize the possibility of ordnance ricochet. The new target locations also require a 20 foot firebreak around each target. New firebreaks, targets, run-in lines, and target maintenance roads maintained devoid of vegetation would total approximately 400 acres. Areas maintained devoid of vegetation would be subject to wind and water erosion. However, experience on the present range indicates erosion problems would be minimal. Soil disturbance surrounding any particular target is likely to decrease due to the establishment of additional targets within an expanded impact area.

The vast majority of ordnance used includes practice bombs, inert full scale bombs, and target practice gun ammunition. The explosive and combustive content of practice bombs is approximately equivalent to that of an eight gauge shotgun shell. The delivery of full scale live ordnance is not planned. Ground disturbance from the non-explosive impact of ordnance is felt to be minor when viewed from the perspective of overall range operations.

Soils would not be impacted beyond existing levels were the no action alternative selected.

4.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/CULTURAL SITES:

The Air Force has a responsibility to identify and conserve cultural resources on land under its control or within the area of an undertaking's environmental impact. Because private land owners and state agencies are not mandated by Federal legal requirements to identify, nominate, and protect eligible cultural properties, the end result of the expansion could actually be improved security for any such sites present. The proposed expansion area has a probability of containing potentially-significant archaeological sites, but since the lands proposed for acquisition would not be developed or otherwise substantially modified by the Air Force mission, the threat to any archaeological sites there is minimal. Proposed new target locations within the existing range may be near or on archaeological/cultural sites. The actual impact of the proposed expansion on this facet cannot be made until precise target locations are proposed. These locations would be surveyed in advance of use for eligible archaeological/cultural sites. Locations would be altered where possible, or mitigation made where necessary. Using risk analysis, statistical procedures and other planning guidance, new targets are located on Air Force ranges such that the probability of ordnance striking outside the prepared impact area is less than 1 in 10,000. The probability of ordnance striking a known archaeologically significant site outside the prepared impact area is remote.

The Air Force, in consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, has an agreement to pursue an agressive program to identify and protect significant cultural sites on the existing Melrose Range and the proposed expansion area (if acquired). The SHPO has recognized in formal correspondence (Appendix A, page A-46) the Air Force's committment to identify, nominate, and conserve cultural sites on the proposed acquisition property. A Memorandum of Agreement to that effect between the Air Force and the State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau will be prepared if the proposed expansion is authorized.

If the no action alternative were selected, the need for an extended archaeological survey would be eliminated, so less information on such sites in the area would likely be generated.

4.8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS:

The followig sections discuss the impacts of the proposed action. If no action were taken, current effects on socio-economic aspects would not change.

4.8.1 DISLOCATION OF FAMILIES/POPULATION EFFECTS:

Persons residing on four ranches on property to be acquired under the proposal would be relocated. Approximately 18 individuals are involved.

These families reside in four houses and two mobile homes located on property owned by four separate landowners. These homes would be purchased and vacated. Other agricultural lands would be placed under restrictive easement which, in general, would permit continued agricultural use of the land. Landowners would be compensated for these easements. See Section 4.8.2.1.

The law requires payment of fair market value for the acquisition of facilities and interests in land. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 provides additional compensation for persons displaced as a result of federal programs. In very general terms, the intent of the Act is to repay dislocated individuals the costs of relocating them to comparable facilities in a new location.

Based upon a review of the work force at ranches affected by the proposed land acquisition, it is estimated that eight to ten ranch employees could be unemployed as a result of the proposed range expansion. (NOTE: This assumes a worst-case scenario in which no agricultural activities would continue on any lands acquired under this proposal. It may be expected that much land will remain in production, so employment may be impacted to a lesser extent.) The New Mexico State Employment Service Division advises that unemployment benefits would not be available to these persons. Such benefits are paid for farm workers only when the farm for which they worked averages $20,000 in income per quarter and averages ten employees in any twenty week period. The farms/ranches in the proposed expansion area do not meet these requirements. The State Employment Office in Clovis advises that openings for experienced farm and ranch laborers are available in the local area. The State Income Support Office advised that, although welfare assistance would not be available to relocated families, food stamps would be available if the need arises.

Neither the size of Cannon AFB nor the use of the range is projected to increase. Under these conditions, no appreciable change would result in base population, local revenues, or community economy.

Approximately eight school-age children attending two school districts would be affected by the proposed expansion. Children living in the Curry County portion of the proposed expansion fall under the Melrose school district (256 students), while those living in the Roosevelt County portion fall under the Floyd school district (195 students). The actual impact on the individual school systems would depend upon the actual residence of the children, but could not be expected to be more than a 3% drop in enrollment in each school. This, however, is predicated on the students' leaving the school districts altogether. Since the proposed expansion would permit some continued agricultural land use (See Section 4.8.2.2), it may be expected that some dislocated families would relocate in the general vicinity and continue in their existing employment. The number of children lost to the school districts could be less than the figures provided.

4.8.2 LAND

4.8.2.1 ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE AND STATE PROPERTY:

State trust and private lands and mineral rights would be acquired by the U.S. Government.

The expansion alternative, as originally proposed, called for the fee acquisition of 54,496 acres. (Note: Recalculation has set the figure at 55,000 acres, although actual boundaries are not changed.) At the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), as well as through numerous letters, concern and opposition has been expressed by persons holding real property and (more frequently) mineral interests in the area. Although the Air Force would prefer a fee acquisition approach resulting in a relatively simple and "clean" management situation, complete fee ownership is not mandatory for the entire area. The Air Force has therefore conducted a careful analysis to determine the absolute minimum real property interest needed, while allowing maximum interest to be retained by affected property owners. The locations of targets, flight patterns, and hazard zone descriptions for each type of ordnance have been confined to an area roughly 8 x 9 miles, with two run-in corridors of approximately 1 x 3 miles each. Because of the hazard, this area must be held in fee ownership by the Air Force. The remaining area (approximately one mile wide around three sides of the 8x9-mile area) must be a so-called "buffer" area in which the Air Force only requires a restrictive easement. This approach would keep the maximum amount of land in production, provide work, and reduce the impact on agricultural operations. The Air Force is offering a flexible approach in this proposed acquisition to ease the impact on individual property owners. The Air force would work with all individuals to insure acquisition lines are not arbitrarily placed and still insure mission essential land is acquired. Uneconomic remainders would be purchased, or severence damages paid to landowners as determined through negotiations.

Lands to be Acquired

The reduced, and minimum essential, proposal calls for:

Fee acquisition:		
Private:	23,280 (+-)	acres
State:	4,480 (+-)	acres
TOTAL:	27,760 (+-)	acres
Restrictive Easement:		
Private:	15,632 (+-)	acres
Public Domain:	48 (+-)	acres
TOTAL:	15,680 (+-)	acres
Lease:		
State:	11,560 (+-)	acres

Fee acquisition means the total acquisition of all real property interests, including both surface and mineral rights. The Air Force would pay fair market value based upon independent appraisals. However, the Air Force will consider not acquiring certain mineral rights as discussed in Section 4.8.3.

Restrictive easement means that Air Force would purchase minimal rights designed with the intent of limiting use of the property to cattle grazing or gas/oil exporation or extraction. Structures would be limited to 100 feet in height, and to minimal buildings for cattle grazing, farming, and mineral exploration/extraction activities.

In the case of public domain lands, the Air Force will work with the BLM to pursue desired Air Force restrictions: technically, the Air Force cannot obtain a restrictive easement on public domain land.

Acquisition of State Holdings.

On lands where the state owns both the surface and mineral rights, the Air Force would acquire a lease over 11,560 acres and acquire 4,480 in fee. If the state is willing, the Air Force will exchange land in the easement area which it acquires in fee (i.e., in situations where severance is tantamount to fee) for all or part of the 4,480 acres. This would be done on a value-for-value basis. The Air Force has identified 2,830 acres of privately-owned land that it anticipates having to acquire in this manner. The Air Force also anticipates acquiring another (estimated) 1,000-2,000 acres of privately-held land outside the required range boundaries under similar circumstances. If there is a shortfall of land for exchange, the Air Force would consider fee acquisition of contiguous land if the landowner is willing. This land would be made available to the state for exchange. A similar aproach would be taken regarding state-held mineral rights on parcels to be acquired in fee for which private parties own the surface rights. The intent of this approach is to allow the state to hold essentially the same overall real property interest in the vicinity, but different specific parcels of land.

4.8.2.2 IMPACT ON EXISTING LAND USE:

Crop production on some land classified by the USDA as additional farmland of statewide importance might be curtailed. Some existing cattle grazing land

might be withdrawn, and more restrictive access procedures implemented on some of the remaining portions. Because of the flexible nature of the approach to acquisition, exact figures cannot be predicted.

Crop lands acquired in fee would not be available for crop production.

Lands acquired under restrictive easement or leased from the state could be used in their current pattern of crop production.

Continued grazing on the existing Melrose range is anticipated, although the increase in the number of impact areas could result in changes in the shape, size, and location of the out-leased lands, both initially and over time. Formalized access procedures would probably have to be implemented because of the increased hazards. This is a change from the draft EIS, which indicated that grazing out-leases would be cancelled.

Lands acquired in fee could be out-leased for grazing where mission activities permit. The original owners and leaseholders will be given preference in the leasing process for the first lease period. Due to mission changes, the shape, size, and location of the leased lands could change over time.

Grazing lands acquired under restrictive easement or leased from the state would be allowed to continue in their current pattern of cattle grazing. Overall impact on grazing activities may be expected to be minimal.

The land proposed to be acquired as a new buffer area would not be contaminated by ordnance, except for accidental release outside of the impact area. Accidentally released ordnance will be removed. The target area, existing and proposed, would be permanently subject to restricted use because even if Melrose Range were to close, decontamination procedures cannot ensure the absence of unexploded ordnance.

4.8.2.3 LOSS OF WATER ACCESS:

Water sources (wells) within the fee acquisition area for some privately-owned rangeland adjacent to the proposed expanded range might be lost. See Section 4.3.

4.8.3 MINERAL RESOURCES:

Although the proposed expansion would not affect the ultimate potential of any mineral resources in the area, their exploitation could be indefinitely delayed if such could not be accomplished in a manner compatible with Air Force operations. While the Air Force normally acquires mineral rights when it acquires surface rights, the Air Force will, because of mineral rights owners concerns, attempt to accommodate mineral exploration and exploitation.

Some owners of mineral rights may, however, be required to sell their mineral rights. They would be paid fair market value for their property. The Air Force has modified its original plan (i.e., to purchase all mineral rights in the expansion area) to one allowing the minimum purchase of these rights, while allowing the maximum amount of exploration and exploitation compatible with the Air Force mission.

Mineral exploration and exploitation activities on lands where the surface was acquired in fee would have to be carried out with no surface disturbance. If the individual mineral rights owners on such lands believe the minerals are so located that they can explore and exploit the minerals under these circumstances, the Air Force would consider allowing the mineral rights owner to retain ownership. If, however, the mineral rights owners are of the opinion that these restrictions effectively restrict them from access to the minerals on their tract, their mineral rights would be purchased at fair market value.

Mineral exploration and exploitation activities on lands over which the Air Force acquired a restrictive easement would, in general, have to be carried out under the conditions of the easement, i.e., no structures over 100 feet tall. Requests for exceptions to these restrictions would be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Commander, Cannon AFB, who would take into account location, timing, duration, and other aspects of the proposal which might impair the ability of the range to perform its mission.

4.8.4 ROADS:

Roads on lands purchased by the Air Force would be closed to public use. Of the approximately 45 miles of roads in the proposed expansion area, 27 lie in the easement and lease area, and would not be impacted.

A 9-mile portion of the north-south road which lies in the western portion of the fee acquisition area would be offset two miles to the west. The new road would be contructed to original specifications, with construction costs borne by the Air Force. Because of the 2-mile offset, a total of eleven miles of road would be constructed.

A 1 1/2-mile portion of SR 25 which lies in the fee acquisition area would not be closed or restricted.

Net reduction of road miles would be approximately eight miles. The closed roads in the fee purchase area are not through roads, but serve only facilities that would be closed. Their closure would not restrict the local transportation network.

Because the projected lost road mileage is eight miles, an annual funding loss of $704 would be incurred by both counties involved. (See Section 4.8.6)

4.8.5 UTILITIES:

Utilities located within the proposed expansion area include natural gas distribution lines, underground telephone lines, and overhead electric power lines (see Section 3.8.5). All of these utilities serve improvements that would be acquired as part of the expansion proposal. With the exception of telephone and electric power lines serving Air Force facilities, these utilities will be severed from their parent systems and abandoned in place. No surface disturbance (environmental impact) nor loss of service to adjacent property owners (socio-economic impact) will occur.

There is a potential for reduction of revenue to the Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association. The expansion proposal includes nine sections of land to which the Association provides gas for operation of irrigation systems. The proposed expansion could deprive the Association of the income which is currently derived from the sale of gas for irrigation power plants. Wells in the expansion area were billed $30,555.76 in 1980. The Association believes its bonding capacity could also be impacted.

Gas lines crossing lands purchased by the Air Force would be relocated at Air Force expense. Lines within the restrictive easement and lease area would not be impacted. Individuals who live on lands not planned for acquisition by the Air Force, and who are currently served by gas lines, will not have their service terminated as a result of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range.

Electrical power lines on lands purchased by the Air Force, and not serving facilities required by the Air Force, would be purchased by the Air Force and severed at the property line. Primary distribution lines crossing lands purchased by the Air Force would be relocated at Air Force expense. Lines within the restrictive easement and lease area would not be impacted. Individuals who live on lands not planned for acquisition by the Air Force, and who are currently served by electrical power lines, will not have their services terminated as a result of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range.

Telephone lines on lands purchased by the Air Force, and not serving facilities required by the Air Force, would be purchased by the Air Force and severed at the property line. Trunk lines crossing lands purchased by the Air Force would be relocated at Air Force expense. Lines within the restrictive easement and lease area would not be impacted. Individuals who live on land not planned for acquisition by the Air Force, and who are currently served by telephone lines, will not have their service terminated as a result of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range.

4.8.6 TAX REVENUE LOSS:

Local school districts and other local governmental units could lose revenue from real property taxes, gross receipts taxes, and corporate assets taxes. Should the acquired property actually prove to be a gas and/or oil reserve, revenue from severence taxes could be deferred.

All privately owned land in the proposed expansion area in Curry County would be acquired by restrictive easement, and should continue in production. Minimal tax loss to Curry County is anticipated.

One section (640 acres) of state-owned rangeland in Curry County would be purchased in fee simple. The amount of the lease income may be lost to the state if the Air Force is unable to locate and acquire lands of equal value to exchange with the state. All other state-owned lands in Curry County would be leased fr[illegible] the state at fair market value. It is the intent of the Air Force to sub-lease as much of these lands as mission requirements permit.

The proposed expansion in Roosevelt County includes privately owned land which generates an annual (1982 figures) tax revenue of $5,288.64. Roosevelt County's FY82 budget was $1,542,309. However, under the revised acquisition proposal, approximately 11,122 acres will be acquired by restrictive easement, and may generally remain in its current use. Another approximately 27,120 acres will be purchased, while the remainder will be leased from the state. Approximately 5,360 acres of cropland will be converted to rangeland. The actual impact on Roosevelt County tax revenues cannot be quantified or predicted for the following reasons:

1. It is not known what portion of the lands in the proposed expanded buffer area will be available for out-leasing, although it is the intent of the Air Force to maximize (within mission constraints) grazing use of these lands.

2. It is not known how much additional land will be acquired in fee simple by the Air Force for exchange with the state.

3. It is not known what remainders outside required range boundaries will have to be purchased by the Air Force.

Counties receive state funds of approximately $88 per year for each mile of road they maintain. The counties claim that their road maintenance costs are fixed. If there is a net reduction of eight miles of road, the total annual fund loss would be $704.

Department of Defense facilities do not make payments "in lieu of" taxation; therefore, tax revenue loss would not be mitigated.

An exchange of federal land for state land could mitigate concerns for loss of revenue if suitable land were to be available. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), responding to inquires from the New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands and the Real Estate Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (acting for the Air Force), indicates that a third party exchange of land is contrary to BLM policy and will not be considered. However, if the state is willing, the Air Force could exchange land in the Melrose Range area which it acquires in fee as part of the acquisition of remaindered properties. (See Section 4.8.2.1)

Hunters (who purchase state licenses) currently use portions of the proposed expansion area. A loss of hunting opportunties could result in reduced hunt revenue to the state.

As earlier described, the land proposed for acquisition would serve as a buffer area. The land would be managed for natural resources management conservation programs under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield. Cannon AFB is exploring the possibility of opening the buffer zone of the proposed expanded range to controlled public hunting. Initial review suggests that public hunting is feasible on range non-use days. However, the potential danger to hunters from unexploded munitions (from accidental drops) must be studied. Range management personnel estimate that an average of 12 days (which includes weekends) each calendar month are non-use days. Hunting on the expanded range would be accomplished under the game laws of the State of New Mexico. All hunters would have to purchase a state hunting permit and a Melrose Air Force Range hunting permit. If arrangements can be made to allow hunting in the buffer area of the range, this would insure no loss of State revenue from elimination of hunting on acquired lands. (Figure 3, page 6, shows the proposed buffer area).

4.9 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:

The existing area comprising the Melrose range has been committed to use as a bombing and gunnery range since the early 1950's. Inherent with this commitment, operations have been conducted which make most of the land a safety hazard and this requires restricting general public use. Some specific uses (grazing, agriculture, hunting) could be allowed on portions of the proposed expanded area so the entire range should not be considered irreversibly committed.

Target construction and operational activities would impact some vegetation, and soil, which in turn could change the ecological interrelationships by altering habitats. These localized impacts on ecological interrelationships may alter the character of the entire ecosystem, and could last as long as the effects of soil and vegetation disturbance persist.

Construction materials, fuels, and manpower efforts would be irretrievably committed. Water requirements for the construction and operation of the range would be irretrievably committed.

Any undiscovered archaeological sites accidentally disrupted during construction may be irreversibly damaged and could lose much or all of their archaeological and historical value.

4.10 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE & ENHANCEMENT OF LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY

This section discusses the productivity of the environment which would be affected by the use of the proposed range expansion. The context of "short-term" refers to the time period of projected use of the Melrose Range. At this time, Air Force planning documents indicate Cannon AFB will continue to have an air-to-ground mission through Fiscal Year 1990. It is anticipated that the range will be needed for a much longer period than current planning documents cover. For the "long-term aspect of maintenance and enhancement of the environment", the imprint of the Air Force's activity would be noticeable for many years after operational activity is terminated on the range.

Short-term effects that could result from implementation of the proposal have been discussed in this chapter. Long-term effects which would be noticeable for many years after operational cases on the range include minor topographic changes, soil loss and disruption through erosion and operational and/or construction activities. Unexploded ordnance that bury under the surface could limit future uses of the land. Noise created by the aircraft activity could be primarily a short-term effect; however, future understanding of noise may discover unknown physiological responses from repeated exposure.

Lands within the safety (buffer) area around the range would have some use restrictions; however, production grazing and farming could continue.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS:

Lewis Shotton	Natural Resources Manager
Roy Barker	Wildlife Biologist
Alton Chavis	Physical Scientist
MAJ Terry Hutchinson	Aircraft Weapons and Tactics
MAJ Marvin Trout	Aircraft Weapons and Tactics
MAJ Ronald McCluskey	Aircraft Weapons and Tactics
MAJ Thomas Minnis	Aircraft Weapons and Tactics
CAPT Samuel Bagley	Judge Advocate
CAPT Lloyd Leroy	Judge Advocate
CAPT Ross Miller	Bioenvironmental Engineer
LT Albert Romero	Engineer
Dale Jackson	Architect/Community Planner
Thomas Manning	Community Planner
Edward Lopez	Community Planner
Raymond Bruntmyer	Community Planner
Virginia Thorpe	Real Property Officer
Jim Richards	Agricultural Economist

6.0 AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS TO RECEIVE COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Federal Agencies

Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
Department of the Interior Geological Survey
Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management District Office
Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona-New Mexico Area Office
Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Supervisor.
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Albuquerque Area Office
Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration, Air Route Traffic Control Center, Albuquerque
U.S. Air Force, Cannon Air Force Base, Base Civil Engineer
U.S. Air Force, 12th Air Force, Director of Operations

State Agencies

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico Department of Finance and Adminstration State Planning Division
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
New Mexico State Education Office
New Mexico State Public Land Commission
New Mexico Public Service Commission Office of Environmental Affairs
New Mexico State Environmental Improvement Division, District IV
New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
Area-Wide Clearinghouse, Clovis

Regional and Local Agencies

Clovis National Bank
Melrose Farmers' Coop Elevator
Melrose Fruit Market
Energy Locators Company
Portales Chamber of Commerce
Ft. Sumner Chamber of Commerce
Roosevelt County Electrical Coop, Inc.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop, Inc.
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
American Agricultural Movement
DEPCO, Inc.
KENM/KNIT Radio
DeBaca County Clerk
Roosevelt County Commission
Triangle Cattle Company

Public Officials

Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Pete Domenici
Congressman Bill Richardson
Congressman Joe Skeen
Congressman Manuel Lujan
State Senator Stuart Ingle

State Senator Caleb Chandler
Representative Gary Robbins
Representative John Dickson
Representative Clifton Moreland
Representative Susan McDowell
Mr. Ed Cole, Floyd School District Superintendent
Mr. Charles Terry, Floyd School District President
Mr. W. Q. Sutter, New Mexico Boys Ranch Director
Mr. Jim Baca, Commissioner of Public Lands

Community Groups and Individuals

Mr. Robert Addison
Mr. Jack Ahler
Ms. Opal Albaugh
Mr. Jack Allen
Mr. Joe Alonso
Ms. T. J. Autry
Mr. C. M. Baker
Ms. Colleen Beck
Mr. David Beers
Mr. C. O. Biggers
Ms. Penny Bigler
Mr. Milton Blackenship
Mr. Dallas Bower
Mrs. Louis Brichta
Ms. Lauretta Brichta
Mr. Mack Brown
Ms. Vickie Brown
Mr. Bob Carter
Mrs. Evelyn Cater
Ms. Vera Clark
Ms. Neppie Condrey
Mr. Bill Crenshaw
Mr. Harry Cross
Ms. Glenna Cutler
Mrs. Paul Davis
Mrs. H. H. Davis
L. E. Davis
Ms. Margarite Davis
Ms. Kathryn Delaney
Mr. and Mrs. John DePuy
Mr. James Dickerson
Mr. Robert Eastwood
Mrs. Jim Ernest
L.L. Erichson
Mrs. Don Erickson
Frances Erickson
Mr. A. S. Elliott
Mr. Dale Elliott
Mr. Feldman
Mr. Carl Fenn
Mr. Terence Field
Ms. Roberta Ford
Mr. Tommy Golf
Ms. Barbara Graham

Ms. Joyce Grasing
Ms. Annabelle Greathouse
Ms. Betty Greathouse
Mr. Dan Greathouse
Mr. Jack Greathouse
Mr. John Greathouse
Mr. Lovell Greathouse
M. S. Gresham
Mr. Robert Grider
Ms. B. J. Grider
Mr. Larry Griffith
Mr. Jim Grizzle
Ms. Lynda Haynes
Ms. Vivian Holliday
Ms. Arlene Hull
Mr. Raymond Jackson
Mr. Herman James
Mr. Fred Jewel
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnson
Mr. Michael Kull
Ms. Joy Lakewood
Mr. Hugh Law
Mr. and Mrs. Ridgley Law
Mr. Ray Lofton
Dennis and Donna Luce
Mr. D. W. Luce
Ms. Jane Luce
Ms. Lucile Lukits
Mr. Jim Manche
Mr. Bob Martin
Francis Martin
Ms. Phyllis Mathis
Estate of Silas McCabe c/o Evelyn Cater
Mr. and Mrs. Rod McClain
Mr. Lonnie McDaniel
Mr. L. W. McGuffin
J. L. McNew
Mrs. Carl Meredith
Ms. Linda Miller
Mr. Trayce Mitchell
Senator Ike Morgan
Mr. Vince Murphy
Ms. Monica Nichols
Mr. Johnny Ogden
Mr. Alva Parker
Mr. Leo Quintberg
B. J. Pierce
Mr. Jimmie Pitcock
Mr. Pratt
Mr. and Mrs. North Prince
R. G. Ranum
Mr. Grant Reel
Mr. Nelson Rector
Mr. Ernest Riley
Ms. Meriel Riley
Mr. Winfred Riley

Ms. Marie Roberson
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Robert Russell
Mr. John Russell
Mr. Phillip Russell
Mr. Wiley Russell
Dr. Phillip Shelley
Mr. Richard Sheorr
Mr. Loyd Simons
Mr. Craig Simpson
Mr. Harley Smith
Mr. John W. Smith
Mr. Phillip Smith
Ms. Margaret Spencer
Ms. Mary Spradlin
Mr. William Spitz
Mr. Frank Stanley
Mr. Marshall Stinnett
Mr. Jack Stockard
Ms. Rita Swett
Mr. Charles Terry
Ms. Vivian Thomson
Mr. David Ussery
Ms. Helen Vozenilek
Twyler Wade
Ms. Margaret Wagner
Mrs. Wagner
Ms. Ilene Weiss
Mr. James Whiteman
Mr. Scott Whiteman
Ms. Josephine Wood
Mr. and Mrs. John Wright

Publications

Portales News Tribune
Avalanche Journal
DeBaca County News
Clovis News-Journal
Washington Press News

Public Libraries

Eastern New Mexico University Portales Campus Library
Eastern New Mexico University Clovis Campus Library
Portales Library
Clovis Library
Floyd High School Library
Melrose High School Library
Ft. Sumner Public Library
University of Oregon Eugene Campus Library

APPENDIX A

CORRESPONDENCE

The first section of this appendix contains correspondence used in the preparation of the DEIS. Since this correspondence provided source material for portions of the EIS, it is included here.

The second section of this appendix contains material received during the public comment period after the publication of the DEIS, and is itself in three parts: correspondence received from the public; comments made at the DEIS public hearing and correspondence received from governmental agencies.

All comments were reviewed by individuals involved in the preparation of the DEIS. Specific comments and questions were identified, and responses prepared. In instances where a specific question or comments appeared repeatedly, the reader is referred to the Air Force response at the location where the comment was first encountered. When documents were both read at the public hearing and submitted for the record, the response is associated with the oral presentation.

The third section of this appendix contains the Air Force response to all numbered comments and questions. As the EIS was prepared subsequent to receipt of comments regarding the DEIS, many of the issues raised were addressed in the body of the document. Therefore, many responses will direct the reader to a particular section of the EIS.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AREA OFFICE, ARIZONA - NEW MEXICO
2953 W. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85017

December 14, 1977

Department of the Air Force
Headquarters 27th Combat Support
Group (TAC)
Cannon Air Force Base, NM 88101

Dear Captain Kopf:

This letter is in reply to Lt. Col. Anthony R. Stephenson's letter of 28 October 1977 requesting information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service relative to endangered or threatened wildlife on, or within, a 50-mile radius of Cannon AFB installations.

Based upon present information, we know of no resident federally listed endangered or threatened wildlife which could be found on Cannon AFB, Melrose Bombing Range, or the recreation area at Lake Conchas. This is also true within a 50-mile radius of these areas.

Transient endangered wildlife which could possibly be found on the installations, or within the 50-mile area include:

> Southern Bald Eagle, Arctic Peregrine falcon and American Peregrine Falcon. Whooping Cranes and Mexican Ducks could occur as accidental strays to the area.

Any transient specie occurring at an installation would also occur within a 50-mile radius of that installation. No threatened wildlife occur as transients to the installation or within a 50-mile radius.

Presently no critical habitat for any endangered or threatened wildlife is located on the installation or within the 50-mile radius.

For additional information, please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald L. Burton

Gerald L. Burton
Staff Specialist

Ref. #1

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
STATE PLANNING DIVISION

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

DAVID W. KING
SECRETARY

505 DON GASPAR AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-2073
(505) 827-5191
(505) 827-2108

ANITA HISENBERG
DIRECTOR

JOE GUILLEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 14, 1980

Curtis O. Zeigler, Lt. Col., USAF
Base Civil Engineer
27 CSG/DEEV
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your letter requesting comments on potential environmental impacts of the Melrose Bombing Range Expansion. From our research we find that there are several areas that should be looked into.

First, is the subject of farmlands. According to our Critical Areas Study (CAS) map, which is interpreted from Soil Conservation Service information, there will be an overlap, as there already is on the existing range, with both highly and moderately suitable soils for irrigated agriculture. More specifically, as found on the 1978 Soil Conservation Service (SCS) "Important Farmlands" maps of Curry and Roosevelt Counties, the proposal will overlap with several areas defined as "Additional Farmlands of Statewide Importance." (See definition, Attachment A). Alternative #2 will overlap with a little less of this land than the proposal, and Alternative #1 will overlap considerably less. All three additions will overlap an area of "Prime Farmland" in Curry County. (See definition, Attachment B).

The proposal and the two Alternatives, along with the existing range, totally overlap an area of secondary rangeland. This, as defined by a Forest Service/ Soil Conservation Service Committee in a draft definition of rangeland would include "....rangeland other than that designated as prime rangeland that is economically, ecologically, or otherwise significant to the state or local area, which should be protected from premature or unnecessary conversion to other uses...." As shown on the 1972 Soil Conservation Service map, "New Mexico Grazing Capacities under Average Rainfall and Management Conditions," this region falls under the 3rd highest grazing classification, which is 44-54 acres per animal unit, year-long, or 14.55-12.08 head per section, year-long.

Concerning archaeological site densities, the whole area falls under predicted archaeological site densities of one to six per square mile. In the northeastern section of both the proposal and Alternative #2 is a band of predicted archaeological site densities of 7-12 per square mile.

We also consulted the New Mexico Game and Fish Department's comprehensive plan which, in the map section, shows that there is some overlap with the occupied range of deer on all three proposals and a total overlap with the occupied range of antelope. (See Attachments C and D). It might also be noted that the population and habitat trends of the antelope in this area are static and that there is a problem of chronic low young population here.

On the 1974 map, "The Future of New Mexico Oil and Gas Resources," produced by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, we found that this whole region involved is a Class 1 exploration area for oil and gas.

Lastly, there was a 1964 earthquake epicenter in the northeast corner of the proposal with a magnitude of 2.5. This magnitude would barely be felt with no damage.

Please keep us informed of any developments on this project, and if we can be of any further assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Betsy Reed

Betsy Reed, Planner
Planning Bureau

BR:jeh

Enclosures

ADDITIONAL FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE

This is land of local importance in the production of food, feed, fiber, forage and oilseed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land was determined by local agencies in Roosevelt County.

The soils in this category are important to agriculture in Roosevelt County, yet they exhibit some properties which exclude them from prime farmland or additional farmland of statewide importance in the county. The major property which excludes them from the above categories is the lack of soil moisture. Through the use of modern farming techniques, fair crop yields can be obtained from these soils through dryland production.

These areas are shown in orange on the Important Farmland Map and include 231,713 acres.

DEFINITION

(B)

PRIME FARMLAND

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban, built-up land, or water. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed. This includes water management according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation; a favorable temperature and growing season; acceptable acidity or alkalinity; acceptable salt and sodium content; and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.

Prime farmland in Eddy County, New Mexico meets the following criteria:

1. The soils have an adequate moisture supply. The area has a developed irrigation system that is dependable and of adequate quality to meet moisture requirements eight out of ten years. The soils have four inches or more available water-holding capacity within a depth of 40 inches, or within the root zone, if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep.

2. The soils have a soil temperature regime that is frigid, mesic or thermic. (Mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches is higher than 32 degrees F.)

3. The soils have a pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep.

4. The soils either have no water table or a water table maintained at a sufficient depth during the cropping season to allow growth of cultivated crops common to the area.

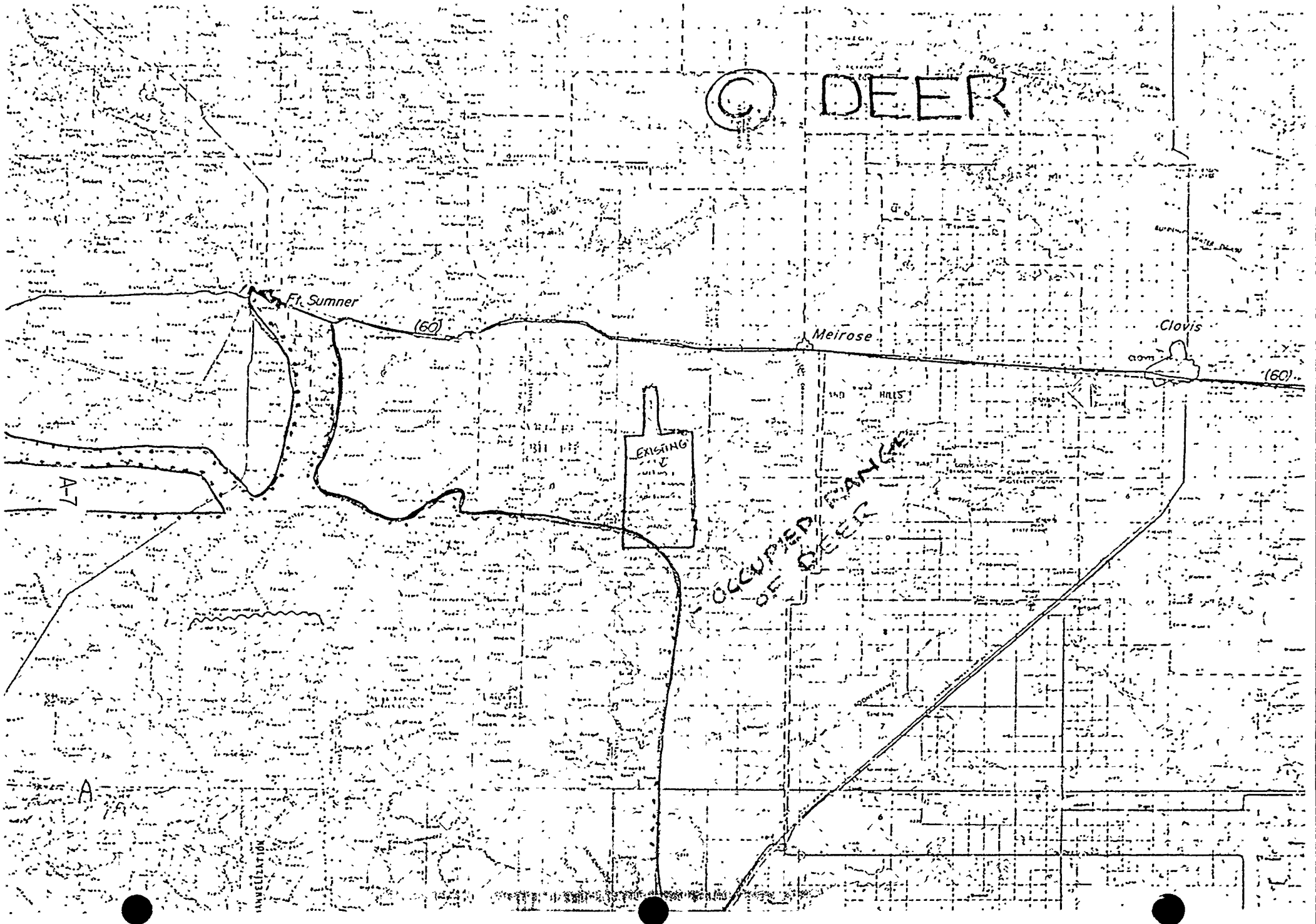
5. The soils can be managed in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches (or in a root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep), so that during part of each year the conductivity of saturation extract is less than 4 mmhos/cm and the exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) is less than 15.

6. The soils are not flooded frequently during the growing season (less often than once in two years).

7. The soils have a product of K (erodibility factor) x percent slope of less than 2.0 and a product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climatic factor) not exceeding 60. That is, prime farmland does not include soils which have a serious erosion hazard.

8. The soils have a permeability rate of at least 0.06 inches per hour in the upper 20 inches.

9. Less than 10 percent of the surface layer (upper six inches) in these soils consists of rock fragments coarser than three inches. These soils present no particular difficulty in cultivating with large equipment.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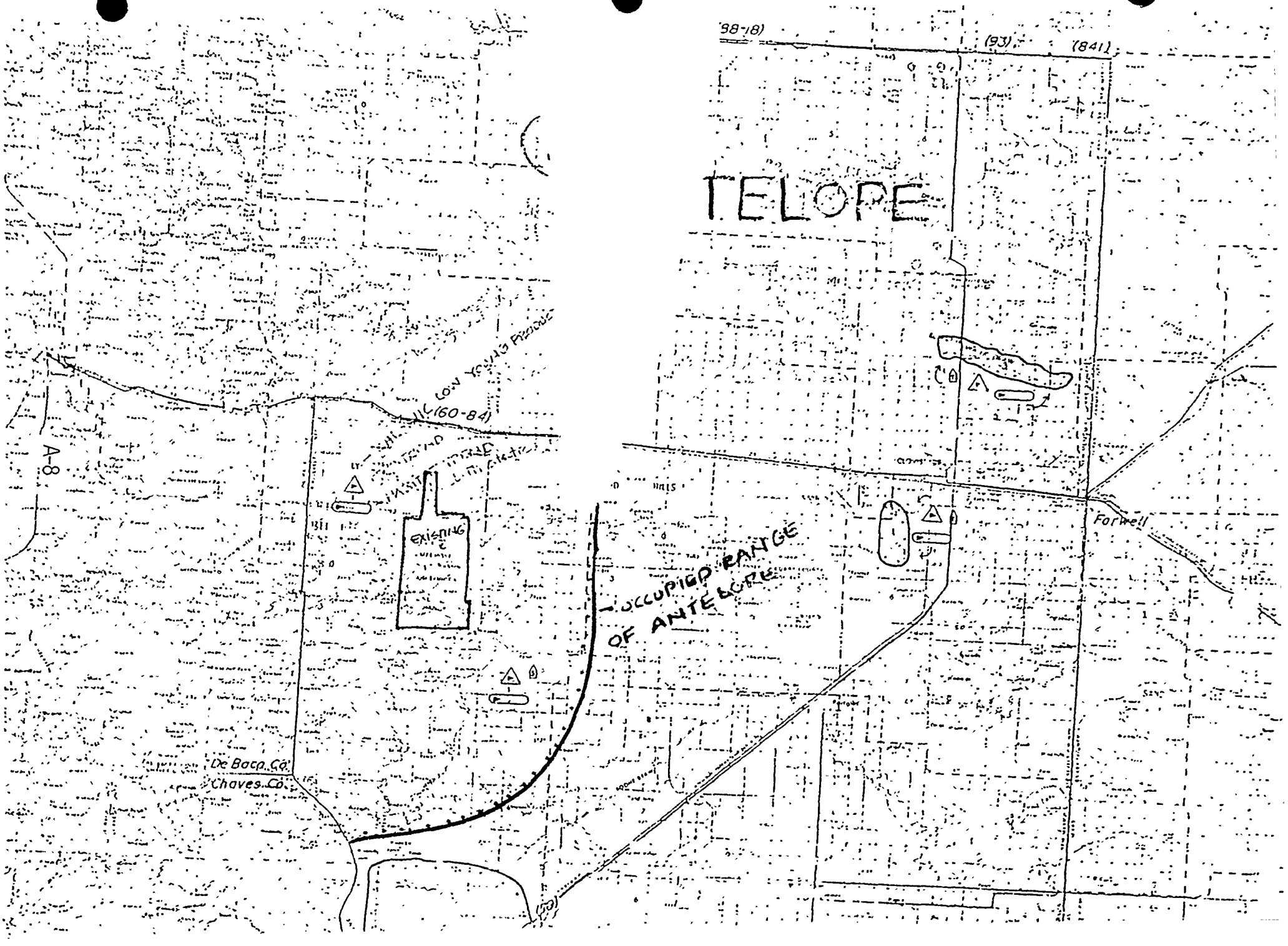
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EXISTING
OCCUPIED RANGE
OF ANTELOPE
Fortrell
De Baca Co.
Chaves Co.

State of New Mexico

Commissioner of Public Lands

ALEX J. ARMIJO
COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

April 24, 1980

Lt. Col. Curtis O. Zeigler
Base Civil Engineer
Headquarters 27th Combat
Support Group (TAC)
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico 88101

Dear Colonel Zeigler:

Re: MELROSE BOMBING RANGE (PROPOSED EXPANSION)

Your letter of March 26, 1980, addressed to the New Mexico State Planning Office regarding the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range has been referred to me for reply, insofar as it affects state trust lands under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Public Lands.

The state trust lands lying within the proposed expansion area consist of about 25 sections of surface and mineral lands and about 10 sections of mineral interest only, the surface being owned by third parties. If the acquisition of this additional acreage is essential to the national defense, the Commissioner will not oppose the taking, providing, however, that the legislation authorizing the acquisition would authorize the Commissioner to select, on behalf of the State of New Mexico, other federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management in lieu of the lands so taken.

In this connection, not only would the exchange method be desirable to this office, it would not have the effect of increasing the national budget as would an outright purchase. Further, the so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" in the western states has its roots in the proposition that the Government should not hold lands in a proprietary capacity but should hold them only for the purposes described in the Constitution, one

of which is to provide for the defense of the country. Such an exchange is authorized by Section 206 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.), also known as the Bureau of Land Management "Organic Act." The only requirement is that the Secretary of the Interior find that the exchange would be in the "public interest." In this regard, the Secretary, so far, has frowned upon third-party accommodation exchanges, except where the exchange would be of benefit to the Secretary of the Interior or some other agency under his jurisdiction. See the next to the last paragraph on the enclosed letter from the National Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

In short, it is felt that this is a prime example of an exchange that would be in the "public interest," because the BLM would be disposing of lands which it should not hold, the military would be acquiring lands which are authorized by the Constitution, and the State of New Mexico would not be divested of lands which it could not replace; and there would be no drain on the federal treasury, which would increase inflation.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O. JORDAN
General Counsel

WOJ:ljv

cc: New Mexico State Planning
Office, Attn: Betsy Reed
U.S. Corps of Engineers
State Director, BLM
Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Harrison J. Schmitt
Rep. Manuel Lujan
Rep. Harold Runnels

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1760 (650)

RECEIVED
MAR 3 1980
STATE OFFICE
SANTA FE, N.M.

Mr. William O. Jordan
General Counsel
Office of Commissioner of Public Lands
P. O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

FEB 28 1980

Dear Oscar:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 1980, relating to the implementation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

I want to express my thanks to you and your staff for working with our people in the implementation of the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Close cooperation between personnel of the Bureau and land management officials in the various States will help resolve as many issues as possible before we begin to initiate new procedures.

I am sorry that I have not provided early answers to the two outstanding questions you discussed in your letter. I think the following information should clear up the questions.

My staff has reviewed the implications of subsection 102(a)(9) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. I find that all of subsection 102(a) is controlled by the provisions of subsection 102(b), which require "that the policies of this Act shall become effective only as specific statutory authority of their implementation is enacted by this Act or by subsequent legislation . . . ." This limitation prevents the Bureau from charging fees in most instances of general or occasional use of the public lands by the public. It has been the Bureau's longstanding policy not to charge the public for occasional uses of the public lands, such as recreation, hunting, etc. In those instances where the public lands have been developed with the use of funds under specific legislative authority, there is a charge for the use of the facilities. That charge is always authorized under the provisions of the statute which authorized the development. Under the statutory authority the Bureau has, by regulation (43 CFR 8200), established charges for the use of public lands for organized events (50 or more off-road vehicles), competitive events, and commercial events. Each event is carefully studied before a decision is made to impose a fee for the requested use.

As far as hunting is concerned, the Bureau of Land Management has never imposed a license fee for hunting on the public lands. Further, section 302(b) imposes limitations on the authority of the Bureau to set a fee for hunting on the public lands.

Your second question deals with the interpretation of the term "public interest" as it is used in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. That section is specific as to what is to be considered in determining the "public interest". It also requires that the Secretary make a determination that the "public interest" will be served by the exchange before an exchange can be executed.

In the case of third party exchanges, it is the policy of the Department of the Interior that third party exchanges are not generally in the public interest. In order for a third party exchange to be approved, it must meet the same requirements as any other exchange, but the analysis of the criteria is more rigorous. This rigorous analysis is required because of the potential for abuse and public misunderstanding inherent in a third party exchange. In addition, final action on a third party exchange requires the approval of the Secretary in order to override stated Departmental policy. As stated in the notice of intent to propose rule-making on exchanges, the Department is carefully analyzing the third party exchange question in connection with the issuance of new exchange regulations.

I hope that this information will answer your concerns. Once again, thank you and your staff for the assistance given our personnel in implementing the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Sincerely,

Director

State of New Mexico

Commissioner of Public Lands

ALEX J. ARMIJO
COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

June 26, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CGS-DED
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Re: MELROSE BOMBING RANGE (PROPOSED EXPANSION)

At the "scoping" hearings in Melrose and at Cannon Air Force Base, the issue arose as to how the Government would handle any grazing leasing of the buffer zone area if it was determined that such could be done without interfering with the mission at the Range. The real estate member, Mrs. Thorp, advised that it would be done by leasing to the highest bidder.

It is our suggestion that, based on the experience in the McGregor Range where this occurred, that a provision should be made in this acquisition to give the current user priority. This would not only tend to lessen the objections of the current landowners to the taking but would seem only fair and just. In short, if there is a use which the military does not need, then it should not take it in the first place, or at least should give the current user the first option. The statutes and the Constition authorize the Government to condemn such interests in land as are needed for military purposes, but it does not have the authority to condemn land or interests in land to go into a commercial leasing operation.

In short, if the Government does not need to take the grazing rights, then it should exempt them; and if it is not certain, it should provide for leasing them back to the prior owner.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O. JORDAN
General Counsel

ljv

Clovis National Bank

part of Bankshare

RICHARD A. PHELPS, J.D.
Assistant Trust Officer

June 26, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter, Deputy Chief Engineer
27 CES/DEC
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

RE: Proposed Melrose boming range expansion to include a portion of the Hart Ranch.

Dear Mr. Rutter:

I represent the Hart Ranch Trust, the primary asset of which is approximately 5,680 acres of ranch land located approximately six miles Southwest of Melrose, New Mexico.

On June 24th I attended the scoping meeting for the Melrose Range expansion held in Melrose, New Mexico, held for the purpose of ascertaining environmental considerations which should be made in making the decision to extend the range. During that meeting I made the following statement:

> "In a large tree located on the South boundary of the Hart Ranch approximately six miles Southwest of Melrose, two Golden Eagles return annually to nest, and have for several years hatched an eagle. From the maps of your proposed expansion, the nest will lie in or near the Northeast corner of the range, approximately two miles from the impact area.
>
> From observations over the past several years it is evident that these protected birds are extremely sensitive to disturbances; to the extent that we are concerned that their nesting area and habitat would effectivly be destroyed by the proposed expansion in that area.
>
> We strongly request that you carefully consider the existance of these protected birds, and the likely effect an expansion in that area would have on their future, in making your decision."

In addition to the existance of the eagles there are other facts which you should be aware of that, I feel, would have a bearing on the decision to expand the range to include portions of Hart Ranch.

P. O. DRAWER 1509 CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101 TELEPHONE 505/762-2941

Clovis National Bank

part of Bankshare

RICHARD A. PHELPS, J.D.
Assistant Trust Officer

The ranch itself has particular historical significance, in fact the ranch house is the oldest inhabited building in Curry County. With this in mind we are concerned about the potential distructive effect the purposed range expansion could have on this Curry County landmark of profound historic significance.

The Clovis National Bank Trust Department administers the Hart Ranch for the future distribution of the ranch to the Trust's beneficary; New Mexico Boys Ranch. New Mexico Boys Ranch has a current right to receive distribution of the ranch, and will probably excercise that right before year end. New Mexico Boys Ranch plans to erect dormitories on the ranch, and use the property as an extension of their facility, located in Belen, New Mexico, for orphaned young men. I am also quite concerned about the potential disruptive effect the purposed range expansion could have on these plans, and the future highly socially beneficial use to which New Mexico Boys Ranch desires to put the property.

I have enclosed a copy of an article from the September 17, 1979 issue of the Clovis News Journal which outlines the past historic, and future social, value that the Hart Ranch represents.

I urge you to pass this information on to those involved in the decision making process, that these very relevent and highly significant factors be given intense consideration in determining the Northeastern boundries of the purposed Melrose Range expansion.

Sincerely,

Assistant Trust Officer

RAP/jjf

Enclosure:

P O DRAWER 1509 CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101 TELEPHONE 505/762-2941

Historic Ranch Bequeathed

By Bill Southard
Managing Editor

A Curry County ranch with its roots deep in the history of the High Plains may some day become a classroom for young cowboys from the New Mexico Boys Ranch at Belen.

The old Hart Ranch, its weathered headquarters buildings all but hidden in a forest of trees and shrubs some eight miles southwest of Melrose, was willed to the Boys Ranch by Beulah Mae Hart five years ago. If the dreams of Boys Ranch officials materialize, the old ranch home will some day become a historic monument or museum and the eight and one-half sections of rolling grassland will be a training ground and home for the older boys from the New Mexico Boys Ranch at Belen.

The Hart Ranch, once called the "Pig Pen" because of the cross hatched brand of earlyday owner Lonnie Horn, has been held in trust for the Boys Ranch since the death of Mrs Hart May 17, 1974. The Boys Ranch board of directors, at a meeting Sept. 21, plans to begin the legal proceedings necessary to take the property out of trust so development can begin.

Currently under lease to Edgar Huff of Melrose, the Hart Ranch grass will probably continue under that arrangement with perhaps some Boys Ranch livestock being run on shares.

The board's long-range plans, as explained by board member Andy Sutter of Clovis, call for development of dormitories to house older Boys Ranch youngsters (15 to 18 years of age), giving them an opportunity to learn ranching from the ground up.

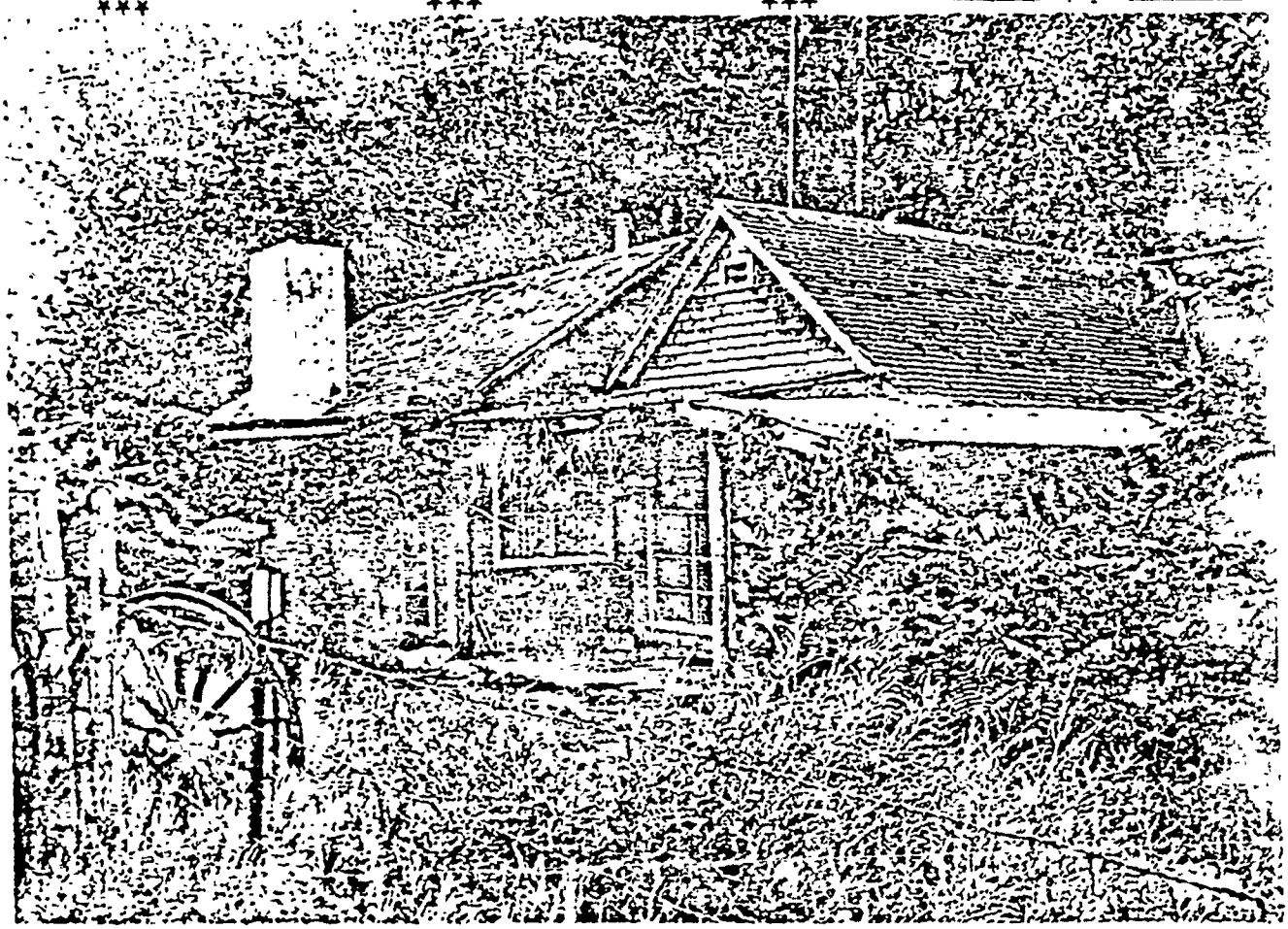
Such development depends on what funding is available from donations to Boys Ranch, Sutter pointed out, since the facility obtains no tax funds at all but is supported solely by charitable contributions.

The original Hart Ranch holdings in the bequest consisted of 13,692 acres but in 1976 some 8,200 acres were sold to clear a loan and pay other debts Of that 8,200, 3,330 acres were acquired by B. J. Pierce and 4,936 went to the Fiddler Grazing Association.

The remaining 5,426 acres of good grassland will sustain as many as 200 cows, according to Albert Mitchell, a well-known New Mexico rancher and a member of the board.

Other officers and members of the board are Ted Bonnell of Alamogordo, president; J. D. Ratliff of Albuquerque, vice president; Arno Romero, secretary, Barbara Nicholson

(See RANCH on Page 2)



HART RANCH—Spring-fed trees and undergrowth all but conceal the historic old Hart Ranch ranchhouse southwest of Melrose, a landmark structure dating back to the turn of the century. The building and ranch have been bequeathed to New Mexico Boys Ranch and may some day provide a home and training ground for young men from the parent facility at Belen. Much of the material in the original part of the old ranchhouse came from the Maxwell home at Fort Sumner where Billy the Kid was slain. (News-Journal Photo)

9-17-79

[illegible] . . .

of Belen, treasurer; and directors J. A. May of Farmington, Clovis Evans of Artesia, Albert Mitchell of Albert, D. C. Barnes of Albuquerque, J. D. Tidwell of Hobbs, Jack Scroggins of Albuquerque and Sutter of Clovis.

Sutter, a member of the board for 26 years, has served longer than any other member.

The ranch property became available to Boys Ranch on the death within the past year of Bob Miller, husband of Beulah Mae and occupant of the ranch until his death. It is to Miller that much credit must go for preserving the history of the old Hart Ranch.

In an address to the Melrose Rotary Club in about 1954, Miller traced the development of the ranch, beginning with its early years as part of the holdings of Lucien B. Maxwell in the late 1860s.

After Maxwell's death in 1875, his vast spread was sold to four men, Sam Doss, D. L. Taylor, John Lord and Lonnie Horn. Although the quartet purchased the holdings together, they agreed to divide the land so that each would have one-fourth on which to run his cattle. Each man occupied one of the four officers' quarters at the old Fort Sumner garrison and the soldiers' barracks buildings were divided for use as quarters for their horses and other stock.

Each of the four had their own brand, Horn's being the crosshatched "" which became known as the "Pig Pen."

Following a few years of successful ranching but with lean years of drouth and severe winters, three of the ranchers were ready to sell. So Horn acquired their interests, establishing his new headquarters at the "Tules," a group of springs and a grove of cottonwood trees. It was there he built the headquarters for his Pig Pen ranch, using timbers from the Old Maxwell house in Fort Sumner where Billy the Kid was shot to death in 1881 by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

The walls of the house that Horn built were of adobe, 18 inchs thick and with beams, floors, woodwork, windows and doors from the old Maxwell residence. Logs from the old fort were used to build corrals and [illegible] were carried from Amarillo by wagon.

The original house was [illegible] the length of the front of the building and another in the back. The ceilings of each room had exposed beams, and [illegible] to heat several of the rooms.

Horn died in [illegible] and five years later the "Pig Pen" ranch came into the hands of Charles Spencer Hart, who operated it with Frank Putnam.

Hart had his first look at the ranch while traveling across it on horseback in 1903. A young man with an independent nature, Hart had left his father's ranch in Palo Pinto County, Texas, to seek his fortune in the West. After he acquired sole ownership of the Pig Pen Ranch in 1917 he enlarged it to include "all the land from just south of Melrose across Blackwater Draw to the Mesa, some 20 miles away," Bob Miller's narrative said. At the time of Hart's death the ranch consisted of some 200 sections.

His first wife died at an early age and he subsequently married a young woman from Breckenridge, Texas. It was their daughter, Beulah Mae, who bequeathed the ranch to New Mexico Boys Ranch.

Additional rooms have been added to the original home but the same style of construction has been retained. A visitor to the ranchhouse today can feel a strong sense of cow country history in the high-ceilinged, heavy-beamed rooms and the veritable jungle of tall trees and tangles of ferns and undergrowth surrounding the rambling structure. It is truly a link with a colorful past.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Environmental
Quality - 305

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE
P. O. BOX 8327
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87198

JUN 27 1980

Memorandum

To: Nelson Rutter, Deputy Base Civil Engineer
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

From: Area Director

Subject: Intergovernmental Coordination (OMB Circular A-95)
Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Analysis on
the Proposed Expansion of Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico

We have reviewed the subject notice of intent within our special expertise and jurisdiction and have only the following comment to make.

We find that no Indian lands will be directly impacted by this action for which the Secretary of the Interior has trust responsibility.

Acting Area Director

Ref. #6

Clovis National Bank
Part of Bankshare

RICHARD A. PHELPS, J.D.
Assistant Trust Officer

June 30, 1980

Lt. Lloyd Flodine
27 CSG/DEEV
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

RE: The Hart Ranch

Dear Lt. Flodine:

Following is the legal description located Southwest

Sec. 27: All
Sec. 28: All
Sec. 29: N/2 & SW/4
Sec. 30: E/2 & NW/4
Sec. 31: E/2 NE/4,
SW/4 NE/4 &
N/2 SE/4
Sec. 32: E/2 NW/4,
NE/4, NE/4
SW/4 & NW/4
SE/4
Sec. 33: S/2 N/2, N/2
SW/4, SE/4
Sec. 34: All
Sec. 35: W/2

T1N, R31E

Sec. 1: S/2 & NW/4
Sec. 2: NE/4 & S/2
S/2
Sec. 3: N/2
Sec. 4: N/2 NE/4 &
SE/4 NE/4

The eagle's nest is located approximately one mile West of the headquarters, near the center of Section 32.

P. O. DRAWER 1509 CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101 TELEPHONE 505/762-2941

Ref

Clovis National Bank

part of Bankshare

RICHARD A. PHELPS, J.D.
Assistant Trust Officer

Thank you very much for your time, and consideration of the potentially disruptive effects the purposed Melrose bombing range expansion could have in that area.

Sincerely,

Assistant Trust Officer

RA:/jjf

P. O. DRAWER 1509 CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101 TELEPHONE 505/762-2941

GOVERNOR
BRUCE KING
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
STATE GAME COMMISSION
EDWARD SUPPES, CHAIRMAN
GALLUP
ALBUQUERQUE
ROBERT H. FORREST
CARLSBAD
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN
SILVER CITY
BILL LITTRELL
CIMARRON

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE
87501

July 7, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CSG/DED
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Several personnel from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish were in attendance at the June 25, 1980 meeting at Cannon Air Force Base regarding the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. There are several items I would like to comment on, regarding the proposal.

No. 1: Our Department views the proposed 52,000-acre expansion of the bombing range as a significant Federal action that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

No. 2: The proposal would definitely impact wildlife management in the area. In the proposed expansion, there are approximately 15,000 acres of state school-trust lands upon which the Department currently has a hunting and fishing easement. There has also been a fair amount of antelope hunting on private land within the expansion area that has been controlled by the Department of Game and Fish. We feel that an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary to determine the impact of the proposal on wildlife species in the area.

No. 3: We would like to have you consider the possibility of allowing public hunting on the bombing range, particularly if the expansion goes through. Currently, we operate an extensive hunting program on both McGregor Range, which is under the control of Fort Bliss, and White Sands Missile Range. We have a very close working relationship with both of these military reservations, and the hunting programs are very beneficial, both to the public of the state, and the military personnel on these bases. There have been no significant conflicts between the hunting program and the military missions, even though in both these cases, the military missions are extensive.

Ref. #8

If we can be of assistance to you in developing information on wildlife in regard to your proposal, we would be more than happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Olson

Harold F. Olson
Director

cc: Bill Montoya
Ruben Gonzalez
Bruce Morrison
Bruce Stout
Randy Johnson

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Box 3189/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
Telephone (505) 646-3007

July 7, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer 27CSG1DED
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Two of our staff members attended your recent meetings regarding the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, and have made a report to me listing the concerns of private landowners in the area and of governmental agency representatives who attended the Interagency Coordination Meeting.

As Secretary of Agriculture in the Governor's Cabinet and Director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, there are areas of importance I would like to address.

First of all, as you know, New Mexico is a fragile environment for agriculture. We have a long growing season, good soil, plenty of sunlight, but water is the limiting factor. Competition for available water is increasing, as is the competition for land. Our major population centers are located in the fertile river valleys, and urban growth threatens the agricultural land.

Part of the land area in your proposed expansion has excellent reserves of underground water. The sprinkler irrigation systems have enabled us to grow crops on less water than was needed to flood irrigate. The current drought in much of the west underlines the importance of farmland which can be irrigated. At present, only 1.74% of the land area in New Mexico, is irrigated. A loss of even a small portion of this resource has serious long term effects.

This year, I am president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. One of the major areas of concern to this organization is the escalating loss of agricultural land to other uses. The Federal Government has sounded the alarm, and in almost every state, serious consideration is being given to legislation which would slow this irreversible land conversion.

Another area of concern to myself and the agricultural community is the continued expansion of land acquisition by the Federal Government. At the present time thirty four percent (34%) of the land in New Mexico is owned by the Federal Government. According to the information I have, the entire proposed expansion area for the Melrose Bombing Range will be privately owned or state land.

In view of these critical issues, I would hope that Cannon Air Force Base will seriously consider courses of action which would minimize the adverse affects to agriculture. Alternative sites should be seriously considered.

If, in the final analysis, it becomes absolutely necessary to proceed with the present proposal, every effort should be made to persuade the Federal Government to exchange Federal land if the owners of land in the proposed expansion area desire.

Also, the continuation of current uses of the land to the extent possible, on a lease basis, with preference given to present landowners, would be in the best interest of all parties.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments, and hope they will be of assistance to you. We would like to receive copies of any reports you release on this subject.

Sincerely,

William P. Stephens
Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Field Supervisor
Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Suite C
3530 Pan American Highway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

July 8, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 C5G/DED
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

This letter is in response to the Department of Air Force's proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range near Melrose, Roosevelt and Curry Counties, New Mexico (DOD).

Our office has not conducted a field survey of the site of proposed expansion; however, from our knowledge of the area we do have some concerns regarding potential wildlife resource impacts.

Antelope are common in the area, and we are concerned about the effects of an expanded bombing range on the antelope herds. In the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, efforts should be made to determine numbers, locations and habitat requirements of antelope herds, and the possible impacts of alternatives on antelope.

Playa lakes are common in Roosevelt and Curry Counties and provide important habitat for migratory waterfowl and migratory birds. The proposed expansion area should be surveyed for playa lakes. Playa lakes, even those with intermittent water, may be important if the water is present during migratory bird movement or if shorebirds are present in the area.

In regard to endangered species, a formal listing of endangered species must be obtained from the Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, or the Area Manager, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2953 W. Indian School Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85017. It is the responsibility of the Federal agency effecting an action to determine whether the action will or may affect Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. If the Federal agency determines the action will or may affect listed species or their habitat, that agency shall convey a written request for formal Section 7 consultation to either the Regional Director or Area Manager of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ref. #10

During the June 25, 1980 scoping meeting, conducted at Cannon Air Force Base it was pointed out that golden eagles may be nesting in the southern part of the proposed expansion area. This area should be surveyed to determine the presence or absence of golden eagles. The Bald Eagle Protection Act (Sec. 2, 54 Stat. 251, as amended 76 Stat. 1246 and 86 Stat. 1065, 16 U.S.C. 668a.) provides for the protection of golden eagles. Further definition of this act may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 22.

A comprehensive ongoing Environmental Monitoring and Management Program based upon an ecosystem approach should be instituted to quantify impacts occurring upon the biotic resources, to monitor these impacts, to determine appropriate mitigative measures, and to locate and protect endangered species. This program should include ecosystem baseline data collection and quantification of impacts expected to result from the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range through long-term monitoring of experimental and ongoing bombing range activities. Management plans should be formulated for all of the wildlife species found during the baseline and monitoring studies. Where range activities result in fires and/or startle reactions of wildlife of the area, research investigations of the effects should be conducted and mitigative measures developed.

We would appreciate receipt of a map of the current boundaries of the Melrose Range and of the proposed expansion. We would also appreciated receiving a copy of your wildlife management plan for the range..

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during this scoping process. If you have any questions please call our office. Our telephone number is 766-3966.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Medlin

Joel A. Medlin
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:
Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Staff Director, Southwest Federal Regional Council, Dallas, Texas
Regional Director, FWS, SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Area Manager, Phoenix, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, Arizona

ENERGY LOCATORS COMPANY
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Portales, New Mexico 88130

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K. R. FRENCH, SCE
DIRECTOR
505-356-4091

July 22, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Civil Engineering
Bldg. 352
Cannon AFB
Clovis, N.M. 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

As promised during our recent telephone conversation, I am pleased to herewith enclose a copy of my new, copyrighted "Wildcat DEEP DRY HOLE Map" of Roosevelt County, N.M.

You will observe the dry holes which have been drilled to the north, to the east and further to the south of the approximate gross area of what may become the proposed, enlarged Cannon Bombing Range.

Any shallow dry holes (less than 6000 feet deep) have been ignored because they did not test lower formations.

Two small gas discoveries were made in DeBaca County, and are shown to the west and southwest of the Range.

The Map Scale of 8 miles to an inch makes distances quite easy to measure.

It is interesting to note that my geophysical surveys had covered - prior to drilling - almost every dry hole shown. Drilling of these dry holes resulted as expected.

The producing areas were also expected by my surveys.

It is hoped that this Map will prove to be useful to you and the Air Force. It may also cause you to come up with some pregnant ideas.

Since I am an Army Air Force veteran of WW2, there still remains nostaliga and a kind feeling for the Air Force. So, please feel free to call upon me at any time.

Sincerely yours,

K. R. French

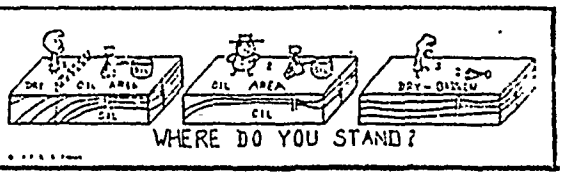
KRF:ms
enc. 2 map copies

Ref. #1

Wildcat DEEP DRY HO' Map
Roosevelt County, New Mexico
Copyright 1980
K.R.French

A Analysis
A. Analysis
Drill Site
Offset
Step Out
Wildcat

ENERGY LOCATORS CO.
P.O. Box 906
PORTALES, N.M. 88130
K. R. FRENCH, ScB.
505-356-4093
Before 8 A.M. or After 9 P.M.



QUAY
4N
3N
2N
T1N
BASE LINE
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2S
3S
4S
5S
6S
7S
8S
R29E
R30E
R31E
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36
37
38
NM*88
MELROSE
US*60-84
CLOVIS
NM*18
NO. 70, 60, 84
CANNON AFB
CURRY
US*70
NEW GROSS? BOMB RANGE
FLOYD
PORTALES
ROOSEVELT
ARCH
DELPHOS
ELIDA
IDORA
ROGERS
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CAUSEY
HI WAY
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LEA

Legend:
OIL FIELD
GAS WELL
DEEP DRY HOLES
MAP SCALE: 1" = 8 MILES

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Field Supervisor
Ecological Services, USFWS
Suite C, 3530 Pan American Highway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

July 31, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27C5G/DED
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Enclosed is a map of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge which Lt. Flodine requested by telephone July 29, 1980. Contact should be made directly with the refuge manager if activities are planned which would involve the refuge in the formulation of alternatives to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

The refuge's address is:

Mr. LeMoyne B. Marlatt, Refuge Manager
Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 7
Roswell, New Mexico 88201
Telephone: (505) 622-6755

If you require additional information please contact our office.

Sincerely yours,

Joel A. Medlin
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure
cc: (w/o cy encl.)
Regional Director, FWS, Refuges, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Area Manager, Phoenix, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, Arizona

Ref. #12

SALT CREEK

LEGEND

- CHECK STATION
- REFUGE BOUNDARY
- HUNTING AREA "A"
- HUNTING AREA "B"
- HUNTING AREA "C" Steel shot only for all hunting during duck seasons

N

PECOS HIGHWAY

70

CLOVIS

285

ROSWELL

OLD

A. T. & S. F.

CHECK STATION

REFUGE HDQRS.

RIVER

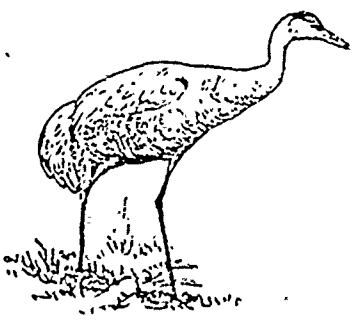
0 1 2

SCALE IN MILES

ROSWELL

380

A-30



HUNTING REGULATIONS
BITTER LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

Public hunting on the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge is allowed on those areas designated by signs as open to hunting and as delineated on the accompanying map. Hunting shall be in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

1. Species permitted to be taken:

Area A: Deer Only.
Area B: Deer, rabbits, ducks, geese, coots, lesser sandhill cranes, dove, quail and pheasants.
Area C: Rabbit, ducks, geese, coots, lesser sandhill crane, dove, quail, and pheasants.
Rabbits may be hunted only during regular waterfowl season as established by the State of New Mexico.

2. Permits and licenses required:
A valid State hunting license is required. Persons 16 years of age and older must have a Federal "Duck Stamp" in their possession to hunt waterfowl. Stamp must be signed in ink by the hunter.

3. Check Station Procedure:
Hunters using Area "C" must check out at check station regardless of success.

4. Permitted Methods:
Steel shot only permitted on Area "C" for taking all species during the special teal season and during the regular waterfowl season, as established by the State of New Mexico. Lead shot may be used in Area "C" before and after these dates.

The following weapons are permitted for the taking of ducks, geese, coots, crane, and dove: shotguns not larger than ten (10) gauge and which are incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined and which are fired from the shoulder; any long bow and arrow. These same weapons may be used for hunting of quail, rabbits, and pheasant, except that guns are not required to be plugged. No rifles or pistols may be used for hunting above species.

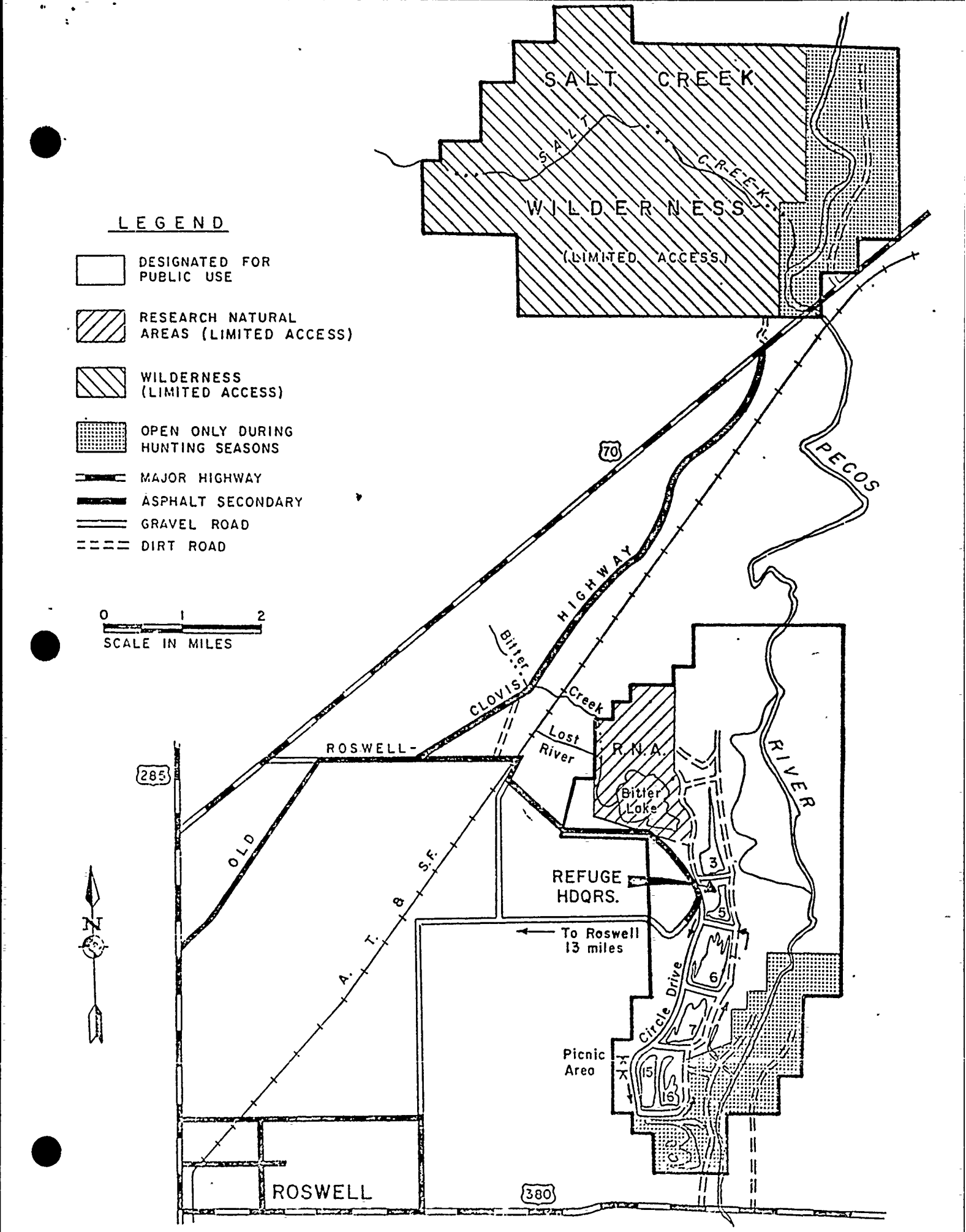
Check State's regulations regarding guns and archery equipment that may be used for deer hunting. Hunting of deer will be permitted on the north refuge unit only.

Dogs not to exceed two per hunter may be used when hunting all species except deer.

5. Vehicular travel:
Vehicular travel is limited to appropriately marked routes. Parking is permitted only at designated areas.

6. Boats:
Portable boats (canoes, car-top boats and other smaller boats) without motors may be used by hunters. Boats may not be stored on the refuge.

These provisions supplement the regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32, and the current Federal Migratory Bird Regulations.


SALT CREEK WILDERNESS
(LIMITED ACCESS)
SALT CREEK
LEGEND
DESIGNATED FOR PUBLIC USE
RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (LIMITED ACCESS)
WILDERNESS (LIMITED ACCESS)
OPEN ONLY DURING HUNTING SEASONS
MAJOR HIGHWAY
ASPHALT SECONDARY
GRAVEL ROAD
DIRT ROAD
0 1 2
SCALE IN MILES
70
PECOS
HIGHWAY
Bitter Creek
CLOVIS
ROSWELL
285
Lost River
R.N.A.
Bitter Lake
RIVER
OLD
A. T. & S.F.
REFUGE HDQRS.
To Roswell 13 miles
Circle Drive
Picnic Area
ROSWELL
380
N

BITTER LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USES AND REGULATIONS

Certain recreational activities which are compatible with refuge objectives are permitted. All other uses, not expressly permitted, are prohibited. See Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, for more detailed information.

Visiting Hours are from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, unless otherwise posted.

Sightseeing, Nature Observation, and Photography are permitted from or adjacent to established routes of public travel. Those areas which are closed to the public are so posted. No vehicles are permitted within any portion of the Salt Creek Wilderness. Check at refuge headquarters for further restrictions on use of the Wilderness Area and Research Natural Areas.

Hiking is permitted on designated trails and elsewhere within the designated public use area not posted as closed.

Fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations in those areas designated as open to public fishing, except that no boats or trotlines are permitted. The fishing season normally extends from April 1 through October 15. Fishing is permitted in Units 5, 6, 7, 15, and 16.

Hunting is permitted on certain portions of the refuge in accordance with all State and Federal Regulations. Check at refuge headquarters for further information.

Boats are permitted only in the waterfowl hunting area in season.

Picnicking is permitted in several designated areas, as a convenience to visitors engaged in wildlife/wildlands-oriented recreation.

Swimming is prohibited in all refuge waters.

Overnight Camping is restricted to organized youth groups, by prior arrangement with the refuge manager.

Open Fires are restricted to enclosed cooking units, such as gas stoves and charcoal burners, used in designated picnic areas.

Firearms are prohibited on the refuge, except in areas designated as open to hunting, during established hunting seasons.

Fireworks are prohibited on the refuge.

Dogs, Cats, and Other Pets are not permitted to run at large on the refuge. They must be leashed or otherwise confined, except dogs used by hunters in designated hunting areas during established hunting seasons.

Animal and Plant Life may not be molested or destroyed in any manner, except for legally taken fish and game species.

Indian Artifacts and Other Objects of Antiquity - Federal law prohibits the removal, excavation, injury, or destruction of any prehistoric or historic object of antiquity on Federal land.

Littering is prohibited. Be considerate of others. Please do your part in helping to keep this area safe and clean.

RF-22510-9 AUGUST 1979

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
STATE PLANNING DIVISION

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

DAVID W. KING
SECRETARY

505 DON GASPAR AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-2073
(505) 827-5191
(505) 827-2108

ANITA HISENBERG
DIRECTOR

JOE GUILLEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

August 1, 1980

Mr. Lewis R. Shotton
Command Natural Resources Manager
Environmental Planning Division
Department of the Air Force
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

Thank you for your letter of July 18th providing our office with the opportunity to review a copy of the draft statement of work for a cultural resources survey of the existing Melrose Bombing Range and the request for help in drafting a memo of understanding for the proposed expansion of the Range.

With reference to the draft statement of work for the existing Range, the cultural/archaeological survey appears to be satisfactory. A 10% surface reconnaissance survey should be adequate for the area of the existing Range.

In regard to the memorandum of understanding for the proposed expansion of the existing Melrose Range, this office is currently consulting with the Denver regional office of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for guidance in this matter. A draft memorandum will be sent to you as soon as possible. The contact person with the Advisory Council is:

Mr. Charles M. Niquette
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Suite 616, Lake Plaza South
44 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (505) 827-2108.

Sincerely,

Jim Bieg

Jim Bieg
Historic Preservation Planner
Historic Preservation Bureau

JB:jmg

Ref. #13

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. Drawer 1857
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

August 4, 1980

Lieutenant Albert Romero
27 CGS/DEEV
Canon AFB, NM 88101

Dear Lieutenant Romero:

In reference to your recent telephone conversation with Mr. Donald VanSickle, Acting Area Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Roswell, New Mexico:

The lands in T. 1 and 2 N., and T. 1 S., R. 29 E.,
T. 1 and 2 N., and T. 1 S., R. 30 E.,
T. 1 and 2 N., and T. 1 S., R. 31 E.,

are considered to be valuable for oil and gas prospecting because of the presence of over 1000 feet of sediment but there have been no discoveries of oil and/or gas on these lands. There have been about 25 test for oil and gas but all were dry holes. There is a large carbon dioxide field lying east of T. 18,19,20, and 21 N., R. 29 E.

The land in question is also within Potash Reserve No. 6, New Mexico No. 1 dated March 11, 1926 because of the presence of salt beds but the main salt formation, the Salado, is not present. The withdrawal was made on the presumption that where there is salt there is also potash. There is no salt or potash production in the subject area.

We are enclosing copies of the Individual Well Records for oil and gas wells drilled in the subject area. If there is any more information you need, please call us.

Sincerely,

Elmer D. Patterson
For Area Geologist

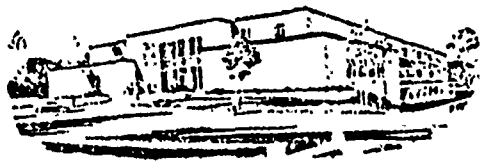
file

EDP/djr

Ref. #1

DEO 9M
DEC

State of New Mexico



Commissioner of Public Lands

ALEX J. ARMIJO
COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

August 5, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CGS-DED
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Re: MELROSE BOMBING RANGE

With reference to the meetings of June 24 and 25, I followed up on the statement made by former Senator R. C. (Ike) Morgan to the effect that other federal lands were available. A copy of his letter is enclosed herewith.

I also checked with Congressman Runnels' office with regard to the statement that there would be a restriction on the use of lands within two and one-half miles of the perimeter of the proposed range. He had no knowledge of such a restriction. There was an apparent mix-up somewhere in the communications.

I am also enclosing a copy of a memorandum received from Mr. J. W. Law, Petroleum Engineer with this Office.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O. JORDAN
General Counsel

ljv

cc: New Mexico State Planning
Division
Corps of Engineers
Attn: Mr. W.C. Elms

Ref. #15

R. C. (Tke) Morgan
1311 West 1/ Lane
Portales, New Mexico

Mr. William O. Jordan
General Counsel
Commissioner of Public Lands
P. O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Oscar:

I am sorry to have been so long answereing your letter of June 29. I have been out of town and got behind with several chores in activities.

I don't think it would be advisable for me to pin-point a location for an alternate sit for a range. Ther are too many items that would have to be explored such as pipe lines etc. The air force has access to all the information envolved in making suc.. a determination, that an ordanary citizen doesn't have. However I feel very strongly that there are other sites more suitable for a range than expanding the present site. It seems un-thinkable that an area such as the present range would be expanded when there is so much open country that doesn't have the degree of development and the potential as this location has.

There is a vast area about 150 miles wide and some 200 long that would have a number of locations that would be sutable for a bombing range, within 10 to 25 minuets flying time from Cannon Air Base. Also if in the future it became necessary to enlarge it there would be ample space around it for that purpose.

I have looked at a large map of the state and it appears to me there are several possible locations with in the area mentioned in the above paragraph, with a large amount of Federal owned land.

I have flown over that area a number of times and it is indeed a large area of almost completly un-inhabitated area.
We appreciate your interest in the problem. If I can be of any assistance to you I will be glad to oblige.

Sincerely,

R. C. Morgan

State of New Mexico

Commissioner of Public Lands

LEX J. ARMIJO
COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

July 25, 1980

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Ray D. Graham

FROM: J. W. Law

SUBJECT: Melrose Bombing Range
Proposed Expansion
Curry County, New Mexico

The State of New Mexico is the owner of the Mineral Estate in approximately 23,300 acres which is included in the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

The application of the same evaluation of undiscovered reserves as used in the White Sands Missile Range results in the following estimated value of oil and gas for the State lands involved:

Undiscovered Oil and Gas
79 BBLS. of Oil/Acre @ $38.81/BBL.
539 MCF of Gas/Acre @ $ 2.54/MCF

Using a Royalty Interest Of
12.5% = $13,311,000
16.67% = $17,786,000

JWL/br

cc: W.O. Jordan
J. Scott Hall

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION - DISTRICT IV
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
820 W. 6th St., P.O. Box 1832
Clovis, NM 88101 Telephone #762-3728

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

GEORGES GOLDSTEIN PH.D.
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

August 6, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter, Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CSG/DED
Cannon AFB, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

In regards to your letter of 31 July 1980, requesting the current requirements for relocation applications and permits to move the existing sewage disposal leach field and the solid waste landfill at Melrose AFR, I am forwarding to your office a copy of the New Mexico Solid Waste Management Regulations and a copy of the New Mexico Liquid Waste Disposal Regulations for your review.

The State of New Mexico has not been granted authority to enforce solid waste management practices or liquid waste disposal practices on federal lands. However, these regulations should serve as a guide for proper construction, maintenance and operation of such facilities.

We of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division stand ready to assist your office in these matters. This District has two environmental engineers on staff who can act as consultants to insure proper design of each facility.

If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at 762-3728.

Sincerely,

David L. Tanner
District Supervisor

DLT/vw

cc: John Guinn, District Manager

DEC

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

STATE PLANNING DIVISION

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

DAVID W. KING
SECRETARY

505 DON GASPAR AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-2073
(505) 827-5191
(505) 827-2108

ANITA HISENBERG
DIRECTOR

JOE GUILLEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

August 8, 1980

Frederick C. Newhall, Lt. Col. USAF
Base Civil Engineer
27th Combat Support Group
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Lt. Col. Newhall:

I am in receipt of your letter, no date, concerning alternate suitable sites for the bombing range facility required to accomplish the Cannon Air Force Base training mission.

Your request has been forwarded to those in our office knowledgeable in land use planning. I am hopeful that we can respond within the limited time allowed.

Sincerely,

Grant A. Reel
Intergovernmental Services

GAR:jr

cc: Mrs. Anita Hisenberg
Mr. Jon Samuelson

Ref. #17

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Field Supervisor
Ecological Services, USFWS
Suite C, 3530 Pan American Highway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

August 18, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CSG/DED
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

This letter is in response to Lt. Flodine's telephone call of August 11, 1980, which provided information on alternative site locations to the Melrose Bombing Range. Lt. Flodine requested fish and wildlife information on the sites.

The alternative sites are comprised primarily of public land. We, therefore, notified the district offices of the Bureau of Land Management in Roswell and Las Cruces, because they were not in attendance at the initial scoping meeting of June 24, 1980. We expect they will be in contact with your office. All actions on public lands should be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management.

It is our understanding that none of the alternative sites are ranked according to priority at this time.

The first site, southeast of Roswell near Loco Hills, contains a vegetative type composed primarily of mesquite, shinnery oak, creosote, broom snakeweed and grass species such as dropseeds, three-awns and bluestems. Common wildlife species are coyote, scaled quail, mourning dove, numerous raptors, rodents, reptiles and small mammals. Near the Caprock, mule deer may be found. We are not aware of any waterfowl use in the area, however, scattered playa lakes may be within the site, and could periodically contain water.

Federally listed threatened and endangered species which could occur in the Loco Hills area are bald eagle, peregrine falcon and black-footed ferret.

The second site, on McGregor Range, contains a vegetative type composed primarily of soaptree yucca, sacahuista, creosote, tobosa, feathergrass and burrograss. Common wildlife species are mule deer, antelope, small mammals, rodents, reptiles and raptors. This area is important habitat to the antelope of McGregor Range. Waterfowl are not found in this area.

Federally listed threatened and endangered species which could occur in the McGregor Range are bald eagle, peregrine falcon and black-footed ferret.

The third site, in the vicinity of Mesa northwest of Roswell, is a grassland vegetative type containing primarily grass species of gramas, tobosa, galleta, dropseeds and three-awns. Common wildlife species are antelope, small mammals, rodents, reptiles and raptors. An antelope study is being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management near this site. Specific information on this study may be obtained from the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 1717 W. 2nd Street, P.O. Box 1397, Roswell, New Mexico 88201.

Federally listed threatened and endangered species which could occur in this area are bald eagle, peregrine falcon and black-footed ferret.

The information provided on endangered species for all sites does not constitute a formal listing of species nor a formal Section 7 consultation as provided by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and does not relieve your agency of the responsibility to comply with the inter-agency Cooperation Regulations (January 4, 1978; 43 FR 870-876). It is the responsibility of the Federal agency effecting an action to determine whether a proposed acton will or may affect Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. If the Federal agency determines the action will or may affect listed species or their habitat, that agency shall convey a written request for formal Section 7 consultation to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103 or the Area Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2953 W. Indian School Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85017.

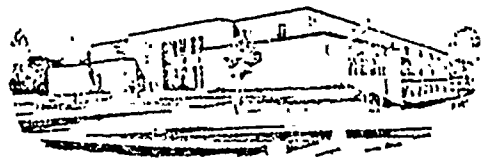
If you have any questions please contact our office.

Sincerely yours,

Joel A. Medlin
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:
Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Regional Director, FWS, SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Area Manager, Phoenix, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, Arizona

State of New Mexico



Commissioner of Public Lands

ALEX J. ARMIJO
COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

August 19, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 CGS-DED
Cannon Air Force Base
New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

Re: MELROSE BOMBING RANGE

I am enclosing herewith for your information a copy of a letter from Col. John G. Schroeder of the Department of the Air Force and a letter from Larry L. Morgan of the late Congressman Runnels' Office. These letters are in response to questions raised regarding the Melrose Bombing Range.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O. JORDAN
General Counsel

ljv

Enclosures

Ref.

[illegible]
2nd District, New Mexico

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS, CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC LANDS
MINES AND MINING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1313 Longworth House Office
Area Code 202: 225-2365

DISTRICT OFFICES:
Suite A, McGoldy Building
Lovington, New Mexico 88260
Area Code 505: 396-2252

Federal Building, Room 2101
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Area Code 505: 524-6022

Federal Building, Room 108
Gallup, New Mexico 87301
Area Code 505: 863-3400

RECEIVED
80 AUG 03 AM '80
STATE LAND OFF.
SANTA FE

August 14, 1980

The Honorable William O. Jordan
General Counsel
Commissioner of Public Lands
P.O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Oscar:

Please find attached a copy of the letter that I received from the Air Force in response to the inquiry I made as a result of your earlier correspondence on January 27th.

The letter is self-explanatory and I am hopeful that it is responsive to some of the questions you have raised. If, however, you would like to pursue the matter in further detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes.

Singerely,

Larry L. Morgan
Administrator
Second District, New Mexico

lkm

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED
AUG 16 10 04 AM '80
STATE LAND OFFICE
SANTA FE, N. MEX.
AUG 1980

Honorable Harold Runnels
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Runnels:

This is in response to your letter of July 2, 1980, in behalf of Mr. William O. Jordan concerning Melrose Air Force Range.

The three specific questions raised in your letter regarding the Air Force proposal to expand the boundaries of the Melrose range are the surface and subsurface rights, a grazing lease within the bombing range and restrictions on the use of lands immediately surrounding the boundary of the bombing range. The Air Force intent on each of these subjects is as follows:

a. Surface and Subsurface Rights: The Air Force normally obtains these rights with any land purchase. This would be the intent with respect to the expansion of the Melrose Range. However, this would not preclude the subsequent leasing of surface and subsurface rights, as long as the lease would be compatible with Air Force operations.

b. Grazing Lease: The Air Force intends to make a grazing lease available on the newly purchased land. The only lands that will not be available for a grazing lease on the Melrose Range are those areas immediately surrounding the ordnance impact points.

c. Restrictions on Lands Immediately Surrounding the Range: The Air Force does not intend to place any oil or gas drilling restrictions on the lands immediately surrounding the bombing range boundary.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and hope the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. SCHROEDER
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Chief, Program Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
STATE PLANNING DIVISION

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

DAVID W. KING
SECRETARY

505 DON GASPAR AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-2073
(505) 827-5191
(505) 827-2108

ANITA HISENBERG
DIRECTOR

JOE GUILLEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

August 20, 1980

Mr. Lewis R. Shotton
Command Natural Resources Manager
Environmental Planning Division
Headquarters Tactical Air Command
Department of the Air Force
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

This letter is to verify that the Department of the Air Force, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base Virginia and the Headquarters 27th Combat Support Group, Cannon Air Force Base New Mexico have been in contact with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau concerning the potential impact on cultural resources which may result from the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

The Air Force has expressed its commitment, contingent upon acquisition, to identify, moninate, and protect cultural sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (in accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 36 CFR 800, and Executive Order 11593) located on lands in the proposed expansion area.

In addition, the Air Force has requested that a memorandum of understanding be initiated with the Bureau to ensure compliance with federal law and regulation. In consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, it has been agreed upon that, pursuant to the authorization of funds for the acquisition of proposed expansion areas, the Bureau and the Air Force will initiate a Memorandum of Agreement.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Merlan
State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Bureau

TWM:JB:dg

cc: Charles Niquette
Nelson Rutter

A-46

Ref. #20

413 North Virginia
Roswell, NM 88201

August 26, 1980

Mr. Nelson Rutter
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
27 C.S.G. D.E.D.
Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. 88101

Dear Mr. Rutter:

The Department of Game and Fish would like to make several comments concerning the proposed alternative sites for the Melrose Bombing Range:.

Alternative Site 1: near Loco Hills, New Mexico is an area where extensive oil and gas exploration have already reduced the antelope herd in the area and is making our management of this antelope herd difficult. Placing a bombing range on the area would further hinder our antelope management in the area. Possible rare and endangered species in the area include the Baird's sparrow and the sand dune brush lizzard. If there are prairie dog towns in the area, there is always the possibility of black footed ferrets being present.

Alternative Site 2: on the McGregor Missile Range could impede antelope hunting and management in a small portion of the missile range. Possible rare and endangered species in the area include the black footed ferret, black tailed prairie dog, black hawk, Baird's sparrow and Aplomado falcon.

Alternative Site 3: northwest of Roswell, near Mesa, N.M. poses a problem to the on going antelope fence study being conducted in the area. According to the legal description given us of this proposed site, it would encompass two of the study pastures and the Circle F Ranch which has some antelope passes going on it that are currently under study. This is a four year study that has been going on for about 1 1/2 years. If it were to be included in the bombing range the time and expense put into study for the past 1 1/2 years would be wasted and the data needed to make this a scientifically sound study could not be gathered due to these areas being left out of the study. Possible rare and endangered species in the area are the Baird's sparrow and black footed ferret.

As for the reported golden eagle nesting sight on the current bombing range expansion area, this nest has been confirmed as a golden eagle nesting sight. However it is apparently 1/2 mile east of the proposed expansion boundary.

We also view the acquisition of any of these areas as a significant Federal action, which would require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

We would also reiterate our belief that public hunting could be allowed on any of the bombing ranges proposed under supervision.

If we may be of further assistance in providing wildlife management information for your use, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Olson, Director

Bruce Morrison

By:
Bruce Morrison
S.E. Area Game Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO

2200

District Office
P. O. Box 1397
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

October 14, 1980

M. E. Chavez
Chief, Planning & Control Branch
Real Estate Division
Department of the Army
P. O. Box 1580
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Chavez:

The present policy of the BLM does not permit three party exchanges, thus the proposal by New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands in regard to exchange of state-owned lands in the Melrose Range expansion cannot be considered.

Additionally, there are cr .t factors associated with exchanges that are not generally known but must be considered. These costs include; preparation of an Environmental Statement, appraisals, publication, comment and/or protest time periods. Also if mineral values are present, they must be considered and outstanding mineral leases are a bar to exchange in most cases as they are not transferable. Practically all of BLM lands in this district are currently leased.

Sincerely yours,

James H. O'Connor
District Manager

Ref. #22

EXHIBIT "G"

IN REPLY REFER TO: RF

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

April 30, 1981

Major Thom Minnis
c/o 27 TFW/DOR
Cannon AFB, New Mexico 88101

Dear Major Minnis:

This letter responds to your telephone request to Mr. Giezentanner of our office for an analysis of migratory bird use in the area of Lon Mesa Bombing Range (3400N, 10500W) located approximately 36 miles south of Vaughn, New Mexico.

Our Albuquerque Ecological Services field office has previously responded to your agency regarding some possible wildlife impacts of the proposed expansion of Melrose Bombing Range. In addition, we assume you have contacted the New Mexico Game and Fish Department for their comments regarding impact on resident wildlife species, particularly antelope which occur in the area.

The proposed expansion area does not appear to be located on any major migratory bird flyway nor are there any particularly attractive waterfowl habitats located on or immediately near the project area. We cannot provide any data regarding specific bird use in the area; however, we do not anticipate that notable concentrations of waterfowl or other migratory birds would occur at any time of the year. We cannot offer any comment on abundance of resident and upland bird species since these data are not available to us.

The proposed area lies a few miles north of a flight line between Bitter Lake NWR near Roswell and the Bosque del Apache NWR near Socorro. Banding studies on snow geese have shown that there is at least minimal interchange between the two refuges from November to February. We suspect that most of this occurs south of the proposed site.

In summary, there is a distinct lack of specific information on migratory bird populations within and near the proposed site. Even so, the best evidence available indicates that the proposed site poses no problems to migratory birds and vice versa. There are probably fewer potential aircraft/waterfowl conflicts in the proposed area than there are in most other areas we can think of in New Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

Regional Director

Ref. #23

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

DATE JUN - 1981

AIR ROUTE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER
6900 Los Angeles Drive, NE.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113

IN REPLY REFER TO ZAB-4ABQ (7102-2)

SUBJECT INFORMATION: Relocation of Melrose Bombing Range; USAF, 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, New Mexico, Ltr of 6/12/81

FROM: Chief, Albuquerque ARTC Center

TO: Major Thomas L. Minnis, USAF
Chief, Wing Radar Strike
27th Tactical Fighter Wing/DOR
Cannon AFB, New Mexico 88101

We disagree with the proposed relocation of R-5104 and R-5105 to the site named LON-MESA for the following reasons:

1. The proposed LON-MESA site would completely block V68-V83 and V68N-V83E. These airways are the main arteries between Roswell, New Mexico, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The possibility of realignment of V68-V83 is completely out of the question because of the existing BEAK A and PECOS MOAs. The additional mileage would be 8-nautical miles to the south through BEAK A MOA and 17-nautical miles to the north through PECOS MOA.

2. The close proximity of the LON-MESA site to the Roswell Airport would add to the complexity of departures proceeding to the northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast.

3. The LON-MESA site underlies a good portion of AR-602 which would require a realignment.

4. The LON-MESA site would require changes in existing IR routes 133 and 113; also in VR-125.

In summary, we believe that the relocation of R-5104 and R-5105 to the LON-MESA site would have an adverse effect on all users of that airspace.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, feel free to contact the Albuquerque Area Office at FTS 476-0243 or Autovon 888-1780.

Ray S. Lansbery

cc:
ASW-542F
ASW-900

Ref. #24

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO DEIS

331 N. Coleman Road,
Roswell, Georgia 30075
April 29, 1984

Environmental Planning
Hq TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, Va. 23665

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties New Mexico and I wish to make the following comments on the proposed action as provided for under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508).

It is relevant to point out that:

I am a former U. S. Air Force Officer who served honorably in the southwest and enjoyed the experience; but,

Because of my concerns for correct short and long term resource development and management decisions (particularly energy) while maintaining the quality of the regional and local environment....

I decided not to be a career officer and subsequently spent 21 professional years of my life in comprehensive regional development planning with emphasis on Natural Resources Systems Planning, Resource Allocation and Land Management decisions. I am fortunate to have enjoyed field work experiences with many of the nations best natural and physical scientists while formulating regional development plans and I am proud to have had a hand in helping to promote the passage of the much needed NEPA Act.

I have reviewed this document form the viewpoints of one who appreciates:

1. The Air Force's Training need for an area or areas primarily for the use and purposes of a training range for aircraft, bombing cannon and missel firing; and,

2. The need to adopt basic objective criteria; to objectively apply these to alternative sites in the region, then to evaluate and compare the alternatives in order to eleminate or minimize physical, social and economic impacts and to make the best land use decision.

Although it has not been clearly established by the U.S. Air Force that Cannon AFB is essential to the mission of the Air Force

(this TAC Training Mission might be relocated to another base which would use other bombing ranges); let us assume that because of existing federal investments at Cannon AFB, it is desirable to provide a better range in the Cannon AFB region. What then would be the land use criteria for site selection in making a regional resource inventory and analysis for this resource allocation and public investment decision?

1. The Air Force lists size, 10 miles by 10 miles or 100 square miles without conflicting land uses; and,

2. Within 250 miles of Cannon AFB; but preferrably within 100 miles of Cannon AFB is much better.

OTHER LAND USE CRITERIA FOR OBJECTIVE SITE SELECTION WHICH SHOULD BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

3. Lack of industrial, residental or transportation developments;

4. Lack of prime agriculture soils or good developed farm or ranch land;

5. Lack of oil and gas development; or, lack of underlying class I mineral lands with existing leases and planned investigation and development;

6. Lack of statewide or regionally significant natural areas archeological or historic sites; and,

7. Use of existing federal land if possible which does not have the limiting factors of criteria 3,4,5, and 6.

Quality, quantity and cost comparisons between sites should be made using these criteria. However, the Air Force DOES NOT APPLY OBJECTIVE CRITERIA 3 THRU 7 nor make comparitive analysis between alternative sites. In reviewing and analysing this DEIS Proposal to Expand Melrose Air Force (bombing) Range, I arrive at the following findings and conclusions: (These are based upon previous correspondence and the evidence and recommendations as presented in the DEIS document.)

1. The Air Force has not complied with the intent of Section 1502 NEPA Proceedures and specifically CEQ Regulations Section 1503 by, "....Requesting Public Comments from those interested or affected...."

2. The alternatives for accomplishing the purpose of training TAC pilots, are not adequately considered, specifically:

A. using other available sites in combination with the <u>existing</u> Melrose site; or more particularly,

B. using and developing the federal land in the "Lon-Mesa" site as a better bombing range.

Either A or B alternative afore stated is preferrable to the following adverse social and economic impacts associated with the expansion of the Melrose Range:

(1) Taking private residences, developed Ranch and Farmlands; an

(2) Virtually ignoring the underlying classI mineral lands and outstanding private mineral lease contracts in the proposed Melrose expansion.

These significant adverse impacts could be forgone by selecting either alternative 1 or 2 as follows:

1. Not expanding Melrose Bombing Range; but using the existing range for training in combination with other ranges. (No where does the Air Force establish that the expansion of Melrose Bombing Range is critical to the training of TAC pilots at Cannon. Diversity of pilot experiences by practice runs at several sites would be more realistic to combat.)

2. Further study by TAC, obtaining use right and development of a better range at Lon Mesa. This alternative would be far preferrable to the taking of private property at Melrose including residences and mineral leases; ranch and farmlands; and blocking mineral resource investigation, exploration and development.

The following statements numbered 1,2, and 3 detail points in support of my conclusions outlined above:

1. <u>The DEIS Does Not Affirmatively Seek Comments from Interested and Affected Persons</u>.

In 1980, I made my interests known to the Air Force (ie; that my family hertiage in the area of concern pre dated New Mexico as a state, and that decendants of the Isaac R. Greathouse family were the owners of lands and minerals in the proposed expansion areafor Melrose Bombing Range.) The Secretary's office responded in a letter 26 September 1980 identified as attachment 1 hereto, inwhich they assured on page 2 <u>they would be glad to furnish me a copy of the DEIS when printed</u>.

This Air Force letter did not respond to my question as to how signigicant is Cannon AFB and its Melrose Bombing Range in meeting the overall Air Force needs for development and training when considering other bases and ranges. Rather, the 1980 letter signed by Col. John G. Schroeder ignored my more basic questions, and <u>responded with a bias in support of Melrose Air Force Range's expansion</u>, even expressing the possibility....."that the environmental assessment (might) support a finding of no significance..."

The Air Force published the DEIS on or about March 5, 1984; <u>but did not send me a copy or notify me personally.</u> I learned of their action on March 23, only after calling the Secretary's office in Washington, and in turn calling Cannon Air Force Base.

The copy of the DEIS I received was not dated, did not tell me when my response was due, nor provide an address to whom this response is to be directed. These facts were not made clear after I followed up in writing to Cannon AFB. (See Air Force letter of response dated April 11, 1982, attachment 2.) 6

2. THE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS RESULTING TO PRIVATELY HELD MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINERAL RIGHTS ARE VIRTUALLY IGNORED BY THIS DEIS. 7

This issue is not mentioned in the Summary of Impacts in the DEIS (three reference are buried in the appendices.) Yet the entire area under and extending beyond the proposed Melrose Bombing Range expansion is classified TYPE I mineral lands by New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Professional Geologists.

The Petroleum Engineer for the Commissioner of Public Lands of the State of New Mexico has extimated the Royalty Interest value of the state owned 23,300 acre portion at $13,311,000 for oil and $17,786,000 for gas. (Ref. 15 page D-40 of DEIS) His figures may be low. By comparison the private ownership portion of the proposed expansion is considerably larger, exceeding 30,000 acres, with a greater estimated Royalty interest $17,304,300 oil, $23,121,800 gas.

THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE TYPE I MINERAL LANDS FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ON PRIVATE LANDS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE NATION AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

Oil is essential for the wheels of industry to turn, our economy to function, taxes to be levied, and for aircraft to fly.

Professional geologists agree the same world locations and supplies for these non renewable resources are much the same today as in 1950 - with the exception of depletion of original supplies. Sixty thousand holes were drilled in 1983 in the U.S. but we did not find much reserve that petroleum geologists had not identified 30 years ago. This makes class I mineral lands increasingly significant today where they exist !

Techniques of inventory, analysis and exploration are changing. Seismic evaluation is being done in coordination with stratigraphy to assist in specific site selections for new explorations which are likely to be much deeper. (Mr. French's letter, Ref 11 in the DEIS has no relevance in the scenario of 1984 - 2020, the next 30 years.)

In the east, for example, in Georgia virtually all the National Forests Lands have been leased even though the stratigraphy does not indicate the presence of oil and gas and none is likely to be found. However, we cooperate in the inventory and determinations. We do not block them as the Air Force has done on the existing Melrose Bombing Range; and,as they propose to do in the proposed expansion area.

In the Melrose Bombing Range area of New Mexico we have very good scientific indications for petroleum and/or gas production. The nation needs the minerals and New Mexico needs the potentially

large royalty and tax income for its schools and universities. Had the present projected size of the Melrose Bombing Range been invisioned initially, it should have been invited to seek an alternative site rather than appropriate 76,200 acres of class I mineral lands.

The DEIS proposal represents a taking of an additional 54,000 acres of these class I mineral lands. The private holders of these subsurface rights are ignored in the DEIS, as well as the New Mexico Bureau of Mines map that shows these lands as Class I for exploration of oil and gas (reference enclosure 4).

The Air Force should be cooperating fully with seismic investigations by major petroleum companies to determine key sites for exploration. It is a known fact that Petroleum Companies have much of the private oil/gas rights under active lease and investigation in the area of the proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion.

In the past the Air Force thwarted a seismic evaluation request by Roger's Petroleum Company on the basis of possible ordinance, and said the company could run along the boundary line. (See letter attachment3.) Such tests are made after carefully plotting natural underground stratigraphy lines, where oil deposits are most likely rather then on surface man made lines. The ordnance should be cleaned up periodically. Discharges for seismic tests are small and should be permitted with advance planning. The point here is we need cooperation in the inventory and determination of key potential and specific sites for further oil exploration and developments. Our country and the world is approaching an oil shortage crisis much sooner then it realizes.

In addition to being a professional planner interested in sound governmental investment, I am one of the owners of mineral rights in lands currently under lease adjoining the existing Melrose Bombing Range.

8

This DEIS proposes to take private mineral lands and interests if the proposed expansion is approved and to delay their development indefinitely. (In their 1980 letter they proposed to buy mineral interests if the DEIS is approved.) The DEIS as written represents a confiscation. I oppose it on professional, principle, and personal grounds.

8

3. This taking of approximately 36,000 private acres of good productive farm and ranchlands out of production and relocation of people in 8 residences to expand Melrose Bombing Range will be a significant adverse social and economic impact to the people of this area of New Mexico. (Other farms and ranches appear to be impacted and split by the arbitrary proposed acquisition lines. This will add adverse impacts to operators of those farms and ranches, and add compensation costs to the proposed federal action.)

In summary, I am opposed to this DEIS as written. I believe it discredits the Air Force, and if the objective of an expanded range is to be pursued, this DEIS should go back to the drawing board to throughly investigate the Federally owned Lon-Mesa site alternative. The DEIS states, "this(Lon Mesa) site meets many of

the criteria for selecting a bombing range site."

As proposed the DEIS presents a biased approach to justify expansion of an existing range. If an objective resource allocation process had been initially applied in the region--using the 7 objective criteria I outlined on page 1, the existing Melrose Bombing Range would not have been located where it is in the first place.

6 If those criteria are applied now, Lon Mesa site will undoubtably show least cost with less social and economic impact. The individual losses of private farm and ranchlands, 8 residences and the mineral interests represent significant adverse social and economic impacts if Melrose is expanded. The 54,496 acre expansion includes 36,000 private acres eliminated from productive farm and ranchlands. Taxes and productivity will be lost to state and local governments. 6

The Federal government is being requested to pay for all of this at a time the Congress is struggling to reduce the federal deficit.

The Air Force's proposed handling of the existing private mineral rights is a taking of private property rights without compensation and Constitutionally illegal.

The proposed action is unnecessary in view of other alternatives.

Sincerely,

Lovell R. Greathouse

LOVELL R. GREATHOUSE

SUMMARY CRITIQUE OF THE U.S.A.F. DEIS

PROPOSING TO EXPAND MELROSE BOMBING RANGE, NEW MEXICO

The Air Force does not do an objective resource inventory and analysis and systematically select the best alternative of several sites to minimize social, economic and environmental impacts. Rather they arbitrarily propose to expand the Melrose Range, and they follow a biased approach from their beginning in an attempt to justify implementation of their proposal. Other alternatives are not adequately evaluated; and, it appears only superficially because NEPA requires it. As a former U.S. Air Force Officer who still supports the Air Force, I feel this DEIS in its present form is a discredit to the Air Force.

10

However, one alternative the largely government owned Lon Mesa Site may be worth pursuing as the preferred alternative to implement. The DEIS states "this site meets many of the criteria for selecting a bombing range site." The DEIS then dismisses this option without serious investigation, on the basis of one letter from FAA, which objects to rerouting flights from Roswell to Albuquerque in order to by-pass Lon Mesa. When a straight line flight path is drawn from Roswell to Albuquerque on the map presented on page 6 of the DEIS it by-passes the Lon Mesa site by 7 miles to the southwest.

10

If needed, rerouting the commercial Air Flights to by-pass the Lon Mesa site should be relatively simple and seriously considered. This alternative should be thoroughly investigated. The costs of implementing the Lon Mesa site should then be compared with the proposed Melrose expansion. Lon Mesa is reported as a poor piece of government owned land of adequate size and proximity to Cannon AFB, to make a good bombing range. Other resource criteria identified earlier in this letter should be applied to Lon Mesa. There appears to be no conflict with mineral resources at Lon Mesa and 75% of the land is federally owned. The opposite is true in the Melrose proposal. Without depth evaluation and comparison the government costs appear significantly greater at Melrose.

The high costs of taking 54,000 acres of private and state land at Melrose is a significant adverse economic impact at a time when federal budget costs should be reduced. It is not only the added cost of purchasing the surface lands, but the interference with mineral investigations, exploration and development of the type I oil and gas lands, which makes implementation of the proposed Melrose expansion highly undesirable. Most of these mineral lands are already leased. Study investigations are underway and exploration is being planned. How would the government compensate for the losses of existing private contracts and investments? Obviously the proposed expansion at Melrose should be cancelled on the basis of facts known to exist in relation to this DEIS.

A-59

Lovell R. Greathouse

Lovell R. Greathouse

5-28-84

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

26 SEP 1980.

Honorable Sam Nunn
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nunn:

This is in response to your letter of August 18, 1980, in behalf of Mr. Lovell R. Greathouse concerning the proposed expansion of Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico.

Melrose Air Force Range is located about 20 miles west of Cannon Air Force Base which is 10 miles west of Clovis, New Mexico. The range has been in continuous use since 1952. From 1952 until the late 1960s, the range consisted of 7,771 acres of leased property. In 1962, the Tactical Air Command established requirments for real estate acquisitions to support tactical fighter training. The existing 22,043-acre range was purchased during the period 1968-1972. This acquisition was based on the minimum requirements for tactical aircraft and weapons used during the 1960s.

The primary user of the range is the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, which uses F-111D aircraft. Other users from Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and other states operate A-7, F-4, and F-105 aircraft at the range also.

The existing range is functionally inadequate for current and forecasted tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements. The Air Force mission is adversely affected by the limitations placed on practice deliveries of simulated nuclear and conventional ordnance, the complexity and realism of tactical maneuvers, and strafing restrictions for aircraft equipped with guns larger than 20mm.

There have been a number of accidents and incidents over the past few years associated with Air Force training operations at the Melrose Air Force Range. As part of a continuing effort to eliminate these occurrences and protect private property from damage, the Air Force is proposing to expand the range by about 52,000 acres. This expansion would permit aircraft to remain within the confines of Air Force controlled property while operating on the range. Implementation of this proposal would occur only after a thorough environmental analysis.

We have not yet finished the environmental assessment of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) for this proposal was initiated on June 24, 1980, with a public scoping meeting which was held in Melrose, New Mexico.

ATTACHMENT 1

Public comment pertinent to the environmental analysis of the proposal was solicited through the June 24 meeting, a follow-up meeting with Federal and state agencies on June 25 and through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-95 process. Notification of the public scoping meeting was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980, and through local news media (Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, and Quay Counties).

The target date for completion of the environmental impact analysis is January 1981. The Air Force will then either publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or file a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In either case, documentation of the environmental analysis will become available for public review. At that time, we will be glad to provide Mr. Greathouse a copy either of the Draft EIS or the environmental assessment which would support the finding of no significance.

With regard to the potential impact of this proposal, we do not expect that ranch land and energy resources will be lost because of this expansion. The Air Force intends to make a grazing lease available on the newly purchased land. The only lands not available for grazing lease on the Melrose Range are those areas immediately surrounding the ordnance impact points.

The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface rights with any land purchase. This would be the intent with respect to the expansion of Melrose Range. However, this would not preclude the subsequent leasing of surface and subsurface rights, as long as such leases were compatible with Air Force operations.

In the event that this proposal is subsequently authorized and funded by the Congress, acquisition actions would be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Air Force's real estate agent. Where people must be relocated, relocation assistance is provided by Public Law 91-646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Under this act, homeowners and businesses, including tenants on property to be acquired, are reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with relocation. More detailed information would be provided by the Corps representatives at that time.

The environmental assessment is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations which require discussion of alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives which will be addressed in the environmental assessement include the continued use of the present range taking no action to add land to the present facility; closing Melrose Range and conducting training on other existing Air Force ranges; and closing Melrose Range, but acquiring a new range convenient to Cannon Air Force Base.

No further actions to implement this proposal will be initiated until the EIAP is completed.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and hope the information provided is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. SCHROEDER
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Program Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment

202 697-5321

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 27TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NM 88103

April 11, 1984

Mr. Lovell Greathouse
331 N. Coleman Rd.
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Dear Mr. Greathouse,

This is in response to your letter about the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement concerning the Melrose Bombing Range expansion. As of this date, the cutoff date for public comment has not been determined. The period began, as I understand, on March 16, 1984, when it was announced in the Federal Register. Normally, the public comment period runs 45 days from the listing in the Register, but due to the number of requests for extensions, this date has been extended for a currently undetermined period.

The statement you received was released from the publisher on March 5, 1984. I do not know why you did not receive an immediate copy, and I am sorry if you were inconvenienced in any way.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Martin B. Compton
MARTIN B. COMPTON, Capt, USAF
Chief, Public Affairs Division

Readiness is our Profession

ATTACHMENT 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 27TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (TAC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NM 88101

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

6 October 1981

Mr. Jack A. Greathouse
Box 548
Portales, New Mexico 88130

Dear Mr. Greathouse

In response to your letter of 1 October 1981, ~~Rogers Explorations, Inc.~~ ROGERS EXPLORATION requested permission to conduct seismographic testing on Melrose Bombing Range. Their request was forwarded to HQ USAF for approval. In a letter dated 25 September 1981, Colonel George H. Tissaw, Chief, Real Property Division, Directorate of Engineering and Services, denied the request on the grounds that unexploded ordnance in the area presented a safety hazard. Colonel Tissaw agreed to reconsider the request if the lines of interest could be oriented along the boundaries of the range and the testing does not interfere with the Air Force's use of the range. If and when Rogers Explorations, Inc. resubmits their request to HQ USAF, we will do everything we can to cooperate with them along the guidelines set forth.

Because of my imminent reassignment, this will be my last chance to correspond with you and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing the concerns of the Melrose landowners with me.

Sincerely

Gilbert K. St. Clair

GILBERT K. ST CLAIR, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Cy to: Ms. Betty King
Rm 175, Federal Bldg
Roswell, NM 88201

Mr. Poe Corn
Rm 140, Federal Bldg
Roswell, NM 88201

The Honorable Joe Skeen
1508 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
STATE PLANNING DIVISION

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

DAVID W. KING
SECRETARY

505 DON GASPAR AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-2073
(505) 827-5191
(505) 827-2108

ANITA HISENBERG
DIRECTOR

JOE GUILLEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 14, 1980

Curtis O. Zeigler, Lt. Col., USAF
Base Civil Engineer
27 CSG/DEEV
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico 88101

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your letter requesting comments on potential environmental impacts of the Melrose Bombing Range Expansion. From our research we find that there are several areas that should be looked into.

First, is the subject of farmlands. According to our Critical Areas Study (CAS) map, which is interpreted from Soil Conservation Service information, there will be an overlap, as there already is on the existing range, with both highly and moderately suitable soils for irrigated agriculture. More specifically, as found on the 1978 Soil Conservation Service (SCS) "Important Farmlands" maps of Curry and Roosevelt Counties, the proposal will overlap with several areas defined as "Additional Farmlands of Statewide Importance." (See definition, Attachment A). Alternative #2 will overlap with a little less of this land than the proposal, and Alternative #1 will overlap considerably less. All three additions will overlap an area of "Prime Farmland" in Curry County. (See definition, Attachment B).

The proposal and the two Alternatives, along with the existing range, totally overlap an area of secondary rangeland. This, as defined by a Forest Service/ Soil Conservation Service Committee in a draft definition of rangeland would include "....rangeland other than that designated as prime rangeland that is economically, ecologically, or otherwise significant to the state or local area, which should be protected from premature or unnecessary conversion to other uses...." As shown on the 1972 Soil Conservation Service map, "New Mexico Grazing Capacities under Average Rainfall and Management Conditions," this region falls under the 3rd highest grazing classification, which is 44-54 acres per animal unit, year-long, or 14.55-12.08 head per section, year-long.

Concerning archaeological site densities, the whole area falls under predicted archaeological site densities of one to six per square mile. In the northeastern section of both the proposal and Alternative #2 is a band of predicted archaeological site densities of 7-12 per square mile.

ENCLOSURE 4

SEE next Page or Oil and Gas resources

COPY

We also consulted the New Mexico Game and Fish Department's comprehensive plan which, in the map section, shows that there is some overlap with the occupied range of deer on all three proposals and a total overlap with the occupied range of antelope. (See Attachments C and D). It might also be noted that the population and habitat trends of the antelope in this area are static and that there is a problem of chronic low young population here.

On the 1974 map, "The Future of New Mexico Oil and Gas Resources," produced by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, we found that this whole region involved is a Class 1 exploration area for oil and gas.

Lastly, there was a 1964 earthquake epicenter in the northeast corner of the proposal with a magnitude of 2.5. This magnitude would barely be felt with no damage.

Please keep us informed of any developments on this project, and if we can be of any further assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Betsy Reed

Betsy Reed, Planner
Planning Bureau

BR:jeh

Enclosures

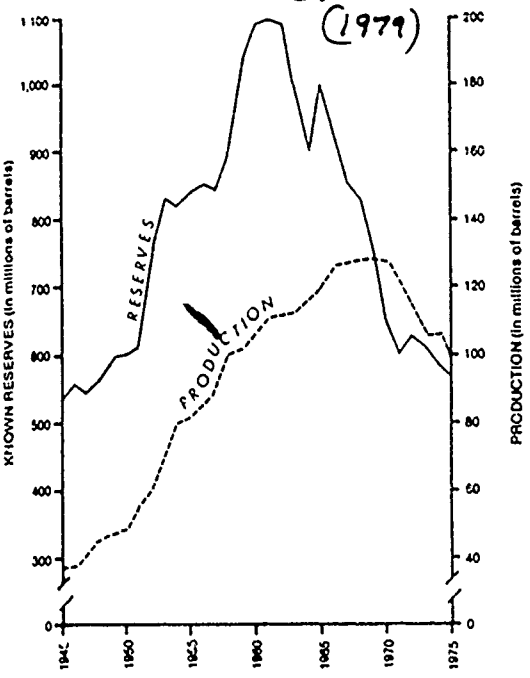
The Air Force did not mention this authoritative source of information concerning Oil and Gas Resources in the MBR area.

The map I'm sending you is from the Source: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. Socorro, NM 87801

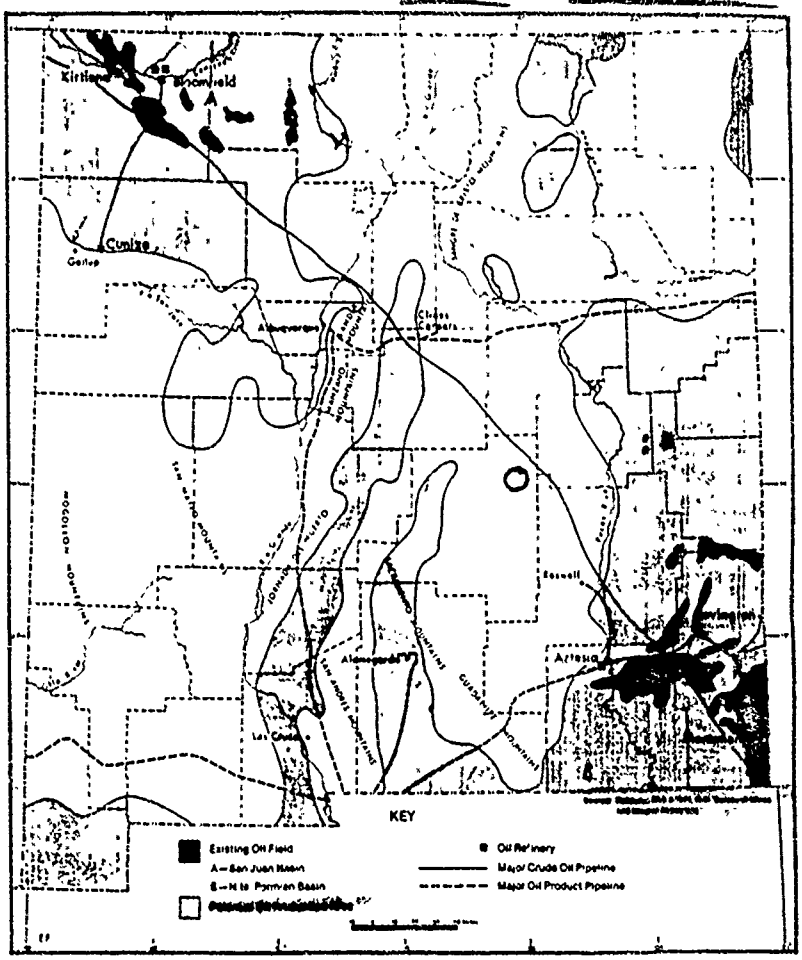
Source of this map:
From: NEW MEXICO IN MAPS
by: Jerry L. Williams
Paul E. McAllister
(1979)

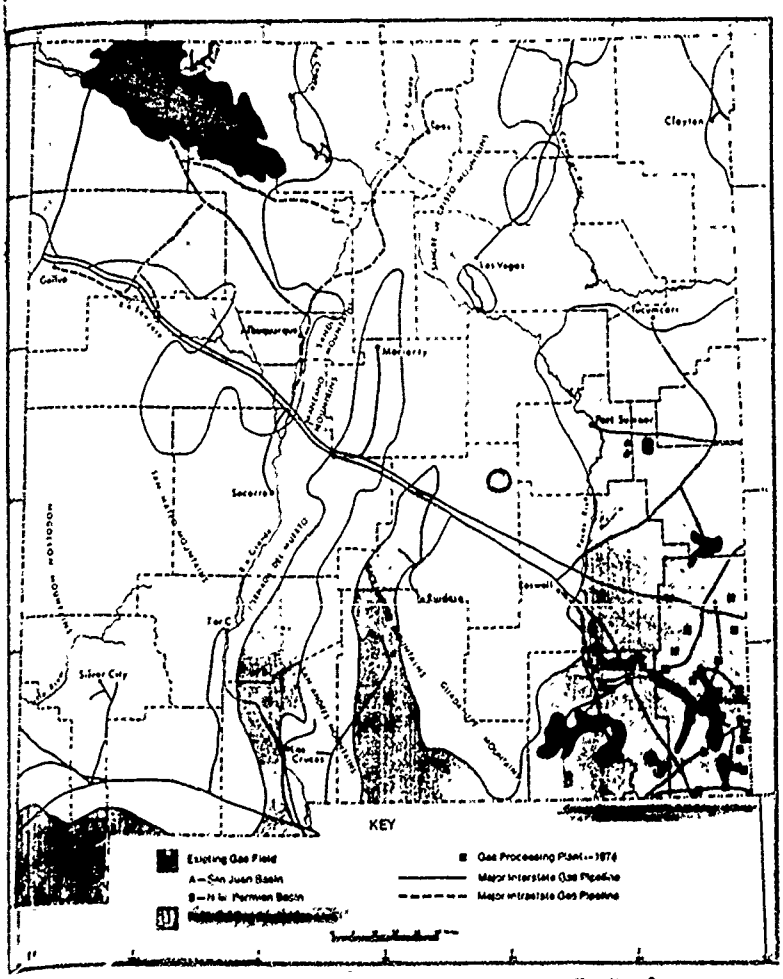
Future-Potential/

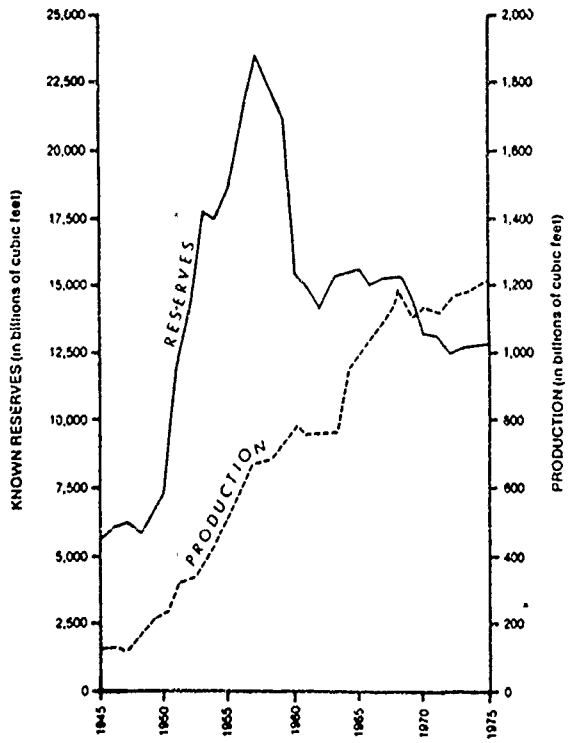
energy oil and gas



CRUDE OIL RESERVES AND PRODUCTION
IN NEW MEXICO: 1945-1975







NATURAL GAS RESERVES AND PRODUCTION
IN NEW MEXICO: 1945-1975

KEY:
■ Present Melrose Bombing Range
○ LON-MESA Alternative Site CE.
Note: Not in Oil & Gas Area!

A-67

ENCLOSURE 4

331 N. Coleman Road,
Roswell, Georgia 30075
June 25, 1984

1984 JUL 29 AM 8:54

Honorable Sam Nunn
U. S. Senator/Georgia
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Sam:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 1984, as your interim response to my review comments on the U.S.A.F. Proposed Expansion of Melrose Bombing Range, New Mexico.

Since then a great deal of effort has gone into the attached Position Statement of MBR Landowners, Operators and Mineral Rights Owners. Its summary follows the Table of Contents. May I recommend a complete review of this document by you and your key staff members, and that it then be transmitted to the appropriate authorities in the Department of the Air Force. *A second copy is enclosed for that purpose.*

In partial summary, this Statement asserts the following:

1. One alternative - Lon Mesa - meets comprehensive regional planning, development and land management criteria for suitability as a bombing range in this region;

2. Factors compared on pages 8 and 9 indicate that Lon Mesa Site could be acquired at less than one tenth of the cost of acquisition of the proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion; and,

3. Melrose Bombing Range Expansion conflicts with existing and proposed developments of agriculture, homes, New Mexico Boys Ranch, Floyd School/Community and oil and gas resources which make expansion of Melrose Bombing Range undesirable now and in the foreseeable future. By comparision Lon Mesa Alternate has very limited if any conflict and is mostly federally owned.

Please review the first 15 pages carefully, completely and objectively to do it justice.

This document was prepared with the diligent assistance of John W. Russell of Los Lunas, New Mexico. His national land management experience and his life long personal knowledge of New Mexico makes him the land management planning specialist and authority in the Southwest region. My opinion is based on my 21 years of resource systems planning and comprehensive regional development in three regions of the nation. If U.S.A.F. will seriously consider the facts and alternatives presented, I recommend that Mr. Russell's services be obtained, if possible, in developing a new DEIS for Lon Mesa Alternative.

Going into the eighth generation, the Greathouse family has now supported the principles of individual landownership and constitutional rights in the United States. Our heritage in this area of concern in New Mexico predates New Mexico as a state. Two former Air Force and one Naval Officer and two land management planners from this family are among those who have made in put to the attached position paper.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lovell R. Greathouse

LOVELL R. GREATHOUSE

Lec 6/2

331 N. Coleman Rd.,
Roswell, Georgia 30075
May 28, 1984

1984 JUL -4 PM 4:44

Honorable Sam Nunn
U.S. Senator/Georgia
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sam:

This follows our correspondence dating back to 1980 on the subject of the Proposed Expansion of Melrose Bombing Range (New Mexico). I have attached a copy of my recent letter in response to the Air Force DEIS, together with copies of our previous correspondence for your convenience. (Please note the Air Force did not promptly provide me a copy of their DEIS as they promised, and I was only one of many people who had to make the second effort to obtain a copy, which I received weeks after they released the DEIS.)

In my previous correspondence I requested the Air Force provide the following:

(1) an objective evaluation of the need to expand Melrose Bombing Range;

(2) that alternative sites and options be seriously and objectively considered for Cannon AFB training; and,

(3) that oil and gas studies and explorations in the Melrose area be completed, and if productive, the area kept open for mineral production in view of national energy needs.

As a former U.S. Air Force Officer who subsequently spent 21 professional years in Natural Resource Systems and State Comprehensive Development Planning, and having reviewed approximately 200 Draft EIS, I find the undated DEIS for expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range one of the most non objective and biased documents I have ever reviewed.

The DEIS proposes to Expand Melrose Bombing Range to increase it from 22,120 acres to 76,000 acres by taking 54,000 acres of private and state property including farm and ranchlands, roads the New Mexico Bows Ranch, and relocation of individual residences.

Moreover, on the subject of underlying oil and gas resources, the DEIS largely ignores the following:

(1) The nations increasing need for oil and gas;

(2) The class I oil and gas resources which underlay the Melrose area (documented by the New Mexico State Planning Office and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines.)

US 2602.

(3) The fact that nearly all the private mineral lands within the DEIS proposed expansion area are under existing private lease contracts; and

(4) Private oil and gas development companies have sunk costs in studies, seismagraphic testing, and proposed exploration and development follow on.

Modern techniques of development of the oil and gas reserves underlying the proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion are nationally needed and potentially highly significant to the State of New Mexico, its schools and universities.

The Air Force's alternatives in this report are only superficially considered, especially the alternative of using the Lon-Mesa site which is 75% federally owned and has no known underlying oil and gas conflict.

In view of the needs to balance the budget, and to make sound public investments which minimize conflicts I recommend the following options in reference to the Air Force DEIS proposing to expand the Melrose Bombing Rnage:

(1) That Cannon Air Force Base use the existing Melrose and other bombing ranges in the Southwest Region now used by Cannon AFB for training; or,

(2) Further consider and study the "Lon-Mesa" site as the possible preferred alternative for the development of a new bombing range for Cannon AFB with least conflicts and public losses.

On the basis of the information provided in the DEIS, it appears that the Lon-Mesa site could be allocated and developed as a new bombing range with less conflicts, loss of public values and costs than the Melrose site. (Some Air Force Officers that I know in the S.W. believe training as now exists at several ranges [illegible] than the relatively flat Melrose Area is more realistic to combat.)

Only by detailed study and comparison of the factors and costs relating to Melrose vs the Lon-Mesa Sites could an objective decision to expend public funds for an improved bombing range for Cannon AFB be justified. In any event, Melrose Bombing Range should not be expanded until seismagraphic studies and mineral explorations in the proposed Melrose expansion area are completed.

Sincerely,

Lovell R. Greathouse

LOVELL R. GREATHOUSE

A-71

COPY TO: Pete Domenici

P.S. Sam, The proposed expansion of Melrose Bombing Range is so unjustified that it should be shelved or go back to the drawing board for the consideration of Lon-Mesa alternative. The taking of the private mineral leases is unconstitutional. There is no way you should recommend approval or funding for this project. LRG.

US 2602

March 20, 1984

I am against the Melrose Range expansion as I was against the MX. Other less useful land could be used. This is lowering the value of land near and perhaps cause some not to be resale able. Has more than likely already stopped the oil & gas operation on the west side of range. note page D-30 in impact study ☼.

The ~~loving~~ flying planes & noise are very concerning. Be on or close sometimes when they come over or should I say come by. Thanks you.

Margaret Spencer
Star Route Box B-204
Taiban, NM 88134

page 2

This letter is to inform you we are against the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. We do not feel any group of people has the right to take homes and a life time of work from Ranchers in order to make jobs and bring business to another group. With the thought in mind homes, away of life, inheritance, peice of mind are at stake go with me through this little blue book that is so repetious. I would like you to see things from where I stand, a few miles from the perposed expansion on a Ranch, sometimes we call it the end of the road, because one starts opening gates when they pass our home. We have a 20 year old son away at college. My husband has lived here since 1939 he is 79 years old. One wonders will the next expansion get us. Also keep in mind we've had a shut in gas well since 1974. This is the third takeover, and I have been nothing was paid for the mineral rights on the first two takeovers.

ii 3-Summary of Impacts: Move 8 familes. One other purposed place had endangered species-couldn't consider that place.

page 2 - there is other existing ranges. Our nation shouldn't spend money it hasn't got on something it doesn't need. Remember the National Land Protection Policy Act. 12

page 4 - a-The takeover of privately owned land is still a primary concern and rightly so.

page 5-A-I question the wisdom of not wanting to use mountainous terrain-your first battle might not be in the wide open country. White Sands (a promised back takeover) part of the training could be coping with the airspace. 13

page 7-b-Beneath commercial air route - MOVE THE AIR ROUTE ! ! ! Homes and their people and land are still on top of the list. 14

page 7-c-Oil and gas located on this site. This purposed expansion has even hindered the lease of some mineral.

page 8-Train at other Ranges. There there use them to the fullest. In other words get your moneys worth out of what is alread There.

page 10-Noise impact is concidered NO IMPACT. We who live here see what takes place in a fly(beside)over.

page 11-b-Will it indeed be used for grazing. May not be prime or unique land - but the fact remains - it's someones home and most likely been so for many years - thats what really counts with me - how about you. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act. Speaking of repetion, must be catching. 15

page 10-c-Not does but has affected potential mineral resouces in this area. And the mineral right owners have not been listed or notifyed. And what about the Oil and gas people - they aren't listed and have they been noifyed. I think not - one person at the Cannan Air Base didn't seem to know the importance of letting these two groups know nor now to find them. ??????????????

page 10-d-If no increase of aircraft activity over the range - why the need for increase land. 16

page 10-e- WATER - I think perhaps some people have never heard of a dry well. Ranchers have to have water lots of water.

page 10-f-A no flying area would be established around the nesting site of a pair of Golden eagles - GREAT. Wish we people were so important. Bald heads.

page 11-g-Grass fires do damage air quality. Why no increase. 17

page 11-h-665 acres of vegetation removed and just the pledge of 2

Cannon AFB to stop erosion isn't the answer. Thats a big problem in this part.

page 11-a-Why train to protect a School when your training place destroys what you train to protect. The Floyd School isn't just any ole school.

page 11-b-Relocation of persons and dwellings. This sin't just persons this is family, friends, loved ones being forced to leave homes not dwellings. Places many have spent years of hard work on.

page 11-d-We need land for food and fiber. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act. | 19

page 11-e-Waste of more land. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

page 11-f-A ranch without water. You can't find water just any place in this part.

page 11-g-Remember National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

page 12-(1) Possible base closure. Sure would miss that noise.

page 12-(2) No three party exchange of land says the BLM. The private land owner has no say.

page 13-Relocation at takeover price.

page 14-For disturbance of these birds-you admit desturbance.

page 14-Soil erosion and undesirable plants is a full time battle not time left for bombing.

page 14-Relocation of roads-sure the volume traffic on this road is light. And when people are moved out will another road be needed. Thats what roads are for people.

page 14-Just what does't transfer of water rights mean.

page 19-Lots of people haven't gotten to release mineral because of this purposed expansion. And this can well be part of why these two well are still shut in wells.

page 12-the location and owners of each 46 (some unknown owners)wells -and they weren't sent a little blue book before the notice in the paper. Why. Some of thesefolks are up in years. Have a heart.

page 21-There may well be more wildlife than named.

page 23-Burial site - Doesn't have to be in the National Register of Historic Places - was all these land owners notified. | 20

page 24-What came and pushed out agriculture and is still pushing.

page 28-Fly overs do take place and far from the proposed boundary lines.

page 29-So we have unreclamed land - what a waste to keep spreading unreclamed land - surely there must be a stopping place.

page 29-This is not right to take mineral rights from people and not pay them for now and what they could bring in the future and that loss to the family in years to come. Isn't it true the first takeovers didn't pay for mineral - just maybe some folks have a right to demand some back pay with interest.

page 29-Land adjacent to the purposed expansion is and will affect oil and gas exploration because the general feeling is thats in the next takeover. It does affect the price of land and discourages exchange of land and mineral leaseing.

page 33-Will there be need of mail and bus route if no people.

page 34-You can't find water where it isn't.

page B-1 Property owners were't notified. Shouldn't they have gotten the little blue books first. Some are very greatly distressed even to the point of despair - when will the next takeover be. Help can't someone do something - hasn't this been going on since 1952?

D-4 - There is Golden Eagles:

D-5 - Overlap-Prime Farmland:

D-6 - Class 1 exploration area for oil and gas:

D-12 - Theres other ranges to use for public defence:

D-14 - Public interest: ? ? ? ? ?

D-18 - Other homes mean just as much to those near and dear to them.

d-20 - No Indian land impacted. Wasn't this once Indian country. Could make one feel like an Indian of long ago.

D-23 - Shouldn't Impacks be prepared by a third party?

D-25 - Adverse affect on agriculture to great.

D-29 - Outdated map - I question the interest of this person and understand I am not the only one.

D-47 - Grazing lease?

APPENDIX E - Animal response - one must live with and care deeply for Animal to note the response. Ever on a horse and meet up with a fly-over or should I say a flyby.

D- Correspondence Received on proposed expansion - No Rancher report. What about input from meeting at Melrose??????????????????????

I feel about this expansion the way I felt about the M X.

M X Monster Go Away

M X Monster goaway!
We don't want your shell game play,
Out upon our lone prairie.
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We don't need your roads I say
Out amongest our fields of hay
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We don't want our taxes wasted
Just to get sand in our faceses
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We can't take your nuclear ways
Near our homes and near our people
Thats not where you ought to be.
April 22, 1981 Margaret Spencer

THANKS
Margaret Spencer
Margaret Spencer and all at our HOME-Nina, Sulah, Earl and CRUDY.

May --, 1984

Ser. Mark Halpield.
[illegible] Ser. Fe Africa building,
[illegible], N. M. 87501

Dear Sen. Halpield: RE: EIS on the expansion of the Melrose Range in Roosevelt County, New Mexico

I wish to enter my protest, in the official records, of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. My reasons are as follows:

More than a hundred square miles of prime land is a lot of land to be used as a bombing range.

Even more important than losing this good land is it will cost too much money to relocate. It takes a special effort to train a pilot. We can't afford to have a bunch of men die until they get into battle these days.

Then, the land is marked by old and gas and a big explosive left in the soil from the bombing. Those twin rivers with a wildlife [illegible]. The EIS doesn't address the old and gas issue with very much attention.

The Fish & Game will also lose money for the present use of the area. [illegible] hunters, and [illegible] hunters when other alternatives are [illegible].

Finally, [illegible] Williams, a Navajo, New Mexico and with his rich [illegible] on the environment of the Melrose Bombing Range and the necessity [illegible] another study, in his opinion. There were no Pueblo ruins in the area, however there are some remains in a few places of the Pit House people, also the Folsom Man and the Clovis Man roamed this area. The points of the mesas, in the [illegible] area, were sacred to the Indians, and some of the points had Indian graves on them. Right where the observation post EIS is located there use to be an Indian grave. The whole mesa has been blasted to pieces! He couldn't believe such destruction! He has observed test counts in the 1920's and up through the 70's. He misses the green grass and fresh air, also the beautiful rolling mesas. In spite of the cleaning and policing of the MR grounds there is nothing but old bases, trucks, junk cars, old full of bullets holes and the area of oil barrels.

USDA 2002

Page 2.
Sen. Mark Hatfield
322 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C. 20510

I agree with one of our senators who said; "The people treat the land like they were renting it."

I am for a strong defense of America but we must make the best use of our lives and resources. Therefore, I favor the Air Force's own alternatives instead of taking 52,000 acres and that is: 1. Continue to use the present bombing range with it's limitations. (The limitations are very minimum) 2. Closing the Melrose Range and acquiring land insome other geographic location for a new Air Force range. (This can be done in New Mexico with 3/4 of the land in our State bein Federal Land) 3. Closing the Melrose Range and conducting training on other Air Force and/or other military service ranges. (This is a good alternatives as the planes from O'Neil presently uses seven (7) other bombing ranges. Planes from other bases use the Melrose Range only 4% of it's usage according to the AFS and that isn't significant)

The Air Force continues to tell us they need a more realistic bombing range. If they will be fair about this statement then they should use either alternative plan No. 2 or alternative plan No. 3. Navigation is about as important as manual dropping bombs. The Melrose Range offers very little realistic training in cross-country flying as it is only twenty (20) miles from the base.

So, instead of using good agricultural land I favor using existing ranges or locating land that has very little on anything but dry desert with no habitation.

Sincerely yours,

Keppie M. Condrey

Keppie M. Condrey
Rt. 1, Box 25 L
Riddle, Ore. 97469

Sen Bob Packwood

12 April 1984

Environmental Planning Hq.
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665
Subj: Proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County, I am bitterly opposed to the theft of land by the Air Force without notification or consideration of the owners of such rights. Especially when the Government now owns thousands and thousands of suitable acres of land, making it entirely unnecessary to expend untold sums of money to rout ranchers and landowners for subject expansion.

The Air Force has an alternate plan, as presented in the Federal Register of 9 June 1980; to continue using the presen. range; closing the Melrose Range; and conducting training on other military ranges. 23

Should the Air Force confiscate this land, we are robbed of any potential gain from ownership of mineral rights. The land they propose to take is choice range and farm land, class 1 area for future oil and gas resources. Also, this action is not in compliance with the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

I see no point in destroying tax base, rerouting mail, roads, relocating a cemetery and disrupting telephone and gas distribution lines when a better alternative has been suggested. The Government owns far too much land now in the Western States.

The I.R. Greathouse family homesteaded in Roosevelt County in 1907, maintaining the Greathouse Ranch until it was sold in 1958 with mineral rights retained for heirs of the original owners.

I would appreciate your checking into this matter and using your influence to stop this outrage, by use of existing facilities by the Air Force.

I am sending copies of this letter as indicated below.

Thank you.

[illegible]

President Ronald Reagan
Senator Jake Garn
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingamon
Representative Joe Skeen
Representative Bill Richardson
Representative Dan Marriot
Representative Manuel Lujan
Representative James Hansen
Representative Howard Nielson
Secretary of Interior William Clark
Attn: Carol Hallelt,
Western Region Special Assistant
National Enquirer Inc., Lantana, Fla 3346

MELROSE BOMBING RANGE PROPOSED EXPANSION FACTS & INFORMATION

The U. S. Air Force proposed, in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980, to triple the size of the Melrose Bombing Range which is located southwest of Melrose, NM, that being northwest of Portales, New Mexico, in Roosevelt County. This will be the third time they have acquired land. They want to add 52,227 acres more to the present range of 22,043 acres. The proposed expansion consists of approximately 75% privately owned land and 25% State owned land.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION

LAND. The expansion includes good farming and prime ranch land.
The addition will take land from third and fourth generation families.
Over 35 landowners are involved and at least six families will be forced to move from their homes.
There are twenty-four irrigation circles within the proposed expansion.
The expansion will be splitting up most ranches, reducing productivity.

TAXES. Property tax to Roosevelt County will be cut.
Roosevelt General Hospital tax levy will be cut.
Reduces the future bonding capacity of Roosevelt County.
Present bond indebtedness, of the Floyd School District, will be interrupted and thus place an extra burden on the remaining property owners.
Reduces the future bonding capacity for the Floyd School System.
The expansion will take State Trust Lands which contribute money to public schools and universities.

OIL. The expansion includes 52,227 acres which is known as Class I Area for future oil and gas resources.
Two natural gas wells are within a short distance of the range.
New producing oil wells, to the southeast, continue to locate closer, moving towards the Melrose Bombing Range.
Oil leasing is very active in this area and includes leasing and seismographing within the proposed expansion property.
One wildcat well, near the expansion boundry, contained sand tars.

OBSTRUCTIONS:
Two county roads, ten miles of pavement, will have to be re-routed.
The U.S. North Star Mail Route, out of Elida, NM, will be interrupted.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop's system will be interrupted.
The expansion will interrupt the gas distribution pipe line of the Eastern New Mexico Gas Ass'n which runs from Ft. Sumner, NM to Portales, NM.
Possibility of relocating the Benson Cemetery which lies within the area.

CONCERNS:
The security of land to be inherited by our children.
Effect on the golden eagles that nest in the expansion area.
Do we honestly think this will be the last expansion in Roosevelt County?
Allowance for inflation factor, land value increase, interest on money and credit, if land is condemned.
Overlooking an oil and gas resource area for our National Defense?
Neglecting to use Federal Land for the expansion as NM has 34% Federal Land.
How does this expansion compare with the Air Force's alternative plan of another location, as given in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980?
Attitude of youth about America when the Federal Government takes private land, for questionable expansions, when Federal Land is accessible?
Taking one-fourth of the land away from the Floyd School District?
Interrupt NM Boys Ranch plans for a satellite program, at the historic Hart Ranch, for 24 needy boys.
No restriction of air space exists now, for the aircraft to maneuver safely and properly in their training exercises at the MBR?
Would purchasing 52,227 acres, for this expansion, be wise defense spending?

II. POSITION STATEMENT OF MBR LANDOWNERS AND OPERATORS, AND MINERALS RIGHTS OWNERS

June 25, 1984

1. We assert that the United States Air Force has not properly followed the legally mandated environmental impact assessment process as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA) and as required under 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 in assessing the impacts of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range upon the quality of the human environment.

2. We further assert that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared as a disclosure document of that assessment is, in fact, entirely inadequate, since it fails to fully disclose the full and complete effects and impacts as a basis for the public and the decisionmakers to make a clear choice between alternatives.

3. We also assert that the decision to expand the Melrose Bombing Range was made prior to filing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and that the DEIS is an attempt to justify that decision.

4. We assert that an objective interdisciplinary assessment and comparison of the choices and a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be necessary to comply adequately with NEPA and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and we request that the Air Force do the assessment over and prepare a new draft, with affirmative public participation, and in good faith meet the spirit and intent of NEPA.

5. We have presented deficiencies in procedure, comparisons of only one feasible alternative, and raised specific questions about environmental, economic, and social issues and possible impacts, and we request that these and others similarly related to the proposed action, be adequately addressed and responded to in a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

6. We request that the Air Force fully consider the options and then close the present Melrose Bombing Range and move it to an area more suitable to meeting the mission of Cannon Air Force Base. The increased training requirements have exceeded the ability of the present Range to meet them, and we request the Air Force to face this fact squarely and honestly by taking positive action to close the Melrose Bombing Range or use the existing area in conjunction with an area more suited to increased training requirements.

We are totally opposed to expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, although we endorse and approve of the mission of the United States Air Force and recognize the need for adequate military training to fulfill that mission.

Endorsed and Supported By:

Anna Belle Greathouse	Oil, gas & Minerals	June 28 '84
signature	organization or interest	date

4

A-80

April 17, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Sir:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico and wish to comment on the proposed action as provided for under the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations(40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). I own an interest in certain mineral rights that will be affected by this proposed expansion and I do now and will continue to protest both the proposed action and the procedures being used in making the decision as set forth in this DEIS. You will have taken from me any value or use of these mineral rights under the proposed expansion and made the decision to do so in a manner that is contrary to existing law and regulations.

The primary point here is that you are arbitrarily violating the right of citizens to own property as provided for in the Constitution of the United States. A second major point is that you are not complying with the CEQ regulations nor or you operating within the intent of those regulations. As an example, language in Section 1503.1(4) says "Request comments from the public, affirmatively soliciting comments from those persons or organizations who may be interested or affected." (emphasis added) I called Cannon Air Force Base Public Affairs, requesting a copy of this DEIS based on information from a local resident's phone call.' Although I gave the reason for my interest and for requesting, the DEIS sent me has no date of preparation on it, nor does it have a date when public comments must be in to Cannon AFB. There is also no address to send comments to. This cannot in any way be interpreted as affirmatively soliciting comments.

25 25

Although this comment is strictly for and because of my personal interests, it is relevant that I have been directly involved and responsible for both land use planning and for preparation and review of environmental impact statements for a major federal agency for more than 10 years. I find your treatment of both the decision making process and of the spirit, intent, and procedure of the National Environmental Policy Act an embarrassment to the federal government, and specifically to the Air Force.

Your sole criteria for selection of an alternative is to meet AFR 50-46 needs for enhanced tactical as well as nuclear missions, and you summarily dismiss any and all impacts as inconsequential to anyone or anything as if no price were too high to pay to meet that goal. Nowhere do you actually determine the comparative effects of the other alternatives or evaluate the real differences (See CEQ regulations, Section 1502.14). Neither do you consider other possible alternatives, such as using the existing range for limited tactical training

26 27 26 27

for basic needs, and in addition, using other ranges for advanced tactical and other nuclear oriented training for versatility and realism. I suggest this alternative for your due consideration under the CEQ regulations and call your attention particularly to Section 1503.4 "Response to Comments."

28

I urge you to reconsider LON-MESA as a viable alternative. Your elimination of the LON-MESA site strongly suggests that you meekly submitted to the FAA letter that outlined some reasons that appear incomprehensible to any but the FAA and yourselves. Although the impacts of removing or modifying the FAA objections or at least negotiating them are totally unclear, the Air Force is too easily willing to trade off all the adverse impacts of expansion, including taking private citizens property rights and other uncalculated or unestimated values, and displacing people. 28

Even displacing ONE person or owner is significant, otherwise ownership of private property in the U. S. is a farce. Actually, when one looks deeper into the reasons FAA gave, it appears highly probable that it is really not that large a problem or an unsolvable conflict. This is especially significant when it is not too clear that it is really essential to expand the present area. You give no real indication of the actual effects and implications of no action other than limited training capability. What does it matter if Cannon AFB has limited training capability? Is the cost to these local American citizens and to the Constitution really worth it to the American people? 29

30

I also question the use of the criteria for evaluation of alternative sites (pages 4 and 5). If you applied them to the proposed action, criteria a (areas composed predominantly of private land were NOT considered) eliminates the proposed action as a feasible alternative, just as b (availability of air space) eliminated other alternatives. You have used a double standard of criteria, clearly establishing a bias to do only what you want to do, entirely and arbitrarily disregarding the criteria you set up yourselves. 30

Even though I could continue to point out additional errors and other important considerations, such as the Hart Ranch, non-compliance with NFLPPA, loss of tax revenue and mail route, inadequate archeological studies, etc., I believe I have for now adequately pointed out my objections to selection of your proposed action, the reasons I object, and some of the critical errors committed in following NEPA procedures. I have also provided one additional feasible alternative for consideration, and given my opinion that if an objective look were taken at the LON-MESA site, it would be feasible. I urge you to reconsider your proposed action in expanding the Melrose Bombing Range and in a manner that adequately meets the CEQ Regulations.

John W Russell

John W. Russell
Star Route 7, Box 23A
Belen, New Mexico 87002

COMMENTS OF VARIOUS OWNERS OF

MINERALS RIGHTS IN THE FLOYD/MELROSE AREA

IN ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

on

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

EXPANSION OF THE MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE

CURRY AND ROOSEVELT COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO

June 25, 1984

June 25, 1984

CERTIFIED MAIL

Environmental Planning,
"q TAC/DEEV,
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton,
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

The various owners of mineral rights affected by the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Envrionmental Impact Statement for Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt counties, (hereafter DEIS).

At the request of the Melrose Bombing Range Landowners and Operators, I have incorporated various ideas and material from them into this comment, along with those ideas and meterial from other mineral rights owners, people that I have been in constant contect with by phone and mail over the last few weeks. Thus this comment represents the collective thinking of a large number of people. Because of the limited time, I have been unable to get their signatures, but will send them copies at the time I submit this comment.* They may choose to endorse and support this themselves, but be unable to in the time available.

These comments are organized into three parts, following a summary of our position. The first part is a critique of the DEIS based on a comparison with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). It provides the basis for our opinion that the DEIS is inadequate and must be totally re-done to comply with CEQ Regulations.

The second part discusses at least one feasible alternative in detail and compares it with the proposed expansion. The majority of the facts for estimates and comparison were derived from the DEIS itself. We have determined much of the information about the LON-MESA or alternate area from local knowledge and readily obtainable public information.

The third part is an attempt to compile meaningful unanswered questions, particularly about economic and environmental issues that were not sufficiently addressed in the DEIS.

We look forward to a detailed response to our comments as required by 40 CFR Sec. 1503.4.

Sincerely

John W Russell

John W. Russell
Land Management Planning Specialist

* See ERRATA sheet on following page.

ERRATA

June 25, 1984

Drafts were mailed to several individuals on June 22, 1984. As a result of this and various phone calls over the weekend, there were 5 minor changes made to these comments and these are marked with an * in this final set of comments. Due to the short time remaining to get our comments in, those individuals who received those drafts may or may not have made pen or pencil changes to those comments they submit, thus the reviewers may note some small but insignificant differences if compared with this final.

ERRATA #1. "Oil and Gas Journal." The source of this was actually the New Mexico School of Mines Resource map. Page 7.

ERRATA #2. The list of acreages for the proposed expansion of MBR have been changed to more accurately reflect those shown in the DEIS, even though the map on page 17 does not appear to be the same as other maps in the DEIS. The total for Bureau of Land Management ownership is given as 47.9, thus making a fraction that is less than 1% for federal lands. Rounding differences cause the total to exceeed 1.00 or 100%. Page 8.

ERRATA #3. "Paved" should be "Miles". Page 9.

ERRATA #4. Indirect loss or the example for an economic multiplier factor of 7 was off 1 decimal, and now reads "about $6,000,000". Page 10.

ERRATA #5. The royalties interest was based on the letter from the State of New Mexico Commissioner of Pulic Lands. The reference "[DEIS ref. D-40]" was added to make it more clear where this figure came from.

John W. Russell

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II. POSITION STATEMENT OF MBR LANDOWNERS AND OPERATORS, AND MINERALS RIGHTS OWNERS

June 25, 1984

1. We assert that the United States Air Force has not properly followed the legally mandated environmental impact assessment process as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA) and as required under 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 in assessing the impacts of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range upon the quality of the human environment.

2. We further assert that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared as a disclosure document of that assessment is, in fact, entirely inadequate, since it fails to fully disclose the full and complete effects and impacts as a basis for the public and the decisionmakers to make a clear choice between alternatives.

3. We also assert that the decision to expand the Melrose Bombing Range was made prior to filing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and that the DEIS is an attempt to justify that decision.

4. We assert that an objective interdisciplinary assessment and comparison of the choices and a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be necessary to comply adequately with NEPA and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and we request that the Air Force do the assessment over and prepare a new draft, with affirmative public participation, and in good faith meet the spirit and intent of NEPA.

5. We have presented deficiencies in procedure, comparisons of only one feasible alternative, and raised specific questions about environmental, economic, and social issues and possible impacts, and we request that these and others similarly related to the proposed action, be adequately addressed and responded to in a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

6. We request that the Air Force fully consider the options and then close the present Melrose Bombing Range and move it to an area more suitable to meeting the mission of Cannon Air Force Base. The increased training requirements have exceeded the ability of the present Range to meet them, and we request the Air Force to face this fact squarely and honestly by taking positive action to close the Melrose Bombing Range or use the existing area in conjunction with an area more suited to increased training requirements.

We are totally opposed to expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, although we endorse and approve of the mission of the United States Air Force and recognize the need for adequate military training to fulfill that mission.

Endorsed and Supported By:

signature	organization or interest	date
John A. Donaghue		June 27, 1984

Interest: Subsurface minerals owner. Historical interest in family ranch pre-dating Mexico statehood.

A-82

III. GENERAL COMMENTS

After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) it is the judgment of the land owners and operators, and the mineral rights owners (Owners and Operators) affected by the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, that the DEIS is inadequate. It is also their judgment that the United States Air Force has failed to comply with the procedures and failed to achieve the goals established by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which implement the Act, and also failed to meet AF REGULATION 19-2, issued by the Air Force August 10, 1982.

Actions and statements by the United States Air Force indicate that expansion of the present bombing range was already decided, rather than arising from an objective evaluation of the effects on the quality of the human environment and the assessment or consideration of public comments. The DEIS is deficient in numerous sections, including the presentation, analyses, and comparison of alternatives and the discussion of environmental impacts.

The Owners and Operators subscribe to the purpose and goals of NEPA, and to the procedures in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality. They call upon the United States Air Force to revise and reconsider its proposal to expand the present Melrose Bombing Range, and to follow the NEPA process. They also call upon the Air Force to rewrite the DEIS in an effort to adequately and objectively consider the needs of, and impacts on, both the military objectives and the quality of the local human environment, including the socio-economic and environmental values affected and mitigation measures needed.

A. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1. Section 1502.2 (f) of 40 CFR 1500-1508 requires that "agencies shall not commit resources prejudicing selection of alternatives before making a final decision". Sec. 1506.1 states "(a) Until an agency issues a record of decision . . ., no action shall be taken which would: (1) Have an adverse environmental impact; OR (2) Limit the choice of reasonable alternatives."

In a letter to Senator Sam Nunn dated September 26, 1980, Colonel John G. Schroeder, USAF Office of Legislative Liason, wrote "No further action to implement this proposal will be initiated until the EIAP is completed."(See APPENDIX A).

A letter from Representative Joe Skeen date February 17, 1983, provides information from "officials at Cannon Air Force Base" that says "efforts were made to include expansion proposals for the F. Y. '85 budget but were subsequently dropped. Current plans call for the purchase of approximately 50,000 acres of land as part of the F. Y. '86 budget request."(APPENDIX B). Such a budget request is a commitment of resources to a specific action that limits the choice of reasonable alternatives.

About noon, June 6th, 1984, the day of the public meeting at Floyd, New Mexico, the Floyd School Board was notified that the Air Force was going to conduct a real estate acquisition program to explain how the Air Force intended to acquire land for expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. This changed the original agenda of the publicly published notice which was to receive public comments on the DEIS.

The meeting was started by the Air Force moderator with the stated intent to first discuss real estate acquisition. Comments on the DEIS were to come later that night, however, several individuals challenged this change as being in violation of the intent of NEPA and the DEIS was finally addressed first.

The Air Force did continue discussion of land acquisition with various landowners affected by the expansion there that night, thus committing time and effort to the proposed action alternative in the DEIS, in violation of the cited regulations and contrary to Colonel Schroeder's letter. 31

2. Section 1502.2 (g) "Environmental impact statements shall serve as the means of assessing the environmental impact of proposed agency actions, rather than justifying decisions already made."

In addition to the examples above that indicate a decision was made quite some time ago, the July 7, 1980 Clovis News-Journal quoted Senator Domenici, who had "received detailed information from the military, as saying: "The military will be reporting to me the exact names of the landowners, what the owners think about the proposal and how they will be compensated."(APPENDIX C). It appears that compensation to landowners was a foregone conclusion and the decision already made to expand the present area through acquisition of private land. 32

3. Section 1502.6 "Environmental impact statements shall be prepared using an inter-disciplinary aproach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts(section 102(2)(A) of the Act). The disciplines of the preparers shall be appropriate to the scope and issues identified in the scoping process(Sec. 1501.7)."

Section 1502.17 "The environmental impact statement shall list the names, together with their qualifications (expertise, experience, professional disciplines), of the persons who were primarily responsible for preparing the envrionmental impact statement or significant background papers, including basic components of the statement(Sections 1502.6 and 1502.8). Where possible the persons who are responsible for a particular analysis, including analyses in background papers, shall be identified."

On page 37 of the DEIS there is listed an overall preparer, Mr. Shotton, and 9 other developers of information. These latter developers cover only Operational Information, Legal Information, air and noise pollution, water resource, soils, and real estate. There is no information given about their expertise, experience, or professional disciplines that would qualify them. 33

The scope of issues is not presented in the summary of the DEIS as required by Section 1502.12, therefore the total interdisciplinary needs are not clear in the DEIS. However, based on the issues and environmental impacts scattered throughout the document, additional expertise and analyses is needed by an interdisciplinary team for at least the following disciplines: archeology or cultural resources, wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species such as Southern Bald (Golden) Eagle, geology, petroleum engineering, ecology, range or grazing science, economics and/or social science.

4. Section 1500.5: "Agencies shall reduce delay by: . . .(d) Using the scoping process for an early identification of what are and what are not the real issues(Sec. 1501.7). (e) Establishing appropriate time limits for the environmental impact statement process (Sections 1501.7(b)(2) and 1501.8). (f) Preparing environmental impact statements early in the process(Sec. 1502.5)."

   Section 1501.7 (a)(7): "Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analysis and the agency's tentative planning and decisionmaking process."

   Section 1501.8: ". . .Federal agencies are encouraged to set time limits appropriate to individual actions . . ."

Examples of timing involved in the decisionmaking process and the environmental assessment procedures:

1971 - Assignment of F-111D aircraft to Cannon Air Force Base(Page 1, DEIS)

1977, December 14 - Date of a letter in the DEIS from USDI Fish and Wildlife re threatened and endangered around CAFB, MBR, and the recreation area at Lake Conchas.

1980, June 9 - The notice of intent published in the Federal Register giving three alternatives to expansion, i. e., (1) status quo: (2) close present MBR and acquire other land; and (3) close MBR and conduct training on other military service ranges.

1980, June 24 - A public scoping meeting held at 7:30 pm at Melrose, NM. The trsnscript of that meeting shows that Mr. Shotton stated that a Final environmental impact statement (not a Draft, a FINAL) would be published by January of 1982.

1980, September 26 - Colonel Schroeder's letter to Senator Nunn gives a target date of January 1981 to finish the DEIS(APPENDIX A).

1981, March 20 - Colonel Hausmann wrote a letter giving a target date for completion of the DEIS in Spring 1981(APPENDIX D).

1981, August 5 Senator Domenici's letter on status of expansion based on an Air Force discussion states "completion of full scale EIS . . .will consider all implications . . .(and) is expected in the fall of 1981." (Note: It also states: "The expansion cannot occur without Congressional approval.")(APPENDIX E).

1984, Friday, March 16 - The Notice of Availability of EIS No. 840100, Draft, VAF, N. M., MBR expansion was published in the Federal Register, Vol 49, No. 53, page 9956[APPENDIX F].

1984, April 30 - end of original comment period.

1984, April 10 - letter to Honorable Verne Orr, Secretary of the Air Force, signed by Senators Domenici and Bingaman, and by Representative Skeen, requesting an extension of at least 90 days. Most requests from those affected were for 120 days[APPENDIX G].

1984, April 24 - letter from Colonel Barbero, Office of Legislative Liaison, USAF, to Representative Skeen, rescheduling the public hearing on the DEIS from April 26, 1984 to the first week in June, and extending the public comment period from "May 15[sic], 1984 to June 30, 1984"[APPENDIX H].

1984, April 27 - News Release by CAFB, USAF, "Air Force officials announced here today that the Air Force will hold a public hearing to solicit comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The hearing is scheduled for June 6, at 7 p.m.. in the Floyd High School auditorium, Floyd, N.M. . . .The public review and comment period has been extended to June 30,. . ."[APPENDIX I].

1984, June 6 - Public hearing at Floyd with attempted late revision of the agenda and introduction of discussion on "real estate acquisition".

Thirteen years after F-111D aircraft were assigned to CAFB, six years after a letter from USDI-F&WL on threatened and endangered species, and four years after the notice of intent, the DEIS was filed. Target dates for completion of the DEIS varied by a year, but were stated at various times by the Air Force to be no later than the fall of 1984.

Regardless of the reasons for delay, it does not meet the intent of NEPA. Neither has it been pleasant for those directly affected, since they have been unable to plan for their personal economic future and operation of farms and ranches, or oil and gas development. This issue of those affected being left with indecision by the Air Force on expansion was raised at the scoping meeting June 24, 1980, and one of the Air Force moderators promised it would be considered[page 20, transcript of that meeting]. The Congress of the United States needs to end this prolonged harassment, mental anguish, and economic loss of the property owners by passing legislation that will prohibit further expansion of MBR by the military indefinitely. 35

5. Section 1502.14 The alternatives "section is the heart of the environmental impact statement. . .it should present the environmental impacts of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public."

There are two feasible courses of action and two courses of action considered but found infeasible described on page 2 of the DEIS. These four alternatives

were given in the notice of intent published in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980. The feasible alternatives given are to leave MBR as is or to expand the present area. Those rejected as infeasible were, of course: (1) Close MBR and build a new range elsewhere; and (2) Train at other ranges.

There is no comparison of the environmental or economic effects or impacts that provides a clear basis for the the decisionmaker or the public to make a choice between these four alternatives. A brief description is given about why the Air Force rejected those it rejected, and these are based only on criteria derived from factors referenced as being outlined in AFR 50-46, Chapter 2. The comparative environmental or economic differences between alternatives are not analyzed or presented at all. There is no clear basis for choice in the MBR DEIS. 36

6. Section 1502.14 "(a) Rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated. . .(b) Devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits. . .(c) Include reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency."

   AF REGULATION 19-2 9. f. "Reasonable alternatives and the no action alternative are explained in (1) and (2) below: (1) "Reasonable" alternatives are methods for meeting the underlying purpose and need that would cause reasonable minds to inquire further before choosing a course of action. Alternatives to be considered in an EIS are not limited to methods that are directly within the power of the Air Force to implement. They may involve calling on another government agency or military service to assist in the project or even to become the lead agency for another method of fulfilling the need. Alternatives raised in scoping or suggested by others and combinations of alternatives should be fairly considered, along with the proponent's and EPF's suggestions. . .Alternatives may be expressly eliminated from detailed analysis, based on reasonable standards, (for example, operational, technical, or environmental standards suitable to a particular project). Selection standards should be in writing by the proponent to make more concrete what will be considered a "reasonable alternative" for a particular project, but they must not be so narrowly drawn as to unnecessarily limit consideration to the proposal initially favored by proponents."

Under the alternative of closing MBR and building a new range elsewhere, there were three general areas and three specific areas considered and evaluated against criteria or standards of(paraphrased): (a) mostly public land, "Areas composed predominantly of privately owned land were not considered." (b) Availability of restricted air space 25 X 25 nautical miles in size; and (c) Location close enough to CAFB to allow present usage to remain the same, or a maximum of 250 nautical miles.

No criteria or standards were given for evaluating and comparing effects on the quality of the human environment, although (a) implies it. The selection 37

standards given are in conflict with AF 82-2 since they are so narrowly drawn that they do limit consideration to the proposal initially favored by the proponents. They are so narrowly drawn that, in fact, criteria (a) eliminates the present bombing range or an expansion of it, because the area is predominantly private land! 37

As will be shown in more detail later, there are reasonable alternatives that should have been "rigorously explored and objectively evaluated" that were not, even though the Air Force identified some of them in the DEIS. It is quite clear that a reasonable range of alternatives was not considered and on this basis alone, a new and revised draft environmental impact statement will be needed to meet NEPA. A reasonable or adequate range would include at least the comparison of environmental and economic effects for various alternative bombing sites, including alternatives that would provide expanded training capability with minimum cost and impact.

The only reason, for example, given for the LON-MESA site being infeasible is a strong objection from the Federal Aviation Admistration, June 24, 1981. The environmental and economic impacts of this alternative compared to those same impacts for expansion of the present area were not described, evaluated, or compared. There is no way of determining from the DEIS whether the economic or environmental impacts or losses of expansion of the present site offset the effort or costs needed to realign the air route. Such comparisons were simply not made or presented in the DEIS. Had they been, it is probable that additional reasonable alternatives to expansion would have been shown. 39

7. Section 1500.2 (d) "Encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisons which affect the quality of the human environment."

   Section 1500.1 (b) "NEPA procedures must insure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and actions are taken."

   Section 1503.1 (a)(4) "Request comments from the public, affirmatively soliciting comments from those persons or organizations who may be interested or affected."

   Section 1506.6 "Agencies shall: (a) Make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures."

A dozen or more people received a DEIS that was undated, did not state the cutoff date for receiving comments by the Air Force, nor did they provide the person or address to send comments to.

At least one individual was assured in a September 26, 1980 letter that he would receive a copy of the DEIS when issued. He received it recently only after calling the Secretary of Defense in Washington, DC, and the calling CAFB. He then received an undated DEIS with no comment date and no address to comment to. 40

One mineral rights owner received a DEIS after the original 45 day comment period, without being notified of the 60 day extension.

The Air Force has clearly not been diligent in its efforts to involve the public and to affirmatively solicit comments from those interested and affected. They have not been seeking or soliciting input or they would have insured that those who called or asked for information on the DEIS would have been informed of when, where, and to whom to submit comments.

B. ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives to expansion were considered and rejected in the DEIS, i.e., (1) Continue in present status; (2) Close MBR and build a range elsewhere; and (3) Train at other ranges. Although training at four other ranges now occurs 5% of the time, no real consideration was given to keeping MBR at its present size and expanding training capability on a new range site.

The Air Force presented a very feasible alternative to expansion of MBR, but rejected it when the FAA informed them that it was in conflict with commercial airways between Roswell and Albuquerque(See APPENDIX J for the map of alternate sites from the DEIS). The LON-MESA site or variations of it meet the operational criteria exptremely well, and are, in fact, superior to the present site in many respects, as shown by the following discussions and comparisons relative to the published criteria.

1. Attributes of LON-MESA relative to the published criteria.

a. Suitability of LON-MESA for a bombing range(publicly owned land).

The LON-MESA alternate site located south of Vaughn is a few miles north of the site first suggested by the Air Force in 1981, according to the description in the DEIS(See APPENDIX K). The site suggested then was evidently selected because of its high proportion of Federal ownership, about 75%. Unfortunately it would have blocked the airspace between the Military Operating Areas (MOA) controlled by Cannon Air Force Base and Kirtland Air Force Base at Albuquerque. The relocation of the Melrose Bombing Range to that site was judged to be unsuitable by the FAA. The realignment of that airspace was not considered.

The LON-MESA alternate site, about 12 miles north (APPENDIX K), is about 40% federal ownership; it is about 10% state owned, and the remainder is privately owned grassland. There is virtually no development in the area. A 10 mile by 10 mile square area can be located with an edge parallel to US 285 without including any dwellings. There is little or no oil or gas potential, according to a New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Minerals Resources map of 1974.* The oil and gas potential area taken from that map and transferred to the enclosed map stops at the Pecos valley, thus does not show up in APPENDIX K. Because the current owner/lessor is in a position to continue leasing the range not taken by the actual impact area, the economic impact of a range in this location is minimal. The impact would be far less negative than the expansion of the MBR near Floyd. For these reasons, the acquisition would be much less costly than would expansion of the present MBR.

* Errata

b. Sufficient clear airspace.

On the map marked APPENDIX L, THE 25 mile by 25 mile restricted air space needed by the Cannon Air Force Base Bombing Range is depicted in terms of radii perpendicular to the nearest air lanes, taken from the current World Airways Chart and plotted on this topographical map of the Fort Sumner/Vaughn area with other pertinent information. The clear availability of sufficient air space, coupled with the increased safety of the omnidirectional approaches to the proposed "LON-MESA ALTERNATE" site, answer the objections of the FAA and offer a clearly superior training site for development by the Tactical Air Wing. This site interferes with no airlanes, and has omnidirectional approaches and flat terrain, as required according to the published criteria. The western boundary of the Pecos West and Pecos South MOA is also shown for clarity. The Melrose Bombing Range is currently located on the eastern edge of the Pecos West MOA; airspace controlled by Cannon Air Force Base.

44

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c. Proximity to Cannon Air Force Base.

The LON-MESA ALTERNATE plotted on the topographical map [APPENDIX L] is located just 87 miles from Cannon Air Force Base. According to the published criteria, this is well within the 250 nautical mile satisfactory radius for the training mission. While slightly less convenient for range personnal than the Melrose site, the advantages of unlimited approach corridors and alleviation of the safety problems posed by populated areas coupled with the far lower cost of acquisition appear to make LON-MESA ALTERNATE attractive as an enhanced weapons training range. In addition, there is additional area available for expansion of the range when it becomes necessary for training with the increasingly sophisticated weapons needed for defense. Similarly, the sophisticated means of transport available to the Air Force should make the matter of moving a few range personnel to their place of work a relatively simple and efficient matter.

2. Comparison of LON-MESA ALTERNATE to MBR and expansion.

a. Highest possible content of Federal/State owned land.

	LON-MESA	LON-MESA ALT.	MELROSE BR
FRACTION:			
Federal	0.75	0.40	0.001*
State	0.20	0.10	0.284*
Private	0.05	0.50	0.716*

b. Suitable and sufficient airspace for safe, maneuverable training.

Airspace restrictions:	LON-MESA	MELROSE
	Civil Air Lanes	Homes and towns
	FAA letter: ["Out of question to relocate"]	["unsafe to maneuver to avoid..."
	Omnidirectional approach	Approach from North or South only

*Errata

c. Location no greater than 250 nautical miles from CAFB

	LON-MESA	MELROSE
	83 nm	20 nm

RESOURCE IMPACT DIFFERENCES

	LON-MESA	MELROSE
oil/gas potential	None identified	High
productive land conversion		
Farm/Grazing	grazing of impact area (22,000A acres)	grazing of additional area (15249 acres)
Irrigated Farmland	no farming impact	farming 4480 irr. acres

improvements lost	LON-MESA	MELROSE
Farmsteads	None identified	8 families moved
Gas lines	-0-	14 miles
Telephone lines	-0-	17 miles
Electric lines	-0-	40 miles
Irrigation wells	-0-	24
Stock wells	None identified	22
Miles road*	15 mi. US 285 possibly effected	42

oil and gas rights	Little prospect; not evaluated in DEIS	Lease investment lost - royalties interest lost or indefinite

ECONOMIC IMPACTS DIFFERENCES

estimated cost to Federal GVT. of acquisition	$250-400 Thousand	$20-$40 Million

estimated economic benefits lost from agriculture alone		
Direct loss	Some impact on the one economic ranch operation	Heavy impact on several economic ranch operations. (i.e., removing a portion may make it uneconomic)

	LON-MESA	MELROSE
Dollars from sale of agriculture products outside Clovis/Portales area (i.e., $ brought in) lost by alternative	$100-150,000 gross from grazing p.a. $0.00 per annum from irr. farming	$75-100,000 gross from grazing per annum $750-800,000 gross per annum from irr. farming
Indirect loss		
Economic multiplier effects of new dollars on Clovis/Portales/ Floyd/Melrose communities	$0.00	$1,000,000-$1,200,000 (depending on multiplier factor. A multiplier of 7 for example, would be about $6,000,000*

oil/gas rights	LON-MESA	MELROSE
Annual lease	$0.00	$50-200,000 per annum?
Royalties interest	$0.00 (or no potential known)	$40,000,000-$50,000,000 (DEIS ref. D-40)* (multiplier needs to be calculated.)

C. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER IMPACTS

A number of issues about the effects or impacts of the proposed expansion have never been adequately researched or investigated during the Environmental Impact Analysis Process by the Air Force. Some of these unanswered questions may need to be addressed by "worst case analysis" under 40 CFR Sec. 1502.22 Incomplete or Unavailable Information., para. (b). An example of such uncertainty is given on page 1 of the DEIS: "Continue in the present status.....However, long term socio-economic impacts are unpredictable." Another example is on page 32 of the DEIS: "However, the proposed expansion area has a high probability of containing significant archeological sites."

1. Soil erosion and impacts on adjacent lands were an issue at the original scoping meeting in Melrose, June 24, 1980(page 11 of transcript): "On this farm land, once before we had this tumbleweed problem out there...The weeds blew over and tore down their fences and ....if this is allowed to blow the neighbors for 25 miles would be on the Air Force's back to repair their property...the fire trails that you've cut so far have been in pretty tight soil; there's no big sand hills but where you're going with this new one there is quite a few deep sand. Are you going to put caliche on it, just plow it up? If you do there'll be about 5 miles on the north and east side that will be just blowed away and covered up."

*Errata

The response was: "This is precisely the type of help we're looking for....so we will know what the concerns or potential impacts are and what we need to do if there are unavoidable impacts to mitigate or to lessen those impacts. Any design for operation of the range, of course, will be discussed and analyzed and (in) the environmental review documentation."

The DEIS says on pages 31-33: "....new target arrays are included in the proposal. This involves the destruction of vegetation and softening of the soil in the immediate vicinity of each target to minimize the possibility of ordnance ricochet...Areas maintained devoid of vegetation would be subject to wind and water erosion. However, experience on the present range indicates erosion problems would be minimal. Soil disturbance surrounding any particular target is likely to decrease due to the establishment of additional targets within an expanded impact area." It also says that "New firebreaks and targets maintained devoid of vegetation would total less than 10 acres.

45 Isn't it true, however, that these new target areas and firebreaks would be outside the present area, even though within the expanded impact area, and will be in sandier soils than those experienced on the present range? The issue raised at the scoping meeting about the difference, i. e.,"quite a few deep sand(hills)....where you're going with this one" has not been addressed at all. Isn't it true that even with some continous mitigation measures, sandy areas devoid of vegetation tend to "unravel" larger and larger areas, covering adjacent vegetation, killing it, blowing out, and continuing the process? YES. 47

2. There are certain cases where environmental, social, and economic impacts are inseperably tied together and the proposed expansion is a case in point. On page 6 of the original scoping meeting transcript: "The next question was, suppose you cut a little old place half in two or two-thirds of it and you get the water and the corrals and all of that and leave some of it. Are you going to buy it all or leave part of it?"

If a range scientist, a rancher, or a grazing expert had been on the interdisciplinary team preparing the DEIS, that person would have instantly grasped the significance of this question. The Air Force answer was focused on severance damages or the government's obligation to the owner to include diminution of the value the owner kept. This incomplete answer and the DEIS totally fail to address the question of an economic ranch operation or unit. Over the years, the natural forces of market, grazing capacity, and ranch and range management tend to weed out those operations that cannot make it economically in any given area. There is a minimum size of ranch operation that will survive over time.

46 As many ranchers have found to their sorrow, selling off part of their real estate eventually puts them out of business. Before they face that reality, however, there is usually a period when they strive for economic stability by running more livestock on less acres, and finally overgrazing the land. In this area, there may be long term environmental effects as a result, since it takes a long time to recover (A significant fact in the previous soil loss issue also). Although the questioner was raising a very relevant and significant issue, it was not addressed, nor even recognized because of the lack of expertise involved. This is an environmental, social, and economic impact that needs to be looked at with the proper expertise involved, isn't it?

3. "Based upon present information, we know of no resident federally listed endangered or threatened wildlife which could be found on Cannon AFB, Melrose Bombing Range, or the recreation area at Lake Conchas. This is also true within a 50-mile radius of these areas....Transient endangered wildlife which could possibly be found...include: Southern Bald Eagle, Arctic Peregrine falcon and American Peregrine Falcon. Whooping Cranes and Mexican Ducks could occur as accidental strays....Presently no critical habitat for T & E species is located....." reference #1, DEIS.

"In summary, there is a distinct lack of specific information on migratory bird populations within and near the proposed site..."ref. #23 DEIS.

Also see RESPONSES OF WILDLIFE AND FARM ANIMALS TO LOW LEVEL MILITARY JET OVERFLIGHT, APPENDIX E, DEIS, by Lewis R. Shotton. [Incidentally, midair collision is a greater danger to those eagles than noise, is it not?].

See also reference #21, which points out the on going antelope fence study at the [original] LON-MESA site and the possibility of T & E species of Baird's Sparrow and black footed ferret. The golden eagle nesting sight is confirmed, 1/2 mile east of the proposed expansion boundary.

Also reference #18, a letter from USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, says "The information provided....does not constitute a formal listing of species nor a formal Section 7 consultation as provided by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and does not relieve your agency of the responsibility to comply with the inter-agency Cooperation Regulations(January 4, 1978; 43 fr 870878). It is the agency's responsibility to determine whether a proposed action will or may affect Federally listed threatened or endangered species OR THEIR HABITAT (emphasis added)."

This admonition was originally given in a similar letter from the same source in reference #10, July 8, 1980. This letter also states "A comprehensive ongoing Environmental Monitoring and Management Program based upon an ecosystem approach should be instituted to QUANTIFY impacts occurring upon the biotic resources, to monitor these impacts, to determine appropriate mitigative measures, and to locate and protect endangered species..."etc.,etc.

Page 31, DEIS, states that "based on [the information in the DEIS summarized above] there will be no effect on federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat." Isn't it true that no field studies exist, that the Air Force shows no real evidence of having complied with the responsibilities of the Endangered Species Act required of all federal agencies ? 47

Is it not true that there are at least 17 species of reptiles and 24 mammals species found in the area year round but not mentioned in the DEIS? That a recent publication by Hubbard & Schmidt (BLM) states that the Blackfooted Ferret has been found in this area in past years? No estimates of population or population trends for any species are provided in the DEIS.[Statement by Herman James, Research Associate, Eastern New Mexico University] Isn't it really true that without a qualified wildlife biologist involved in assessing the impacts of the proposed action on the wildlife in the proposed expansion area there can be no adequate environmental impact study or assessment? 48

4. "Although this portion of the state has not been intensely explored in archaeological terms, artifacts from all groups have been encountered within a 100 mile radius....A professional archaeological survey of the EXISTING (emphasis added) Melrose Bombing Range was completed in 1981. Twenty cultural sites were identified in the 10% area survey."(page 23, DEIS). Page 32, DEIS: "There are no historical or architecturally(!?) significant structures on the existing or PROPOSED (emphasis added) range." Isn't it true that the Air Force has no real basis for the latter statement? No survey has been made there. 49

Also on page 32 is the statement "....the proposed expansion area has a high probability of containing significant archaeological sites." Appendix D-19 of the DEIS ited on page 33 appears inappropriate, but D-36, ref #13 is a letter from Jim Bieg, State (NM) Historic Preservation Planner, that approves of the 10% survey for the EXISTING Range. We can find no other evidence in the DEIS that the SHPO is involved or "developed an aggressive program", but conversely Mr. Bieg says "this office is currently consulting with the Denver office.....for guidance in this matter." 50

Isn't it true that before any Federal action takes place that may destroy a site that might qualify under the National Historic Preservation Act, that it must be evaluated for possible eligibility with the National Register and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office? How can this be determined if no archeological survey is made of the proposed expansion area? 51

Isn't it highly probable that a misplaced bomb or equipment preparing firebreaks will destroy a significan archeological site? Is it not true that whether you intend for it to be or not, a random bomb striking a non-inventoried archeological site without concurrence of that action by the State Historic Preservation Office is a violation of the National Historic Preservation Act by the Air Force? 52

What about the old Benson cemetary and the probability of destroying graves in the same manner? Will the Air Force relocate these graves to entirely eliminate such a possibility? Since there are graves of soldiers from World War I, World War II, and the Korean conflict that were buried here, does the Benson cemetary qualify under the National Historic Preservation Act? Of course it does. 53

Is it not true that the area west of Floyd where the Bombing Range is, was a sacred region to the Hescalero Apache, prior to being driven out by the Comanche? That there are pictographs west of Floyd, some depicting Apache Mountain Spirits, others that are likely Spanish pictographs, such as a stylized castle with towers and battlements? That there are Indian campsites, hearthstones, morters, potshards, and projectile points, still to be scientificelly investigated, including probable Clovis culture sites? 54

Is it not true that the Old Military Road and the Comanche Trail that were in use during pioneer days, passed through the Bombing Range? Various cattle drives, including those on the Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail, ran through the area west of Floyd and along the Pecos River(From a letter by Henry H. Hahn, Professor Emeritus, Eastern New Mexico University).

5. By expanding the area and providing training pilots with a larger area for freedom of flight, isn't it true that the Air Force is actually increasing the risk to those living near the boundary? In 1982, several 800 pound bombs were dropped 6 or 7 miles north of the present Bombing Range, 2 & 1/2 miles north of the Santa Fe Railroad and Highway 60. Other incidents similar, have occurred over the years[e. g., Alva J. Parker]. If one of these goes through the cottage at Hart Youth Ranch with from 10 to 24 children in it, it will be too late to say it was a mistake; to late to say it was a mechanical failure; will it not?[Based on a letter by Michael H. Kull, Executive Director, New Mexico Boys Ranch and Girls Ranch].

What manner of safety hazards will construction of the new 345 KV line just north of the Bombing Range create for pilots in training?

6. The Floyd community has had a strong sense of identity and autonomy ever since its settlement by farmers and small holding ranchers, when it was carved out of open range land around the turn of the century. The Floyd School District also has some claims to historical importance. At one time it was geographically the largest consolidated school district in the United States. Just prior to World War I, an early settler [John Russell] on a claim near Floyd who was teaching school at one of the 100 or so one room schools in Roosevelt County, began the move to consolidate these and transport children to a central location for a superior education. A suit filed on the basis that it was illegal to use tax funds to transport pupils was decided August 9, 1919, in favor of the defendants. Many educators feel this landmark decision was the beginning of consolidation of schools in the entire United States.

The people of Floyd are intensely patriotic and supportive of the military. A significant number of young men from Roosevelt county were in the NM National Guard 200th Coast Artillery that was the rear guard on Bataan and in the infamous Death March in World War II. Veteran organizations are strong in the county. On the other hand, these people are also intensely patriotic about their state, Eastern New Mexico area, and their community. They are keenly aware that loss of a school is a loss of community identity and pride, and that other communities have been closed when enrollment declined and in some cases, just a small decline was all that was needed for closure. Expansion of the Bombing Range threatens the school and perhaps even the Hart Youth Ranch[Hahn].

"Department of Defense facilities do not make payments "in lieu of" taxes....the tax revenue loss would be unmitigated. State action to redefine school districts is one method to assist the Floyd School District, but this would simply spread the revenue loss equally among districts."[page 12, DEIS].

What will happen to the Floyd school as a result of loss of tax revenue, and a loss of present and future bonding capacity as asked by Mr. Wendell Best at the Scoping meeting June 24, 1980? Isn't it true that it will eventually if not sooner bring closure of the school, loss of community identity and pride? Will closure of the school then also require young children to be bussed long distances from their homes to surrounding school districts as asked during the scoping meeting in 1980? To leave home at 6 am and get home after 6 pm? To not even see their home during daylight hours? Just exactly how does the Air Force propose to mitigate or compensate the people of the Floyd community for these cultural, social, and economic losses?

7. "The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface mineral rights with any land purchase. This is the intent with respect to the proposed expansion of Melrose Range. The majority of mineral leasing would be on a no-surface-disturbance basis."(page 29, DEIS). This and a discussion in the transcript of the original scoping meeting and other correspondence indicate a basic lack of understanding and research into the entire mineral rights and/or oil and gas leasing and development question. The omission of any of the names of owners of mineral rights in the DEIS is additional evidence of this lack of understanding. There are a large number of people who do not have any surface ownership, but who have subsurface rights and they are just as valid as private property as are surface rights. The Air Force has obviously not even considered fair and just compensation to the owners of those mineral rights. It is not indicated in the DEIS, is it? Will they? How? When?

The denial of exploration has hindered exploration and development of adjacent lands already, isn't this so? There is a letter of denial on record, when the Air Force denied Rogers Exploration, Inc., entry into the Bombing Range during September, 1981. Isn't it true that this will effectively eliminate this from any exploration in the expanded area and prohibit any mineral rights owner from exercising his property rights?

8. The environmental, economic, and social impacts and previous comparisons of alternatives fail to assess the long term effects or even to provide a perspective of the future. If the Melrose/Floyd Bombing Range is expanded, more than 100 square miles of land and resources will be effectively taken out of production and no longer be a part of the stable economic base of Roosevelt and Curry Counties. This will encourage later continued expansion of the bombing range as projected in APPENDIX M. It is entirely possible that the bulk of the agricultural economic base will be replaced by a military economy supported by the taxpayers of the United States through continued expansion. The agricultural economy for Roosevelt County alone, based on the 1982 Census, showed a gross annual income of $62,000,000.

If another area with less agricultural potential is used, leaving the present agricultural base to continue to expand and develop, then both the military and agricultural economic bases can complement one another for a much greater economic potential in Roosevelt and Curry Counties. Adding oil and gas potential development to these, the future for the Clovis/Portales/Melrose/Floyd community could be very bright indeed. With the prospects of a trillion dollar deficit, isn't it grossly wrong to even consider expanding the present Bombing Range, both now or in the future?

IV. APPENDIX

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

26 SEP 1980.

Honorable Sam Nunn
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nunn:

This is in response to your letter of August 18, 1980, in behalf of Mr. Lovell R. Greathouse concerning the proposed expansion of Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico.

Melrose Air Force Range is located about 20 miles west of Cannon Air Force Base which is 10 miles west of Clovis, New Mexico. The range has been in continuous use since 1952. From 1952 until the late 1960s, the range consisted of 7,771 acres of leased property. In 1962, the Tactical Air Command established requirments for real estate acquisitions to support tactical fighter training. The existing 22,043-acre range was purchased during the period 1968-1972. This acquisition was based on the minimum requirements for tactical aircraft and weapons used during the 1960s.

The primary user of the range is the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, which uses F-111D aircraft. Other users from Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and other states operate A-7, F-4, and F-105 aircraft at the range also.

The existing range is functionally inadequate for current and forecasted tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements. The Air Force mission is adversely affected by the limitations placed on practice deliveries of simulated nuclear and conventional ordnance, the complexity and realism of tactical maneuvers, and strafing restrictions for aircraft equipped with guns larger than 20mm.

There have been a number of accidents and incidents over the past few years associated with Air Force training operations at the Melrose Air Force Range. As part of a continuing effort to eliminate these occurrences and protect private property from damage, the Air Force is proposing to expand the range by about 52,000 acres. This expansion would permit aircraft to remain within the confines of Air Force controlled property while operating on the range. Implementation of this proposal would occur only after a thorough environmental analysis.

We have not yet finished the environmental assessment of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) for this proposal was initiated on June 24, 1980, with a public scoping meeting which was held in Melrose, New Mexico.

APPENDIX A

Public comment pertinent to the environmental analysis of the proposal was solicited through the June 24 meeting, a follow-up meeting with Federal and state agencies on June 25 and through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-95 process. Notification of the public scoping meeting was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980, and through local news media (Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, and Quay Counties).

The target date for completion of the environmental impact analysis is January 1981. The Air Force will then either publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or file a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In either case, documentation of the environmental analysis will become available for public review. At that time, we will be glad to provide Mr. Greathouse a copy either of the Draft EIS or the environmental assessment which would support the finding of no significance.

With regard to the potential impact of this proposal, we do not expect that ranch land and energy resources will be lost because of this expansion. The Air Force intends to make a grazing lease available on the newly purchased land. The only lands not available for grazing lease on the Melrose Range are those areas immediately surrounding the ordnance impact points.

The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface rights with any land purchase. This would be the intent with respect to the expansion of Melrose Range. However, this would not preclude the subsequent leasing of surface and subsurface rights, as long as such leases were compatible with Air Force operations.

In the event that this proposal is subsequently authorized and funded by the Congress, acquisition actions would be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Air Force's real estate agent. Where people must be relocated, relocation assistance is provided by Public Law 91-646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Under this act, homeowners and businesses, including tenants on property to be acquired, are reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with relocation. More detailed information would be provided by the Corps representatives at that time.

The environmental assessment is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations which require discussion of alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives which will be addressed in the environmental assessement include the continued use of the present range taking no action to add land to the present facility; closing Melrose Range and conducting training on other existing Air Force ranges; and closing Melrose Range, but acquiring a new range convenient to Cannon Air Force Base.

APPENDIX A

A-17

No further actions to implement this proposal will be initiated until the EIAP is completed.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and hope the information provided is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. SCHROEDER
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Program Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment

202 697-5321

APPENDIX A

1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2365

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUZANNE EISOLD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

JOE SKEEN
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300 W. ARRINGTON
FARMINGTON NEW MEXICO 87401
(505) 327-4933

February 17, 1983

Mr. Jack Greathouse
Post Office Box 584
Portales, NM 88130

Dear Jack:

Thank you for contacting my Roswell district office to inquire about the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

I contacted officials at Cannon Air Force Base who were able to give me general information regarding the expansion plans. The Air Force currently has no request submitted for the expansion of the range in this year's budget. However, efforts were made to include expansion proposals for the F.Y. '85 budget but were subsequently dropped. Current plans call for the purchase of approximately 50,000 acres of land as part of the F.Y. '86 budget request. Apparently this project has been made a number one priority in the future plans of officials at Cannon Air Force Base.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other matter of concern to you. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

JOE SKEEN
Member of Congress

JS:jb

APPENDIX B

...ge Expansion

CLOVIS NEWS JOURNAL MON, July 7, 1980

Senator Airs Views

By Alan Blanchard
News Editor

"I can't say," was the reply of Sen Pete Domenici, R-NM, today when asked if he is in favor of the proposed expansion of the Melrose bombing range.

"I will say this, however It is a very important military installation. Based upon present Air Force needs this facility is inadequate," the senior New Mexico senator said

Domenici added that the assessment of the proposed expansion of the bombing range will determine whether or not it could be done elsewhere and if the damage to the people is justified

He said that the landowners who will be affected in this area have to understand and know that "I have had all of the top military in my office They brought the entire plan to me and committed themselves to hold a public meeting in Melrose which was done

"My field representative from Roswell Poe Corn, was at the Melrose meeting and has reported to me I asked the military for detailed information about the property and improvements affected I should be getting a report very soon," Domenici said

"I was worried about how taking this much land for a military reservation would affect the tax base I have found that of all the land which would be taken if the plan goes through, about $5,700 would be lost in property taxes yearly Most of this goes to the Floyd School District" he said

Domenici pointed out that there is no national plan — when a military reservation takes over — for the government to pay to a local government any money in lieu of the taxes.

"Number one, we'll do everything we can to determine if this is needed Secondly, we'll insure that the landowners are treated fairly and that the method of compensation is adequate. Then we seek every way possible to help the Floyd School District which may need some special interim help," he said.

"Generally it is thought that the United States military shouldn't come in and pay taxes to a local district, but we may find some way to get some interim help

"The military will be reporting to me the exact names of the landowners, what the owners think about the compensated.

"I have made it clear that we've waited a long time and there's no justification for any unreasonable treatment or extreme urgency We're going to treat the people right and

(See SENATOR, Page 2)

Sen Pete Domenici

(From Page 1)

Senator . . .

analyze it carefully," Domenici said

Moving on to other topics the senator had the following responses to question

Q — "What is the future of Cannon AFB"

Domenici — "I feel very good about Cannon AFB and Holloman AFB Kirtland AFB has two aspects to it The part which has to do with helicopters seems very stable and the special weapons part is growing

Both Holloman and Cannon [illegible] Air Force has done an excellent evaluation of these needs and I think they are going to get most of what they need by way of new improvements on these facilities"

Q — "What is your position on Ramsey Clark former U S attorney general and his recent actions in Iran"

Domenici — "For a few years now he has been a disgrace especially since he is once a United States attorney general However I think the present U S attorney general has to decide what to do I don t think congress ought to get in on handling people like that on a piecemeal basis

"If he's not prosecuted, it's a political issue in the campaign and it ought to be I think that's the way those things ought to be handled"

APPENDIX C

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

1981!

[redacted]

Mr. Jack Greathouse
Box 548
Portales, NM 88130

Dear Mr. Greathouse:

Thank you for your recent inquiry to [illegible] concerning the proposed expansion of Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico.

You will appreciate that as chief executive of our government, as well as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, the President cannot personally respond personally to each communication addressed to him. Consequently, the President has directed that each Executive agency designate an official as the White House liaison officer who is charged with the responsibility of giving correspondence such as yours the same careful consideration the President would, were he able to do so himself. That is my duty in the Air Force and the reason I am answering.

By way of background, Melrose Air Force Range is located about 20 miles west of Cannon AFB which is 10 miles west of Clovis, New Mexico. The range has been in continuous use since 1952. From 1952 until the late 1960s, the range consisted of 7,771 acres of leased property. In 1962, the Tactical Air Command established requirements for real estate acquisitions to support tactical fighter training. The existing 22,043-acre range was purchased during the period 1968-1972. This acquisition was based on the minimum requirements for tactical aircraft and weapons used during the 1960s.

The primary user of the range is the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, which uses F-111D aircraft. Other uses from Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and other states operate A-7, F-4, and F-105 aircraft at the range also.

The existing range is functionally inadequate for current and forecasted tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements. The Air Force mission is adversely affected by the restrictions placed on practice deliveries of simulated nuclear and conventional ordnance, the complexity and realism of tactical maneuvers, and strafing restrictions for aircraft equipped with guns larger than 20mm.

There have been a number of accidents and incidents over the past few years associated with Air Force training operations at Melrose Air Force Range. As part of a continuing effort to eliminate these occurrences and protect private property from damage, the Air Force is proposing to expand the range by about 52,000 acres. This expansion would permit aircraft to remain within the confines of Air Force controlled property while operating on the range. Implementation of this proposal would occur only after a thorough environmental analysis.

As of this point in time, we have not yet finished the enviornmental assessment of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) for this proposal was initiated on June 24, 1980, with a public scoping meeting which was held in Melrose, New Mexico.

APPENDIX D

Public comment pertinent to the environmental analysis of the proposal was solicited through the June 24 meeting, a follow-up meeting with Federal and state agencies on June 25 and through the Office of Management and Buoget (OMB) Circular A-95 process. Notification of the public scoping meeting was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980, and through local news media (Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, and Quay Counties).

The target date for completion of the environmental impact analysis is Spring 1981. The Air Force will then either publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In either case, documentation of the environmental analysis will become available for public review.

With regard to the potential impact of this proposal, we do not expect that ranch land and energy resources will be lost because of this expansion. The Air Force intends to make a grazing lease available on the newly purchased land. The only lands not available for grazing lease on the Melrose Range, are those areas immediately surrounding the ordnance impact points.

The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface rights with any land purchase. This would be the intent with respect to the expansion of Melrose Range. However, this would not preclude the subsequent leasing of surface and subsurface rights, as long as such leases were compatible with Air Force operations.

In the event that this proposal is subsequently authorized and funded by the Congress, acquisition actions would be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Air Force's real estate agent. Where people must be relocated, relocation assistance is provided by Public Law 91-646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Under this act, homeowners and businesses, including tenants on property to be acquired, are reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with relocation. More detailed information would be provided by the Corps representatives at that time.

We believe that many of your concerns can be accommodated and that equitable compensation would be made to those parties directly impacted. In the final study, alternatives, will be addressed to include the status-quo, closing range altogether, or acquiring another range elsewhere within range of Cannon AFB.

I want to assure you that no final decision on this matter will be made until an environmental evaluation has been completed.

Sincerely,

F. W. HAUSMANN
Colonel, USAF

APPENDIX D

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COPY

August 5, 1981

Mr. Jack A. Greathouse
Post Office Box 548
Portales, New Mexico 88103

Dear Jack:

This is in response to the concern which you and many other New Mexicans have expressed to me regarding the proposed expansion of the Air Force's Melrose Bombing Range.

My office has spent a good deal of time investigating the Melrose expansion issue. This has included visits to Cannon Air Force Base, inspecting the bombing range, and conducting on-going discussions with the Pentagon regarding the proposed expansion. I have personally discussed the issue with senior Air Force officials in order to learn all of the details of the proposal. The views and facts with which you supplied me were also of great assistance and I greatly appreciated receiving them. I would like to bring you up to date regarding the status of this issue. I am writing a similar letter to other New Mexicans who, like you, are interested in and affected by this issue.

Presently, the Air Force is engaged in preparing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). You will be interested to know that the Air Force is indeed conducting a full-scale EIS which will consider all implications of the proposal to expand the Melrose Bombing Range. Its completion is expected in the fall of 1981. After that, there will be a period of public review and comment. If it is determined by the Air Force, based upon its findings and additional public comments, that there are no compelling environmental obstacles to the proposed expansion, it will be up to the Secretary of the Air Force to request Congress to provide the authority and the funds to expand the Melrose Bombing Range. The expansion cannot occur without Congressional approval. The earliest that such a proposal would go before Congress is in early 1982.

I will continue to monitor this issue closely and do my best to guard the interests of New Mexicans. I have already made it clear to the Air Force that I expect it to

COPY

conduct an exhaustive examination of all alternatives to any Melrose expansion. Like you, I am skeptical about the need to buy private land when so much of New Mexico is already controlled by the Federal Government. In this regard I intend on introducing legislation in the Senate which, if passed by Congress, will require the government to trade federal land for state land whenever such acquisitions are required. Additionally, I believe that the EIS should give special attention to examining the question of oil and mineral rights and the impact of any expansion upon the local economy and community.

The final decision by Congress whether or not to approve the proposed Melrose expansion will require a balancing of national security interests and the interests of the citizens affected by the action. Cannon Air Force base is a very important military installation and its long-term effectiveness and viability is essential for the country and for New Mexicans. At the same time, the government must be prepared to give special attention to the interests of citizens who are affected by national security requirements. I am sure the Congress will keep this in mind.

Again, thank you for communicating your concerns. I hope you will continue to share your thoughts with me in the future.

Best personal regards.

Very truly yours,

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator

PVD/keh

APPENDIX E

45 Day Comment Period? 3/16/84 4/30/84

decision as required by the PSD regulations (40 CFR 52.21(r)(2)). Also, approving a permit that had no realistic prospect of construction would unreasonably tie up the available increments allotted to the proposed facility, thus possibly delaying or even preventing other permit applicants from obtaining permits for projects under the Act's timely construction. In accordance with the Consolidated Permit regulations (40 CFR 124.19(l)), the final decision to deny the permit was remanded to the Regional Administrator for execution.

This denial of the NYPA PSD permit for the Poletti Kill Station is final agency action and will be published in the Federal Register. Under Section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act (the Act), judicial review of this final action is available only by the filing of a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit within 60 days of the date of the Federal Register notice. Under Section 307(b)(2) of the Act, this final determination shall not be subject to later judicial review in civil or criminal proceedings for enforcement. This denial is without prejudice to the NYPA's right to reapply for PSD permit if the proposed control equipment becomes viable. Any such application will be subject to applicable requirements in effect at that time.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Peter DeFog, Chief, Air and Environmental Analysis Section, Permits Administration Branch at (212) 264-4711.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanne F. Schafer,

Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 84-6844 Filed 3-15-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[EIS FRL 2544-4]

Availability of Environmental Impact Statements Filed March 5 Through March 9, 1984 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 382-5073 or (202) 382-5075.

Four weeks ago, DSupol COE, OH, Cleveland Harbor Navigation Project, Dredge Disp, Cuyahoga County, Due: May 7, 1984.

EIS No. 840095, Draft, COE, LA, West Shore Hurricane Protection Levee Construction, Permit, Jefferson Parish, Due: Apr. 30, 1984.

EIS No. 840096, Final, EPA, RFC, Metallic Mineral Processing Plants Emission Standards, Due: Apr. 16, 1984.

EIS No. 840097, Draft, SCS, TX, Dry Creek Watershed Multiple Purpose Project, Falls, Limestone and Robertson Cos., Due: May 4, 1984.

EIS No. 840098, Draft, COE, KS, Kansas City Flood Control Levee, Arkansas and Walnut Rivers, Cowley County, Due: Apr. 30, 1984.

EIS No. 840099, Draft, USA, NC, Sandy Point Military Ocean Terminal, Navigation Passes/Access Channels Reconfiguration, Brunswick County, Due: Apr. 30, 1984.

EIS No. 840100, Draft, CAF, NM, Melrose Air Force Bombing Range Expansion, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, Due: Apr. 30, 1984.

EIS No. 840101, Final, FHW, OH, I-UC Buckeye Greenbelt Parkway Const., Cherry St. to Manhattan Blvd., Lucas County, Due: Apr. 16, 1984.

EIS No. 840102, Final, REA, CO, NM, Rifle to San Juan 345 kV Transmission Line/Associated Facilities, C/O, Grant, Due: Apr. 16, 1984.

EIS No. 840103, Final, FRC, ID, Eagle Rock Hydroelectric Project, C/O/M, License, Power Co, Due: Apr. 16, 1984.

EIS No. 840104, Draft, FHW, KS, Southern Arterial Const., Ft. Riley/KS-18 to Tuttle Creek Blvd./US-24, Riley County, Due: May 1, 1984.

EIS No. 840105, Draft, EPA, AK, Red Dog Mine Project, Permits, Red Dog Creek (EPA/DOI), Due: May 14, 1984.

EIS No. 840106, Draft, DOI, AK, Red Dog Mine Project, Permits, Red Dog Creek (DOI/EPA), Due: May 14, 1984.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 840088, Final, FHW, NV, US-93 Construction, Winters Ranch North to South Virginia, I-580, Washoe County, Correction. This EIS should have been included in the Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Statements filed Feb. 27 through Mar. 2, 1984. Published FR 03/07/84, Due: Apr. 6, 1984.

Dated: March 13, 1984.

Allen Hassh,

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 84-6845 Filed 3-15-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[ER-FRL-2514-4]

Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Red Dog Mine Project

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft environmental impact statement for the Red Dog Mine project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and implementing Federal Regulations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Red Dog Mine Project. The Red Dog mineral prospect (lead, zinc, silver and barite) is located in the De Long mountains of Northwest Alaska on lands owned by the NANA Regional Corporation. The NANA agreement with NANA Corporation Alaska proposes to develop an open pit mine, with adjacent ore processing facilities, and to construct a transportation system that would include a regional transportation corridor and saltwater port on the Chukchi Sea for shipping ore concentrates to foreign and domestic markets.

DATES: The 60-day public comment period will close on May 14, 1984.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to Mr. William M. Riley, EIS Project Officer, Environmental Evaluation Branch M/S 443, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William M. Riley (General Public) (206) 442-1220 or Paul Gates, Regional Environmental Officer, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 1091, Anchorage, AK 99510, (907) 271-4011. A limited number of copies are available free of charge, multiple orders to [illegible] may be honored.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: [illegible] Alaska has applied to the EPA for a Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the proposed facilities. It is anticipated that the proposed facilities will be constructed on lands [illegible] New Source Review Permit under the Clean Water Act and [illegible] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act to the [illegible] National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [illegible] Alaska Lands Act (ANILCA) [illegible] Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army (COE) [illegible] Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 810 of ANILCA, and NEPA.

[illegible] CHILES, FLA.
[illegible] MCCLURE, IDAHO
[illegible] DOMENICI, N. MEX.
[illegible] BINGAMAN, N. MEX.
[illegible] GRASSLEY, IOWA
[illegible] GRAMM, TEX.
[illegible] HATCH, UT.
[illegible] SASSER, TENN.
[illegible] EXON, NEBR.
[illegible] QUAYLE, IND.
[illegible] HART, COLO.
[illegible] METZENBAUM, OHIO
[illegible] MATTINGLY, GA.
[illegible] MOYNIHAN, N.Y.
[illegible] BOREN, OKLA.
[illegible] GORTON, WASH.

STEPHEN BELL, STAFF DIRECTOR
RICHARD A. GRANDEON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 10, 1984

The Honorable Verne Orr
Secretary of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Secretary Orr:

As you are aware, the Air Force recently released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the planned expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range in eastern New Mexico. The period for public comment on this EIS is limited to 45 days, the minimum required by law.

We have received numerous requests from the citizens affected by this acquisition for an extension of the comment period. The most frequently requested extension period is 120 days.

There are several reasons why an extension is warranted. One is that copies of the EIS have not been readily available to all the interested parties. Secondly, 45 days is clearly not enough time for a diverse group of citizens, most of whom work for a living, to review the EIS, meet, and formulate a response. Accordingly, we request that you extend the comment period on the draft EIS for expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range for a period of at least 90 days to allow the citizens sufficient time for deliberate preparation of a thorough response.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to your response. It is important that the New Mexicans affected by this proposed expansion have the opportunity to properly respond.

Sincerely,

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate

Joe Skeen
House of Representatives

APPENDIX G

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D C 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

24 APR 1984

Honorable Joe Skeen
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Skeen:

This is in response to your joint letter of April 10, 1984, to the Secretary of the Air Force requesting an extension of the public comment period on the Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico.

Due to your concerns, the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Melrose Range expansion has been rescheduled from April 26 to the first week of June and the public comment period will be extended from May 15 to June 30, 1984. When the exact time and place for the public hearing are established, your office will be notified.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and hope these schedule changes will allow your constituents time to review and comment on the Draft EIS. A similar letter is being provided to Senators Domenici and Bingaman.

Sincerely,

ALBERT L. BARBERO
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Program Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

APPENDIX H

H-116

NORTH AMERICAN
ROCKWELL, N.M.
1984 MAY 4

News Release
United States Air Force

27TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (TAC) OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS CANNON AFB, NEW MEXICO 88103
MEDIA RELATIONS BRANCH (505) 784-3131 AV 681-3131

SP4

RELEASE NO.: 84-4-13

27 April 1984

For your information —

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON MELROSE RANGE DRAFT EIS

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. -- Air Force officials announced here today that the Air Force will hold a public hearing to solicit comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The hearing is scheduled for June 6 at 7 p.m. in the Floyd High School auditorium, Floyd, N.M.

In accordance with Air Force policy, Col. Kenneth Ratcliff, U.S. Air Force Trial Judiciary, 3rd Circuit, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, will conduct the hearing.

The public review and comment period has been extended to June 30, according to Air Force officials. Written comments should be addressed: Environmental Planning, Hq TAC/DEEV, Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotten, Langley AFB, VA 23665.

Melrose Bombing Range, located in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, is managed by the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing at Cannon AFB, N.M. Anyone wishing further information on the meeting or copies of the Draft

-more-

Environmental Impact Statement, should contact the Public Affairs Office, 27TFW/PA, Cannon AFB, N.M., 88103, or call (505) 784-3311, ext. 3131.

-30-

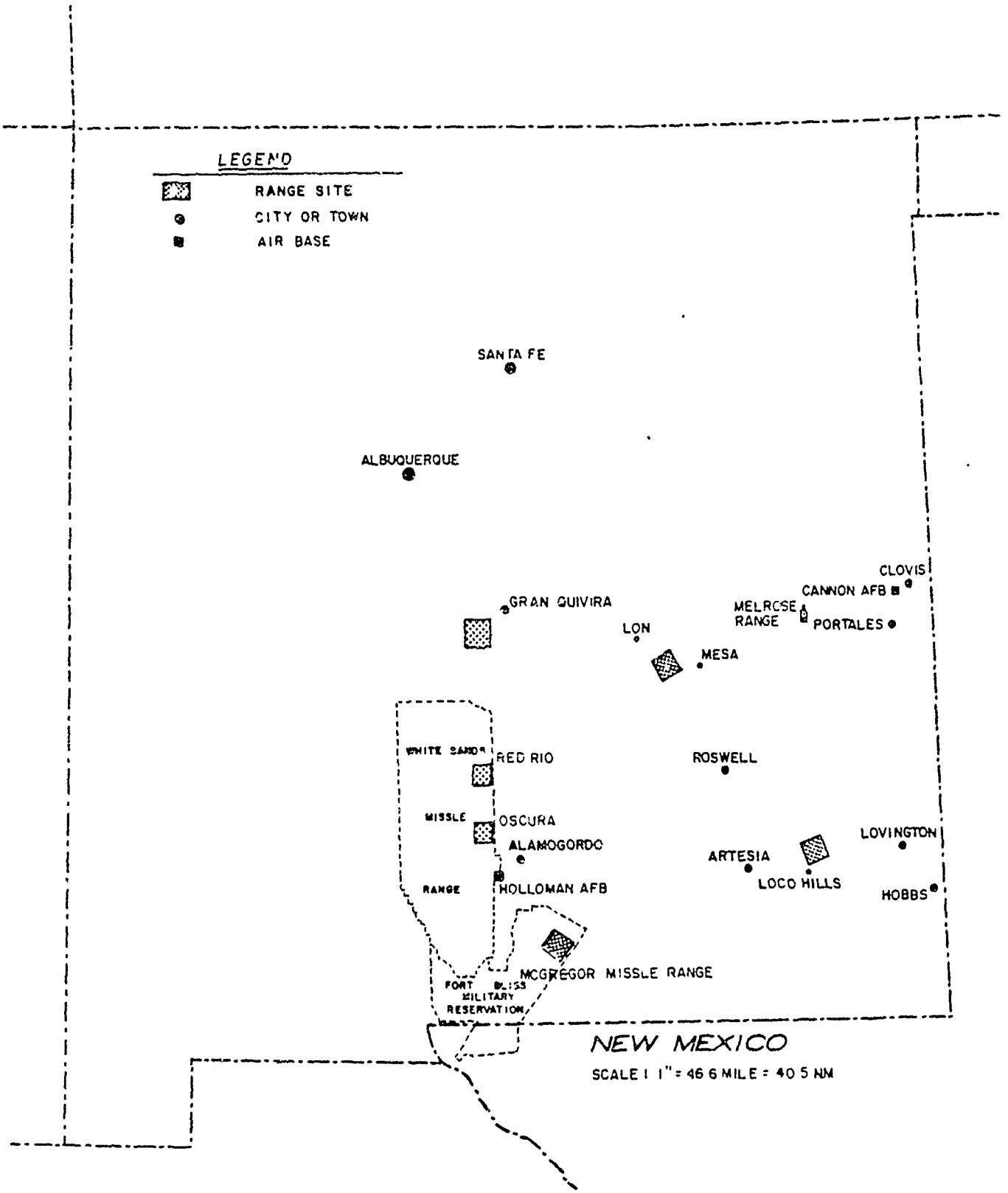
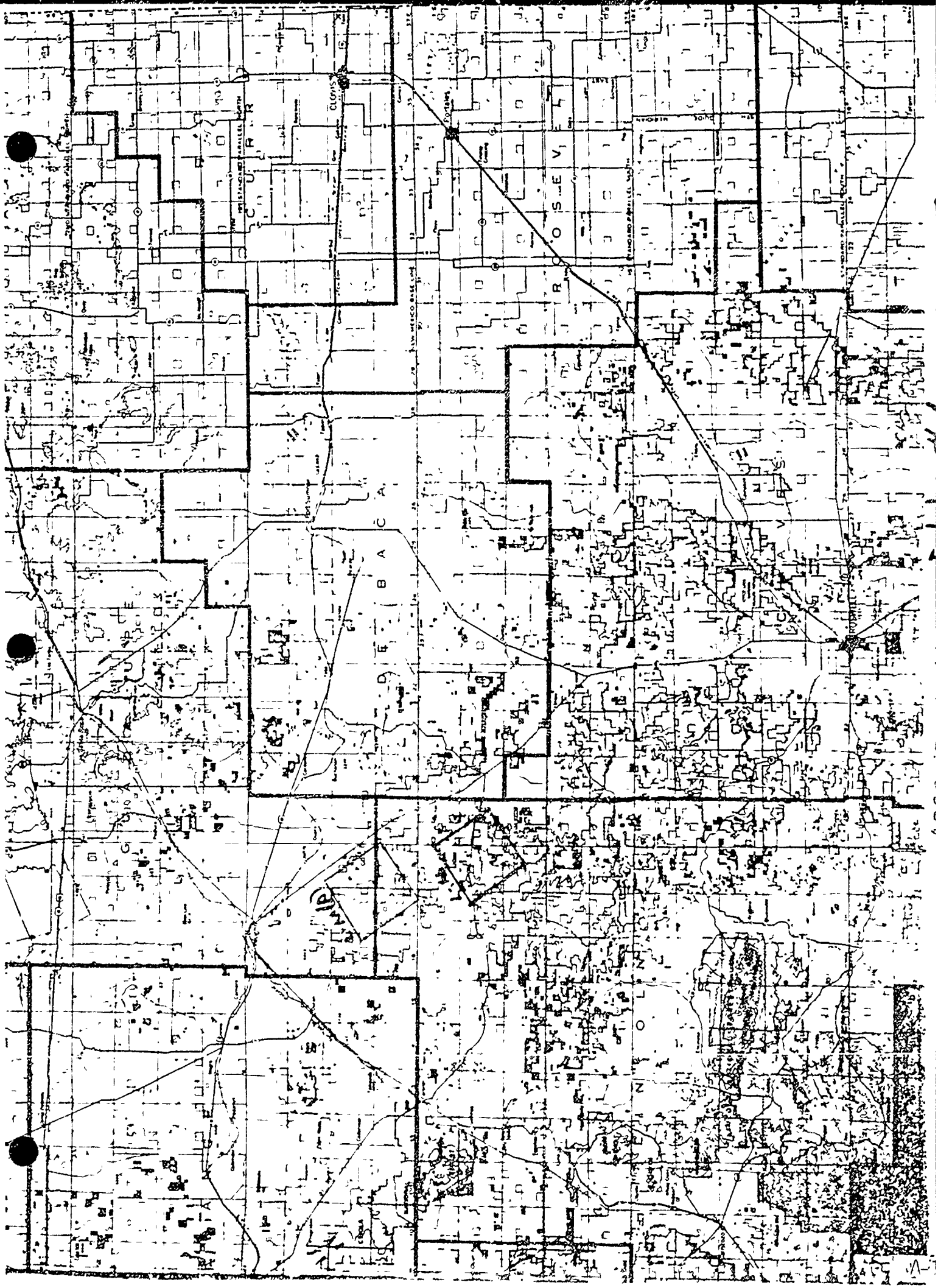
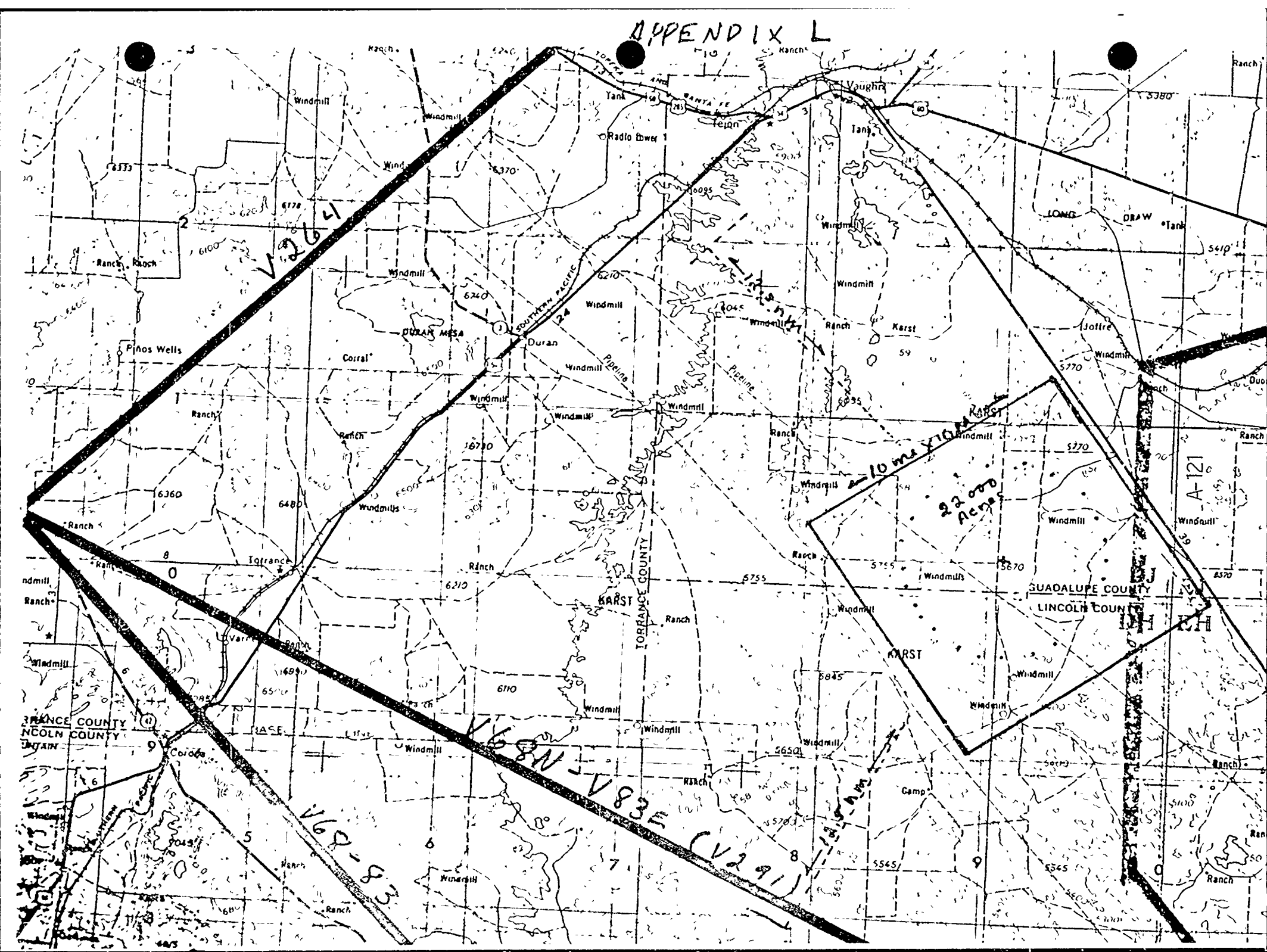


FIG. 2 LOCATION OF RANGE SITES IN RELATION TO CANNON A.F.B, AND MELROSE A.F. RANGE

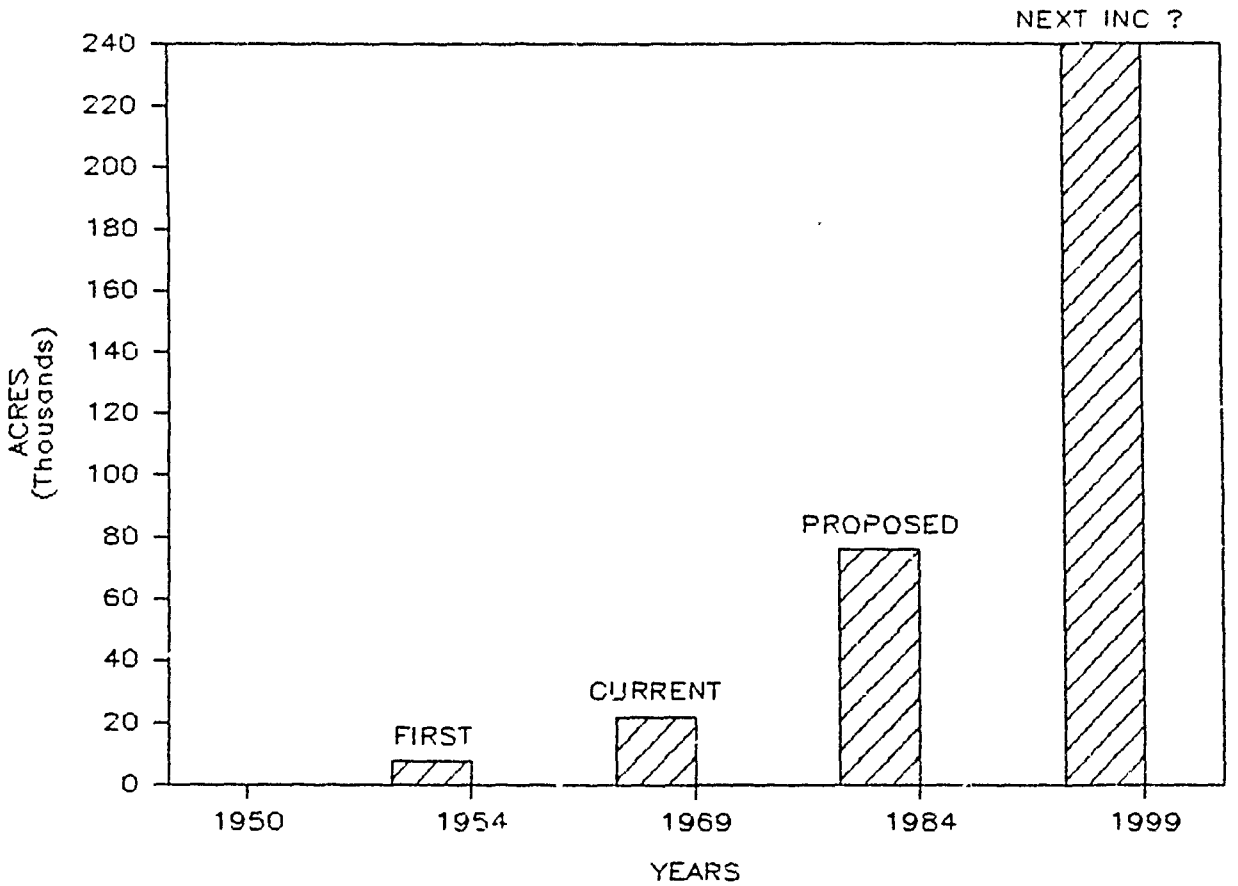
APPENDIX J


CLOVIS
ROOSEVELT
CURRY
DE BACA
QUAY

APPENDIX L


V261
V60-83
V60 N V83 N V291
Pinos Wells
DURAN MESA
Duran
Corral
Igrance
Vaughn
Tolteca and Santa Fe
SOUTHERN PACIFIC
Pipeline
LONG DRAW
KARST
TORRANCE COUNTY
GUADALUPE COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
Cordova
Camp
10 mi x 10 mi
22000 Acres
A-121

EXPANSION HISTORY & PROJECTION



APPENDIX M

B GRAHAM
14 ARCO NORTHWEST
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87120

Western Union Mailgram

4-042832318O 06/28/84 ICS IPMTZZ CSP NMKA
5056985321 MGMB TDMT ALBUQUERQUE NM 43 06-28 0337P EST

TAC HEADQUARTERS DERV
ATTN LENIS SHOTTEN
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE VA 23665

BELIEVE THE TRIPLING OF MELROSE BOMBING RANGE IS A BIG MISTAKE. YOU ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH LAND IN NEW MEXICO UTAH AND NEVADA

SINCERELY
BARBARA GRAHAM
14 ARCO NORTHWEST
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87120

1547 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

5241 (R 7/82)

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBERS

June 29, 1984

Environmental Planning
Headquarters TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotten
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Sir:

I trust that these comments will be considered and included in your summation of the pros and cons regarding the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico.

An article in the Clovis News Journal for June 25, 1984 indicated that individuals had until June 30 to submit comments. I hope this means we have until June 30 to mail comments to your office and that they do not need to be in your office by that date.

I was unable to attend the public hearing at Floyd, New Mexico on June 6, 1984 due to illness, therefore I contacted Captain Martin Compton after the hearing and was sent a copy of the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement," which I have reviewed and I would like to express my thanks to Captain Compton for this courtesy.

I was manager of the New Mexico State Employment Service in Alamogordo, New Mexico, from 1955 to 1971 and am therefore somewhat familiar with many of the problems which settlers, ranchers, and residents of that area experienced following the creation of range complexes in that area, including the renowned John Prather and a number of others who owned property and/or resided in the Orogrande and Dell City areas, the Organ and San Andres Mountain vicinities, the Tularosa Basin, and the Carrizozo area, which all combine to make up the McGregor Range, White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base, and Oscuro Range complexes.

Why can't these areas be better utilized by the Air Force rather than evicting and relocating the present residents and owners of the Floyd and Melrose areas at a cost to taxpayers which we can ill afford and for the present owners will never never be duly compensated? This has proven to be true in the past at both White Sands and Oscuro, with many problems being unsettled through the 1950s and 1960s and some problems still remaining unsettled. 69

Why not choose alternative number one and continue in the present status quo and train within the limitations dictated by present range-size constraints with a better utilization of other Air Force facilities? 69 52

My father homesteaded about 1916 in the Benson community, located west of Floyd, and our family still has an interest in sub-surface mineral rights in the area of expansion, which I feel sure would not be leased, considered for seismic exploration, and/or developed further if the proposed bombing range expansion is granted.

Our own family, as well as numerous other families and individuals who still have a vested interest in sub-surface mineral rights and no longer hold an interest in surface rights will never realize another penny from sub-surface mineral leases and/or oil and gas exploration and development. Based on the number of seismic exploration surveys and drillings in this area in the past, the preponderance of information available would indicate a strong likelihood of potential oil and/or gas production prospects in the future if it is not lost forever to the federal government through the process of eminent domain.

Several ranchers within the area will lose or already have lost the only means of livelihood they have ever known. The historic Hart Ranch bequest for the development of a Boy's Ranch would have to be abandoned. Family burial sites within the area would no longer be accessible as desired by remaining family members. Historical and archelogical sites would also be "off-limits" and no longer subject to investigation and study or further development.

As stated above, why can't the Air Force better utilize the facilities they already have in New Mexico and elsewhere?

Sincerely,

R. C. Morgan

R. C. Morgan
229 Rosa Blvd.
Clovis, N. M. 88101
Phone # (505) 763-6230

Deadline for comments near

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE — The deadline for individuals desiring to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range is nearing.

According to a news release from the public relations office at CAFB, any area resident wishing to make a comment has until June 30 to do so.

A public hearing was held June 6 in Floyd so people in the area of the proposed expansion could make oral and written comments.

For those who did not attend or those making further statements, the comment period was extended to June 30, according to the release.

Written comments should be addressed to: Environmental Planning HQ TAC/DEEV, Attn: Mr Lewis Shotsak, Langley AFB Virginia, 23665.

The range, located in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, is managed by the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing at CAFB. For further information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 784-3311, extension 3131.

Copies of the DEIS are available for review at any of the following area libraries: Clovis-Carver Public Library, Portales Public Library, Eastern New Mexico University library, ENMU-Clovis library, Floyd High School library and Melrose High School library.

Representative Manuel Lujan
Congressman from New Mexico
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sir

I oppose the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The ranchers in the area stand to lose too much in the property on that land.

Lynda Haynes
Route 1 Box 91A
Fort Sumner, N. M.
88119

N.W. 260 Martin Lane
Florence, Montana 59833

April 18, 1994

SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion - Melrose Bombing Range

TO: Environmental Planning
M.Q. TAC-DEED
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

ATTENTION: Mr. Shotton

1. I am the owner of sub-surface minerals in lands which will be effected by the proposed expansion of Melrose Bombing Range, Roosevelt County, New Mexico.

2. I, and many others, according to what I have been told who hold sub-surface minerals in those lands, were not contacted or informed about this proposal. 35 36

3. After becoming aware of this proposal by a relative in the Portales area, and after making a long distance call at my cost to Capt. Compton, Canon AFB, New Mexico, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), was sent to me.

4. The DEIS was not dated, did not inform me how long I had to respond, nor to whom my response was to be directed. I personally consider this lack of information a deliberate act to reduce public comment. I have had to make additional long distance telephone calls at considerable cost to determine this information.

5. I do hereby respectfully request an extension of time of 180 DAYS in order to thoroughly consult with legal counsel, Senator Dominici; Senator Bingaman; Representative Skeen; Mr. Paul Biderman, Director of Energy and Minerals, State of New Mexico; Governor Anaya of New Mexico; Mr. Jim Baca, Director, Public Lands Commission, State of New Mexico: Mr. Keith Ranum, representative of Denver Petroleum, who has these lands presently under Oil and Gas lease; Environmentalists; Conservation groups; Geologists; and others not yet identified. 37 37

6. My Father, Isaac P. Greathouse, and his Sons and Daughters homesteaded these lands when New Mexico was still a Territory beginning in 1906. The Greathouse reunion is held at Dora, New Mexico each year. I pray that you can understand my heritage and concern with reference to this expansion.

Very truly yours,

JOHN D. GREATHOUSE

JDG/vl

Copies to: Ronald Reagan, President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
United States of America

Senator Pete Dominici
Rm. 140 Fed. Bldg.
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

Senator Jeff Bingaman
Suite 175, Fed. Bldg.
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

Rep. Joe Skeen
Room 127, Fed. Bldg.
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

Governor Toney Anaya
4th Floor State Capitol Bldg.
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87503

Mr. Paul Biderman
Director Energy and Minerals Dept.
400 Cammo De Los Marquez
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

Mr. Jim Baca
Director Public Lands Commission
310 Old Sante Fe Trail
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

Senator Max Baucus
c/o U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John Melcher
c/o U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Jack Greathouse
Box 548
Portales, N.M. 88130

Mr. Keith Ranum
DEPCO
1000 Petroleum Bldg.
Denver, CO 80202

Bill Russell
Rt. 7, Box 23 A
Belen, N.M. 87002

Lovell R. Greathouse
331 N. Coleman
Roswell, GA 30075

Denny Gentry
New Mexico Cattleman's Assn.
2231 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.
Alburquerque, N.M. 87194

Michael H. Kull,Executive Director
New Mexico Boy's Ranch
Belen, N.M. 87002

NW 260 Martin Lane
Florence, Mt. 59833

Environmental Planning
H.Q. TAC 1DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion Melrose Bombing Range, New Mexico

TO: Mr. Shotton

1. On April 18, I wrote to you requesting an extension of time to prepare my response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. You chose to ignore my request. It was only thru the consideration and concern of Senator Jeff Bingaman's office that I was able to find out that a 60 day extension was granted. This 60 day period is INADEQUATE time to do the necessary research and write an adequate response.

2. To identify myself, my name is John D. Greathouse, Distinguished Military Graduate, West Virginia University; Extended active duty, USAF, Jul 55, Air Force Officer, AO3028633, Graduate PBOC Class 56-13C, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas; assigned 58th WX Recon. SQDN., Fairbanks, Alaska. Flew in excess of 100 missions over the polar region, and approximately 100 missions in the area of the Soviet owned Kormandorsky Islands. No. 1 SQDN Mission, TOP SECRET. Final mission was to Wheelus AFB, Tripoli, N. Africa, and Dharhran AFB, Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Released from active duty June, 1960. Entered the Real Estate Field. Extensive study and work personally and for clientele in land planning and real estate development, interpreting Environmental Impact Statements for developments and marketing, Sacramento, California. Presently residing in Missoula, Montana.

3. I wish to comment on the DEIS with reference to three areas, hereafter referred to as AREA A,B & C. But first I would like to make two statements:

   a) My comments do not contain the depth that I would like since the extension of time to do the research and fully prepare is inadequate.

   b) In studying the DEIS, it is obvious that the Air Force made a decision as to the action it wanted to take and then proceeded to justify that decision with a very poorly written, subjective, inadequate DEIS.

AREA A: DEIS Summary Sheet, page i, paragraph 3, "Existing deficiencies produce a 'canned' training environment. After a few missions on the range, Air Crews can easily identify the limited target array. Versatility and realism in training are greatly reduced. The overall result is that student and mission ready Air Crews receive extremely limited training, dealing only with the basics of their aircraft's capabilities".

My comment is that to expand Melrose CANNOT meet objectives of "allowing complexity and realism in attack maneuvers, and provide space for development of target array, similar or identical to those that may be found in actual combat situations".

I am very familiar with the relative flat plains area encompassing the existing Melrose Bomb Range and proposed expansion area. With thousands of hours flying time both privately and with the USAF, I know that any sharp young Air Crew will have the entire Colvis, Portales, Floyd, Melrose Range and surrounding area committed to memory after a couple of flights.

55 It will be virtually impossible to meet objectives of "allowing complexity and realism and provide space for development of target array similar or IDENTICAL to those that may be found in actual combat situations", by a simple expansion essentially of flat plains terrain. Whether viewed visually or by radar screen, instant memorization of landmarks, roads, small towns, and targets within the range will still produce a "CANNED" training mission. Therefore, the objectives will not be met by an expansion of the existing range. 55a

AREA B: Mineral Resources: DEIS page 10, 2.1.1.1 Environmental Impacts: paragraph C. "While this action would not affect the ultimate potential of any mineral resources in the area, their exploitation could be indefinately delayed if such could not be accomplished in a manner compatible with Air Force operations". Page 16, 3.3 Mineral Resources: "Sixty five percent of the expansion area is under oil and gas lease". Page 17, "the State of New Mexico has classified the Melrose, New Mexico area as having high potential for the discovery of oil and gas, etc".

56 My comment is that those who prepared the DEIS have essentially overlooked, or attempted to make insignificant, the greatest impact the expansion of Melrose may have, that being the potential for oil and gas discovery in the area. Page 16 indicates that 65% of the expansion area, being Class I Mineral Lands is now under oil and gas lease. In telephone conversations with Mr. Keith Ranum, DEPCO, (Denver Petroleum) he has informed me that their intent is to do seismographic testing in the area this year followed by drilling in the event the testing shows positive results. 56a

Fact 1: In a letter dated October 6,1981, from Co. Gilbert K. St. Clair to Jack Greathouse, Col. St. Clair explained that Rogers Explorations, Inc. was denied permission to conduct seismographic testing on Melrose Bombing Range.

Fact 2: In your DEIS, Page 7, the Loco Hills Site was ruled out as a possible site for an alternative bombing range, based on A."Numerous oil and gas wells are located in the southern portion of the site".

From these two facts, it is obvious these lands will be locked out from any development of potential oil and gas fields if Melrose is expanded. We all know that both gas and oil are non-renewable resources, being rapidly depleted in the world! Therefore, to lock up these Class I lands is a significant impact!

70

70

AREA C: Taking of Private Lands and the Relocation of People residing in the area. Page ii, 3. Summary of Impacts: "the principal adverse impacts associated with the proposal are the relocation of people residing in eight dwellings". Page 4; 2.0.3.1, a. "the taking of privately owned land is the primary concern identified in the public scoping process". Page 16; 3.1 Description, ownership and land use: paragraph 1, "there is a total of 43 surface owners and 55 tracts within the proposed expansion".

My comments are: There is no reference to the number of sub-surface mineral owners as discussed in AREA B. Those preparing the DEIS pass it off lightly as seemingly an insignificant impact to take private property and relocate families. After being in the marketing of private property and relocation of families for 24 years, I am keenly aware of the impact on people's lives who have to tear out their long extablished roots, give up their homes, leave their friends, neighbors, and surroundings. Scientific studies that have been made indicate that a major move by a family rates third in traumatic impact on members of that family; the first one being the death of a close loved one, and the second being divorce. The basis of "Pursuit of Happiness" as written into the Preamble to our Constitution is defined as "the right to acquire property both real and personal". To flippantly write a DEIS justifying the taking of 54,496 acres of land of which the majority is privately owned by some 43 surface owners and an unstipulated number of sub-surface owners; and uprooting and relocating 8 families from their homes is confiscation, and is a mockery of the basis of the meaning of America. Especially when to do so will not solve the problem of the "CANNED" training now existing; and when other suitable sites are available which will:

a) Give Diversity in training to the Air Crews,
b) Are 75% Federally owned and only 5% privately owned,
c) Meets many of the cirteria for selecting a bombing site.

I am referring to the Lon-Mesa site discussed in the DEIS page 8. In the first paragraph on page 8, it states the site is situated approximately 50 miles northwest of Roswell; then in paragraph labeled 2., the DEIS says " the close proximity of the Lon-Mesa site to the Roswell airport would add to the complexity of

departures proceeding to the northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast.

Come on now--surely you jest! We're discussing low flight sorties of TAC Aircraft, principally the F-111D, making bomb runs at a site 50 miles from the commerical airport. What are those commercial pilots doing these days-- climbing 10 feet per minute? And descending 50 miles before final approach coming in low and slow, huh? Let's be serious. I am totally opposed to the expansion of Melrose Bombing Range for the reasons stated herein. I suggest you reconsider other sites to give the Air Crews at Canon serious diversification in training; ie; use Melrose as their beginning target, then as they advance, let them bomb the heck out of the target array at a different site, such as Lon-Mesa; then schedule them to Nellis, Luke, Red Rio, and Oscura for their finals. They will then be ready for combat! 71

I suggest the Air Force work it out with the FAA to move the Beak A and Pecos MOA if it interferes with development and use of Lon-Mesa. It is a lot less impact to move an Omni and an Airway than it is to lock up mineral lands, take private property, and relocate families forcing them into the 3rd most traumatic experience they can endure; especially if expansion of the existing faciality really doesn't solve the problem of not having combat ready Air Crews. 72

Very truly yours,

John D. Greathouse

JDG/jma

CC: Sen. Pete Dominici, Rm. 140 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Suite 175 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Rep. Joe Skeen, Rm. 127 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Governor Toney Anaya, 4th Floor State Capitol Bldg., Sante Fe, NM 87501
Mr. Paul Biderman, Director Energy and Mineral Dept., 400 Cammo De Los Marquez, Sante Fe, NM 87501
Mr. Jim Baca, Director Public Lands Commission, 310 Old Sante Fe Trail, Sante Fe, NM 87501
Sen. Max Baucus, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Sen. John Melcher, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington,DC 20510
Jack Greathouse, Box 548, Portales, NM 88130
Mr. Keith Ranum, DEPCO, 1000 Petroleum Bldg., Denver, CO 80202
Lovell R. Greathouse, 331 N. Coleman, Roswell, GA 30075
Denny Gentry, NM Cattleman's Assn., 2231 Rio Grande Blvd., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87194
Michael H. Kull, Executive Director NM Boy's Ranch, Belen, NM 87002
Milton Datsopoulos, Attorney at Law, 201 W. Main, Missoula Montana, 59802
John W. Russell, Star Route 7, Box 23A Belen, NM 87002
U.S. Air Force(USAF),Dept. for Environment & Safety, (SAF/MIQ) Washington, DC 20330

I own mineral rights to land in Roosevelt County, New Mexico and am bitterly opposed to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as presently being considered by the Air Force. Owners of said rights were not notified by the Air Force of such a plan, nor considered in any way.

They have a preferable alternative known as Lon-Mesa which is already Federally owned and would solve the entire problem without destroying an important cattle growing and farming area. If water were plentiful in other areas, they would have been developed and the area settled by more people. The present proposal will present a dire ecological problem and the land will eventually revert to desert as is the land farther West. 73

I believe a more careful study of an up to date Environmental Impact Statement would be wise. We talk of reducing the Federal Budget Deficit yet the Air Force proposes to spend millions instead of using Federally owned land.

I urge you to use your influence to stop this plan before it is too late. Principles of Government are being trampled by this maneuver. Property rights and civilian control of the military are being flouted in a high handed manner. 74

Sincerely,

Frances L. Erickson
1405 Willow Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

May 16, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Skelton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB Va 23665

Dear Mr. Skelton

I wish to object to the further expansion of the Melrose bombing range.

I feel it to be unnecessary at this time. There are already a number of these ranges in the southwest & I feel another is a waste of taxpayer money.

This area is not only prime grazing land but is in an area under study for mineral (coal, gas, etc.) development & I feel this is of more benefit to our economic system than another bombing range which I feel is superfluous.

Thank you

Sincerely yours
Rita M. Smith
Wade A. Smith

PHONE OFF. 622-0140

PHONE RES. 622-7764

Jack Ahlen

CONSULTING GEOLOGIST
533 PETROLEUM BUILDING
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201

11 April 1984

Base Civil Engineer
27CSG/DED
Cannon Air Force Base, NM 88101

Re: Proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico.

Gentlemen:

I have recently studied the local and regional petroleum geology in the vicinity of the above proposed expansion. Prior to my knowledge of your proposed expansion I had outlined several significant oil and gas prospects in the vicinity. These prospects overlap, in part, the proposed expansion.

74 If oil and gas exploration is prohibited within the new range's boundaries, I feel that significant oil and gas reserves will never be discovered, thereby depriving the state and nation of valuable energy resources necessary for national defense. 74

If additional detailed data is necessary concerning these prospects please contact me at the above address.

Yours truly,

Jack Ahlen

Melrose, New Mexico
April 23, 1984

r. Lewis P. Shotton
Environmental Planning
H Q. TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia

Dear Mr. Shotton;

As a landowner in the proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion, I would like to offer my comments on the Expansion.

We own section 13, Township 1 north, Range 30 east, which has water rights granted by the State engineers Office, and is irrigated and highly productive farm land.

The underground water reserves here are very good, the water level is relatively shallow, compared to other irrigated areas, and the water level decline per year is very much less than in other areas.
As a life long irrigation farmer in New Mexico. I value the water and soil very highly. I do not know of any area where it can be replaced.

This land is a family farm. My Wife and Children have helped develop this farm from original range pasture land. My sons are still working with me on the farm and it is the main source of our livelihood, and as farmers we have a love for the land that non-farmers don't know.

My family and I have always supported and have a high regard for the Military, we are in favor of extensive training for them, however I feel it would best serve the interest of the public to continue with the present use of the land on a lease back basis. to the present owner.

Over the years, my observation has been that the training flights disturb the people on the land far more than the wildlife and domestic animals are disturbed. they aren't bothered at all:

I failed to mention the quality of the water on this farm is excellent.

Yours sincerely,

[illegible]

[illegible]

Melrose, N.M. 88124

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April 29, 1980
Melrose, N.M.

Environmental Impact
[illegible] Div.
Attention Mr. Sutton
Langley AFB, Va. 23665
Dear Mr. Sutton;

Thank you, your extending the comment period on the proposed Melrose Bombing Range expansion, is appreciated, as we have more comments to offer.

In 1980, the year the proposed expansion was published, kicked around and nothing done, has left us in a state of apprehension. Now the issue has cropped up again, and again we find ourselves waiting for some definate word.

We suggest you come to a decision soon and give the landowners in the proposed expansion a definate date so we can get on with our lives and possibly a new start.

My Husband and I are in our fifties now, and that doesn't leave us too many years to start over with.

We can only speak for ourselves and we do not want any local Organizations speaking for us.

We disagree with Mr. Kiddiling's statement that no prime or unique land is involved in the proposed aquisition. There is some prime land, and as farmers of that land we know.

To replace this farm and underground water, (abundant water is valued very highly also.) we would have to have at least $2,500 per acre, plus the unproduced crops, which we feel is equivalent to paying for the undiscovered gas and oil on Goverment acquired land.

The farm's location is an asset not a liability. Our isolation from other farms is benefical in that our irrigation water is subject to less pumping and much less annual decline in our water table.

The isolation is very avantagious for hybrid seed production, and we currently have a contract for that purpose.

Sincerely Yours,
Jim & Verona Grizzle
Melrose, N.M. 88124

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97

May 29th.1984

Enviromental Planning
HQ. TAC/DEEV
Langley,AFB,VA.23665

Dear Mr.Shotton,

I am writing to protest the further expansion of the Melrose bombing range. We do hope you will use your influence to save the millions of dollars in procuring these lands. We have so much land that the government already owns in Nevada and other desert areas, it seems questionable both envrionmentally and financially to take the land in question as well as tresspassing on the rights of the private land owners.

Enclosed please find a copy of the impact fact sheet for you further information.

thank you for your attention in this matter.

James B.Whiteman
1445 N.Collier
Coquille,OR.97423

MELROSE BOMBING RANGE PROPOSED EXPANSION FACTS & INFORMATION

The U. S. Air Force proposed, in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980, to triple the size of the Melrose Bombing Range which is located southwest of Melrose, NM, that being northwest of Portales, New Mexico, in Roosevelt County. This will be the third time they have acquired land. They want to add 52,227 acres more to the present range of 22,943 acres. The proposed expansion consists of approximately 75% privately owned land and 25% State owned land.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION

LAND: The expansion includes good farming and prime ranch land.
The addition will take land from third and fourth generation families.
Over 35 landowners are involved and at least six families will be forced to move from their homes.
There are twenty-four irrigation circles within the proposed expansion.
The expansion will be 'splitting up' most ranches, reducing productivity.

TAXES. Property tax to Roosevelt County will be cut.
Roosevelt General Hospital tax levy will be cut.
Reduces the future bonding capacity of Roosevelt County.
Present bond indebtedness, of the Floyd School District, will be interrupted and thus place an extra burden on the remaining property owners.
Reduces the future bonding capacity for the Floyd School System.
The expansion will take State Trust Lands which contribute money to public schools and universities.

OIL. The expansion includes 52,227 acres which is known as Class I Area for future oil and gas resources.
Two natural gas wells are within a short distance of the range.
New producing oil wells, to the southeast, continue to locate closer, moving towards, the Melrose Bombing Range.
Oil leasing is very active in this area and includes leasing and seismographing within the proposed expansion property.
One wildcat well, near the expansion boundry, contained sand tars.

OBSTRUCTIONS: Two county roads, ten miles of pavement, will have to be re-routed.
The U.S. North Star Mail Route, out of Elida, NM, will be interrupted.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop's system will be interrupted.
The expansion will interrupt the gas distribution pipe line of the Eastern New Mexico Gas Ass'n which runs from Ft. Sumner, NM to Portales, NM.
Possibility of relocating the Benson Cemetery which lies within the area.

CONCERNS: The security of land to be inherited by our children.
Effect on the golden eagles that nest in the expansion area.
Do we honestly think this will be the last expansion in Roosevelt County?
Allowance for inflation factor, land value increase, interest on money and credit, if land is condemned.
Overlooking an oil and gas resource area for our National Defense?
Neglecting to use Federal Land for the expansion as NM has 34% Federal Land.
How does this expansion compare with the Air Force's alternative plan of another location, as given in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980?
Attitude of youth about America when the Federal Government takes private land, for questionable expansions, when Federal Land is accessible?
Taking one-fourth of the land away from the Floyd School District?
Interrupt NM Boys Ranch plans for a satellite program, at the historic Hart Ranch, for 24 needy boys.
No restriction of "air space" exists now, for the aircraft to maneuver safely and properly in their training exercises at the MBR?
Would purchasing 52,227 acres, for this expansion, be 'wise defense spending?

April 25, 1984

DEPCO, Inc.

PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION

Base Civil Engineer
HQ TAC-DEED
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Attention: Mr. Shotton

RE: Proposed Expansion
Melrose Bombing Range

Gentlemen:

DEPCO, Inc. owns a number of oil and gas leases within the proposed expansion boundary of Melrose Air Force range, as illustrated on the attached plat.

Currently an extensive program of seismic evaluation which will include a portion of the proposed expansion is being considered. The area does have a potential for the discovery of oil and gas. If the expansion is approved, exploitation of mineral resources will be delayed indefinitely. This fact should be carefully considered at the time that a further recommendation is made. 77

As a matter of inquiry, does your plan allow for compensation of owners of oil and gas leases in the event of condemnation of the expansion lands? We would appreciate being advised of the future progress of the Air Force proposal. 78

Sincerely,

DEPCO, Inc.

K. G. Ranum
Vice President

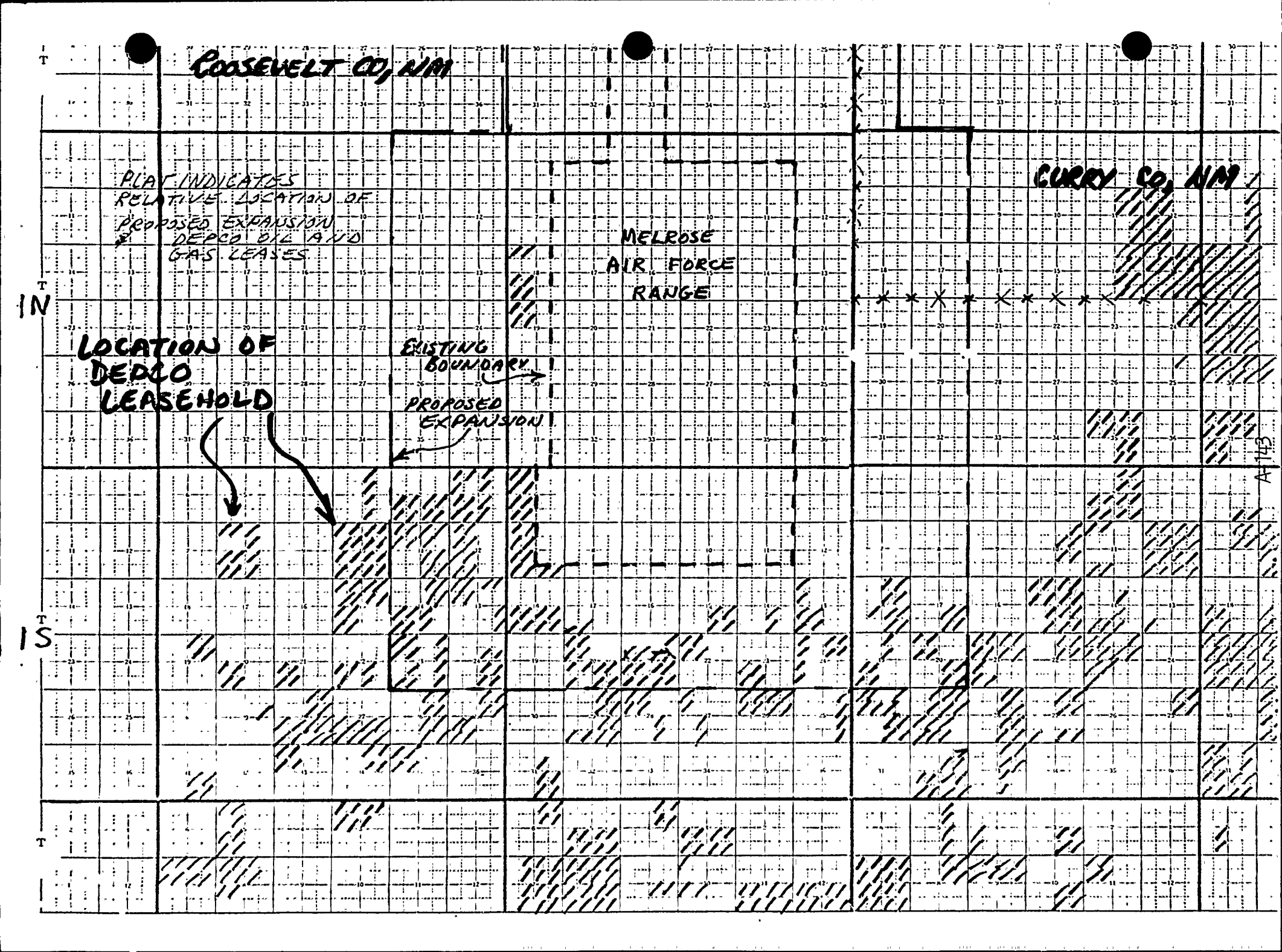
Attachment
KGR/vkg

cc: SEN. Jeff Bingaman
Suite 175, Federal Building
Roswell, NM 88201

SEN. Peter Dominici
Room 140, Federal Building
Roswell, NM 88201

REP. Joe Skeen
Room 127, Federal Building
Roswell, NM 88201

1000 PETROLEUM BUILDING • DENVER, COLORADO 80202 • PHONE 303/595-0707


ROOSEVELT CO, NM
CURRY CO, NM
PLAT INDICATES RELATIVE LOCATION OF PROPOSED EXPANSION DEPCO OIL AND GAS LEASES
MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE
LOCATION OF DEPCO LEASEHOLD
EXISTING BOUNDARY
PROPOSED EXPANSION
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A-143

April 25, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn. Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA. 23665

Dera Mr. Shotton,

I want to object to the further expansion of the Melrose Boming Range.

As you know they ha ve already expanded twice, and a hundred square miles of land, is a lot of ground to tie up to drop bombs on.

A lot of this land is prime grazing land. also this is marked for oil and gas, and those holding mineral rights will loose all of this income.

Sincerely yours

Jay C Lockwood

Copies to:
Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Joe Skeen

[illegible], AZ.
April [illegible], 1980

Headquarters 9th Dept. of Air Force
Tactical Air Command (DOEV)
Langley Air Force, Va., 23665

Re: Faircloth, Mary (estate)
Melrose Bombing Range (Proposed Expansion)

Dear Sir:
Thank you for sending the Draft of Environmental Impact Analysys Process to my Sister in California. It was sent to me here in Tucson, AZ. As one of four living Sisters our Old Homestead has great memories for all of us, and we do not wish to give it up.

We lease grass lands to the Cattle Companies, and allow Geo-Search Seismic Survey Inc., and rent space along the Highway for advertising of Curio Stores. We are also interested in Gas and Oil Exploration.

The Highway Dept. has recently taken about 4ft. off our land all along the Highway in widening the road, and in taking out a very dangerous curve. They tore down the Post Office, and built another new one farther back from the road.

We are very interested in our water wells, as the water there is worth a trip down there just for a drink. We are anxious that no wild life be affected, and to are interested that no mineral exploration could be unreasonably delayed.

In Roosevelt County Agriculture is the Number One source of employment. The monetary value of crops in Curry and Roosevelt county in 1979 was $78,[illegible]. There are 350,00[illegible] acres in cultivation in Roosevelt County, and 36% is irrigated. There would be a total tax revenue loss of assessed value equal to $5,289.61.

In a letter of April 14, 1980 State Planning Division Betsy Reed states, On the 1974 Map, "The Future of New Mexico Oil and Gas Resources," produced by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, we found that this whole region involved is a Class I exploration area for Oil and Gas.

We sincerely trust that you may obtain alternate suitable sites for the bombing range facility required to accomplish the Cannon Air Force base training mission.

Sincerely,

Lauretta Faircloth Brichta

Lauretta Faircloth Brichta

79 80 81

April 26, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton: RE: EIS on the Expansion of [illegible] in Roosevelt County, New Mexico

I wish to enter my protest, in the official record, of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. My reasons are as follows:

More than a hundred square miles of prime land is [illegible] land to be used as a bombing range.

Second and most important about taking this good land is it will upset too many farmers and ranchers. It takes a lifetime to build a ranch. Money can't compensate for a homestead and the work that went into building these places.

Third, This land is marked for oil and gas and a big expanded field in the not too far distant time. Those having mineral rights will LOSE IT ALL. The EIS doesn't address the oil and gas issue with very much authority. 82

The Floyd School system will also lose money from the present tax system. We shouldn't destroy our educational programs when other alternatives exist. 83

Fourth, I went with the Archaeologist checking on the [illegible] at the Melrose Bombing Range and the report was watered down pretty much, in my opinion. There were no Pueblo ruins in the area, however there were some remains in a few places of the Pit house people, also the Folsom Man and the Clovis Man roamed this area. The points of [illegible] area, were sacred to the Indians, and [illegible] on them. Right where the observatory [illegible] to be an Indian grave. The whole mesa had been [illegible] I don't believe such destruction! I have observed this country in the 30's and up through the 50's. I miss the green grass and [illegible] air, also the beautiful rolling mesas. In spite of the cleaning and policing of the grounds there is nothing but old bases, timers, fuse cans, all types of bullets also and the smell of oil barrels. 84

I agree with one of our senators who said; "We people treat the EARTH like they were renting it."

I am for a strong defense of America but we must make the best use of our lives and resources. Therefore, I favor the Air Force's own alternatives instead of taking 5,400 Acres and [illegible] 1. Continue to use the present

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

bombing range with it's limitations. (The limitations are very minimal) 2. Closing the Melrose Range and acquiring land in some other geographic location for a new Air Force range. (This can be done in New Mexico with 34% of the land in our State being Federal Land) 3. Closing the Melrose Range and conducting training on other Air Force and/or other military service ranges. (This is a good alternative as the planes from CAFB presently uses seven (7) other bombing ranges. Planes from other bases use the Melrose Range only 4% of it's usage according to the EIS and that isn't significant)

The Air Force continues to tell us they need a more realistic bombing range. If they will be fair about this statement then they should use either alternative plan No. 2 or alternative plan No. 3. Navigation is about as important as merely dropping bombs. The Melrose Range offers very little realistic training in cross-country flying as it is only twenty (20) miles from the base.

So, instead of using good agricultural land I favor using existing ranges or locating land that has very little of anything but dry desert with no habitation.

Sincerely,
Ridgley A. Law

April 18, 1984

HQ Tac Deev
Langley A.F.B. VA 23665

Subject: J.F. Cook, Landowner-Deceased
Opal A. Albaugh-Beneficiary

Gentlemen:

This letter is to again notify your office that Mr. J.F. Cook passed away on 1/27/80. The Estate has been settled but I wanted to bring this to your attention that I inherited the property in New Mexico.

I recently received the booklet about the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties New Mexico. The late Mr. Cook was listed on page B-1 number 7. Please correct your records showing my name as owner. My attorney Mr. Harold Tredway informed you several years ago of the change in ownership. Please advise me if I need to furnish any additional information.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Opal A. Albaugh

Opal A. Albaugh

8545 E. Dacosta
Downey, CA 90240

James R. Whiteman
RT. 1 - BOX 126
CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101
ARTS & CRAFTS

April 23, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton: RE: EIS on the Expansion of the Melrose Range in Roosevelt County, New Mexico

I wish to enter my protest, in the official records, of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. My reasons are as follows:

More than a hundred square miles of prime land is a lot of land to be used as a bombing range.

Second and most important about taking this good land is it will upset too many farmers and ranchers. It takes a lifetime to build a ranch. Money can't compensate for a homestead and the work that went into building these places.

Third, This land is marked for oil and gas and a big expanded field in the not too far distant time. Those having mineral rights will LOSE all of it. The EIS doesn't address the oil and gas issue with very much authority. 86

87 The Floyd School system will also lose money from the present tax system. We shouldn't destroy our educational programs when other alternatives exist. 87

88 Fourth, I went with the Archaeologist checking on the environment at the Melrose Bombing Range and the report was watered down pretty much, in my opinion. There were no Pueblo ruins in the area, however there were some remains in a few places of the Pit house people, also the Folsom Man and the Clovis Man roamed this area. The points of the mesas, in the MBR area, were sacred to the Indians, and some of the points had Indian graves on them. Right where the observatory for MBR is located there use to be an Indian grave. The whole mesa has been blasted to pieces! I can't believe such destruction! I have observed this country in the 1920's and up through the '30's. I miss the green grass and fresh air, also the beautiful rolling mesas. In spite of the cleaning and policing of the MBR grounds there is nothing but old busses, trucks, junk cars, all full of bullets holes and the smell of oil barrels. 88

I agree with one of our senators who said; "The people treat the EARTH like they were renting it."

I am for a strong defense of America but we must make the best use of our lives and resources. Therefore, I favor the Air Force's own alternatives instead of taking 5[illegible],000 Acres and that is: 1. Continue to use the present

[illegible] Planning
[illegible] Mr. Shotton
[illegible]
[illegible] VA 23665

[illegible]ing range with it's limitations. (The limitations are very minimum) 2. Closing the Melrose Range and acquiring land in some other geographic location for a new Air Force range. (This can be done in New Mexico with 34% of the land in our State being Federal Land) 3. Closing the Melrose range and conducting training on other Air Force and/or other military service ranges. (This is a good alternative as the planes from CA I presently uses seven (7) other bombing ranges. Planes from other [illegible] use the Melrose Range only 4% of it's usage according to the ETS and that isn't significant)

The Air Force continues to tell us they need a more realistic bombing range. If they will be fair about this statement then they should use either alternative plan No. 2 or alternative plan No. 3. [illegible] as important as merely dropping bombs. The Melrose Range offers very little realistic training in cross-country flying as it is only twenty (20) miles from the base.

So, instead of using good agricultural land I favor [illegible] existing ranges or locating land that has very little of anything but dry desert with no habitation.

Please [illegible]

James R. Whitman

Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Joe Skeen
Mr. Josel H. Lucero

Re: Proposed Expansion of the Fallbrook Sanitary District

Dear Sir:

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the Boundaries of the Fallbrook Sanitary District in North County.

For a number of years, retired Colonel Walter Mc Gill has been in Fallbrook to take over a large area of land (Ground Portable & Close)

This is a great farming community, raising cattle, grains & food produce. And better things of the future! Also Water on the brink of a breakthrough on future energy of oil and gas!

It seems unbelievable that the Air Force would even consider uprooting the people from their homes & all that this would entail!

Particularly, in view of the fact the Air Force has an alternate plan as stated in the Federal Register of June 9th 1986; plus, it is a violation of "The National Farm Land Protection Policy."

The Gruttemeyer family homesteaded here in 1917 and many still live there. I grew up there & I am one of the heirs to the "Oil & Mineral rights" & I'm outraged at threat of such attempted confiscation!!

They did not even have the courtesy to notify the holders of these rights!

The government already holds much too much land in the Western States now!!

I would appreciate your checking into this fiasco. Please, use your influence to stop this gross injustice & call them to have the existing facilities.

Sincerely, Lucile Gruttemeyer Yokota
736 South Citrus Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90036

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MAY 01 1984

Los Angeles, Ca.
Apr. 20th 84

Secretary of the Interior. Wm. Clark
Att: Carol Hallett
Western Region Special assistant,

Dear Mrs. Hallett,

I am deeply concerned over the issue of the Expansion of the "Melrose Bombing Range" in N. Mex.

As I understand from relatives there - the Air Force is trying to take over a large area of land in proximity to Clovis and Portales.

This is a food producing land, cattle raising, grains, small farms etc. We'd better think of the future!

And they're on the brink of a breakthrough on future energy of oil and gas!

It seems unthinkable that the Air Force would even consider uprooting the people from their homes and all that this would entail!

Particularly, in view of the fact the Air Force has an alternate plan, as stated in the Federal Register of June 9th 1980; plus it is a violation of "The National Farm Land Protection Policy."

The Greathouse Family homesteaded there in 1907 and many still live there. I grew up there & I am one of the heirs to the "Oil & Mineral Rights" and I'm outraged to think of such attempted confiscation!!

They did not even have the courtesy to notify the holders of these rights!

The government already holds much too much land in these Western States now!

I would appreciate your checking into this total matter & using your influence to stop this grave injustice & cause them to use the existing alternate facilities.

Sincerely,
Lucile Greathouse Gibbs
736 So. Citrus Ave.
West Covina, Ca. - 91736

P.S. I recall that there was talk on the California State legislature

A-152

June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
ATTN: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton

In answer to the expansion of the Melrose Bmbing Range, there are a few statements we would like to make.

One, words cannot express how hard it is for families to relocate, not only homes but also the means for a livelyhood. This applies especially in the ranching and farming industry. Once a rancher or farmer is established in a financial institution where he can borrow the operating monies needed to operate his ranch or farm, it is very difficult to move to another area and reestablish himself. The compensations offered by the Air Force in the EIS Statement won't even begin to cover the cost of this type of relocation. If our lands are taken, some or all of us will have to relocate in another area. Face it, not that many lands are available in this area. How can you be compensated for the source of livelyhood and security that landowners now have and will be taken from them. 16

Also most of the land involved in the proposed expansion is also put up for collateral. With the loss of part of this collateral, the net worth of a land owner will be reduced, and so will his operation be reduced. It is not economically feasible to operate a part of an operation in one area and a part in another. Do we not have the right as Americans to expand and prosper economically without forced reduction from our own government. 16

Many of the ranches have been in the same family for several generations. Other of us would like to establish such a lineage for our families. We would like to preserve the lands of this area for generations to come. The expansion is taking this right and privilege from us.

Another concern is the recreational impact on this area. In the past, we have welcomed quail, dove and coyote hunters on our land. They only have to ask permission; so we will know they are on our place. We have had only the best of cooperation from hunters. The expansion will curtail and reduce areas available for hunting. We have welcomed Boy Scout Troops for an overnight camping trip on our place. The area in which they chose to camp is in the proposed target area and will be closed to such outings in the future. 26 92

96 Many wildlife species use these land to bear and raise their young. They too will have to break habits and move to new nesting and birthing grounds. One almost has the feeling that human beings and animals alike are being shuffled around in the same manner our Indian brothers were. 93

These concerns may not seem like much to you, but they are real to people in this area. People who deserve a consideration of their human rights and needs.

Sincerely

Dennis Luce

Donna Luce

Dennis Luce Donna Luce

April 5, 1984

Mr. Lewis R. Shotton
Command Natural Resources Manager
Environmental Planning Division
Headquarters Tactical Air Command
Department of the Air Force
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton,

I am writing concerning the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. My concern with the DES centers on sections 3.7 Archaeological and Cultural Resources, 4.8 Effects on Cultural Resources and 4.12 Adverse Environmental Effects Summary. I am writing as a private citizen. My expertise in this subject is that I have spent the last four years conducting professional archaeological research in eastern New Mexico. I hold a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley and am an assistant professor at Eastern New Mexico University. I also serve as a member of the state of New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee which deals, in part, with compliance to state and federal legislation, procedures, etc. Therefore I have a great deal of familiarity with these types of requirements and the finished products.

COMMENTS

Section 3.7 Archaeological and Cultural Resources

First Paragraph:

In the first sentence it says that the area under consideration lies in an area calles "the Eastern Peripheral Zone." This term is only used for Puebloan times by people who are viewing the area from further west and is rarely used by archaeologists who work here. Under any situation, the term is not applicable in the general sense as it is used here. Then it is stated that the "zone forms the eastern periphery of the Puebloan culture (Anasazi and Magollon cultures)." First, if this sentence is to be used, it should say Puebloan cultures and Magollon should be Mogollon. Second, it is not accepted by anyone that there are Mogollon remains in this area. There may be Jornada Mogollon sites but they have never been documented in the vicinity of the Melrose Bombing Range. The closest that they are known is 60 miles away along the Pecos near Roswell. Third, Anasazi remains have ever been found in eastern New Mexico in any location. Anasazi culture was located in western New Mexico. Then the document says that the zone "is expected to contain artifacts from the Paleo period (Clovis, Folsom and Midland cultures) and the Archaic ("Picosa" or basketmaker materials)." I do not want to write a treatise on the prehistory and history of New Mexico, but the use of Midland as a name for a culture is unknown to me. It refers only to a

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94 projectile point type. Also, the terms Picosa and basketmaker are not applicable to the Archaic in this region. Picosa is a concept used in relation to the Archaic in northeastern New Mexico only. Basketmaker is commonly used in the Great Basin of the United States. In addition, there should be some mention of historical remains in this introductory paragraph, since New Mexico has four hundred years of historical occupations. 94

Second Paragraph

95 In the first paragraph it also states that this portion of New Mexico has not been intensely explored in archaeological terms. Then in the second paragraph it says that twenty sites of various types were located but none are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. With the paucity of archaeological knowledge for the area, National Register criteria in terms of significance mean that sites which can fill these gaps in our poor understanding of this zone are eligible. I find it difficult to comprehend that none of the sites have the potential to yield significant information. Also there is no mention in the document as to what era these sites date to, what cultures they represent, etc. There is no mention if the survey is a statistically valid survey upon which predictive statements can be generated or where the survey zone was. It is impossible to evaluate results with so little information. Given a knowledge of the local prehistory and history, it is inconceivable that no significant sites were located. Also, was the problem addresssed that the early sites, paleo-indian, are probably buried? Did the archaeologists test for such remains? Were all historic items recorded or only structures?etc. Minimally, what type of survey was it, where was it, what was the criteria for significance? 95

Section 4.8 Effects on Cultural Resources

First Paragraph

96 The first sentence is, "There are no historical or architecturally significant structures on the existing or proposed expanded range." I do not see how this conclusion has been reached. Were there any structures on the existing range outside of or inside of the survey area? This is never stated. Who did the survey on the proposed expanded range? Also,the 10% survey looked at only a portion of the existing range and nothing else. 97

96

97

Second Paragraph

Again the document discusses that no sites eligible for the National Register were identified. The discussion must be more explicit. Then it states that the expansion area has a high probability of containing significant archaeological sites. Why? I know that there are significant sites in this area and there must be ones of equivalent type on the range, but if you say the survey did not locate any important sites why should there be some nearby? The logic escapes me. 98

98

Fourth Paragraph

This paragraph discusses how the Air Force has developed an aggressive program to identify and protect significant cultural sites on the existing Melrose Range and the expansion area in consultation with the SHPO. Evidence for this is shown by a letter which was written in 1980, presumably before any cultural

resource work was initiated on the range. What about correspondence to support activities since then? Did the SHPO review a report on the survey of the Melrose Bombing Range and was the report acceptable? Basically, what has happened in the four years since what appears to an initial contact? 99 95

Section 4.12 Adverse Environmental Effects Summary

In this section no mention is made of cultural resources even though earlier it states that significant archaeological sites are expected in the expansion area. Why not? 100 100

In summary, I feel that the information presented in this DES in regard to cultural resources in inadequate. The document demonstrates that whoever wrote it had almost no familiarity with the prehistory and history of the area and could not even use the correct terminology. This fact plus the implausibility ofnot locating significant sites within the range, makes me strongly question the validity of the work. The DESis not consistent and I recommend that other such documents with sections relating to cultural resources need to be examined. As an archaeologist, I am disappointed by the poor quality of the sections that I have addressed. 101 101

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Colleen M Beck

Colleen m. Beck
Route 3, Box 425
Portales, NM 88130

xc: Jeff Binghaman
Pete Domenici

North Star Rt.
Elida, New Mexico 88116
June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and the Public Comment Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: RE: Proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion - DEIS

After reviewing the DEIS, concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, I wish to make a few comments including a copy of my official impact statement which was presented at the Air Force Scoping Meeting, at Melrose, New Mexico, June 24, 1980. My impact statement, of June 24, 1980, is even more relevant in 1984 than it was in 1980.

I have endured more anguish these past four years, of waiting for the DEIS to be released, than any Air Force person or Congressman can realize. The reason is two-fold. The first reason is that I was told, sometime around 1968, when the Air Force took land from me, for the second time, that "this would be the last expansion." This statement was made by a representative of the United States Government. The second reason is that information, from both the Air Force and the Congressmen, indicated that the DEIS would be released in 1981.

In reviewing the DEIS, the latest reference letter on page D-23, was dated June 24, 1981. The DEIS was released, according to the Federal Register, on March 16, 1984. The CFR 40, Section 1500.00 discourages delay from scoping meeting to DEIS release. 102

The copy of the DEIS I received was not dated, didn't give the the public comment period, or the name and address to which comments were to be sent. 103

All of the above comments will have more meaning if you will read my, enclosed, official impact statement given June 24, 1980, in that the proposed expansion will be the third time the Air Force will have taken land and this time they will be taking my home. 104

I humbly and respectively beg you to terminate the expansion plans of the MBR and seek less costly alternatives.

Respectively,

Mrs. H. H. Davis

cc: All the NM Congressional Delegation

Enclosure: My Impact Statement

June 24, 1980

To: Public Scoping Meeting Moderator

From: Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Davis

Subject: Impact Statement, Expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

Dear Moderator and fellow Americans:

The Air Force took land from us in 1952 for the original bombing range. Then, again, a second time in 1968 they took more land. Now, in 1980, they propose to take a vast amount more of our land and this time they will be taking our home. This expansion by the Air Force will be the first time families will have to be moved and this will mean that four families will have to leave.

We have not, through all the years, made any complaint against the Air Force concerning the bombing range. We continued our ranching as best we could and let the Air Force do their thing.

You cannot blame us now for thinking it seems a bit unfair for the Air Force, in proposing another expansion, not taking the initiative to secure Federally owned land for the vast expansion rather than to continue taking privately owned land from American citizens, particularly when the Constitution of the United States sets aside Federal lands to be used in the best interest of the people, especially for use in National Defense.

The use of Federal lands, for a new bombing range, would likely cause less environmental impact than expanding the existing range.

So, in the best interest of the people, and national defense, we sincerely hope that the relocation of the Melrose Bombing Range, at another geographical location, as mentioned in one of the recent Air Force news releases, will occur.

Thank you.

Mrs. H. H. Davis

Mrs. H. H. Davis
North Star Rt.
Elida, New Mexico 88116

(The above impact statement was presented at the Air Force Scoping meeting at Melrose, New Mexico, June 24, 1980)

June 1st.1984

Enviromental Planning
Attn:Mr.Shotton
HQ.TAC/DEEV
Langley,AFB,VA.23665

Dear Mr.Shotton,

I am writing to protest the further expansion of the Melrose bombing range. We do hope you will use your influence to save the millions of dollars in procuring these lands. We have so much land that the government already owns in Neveda and other desert areas, it seems questionable both envrionmentally and financially to take the land in question as well as tresspassing on the rights of the private land owners.

Enclosed please find a copy of the impact fact sheet for you further information.

thank you for your attention in this matter.

Vickie L.Brown
1040 W.Grand-Ave.#116
Porterville,CA.93257

Vickie L. Brown

MELROSE BOMBING RANGE PROPOSED EXPANSION FACTS & INFORMATION

The U. S. Air Force proposed, in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980, to triple the size of the Melrose Bombing Range which is located southwest of Melrose, NM, that being northwest of Portales, New Mexico, in Roosevelt County. This will be the third time they have acquired land. They want to add 52,227 acres more to the present range of 22,043 acres. The proposed expansion consists of approximately 75% privately owned land and 25% State owned land.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION

LAND. The expansion includes good farming and prime ranch land.
The addition will take land from third and fourth generation families.
Over 35 landowners are involved and at least six families will be forced to move from their homes.
There are twenty-four irrigation circles within the proposed expansion.
The expansion will be 'splitting up' most ranches, reducing productivity.

TAXES. Property tax to Roosevelt County will be cut.
Roosevelt General Hospital tax levy will be cut.
Reduces the future bonding capacity of Roosevelt County.
Present bond indebtedness, of the Floyd School District, will be interrupted and thus place an extra burden on the remaining property owners.
Reduces the future bonding capacity for the Floyd School System.
The expansion will take State Trust Lands which contribute money to public schools and universities.

OIL. The expansion includes 52,227 acres which is known as Class I Area for future oil and gas resources.
Two natural gas wells are within a short distance of the range.
New producing oil wells, to the southeast, continue to locate closer, moving towards, the Melrose Bombing Range.
Oil leasing is very active in this area and includes leasing and seismographing within the proposed expansion property.
One wildcat well, near the expansion boundry, contained sand tars.

OBSTRUCTIONS: Two county roads, ten miles of pavement, will have to be re-routed.
The U.S. North Star Mail Route, out of Elida, NM, will be interrupted.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop's system will be interrupted.
The expansion will interrupt the gas distribution pipe line of the Eastern New Mexico Gas Ass'n which runs from Ft. Sumner, NM to Portales, NM.
Possibility of relocating the Benson Cemetery which lies within the area.

CONCERNS: The security of land to be inherited by our children.
Effect on the golden eagles that nest in the expansion area.
Do we honestly think this will be the last expansion in Roosevelt County?
Allowance for inflation factor, land value increase, interest on money and credit, if land is condemned.
Overlooking an oil and gas resource area for our National Defense?
Neglecting to use Federal Land for the expansion as NM has 34% Federal Land.
How does this expansion compare with the Air Force's alternative plan of another location, as given in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980?
Attitude of youth about America when the Federal Government takes private land, for questionable expansions, when Federal Land is accessible?
Taking one-fourth of the land away from the Floyd School District?
Interrupt NM Boys Ranch plans for a satellite program, at the historic Hart Ranch, for 24 needy boys.
No restriction of 'air space' exists now, for the aircraft to maneuver safely and properly in their training exercises at the MSR?
Would purchasing 52,227 acres, for this expansion, be wise defense spending?

Dr. Phillip H. Shelley, PhD
812 E. Elbe
Portales, NM 88130

5/25/84

Enviornmental Planning
ATTN: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton,

I have the following comments on Section 3.7 of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range, New Mexico. This section of the EIS deals with the identification and evaluation of archaeological and cultural resources on the current Melrose Range.

As a professional archaeologist with over 15 years experience in the Southwest, I am appalled by the lack of quality and minimal professionalism exhibited in this section of the report. For the following reasons, I feel that any statements regarding archaeological and cultural resources in the area should be considered inadequate.

1. "Twenty cultural sites were identified in the 10% area survey" (page 27, paragraph 4, line 2, Melrose EIS). A basic premise of sampling surveys whether they are political, economic, or archaeological, is that in order to make statements concerning the sample universe (ie. the Range in this case), a representative sample must be drawn in accordance with probability theory. If this premise is not adhered to there is no way of determining the reliability of the sample. This is a particularly accute problem in archaeological surveys because humans, like all mammals never have been, nor are today, distributed evenly across the landscape. Factors such as the availability of water, fuel, food, and other necessary resources affected decisions concerning human use of the area. In addition, historic factors such as plowing, grazing, collecting, construction activities, natural patterns of erosion and deposition severely affect the ability of archaeologists to identify prehistoric resources. The statement concerning sampling of the existing range in section 3.7 of the EIS says nothing which would insure the reader that this survey was in fact a non-biased, representative, sample of the range. Nor is there anything within the document that demonstrates that the area surveyed is any way representative of the area which would be impacted by the proposed expansion.

2. If we set the sampling problems aside, I would doubt the reliability of the survey on substantive grounds. The extant range and the proposed expansion include areas traversed by the prehistoric course of the now extinct Brazos River, as well as numerous playas and springs. These concentrations of water created situations of ecological diversity which were exploited by prehistoric inhabitants of the Southern High Plains. This is indicated by the number of known significant sites located along this and other such drainages (ie. Blackwater Draw, Lubbock Lake, and Plainview Sites). In a recent review of Southern High Plains Archaeology, T. Stafford stresses this point when he states:

> Geologic studies have shown that three alluviated valleys crossing the Llano Estacado contain rich archaeological deposits. Fluvial, lacustrine, and marsh environments were principal attractions for large number of animals and humans. Yellowhouse and Blackwater Draws have an

extensive series of paleo-Indian and Ceramic/Historic sites. The few alluvial sites already excavated, such as Blackwater No.1, Plainview, and Lubbock Lake, portend the archaeological wealth for unexplored valley segements (Thomas Stafford, Alluvial Geology and Archaeological Potential of the Texas Southern High Plains, American Antiquity Vol. 48, No. 3, p. 563).

Sites in such situations are relatively difficult to identify as they are quite frequently buried and exhibit little artifactual material on the surface. These problems can be dealt with by an archaeologist who is familar with the archaeology and geomorphology of the area, which brings me to my third criticisim of the report.

3. The use of terms relating to the greater Southwest cultures (ie. "Picosa or Basketmaker", EIS p. 23) serves to underscore the lack of familiarty of the investigators with the area. These terms and associated concepts are not appropriate for the Southern High Plains. Most professional archaeologists recognize that the culture history of this area (as mentioned in the EIS) is in fact peripheral to major Southwest cultures. Both Picosa and Basketmaker are Archaic antecedents of the Anasazi of the 4-corners region and are meaningless in this context. In addition, there is no mention of expected ceramic age sites in the EIS, however numerous archaeological reports as far back as the 1940s note the presence of such sites west, east, and south of the range.

In conclusion, it is my professional opinion that given the questions of sampling, the geomorphic setting of the area, and the obvious lack of familiarty with the area indicated by the investigators that the EIS statements concerning the archaeological and cultural resources of the Melrose Range are worthless. Before the EIS is accepted I would recommend a scientifically structured archaeological survey of the area, taking geomorphological variation into consideration, be carried out by professionals familar with the Southern High Plains.

Sincerely,

Phillip H. Shelley, PhD

xc: Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Joe Skeen
Tom Merlin, SHPO
Melrose Bombing Range Landowners and Operators

May 31, 1984

To: Environmetal Planning Headquarters
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and to: President Ronald Reagan
Senator Jake Garn
Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingamon
Senator William Proxmire
Representative Joe SKeen
Representative Dan Marriot
Representative Bill Richardson
Representative Manuel Lujan
Representative James Hansen
Representative Howard Nielson
Secretary Department of Defense Casper Weinberger
Secretary Of Interior William Clark
Attn: Carol Hallett
Western Region Special Asst.

Subject: Proposed Expansion of the Melrose, NM Bombing Range

In the Federal Register dated 9 June 1980 regarding the acquisition of additional acreage to expand the Melrose Bombing Range for the third time, the Air Force openly acknowledged that they have alternate plans other than spending millions to disrupt families, telephone, electric, gas pipe lines, roads, mail service, a cemetery, tax base, school districts, ruining productive farm and cattle ranch land, and stopping future gas and oil exploraton in a class I area, plus other factors.

These alternatives include closing the Melrose Bombing range and conducting training on other Air Force or other military service ranges, such as Lon-Mesa. The Federal Government now owns 34% of the land in New Mexico.

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County, New Mexico, I am violently opposed to take over of this land. Such owners were not notified of this proposed expansion nor were the oil companies who hold leases on much or all of this land. I sent a letter to all addressees on 12 April 1984. No ~~mention was made in the Environmental Impact Statement about oil and gas potential in this Class I area~~.

107 I feel this proposal needs an up-to-date Environmental Inpact Study, it should be dated, and a closer study by the FAA before they give their approval. 107

In this day of huge Federal deficits, I do not see how this proposal can conscientiously be approved in light of the fact there are other areas which can be used at much less cost and now Federally owned.

108 This attempted takeover by the Air Force tramples citizens' rights and flouts civilan control of the Armed Services. It is not in compliance with the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act. The FAA suggests getting water from other sources. Apparently they do not know how precious water is in New Mexico and that this part of Eastern New Mexico would eventually be a desert. 108

I urge all addressees to use your influence to stop this outrage. Public comment period is through 30 June 1984 and a public meeting will be held 6 June 1984 at 7:00 p.m. at Floyd, NM in the High School auditorium.

Margaret Greathouse Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem, Utah 84059

Sadie M Greathouse. (Age 95)
1405 Willow Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

May 31, 1984

To: Chairman, Public Hearing, Floyd, NM

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose, NM, Bombing Range

The purpose of this letter is to go on record officially to protest the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

In the Federal Register dated 9 June 1980 the Air Force openly admitted they have alternative plans other than spending millions to disrupt families, telephone, electric and gas lines, roads, mail services, a cemetary, tax base, school districts, Boys Ranch, ruining productive farm and ranch land and robbing mineral rights owners of any potential gain. The land they propose to take is choice range and farm land and class I area for future gas and oil development.

Alternative plans include closing the Melrose Range and using other Air Force or other militry service ranges, such as Lon-Mesa. The Federal Government now owns 34% of the land in New Mexico.

The I. R. Greathouse family homesteaded in Roosevelt County in 1907, maintaining the Greathouse Ranch until it was sold in 1958 with mineral rights retained for heirs of the original owners. The Air Force did not notify mineral rights owners of their proposed action nor were the oil companies who have leases on much or all of this land.

Since other suitable Government facilities are available to the Air Force, it seems unnecessary to add to the huge Federal budget deficit by expanding this facility at great cost to the Government and the people who are affected.

I sincerely urge the Air Force to use other facilities.

Margaret G Wagner
Margaret Greathouse Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem, Utah 84058

M Wagner
for Sadie M Greathouse, (Age 95)
1405 Willow Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

✓ copy: Environmental Planning Hq.
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

25 Jan. 1984

To: Environmental Planning Headquarters
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley A.F.B., VA 23665

And to: President Ronald Reagan
Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger
Secretary of Interior, William Clark
Attn: Carol Hallett
Western Regional Asst.

Senator Jake Garn	Repr. Joe Skeen
Senator Orrin G. Hatch	Repr. Bill Richardson
Senator Pete Domenici	Repr. Manuel Lujan
Senator Jeff Bingaman	Repr. Howard Nielson
	Repr. James Hansen

Subj: Expansion of the Melrose, N.M., Bombing Range

The purpose of this letter is to protest the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as proposed by the Air Force.

Enclosed is an article regarding the United Nations report on the rapid spread of deserts into millions of acres of once-productive farm and range lands.

This report emphasizes one of the points owners of land and owners of mineral rights have been trying to make in their objections to expanding the Melrose, N.M., Bombing Range. My previous letters have objected to ruining productive farm and ranch lands, robbing mineral rights owners, plus many other factors.

In this time of huge Federal deficits I do not see how the Government can justify the expenditure of millions of dollars, destruction of choice range and farm land, lowering the tax base, and stopping future oil and gas exploration in a Class I Area, when Federally owned facilities are available. See Federal Register dated 9 June 1980 in which the Air Force openly admits alternate courses are available.

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County, N.M., I again urge all addressees to use your influence to stop this outrage.

Thank you

Margaret Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem, Utah 84058

and

for Sadie M. Greathouse (age 95)
1405 Willow Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Encl: United Nations Report on Desertification

U.N. Report Says Nations Doing Little To Halt Deserts, 'Harvest of Dust'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Nations of the world are doing little to halt the "harvest of dust" caused by the rapid spread of deserts into millions of acres of once-productive farm and rangeland, the United Nations reports.

Warning that drought is not the root cause of desert expansion around the globe, a U. N. Environment Program report concludes drastic measures are needed to attack the principal causes — bad farming and grazing practices, improper irrigation and forest destruction.

The United Nations made the alarming assessment after two years of research that was reported to a little-noticed international conference last month in Nairobi, Kenya, on the growing threat of "desertification" — the conversion of productive land into arid desert.

Estimates Total

"We have found that a total of 3.475 billion hectares [8.6 billion acres] of the world's range, rain-fed cropland and irrigated land — an area approximately the size of North and South America combined — is affected by desertification," wrote Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the U. N. Environment Program.

Tolba's report, "Harvest of Dust," found that each year, 51.9 million acres on the planet are "reduced to a state of near or complete uselessness."

While desert expansion is most severe in Third World nations of Africa and Asia, the study said the problem is cropping up in industrialized nations, including the United States, the Soviet Union and Australia.

The Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based research organization, reported this year in a book-length study of global resource trends that overgrazing by cattle, sheep and goats is a major cause of desertification.

Worldwatch cited U.S. government statistics showing a third of U. S rangeland, outside of Alaska, is in "poor condition" and another third is in "fair condition."

Assesses Problem

The U.N. Environment Program's research was done to assess the state of the problem since the agency drew up an international "action plan" in 1977 — agreed to by 94 nations — to combat the spread of deserts.

The study acknowledged drought worsens the spread of deserts, but cited the main causes as "human over-exploitation of lands through over-cultivation, overgrazing, poor irrigation practices and deforestation."

Tolba noted that nations have contributed less than $50,000 to a U. N. account that funds the "action plan" to attack desertification. Against that sum, the United Nations estimates mankind must spend a total of $90 billion during the next 20 years to stop the spread of deserts.

"If this seems like a great deal it should be balanced with the U. N.'s 1980 estimate which put the annual cost of agricultural production from land lost through desertification at $26 billion," said Tolba.

The report also warned of a link between desertification and the urban problems of poor nations.

"Loss of land productivity has forced villagers into the towns," it said.

12A The Salt Lake Tribune Monday, June 4, 1984

30 April 1984

Commanding Officer
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotter
Langley A.F.B. VA 23665

Sub: Proposed expansion of Melrose
N.M. Bombing Range

On 9 April 1984 I wrote requesting a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement regarding subject expansion. I have not received this information. Please forward a copy.

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County New Mexico, I am deeply concerned in protecting my rights. Also please send a copy of the letter of instruction regarding persons to contact regarding

this expansion.
Thank you.

Margaret Gaethen Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem Utah 84058

Copy to Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Orrin Hatch

Action copy to
Air & Public Affairs Office
27th TFW/PA
Attn Capt Compton
Cannon AFB N. M 88102

12 April 1984

Environmental Planning Hq.
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665
Subj: Proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County, I am bitterly opposed to the theft of land by the Air Force without notification or consideration of the owners of such rights. Especially when the Government now owns thousands and thousands of suitable acres of land, making it entirely unnecessary to expend untold sums of money to rout ranchers and landowners for subject expansion.

The Air Force has an alternate plan, as presented in the Federal Register of 9 June 1980; to continue using the present range; closing the Melrose Range; and conducting training on other military ranges.

Should the Air Force confiscate this land, we are robbed of any potential gain from ownership of mineral rights. The land they propose to take is choice range and farm land, class 1 area for future oil and gas resources. Also, this action is not in compliance with the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

I see no point in destroying tax base, rerouting mail, roads, relocating a cemetery and disrupting telephone and gas distribution lines when a better alternative has been suggested. The Government owns far too much land now in the Western States.

The I.R. Greathouse family homesteaded in Roosevelt County in 1907, maintaining the Greathouse Ranch until it was sold in 1958 with mineral rights retained for heirs of the original owners.

I would appreciate your checking into this matter and using your influence to stop this outrage, by use of existing facilities by the Air Force.

I am sending copies of this letter as indicated below.

Thank you.

Margaret H Wagner

Margaret Greathouse Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem, Utah 84058

President Ronald Reagan
Senator Jake Garn
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingamon
Representative Joe Skeen
Representative Bill Richardson
Representative Dan Marriot
Representative Manuel Lujan
Representative James Hansen
Representative Howard Nielson
Secretary of Interior William Clark
Attn: Carol Hallelt,
Western Region Special Assistant
National Enquirer Inc., Lantana, Fla 33464

June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEWV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton,

This letter is in response to the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. I would like to go on record as being opposed to the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range.

After careful study of this DEIS, I have found the Air Force totally biased in the examination of the socio-economic impacts resulting from their proposed expansion. I believe this DEIS is a failure because of:

1. lack of adequate criteria for proper evaluation of the area,
2. non-compliance with the intent of the law, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),
3. disregard for the Class I mineral resources underlying the Melrose area,
4. lack of consideration for alternative sites.

It is evident that your research was superficially conducted in order to justify the proposed expansion of the bombing range and minimally comply with NEPA regulations. I received a copy of your cover letter with the DEIS you sent me. The letter was dated March 5, while I received the DEIS on May 29. The letter gave no indication of when public comment was due, and it failed to mention that the 45-day limit has been extended.

Your comments on alternative sites are so brief that it seems obvious that they were included only because NEPA requires it. The federally owned Lon-Mesa alternative should be more seriously investigated. Since most of the Lon-Mesa area is public land, conflicts over mineral resources, farmland, and ranchland will be avoided.

Other research in this DEIS, such as the impact to existing privately-held mineral rights, was poorly conducted. The methods for exploring and evaluating the class I gas and oil resources were outdated and insufficient.

I feel that the superficial compliance with NEPA regulations is a discredit to the Air Force. The proposal for expansion of the Melrose Range should be dismissed.

Sincerely,

Monica Nichols

Monica Nichols
780 Tidwell Road
Alpharetta, Georgia 30201

June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and Col. Kenneth Ratcliff, USAF, Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: DEIS, Melrose Bombing Range Proposed Expansion

First, let me say that I am for a strong defense of America. While I may not be qualified about the serious need to expand the present 22,120 Acre Melrose Bombing Range, I am qualified on the adverse economic impact the expansion will have on the Floyd school and even on the lives of people in the Floyd area. I would honor the Air Force's alternatives they gave in the original announcement in the Federal Register, June 9, 1980.

If the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range is accomplished, the Floyd School will be unable to continue under that type of economic stress. The School has already suffered in growth and revenue from the existing range. 117

The vast amount of land the Air Force is asking for would be ten times the size as the size of their original range. It would mean taking good agriculture land, both range land and farming, some of which is irrigated. It would mean the loss of potential oil and gas resource area which could furnish revenue to the entire State of New Mexico. 118

Oil companies presently hold many oil and gas leases in Western Roosevelt County, some of which are even in the proposed expansion area. The individual quoted in the DEIS was not the authority, at least should [redacted] not have been the only source, regarding the evaluation of the oil and gas projections, and was to my knowledge not connected with any company or agency. The Bureau of Mines and Minerals, at Socorro, NM and the large leasing firms should have been used for the reference material concerning the potential of oil and gas in Western Roosevelt County. This will be a great economic source to the entire State. The are two gas wells west of the present bombing range waiting for future development of additional wells in that immediate area. 119

It would be tragic for the Floyd School to close as it is one of the first rural consolidated schools in the nation. The consolidation was subject of a landmark decision, in the courts, confirming the legality of tax money being used for transportation of children to school. 120

If a larger bombing range is essential to the training program of Cannon Air Force Base, there is a site referred to in the EIS. It is indicated it well could be a desirable site and would be very little, if any more, flight time from the base to the range. It is even, either in or extremely close to the Military Operation Area that the planes from CAAB presently are using. As described 121

in the DEIS, this area is 75% Federally owned, 20% State-owned, and 5% privately-owned. Perhaps the State Land Commissioner would be agreeable to trade that State-owned land for some of the acreage at the present Melrose Bombing Range and help both parties. This alternate site known as LON-MESA area would even provide ample expansion in the future if the Air Force needed a larger site then.

My prediction that the 54,496 Acre (DEIS figure) expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range would cause the Floyd School to close is made from my knowlege of the distribution formula of school funds in New Mexico. I was a member of the State Senate for 20 years and was chairman of the Education Committee for about half of that time. I was sponsor of the legislation creating the School Study Committee. I was chairman of the committee during the process of creating the distribution formula.

When a school declines in enrollment below a certain level it reaches a point where it can no longer make a viable budget. The expansion of the Melrose Range would be certain to contribute to such a decline. Monetary compensation alone cannot substain a good school.

We just think it is unnecessary to make the expansion at the expense of the Floyd Consolidated Schools.

It is my hope that a serious look at several alternatives be looked at before the final decision on MBR is too hurriedly made.

Respectively yours,

R. C. "Ike" Morgan
1311 West 17th Lane
Portales, New Mexico 88130

cc: All the New Mexico Congressional Delegation

June 1st.1984

Enviromental Planning
Attn:Mr.Shotton
HQ.TAC/DEEV
Langley,AFB,VA.23665

Dear Mr.Shotton,

I am writing to protest the [illegible] of the Fallon bombing range. I do not [illegible] use your influence to [illegible] in procuring these lands. [illegible] the government already owns in Nevada and other desert areas, it seems [illegible] and financially to take the land in Fallon as well as trespassing on the rights of the private land owners.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Sierra Club fact sheet for your further information.

[illegible]

David W. Beers
[illegible]
0536 [illegible] Hwy #10
Coos Bay, OR
97420

MELROSE BOMBING RANGE PROPOSED EXPANSION FACTS & INFORMATION

The U. S. Air Force proposed, in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980, to triple the size of the Melrose Bombing Range which is located southwest of Melrose, NM, that being northwest of Portales, New Mexico, in Roosevelt County. This will be the third time they have acquired land. They want to add 52,227 acres more to the present range of 22,043 acres. The proposed expansion consists of approximately 75% privately owned land and 25% State owned land.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION

LAND: The expansion includes good farming and prime ranch land.
The addition will take land from third and fourth generation families.
Over 35 landowners are involved and at least six families will be forced to move from their homes.
There are twenty-four irrigation circles within the proposed expansion.
The expansion will be 'splitting up' most ranches, reducing productivity.

TAXES. Property tax to Roosevelt County will be cut.
Roosevelt General Hospital tax levy will be cut.
Reduces the future bonding capacity of Roosevelt County.
Present bond indebtedness, of the Floyd School District, will be interrupted and thus place an extra burden on the remaining property owners.
Reduces the future bonding capacity for the Floyd School System.
The expansion will take State Trust Lands which contribute money to public schools and universities.

OIL. The expansion includes 52,227 acres which is known as Class I Area for future oil and gas resources.
Two natural gas wells are within a short distance of the range.
New producing oil wells, to the southeast, continue to locate closer, moving towards, the Melrose Bombing Range.
Oil leasing is very active in this area and includes leasing and seismographing within the proposed expansion property.
One wildcat well, near the expansion boundry, contained sand tars.

OBSTRUCTIONS: Two county roads, ten miles of pavement, will have to be re-routed.
The U.S. North Star Mail Route, out of Elida, NM, will be interrupted.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop's system will be interrupted.
The expansion will interrupt the gas distribution pipe line of the Eastern New Mexico Gas Ass'n which runs from Ft. Sumner, NM to Portales, NM.
Possibility of relocating the Benson Cemetery which lies within the area.

CONCERNS: The security of land to be inherited by our children.
Effect on the golden eagles that nest in the expansion area.
Do we honestly think this will be the last expansion in Roosevelt County?
Allowance for inflation factor, land value increase, interest on money and credit, if land is condemned.
Overlooking an oil and gas resource area for our National Defense?
Neglecting to use Federal Land for the expansion as NM has 34% Federal Land.
How does this expansion compare with the Air Force's alternative plan of another location, as given in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980?
Attitude of youth about America when the Federal Government takes private land, for questionable expansions, when Federal Land is accessible?
Taking one-fourth of the land away from the Floyd School District?
Interrupt NM Boys Ranch plans for a satellite program, at the historic Hart Ranch, for 24 needy boys.
No restriction of 'air space' exists now, for the aircraft to maneuver safely and properly in their training exercises at the MSR?
Would purchasing 52,227 acres, for this expansion, be 'wise defense spending?'

7 May 1984

Environmental Planning HQ
TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665
Attn: Mr. Lewis R. Shotten

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Expansion of Melrose Air Force Bombing Range

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Bombing Range. While expansion of the training facilities is undoubtedly needed, the method by which the decision to expand the existing range was reached is seriously deficient. The premature abandonment of a preferable alternative resulted in misdirection of the entire expansion program. Several important objections to expansion of the existing range were overlooked or dismissed. Elimination of water sources is erroneously assumed to be able to be corrected by simple transfer of water rights. Acquisition of part of the holdings of a rancher is assumed not to affect the remainder. This paper will show that:

1) abandonment of the LON-MESA alternative was a poor decision, and that the decision was not based on appropriate criteria;
2) the environmental effects of shutting down irrigation wells have not been properly assessed;
3) the public interest has been disregarded in choosing the proposed alternative;
4) that the LON-MESA alternative in a modified form should be reconsidered for reasons of cost, improved training, and lessened environmental impact.

Subject Impact Statement (EIS) proposes and purports to make a case for expansion of the existing Melrose Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range. The need for expanded area for targeting of simulated nuclear and conventional air-to-surface weapons is clearly demonstrated. Advanced technology has overwhelmed the current range, and training opportunities are being severely limited. Two primary sites received major consideration for the proposed expansion of facilities:

1) Expansion of the current facility, and
2) a second site referred to as LON-MESA.

Of the two, the site at LON-MESA is demonstrably the better training site, inasmuch as fewer limitations on maneuver and approach would be levied on aircraft; additionally, the site could be immediately expanded to four times the area without impact on surrounding lands, because of the paucity of

development in the area. The reason given for eliminating the LON-MESA area from consideration, and going ahead with expansion of the Melrose Range, is a letter from the Director, Air Route Traffic Control Center, Albuquerque. The letter, dated 24 June 1981, is a response to a letter from Commander,27th Tactical Fighter Wing, dated 12 June 81; Subject, Relocation of Melrose Bombing Range. That letter is not included, so that we do not know what information was given to the Federal Aviation Authority as to the consequences of an adverse report. We do know that the FAA frequently changes air traffic routes if good reason is given for the change request. In this case, the matter was not pursued. The FAA statement that the routes could not be relocated was taken to be sufficient reason to drop the investigation of this alternative.

The letter from the FAA states in part: "The proposed LON-MESA site would completely block V68-V83 and V68-V83E.....realignment completely out of the question...existing BEAK A and PECOS MOAs." In the next paragraph, it goes on: "..close proximity to Roswell..complexity of departures proceeding to northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast." The complete letter is on Page D-53, Ref #24 of the Draft EIS, and is the sole reason given for abandoning the possible use of LON-MESA.

A casual reading of the draft EIS shows disregard for any impact on the people who would have their property taken because of this second round of expansion of Melrose Bombing Range. Closer scrutiny of the documents indicates a lack of understanding of the environment of the lands to be taken; the statements made about rebuilding the water resource are laughable to anyone who has spent any time in that area. The EIS proposes shutting down 24 irrigation wells in an area where development is dictated by the availability of water. The effect of this lengthy and poorly researched program will be to convert productive land to its previous arid state, taking years to replace the native grasses. The economic impact will be to eliminate a key part of the interlocking ecology of the ranches of which the irrigated and inhabited part is an irreplaceable central feature. Without the watered portion, the dry portion cannot support cattle year round; without people in attendance, the area will revert to sandhills like those to the north and east of the range, where the land was similarly abandoned after having been plowed--at least 50 years ago. The lesson is plain, to those who will try to understand it.

To remove the water from land in the Llano Estacado is to remove useful life from it. To shut off the water from the land without compensating the rancher for the full market value of his entire holdings forces him to give up the remainder without compensation anywhere near its former value. The suggestion is made that "the Air Force could relinquish its acquired water rights"...."Construction of new wells outside of the proposed range boundary may be a means of replacing lost water sources." These statements show an abysmal ignorance of the facts of life and the ecological fabric of the Llano Estacado. If more water sources were available, they would already have been developed. This is in a fringe area of the Oglalla Reservoir, and the likelihood of finding replacement water is extremely small. A number of the offices solicited in the original fact-finding attempted to outline the value of these areas. Their reasoned statements apparently did not carry the force of the one line in the FAA letter: "...out of the question to realign..". Without pursuing the matter further, the decision was made to triple the area of the Melrose Range for the second time, casting aside the primarily government-owned LON-MESA area on the West side of the Pecos Military Operating Area (MOA).

To further strain credulity, we are asked to believe the FAA letter's statement that airliners descending on a tangential route 50 miles away at closest point of approach would be inconvenienced by military traffic in the PECOS MOA. If the civilian pilots on V-278 who must now go around R-5104 A and R-5105 to get from Clovis or Texico to Albuquerque and points west are not overly concerned by the 5 mile CPA, then why should an airliner descending into Roswell be concerned about practice tactical munitions 50 miles away? Similarly, when I think of the noise-abatement contortions undergone by traffic flying out of Washington National Airport, and compare that to the FAA concern (Ref 24, para. 2) for the complicated procedures required to take off and proceed on 308 degrees to miss an operating area bearing 315 degrees at 50 to 60 miles, I have the feeling that part of the story is missing. "eight families to be relocated.." A total of 77,000 acres taken out of production. "..The gas pipeline..will be severed and abandoned in place....electricity...phone lines..severed and abandoned in place..". All this because the FAA said "out of the question..all users of that airspace would be inconvenienced..". The identity of those users who would be inconvenienced remains a mystery if we do not pursue the question, because the EIS drops the matter, and in fact only considered the expansion of the Melrose Range from that point forward.(EIS, page 8)

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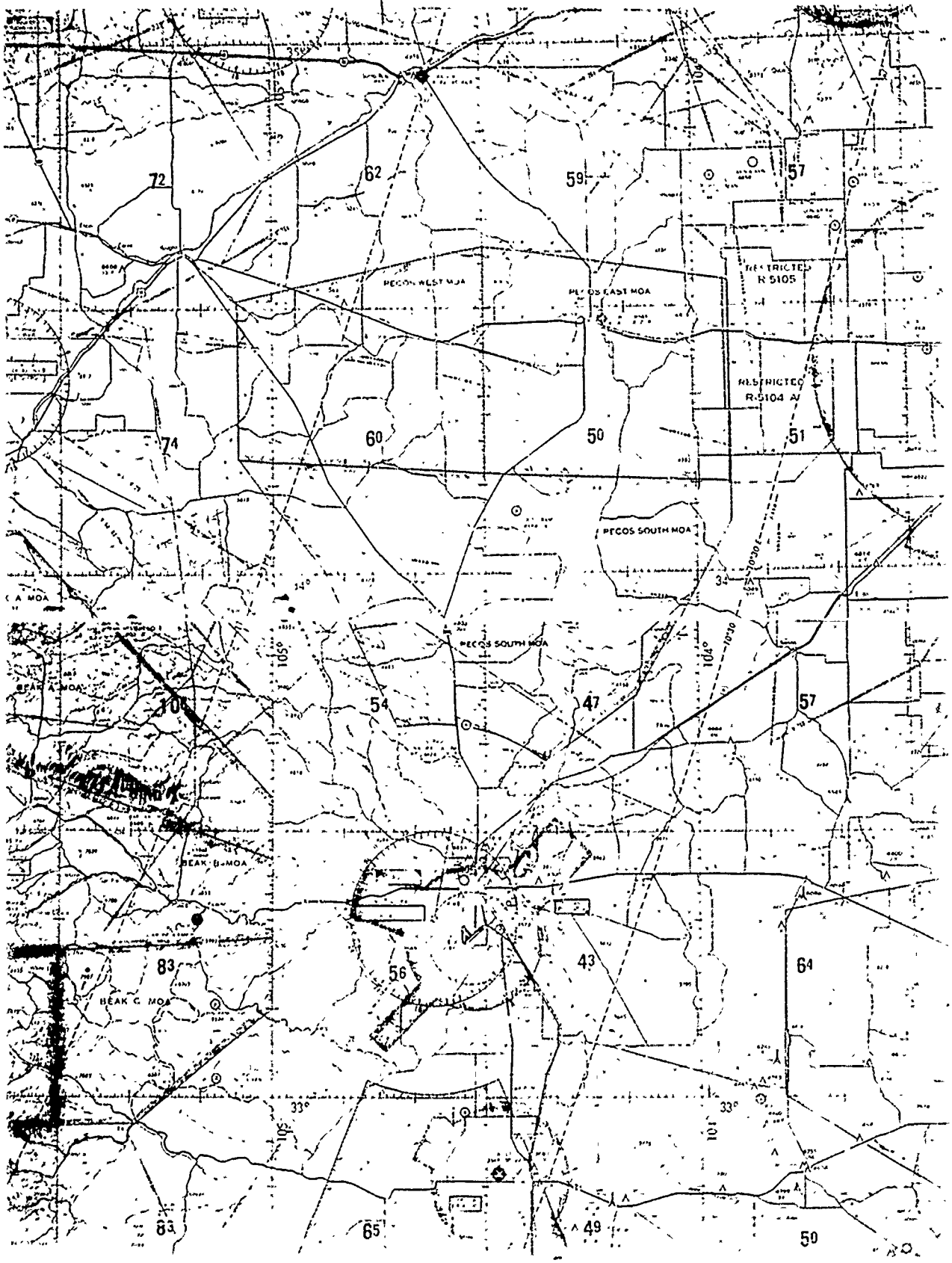

SECTIONAL AERONAUTICAL CHART
SCALE 1:500,000

The relocation of R-5104 and R-5105 to a site between MESA and Corona (LON is not shown on current flight charts) would entail moving the range from the Eastern, populated and developed, side of the Pecos East MOA to the Western side of the contiguous Pecos West MOA. This unpopulated, primarily government-owned land, and Air-Force (Cannon AFB)-controlled air-space is currently in use for training pilots, and is the PECOS MOA indicated by the FAA in its response to the 1981 letter. If we are to believe the EIS, it is preferable to expand an already crowded Melrose Bombing Range by moving out families and abandoning developed land rather than inconvenience the "users of that airspace..." i.e., the Air Force pilots who may be training in the PECOS MOA using Instrument Route(IR) 113 or IR-133, which wander through the area without defined origin or destination, and which are subject to change every 56 days.

The LON-MESA site is 90 miles from CANNON AFB, and is thus well within the 250 nm radius stated to be appropriate for training. It is wasteland for all practical purposes, owned 75% by the U. S. Government, 20% by the State of New Mexico, and 5% private ownership. If it had any water resources, it would be developed. No adverse impact was found on hunting or wildlife. Only those mysterious acronyms for air traffic routes kept this site from being selected, because the cost of acquisition is lower, the environmental impact is less, the potential for future bombing range expansion is higher, and the area is free from flight restrictions. The Routes affected are "V68-V83 and V68-V83E." The study is out of date now, because it appears that V68-V83E no longer exists, and V291 is in the place where one assumes V68-V83E must have been when the study was made. Of course the Air Force would not know that, since the study of that site was abandoned in 1981. If one asked the same question now,--and the EIS neglects to tell us what question was asked; the reference line of Ref #24 indicates that a letter was sent to the ARTCC in Albuquerque on 6/12/81--the answer might be different. The FAA is required to coordinate the use of air space by civilian craft with the restrictions imposed by the military use of adjacent air space. The FAA letter indicates that closure of the space between two military Operating Areas(MOAs)--BEAR A, and PECOS--is out of the question. What it does not indicate is the fact that the Bombing Range could be relocated to a few miles north of the choke point, and not disturb any existing civilian airways. V264 cuts across the northwest corner of the 20 mile buffer zone; V 291 is south of the buffer about three miles, and the main route between Roswell and Albuquerque is 8 to 15 miles south of the proposed buffer zone.

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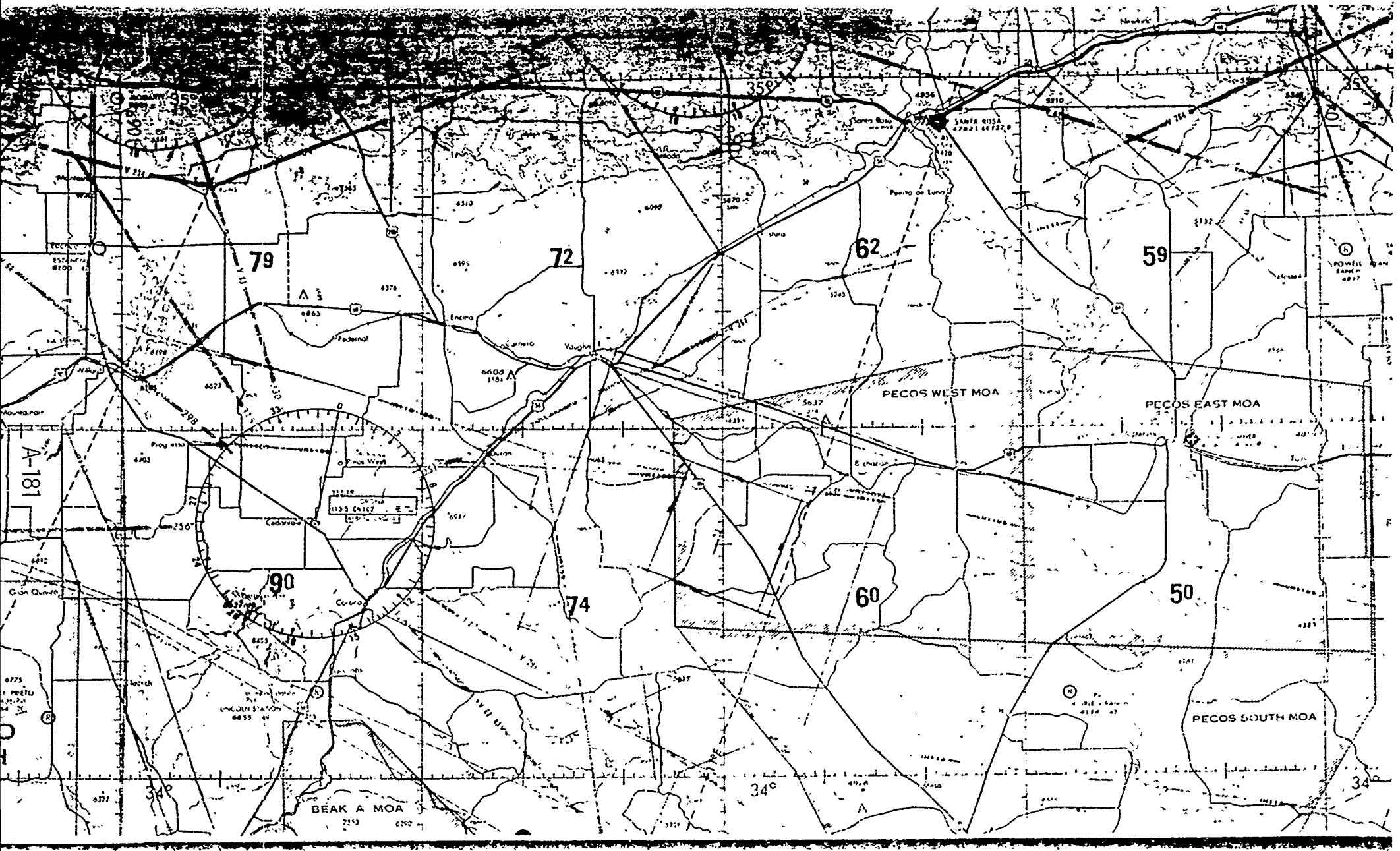
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PECOS WEST MOA
PECOS EAST MOA
PECOS SOUTH MOA
BEAK A MOA
A-181
Vaughn
Encino
Portales
Roswell
Lincoln Station
Caprock
Puerto de Luna
Santa Rosa
35°
34°

The land on the West side of Pecos MOA is primarily government-owned, and its acquisition would be very nearly cost free. The EIS tells us that there is a problem with overflying populated areas at low level. The PECOS West MOA has no problem with population--it is sand scrub, almost totally unpopulated. Even the village of LON appears to have disintegrated, since it is no longer on the flight charts. The R-5104/R-5105 10-mile square impact site can be placed with its border parallel to and at least 17 miles from a direct line between Corona (the Intermediate VORTAC on V 68-83) and Roswell. This places it north of the border of Pecos West MOA and Pecos South MOA, mostly in the PECOS West area, with about half the buffer area lying outside it to the west. The CPA to V291 is about 2 miles from the westernmost extremity of this suggested LON-MESA (redefined) site. This redefined LON-MESA site is open on all sides for at least 30 nm, allowing the desired unrestricted delivery trajectories. It leaves a corridor 17 miles wide between PECOS and BEAK A MOAs for air traffic from Roswell to Albuquerque without realignment of any air traffic routes. The road now in place will be needed for target placement and ingress of range personnel. A replacement road (Vaughn-Roswell) can go around the north side of the impact area. The current Bombing Range area will be available to replace the PECOS MOA area taken for impact range. Presumably the Cannon Air Traffic Control (ATC) can handle the coordination of air traffic required for the training routes inside the MOA, including AR-602, the air-to-air refuelling route the FAA chief was concerned about (Para. 3, Ref. 24). Civilian traffic would be well outside the MOA, as is now the case.

The Air Force was asked by competent authority to reconsider its choice: Governor Bruce King's office of the Department of Finance and Administration (Ref #2) and the Department of Agriculture (Ref #9) both state their objections. If the cursory treatment given the alternatives, and the casual way in which the objections to expansion of the Melrose Range are disregarded is indicative of the regard of the Air Force for the intent of Congress in environmental and socio-political matters, then I will have to abandon my long-held respect for that Service. The manner in which this decision has been taken casts the Air Force in a very poor light.

In conclusion: this Draft EIS subverts the intent of the EIS process. Neither criteria nor weighting factors were stated. Not all affected property owners have been identified and notified. Potentially, use of my property is being denied me; if I did not have relatives in the area, I would not have known that I had lost the potential for development of my mineral rights. No procedure, person, address, or date for submission of comments is provided. Thus, it appears

that the EIS is being used to select some of the facts, dismiss any adverse impact, and support the desired conclusion, eliminating any decisions based on the impact.This makes a mockery of the process, and brings ridicule upon the Air Force. I can only hope this is an isolated instance, and that the decision will be reexeamined, this time with an unbiased and knowledgeable research team with some regard for the human impact of their work.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Russell

Robert E. Russell
135 Skyline Drive
Plano, Texas 75074

CC: Honorable Senator Pete Domenici
Honorable Senator Jeff Bingaman
Representative Joe Skeen
Representative Bill Richardson
Governor Tony Anaya

"Boys and Girls Ranch Depend on Generous Friends"

NEW MEXICO BOYS RANCH and GIRLS RANCH

Boys Ranch, New Mexico 87002
(505) 864-2177 or 865-9780

April 11, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shutton
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shutton,

The New Mexico Boys Ranch was chartered as a non-profit, 24 hour child care facility for abandoned, abused, neglected and orphaned boys in 1944. Since our inception we have experienced much more demand for our services than we have been able to provide. Three years ago in response to public pressure to help more children the Board of Directors expanded our program and facilities to include the New Mexico Girls Ranch near Santa Fe at Lamy, New Mexico, the Hart Youth Ranch near Melrose, New Mexico and Families for Children - an adoption and foster home placement agency in Albuquerque. We now have new dorms under construction at the Girls Ranch and the Hart Youth Ranch. When these new facilities are completed we will be caring for about a hundred children. All our facilities are built and operated without the use of any county, state or federal monies.

Because it has been four years since we have heard directly from the Air Force and the negative response of those contacted since 1980, we felt that the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range was no longer being actively considered. Consequently, in late 1983, the Board of Directors authorized the construction of a $300,000.00 child care facility on the Hart Youth Ranch. In light of our development plans and the conflicting issues addressed in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement I have the following concerns:

1. Safety: when completed the new cottage will become the home of 10 to 12 minor children with later possible expansion to care for up to 24 children. On many occasions I have observed very low flying aircraft passing directly over the area where the new cottage and complimentary livestock and recreation facilities are located. Based on what happened to Alva J. Parker, how much danger are

OFFICERS
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CLOVIS EVANS VICE PRESIDENT
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SUPERINTENDENT
CHARLES GIBSON

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a division of N.M. Boys Ranch Inc.

the children being exposed to from accidents by the increased traffic and/or noise levels?

2. Compensation: one of the primary considerations in building this facility on the Hart Ranch was the concept that much of the cost of caring for the children can be offset by the production and sale of livestock. The ranch as it was received from the Clovis National Bank and the Buela Hart Miller estate only included approximately 5,800 acres. If the Air Force is successful in taking the land indicated in the Environmental Impact Statement it will diminish the ranch even further and consequently seriously reduce its earning capacity to an impractical level.

3. Lease back: I have discussed this possibility with several individuals involved and tried to determine both the possibility and probability of this practice. Even the study seems self contradictory. Will the Air Force guarantee a lease back arrangement prior to settlement? What would be the conditions of the lease? Under what conditions would the lease be cancelled or changed? All of these issues and concerns would have to be addressed before a final decision could be made on the legal resistance to the expansion.

4. Eagles: as you have indicated in your E.I.A. report there are two Golden Eagles that return to nest annually on section 32 of the Hart Youth Ranch. The tree in which the nesting occurs is within view of the old ranch house and new cottage. On many occasions I have personally witnessed along with other members of our staff low flying aircraft fly directly over the nest. The danger to the eagles is not the noise level as indicated. The danger, both to the birds and the pilots is that of a midair collision. I feel the Environmental Protection Agency should pursue the Air Force with the same vigor and resolve that they have pursued the private business and commercial sectors when the safety of Endangered Species are in question. Would the Air Force give written guarantees of restricting the air space over this area?

5. Water: in the production of beef, the distance that cattle are forced to walk to water each day has a direct bearing on production. The two wells that provide water for the western portion of the Hart Youth Ranch are located on land that the Air Force is trying to obtain. The loss of those wells would negatively impact our development plans and production goals.

6. Historical Significance: as indicated on page D-17 of the E.I.A. report, the old ranch house on the Hart Youth Ranch is the oldest inhabited building in Curry County. We have planned from the beginning of our acquisition of the property to convert the old ranch house into a museum and tribute to the Hart Family. Eventhough I do not have scientific proof, I am convinced that the vibration caused from low flying aircraft is contributing to the deterioration of the old structure. I am confident electronic monitoring would either confirm or deny these suspicions.

7. Mineral Deposits: proper consideration must be given to mineral development potential. Oil, gas, carbon dioxide, and potash have all been located in the general vicinity. Also caliche and gravel are produced nearby. The economic impact of mineral development has been the lifeblood of many New Mexico counties, yet it is treated as highly unlikely by the report, a conclusion I don't feel is justified and must be addressed.

8. Relocation Assistance: the financial assistance figures you have quoted on pages 12, 13, and 14 of the E.I.A. report are ridiculously low and outdated. In light of the economic circumstances of the past fourteen years I would like some realistic indication of the true cost and subsequent reimbursement of such expense.

I have tried to limit my concerns to those areas that have the most significant impact on our facility and program. Eventhough I did not address such issues as the impact on the local school system from the loss of students and funding, loss of irrigated farm land, loss of future mineral income to state and county, school district and individuals, or the lack of concern for Archaeological sights, I am still vitally concerned with them. I also want to note that developments on the property of the past two years were not addressed by the report.

In conclusion, I feel the report is heavily slanted toward the concerns of the Air Force and adequate concern has not been given to the individuals, families, corporations, ranches, wildlife, etc. that will be adversely affected by the expansion. Further, adequate financial data is almost nonexistent. What financial compensation will be allowed the families and corporations involved for loss of income, potential mineral income, water rights, mineral rights, homes and other

hard to replace appreciating assets? Adequate consideration must also be given to such depreciation assets as equipment, corrals, windmills, pumps, sprinkler systems, etc. Until these concerns are adequately addressed, we oppose the proposed expansion as presented and ask that alternative "a" be adopted to wit: "continue in the present status and train within the limitations dictated by range size constraints."

Even if the Air Force continues to operate the range under its present size and training schedule, I strongly recommend that the area directly over the Boys Ranch dorm and eagles nest be restricted from low flying aircraft for reasons previously mentioned. 137

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Sincerely yours,

Michael H. Kull
Executive Director

MHK/sa

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
405 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Senator Jeff Bingaman
502 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Rep. Joe Skeen
1007 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Rep. Bill Richardson
1610 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Jack Greathouse
1300 S. Globe
Portales, New Mexico 88130

Alva J. Parker
+ Cross L Bar
East Star Rt., Box 223
Portales, New Mexico 88130
Home Phone
505 359 0990
Ranch Phone
505 478 2298
Ask For Alan Parker

March 16, 1984

Headquarters TAC DEEV
Langley Air Force Base
Va 23665

Mr. Shotton:

I have just finished reading my copy of the Environmental Impact Study that was made due to the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. As a land owner, in the proposed expansion, I need some answers to some questions, or some direction, if you can not answer them.

138 Our Corps of Engineers in the Albuquerque office, tell me the land if taken for the buffer zone, will be leased back to the present owners for grazing purposes. Is this true? Your report says not?

139 Will Roosevelt County, or our school district receive any monies, from any grazing fees that are all ready collected, or to be collected?

140 Also your report says that our electric power lines, and telephone lines will be severed at the boundary lines. What about the people beyond the boundary lines that receive a service from these same existing lines?

Alva J. Parker
T-Cross L Bar
East Star Rt Box 223
Portales, New Mexico 88130

Home Phone
505 359 0990

Ranch Phone
505 [illegible]
Ask For Alva Parker

Our State Constitution, states that if a bonded indebtedness is in force for certain dists in a certain district, it can not be transfered to another district. Would the Air Force pick up, or pay off the bonded indebtedness for our School district?

I would appreciate your reply real soon.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alva J. Parker

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June 2, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and the Public Comment Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: RE: DEIS on the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the Melrose Bombing Range presently located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico, and being a native of that area and owning land and mineral rights that will be taken, in this expansion, and future expansions, I feel that I must make the following comments, ask some serious questions, and express the following concerns:

1. FLOYD SCHOOL: On page twelve (12) of the DEIS 2.21.2 TAX REVENUE LOSS: "Department of Defense facilities do not make payments "in lieu of" taxation, therefore the tax revenue loss would be unmitigated. State action to redefine school districts is one method to assist the Floyd School District, but this would simply spread the revenue loss equally among districts."

143 Is this saying that the Air Force would assist the State in the problem of redistricting the area? Does this mean you have already consulted the State and the School Districts about such plans? Why wasn't the proposed redistricting map not in the DEIS? If redistricting, is one method to solve this problem according to the DEIS, will Floyd School District receive part of the Portales School District? Will the Floyd School District receive part of the Melrose School District? Will the Floyd School District receive part of the Elida School District? If the Melrose School District gives some to Floyd will Melrose receive some of the Clovis School District? If Elida gives some to Floyd will Elida take part of the Dora School District? Just where does the redistricting stop?

144 Is it lawful for another School District to inherit the indebtedness of another school district?

145 Since the Floyd School District voted bonds for their recent school construction will the remaining land owners have to pay more, on their particular land, than they would have originally if land is taken away for the MBR expansion? And what about future bond issues at Floyd if taxable land is taken by the Air Force? This will curtail the bonding capacity of the Floyd School District, would it not?

At the Scoping Meeting, June 24, 1980, Melrose, New Mexico, on the proposed expansion of the MBR, Mr. Wendell Best asked some important questions about the Floyd School District, about the amount of taxable land that will be removed, about the bonding indebtedness, who pays off the existing bonds, "Will this be left in the laps of the remaining people or what will happen here?" Is it true the DEIS did not address this issue? It appears that I must have overlooked as how this issue was addressed after it was called to the attention of the Air Force. Is it true the DEIS did not comply with the CFR 40, Section 1501.7 Scoping especially paragraph (2) "Determine the scope (§1508.25) and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement."? 146 146

According to the Map on page 26, in the DEIS, the County Road going due west of Floyd, New Mexico, to the De Baca County Line or the west side of the Floyd School District, will not be relocated. Thus, this particular road, which is also a school bus road for the Floyd School system will remain in the expansion area, known as a safety buffer zone. It appears that there is a direct conflict of purpose in proposing the expansion. The Air Force desires to enhance the safety of the present MBR, yet the DEIS shows that it is safe for a school bus to travel in the safety buffer zone. Is it true the DEIS does not address this issue? One would believe the boundry of a bombing range should be back one or two miles from any school bus route. Will this be addressed in the final DEIS? Will the County Rd. 25, west of Floyd remain in the buffer zone? The DEIS, page 25, calls this road State Road 252. According to my information State Road 252 runs north and south and is in De Baca County and furthermore not involved in the proposed expansion. (My map references are from the official Roswell Resource Area Map published by the Roswell District BLM, Roswell, NM, and the County Road Map of Roosevelt County, New Mexico) 147 147

Unless some type of redistricting of the Floyd School System is accomplished, to secure both taxable property and maintain the school population, the Floyd School is doomed.

Why should the Air Force destroy a school system when, in their own words in the Federal Register, June 9, 1980, it gives three (3) alternatives rather than making the expansion.

2. MINERAL RIGHTS: On page twenty-nine (29) of the DEIS 4.4: EFFECTS ON THE MINERAL RESOURCES: "The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface mineral rights with any land purchase. This is the intent with respect to the proposed expansion of Melrose Range. The majority of mineral leasing would be on a no-surface-disturbance basis." The DEIS did not explain how can I have access to the potential oil and gas minerals without disturbing the surface when drilling for those resources? This will mean that the 54,496.99 Acre proposed expansion will eliminate the development of a future oil and gas resource area. 148 148

The DEIS, as I understand it, denies me the privilege to explore for oil and gas, let alone drill a well. The Air Force once denied seismographing on the buffer zone of the present MBR. (Reference of this denial was in a letter dated 25 September 1981, Colonel George H. Tissaw, Chief, Real Property Division, Directorate of Engineering and Services, to Rogers Exploration, Inc.) This denial of exploration even hindered exploration of adjacent land to the existing MBR as this particular seismographing project was to go from Roosevelt County into De Baca County to an existing gas well located in eastern De Baca County. The DEIS mentions that slant drilling would require approval from the range commander. If my mineral right is subsurface right only (I own the mineral but not the surface) and is two miles within the new proposed extension boundry, does the DEIS address of how I can have access to oil and gas potential? 147

Is it true the DEIS omitted one important land owners name from the detailed list of land owners, that being the State of New Mexico, State Land Commissioner? Is it true the DEIS omitted, entirely, the names and addresses of the mineral right owners? Is it true the DEIS does not state that the owners of subsurface rights will receive fair compensation for such ownership? 149

3. OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: The DEIS coverage of oil and gas resources is very inadequate and incomplete. A very outstanding example of why I say this is the fact that the Air Force, at CAAB, had in their possession a letter from the State of New Mexico's State Planning Division which gave the following statement; "On the 1974 map, "The Future of New Mexico Oil and Gas Resources," produced by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, we found that this whole region involved is a Class I exploration area for oil and gas." Is it true the DEIS did not have a copy of this map? Is it true that this is in violation of 40 CFR, Section 1501.1 Purpose, paragraph (b) "Emphasizing cooperative consultation among agencies before the environmental impact statement is prepared rather than submission of adversary comments on a completed document."

The future does not look good for the State of New Mexico's energy resources. According to a draft report from the State's Energy and Mineral Department most of the engery resources that generate income for state government in New Mexico will be depleted by the year 2000. A U. S. Geological Survey estimates: "At least half a dozen basins have the source rock, reservoir rock and maturity to produce significant amounts of oil and gas, and they are virtually unexplored." The Melrose Bombing Range and the surrounding area is Class I exploration area for oil and gas. WE CANNOT IGNORE THIS POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ENERGY AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A REVENUE SOURCE FOR NEW MEXICO.

4. DUE PROCESS OF LAW: The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States, Article V, guarantees I would not '"-----be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law-----."

I-1 Did the Draft Enviromental Impact Statement for the MBR comply with the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, 1502.11 (f), since this document WAS NOT DATED? The DEIS did not have a "letter of instruction" or directions as to the Federal Register reference, the comment period, or the name and address of where comments were to be sent. There are many other, documented, cases where citizens received a copy of the DEIS without it being dated, without the comment period time, and without the name and address of where to send comment. My point is that my lack of the required information, which is supposed to be a part of the Official Document, is not an isolated case. Libraries even had copies of the DEIS without the required information. I-1

After reading the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, 1500.5 Reducing Delay, I question the due process of law being met. Is the DEIS in direct violation of the National Environmental Policy Act? The transcript, of the Scoping Meeting at Melrose, NM, June 24, 1980, gives the information, and being present also, that Mr. Shotton when asked about the DEIS gave this information; "If the Air Force decides that a full environmental statement process is required, announcement will be made one way or the other by January of next year, 1981." Is it true the Air Force complied with 40 CFR, 1500.5 Reducing Delay when it has been nearly four (4) years since the Scoping Meeting (June 24, 1980) and the most recent letter, in the DEIS, page D-53, Ref. #24, is dated June 24, 1981? The Air Force also had knowledge of our interest in the time-table for this process. The Scoping Meeting transcript even quoted Senator Pete Domenici's Field Representative, Mr. Poe Corn as; "I have two questions. Number one, I think, also, the people of the community here have a right to know, at least from the financing standpoint and their concern, on some type of milestone schedule that you must have in your planning, for their information. And secondly, how would the people here that are involved be kept informed on a timely basis as to what is transpiring?" I-2

I-2

A letter signed by F. W. Husmann, Colonel, USFA, dated March 20, 1981, to Jack Greathouse, stated: "The target date for completion of the environmental impact analysis is Spring 1981." We took that letter very seriously. And now I am very serious about the March 1984 release of the DEIS as being a delay and in violation of the NEPA.

5. BENSON CEMETERY: The map the Air Force presented at the Melrose Scoping Meeting, June 24, 1980, included the Benson Cemetery in the proposed expansion area. The DEIS map is not clear enough to show whether or not the Benson Cemetery was eliminated from the expansion area. The text of the DEIS does not say if the boundry was adjusted or not. There are soldiers from World War 1, World War II, and the Korean Conflict buried at Benson. Will these graves be relocated if the proposed expansion is made? 153

6. PAYMENT: If this MBR acquisition of land and mineral rights is made, will it take forty (40) years to receive compensation like the ranchers at White Sands? 154

How many more years of deficit spending can America afford? The use of Federally owned land, land of less value, land of fewer improvements, perhaps no homes to relocate, no farmland, etc. would most certainly cost less than the proposed expansion in Roosevelt and Curry counties.

My greatest concern is that this is the third time the Air Force will be taking land for the Melrose Bombing Range. It is difficult to understand why they need ten times the size as their original range. Air Force planes have sophisticated anti-satellite weapons, airborne electronic devices, and advanced computer graphics and data systems. The planes should become more precise and perhaps not need as much area.

Since the Federal Government owns 34% of my State (New Mexico) I am opposed to one more acre of privately owned land taken by them. If CAAB has to have a larger bombing range then it should be in an area where they can expand every ten (10) years as they have historically done. That area could very well be on Federally owned land and easily accessable for the planes at CAAB.

I appreciate the opportunity to make comments to the DEIS.

Sincerely,

Betty Greathouse

Betty Greathouse
1300 South Globe Ave.
Portales, NM 88130

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
405 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Jeff Bingaman
502 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Rep. Joe Skeen
1007 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Rep. Bill Richardson
1610 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Rep. Manual Lujan
1323 House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Governor Toney Anaya
Office of the Governor
4th Floor, State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

[illegible]

"Eq. . C/D.E"
[illegible]

Attn: ... Phatic

Last week I attended the meeting at the Floyd, New Mexico School where the discussions concerning the Ex, nsion of the Melrose Bombing Range took place and I would like to offer the following conclusion.

First, the Draft Environment Impact Statement for Expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, not dated, surely must have been put together by a number of range amateurs who really never got to the point and the public response was overwhelming against the expansion of the Bombing Range.

Now, as a result of this extremely poor presentation and the outrageous statements in the Draft, for example--Page 4 2.0.21 and 2 A Map review in search of Federal Land-- I want to inform you that there is a large block of Federal Land located directly west of Mountain ir, New Mexico beginning at Blue Springs and continuing westward for approximately 40 miles. This Block of Federal Land is known as the Sevi leta Grant, or the Sivoletta Wildlife Refuge. There is a total of approximately 2[illegible],000 acres of land that was donated to the Federal Government in 1970 from the General Tom Campbell Estate. General Campbell was formerly head of the Department of the Interior many years ago, and donated this land to the Department of the Interior to establish a Wildlife Refuge. Since 1970 this land has been totally wasted federal land, in a caretaker status with three employees. It is divided into two sections bisected by the Rio Grande River. It is predominately flat mesa land with no water, no wildlife, because they cannot survive without water and have left the area or died for lack of water. Congress will not appropriate money to develop water for wildlife and in 1980 the Department of the Interior proposed returning the land back to the Campbell Estate except for a Bird Refuge Area along the Rio Grande River. It has been discussed in detail for many years as to how this quarter of a million acres (Plus) could be utilized. In 1980 we sugested at a Hearing in Las Cruces New Mexico chaired by New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici that this Grant be utilized by some Federal Agency because it is absolutely senseless to allow such a large tract of Land lie waste/ss. Now, I do not know the bureaucracy involved but why couldn't the Department of the Air Force ask the Department of the Interior for permission to establish a 25 x 25 square mile area of this wasted Federal Land to establish a Bombing Range and leave this Melrose Bombing Range to the Farmers and Ranchers who own this land alone. You are only fooling yourselves when you tell us that "there will be no further expansion" in future years. In my many years of dealing with various Federal Agencies you lose all credibility as far as the public is concerned when statements like this are expressed and the extremely poor presentations are made in a very sensitive matter concerning the "roots" of many families. In my case, I reside in this proposed expansion area, I know that you cannot control the noise, and with accelerated use of the range by many other Groups unfamiliar with the area, the chances of accidents is manyfold. Members of my family homesteaded this area in 1907 and still retain ownership of this land.

Page 2

It was suggested many times last week that the Lon-Mesa Site be used for an expanded Bombing Range and if your figures are correct, 75% of this area is Federal Land administrated by the Bureau of Land Management. There seems to be a great reluctance on the part of the Department of the Air Force to communicate with other Federal Agencies like the Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife, or the Bureau of Land Management concerning utilization of Federal Land. As taxpayers who deplore acquisition of more private land by the Federal Government when there is so much Federal Land not being properly utilized we say to you "overcome the minor FAA problem concerning the Air Route between Roswell and Albuquerque and communicate with the Bureau of Land Management concerning the land acquisition you require and when future expansions are required, you can expand utilizing Federal Land and not disrupt the lives and livelihood of many farm-ranch related families. 156 156

We strongly feel that the forthcoming Enviormental Impact Statement will be a ploy full of errors and no research done by qualified personnel and we will have it rammed down our throats with many hard feelings all around and then in a couple of years go thru this same process when further expansion is required.

Very Truly yours,

H. Mack Brown
South Star Route Box 206B
Taiban, N.M. 88134

P.S. Please keep me on your mailing list!

Thurs, June 28

Dear Capt. Compton

This letter is to express my vehement opposition to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. I know that bombs need a place to burst and fighter planes a place to fly. But people also need a place to live, ranchers need grazing land, and some minerals are needed.

I too think it rather contemptuous of the U.S. Government to condemn a parcel of land - that people are using - and call it their own. Excuse me if I am being overly judgemental but this is certainly how it appears to the public

Frankly, I wish the Bombing Range would be disbanded and the land given back to its rightful heirs. But since that is not on your imminent agenda, may I just put in my vote for leaving the Range within its current boundaries.

Yours,

Helen Vozenilek
1301 7th St NW
Alb. NM 87102

Mrs. Evelyn Cater
R. F. D. Rt.
Elida, N. Mex. 88116

Dear Mr. Shatton;

We are writing you in regards concerning the Expansion of the Melrose Training Range, for the Heirs of Silas McCabe Estate (land), located in Roosevelt County, Elida, N. Mex. I notice in the Environment Impact Statement - In Property Annex. # 25. Silas McCabe Estate - Rt. 1, Elida, New Mex. 88116 - I. C. H. H. Lane, of which we have never received any mail? As we might have any notice about the expansion, would like for that name to be taken off. (2) Evelyn Cater received no mail of Silas McCabe Est. Would be pleased, if you know anything about that person that it removed. Now we feel that this Ranch of Silas McCabe Est. is one of the best if not the best Ranch in Roosevelt County also in the State of New Mex.

We plead that if a portion of land is taken out of our Ranch land, it will ruin the rest of the Ranch, + it is very good productive land, at present time + wish it left together.

Would there be any Government land near which would be more suitable for the Expansion of Melrose Bombing Range?

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Lately people that have visited
our land, getting land together to
make a living off of the land,
there is a little water that
for families to get by on the
place & homes, they have worked the
land for, to make a living.

We also have improvements, Water
Wells & Mineral Rights, this will
put a step to future Gas & oil development

We'll appreciate you giving this
Your most Consideration, taking
part of our Ranch will ruin the
rest to sit for Ranching, or
any thing else. We

159

159

Thank You for help if you
Will & Can help us

Please

Sincerely
The Heirs of Silas McCabe
Estate

% Evelyn Gallegos
East Star Rt.
Elida, New Mexico 88116

Silas Mc Cate Heirs
c/o Evelyn Cater
Elida, N. Mex. 88116

Dear Mr. Scott,

I am writing about the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. We are very much opposed to it + was at the meeting at Floyd, New Mex. held June 6.

We do not want to lease any part of our ranch to the expansion, and put us with what Lucy Mr. Jack Greathouse writes you.

We go along with him in this Matter, 100 %

Thank you very much.

The Silas Mc Cate Heirs
c/o Evelyn Cater
East Star Rt.
Elida, N. Mex.
88116

VAN SOELEN & GREIG
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
409 PILE STREET
P. O. BOX 1080
CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101

OTTO SMITH(1893-1961)
ESTHER SMITH VAN SOELEN
W. H. (HAL) GREIG

TELEPHONE 763-4428
AREA CODE 505

April 6, 1984

Lewis R. Shotton
Headquarters TAC/DEEV
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Dear Sir:

Frances L. Martin of Portales, New Mexico, is one of the landowners to be affected by the proposed expansion of Melrose Air Force Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. The Environmental Impact Statement, which has been filed, properly shows her as a land owner but fails to take into account the water well situated in the Northwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 1 South, Range 30 East, N.M.P.M. Please take appropriate action to correct this error.

160

Yours very truly,

VAN SOELEN & GREIG

By Esther Van Soelen

EVS:kdl

cc: Frances L. Martin

25-MAY-84

Environment Planning
Att: Mr. Shotton
HQ. TAC/DEEV
LANGLEY AFB, Va.

Dear Mr. Shotton,

I am writing to to protest the futher exransion of the Melrose Bomins Ranse in New Mexico. My father had written letters risht after World War II to set the Air Force Base reopened , but now we feel they are soins to far. For futher expansion of over 100 snuare miles is not, sood for the enviroment or the tax payers. They have already expanded the bombing ranse twice and that should be enough.

Enclosed is a statement made by the Environment Plannins Commision.

Any help you can sive on this would be arrsciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Scott Whiteman

2270 Alhambra St.

Norco, Calif.

Scott Whiteman

MELROSE BOMBING RANGE PROPOSED EXPANSION FACTS & INFORMATION

The U. S. Air Force proposed, in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980, to triple the size of the Melrose Bombing Range which is located southwest of Melrose, NM, that being northwest of Portales, New Mexico, in Roosevelt County. This will be the third time they have acquired land. They want to add 52,227 acres more to the present range of 22,043 acres. The proposed expansion consists of approximately 75% privately owned land and 25% State owned land.

THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION

LAND: The expansion includes good farming and prime ranch land.
The addition will take land from third and fourth generation families.
Over 35 landowners are involved and at least six families will be forced to move from their homes.
There are twenty-four irrigation circles within the proposed expansion.
The expansion will be "splitting up" most ranches, reducing productivity.

TAXES: Property tax to Roosevelt County will be cut.
Roosevelt General Hospital tax levy will be cut.
Reduces the future bonding capacity of Roosevelt County.
Present bond indebtedness, of the Floyd School District, will be interrupted and thus place an extra burden on the remaining property owners.
Reduces the future bonding capacity for the Floyd School System.
The expansion will take State Trust Lands which contribute money to public schools and universities.

OIL: The expansion includes 52,227 acres which is known as Class I Area for future oil and gas resources.
Two natural gas wells are within a short distance of the range.
New producing oil wells, to the southeast, continue to locate closer, moving towards, the Melrose Bombing Range.
Oil leasing is very active in this area and includes leasing and seismographing within the proposed expansion property.
One wildcat well, near the expansion boundry, contained "sand tars.

OBSTRUCTIONS: Two county roads, ten miles of pavement, will have to be re-routed.
The U.S. North Star Mail Route, out of Elida, NM, will be interrupted.
Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Coop's system will be interrupted.
The expansion will interrupt the gas distribution pipe line of the Eastern New Mexico Gas Ass'n which runs from Ft. Sumner, NM to Portales, NM.
Possibility of relocating the Benson Cemetery which lies within the area.

CONCERNS: The security of land to be inherited by our children.
Effect on the golden eagles that nest in the expansion area.
Do we honestly think this will be the last expansion in Roosevelt County?
Allowance for inflation factor, land value increase, interest on money and credit, if land is condemned.
Overlooking an oil and gas resource area for our National Defense?
Neglecting to use Federal Land for the expansion as NM has 34% Federal Land.
How does this expansion compare with the Air Force's alternative plan of another location, as given in the Federal Register of June 9, 1980?
Attitude of youth about America when the Federal Government takes private land, for questionable expansions, when Federal Land is accessible?
Taking one-fourth of the land away from the Floyd School District?
Interrupt NM Boys Ranch plans for a satellite program, at the historic Hart Ranch, for 24 needy boys.
No restriction of "air space" exists now, for the aircraft to maneuver safely and properly in their training exercises at the MBR?
Would purchasing 52,227 acres, for this expansion, be "wise defense spending?

Box 294
Melrose, NM 88124
May 20, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton

First, let us say that we appreciate our New Mexico Congressional delegation and the Air Force for extending the public comment period 60 days. This extended period has allowed us to study the EIS statement and perhaps be a little more objective about the situation.

However, because of the following reasons, we feel that we must oppose the expansion.

1. The cost of this expansion will be tremendous. When you consider the amount of productive land involved, the homes and families you will be relocating, and the cost involved in the reclamation of the farming land back to grazing land, you realize that the cost is going to be a very large sum. At a time, when the federal government is working toward a decrease in deficit spending, it seems the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range is untimely and against this goal.

2. The area does have a potential for gas and oil development. A fact that the Air Force continues to ignore, and a resource that is important not only to the land owners in the expansion area, but also to the state of New Mexico since many of the acres involved are state trust lands. This will also have a direct effect on our education system which receives 90 to 95 percent of its funding from oil and gas revenue.

3. The taking of homes and reducing potential income of the farmers and ranchers in this area is of significant impact.

4. The expansion will lead to the closing of the Floyd School due to the reduction of the bonding capacity in the district. Without this capacity, they would not be able to attend to the upkeep and repair of their educational facility. It will also have a significant impact on the Melrose School District by reducing their student enrollment.

5. The land involved in the expansion is rich in archelogical findings that should be studied and preserved for generations to come.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and giving some consideration to our concerns.

Sincerely

D. W. Luce and June Luce

D. W. Luce and June Luce

A-206

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.... I am vehemently opposed to such a plan. I feel that New Mexicans, and others, would much better benefit from the use of this land for peaceful purposes. This benefit I speak of goes far beyond the monetary factor, although that is a big issue.

From having lived near such bases I know that the noise is not only disruptive, but frightening to children and animals. It is my opinion that the military already uses more than enough of our land, time, and money, and I would oppose the expansion of the base for these reasons. Remember, "give them an inch...."

Sincerely,

Ilene Weiss

ILENE WEISS
1305 7th N.W.
ALB., N.M. 87102

June 28, 1984
Dan L. Greathouse
Box 3117
Bloomfield, N.M.
87413

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

I find it most difficult to write an appropriate comment concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. This is largely due to the fact that there was not enough time for review and public comment.

Is it not true that Senator Pete Domenici, Senator Jeff Bingaman, and Representative Joe Skeen, in a letter to Secretary Orr at the Pentagon, requested at "least 90 days" extension on the public comment period? This letter was dated April 10, 1984. This letter also mentioned the fact that "The most frequently requested extension period is 120 days." I would like an answer as to why a longer period was not granted by the Air Force. What reason could there be for denying the requests of the American people? 164 165

I also resent the fact that my copy of the DEIS did not contain any information or instructions as to what action I could take as an American citizen. This made a great inconvenience in preparing a comment within the limited time framework. Have you by chance or design violated my rights by omitting such vital information? What are the Federal guidelines concerning the compilation of draft environmental impact statements, if any? 166 163

Are you aware of the fact that in a United States Air Force news release, release no.: 84-4-13, 27 April 1984, from Cannon AFB, it was stated that "the Air Force will hold a public hearing to solicit comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement . . ."? After driving 400 miles to attend this hearing, I was informed by Col. Kenneth Ratcliff, who conducted the hearing, that the meeting would be divided into two portions, the first of which would be conducted by another gentleman concerning the real estate aspects of the proposed expansion, and then there would be a portion to solicit public comment. Who is responsible for lying to me about the nature of this meeting? It seems a bit odd that a meeting to solicit public comment would begin with a program dealing with the manner in which the land would be acquired by the Air Force, don't you think? 167 167

I immediately protested at the meeting, and Col. Ratcliff graciously rescheduled the program so that the public comments could be heard first, followed by the real estate portion. But my question is who is responsible for the real estate portion even being held at all? This was an injustice!

The impression that I can't help but get is that the Air Force has already made it's decision concerning the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. If this is so, then I am truly sorry for the state of this great nation. It appears that justice has flown out the window to allow something under the great pretense of "national defense" to undermine the very foundations of this country. If this time has really arrived, then we must do away with the weapons and join the Russians, because we will have become what they are.

I cannot believe that some alternative near the Lon-Mesa proposal couldn't be used. Who will be responsible for the investigation of viable alternatives? I do not feel that the best work was done in this DEIS. Will the proposed expansion go ahead and take place in light of the fact that this DEIS is a very poor and totally inadequate document?

You have alternatives. Please do your job and see justice done in this case!

Sincerely,

Dan L. Greathouse

Route 2 Box 263
Portales, New Mexico 88130
June 28, 1984

Headquarters TAC/DEEV
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Subject: Proposed Expansion of Melrose Bombing Range

To Whom it May Concern:

It is unreasonable for the United States Air Force acting under the authority of the federal government to require privately owned land for training purposes or for any purpose when there are thousands of acres of suitable land available to the Air Force that is already federally controlled.

Productive agricultural land is not an expendable item. In the same way, hardworking citizens of this country are not to be expended. To the farmer and rancher, the food producer, his land is his home, and his home is his very life.

I do not believe that the Air Force could live with the expansion of this bombing range because of the unjust requirement of land representing the lives of so many hardworking, valuable people. Furthermore, the entire citizenship of the United States of America could not live with a government that would allow such injustice.

Sincerely,

Linda Miller

Linda Miller

Ann Johnson
COLONIAL PARK LAND MANAGEMENT
BUS. (505) 763-3443 RES. (505) 762-9815

June 28, 1984

Mr. Lewis Shotten
Environmental Planning
Hq. TAC DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotten:

Being in the apartment management business I have always had the opportunity of being of service to personnel stationed at Cannon Air Force Base.

I find each of them to be an asset to the City of Clovis and have had the privilege of making many new friends.

I truly hope you shall see fit to extend Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

Ann Johnson

Ann Johnson
1020 Fairway Terr.
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

NEW MEXICO FARM and LIVESTOCK BUREAU

TELEPHONE
(505) 526-5521

421 NORTH WATER STREET
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001

June 27, 1984

TAC Headquarters
Deev
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Attention: Lewis Shotten

Dear Sirs:

The New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau is the states largest agricultural organization and represents over 9500 families residing in every community throughout the state.

We strongly oppose the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. At our last annual meeting in December 1983 the voting delegates unanimously adopted the following resolution: "We request the Governor and the legislature of the State of New Mexico to pursue any and all measures at their disposal to assure the sovereignity of the State of New Mexico, it's lands and people, and preserve those rights against Federal Bombing Ranges and other military reservations."

With the federal government owning and controlling over 33% of our states land and private ownership amounting to less than 44% of our total state acreage, we have many concerns over the future of our state and particularly farming and ranching. These public lands are not subject to taxation and therefore create an extra tax burden on private property. Govermental grabs such as this are disruptive and often create financial ruin to those in farming and ranching who are displaced, while at the same time increasing the tax burden on those who remain.

We question the need for the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range and feel that it is totally unfair and unnecessary to displace those ranchers in the proposed expansion area. Additionally, we strongly object to giving up the 16,000 acres of state trust lands that would be affected. State trust lands were not intended for general public use, which in this case have been leased to ranchers for grazing. The money earned from these leases support public education in New Mexico and we object to the loss of these funds.

We ask for a total rejection of the request for expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

Sincerely,

L. E. Davis
President

LED:ewc

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
29AM

Western Union Mailgram

1-0141-0C101 06/29/84 ICS IPMMOZN MTI MRK
01561 MDRESTOWN NJ 06-29 0553P EST MOZN

LEWIS SHOTTEN
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
HQ TAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665

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ICS IPMMLAL MGY
00671 06-29 0426P CDT MLAE
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4-0564185181 06/29/84
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
0056/62/618 TDMT CLOVIS NM 8 06-29 0317P MDT
PMS LEWIS SHOTTEN, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING-HQ TAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO YOU

NEED EXPANSION MELROSE BOMBING RANGE. WE SUPPORT CAFS
MR AND MRS JOHN O WRIGHT
2708 NORTH PRINCE
CLOVIS NM 88101

1632 EST

1637 EST

1701 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

5241 (R 7/82)

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUMBERS

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
29AM

Western Union Mailgram

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83531 MORRISTOWN NJ 06-29 0630P EST MOZK

LEWIS SHOTTEN
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING HQ TAC DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665

1-017999A181 06/29/84
ICS IPMMLAI MGY
01531 06-29 0438P CDT MLA3
ICS IPMMOZZ
4-056158S131 06/29/84
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
505/62/618 TDMT CLOVIS NM 10 06-29 0317P MDT
PMS LEWIS SHOTTEN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING-HQ TAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO YOU

VERY SUPPORTIVE EXPANSION MELROSE BOMBING RANGE WE ARE LOCAL RANCHERS
MR AND MRS BOB JOHNSON
RTE 2
PORTALES NM 88130

1623 EST

1647 EST

1737 EST

[illegible]

5241 (R 1/82)

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBERS

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
30AM

Western Union Mailgram

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05701 MOORESTOWN NJ 06-30 0544P EST MOZG

LEWIS SHOTTEN
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
HQTAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665

1-UU7197A182 06/30/84
ICS IPMMLAK MGY
08711 06-30 0426P CDT MLAD
ICS IPMMOZZ WOULD U PLS FONE THIS MSG TXS
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LEWIS SHOTTEN
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
HOTAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665
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TLX 6852304 XXXX
LEWIS SHOTTEN
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANING
HQTAC-DEEV
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665
4056418S181 06/29/84
ICS IPMMLAL MGY
00671 06/29 0428P CDT MLAE

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO YOU

NEED EXPANSION MELROSE BOMBING RANGE. WE SUPPORT CAFB
MR AND MRS JOHN O WRIGHT 2708 NORTH PRINCE CLOVIS NM 88101
1553 EDT 6-30-84
1601 EST
1636 EST

1654 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

5241 (R 7/82)

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUMBERS

1-29-84

Dear Mr. Shotten,

As a concerned citizen of Clovis, N.M., I would like you to know that I am in favor of the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. I think it is very important to the local economy to keep Cannon AFB here — and as strong as possible. It is also important to me as the wife of a former (retired) Air Force officer.

Yours truly,
Glenna Cutler

CRAIG SIMPSON
1314 15th Street N.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 8710-

June 29, 1984

TAC Headquaters /Deev
Langley Air Force Base, Va. 23665
Attention:Lewis Shotten.

Dear Mr. Shotten and officals working for a EIS on Melrose Bombing Range in New Mexico,

I requested and was put on the mailing list concerning the proposed Melrose Bombing Range in January, 1981 along with the New Mexico Peace Conversion Project by Nelson Rutter, Deputy Base Civil Engineer at Cannon Air Force Base. Unfortunately, the NM Peace Conversion Project or I received notice or a copy of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement and heard of the final deadline of tommorrow through the Albuquerque Journal Wednesday, June 27. This makes me to comment without seeing the present version but I feel I must write to oppose the expansion of the base for several reasons. 170 170

I visited Melrose Bombing Range in September of 1980 and met with area residents and began to research the problems of the expansion. I have neither have had the time or the money to pursue my investigation but remain strongly opposed ever since my visit.

First and primarily,I am concerned about the land being taken from area residents. These hard working people have spent the most important years of their lives working and ranching that area. It is ashame and tragic that more farm land will be taken for military use and not use for food production. Many of these people have lived on the land and have donated land for the range use and now once again are being asked to give more. When will it end? And if forced off their land where will they live and work. I must state that their work is far more important then that of the F-111Ds in my opinion. 171 171

A second concern is oil and gas interests. The two natural gas wells close to the range expansion area as well as the active oil fields will all be effected by the expansion. We are in dire need of these resources in this country and by using the potential in this area will will take the pressure off of future crises. 172 172

The destruction of taxes in this county could effect the entire area and mean a general loss of revenue. This would influence the school systems in the community as well and could cause general flight from the area. 173 173

Another problem by tripling the range is the tripling of the problems. Melrose already has a long history of accidents and mis bombings. Some have actually hit ranchers houses and homes. One of those accidents was as recent as 1983 I recall. The accidents will increase and effect more homes and fields by the directional changes planned. 174 174

Many people hunt and fish in this area and they will be soon denied access. I'm neither a hunter or a fisher but I see those oppotunities becoming less and less available for people who see that as a major source of recreation. 175 175

I am also concerned with the archeology of the area. Has the EIS explored possible pre-historic sites which are know to be rich in Eastern New Mexico- Clovis-Portales areas as well as more recent history in the development of the West. 176

Another question is the rare birds and animals of the region . Will they be protect or effected? There is no question that they are effected by the increased use of the range but how much. 177

Finally the Philosphical and political question not covered in an EIS is should the land be used for preparing for conventional as well as nuclear war? F-111Ds are not the Thunderbirds- the training is not for military base open houses. The bombing practice at Melrose is for war. Not only for war in small countries somewhere in the the world but more probably for use in a nuclear confrontation anywhere anytime. So the work of these piolts could conceivably for the extermination of thousands, if not millions of people. So the question or a question could be asked if the German citizens were responsible for stopping death and concentration camps in their communities are we not similarily responsible for stopping the training and preparation in our communities. This is an international as well as a local question which makes me strongly oppose the expansion of this base.

It is these and other reasons whether it is theremoval ofpeople from their land to the destruction of the planet that I ask you to stop the expansion of this bombing range. Please consider my objections.

Also would you please send me a copy of the Preliminary EIS and the final EIS as well as transcripts from the hearings recently at Floyd High School and any other relevant material to the above address.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Craig Simpson

Craig Simpson

CERTIFIED MAIL

P. O. Box 548
Portales, NM 88130
June 25, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

The Melrose Bombing Range Land Owners and Operators are submitting the following document as our official comment to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This document has been compiled through the collaboration of several people, including members of our organization; and we feel it strongly reaffirms our position.

Thank you for allowing us this official comment and we are looking forward to your response to the issues and questions hereby presented.

Sincerely,

Jack Greathouse, President
MBR Land Owners and Operators

June Luce, Secretary
MBR Land Owners and Operators

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Representative Joe Skeen
New Mexico State Land Commissioner
Jim Baca

June 29, 1984
Box 548
Portales, NM 88130

Enviromental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton: RE: DEIS, Melrose Bombing Range

The opportunity to make comments and ask questions, on the DEIS concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, is appreciated.

The enclosed document is submitted as the major part of my official comment on the DEIS. This document has been compiled through the collaboration of several people, including myself, and it represents my position.

Please enter into the official record this letter, the enclosed document, and the fact that both were prepared under a very restricted amount of public comment time. Senator Pete Domemici, Senator Jeff Bingaman, and Congressman Joe Skeen requested for an extension of "at least 90 days" for the public comment time. The Air Force did not honor their request but did grant an additional 60 days. We needed more time and certainly appreciated the extension.

There are many serious questions about the entire procedure used by the Air Force in the entire matter of the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The enclosed document covers most of my questions directly or indirectly but I want to ask a few questions in this letter.

178 Is it true the original proposal was announced in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980? Is it true the Air Force listed three alternatives in that announcement? Is it true one of those alternatives was to close the present bombing range and move to another geographic location for a new Air Force range? 178

179 Is it true that on June 24, 1980, the Air Force held the official Scoping Meeting at Melrose, New Mexico? Is it true that alternatives were discussed at that meeting and recorded into the transcript? 179

180 Is it true that neither in the Federal Register announcement or the Scoping Meeting was the subject "leasing" mentioned? After almost four years from the Federal Register announcement and about the same amount of time after the Scoping Meeting, is it true that shortly before twelve noon, on June 6, 1984, and about 7 hours before the public hearing for comments on the DEIS. an Air Force officer called Mr. Ed Cole, Supt. of the Floyd Schools and announced that the Air Force was going to change the agenda and first talk about land acquisition and "leasing?" Can you name that Air Force officer ordering that telephone call to be made by Capt. Compton to Mr. Cole? Is it true the Air Force had made the decision to make the expansion at Melrose? 180 181

182 Is it true the Air Force chose LON-MESA as one of the alternate sites and stated in the DEIS that "this site meets many of the criteria for selecting a bombing range site?" 182

Is it true that at the Melrose Scoping Meeting mineral rights, subsurface ownership, was a subject of discussion? Is it true the DEIS did not contain a subsurface ownership map or the names of those owning such valuable rights? Is it true the original Federal Register announcement of June 9, 1980, did not state mineral rights but only "additional real estate?" 183 184 163

Is it true that the DEIS book was not dated, did not give the comment period, or the name and address where comments were to be sent? I have seen several DEIS books on other studies and have never seen such a DEIS book lacking in the required format letter. Can you furnish me with the publisher's name and address? What was the date of printing of the Melrose Bombing Range DEIS? 184

Is it true that the Floyd School District land was discussed at the Melrose Scoping Meeting? Is it true the DEIS did not have a map of the Floyd School District or even list the acreage of the said school district? 186 185

Is it true the Air Force knew of the Resource Map #3 published by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM, on oil and gas potential areas of New Mexico? Is it true that map did not occur in the MBR DEIS? 187 187

Let me repeat one of the position statements you will find in the enclosed document. I am totally opposed to expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, although I endorse and approve of the mission of the United States Air Force and recognize the need for adequate military training to fulfill that mission.

Thank you for allowing me this official comment, including the document, and I will be looking forward to your response to the issues and questions hereby presented.

Respectively,

Jack A. Greathouse

jg

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Representative Joe Skeen
Land Commissioner Jim Baca
John W. Russell
Robert E. Russell

Enclosure: Document of Comments

American agriculture
OF NEW MEXICO, INC.

P.O. Box 296
Portales, New Mexico 88130
505/359-0408

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT OF NEW MEXICO, INC. RESOLUTION

OPPOSING

THE PROPOSED SITE FOR ENLARGING THE MELROSE BOMBING RANGE

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense is proposing the enlargement of the Melrose Bombing Range, and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force is currently receiving comments, from the public, on the impacts of the proposed enlargement of the Melrose Bombing Range, and

WHEREAS, the Congress will be asked to make a final decision on where the enlarged site will be located, and

WHEREAS, The American Agriculture Movement of New Mexico, Inc. considers the production of food, fiber, oil and ga in this country a high priority national security concern, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Melrose Bombing Range enlargement site would significantly affect one of the more productive oil, gas and agriculture regions in the state, the disruption of Floyd School District, the disruption of Boys Ranch, restrict the property rights on more than 52,227 acres,

NOW THEREFORD BE IT RESOLVED by THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT OF NEW MEXICO, INC. that we are adamantly, obstinately and irrevocably opposed to the proposed site to increase the size of the present Melrose Bombing Range.

Mr. J. D. Terral, National Delegate
AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT OF NEW MEXICO, INC.

June 15, 1984

Terence E. Fifield
P.O. Box 4334 ENMU
Portales, N.M. 88130
June 28, 1984

Headquarters
TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Sirs;

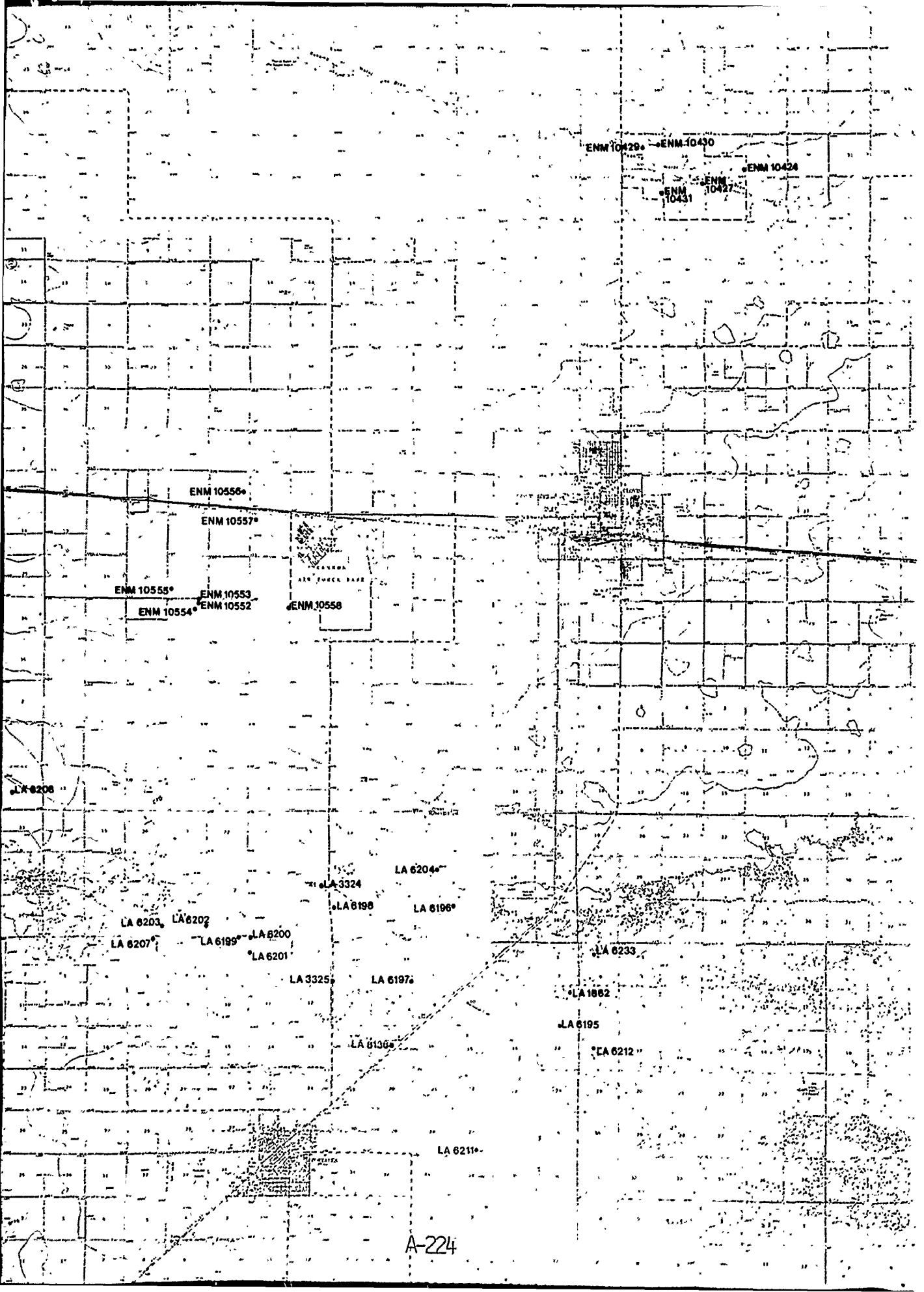
Having read the DEIS for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range and having attended the public hearing in Floyd, New Mexico on June 6, 1984, I feel compelled to make a comment. I am a graduate student in Anthropology at Eastern New Mexico University and have been employed as a professional archaeologist in eastern New Mexico for the past four years. I am thus familiar with archaeological work and cultural resources in the region.

I would first like to support some of the statements made at the public hearing. A glaring omission in the DEIS is that the Blackwater Draw Site, an internationally recognized early man site, which lies in an abandoned channel of the Brazos River just south of the project area is not even mentioned. Several other early man sites, mentioned by the Melrose Commissioner of Schools, are located within the proposed expansion zone. Sample selection and survey methodology are not discussed in the DEIS. This omission makes it impossible for reviewers to evaluate the results of the survey, even if they were presented, which they are not. Generally, I consider the treatment of archaeological materials in the DEIS to be totally inadequate. I strongly suggest that extensive further work is necessary to comply with the demands of NEPA and NHPA. 96

Numerous data on archaeological sites in the areas surrounding the proposed expansion zone are available. Enclosed is a copy of a master map depicting the locations of known, professionally recorded sites in the Clovis/Portales area. Site descriptions and maps for these sites are on file with the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe, New Mexico. These data should be integrated into any future characterization of site distribution or settlement patern for the region. 98

Many of the problems with the Archaeological work as it is presented in the DEIS appear to stem from theunfamiliarity of the reseaerchers with the archaeological literature and archives of this part of the country. I hope that steps are taken to do justice to the rich cultural resources of this fragile part of our state and to the people of whose heritage they are a part.

Sincerely,
Terence E. Fifield
Terence E. Fifield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II. POSITION STATEMENT OF MBR LANDOWNERS AND OPERATORS, AND MINERALS RIGHTS OWNERS

June 25, 1984

1. We assert that the United States Air Force has not properly followed the legally mandated environmental impact assessment process as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA) and as required under 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 in assessing the impacts of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range upon the quality of the human environment.

2. We further assert that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared as a disclosure document of that assessment is, in fact, entirely inadequate, since it fails to fully disclose the full and complete effects and impacts as a basis for the public and the decisionmakers to make a clear choice between alternatives.

3. We also assert that the decision to expand the Melrose Bombing Range was made prior to filing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and that the DEIS is an attempt to justify that decision.

4. We assert that an objective interdisciplinary assessment and comparison of the choices and a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be necessary to comply adequately with NEPA and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and we request that the Air Force do the assessment over and prepare a new draft, with affirmative public participation, and in good faith meet the spirit and intent of NEPA.

5. We have presented deficiencies in procedure, comparisons of only one feasible alternative, and raised specific questions about environmental, economic, and social issues and possible impacts, and we request that these and others similarly related to the proposed action, be adequately addressed and responded to in a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

6. We request that the Air Force fully consider the options and then close the present Melrose Bombing Range and move it to an area more suitable to meeting the mission of Cannon Air Force Base. The increased training requirements have exceeded the ability of the present Range to meet them, and we request the Air Force to face this fact squarely and honestly by taking positive action to close the Melrose Bombing Range or use the existing area in conjunction with an area more suited to increased training requirements.

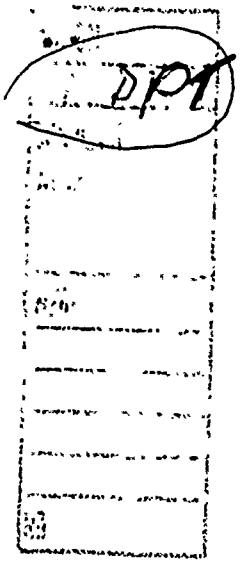
We are totally opposed to expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, although we endorse and approve of the mission of the United States Air Force and recognize the need for adequate military training to fulfill that mission.

Endorsed and Supported By:

1984 AUG 27 PM 12:52 M
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

25 June 1984

To: Environmental Planning Headquarters
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley A.F.B., VA 23665



And to: President Ronald Reagan
Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger
Secretary of Interior, William Clark
Attn: Carol Hallett
Western Regional Asst.

Senator Jake Garn	Repr. Joe Skeen
Senator Orrin G. Hatch	Repr. Bill Richardson
Senator Pete Domenici	Repr. Manuel Lujan
Senator Jeff Bingaman	Repr. Howard Nielson
	Repr. James Hansen

Subj: Expansion of the Melrose, N.M., Bombing Range

The purpose of this letter is to protest the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as proposed by the Air Force.

Enclosed is an article regarding the United Nations report on the rapid spread of deserts into millions of acres of once-productive farm and range lands.

This report emphasizes one of the points owners of land and owners of mineral rights have been trying to make in their objections to expanding the Melrose, N.M., Bombing Range. My previous letters have objected to ruining productive farm and ranch lands, robbing mineral rights owners, plus many other factors.

In this time of huge Federal deficits I do not see how the Government can justify the expenditure of millions of dollars, destruction of choice range and farm land, lowering the tax base, and stopping future oil and gas exploration in a Class I Area, when Federally owned facilities are available. See Federal Register dated 9 June 1980 in which the Air Force openly admits alternate courses are available.

As an owner of mineral rights in Roosevelt County, N.M., I again urge all addressees to use your influence to stop this outrage.

Thank you

Thelma Gretchen Berry
6370 Fresno St
Westminster Co
95967

A-226

68431
840871

U.N. Report Says Nations Doing Little To Halt Deserts, 'Harvest of Dust'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Nations of the world are doing little to halt the "harvest of dust" caused by the rapid spread of deserts into millions of acres of once-productive farm and rangeland, the United Nations reports.

Warning that drought is not the root cause of desert expansion around the globe, a U.N. Environment Program report concludes drastic measures are needed to attack the principal causes — bad farming and grazing practices, improper irrigation and forest destruction.

The United Nations made the alarming assessment after two years of research that was reported to a little-noticed international conference last month in Nairobi, Kenya, on the growing threat of "desertification" — the conversion of productive land into arid desert.

Estimates Total

"We have found that a total of 3.475 billion hectares [8.6 billion acres] of the world's range, rain-fed cropland and irrigated land — an area approximately the size of North and South America combined — is affected by desertification," wrote Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program.

Tolba's report, "Harvest of Dust," found that each year, 51.9 million acres on the planet are "reduced to a state of near or complete useless-ness."

While desert expansion is most severe in Third World nations of Africa and Asia, the study said the problem is cropping up in industrialized nations, including the United States, the Soviet Union and Australia.

The Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based research organization, reported this year in a book-length study of global resource trends that overgrazing by cattle, sheep and goats is a major cause of desertification.

Worldwatch cited U.S. government statistics showing a third of U.S. rangeland, outside of Alaska, is in "poor condition" and another third is in "fair condition."

Assesses Problem

The U.N. Environment Program's research was done to assess the state of the problem since the agency drew up an international "action plan" in 1977 — agreed to by 94 nations — to combat the spread of deserts.

The study acknowledged drought worsens the spread of deserts, but cited the main causes as "human over-exploitation of lands through over-cultivation, overgrazing, poor irrigation practices and deforestation."

Tolba noted that nations have contributed less than $50,000 to a U.N. account that funds the "action plan" to attack desertification. Against that sum, the United Nations estimates mankind must spend a total of $90 billion during the next 20 years to stop the spread of deserts.

"If this seems like a great deal it should be balanced with the U.N.'s 1980 estimate which put the annual cost of agricultural production from land lost through desertification at $26 billion," said Tolba.

The report also warned of a link between desertification and the urban problems of poor nations.

"Loss of land productivity has forced villagers into the towns," it said.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT HEARING ON THE

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE MELROSE BOMBING RANGE

PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT

FLOYD, NEW MEXICO

ON

6 JUNE 1984

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Comments by Jim Baca, Commissioner of Public Lands
2. Comments by Ed Cole, Superintendent, Floyd Municipal School System
3. Comments by John W. Russell
4. Comments by James D. Shackleford, Manager, Roosevelt County Rural Cooperative, Inc.
5. Comments by Michael Kull on behalf of New Mexico Boys Ranch and Girls Ranch
6. Comments by Darrel Bostwick, President, Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association
7. Comments by Dr Phillip H. Shelley
8. Comments by R. C. (Ike) Morgan
9. Comments by Betty Greathouse
10. Comments by Mrs H. H. Davis
11. Comments by Mrs H. H. Davis
12. Comments by Wendell Best
13. Comments by Silas McCabe Heirs
14. Comments by Silas McCabe Heirs
15. Comments by F. Guy Holmes on behalf of Landowners Association of Elida
16. Comments by Rod McClain
17. Comments by Herman C. James, Research Associate, Eastern New Mexico State University
18. Comments by John D. Greathouse
19. Comments by Margaret Greathouse Wagner/Sadie M. Greathouse
20. Comments by James R. Whiteman
21. Comments by Lucile Lukits
22. Comments by Mr & Mrs F. Guy Holmes
23. Comments by Margaret Spencer
24. Comments by Margaret Spencer

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT HEARING ON THE
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE MELROSE RANGE

The public hearing on the Environment Impact Statement concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range was held in the Floyd High School Gymnasium, Floyd, New Mexico, on 6 June 1984. Colonel Kenneth E. Ratcliff, Military Judge, presided over the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS BY COLONEL RATCLIFF:

Let me indicate first of all, by way of introducing myself, I am Colonel Kenneth Ratcliff. I'm the Chief Judge for the Third Circuit of the Air Force Trial Judiciary, and I've been assigned the responsibility of conducting this public hearing. Now my role in this proceedings is simply that--that is, to conduct the hearing.

My past experience is judicial in nature; and, though I do not have the in-depth knowledge about the details of this project, we do have others present who are familiar with it. I have not participated in the developing of the project nor have I rendered any legal advice with respect to it. Further, I will not make any decision, nor will I even offer any recommendation with regard to it.

Now, this hearing is going to be a little different than most hearings of this nature. I want to take just a few moments to explain to you just exactly what is to occur this evening. Basically, it's going to be in two portions that are entirely distinct;

and it's important that you understand very clearly the nature of these two different segments.

The first portion of this hearing may be considered a real estate meeting. This portion is at the request of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. Present this evening, solely for this portion of the meeting--which, as I indicated, is related to real estate--is Mr James Boatright . Mr Boatright is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Safety.

Due to the length, overall, of the entire meeting, I might indicate at this point, it may be necessary to limit the time for each segment. We will still do the very best that we can and provide you telephone numbers or addresses, if necessary, if you fail to make the statement or ask the question that you might like to have. We will try to get everybody--give everybody the opportunity that wishes to speak this evening.

If you follow the guidelines as I give you them, as we proceed through--and everyone cooperates, as I'm sure you will --I think everyone will have an opportunity to speak.

As to this first portion of our meeting this evening, it will consist of a briefing as to how the land is to be acquired, if the proposal to expand the Melrose Range is approved. Following this briefing, questions will be accepted from the audience pertaining solely to the real estate issue that is covered in the briefing.

Now, this is not--I'll repeat--this is not to be considered as a part of the Environmental Impact Hearing; and, therefore, the questions and answers that might relate to the other areas should be reserved until we get into that portion. The portion that deals with real estate will not be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

OBJECTIONS FROM AUDIENCE:

(Speaker Unidentified) Sir, I drove 400 miles here for an environmental impact statement. I don't understand why all of the sudden we're having a real estate meeting. I understood that at 7:00 we would have an environmental impact statement and have comments on the material we read and studied these past months.

RESPONSE BY COLONEL RATCLIFF:

All right. We will, indeed, get to that. As I indicated just a few moments ago, that this particular portion of the meeting is the result of a request by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.

OBJECTIONS FROM AUDIENCE:

(Speaker Unidentified) Sir, if I may, the Environmental Protection Act requires that you publicize an environmental impact meeting. That environmental impact hearing, specifically stated in the environmental impact law, says you will publicize it, publish it and post it. Now, it was published that this meeting would be an environmental impact statement hearing and it would

begin at 7:00 on 6 June. If someone wants to hold a real estate meeting, then that's fine. But this auditorium is scheduled for 7:00, June 6, for the impact hearing. We'd like to have it. I came up from Dallas to speak at this hearing. If we're going to hold a real estate meeting until 10:00 or 11:00 at night, I find it difficult to believe that I'm not going to have an opportunity to speak.

RESPONSE BY COLONEL RATCLIFF:

All right. I appreciate your comments; and they will be, of course, made a part of the record. And, I would ask that, as speakers are recognized to speak--to make it easier for the court reporter--that individuals, as they're recognized to speak, if you would, use this microphone that is to my left. And, at this point, of course, I'm going to proceed with the introductory remarks that I was making.

As we move into the second portion of the hearing, which will pertain to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which has been filed by the Air Force with the Environmental Protection Agency--this draft, of course, is the proposal for the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. The purpose, then, of this hearing is to consider the environmental impact of the proposed project.

OBJECTIONS FROM AUDIENCE:

(Unidentified Speaker): Sir--

(Col Ratcliff): If you want to speak, if you would, come up to the front and identify--

(Speaker): This will just take a moment. We're not able to hear you very well. Could you move closer to your microphone, please?

(Col Ratcliff): All right. One reason I had backed off a little bit--thank you--was that it sounded like I was getting a ring or an echo. So, I apologize. (Moved the microphone) I trust this will improve it a bit?

(Speaker): Just move a little closer.

(Col Ratcliff): All right, thank you.

COMMENTS BY COLONEL RATCLIFF, CONTINUED:

This public meeting is a means of obtaining and recording the opinions of interested persons for later evaluation. Of course it is therefore important that all parties who have an interest in the matter have a reasonable opportunity to speak and/or submit your comments in writing.

The basic manner in which the second portion of the meeting will be conducted is as follows: an Air Force representative will give a briefing of the Air Force mission, as it relates to the proposal. This is informational in nature so that you might better understand why the expansion of the Melrose Range is desired.

Following this briefing, you will be given an opportunity to ask questions for the purpose of further clarifying the proposed

Air Force mission. (Interrupted by disturbance caused by persons opening section of bleacher seats in the gymnasium/auditorium)

All right. Now that we've got the additional seating taken care of, we will proceed with the program.

Let me indicate at this point, particularly in view of some of the comments that have been made--and we certainly can appreciate the concern that you have in regard to it--and, what we will do is to simply make a change in the proposed order, as far as the meeting is concerned, and we will hold the portion as to the real estate briefing until the end rather than conducting it at the beginning. Which means, as I have just indicated, as we move into this portion that pertains to the environmental impact that we will have a briefing, following which there will be an opportunity for you to pose the questions that you might have to further clarify the proposed Air Force mission.

After this question and answer session, I will then receive the statements from those who have indicated they desire to make a statement. Now, in this regard, if you have filled out a slip indicating that you desire to make such a statement, if you would hand that in, we will see that someone from the Air Force is available to pick those up, if you've already done so. If you didn't fill out indicating that you wanted to make a statement, but you do desire to do so, I would ask that you hold up your hand and someone will see to it that your name is appropriately taken.

Now these slips of registration will, of course, apply only to the statement portion of the hearing. I mentioned a minute ago that we have a court reporter present. Let me indicate that it's Mrs Carolyn Wall, a qualified court reporter, who will be recording the proceedings verbatim.

You might keep in mind, of course, once again, that the real estate portion, as I previously stated, will not be a part of the environmental impact hearing.

As to the transcript of the environmental impact hearing, any written statements will be attached to the transcribed record and forwarded to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for use in preparing the final Environmental Impact Statement, which is used in the decision-making process.

I would indicate further that no decision has been made at this point to expand the Melrose Range. If the Air Force makes a decision to expand the range, of course, it will be submitted to Congress for final action.

Before moving into the briefing, with regard to the Air Force Mission, I would like to recognize some of the dignitaries who are present this evening--and if these individuals when mentioned will stand--I think all that I have on the list are present. There are a number of them and I understand that all these I have on my list are to be here: Mr Poe Corn, who is with U.S. Senator Pete Domencici's Roswell Office; Mr Vince Murphy, who is the State

Coordinator and is in the Santa Fe Office of Senator Bingaman; Mrs Scott Alley, who is in Senator Bingaman's Roswell Office; Ms Alice Eppers, who is in Congressman Skeen's Roswell Office; Mr Bob Beauvais, who is with the Lieutenant Governor's Office; Mr Jim Baca, State Land Commissioner; Mr Art Wasky, New Mexico State Land Commission Attorney.

From the local area is Mr Charles Terry, President of the Floyd School District; and Mr Ed Cole, Floyd Superintendent of Schools.

Civilian and military personnel from the Air Force: Mr James Boatright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Safety; Major Ken Small, from Headquarters USAF Environmental Planning; Mr Bob Hanna, Headquarters Tactical Air Command Chief of Real Estate; Mr Charles Little, Headquarters Tactical Air Command Real Estate; Mr Lewis Shotten, Headquarters Tactical Air Command National Resources Manager of the Environmental Planning Division; Major Richard Poli, who is Headquarters Tactical Air Command Chief, Environmental Planning Division.

And from your local area, the following personnel are from Cannon Air Force Base: Colonel Mary Turner, who is the Group Commander for the 27th Combat Support Group; Lieutenant Colonel Robert Diaz, the Staff Judge Advocate; Captain Martin Compton, the Public Affairs Officer--and I might indicate that, for members of the press, that Captain Compton is your contact point--Mr Nelson

Rutter, Deputy Base Civil Engineer; and, finally, Ms Marie Tharp, the real Property Officer.

At this time, we'll be ready for the briefing that I had mentioned just a moment ago; and we have present to present the briefing Captain O. J. Moss, Instructor Pilot, 524th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base. As I indicated, he will give a briefing on the Air Force mission as it relates to this proposal so that you may better understand why the expansion of the range is desired.

BRIEFING BY CAPTAIN O. J. MOSS:

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It's my pleasure to be here tonight. I'm Captain O. J. Moss--Oliver John Moss. I am presently stationed at the 27th Tac Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, in the 524 Tactical Training Squadron that's there at this time.

I'd like to briefly go over with you what we expect to do tonight. I do expect to give you an overall synopsis of what you can expect to hear from me--our mission objectives at Cannon Air Force Base; a little bit of the Melrose history and how it pertains to the importance of the expansion that we're proposing; then a brief summary of our viewpoint. (Slide Number 1)

At present, the 27th Tac Fighter Wing is composed of three squadrons--the 522 Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 523 Tactical Fighter Squadron. These two squadrons have two main missions. One is to meet a commitment of 24-hour deployment around the clock

OVERVIEW

I. MISSION OBJECTIVES

II. MELROSE HISTORY

III. IMPORTANCE OF EXPANSION

IV. SUMMARY

anywhere in the world. And their second mission is to be in constant training to perfect the objective of getting the bombs on target--and this is what they do when they do their training missions out in the Melrose Bombing Complex. The third squadron is the 524 Tactical Training Squadron. That's the squadron I'm a member of. It's the largest training squadron of its kind in the Tactical Air Command and it's mission is to train the aircrews in the flying of the very sophisticated F-111 Delta model and also to expose them to weapons delivery techniques they will be refining down in the fighter squadrons.

Graduates from the 524 Tactical Fighter Squadron will be going over to serve a term of duty in either Lakenheath or they'll be going down into the two fighter squadrons I've already mentioned at Cannon.

So, together with training, the squadrons, together, make up the wing mission--and that is to train aircrews to fly the F-111 realistically; to make realistic combat training, which would employ the tactics and bombs on target--and while we are doing this, also maintaining and ensuring safety when we're at the Melrose Bombing Range.

Our objective, in the 27th Tac Fighter Wing, is the same as all Air Force units--for that matter, all the military branches--to train as we expect to fight. But, to successfully employ our mission objectives, we must remove the severe training limitations now imposed by the insufficient area size of the Melrose Bombing Range. (Slide Number 2)

WING MISSION

1. TRAINING AIRCREWS TO FLY F-111

2. REALISTICS COMBAT TRAINING

   A) TACTICS

   B) BOMBS ON TARGET

SLIDE NUMBER 2

I'd like to give you a brief history, if you don't already know the background from reading your Environment Impact Statements, on Melrose Range. The range was first opened in the early 50's--of course the Wing--27th Tac Fighter Wing--had been there considerably longer--at least Cannon Air Force Base. The range was opened in the early 50's with only a little under 8,000 acres for maneuvering air space. At that time, there were only two targets that were scorable--one was a scoring target; and the other was one that we called a conventional target. Both were targets that they practiced their techniques on--their tactics. However, at that time, with the aircraft that we had in the inventory, and the objectives and tactics that were employed by the Air Force at that time, that was sufficient--that amount of airspace and those two targets were sufficient for the needs. (Slide 3)

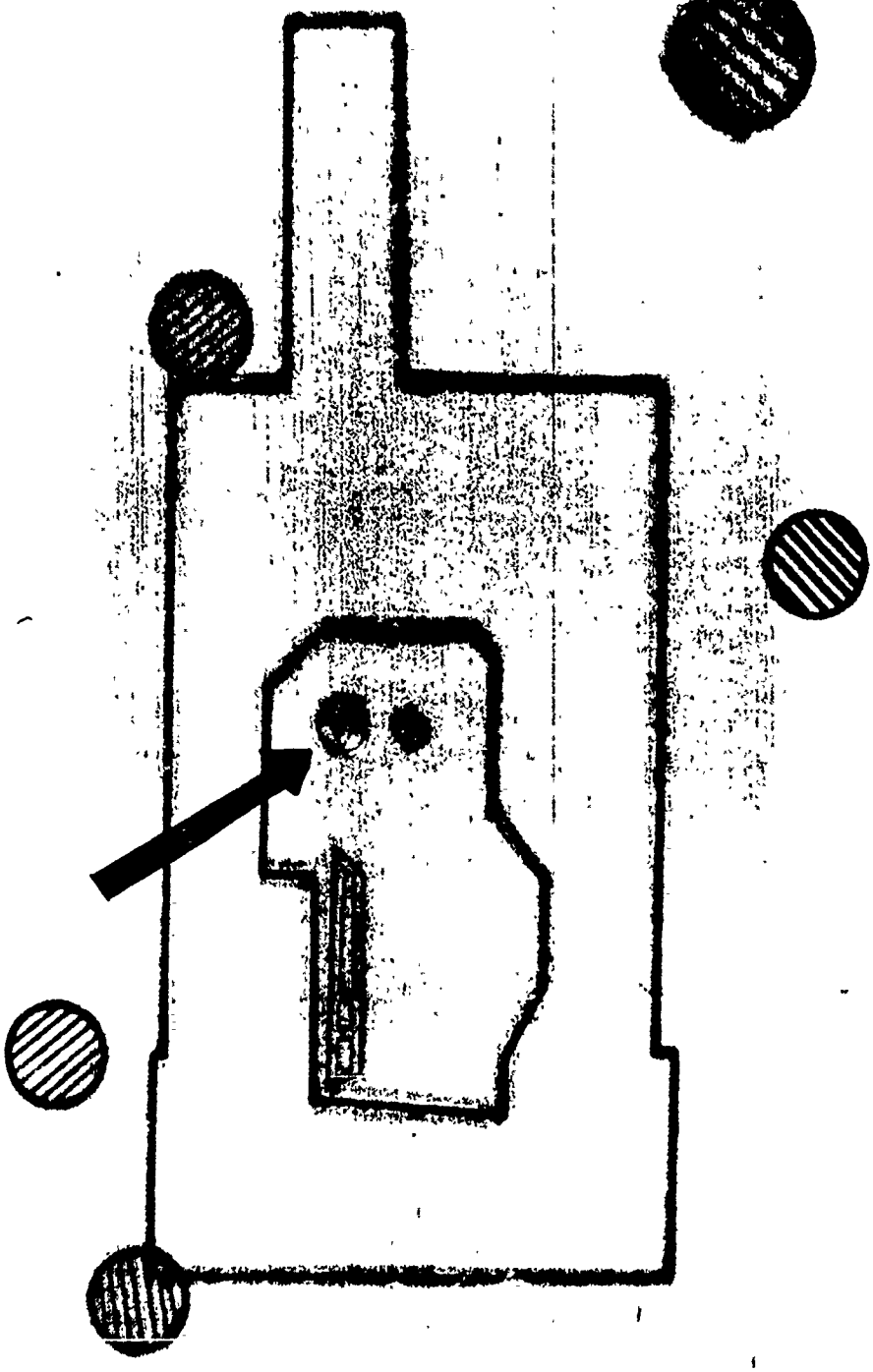
However, tactics change and aircraft tend to become more sophisticated. In the middle 60's--late 60's--'67/'68 time frame--Congress put together the appropriations to expand Melrose Bombing Range to the present size, which was achieved in 1969--a little over 22,000 acres. When we did this, it helped to enhance the realism of the combat scenario.

This was the old target (referring to Slide Number 4) which was used in the first range complex; and it is still out there. We still use it along with the second target, the conventional range. However, we added realism to the combat scenario by also adding

HISTORY OF MELROSE RANGE

- ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED BY LEASE ON 1 JULY 1952
- SITE OF 7,771 ACRES CHOSEN FOR SUITABILITY OF TOPOGRAPHY AND ACCESSIBILITY FROM CANNON AFB
- IN 1967/68 CONGRESS APPROPRIATED 1.4 MILLION DOLLARS TO PURCHASE 22,120 ACRES FOR RANGE AREA TO MEET SAFETY STANDARDS
- SINCE MID 70's EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY TO EXPAND RANGE AREA TO MEET NEW AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS

PRESENT RANGE & IMPACT AREA



SLIDE NUMBER 4

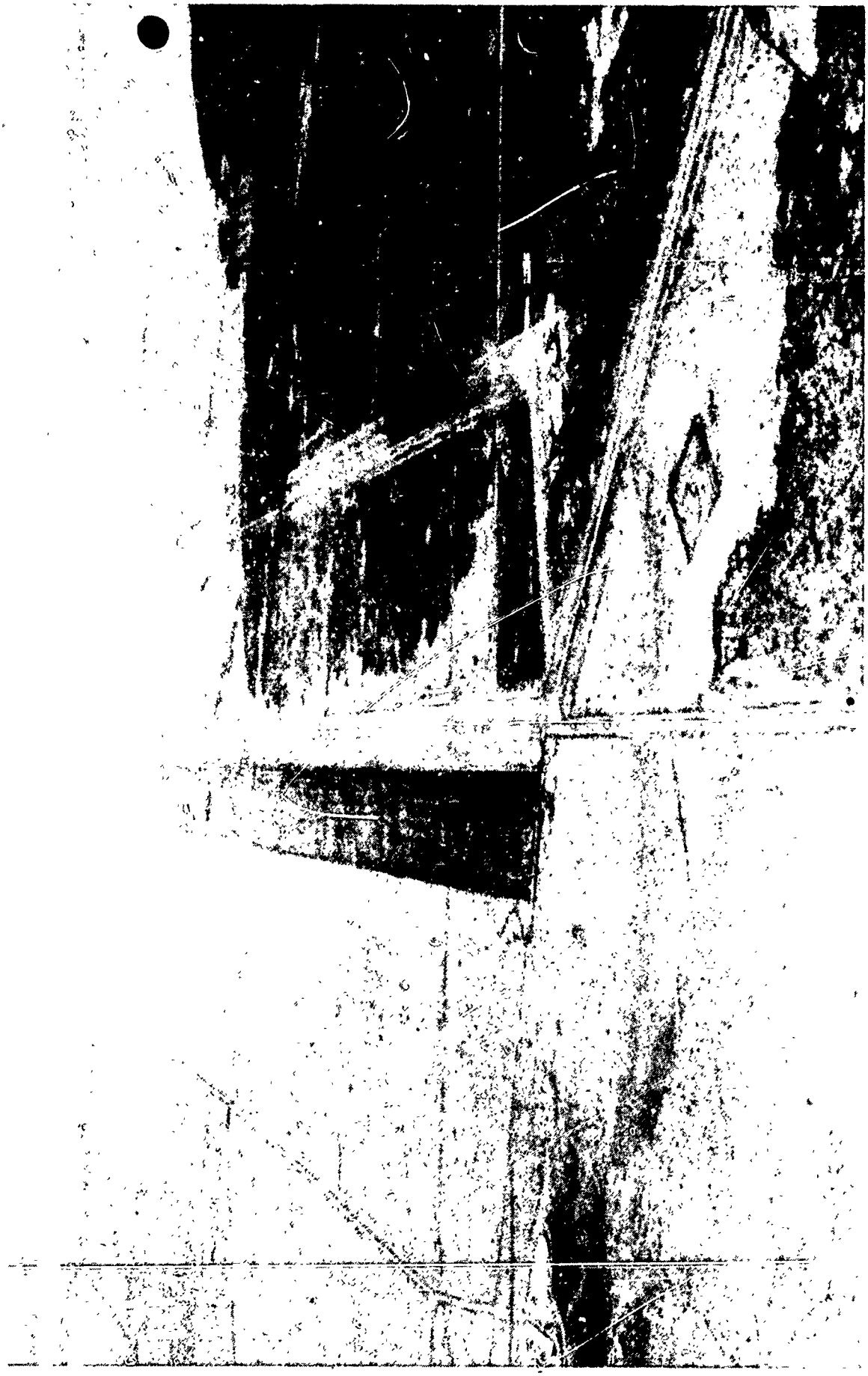
tactical targets. Although they are very difficult to see here, off to the right (pointed to Slide Number 5) are our tactical targets. And, ladies and gentlemen, when we're flying a mission, be it combat or in training, that's just about the perspective you're going to get of what a target looks like on the ground. Now, if you have to bomb the runway, that will suffice; but, unfortunately, those are not the targets that we have to maneuver to hit.

It also provided us a wide variance of targets and different angles of access for us to come in to. What are some of these targets? This (referring to Slide Number 6) is what they look like when you're closer up. In this case, these are surface to air missiles being taken to their launching platforms. This is the 111 flying across at a very low altitude, very high air speed; and you can see those targets out in the background. But, from a higher altitude, they were impossible to see. (Slide Number 7)

This is what we call Triple A, anti-aircraft artillery--another good target (Slide Number 8).

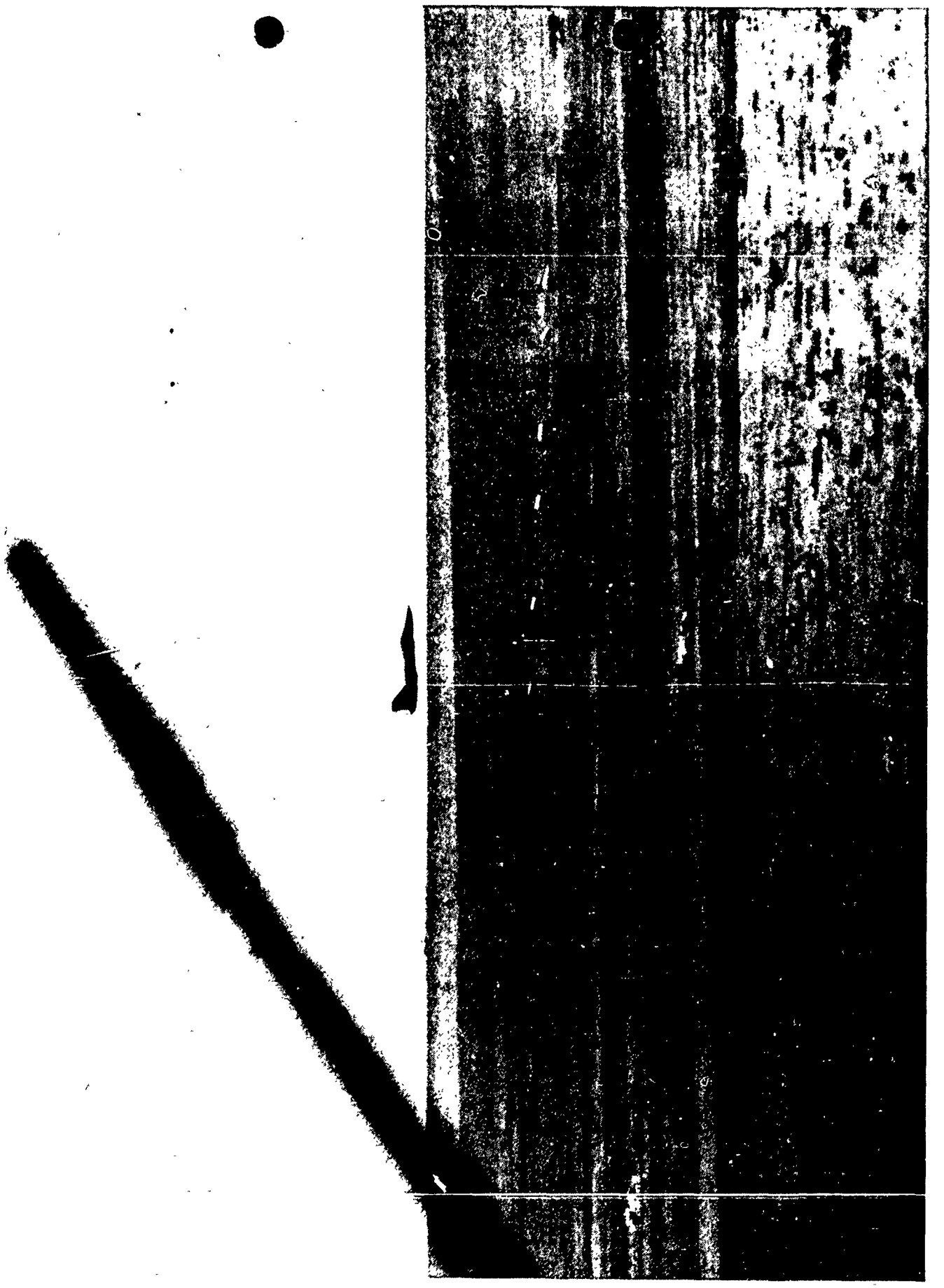
A very realistic SAM, surface-to-air missile, that the enemy employs in almost all capacities everywhere along its line of battle (Slide Number 9); and an old aircraft that we also use for a target (Slide Number 10).

But, with the stationing of the F-111D at Cannon Air Force Base, and the Air Force acquisition of other sophisticated aircraft



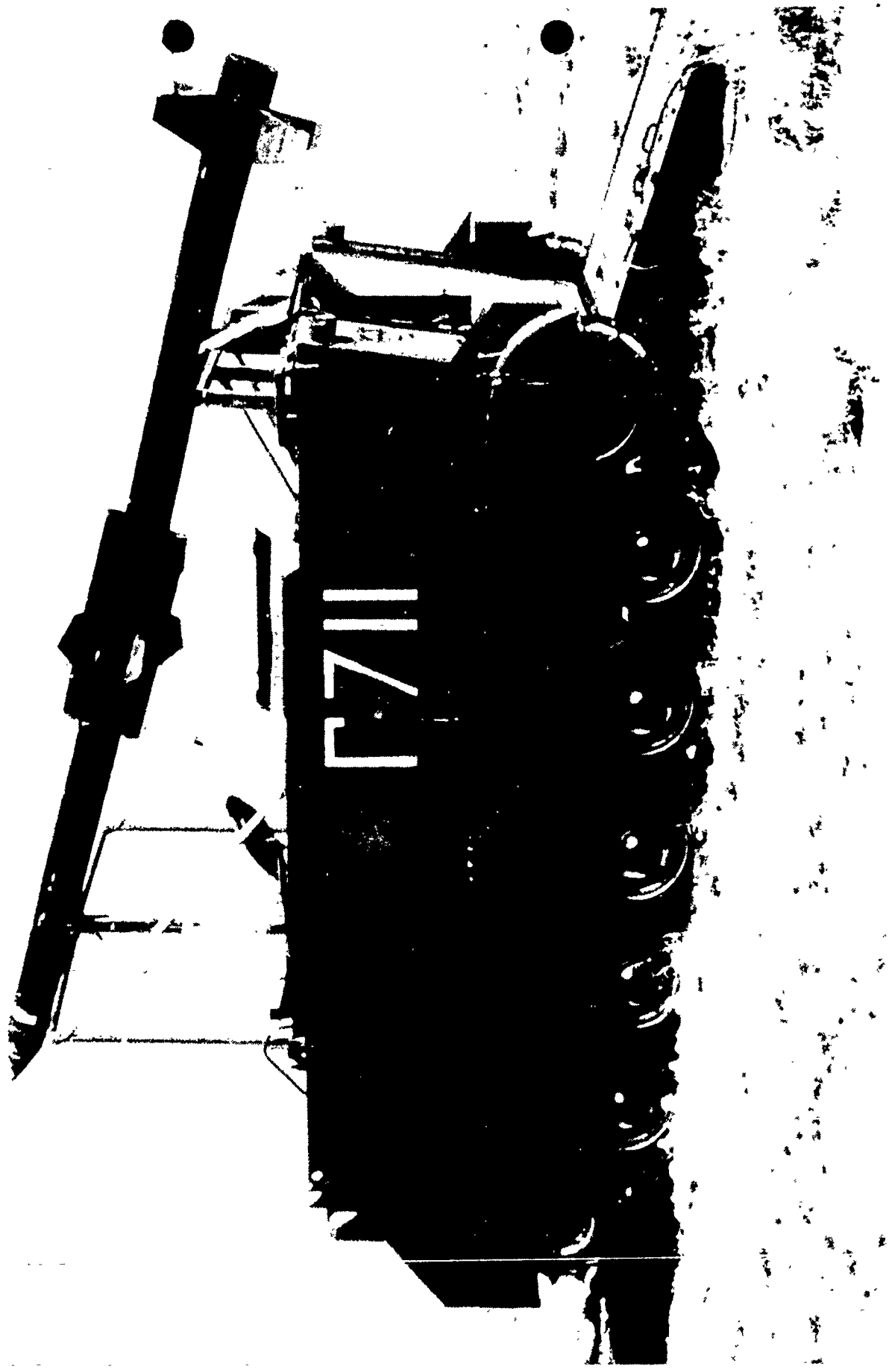
SLIDE NUMBER 5

SLIDE NUMBER 6



SLIDE NUMBER 7

SLIDE NUMBER 8



SLIDE NUMBER 9

SLIDE NUMBER 10

such as the F-15 and F-16, the A-7 and the A-10, the need was intensified for a range that could accommodate aircraft capable of performing enhanced tactical maneuvers.

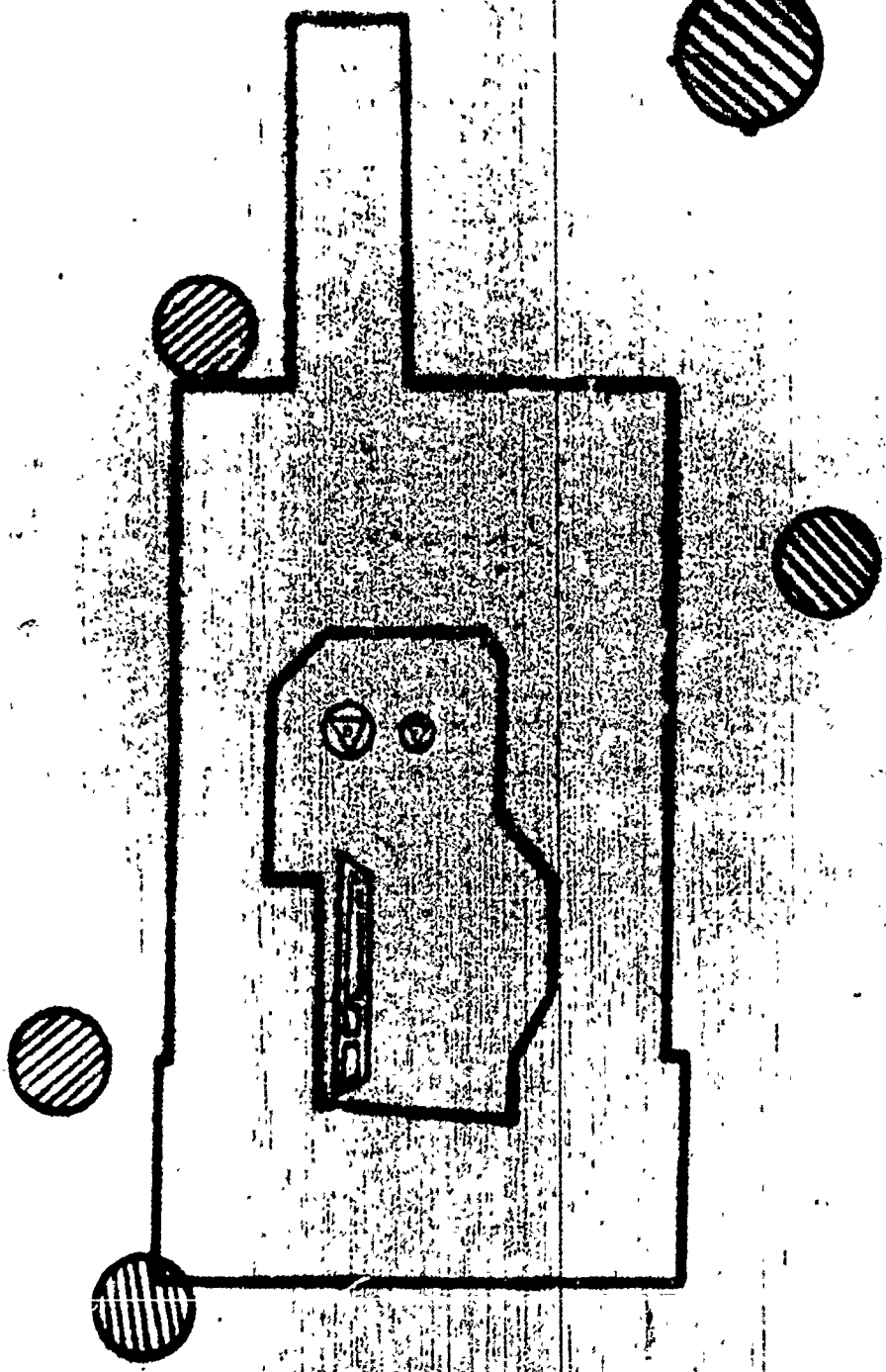
So, in the mid-70's, right after the 111 came to Melrose, the Wing started in the works the proposal--or the idea started forming in the minds--of expanding the Melrose Bombing Range so that we can maneuver realistically in the target area itself. Also in the mid-70's, another need became quite evident; and that was the area needed to be expanded for two reasons--one is our maneuverability and the other is for safety.

The United States Air Force, through its studies and through history, has found that the best way to improve the safety of both the aircrews and the civilians around the range airspace is to have an area that's approximately ten square miles and an area leading into the area--an inbound corridor--of about two to three and a half miles--all of this to promote safety for the aircrews in their maneuverability and also for the civilians who live around the range.

Melrose range, at this time--and the Air Force had these ideas back in the mid-70's--Melrose at this time is one-third the size of what the Air Force stated is sufficient.

This shows a pretty good representation of what we have with the history of the Melrose Bombing Range (Slide Number 11). The two little circles are the two scoring targets that first came in the early 50's. This is the tactical target (pointing to slide)

PRESENT RANGE & IMPACT AREA



which happened to enhance our techniques--our tactics--and give a more realistic approach to the range. This is the area that acts as a buffer zone--a safety zone--for the aircrews and for the civilians, which is one-third of the size that we feel is necessary (pointed to slide). And here are--I'm sure the people will notice--the areas we are now supposed to try to avoid flying over if at all possible.

I've told you why we need airspace. I've told you why we need the range boundaries increased. Now, I'll give you the reasons. Besides these reasons I've stated, I am an instructor pilot that daily, in and out, day in and day out, flies to the Melrose Bomb Range to practice with students to teach them how to fly in a combat environment. I also teach the aircrews that are down in mission-ready squadrons. Unless I am able to teach them to maneuver the aircraft to the max extent possible, I'm not teaching them as much as I can. Their training's being a little degraded. And these reasons are why it's being degraded: (Slide 12)

When they're coming in for their normal training mission, at the present time, with the run-ins that we are restricted to having, which are basically north and south, it's very stereotyped--very static--it's a very canned mission that they normally fly. It's not very realistic. By expanding the area, although we'll still only be able to come into the range from north and south, the buffer area will allow us maneuvering airspace to attack these

WHY MORE AIRSPACE

1. TRAINING MISSIONS LESS STEREOTYPED
   - MORE REALISTIC
2. TACTICS REQUIRED EXTENSIVE MANEUVERING AIRSPACE
3. MULTIPLE AIRCRAFT ATTACKS/VARYING DIRECTIONS
4. TEACHES SURVIVABILITY
5. SAFETY

SLIDE NUMBER 12

target from a more realistic standpoint. When you come into a target, ladies and gentlemen, it's entirely different every time you approach it from a different angle.

We approach them two ways. We approach them visually and we approach them through the radar. Visually, it's no different if you look at your neighbor from the left or right side, the front or the back--he looks different. On the radar, it's like a negative. If you turn it upside down or turn it to the left or right, backwards or forwards, a negative looks entirely different. By restricting us on a north or south primary run-in heading, they are not optimizing the training for the identification of a target.

The tactics that we employ require a lot of maneuvering airspace--a lot of maneuvering ar . There are three basic tactics. One is a level pass, which we can either deliver bombs on the target visually or through radar. This is done by coming very low and very fast across the target area and then exiting the target area. Once again, we're restricted on this because we can't turn to the right; we have to turn to the left.

Another tactic is what we call a "pop up delivery." With this delivery, we come in at a very low altitude, very high airspeed, and we can't see the target; but, in that same instance, they can't see us. So, we're simulating that we're coming into a target that's defended. If this were a target and I were the aircraft (demonstrated with positions of his hands), how we plan this and what

it requires is that we start maneuvering five miles away to pop up on the target--five miles away. So, we'll make our maneuver, pop up to a certain angle given for different deliveries, and start trying to visually acquire the target. We then roll in--and all of our training is predicated that we're only going to roll in for five seconds--but, when we use this delivery, that five seconds does two things. One; it allows me to visually acquire the target and give a great degree of accuracy on identifying this target. And, another one is, on this dive angle, it allows me to concentrate on the weapons delivery. It allows me to concentrate the weapons themselves on the target, ensuring more of a kill ratio.

As I said, this requires five miles maneuvering airspace. Presently, we're restricted on our run-in heading in doing that. Not only does it require the maneuvering space, when we start to maneuver, it also takes my airspace to come up to that maneuvering point; so another delivery.

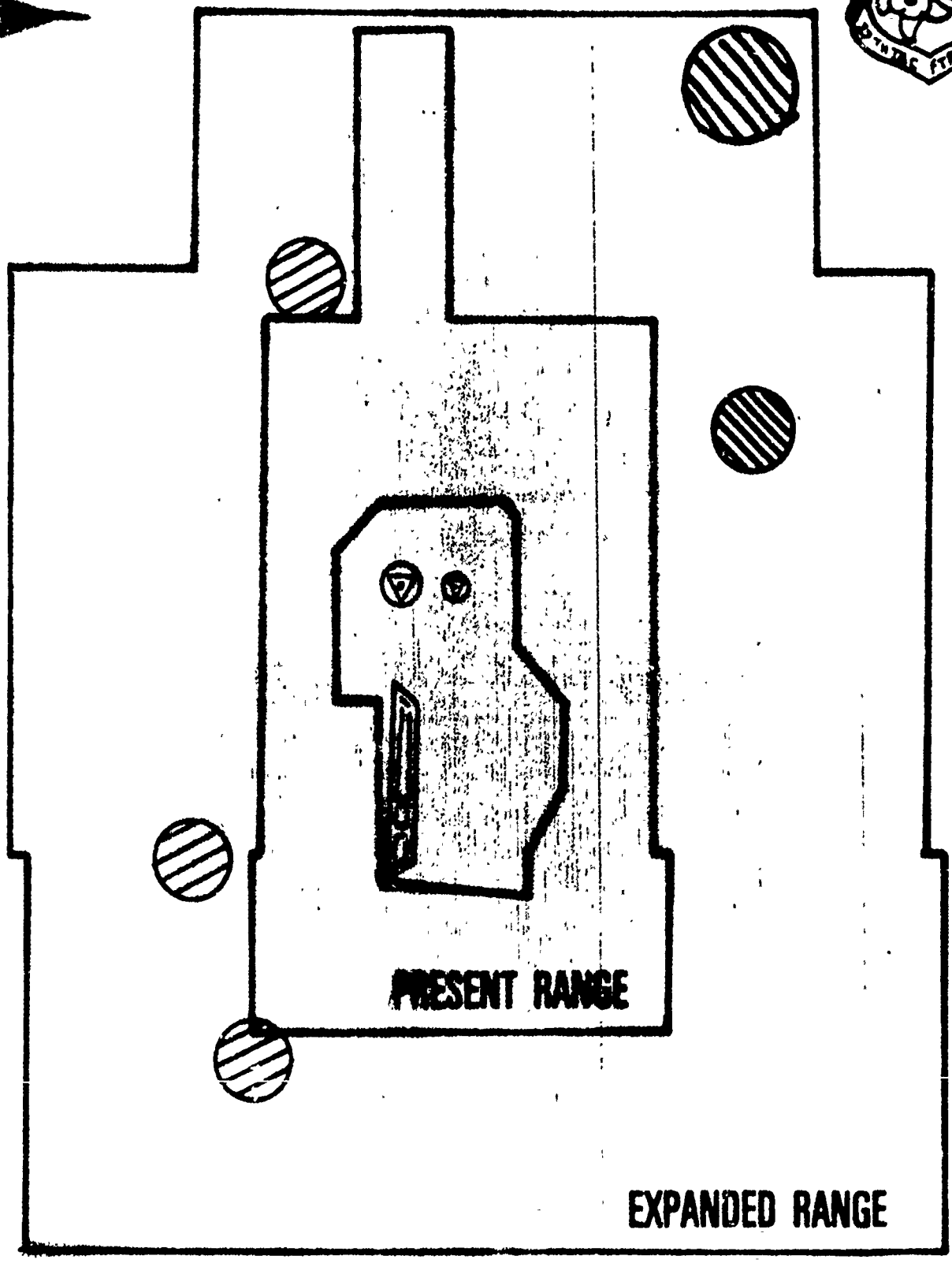
We have still yet one more primary delivery in the F-111 Delta and that is what we call a TOSS delivery. The F-111 is one of the most sophisticated aircraft in the Air Force inventory. We have general navigation computers, weapons delivery computers, and inertial navigation systems on the aircraft which allow us a great degree of accuracy when maneuvering at low level, even though sometimes we're going so fast it may be, without the help

of the computers, difficult to identify where we are. With these computers, on a heavily defended target--think of any target that you want that you would think the enemy would think was valuable and put all of its defenses around--with this heavily defended target, we can come up from five or six miles away, pull up on our delivery, and throw the bomb at the target. Our computers are so accurate that we can have a high degree of reliability on the destruction of that target and it will also increase the survivability rate of the aircraft and the aircrew--five or six miles to pull away--more miles needed to maneuver into the airspace. But, once again, we're restricted on this delivery from a TOSS delivery because of the present restrictions on the area of only doing it from the north. We can't even--we're not even allowed, for safety reasons, to do this one from the south.

All of these objectives--all this training that we do--teaches the aircrews--and hopefully they learn from it--how to survive in that combat scenario. And, of course, with the extension of the maneuvering airspace, coming up to TAC standard, we increase the safety factor. The civilians are further away from where we're dropping the bombs; the aircrews are no longer worried about having to break left--especially if an aircraft malfunction occurs; and the realistic training and the safety of both civilians and aircrews is assured.

This next picture is going to show you the actual range size now and what the proposed effect would be (Slide Number 13). Notice

RANGE COMPARISON



SCALE

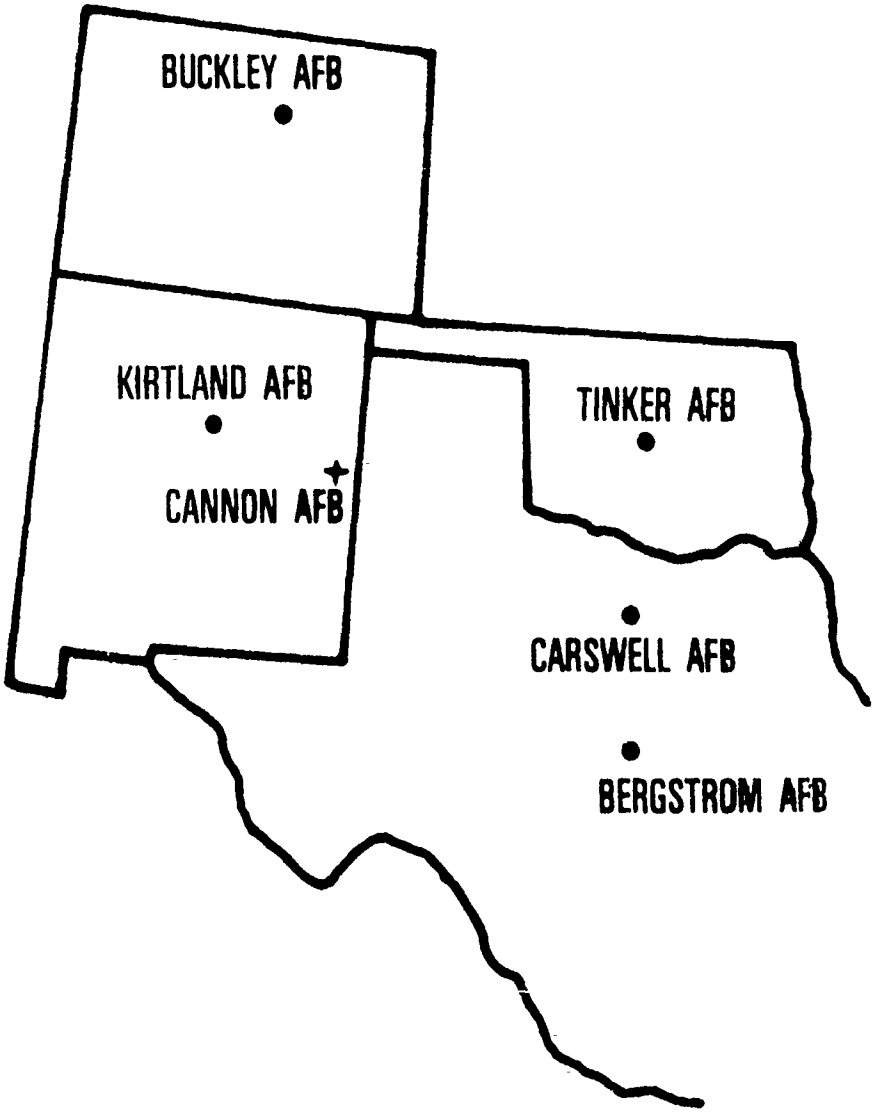
SLIDE NUMBER 13

how close--and the crossed-out areas is no secret--it's where certain dwellings are--homes are--that we have to try and avoid--and notice that, if we were granted this land, those dwellings would be outside maneuvering airspace. Also notice that we could now bring maneuvering from the left--from the east--or from the west, from the north, or from the south--current restrictions that are very hard to live with at this time.

Melrose Range, although we're the primary scheduling wing that keeps control of Melrose Range, is also used by other wings. These are some of the bases that they are stationed at (referring to Slide Number 14) and some of the states that they come from. It is an Air Force range.

In summary, ladies and gentlemen, as an instructor pilot at Cannon Air Force Base, I'm very restricted on the amount of training I can give our aircrews that we expect to go to combat some day. We want to train them the same way we expect them to fight in combat. By putting the restrictions on the maneuvering airspace that you have given us at Melrose Range, it's very similar to having the Dallas Cowboys come in here and practice football. The passes wouldn't be as long; the defensive backs certainly wouldn't have to spread out too far; White couldn't drop back too far for a pass; nor could the punt go very far. Same thing--you couldn't expect them to play or be very well prepared for a game against the Redskins if they were restricted to that kind of training.

PRINCIPAL USING UNITS



SLIDE NUMBER 14

It also applies to aircrews training at Melrose Bomb Range. For the aircrews of the F-111D to successfully be able to complete a future combat mission, we must be able to practice our tactical delivery techniques in an environment that as close as possible simulates the actual combat conditions we will some day encounter.

That concludes my briefing. Thank you very much.

COMMENTS BY COLONEL RATCLIFF:

As I indicated, now is the time when you will have the opportunity to pose questions. The questions that would be appropriate at this particular time would be, of course, those that would relate to the briefing that has just been given. Under those circumstances, then, this would not be the appropriate time to be making a statement. That, of course, will be at a later point. Nor, would it be an appropriate time to address environmental issues. The briefing, of course, has dealt with the mission of the Air Force and the significance of the Melrose Range in connection with that mission. And the questions, then, that we're going to consider at this point are those that would help to clarify for you the Air Force mission with regard to the Melrose Range.

I would ask, of course, in just a moment when I'm going to ask for a show of hands, for those who do wish to pose a question, I will try to take the individuals in the order in which I can see that their hands have been raised. Since this needs to be taken

down by the reporter, I'm going to ask that as the individual is recognized, if you would, please come up to the microphone which would be to my left, and utilize it. And, when you speak, I would ask you also, if you would, to identify for the benefit of the reporter your name and your address. And, when a representative of the Air Force speaks, so that it's likewise identified for the record as to who has provided the answer, I'm going to ask likewise that the Air Force representative give his rank and his name and his particular position.

In connection further, of course, with the questions, hopefully you understand the nature of the kind of questions that we're accepting at this time. As you can imagine, this is not a time for debate -- that's not why we're here--or for cross-examining of the individual; not for argument or anything of that nature; but certainly to entertain the questions that you might have in this particular area.

All right. At this time, let me ask for a show of hands--and as I indicated--all right, here's a gentleman right here that I think was the very first, in about the sixth row back. Sir, could you come up to the microphone and pose your question, please.

(Unidentified Speaker) Which microphone?

(Colonel Ratcliff) It would be over here to your right. Would you please give your name and address.

QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE:

(Ike Morgan) Did I understand the gentleman to say that, with the new arrangements with the expansion, so that you'd come in from an east to the west approach?

(Capt Moss) No sir, that's not. We will still be restricted in coming in from our approach corridors from the north and from the south. However, once in the range complex itself--the area--we will be--we will now have at our accessibility the maneuvering airspace to attack the targets from the north, south, east and west.

(Ike Morgan) But no approach from the east?

(Capt Moss) No sir.

(Col Ratcliff) Sir, could you at least give us your name for the record, please?

(Capt Moss) Your name?

(Ike Morgan) Ike Morgan.

(Capt Moss) Ike Morgan.

(Col Ratcliff) I believe there was another hand that was raised immediately behind this gentleman--yes sir--if you would come forward, please.

(Guy Martin) My name is Guy Martin and I was born and raised in the area where this expansion is going to be. And they have a cemetery out there where my folks are buried. What are they going to do about that?

(Col Ratcliff) I believe, sir, the nature of your question is not one at the moment that relates to the mission; and I would ask, if you would, to reserve that for the latter portion in the proceedings, if you would please. Do you have a question with regard to the mission that has been discussed in the briefing?

(Guy Martin) No, I guess not right at the time.

(Col Ratliff) All right, then, thank you sir.

(Jack Greathouse) Could you throw your projection back where you showed the range with the houses limitations within the present range?

(Capt Moss) Would you say your name, please?

(Jack Greathouse) I'm Jack Greathouse. I think it was about the second or third one back. It said "The Present Range"--

(Capt Moss) The one that has the old range with the present range on it?

(Jack Greathouse) Yes sir. Showing some circles, which I assume were houses.

(Capt Moss) Yes sir. (Slide Number 11 was displayed)

(Jack Greathouse) Would you please identify the circle on the right hand side, immediately outside the present bombing range? Whose house is this?

(Capt Moss) Sir, as far as an actual name is concerned--and as far as all the areas are concerned that are marked on the maps--the aircrews do not know specific names, nor do we really desire to know specific names. What we do is that we identify someone

who has complained of a noise complaint, or perhaps some other problem may have occurred while the use of Melrose Range was in effect, and then on every map that is used by every aircrew, the Wing instructs us to mark those areas so that we will try in the future to avoid flying over them. True, there's probably been flight over. Again, you've got to realize--I'll reiterate again that I'm an instructor pilot and I fly with students. You can say that, "Don't fly over that spot" and before he flies over that spot I'll have to take the aircraft away from him; but, to the best of every aircrew's ability in the Wing, they try and avoid any spot or any area that we have located as a potential hazard.

(Jack Greathouse) Why was that house not in the DEIS study?

(Capt Moss) The reasons why it was not in the DEIS study, I don't know and I can't answer. I can only say that it is now on the present route books that the aircrews use, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) I don't believe that particular question related to the mission that was just briefed.

(Capt Moss) Were you needing another slide?

(Negative response)

(Col Ratcliff) All right, the gentleman back here.

(Thor Stephenson) My name is Thor Stephenson, T-H-O-R. Sir, as I understand, or I must assume, that in the late '60's, at the time of the first expansion of this range, the acreage that it was expanded was assumed to be adequate to take care of training requirements. Now, you're coming before the people again to ask

for more area--and granted, I'm well aware that the F-111D and the F-15 are more sophisticated, faster and take more airspace. The question is, are we going to be back here in 15 years doing this all over again when you have a more sophisticated aircraft?

(Capt Moss) Once again, I'm sorry, but later in the briefing that will be addressed by representatives of TAC. As far as an operational stand point of view, I can't really answer that question.

(Thor Stephenson) Okay, thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. I'm not for sure which of you gentlemen had your hand up first. I think this gentleman back here actually may have.

(Jim Dickenson) I'm Jim Dickenson. I'd like to refer to the map we had up there while ago. We don't have to see it. I live about up there where those horses' eyes are on the wall (referring to a painting on the gymnasium wall) and I would love to get me one of them round X's. I've pulled bombs off of me; I've landed planes on me; and I'm not very safe where I live at all. And, I'd like to know how I get one of those red X's put over me that would avoid at all cost instead of come over at all cost?

(Capt Moss) Once again, that's really not my area of expertise. However, by contacting Capt Compton, here, sir, something--

(Jim Dickenson) I've turned it into the base so many times, I'm sick of it. But, you're a pilot and apparently you know nothing about it at all.

(Capt Moss) Well, as far as what it takes to actually become a restricted area, I cannot answer that--because for what you just said, I'm a pilot and my main job is to fly. But, once somebody restricts me, then I'll follow the restriction; but, up to that point, that's really not a--I'm sorry, again, that's not a question I can answer.

(Jim Dickenson) I was told several times that all pilots are informed to stay off my house. And they really do stay off of it.

(Capt Moss) I will address it in the context that the experience that I have had in the 111--and this is from a personal standpoint--I have never, nor allowed a student to, intentionally fly over a house to cause any sort of noise disturbance or certainly any sort of disturbance that could come about from the dropping of a bomb.

(Jim Dickenson) One more question. Was you in a plane yesterday?

(Capt Moss) No sir. I was practicing this briefing yesterday.

(Jim Dickenson) Okay. You're the only one that didn't fly over yesterday.

(Col Ratcliff) All right, sir.

(Dan Greathouse) I wanted to know a question--an answer to a question here. What is the horizontal turning radius of an F-111 at full attack speed?

(Capt Moss) At full attack speed? The turning radius for the F-111 at full attack speed differs. For a different delivery that we use on a different target on a different day with different environmental characteristics that we'd be going over--whether it's cloudy, which will also determine what our speed will be; whether--it will also be determining our delivery--it can be as small as four miles--it can be as small as two and a half miles, which is when we are configured to land; or it can be as large as 15 miles when we're going full AB. Your question is--somewhere in between.

(Dan Greathouse) Okay. Two to--

(Capt Moss) We will not be using full AB on the range.

(Dan Greathouse) So two to fifteen? Anywhere between--

(Capt Moss) Two and a half to fifteen.

(Dan Greathouse) Two and a half to fifteen miles? Okay, thank you.

(Capt Moss) But I'd like to stress that the fifteen miles is, at our max airspeed, supersonic; and, I'm sorry, but I actually believe it's greater than that. Our max capability of airspeed is something like 2.5; but that's up at altitude--a very high altitude.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Let me see, then, if there are any further questions to be posed at this time with regard to the mission briefing. All right. I do not see any further hands at this point. We will thus conclude that portion of the

proceedings. And now, of course, we come to that portion that I mentioned where statements are to be received. Now, some of the visiting dignitaries have indicated that they desire to speak. And, of course, they will be given the opportunity to do so. I already have a number of cards of those of you who have indicated that you desire to speak; and I have not arranged those in any particular order.

I will, of course, use these cards for the purpose of announcing the speakers. The addresses that are on these cards will also be used for mailing copies of the transcript of this hearing and the final environment impact statement to those who make statements. For those who have not participated in the hearing but desire a copy, one may be obtained at a reasonable charge--and I will give you an address at a later point.

If--again, if you have failed at this point to obtain one of the cards, you, of course, may still do so and be included among those who will speak.

Once again, when we begin to call the names, I will ask that you come to the microphone and, of course, identify yourself. For those who are representing an organization, you will be allowed 10 minutes for speaking. For those who are speaking simply on your own--that is, you're not representing some organization--you will be allowed five minutes.

As a timekeeper, we have Lt Brubaker who will be keeping time and he will be advising the speaker when you have one minute left

and then, of course, when your time is up. If you happen to have a written statement and you would like to read it, you, of course, may read it and may also submit it to have it attached to the transcript. I would indicate, of course, also that if you do not have a statement that you wish to make, whether written or orally this evening, but you do wish to submit a statement--or perhaps you know of someone who wishes to submit one--you may do so; and I, again, will give you an address at a later point in the proceedings. This written statement, however, must be submitted so as to arrive not later than 30 June of 1984--in other words, the end of this month.

As I indicated previously, as to the questions on the mission briefings, you were limited in that part of the meeting. At this portion of the meeting, you, of course, may not only make statements; but, if you have questions that you wish to pose in regard to the environment, you may pose those questions.

Now, the questions that will be posed, if you pose it at this time, there will not be any answers provided on the environmental portion; however, these questions will be a part of the record and, of course, will receive attention in the evaluation.

I would indicate, of course, in connection with this, the fact that someone does not get up and make a statement in response to either a question or a statement that you make, should not be taken as an indication of an Air Force position one way or the other with regard to your statement.

All right, at this time I'm going to begin to call upon some of the dignitaries who are present this evening. And I might indicate, of course, that, in addition to a number of the dignitaries who have already been mentioned and introduced to you, that we have several individuals present who are speaking, I think, particularly with regard to the school board; and these, of course, will follow immediately after the dignitaries.

First of all, Mr Poe Corn, if you would please.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

(Poe Corn) My name is Poe Corn and I'm here representing Senator Pete Domenici at this meeting. And my purpose in coming before you is to read a statement from him. This statement is to all interested citizens attending the Melrose Bombing Range Public Hearing in Floyd on June 6, 1984.

"I'm sorry I cannot be with you tonight; however, the Senate is working on the Department of Defense authorization for 1985. I do share your concern regarding the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

On April the 10th, Senator Bingaman, Congressman Skeen and myself asked the Air Force to extend the comment period until June the 30th, to provide citizens sufficient time for deliberate preparation of a thorough response to the Draft EIS.

The purpose of this meeting tonight is to bring out the issues and concerns, including the local school district funding, the New Mexico Boys' Ranch, the size of the economical ranching

units, the effect on present bombing range land now leased for grazing, and any others. Please do not be reluctant to individually present your concerns tonight.

The funds to purchase the land for any extension will not be requested until the 1986 fiscal military construction budget. This will allow time to properly address all our questions. You have my promise that all concerns will be fully addressed and answered before any action of finality is taken in this matter.

Yours truly, Pete Domenici."

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Mr Vince Murphy.

(Vince Murphy) Mr Secretary, Air Force staff. Senator Bingaman appreciates the scheduling of this meeting in Floyd and the 60-day extension for this important hearing. Our role, as staff, tonight is to listen to the concerns of the Floyd community and record those concerns and relay your comments to Senator Bingaman.

In reference to the draft EIS, the following comments are offered: Senator Bingaman's office has received concerns regarding the distribution of the EIS and the lack of response to the comments which have been submitted. Some of the affected individuals were not aware of the EIS or this hearing. These complaints were obtained from surface and sub-surface mineral right owners.

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Comments have also been received from state and federal agencies regarding their lack of awareness of this hearing. In

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summary, Senator Bingaman is in support of an open process to obtain all points of view regarding the Melrose Range Expansion Proposal.

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Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Mr Jim Baca.

(Jim Baca) Thank you very much, Colonel. I appreciate the opportunity to attend the hearing today. And, if you'll just bear with me, I think I better read this, because I think I have something to say here tonight.

At the outset, it must be made clear that I strongly oppose the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, as it is currently proposed in this Environmental Impact Statement. My opposition is based on obvious deficiencies in the DEIS--primarily, the failure to address the impact of this proposal on my office and its function. My opposition shall remain strong and I will direct all the resources at my disposal to defeat this proposed expansion unless and until the Air Force and the federal government realistically recognize the importance and the purpose of the state trust lands involved in this proposal.

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What I desire is that the federal government make commitments to exchange land equal in value and potential before actually acquiring any state trust land. I am further compelled to take this position because of the awful experience I have had--and some of you in this room have had--and my predecessors have had and

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continue to have with the federal government's acquisition of the White Sands Missile Range. For over 40 years, New Mexico citizens, including commissioners of public lands, have attempted to get fair treatment in compensation for and in exchange for land from the state trust lands taken for the use of the White Sands Missile Range. Those attempts have failed. We have even had to file lawsuits in order to protect our interests. To date, we are still waiting for the proper satisfaction.

To the extent that I am able, I will not create for my successors and for the citizens of New Mexico another White Sands situation here in eastern New Mexico.

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To correct a serious misconception evident in the DEIS, the state land involved is not land of general use for the public. It is not public land. No one uses it without paying a fair market value fee for that use--and I know I'm questioning what fair market value is with some of you ranchers right now; but I think we're all on the same side right now. This land, in fact, is land held in trust by the state and administered in trust by me as the elected Commissioner of Public Lands in this state to generate revenue exclusively for specifically identified beneficiaries. These beneficiaries include public schools and certain public institutions. In this particular case, we are dealing with land held to support elementary and secondary education and to support water conservation programs administered by the State Engineer.

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The state trust land, which is the subject of the proposal to expand the Melrose Bombing Range, was granted to New Mexico as

part of the compact New Mexico entered into with the United States government for a grant of statehood. Legislative history strongly shows that Congress wanted to make sure that New Mexico had a land base sufficient to make New Mexico financially viable as a state. In granting land to New Mexico, Congress placed very stringent controls on how I, as the trust administrator, can use the trust land. These stringent controls assure that the purpose of the land is properly fulfilled and that the land's potential remains dedicated to its beneficiaries.

A prime example of these restrictions is the proscription against selling mineral rights. I can only lease them. I can never sell them.

The proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range seeks to acquire approximately 60,000 acres of state trust land, where the trust owns both the mineral and surface rights, and another 6,000 acres of minerals only. The impact statement is inaccurate in this respect, indicating a wrong figure of the amount of state trust lands that are affected by this proposal.

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Since the proposal encompasses about 54,000 acres, I control, as a fiduciary--trust officer--approximately one-third of the land that the Air Force is attempting to acquire. Currently, this land is fulfilling its congressionally mandated purpose--it is making money for the trust beneficiaries and has a potential for earning much more. The highest and best use of the surface estate of the trust land involved is for ranching and agricultural purposes;

and all of the surface estate is, in fact, leased out to several different entities for these purposes, producing rental income for the beneficiaries. This rental income money goes into the beneficiaries' income account and it is thus available annually for the beneficiaries' needs.

As far as the mineral estate of the state trust land goes, at the present time well over half of the land is under oil and gas leases generating lease bonus income. In this area, there is potential for a high level of oil and gas development. There is a specific reason why I believe the beneficiaries will suffer greatly if this land is acquired by the government and not replaced by land of equal value and potential. For example, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology has classified this area as being the most favorable for exploration and potential development. Further, the United States Department of Interior, in Geological Survey Circular No. 725, published in 1975, estimated that the reserves in the area were 79 barrels of oil per acre and 539,000 cubic feet of gas per acre. On the state trust land involved in the proposal alone, this is equivalent of approximately 1,750,000 barrels of oil and five and one-third million MCF gas, worth approximately, at today's market rates, $66,000,000.

The royalty benefits alone to the beneficiaries--and those beneficiaries are school children--could amount to $10,000,000, and that doesn't even count the severance taxes, property taxes, and everything else we could generate off such production. Moreover,

in light of the potential for oil and gas development in the entire expansion area, New Mexico will be deprived of millions of dollars of economic development.

The primary fault of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement is that it contains not one mention of the purpose of the state trust land in regard to the impact and consequences of this proposed expansion. In fact, the Statement implies that state trust lands were purposefully sought for expansion because it would be the easiest and cheapest to acquire. For instance, on page 4 of the Statement, a reference to AFR 50-46, Chapter 2, indicates that the Air Force is only looking at potential areas where there are blocks of federal and state land. Again, I must emphasize that the state trust land should be considered by the Air Force as if it was privately-owned land. Thus, it does not fit the proper criteria for proposed expansion area, unless the proposal also contains the identification of land of equal value and potential for exchange.

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An entry on page 12 of the Statement reiterates the current Bureau of Land Management policy against participating in three-party land exchanges. In this case, that would involve the Air Force acquiring the state land and BLM, as merely another facet of the federal government, transferring land of equal value and potential to the land commissioner's office, rather than the trust receiving monetary compensation. This recitation of BLM policy, however, does not tell me what the Air Force believes about

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an exchange and whether or not the Air Force is willing to convince the BLM and the Secretary of the Department of Interior that such an exchange is, in fact, in the public interest.

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Obviously, from what I have commented here so far, an exchange of land is the only way in which the Air Force and the federal government are going to get my cooperation as the administrator of a third of the acres that the Air Force is seeking. I strongly believe that limiting New Mexico to compensation in the form of cash actually perverts the purpose for which Congress gave New Mexico this trust land. We all know, as a practical matter, that retention of land will return revenue to New Mexico beneficiaries many times greater than a monetary award could generate. Moreover, by retaining land and leasing it, I am able to create current income for the beneficiaries from rents and bonuses, while increasing the beneficiaries permanent funds from the royalties.

Of course, as pointed out here already, the Statement has no discussion of the impact on the beneficiaries of the loss of this income and permanent fund monies that this land can generate--and I can tell you something, some of this land generated this beautiful gymnasium we're in right now.

Finally, I must criticize the Statement for its superficial treatment of alternatives to the proposed expansion. Considering the extremely negative impact that the proposed expansion will have on landowners and beneficiaries, without any evident positive economic on the community--and I would remind you that on page 4

of the Statement it is stated that the Air Force does not foresee an increase of activity at the Melrose Bombing Range--we shall make every attempt--every attempt should be made to make one of the alternatives acceptable for the 27th Tactical Fighter Wings weapons requirements, to get into a land trade with us--and, if you ever get into a land trade with the federal government, be prepared for the worst time of your life--just the worst time of your life.

Thank you. (See also Atch 1)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Ed Cole. I might indicate, in many of these instances I may have the name and the address. In some instances, of course, the address is not complete on the information that we have. And, particularly if you are interested in receiving a copy of the transcript, it would be highly important for us to have the address. Mr Cole.

(Ed Cole) Thank you. I'm Ed Cole, Superintendent of the Floyd Municipal School System; and this evening I would like to speak a few moments on the position of the school district and the people that are represented by this community on the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

As I first start, though, I would like to erase a misconception or two. During the recent weeks, I have heard two statements made: one, that we are against the Melrose Bombing Range; and, two, we are against an expanded Melrose Bombing Range that would be in flying time of the air base. This is wrong. Our district and the people represented by the community support a strong military force

for our nation. If you will think back a few years ago, to 1976, July the 4th, our nation celebrated 200 years of freedom and independence. Recently, I had the opportunity to read a newspaper of that time and how the Floyd community celebrated that 200 years of independence and freedom. But, also during that day of celebration they took time to remember the ten men who gave their lives for the defense of our nation. We believe in a strong military force.

This community has always paid its taxes, supported its schools, supported its churches. They have supported all of the community enterprises and they have worked hard in what I consider the work ethic that has made this nation strong. But if there comes a point in a man's life when he feels that the government has taken more than it needs to, then we must consider whether it is right or wrong--and that is the position of the Floyd School System tonight, whether the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, taking private land is right or wrong; whether the government is going to make servants of us or whether the government is going to perform a service for us. That is a critical issue.

It is the position of the school to oppose the expansion of the present Melrose Bombing Range at the detriment of the school system. Now, earlier we have heard the history of the range and how in about 1950 the Air Force leased between seven to eight thousand acres. Later on, they acquired that land by buying it. In 1969, they expanded that to between twenty-two to twenty-three

thousand acres. Most of this came from the Floyd school district; some of it from the Melrose school district.

If the geographic size of this school district is continually reduced, eventually--although the government, or the Air Force, may give us money--what good is a school system if we do not have students to serve?

Before the bombing range went in, we had two bus runs to the west mesa area, or the bombing range area. Since then, we have reduced it. Now, this may seem far fetched to you; but, if you'll go down Bethel Highway, or the Floyd Highway, and look at the number of homes and notice the children around them, you can see that this is a viable school district.

There is always the possibility that the range could be expanded. Who wants to buy a homesite, make improvements to it, if they may not be able to keep it? Do we want to have a school district with a long history, starting with an original bus law suit that has affected the school transportation of this whole nation; or, do we want to destroy the Floyd school district?

If the expansion of the bombing range goes through, and it substracts from the Floyd school district, then maybe we would like to consider looking at the other school districts that would benefit from the economic growth or the increase of the student enrollment and change their boundaries and add to our district so it would continue to be viable. But, looking at the bombing range expansion, I would like to pose some questions and state some facts:

If the bombing range is expanded to its seventy-six to seventy-seven thousand acres, that is 26 percent of our school district.

The first thing I would like for the Air Force to consider is the safety of the range. Now, the flight pattern is from north to south. But what happens if it becomes east to west? Tonight, if we wanted to, we could display examples of bombs that have been dropped in homes of people living near the range--bombs that have been dropped as far as the House community, which is a long ways from the buffer zone. The noise level, the low-flying planes, the building deterioration--what type of safety would it be for our school district?

The second point I would like to bring out would be the bond indebtedness of the district. How will it be solved? Who will pay for it in the future if the school district is reduced? Do we want more--do we want less and less people paying for more and more of the bond indebtedness? How will the Air Force compensate the school district for this? Sometimes it goes through my mind that the people who are in favor of the bombing range expansion, by taking away part of our school district, part of our tax base, and part of our private property, if they would be in favor of the bombing range expansion.

Third, there is a bus run, if the expansion goes through, that would be in the buffer area. Would we have to curtail the bus runs during the bombing practices, which are every day, 24 hours a day? How would we provide for the safety of the students?

And, fourth, I would like to mention the EIS booklet. It is out of date. The impact statement is about four years old, if it was written about 1980. An example of the outdatedness of it is the boys' ranch now being constructed. We talk about the eagles and the habitats and protecting the wildlife; but, what about the people who settled this area and lived in it for decades? What kind of protection are we giving them?

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And, last, I would like to ask questions about the cultural resources, the historical impact, the water wells that have been missed, the miles and miles of water pipeline that would be destroyed, and the utilities. The EIS statement has not addressed these adequately.

The Floyd school system tonight would like to propose that the Melrose Bombing Range would not take place but, instead, the alternate site of the Lon-Mesa would be selected. This would not be a major problem. When you would consider that people would not have to be moved, school districts would not be affected and private land would not have to be taken, then that would be a fine alternate site for the bombing range. There is much federal land there already; the MOA's are already being used by the Air Force; and this could be an alternate site. So, to the US Government and to the US Air Force, we would ask, on behalf of the Floyd school system tonight, do not take our private land and ruin the school district but go to the alternate site.

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Thank you. (See also Atch 2)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr John Whitcamp. Since your address is not here, sir, would you care to provide your address as well?

(John Whitcamp) You have a card that I filled out already that has my address on it.

(Col Ratcliff) All right, fine. Thank you.

(John Whitcamp) Ed, I'd like to commend you for a very well-produced presentation. You covered a lot of areas that I wanted to cover. You said it very well and I think your community can be very proud of you.

Since Ed did cover a lot of the areas, I'll curtail what I had to present and read a brief statement. The Melrose Municipal School District Number 12 is very concerned about the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The impact on the school district could be severe. A serious point of consideration is the fact that the impact will not be short lived, neither on the Melrose school district nor on the adjoining Floyd school district.

We all realize that in projecting potential impacts, we are crystal ball gazing. This is what I see possibly occurring in the Melrose district: The loss of from 10 to 25 students, as a result of relocation or simply not locating in the school district. These students are those that are currently residing near the proposed expansion site and those that are anticipated to move in near the expansion site. The anticipated students are those that would locate on the Hart Ranch. I personally do not see the wisdom nor the logic of building additional facilities--dormitories--at the

ranch when the land is being lost to the expansion and the unknown of possibly losing the ranch headquarters, should further expansion occur.

This coming school year, the Melrose district is expecting 10 students from the Boys' Ranch facility. We have been informed that, in the future, an additional dormitory would be located there--and I don't see this happening.

Loss of revenue as a result of private land being taken off the tax rolls. While the amount might seem minimal--probably in the neighborhood of $800 to $1000 per year--when you live in a district the size of Melrose or of Floyd, any loss is a concern. Bonding issues--bonding capacity--becomes a significant concern. The Melrose school district will lose 7.75 sections of land. Again, a small amount; but, any loss, when you're looking at local generation in the neighborhood of $11,000 only, a loss of $800 to $1000 of that has an impact upon a small district's operating budget.

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The loss of one bus route currently operating near the proposed expansion site would occur. Should the families living in this area decide to relocate, there would not be enough students left in the area to justify the route. This may leave some district residents faced with providing their own transportation to school or to the nearest available bus stop. It could also place serious rerouting responsibilities on the school district and the contractors.

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The loss of significant scientific opportunities, currently being utilized by instructors and students of the Melrose school district, would occur -- specifically, some early man sites and paleo-indian fuel sites directly associated with the proposed expansion area. The loss of academic opportunities is immeasurable when one considers the potential learning opportunities that exist as well as the motivational tools very useful in stimulating students to learn. At present, the Melrose schools are utilizing a bison--a historical bison fuel site--in the proposed expansion zone. There have been identified additional prehistoric animal sites there that were not addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

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The dollar impact on the Melrose school district is difficult to project. It will vary from year to year, depending upon what the legislature does in establishing the program unit value. Twenty-five students, 7.75 sections of land, one school bus route, could amount to as much as $70,000 to the Melrose school district for the next school year, based upon the current program values and bus route allocations. This amount could pay three teachers' salaries or provide funding for two academic programs. I do not wish to see opportunities for learning taken from students. These include current opportunities as well as future ones.

The Melrose district is very concerned and we request you to reconsider your proposed expansion ideas.

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Al Clemmons.

(Lynn Medlin) Sir, my name is Lynn Medlin. I'm representing the New Mexico School Board Association. Mr Clemmons was on his way down here from Santa Fe tonight. He called me about two hours ago from Santa Rosa. His vehicle had broken down and he had hoped to make it by the time his name was called. But, I'm representing the New Mexico School Board Association tonight. Al Clemmons is Executive Director of our association.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir.

(Lynn Medlin) Okay. I'd just like to give you a little bit of background on the school districts within the entire state of New Mexico. Of course New Mexico, as most of you Floyd residents know--and most of the residents of Eastern New Mexico know--is an extremely rural state--extremely rural. We operate the entire state with 88 school districts--and 88 is--when you only have 88 school districts in a state the size of New Mexico, then you're talking about kids riding the bus a long ways and many many very small school districts.

Of the 88 school districts in the state, 54 can be considered by any measure as small school districts. They would be--they are the schools that make up the A and AA classified schools within the state of New Mexico. Thirty-three of the 88 have 500 students or less in the entire district, K through 12. Twenty of the 88 have 200 or less students. Now, of that 20, Floyd is on the top end. A school district the size of Flyod is larger than approximately 20

other school districts in the state--18 or 20. So, you can see that anytime anything happens to 25 percent of many of these school districts it's a tremendous blow. I'd say 25 percent of any school district in the state to be all of the sudden missing from that district would be a tremendous blow to that school district. It would be very difficult--it would have a serious impact on any school district in the state. However, there are school districts in the state that are huge, huge school districts--such as the one where the alternative site has been proposed. These are very large school districts. The impact upon people and upon school districts would be minimal, because an area the size of the proposed bombing range would be a much smaller percentage of the entire school district than the one we're talking about here.

Every school district in the state is a member of the New Mexico School Board Association. Every school district belongs. The Association is, of course, interested in every school district. We're very interested in the Floyd school district, as well as the Melrose district.

It seems to me that the human thing to do would be to locate a facility like this in a place that impacted on as few of possible people--as few people as possible. I think the areas--the large areas--of federal land within the state--and the federal government owns approximately one-third of all land in the state of New Mexico--they already own it--it just seems to me like there's some place in that one-third of the area of the state of New Mexico that would be

suitable for such a thing and it would have less impact on people. Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Mr John Russell. Mr Russell, I don't believe we have an address for you, if you care to give us one.

(John Russell) Excuse me?

(Col Ratcliff) I indicated that I don't believe we got an address here for you, if you would care to give us one.

(John Russell) Okay. My name is John W. Russell. My residence is at Route 4, Box 199, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031. I represent a group of people who cannot all be present here tonight--there are a lot of people that are--but those are the people who own mineral or subsurface rights. Jim Baca almost gave my speech for me. So, I may cut that part of it short.

I'm not here in an official capacity; but I think my professional credentials are pertinent. I'm the Director of Land Management Planning and Environmental Assessment for the southwest region of the Forest Service, responsible for environmental coordination for the national forest lands in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas--a little over 21,000,000 acres.

I've been involved in preparing and reviewing both environmental statements and land use plans since 1971. I am going to submit a copy of my statement for the record here tonight; and I want the record to show that we're also preparing a document that we will submit before the end of the comment period, expecting it to be responded to in the next environmental impact statement. That

document will cover in more detail some of the things I want to cover here tonight.

I'm going to cover three areas very quickly. The first one is the procedures used in the preparation of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement; the N E P A environmental assessment; and the decision making process. I want to discuss very briefly the logic, or substance, of the issues in this possible decision--why it might not be logical. And, third, the moral, or ethical, or emotional values involved--and that last one I want to clarify, because as a government official, having been with the federal government for 26 years and having attended a lot of these public meetings and being responsible for preparing and collating public comments, I know that feelings and emotion do not count in such public hearings with the federal government. But, I avoided this emotional trap until last week when I was travelling on a commercial jet between Atlanta and Albuquerque and as I got over Clovis and Melrose, after having come across Texas and looked at that pattern of farm land with the sprinkler systems and so forth making that pattern of circles and squares that you see at that height; and, all of a sudden, that pattern stopped. It stopped just a little ways from Wily Russell's house. Then I looked at this rather funny pattern down there and I said, "What the heck is that thing? I never looked at that thing from the air before."

You know, going to--starting to school at the old Mesa school house years ago and living there on Charlie Greathouse's ranch,

never prepared me for the shock of seeing that. Well, I was going to avoid that; but I couldn't avoid it. As I sat there on that commercial plane and thought about that, in the time that it takes me to tell you this, all of the sudden I was over Fort Sumner and I was looking right straight down on the Pecos River and looking into the Lon-Mesa area. And I thought, there's got to be something wrong here. There's something illogical here. That's Melrose bombing range sitting right there next to all those farm lands--and I heard tonight, you know, and Ike asked the question, "Will they fly east and west?" Well, I don't know about all that; but it sure did look awful close to a lot of farm houses to me, besides the eight that are going to be removed.

Anyway, when I looked at the Lon-Mesa site, I couldn't understand--out in the middle of nowhere--I could not understand why the Air Force wasn't eager to move the Melrose Bombing Range out to that area. There isn't anything out there, you know, when you look out from an airplane. And looking at it and flying at that speed, in comparing of commercial jet speed of 500 miles per hour to what the F-111D must travel--and I watched them last summer--sat on the road and watched them--they are awesome. They move, man. And I flew directly over the path of those bombing runs. And I couldn't figure that out. I just wondered why you weren't eager to move that. Why move the range further from what is obviously a well-used transcontinental flight path? I was there. Move the range to an area that is away from an obviously well-inhabited farming

area where there's room for future expansion if needed? You can't kid me. This isn't the end of the expansion. Why not move to an area that is still only brief seconds away from Cannon Air Force--and, certainly, a very brief run in the fast fighter planes that I saw last summer?

So, looking at the logic, I wondered, "Well, why not?" I concluded that the Air Force wants to expand the present bombing range primarily because it's there already and they have been using it all these years. It's already there and they're accustomed to using it. They're comfortable with it. Why change if you don't need to? Maybe another reason is because they've never calculated the comparative costs of purchasing both surface and subsurface property and been required to pay a fair market value for both real estate and mineral rights, nor have they been charged for potential or future loss of revenue from farming, ranching or gas--and Jim Baca addressed that, so I'm going to skip over part of mine. It will be in the record.

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I want to now turn to the procedures. I've talked a little bit about the emotion. I've talked a little bit about the logic, or the lack of it. Now, I want to talk about the need for the environmental assessment process.

When it is properly use, it requires that a government agency take an objective look at such effects and compare different ways of doing things to ultimately make a decision with the least impact on the quality of the human environment--quality of the human

environment--that counts for people, too. There's no evidence in the DEIS that I reviewed that such evaluations were made in any deliberate or systematic way. It was apparently not even done by any participation of those responsible for making the actual decision. I have been told it was prepared under contract. This in itself is contrary to the basic purpose and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and the implementing regulations by the Council on Environmental Quality. Those are stated in 40 CFR--Code of Federal Regulations, excuse me--it's a bureaucrat--Code of Federal Regulations, CFR, parts 1500 and 1508. They make it clear the purpose of NEPA is not better documents but better decisions and actions by public officials.

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I want to run through some other things about that, that are specific in terms of the inconsistencies with that set of regulations. Number one, it states "Agencies shall not commit resources prejudicing selection of alternatives before making a final decision." Don't make up your mind and make a decision, commit resources to it, and then go through the NEPA process. In February 1983, the Air Force apparently told Congressman Skeen, in a letter I saw--he quotes them--"efforts were made to include expansion proposals for the FY 85 budget but were subsequently dropped. Current plans call for the purchase of approximately 50,000 acres in the 86 budget proposal." When you do that and you make those requests, you are committing resources, because you must make a decision in those requests to give something else up. So, even a

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budget request is a commitment of resources--a violation of that basic intent.

The second one is: "EIS's shall be used to assess impacts rather than justifying decisions already made." The Clovis News Journal quoted Senator Domenici, who had received detailed information from the military. It said, "The military will be reporting to me the exact names of the landowners, what the owners think about the proposal and how they will be compensated." I heard a real estate thing is going on here tonight. What are we doing that for if we haven't made the decision yet? This may have been a slip of the tongue, but it looks like the decision to compensate was made back in 1980.

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Okay, so that's hearsay. Let's go to the DEIS itself. The regulations say that "Agencies shall use an interdisciplinary approach." Page 37 of the DEIS shows Mr Shotton, an overall preparer, and nine other developers of information--these latter cover operational information, whatever that is; legal information; air and noise pollution; water resource; soils; and real estate. There's no educational or experience given as professional credentials for these preparers. Based on the issues, one would also expect to see additional disciplines and professional people with credentials addressing archeology or cultural resources, wildlife--especially threatened and endangered species, such as the Southern Bald Eagle, although there are a lot of others out there--geology, petroleum engineering, ecology, range or grazing science, and economics or

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social science. Where were these people? Since the scope of issues is not presented in the summary, as required in Section 1502.12, you can't really tell whether the total interdisciplinary needs are met or not.

And another one: "Agencies shall reduce delay by:"--quote from the reg--"using the scoping process, establishing appropriate time limits. In scoping, the agency shall indicate the relationship between timing of the preparation of the analysis and their tentative planning and decision-making process and they're encouraged to set time limits." The chronology, or history, of the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, is revealing in that regard. Page 1 of the DEIS says the assignment of F-111D aircraft was in 1971. I learned tonight that they've been considering expansion since the mid-70's. Page D-4 of the DEIS is a letter from the Department of the Interior dated 1977 about threatened and endangered species. You go on through and in 1980 and '81 we saw notices in the Federal Register and so forth; and tonight here we are, June 6, 1984, four years later, still talking about the draft statement--13 years after F-111D aircraft were assigned at Cannon Air Force Base--six years after the Department of the Interior letter on threatened and endangered species. Target dates that were given varied all the way from February of 1981 to the fall of 1981--and they were all over the board. There was no certainty established about when the target date was. Now, regardless of the reasons for the delay--and I know from experience there are reasons for delay--there are

two important results: the long delay does not meet the intent of the Code of Federal Regulations and the net effect on these people who are directly effected is prolonged harassment, mental anguish and economic loss. How can they plan for their personal economic future and operation of farms and ranches, or oil and gas development, with this hanging over their heads? How long should people be forced to suffer under such delay, which is contrary to law?

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Since Congress must approve the expansion, perhaps they need to pass legislation prohibiting it forever.

Again, the alternatives section is the heart of the environmental impact statement, to present the environmental impacts in a comparative form so you can look at this alternative and that alternative, be able to compare the two and see which one is better in relation to the environmental effects. The regulations are very specific about that.

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(Col Ratcliff) Excuse me. Of course, you've already exceeded your time. If you could draw it to a close and--

(John Russell) I'll do that very quickly. I have about two more points.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you.

(John Russell) One of--the three criteria that were used to look at these alternatives are themselves self-defeating, because one of them says that it must be mostly public land; another one is there must be availability of restricted airspace; and it must be close enough to allow present usage. Those criteria, used in the

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alternative presentation, by themselves, eliminate Melrose Bombing Range as it presently exists, because it is primarily private land.

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I will draw to a close. I had one more point and that one was about getting a draft statement that has no date on it, no place to write to, nobody to send the comments to--a very evident violation of NEPA.

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Okay, I have deliberately avoided some of these individual environmental and economic issues and dealt primarily with the process. I believe it is up to the Air Force to follow the NEPA process and meet both their spirit and intent. And, when they do this and resubmit a draft environmental impact statement--for that is the only way they can comply--they will surely discover it's in the best interest of the people of the United States, both economically and environmentally, to close Melrose Bombing Range as it exists and train somewhere else on public lands.

Thank you. (See also Atch 3)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr James Shackleford. I don't believe I have your address down here, either--if you'd care to give us an address for you, sir.

(James Shackleford) I filled out a card that has the address on it there, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Fine.

(James Shackleford) I am James D. Shackleford, Manager of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Portales, New Mexico, 217 South Avenue C. I have a letter here that I will give to the

lady to put on record in just a moment. I will go ahead and read it. "To Whom it May Concern: The telephone plant involved in the proposed expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range affects two certified exchanges of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated, located in Portales.

The Statement, in Section 3.10, page 28, paragraph 4, of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, is incorrect. There are approximately twice as many miles of underground telephone lines within the expansion area. These lines serve improvements within and west of the proposed expansion area and would require relocation and therefore cannot be severed from the parent system as stated. The certified exchange areas filed with the State Corporation Commission of New Mexico is as follows:

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Floyd Exchange Area--there are approximately 24 miles of underground telephone lines within the expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range which serves 12 members from the Floyd exchange area. These lines serve only two members within the proposed expansion area and 10 other members to the west and southwest of the proposed expansion area.

Melrose Exchange Area--there are approximately 12 miles of aerial telephone plant within the expansion area which serves five members from the Melrose Exchange Area. These lines serve only two members within the proposed expansion area and two other members to the northwest of the proposed expansion area.

The book value of the aerial and underground telephone lines in the proposed expansion area to be abandoned are as follows: Floyd Exchange Area--24 miles of underground cable, $60,133; house wiring, aerial and underground, $1,216; total book value, $61,349. Melrose Exchange Area--12 miles of aerial telephone plant, $19,561; house wiring and aerial drops, $608; total book value, $20,169. Loss of annual revenue of two members, if not relocated, $2,430. The total book value of aerial and underground telephone lines in the proposed expansion area are: Floyd Exchange Area, $61,349; Melrose Exchange Area, $20,169; total book value, $81,518. Loss of revenues of four members, if not relocated, $5,240.

Reviewing the Environmental Impact Study, I find no comments about relocation of the underground and aerial telephone facilities that are affected in the proposed expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range. It would cost the Roosevelt County Telephone Cooperative approximately $187,000 to relocate the telephone facilities to serve the 12 members that are west of the proposed expansion area that are receiving telephone service. If not reimbursed for book cost of abandoned telephone facilities, relocation costs of new underground facilities, and loss of revenues of the families that are affected by the proposed expansion, this would not only affect the eight families and 43 landowners, but would affect approximately 1500 members of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative who would have to carry the burden of the added expense to abandon and relocate the telephone facilities in the proposed expansion area.

The questions we would like answered as soon as possible are as follows: (1) Will the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative be reimbursed for the loss of cable facilities in the proposed expansion area? (2) Will the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative be reimbursed for relocation costs of facilities to serve the 12 existing members west of the proposed expansion area? (3) If any of the eight families, as stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, relocate in the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative service area, will relocation costs for the telephone plant be reimbursed? (4) If the families do not relocate in Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative service area, will there be any compensation for lost revenues?

All telephone plant in the proposed expansion area is mortgaged to the United States Government and sale of existing facilities will have to be approved by the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, subject to the requirements of the loan documents."

Thank you. (See also Atch 4)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Michael Kull, Executive Director for the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches.

(Michael Kull) Because so many of our concerns have already been addressed here tonight, and for the sake of time, I'm not going to go over them again. I would like to call, for the record's sake, your attention to the fact that I wrote an extensive letter dated April 11, 1984, outlining our concerns and objections to this

proposal. In conclusion to that letter, we recommended that the present site be continued as is.

Since that time, the Lon-Mesa site has come to our attention; and in our opinion--in my opinion--it is obvious that it is the--would be the most favorable alternative. I don't want to delay these proceedings any further; but I do want to make just one brief point--that is that the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch is probably the human side of this story. All of you people who live around here know that the Hart family willed us the old Hart ranch and the Board of Directors--we have Andy Sutter with us tonight who is one of our directors who helped make this decision--decided to place a facility on that ranch for various reasons. We have found that the rural setting is the most ideal to raise children. We have found that you can take children from city life, remove from them the pressures of the drug culture, of peer pressure, put them on a ranch where they can take care of animals and learn to love animals, and you will see a change in their behavior.

We feel like this is the reason for our success with helping troubled children from New Mexico. We will soon have over a hundred children in our care. We do not want to lose the plan that is now being proposed simply because we use our farming and ranching operation as a way to help offset some of the expenses.

I do also want to mention to you that, in light of the Environmental Impact Statement, I feel like it is a document that we cannot live with. I wish that the government would use the same standards

in pursuing its requests that they require of the private sector. We have been involved with numerous situations where we had to deal with the government; and they require us to comply with horrendous standards that they do not require each other to comply with.

Therefore, I would ask that, for the record's sake, that the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch go on record as supporting the Lon-Mesa alternative.

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Thank you. (See also Atch 5)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Denny Gentry, on behalf of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association.

(Denny Gentry) Sir, at this time, we would like to not give any further comments, because we're going to use a lot of the information we receive tonight to add in and to also visit with the Congressional Delegation to see what can be done about this situation. It is very obvious to us, in the experience we've had with the supersonic overflight over in Catron County and the 40 years' experience we've had on White Sands Missile Range, that the Air Force is not going to deal with us fairly.

Thank you, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Darrell Bostwick, on behalf of the Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association.

(Darrell Bostwick) I'd like to read a statement for Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association. I am President of the Board of Eastern New Mexico Gas and I would like to present a copy of

this statement for the record. This statement is in reply to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range that affects the Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association.

Due to the expansion, gas service to 32 irrigation wells will be discontinued and disconnected. The annual revenue derived from these wells are approximately $236,000.

The Association is a non-profit organization that operates on a marginal budget. Because of the lost revenue, the cost of service must be increased to meet the operating expense and the debt retirement to HUD. An increase in the price may cause natural gas to be non-competitive with the propane and other energy sources.

Presently, the Association is looking at new areas of expansion to avoid having to increase the cost of service to meet their current obligations. If natural gas is not competitive, the expansion is impossible, ultimately driving the price increase even higher. The Association is concerned with the effect that the price increase will have on the people who are living on fixed income--our senior citizens in the Melrose, Fort Sumner, and Floyd areas.

The Air Force, at this time, has not addressed this question of who will own the above-ground equipment, meters, and risers, presently owned by the Association. The Association is looking at a large expense to remove and store and prepare the equipment for resale at a price much less than the original cost. Some of the above-ground equipment cannot be reused or salvaged--and I might

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add that this does not include any under-ground line that we have that would be completely useless.

The Air Force cannot possibly compensate the Association for the loss of revenue, extra expenditures, and the effect this will have on its membership. (See also Atch 6)

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Pete Davis, on behalf of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. Mr Davis, I don't believe I have any information that shows your address. If you don't mind, could you provide it for us?

(Truett Bagwell) Just a minute, I'm a substitute.

(Col Ratcliff) Oh, okay.

(Truett Bagwell) My name is Truett Bagwell. I am the President of the Roosevelt County Farm and Livestock Bureau; and tonight I'm speaking on behalf of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau instead of Mr Davis--and I have given you a card.

(Col Ratcliff) Yes, I've found it.

(Truett Bagwell) Okay. Thank you. I would like to express my appreciation for being allowed to come before this organization tonight to express the position of the Farm and Livestock Bureau. It is the position of the Farm Bureau that the federal government, where it is feasible, should utilize land that it currently owns in any expansion efforts that they might need and not to take more privately owned land into the federal sector.

I would read a brief policy statement that is the official position of the New Mexico organization. "We request the Governor

and the Legislature of the State of New Mexico to pursue any and all measures at their disposal to assure the sovereignty of the State of New Mexico, its lands and people, and preserve these rights against federal bombing ranges and other military reservations. In the event the government condemns land and personal property, the persons involved should receive just compensation, enabling them to be relocated and acquire comparable units and have more time for relocation purposes." Thank you.

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(Col Ratcliff) Mr Robert Russell, on behalf of the Melrose Bombing Range Landowners and Operators.

(Robert Russell) Thank you, Colonel. I'm Bob Russell. I came up here from Dallas today in response to a crying need.

Capt Moss has very clearly demonstrated the need for an expansion of the training area available to the Clovis range. They need more area; they need omnidirectional approach; they need to do this with safety; they need to be able to come in from the east; they need to be able to come in from the west, the south; and they need to be able to expand. They need to be able to expand this training area and they need to be able to come in at low level. They need to be able to provide navigation experience to their young students. All these are valid requirements.

I'm a specialist in surface to air warfare; and I can tell you that I can shoot down any aircraft that comes within 25 miles of me, if he's above 1000 feet. I will guarantee it, unless he can jam me or something like that. Now, we've got some pretty good

stuff in that area, too. Now, if these guys can come in on the decks, pop up and loft a bomb from six miles away, they're pretty hard to shoot down. And that bomb is awful hard to shoot down, too.

Now, it said in the DEIS that they foresee no future expansion. History defies that statement. In 1952, they came in and by 1957 they were operating on 7700 acres. In 1967, they had an effort to acquire 22,000 acres. That was successful and you see it in the current range. Now we have, starting in 1981, the proposed effort that expands to 22,000 acres and the proposed 74,000 acres. That's a tripling every 15 years. If I continue the projection, the fourth bar on that chart says 240,000 acres in 1999. Okay? Two hundred and forty thousand acres is a pretty good size chunk of land. If they take it out of Roosevelt County, there's not going to be much left for Portales and a few other places.

Now, we give it that there has been demonstrated clearly a need for Clovis Air Force Base--Cannon Air Force Base--to expand its training area. Now, the three criteria that were set up in the DEIS--and all this research has been done from the facts that were available to the Air Force in 1981--the three criteria that were set up: suitable and sufficient federal or state owned land meeting minimum range size requirements. That range size requirement is set up in Part B, availability of airspace for establishment of a 25 x 25 nautical mile restricted area over the range. Okay? That's based on the F-111D requirement for routes with a 12-mile target run-in. That's fine. No problem. Ten mile impact area--10 miles by 10 miles--

good--no problem. That gives us a nice big area to hit. Now, they're talking about loft bombing. Loft bombing requires about six-mile release--something on that order--computer-directed run-in. The next thing that is going to happen is called AMRAM--you play a little fire-and-forget game from about 25-30 miles away. You just fire it and it goes thataway and you go thataway.

Now, it works pretty nice; but that says again that we're going to have an expansion again after this expansion. So, why don't we select an area now that will fit these requirements? Why didn't they select one in 1981?

(Col Ratcliff) Excuse me, you may still need to speak up a little bit. Just from looking across the audience, it looks like some of the people are straining to hear you.

(Robert Russell) The expansion area called "Lon-Mesa" was rejected by the 1981 investigator because the FAA wrote a letter objecting to the relocation of the restricted airspace over the area called the "Melrose Bombing Range." The Lon-Mesa site met every criterion that was set up for the training in that area. I reiterate what those criteria were. Those criteria were: federal land, primarily--try to avoid taking private land, as much as you can, but make sure that it's as much federal land as possible, as high a percentage as possible; the availability of airspace--25 by 25 miles airspace with a 10 mile by 10 mile impact area; the location should be within at least 250 miles of Cannon Air Force Base; and, again, it needed to be fairly flat so that they could avoid

mountains and that kind of thing while they're doing all this training. Okay.

Now, that strong letter from the FAA is a model of bureaucratese. If I may read, "The proposed Lon-Mesa site would completely block V68-V83 and V68N-V83E. These airways are the main arteries between Roswell and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The possibility of realignment of V68-V83 is completely out of the question, because of the existing Beak A and Pecos MOA's. The additional mileage..."--etc., etc., which has no meaning as far as I can tell--"...the close proximity of the Lon-Mesa site to the Roswell airport would add to the complexity of departures proceeding to the northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast. The Lon-Mesa site would require changes in existing IR Route 133 and 113, also in VR125." That doesn't mean a thing to you folks, does it? Not one bloody thing. But, to a pilot it means a lot, especially a military pilot, because these are military designations. MOA means Military Operations Area. Beak A is a Military Operations Area that operates out of White Sands. Beak A, B and C operate north and south.

Now, I have a couple of maps here--charts, but maps to you folks--that show what we're talking about (speaker displayed charts). V68-V83 is a direct route. It's a visual route between Roswell and Corona. Okay. That's a military designation for that route. IR is an instrument route. It's used by military pilots in training on instrument flights. And, there's a concern also for a refueling route, VR125. Okay. These are all military routes. They are

reviewed every 56 days. They are changed frequently by the FAA. The objection of the FAA was to closing up this little area right in here (pointed to chart), 17 miles between Pecos Military Operating Area and Beak A Military Operating Area, to traffic between Roswell and Corona.

They placed that 25 by 25 mile restricted area right in the middle of that lane. They couldn't get around because of the Military Operating Areas. If we move that site just 12 miles north, the site is no longer interdicting those two.

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Now, as to the question of federal land, the federal land map, 1980--or the New Mexico State Ownership Land Map for 1982, shows that the Lon-Mesa site that I've indicated, which runs with the northeast side, parallel to US 285, is free of air restrictions all the way up. There's no air restriction. There's no problem with the road. There's a 10 mile by 10 mile area that will not move any ranches or not impact anything except a line camp and three windmills. That shows up on the topo map that I've prepared which overlays the information about the Pecos MOA, the airlines, and I have up here an overlay with the proper scale that shows where the 25 by 25 mile area, which contains a 10 mile by 10 mile impact area can be placed. We can move it anywhere in that area and not impact more than five or six windmills. And, if you really get snitty about it, you can find a ranch house that you'll have to move.

Lon, I'm advised--although I haven't seen it myself in the last few years--Lon was an early-day homestead and that village consists of one house. Okay. Now, it's not impacted, by the way. That's State Road 42 and we're above State Road 42 with this proposal. Okay.

Alternative costs, then--oh, by the way, this is 87 miles from Cannon. That meets criterion C. It is relatively flat. The elevation is between 5600 and 6400 feet. Now, the things I'm telling you I have gotten out of the DEIS statement, as put out for this meeting, without any instruction sheet as to who to respond to or when to respond or anything. The other information--the fact that I've already submitted my comments to Mr Shotton are thanks to my relatives up here.

I'm a subsurface mineral owner. And the only way that I found out about it was that some of my relatives up here let me know that it was going on.

Now, we've had several people say, "Why not somewhere else? Why not Lon-Mesa?" Well, every objection that was raised to the Lon-Mesa site in the DEIS spun off from that FAA letter that said we cannot relocate those airlines--cannot relocate that restricted area. That objection is met with this topo map--every objection that was met by the FAA letter and, therefore, by the DEIS. I therefore submit that we can now begin to support the Air Force, all of us, if the Air Force will reconsider that decision that was made back in 1980 to abandon consideration of the Lon-Mesa site.

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It's that simple. I think everyone of us is sympathetic with the things that Cannon has to do.

The situation here reminds me of a story that Mark Twain wrote, "The Corruption of Hadleyberg." A man came in, sat down a sack of gold and said "This belongs to someone in Hadleyberg. If you can find the owner and give it to him, I'll be eternally in your debt." Well, those folks changed from being totally uncorruptible, and a reputation for being honest, to fighting among themselves, to scheming, lying, stealing, cheating, anything, to get ahold of that sack of gold.

Now, I don't like to see that in my community--and I've been away from it for thirty-some-odd years now and it's still my community.

(Col Ratcliff) Mr Russell, was there any of that material that you had that you, perhaps, wanted to leave?

(Robert Russell) Yes sir, I will submit that as part of the study that Bill Russell came through with on the mineral rights' owners.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. The court reporter has, of course, been taking everything down for a couple of hours straight and I have received a note that at least she would very much be able to use a break at this point. And, I suspect that many of you might likewise. Let me suggest, then--and I recognize that there is something of a problem of dispersing this many people and trying to then get you all back and seated. So, let me suggest

that we take a 10-minute break to allow you to stretch your legs; and then I would ask you, please, to be immediately back so that we can start again in 10 minutes' time. Thank you.
(The hearing was recessed for approximately 10 minutes at 9:16 p.m., 6 June 1984)

(Col Ratcliff) We're ready to begin with our next speaker and would ask, if you would please, resume your seats.

Our next speaker this evening is Mr Chet Wyant, Executive Assistant to the Commissioners of Roosevelt County.

(Chet Wyant) I'm Chet Wyant, Executive Assistant to Roosevelt County Commission and I'm speaking on behalf of the Roosevelt County Commission tonight.

First, I'd like to comment on the previous presentations. They were very well prepared and well presented. They echo many of the concerns of the Roosevelt County Commission. My comments will be brief because of that.

First, we realize, from the impact statement, that there'll be no increase in economic activity in the surrounding area due to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. Therefore, there will be no mitigation of loss of economic tax base or loss of production on private land because of economic activity increased otherwise.

Generally, we feel that the Environmental Impact Statement, as prepared, is very poor--very poorly addresses the concerns of the Commissioners, the tax base and the private citizens involved. We'd like to have some assurances that the escalation of the use of the

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bombing range in its current capacity will bring it into the Air Force Regulation 50-46 guidelines and that that will remain current for at least a long given number of years to provide some security for mineral base and other economic activities of a private and public sector nature surrounding the Melrose Bombing Range. 227

The particular concerns addressing the Statement that the Commissioners would like to have further investigated in a further statement forthcoming would be 42 miles of public road that are maintained by the county. Our county road allocations for maintenance are based on total number of miles maintained and vehicle registration formulas. This will reduce the amount of money coming to the County Commission for the maintenance of public roads without substantially reducing the cost of fixed and operating overhead. We'll not be able to reduce any forces or get rid of any equipment. No reduction in our cost of operation; simply a reduction in the amount of revenue received to maintain county roads. So, we don't believe that because we're not maintaining those roads that we will have a reduced cost in the road department. 228

Although your figures--the Impact figures--for ad valorem taxes seem to be correct, according to the County Assessor's evaluation, the Impact Statement fails to address several important areas of taxation that are important not only to the county but to the state and other units of local government within the area. Some of these are corporate assets--such things as 39 miles of power line, 14 miles of gas line, 17 miles of phone line, and 229

a radio tower were specifically mentioned. There was absolutely no mention about the corporate tax or loss of revenues or anything like that that would come to the local governments.

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There is talk about private sector land and the use of that land that's being removed from private use. There's no estimation of the current production value in livestock and agricultural commodities that come off of that. Using Cannon Air Force Base impact roll-over figures for economic impact standards in the local community--I believe they claim it rolls over four times--we estimate that $90,000 a year in gross receipts tax will be lost to local governments and the state government--that's per year--over 10 years that will be about $900,000, gross receipts tax only. There was no address of the gross receipts tax. Only ad valorem taxes were addressed in the EIS.

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Potential losses in mineral production has been talked about earlier. That is a concern for us. We use figures that the Land Commissioner provided--and he talked about that earlier. Just briefly, the oil well on the private land only, if it was produced--this is using the same formula that the Land Commissioner Baca used--the private land only, $37,700 acres: $60,000,000 worth of oil and $40,000,000 worth of gas that will not be produced--no potential for production.

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Lastly, the Commissioners are vitally concerned about all the residents of Roosevelt County and the protection of private and public property and private interests. They are concerned that the

private citizens be treated as fairly as is allowable, even stretching the law. We'd request that they be compensated at per-acre values determined by recent local voluntary sales of similar property--not on the assessed valuation. The values are skewed greatly. 232

Local area sales over the last two years indicate the average ranch land would sell at an approximate value between $160 and $200 an acre.

In addition to this, they would ask that the landholders and mineral right owners be compensated additionally for mineral rights, and not below, at any circumstance, what the State Land Office would settle for. It's our understanding that many times the Land Office in a state can settle for a much higher figure that a private land or mineral owner can. So, if a mineral owner is also a surface owner, we would like to have the surface compensated for and the mineral compensated for separately. 233

We'd also ask that you consider any landowner who has contiguous property of which you're taking a substantial amount of, who would desire for you to take the entire operation that he owns and operates to allow him to have sufficient funds to relocate his operation, that you take it. We feel like if this operator can relocate in our general area, that this would help to mitigate some of the economic impacts to units of local government and to the general economic base of the area that cannot be compensated for under law. At least he'd be able to continue in operation somewhere in the local area and you haven't split up his operation so badly that it's impossible 234

to replace lands that's been taken or to rebuild that operation somewhere else.

Lastly, we would offer to, anytime that the people who are doing work on environmental impact statements at Cannon Air Force Base would like assistance from county offices, that you please contact us. I think that it's apparent from what's in the Environmental Impact Statement, as drafted, that very little work was done on taxes and compensation for taxes and tax loss. And, I would urge you, in the future, to address some further concern and questions to the agency and the people who really have a good handle on what it is in the local area that's going on in that respect.

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you. Nell Morgan.

(Nell Morgan) I'd like to relinquish my time to Phil Shelley.

(Col Ratcliff) I'd don't believe I had gotten the full name possibly correctly; so, perhaps, if you hadn't filled out a card, would you give me the name and address, please.

(Dr Phillip Shelley) You have a card on me--Doctor Phillip Shelley.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Thank you.

(Dr Phillip Shelley) I have a few comments--specific comments--on Section 3.7 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range. This section of the EIS deals explicitly with the identification and evaluation of

archaeological and cultural resources on the current Melrose Range. As a professional archaeologist with over 15 years experience in the Southwest, I am appalled at the lack of quality and the minimal professionalism exhibited in this section of the property. I feel that any statements regarding archaeological and cultural resources in the area should be considered inadequate and unacceptable for the following reasons.

In the draft EIS--I am quoting now--"Twenty cultural sites were identified by a 10 percent area survey"--page 27, paragraph 4, line 2. A basic premise of sampling surveys, whether they are political, economic, or archaeological, is that in order to make statements concerning the sample universe--which is, in this instance, the current range and any proposed expansion--a representative sample must be drawn in accordance with probability theory. This assures that we have some way of measuring the objectivity of that sample and the extendability of the information derived from that sampling procedure to the rest of the area. We could, without following probability theory or scientific premises, take a 10 percent sample of this auditorium tonight and shown that none of us were here.

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The statement concerning sampling the existing range ignores the fact that humans and other natural resources are not distributed evenly over the landscape. All we have to do is look at the historic land use pattern of the area and we will see that wherever there is water there are people. Where there is not permanent or dependable water resources, there are generally not people.

Consequently, because of this disparity in the distribution of both natural and concomitantly human resources on the area, we must demand that a probability-based sample is selected. The statements in the draft EIS do not even address what kind of sample was selected. Are we talking about a random sample, a stratified sample? Did it take into consideration the topographic and geomorphic variation extant upon the range? All it says is a 10 percent sample. Maybe they drove down the road.

If we set the sampling problems aside, for the time being, I would doubt the reliability of the survey on substantive grounds. The extant range and the proposed expansion area include areas traversed by the prehistoric water course of the now extinct Brazos River. Around 20,000 years ago, the Brazos River was beheaded by the Pecos River system; and the valley that was left behind, which forms part of the Melrose Valley, Portales Valley, and on south into Texas, provided a number of water resources which were attractive to prehistoric occupations. The concentrations of water created by these situations created, in turn, ecological diversities which were exploited by the people of the southern high plains. This is indicated by the number of known significant archaeological sites located along this and other such drainages--such as the Blackwater Draw Site, which is a national historic landmark; the Lubbock Lake Site; and the Plainview Site.

In a recent review of southern high plains archaeology, Thomas Stafford stresses this point when he states that geologic studies

have shown that the three alluviated valleys crossing the Llano Estacado contain rich archaeological deposits. Fluvial, or lake--I'm sorry, a river; lacustrine, or lake; and marsh environments were principal attractions for large numbers of animals and humans. Yellowhouse and Blackwater Draws have an extensive series of paleo-Indian and Ceramic and Historic Age sites. The few alluvial sites already excavated--such as Blackwater Draw Number 1, Plainview and Lubbock Lake--portend the archaeological wealth for the unexplored valley segments. This is quoted from the American Antiquity, Volume 48, Number 3, page 563.

Sites in such situations are relatively difficult to identify as they are quite frequently buried and exhibit little artifactual material on the surface. These problems can be dealt with by an archaeologist who is familiar with the archaeology and the geomorphology of the area, which brings me to my third criticism of the draft EIS.

The use of terms relating to the greater southwest cultures, as contained in the EIS--such as Picosa and Basketmaker--serves to underscore the lack of familiarity of the investigators with the area. These terms are associated--these terms and their associated concepts are not appropriate for the southern high plains. Most professional archaeologists recognize that the culture history of this area, as mentioned in the EIS, is in fact peripheral to the major southwestern cultures. Both Picosa and Basketmaker are archaic antecendents to our great Anasazi Puebloan cultures of the

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four-corners region and are meaningless in this context. In addition there is no mention of expected ceramic age sites in the draft EIS. However, numerous archaeological reports as far back as the 1940's note the presence of such sites west, east, and south of the range. I think it's reasonable to assume that they also exist on the range.

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In conclusion, it is my professional opinion that given the questions of sampling, the geomorphic setting of the area, the obvious lack of familiarity with the area indicated by the investigators, the EIS statements concerning the archaeological and cultural resources of the Melrose Range are worthless. Before the EIS is considered further, I would recommend that a scientifically structured archaeological survey of the area, taking geomorphic variation into consideration, be carried out by professionals familiar with the southern high plains.

Thank you. (See also Atch 7)

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. R. C. Morgan.

(R. C. Morgan) My name is R. C. Morgan and I'm going to make my remarks very brief. I will turn in the statement here. I think the items of interest have been adequately covered here tonight beyond my expectations. However, I think that the bombing range should not be in any area where there's people living. Now, we heard the young man describe the operation and the circling that they would do. And in this area here there's going to be a lot of that circling around over where people live. We've had two accidents that we know of. And where we've had two, one was a house--

a dud was dropped in a house--and I think probably all of you know about that. There was a lady and her small infant in the house at the time. Another was the cement blocks dropped a quarter of a mile from a house a good ways back from the north end of the range. Those are the two accidents.

From the things we have heard tonight about the description of the operation, where we've had two accidents, we could have two more and they might be more serious. So, in conclusion, I don't think there should be any operation like the bombing range--the activities that's carried on in the bombing range--in an area where it's populated.

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Thank you. (See also Atch 8)

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you. I might indicate that we still have about thirty names. If by any chance someone has already said what you intended to say, perhaps we can shorten it, if for any reason any of you do not choose to speak or, certainly, if you can keep your remarks short and try to give everyone an opportunity to speak. Ross Greathouse.

(Ross Greathouse) I'll pass, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) Dan Greathouse.

(Dan Greathouse) A very short comment. As a public educator and a native New Mexican, I am opposed to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. The proposed expansion is located in a potential oil and gas area which may provide the future revenues for this state's education. In a comprehensive study that was done by

the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, oil and gas revenues contributed $469,964,945 to New Mexico schools, colleges and other related educational agencies during the 1982-1983 school year.

There is no sane reason to the proposed Melrose expansion, as it will hinder the possible future educational revenue of this state. The logical course of action would be for Cannon Air Force Base to acquire the Lon-Mesa site, which is listed as an alternative in the DEIS. The Lon-Mesa site is well west of possible oil and gas reserves.

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Rhonda Greathouse.

(Rhonda Greathouse) I pass.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Betty Greathouse.

(Betty Greathouse) I am Betty Greathouse. I'll keep my comments very very brief. I would like to clarify something. Mr Corn stated that his office, Mr Domenici, Senator Bingaman, and Representative Skeen asked for 60 days. I understood that they asked for 120 days and this was denied by the Air Force. We only got 60. So, we have worked night and day trying to rebuttal something that you have had four years to concoct.

I'd like to bring forth one interest to me, since today we're celebrating V-Day, or whatever you call it--40 years ago, June the 6th--I'd like to state and ask what is going to happen to Benson's cemetery. This is the cemetery that's located in the proposed expansion. I know it will just be in the outside boundary, or whatever;

but, what will happen in the future years? These are boys that gave their lives in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. I wonder what you're going to do with those bodies.

Also, I'd like to know about payments, if this does come about. Will it be 40 years before we're paid, like the White Sands people? These are some of my concerns. Most of my concerns have already been brought forth. But, my greatest concern is, the next time you expand--and you will have to--you've had to in the past and you will have to in the future--it doesn't seem possible that you should, but you will--you're taking more and more private land--people have given the right to have this right to own private property. That's one of the reasons our forefathers came to this country, in the pursuit of owning private property.

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I thank you very much for listening to me. Thank you. (See also Atch 9)

(Col Ratcliff) Some of you may have not have noticed that the court reporter was moved from over to the side to the center because of the difficulty in hearing some of the speakers.

Mrs H. H. Davis. It doesn't appear that I have a complete address here for you, if you care to give me the complete address for the record.

(Sharon Davis) My name is Sharon Davis and I'm speaking for Mrs H. H. Davis, whose address is North Star Route, Elida, New Mexico. We realize these proceedings are getting long; but they are some of the very few people who will be displaced if the proposed bombing range is accepted. Their home and water, the place that they

have lived for 40 years will be gone; so, I think we owe her the courtesy of listening to what she has to say.

"Dear Sirs, after reviewing the DEIS concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, I wish to make a few comments, including a copy of my official impact statement, which was presented at the Air Force Scoping Meeting at Melrose, New Mexico, June 24th, 1980. My impact statement of June 24th, 1980, is even more relevant in 1984 than it was in 1980. I have endured more anguish these past four years of waiting for the DEIS to be released than any Air Force person or Congressman can realize. The reason is twofold: The first reason is that I was told sometime around 1968, when the Air Force took land from me for the second time, that this would be the last expansion. This statement was made by a representative of the United States Government. The second reason is that information from both the Air Force and the Congressman indicated that the DEIS would be released in 1981.

In reviewing the DEIS, the latest reference letter on page D-23 was dated June 24th, 1981. The DEIS was released, according to the Federal Register, on March 16th, 1984. The CFR 40, Section 1500, discourages delay from scoping meetings to the DEIS release. The copy of the DEIS I received was not dated, didn't give the public comment period or the name and address to which comments were to be sent. All of the above comments will have more meaning if you will read my enclosed official impact statement given June 24th, 1980, in that their proposed expansion will be the third time the Air Force

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will have taken land; and, this time they will take my home. I humbly and respectfully ask that you terminate the expansion plans of the Melrose Bombing Range and seek less-costly alternatives." (Atchs 10 & 11)

"June 24th, 1980: The Air Force took land from us in 1952 for the original bombing range. Then, again, for a second time in 1968 they took more land. Now, in 1980, they propose to take a vast amount of our land and this time they will be taking our home. This expansion by the Air Force will be the first time families have been moved and this will mean that four families will have to leave.

We have not, through all these years, made any complaint against the Air Force concerning the bombing range. We continued our ranching as best we could and allowed the Air Force to do their thing. You cannot blame us now for thinking that it seems a bit unfair for the Air Force, in proposing another expansion, not taking the initiative to secure federally owned land for the vast expansion rather than to continue taking privately owned land from American citizens, particularly when the Constitution of the United States sets aside federal lands to be used in the best interest of the people, especially for use in national defense.

The use of federal lands for a new bombing range would likely cause less environmental impact than expanding the existing range. So, in the best interest of the people, and national defense, we sincerely hope that the relocation of the Melrose Bombing Range, at another geographical location, as mentioned in one of the recent Air Force news releases, will occur. Thank you. Mrs H. H. Davis."

(Col Ratcliff) Did that also cover the card I believe that you had for yourself as well. (There was an affirmative response)

All right, thank you. Bill Russell, on behalf of the Mineral Rights Owners.

(Unidentified Speaker) Bill already addressed it.

(Col Ratcliff) All right, thank you. June--is it Luce?

(June Luce) I have nothing further to add; so I pass.

(Col Ratcliff) All right, thank you. Daniel Reiley. You're speaking on behalf of the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division?

(Daniel Reiley) Yes, that is correct. As he said, my name is Daniel Reiley. I'm the Staff Archaeologist for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and I'm representing the State Historic Preservation Officer for New Mexico at this hearing.

I'd like to address two issues here. One is the adequacy of consideration given to cultural resources in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. And the second, perhaps directed more to the people of this area than to the Air Force, concerns the laws and regulations which require this consideration during the planning of federal undertakings such as the one discussed here.

Regarding the consideration of the effects to cultural resources resulting from the proposed range expansion, we believe the Air Force's efforts to date to be inadequate. I object to the statement in Section 3.7, page 23, that a professional archaeological survey of the existing range has been completed.

(Col Ratcliff) Pardon me, sir. I think I'm getting an indication that the people are not hearing you. You may need to adjust the microphone or, in any event, stand a little closer to it.

(Daniel Reiley) Perhaps I could lower it a little. Is that--another short person from Santa Fe. (Speaker changed microphones) Is this sounding better over here? (There was an affirmative response) Okay, thank you. I hear echoes up here. I can't hear what I'm saying, really.

Where was I? Objecting to the statement regarding the professional archaeological survey of the existing range has been completed. This sample survey was judged to be professionally inadequate. Comments of our office were transmitted -- these are extensive review comments of the draft--were transmitted to the Air Force in August of 1982 and again, in February of 1984, after review of the "Final Draft" of this survey report And in March of 1984 the Chief Engineer of Cannon Air Force Base concurred with our opinion that this report was in fact inadequate. I think this would answer Mr Shelley's problems with this report; and any reference to this report in an EIS is just wholly inadequate. The report was--it was trash, if I may say so. 240

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Due to the inadequacy of this report, it is impossible to make any statement regarding the national registry eligibility of the sites on the existing range or to make projections regarding the occurrence of similar sites in the expansion area. The referenced report is so poor that it is impossible to determine if recorded

(inaudible) are even archaeological sites. They did have some pictures of an archaic coin; and perhaps a scraper that may be paleo-Indian; but it's only from the photographs that they accidentally included that we can tell this.

This report should be totally disregarded in the DEIS. In fairness to the Air Force, however, I'd like to point out that we do not consider the sample survey fiasco to be their fault. In their effort to provide open and fair competition among potential contractors, they got stuck with an incompetent contractor who, over the objections of our office, was able to obtain the requisite antiquities permit from the Department of the Interior; and the Air Force, not having sufficiently tight requirements in their report, had to accept them. We attempted to work with the contractor to rectify the deficiencies; but he has proven incapable of doing this. 241

But, this does remain a problem to be rectified; and, in order to correct these deficiencies, I recommend the following course of action to the Air Force: As suggested, again by Mr Shelley, that an historic overview and sample cultural resource survey of the existing range and extending into the expansion area should be completed by competent professionals and completed as early as possible. The historic preservation law and regulation requires the Air Force to make an adequate effort to identify resources it's going to be affecting; and I think before the DEIS could proceed in addressing cultural resources any further, some effort would need 242

to be made to provide adequate data by which they can assess the effects of their undertaking.

I'd also recommend that Cannon Air Force Base enter into a programmatic memorandum of agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer--and this suggestion was made in August of 1980--a letter, in fact, is included in appendix of this report--and would be an agreement which would outline procedures to be followed in developing data and/or managing cultural resources on the range.

(Col Ratcliff) You might want to still stand a little closer to that microphone. I think you still may be a little hard to hear.

(Daniel Reiley) Okay. I'm scaring myself away from it when I stand close to it. Thank you.

Okay. If the decision is made to proceed with this--excuse me--this agreement would outline the procedures for dealing with cultural resources and insuring that they receive due consideration as this undertaking proceeds, if the decision is made to proceed at this site or at other sites this could include. The memorandum will allow the Air Force, the Council, and the State Historic Preservation Officer to agree on a course of action to be followed to locate, evaluate, and protect cultural resources affected by range expansion and subsequent facilities development.

My second point, as I mentioned, concerns the laws and regulations requiring this consideration of the effects of federal undertakings on cultural resources. The NHPA of--or the National Historic

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Preservation Act of 1966--and implementing regulations 36--Code of Federal Regulations 800, which also embodies cultural resource provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and other legislation in one Code--require federal agencies to consider cultural resources when they're planning any undertaking which may reasonably have an affect upon those resources. By cultural resources, we're talking not only of the archaeological resources that Mr Shelley discussed to some extent, but also ranches and ranching facilities; and other historic resources must be considered. In fact, our office has a policy of requiring consideration of any property, any structure that was constructed before about 1945. So, I think affected ranches in the area are certainly due consideration as cultural or historical resources important to this area.

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It is important to note, however, that this consideration is required--that consideration is required, not the protection or preservation of such. It is required of an agency to make a reasonable effort to locate, identify and evaluate affected resources. It also requires the agency to nominate significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places and to consider ways to avoid adversely affecting--or, if not possible to avoid these sites, to take measures to mitigate these adverse affects to the national registry properties. This may explain some of the questions being raised about a cemetery in the area. I believe there were two cemeteries mentioned. If these cemeteries

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could be identified as important resources in the area and included in a memorandum of agreement, which would set forth requirements to the Air Force for the continued management of these resources and provide some insurance that they would not be ignored. 246

And the point I think was also very important here was that there is nothing in this law--and I understand in some telephone conversations that there may be some questions, "Well, if there are sites out there, can this stop the Air Force from proceeding with acquiring the land and expanding the range?" The answer here is, "No, it cannot." There's nothing in the law which can mandate an agency to stop an undertaking, provided that its efforts to comply with its responsibilities to evaluate and manage and protect, to mitigate adverse effects, are complied with.

And, it's also important to note in this process that the federal agency--in this case, the Air Force--the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the SHPO are designated principals in the consultation process. But, public input is also provided for and it is required that we listen to that public input. So, we'd very much like to know of any resources of which you are aware; and I'm sure that the Air Force would also like to know of these resources so that they can be considered in this consultation process; included in the environmental statement; and, should the undertaking proceed, that they can be dealt with in a memorandum of agreement--in a sense, a contract that the Air Force would agree to protect these resources or manage them as can be 247

decided is appropriate and consistent with their mission. So, if there's any time I could answer any questions of the people regarding this process--

(Col Ratcliff) Well, I think that would be inappropriate as far as this proceeding is concerned. I thank you. I believe your time is up.

I might suggest, too, if you have a statement, rather than reading it--although, of course, you would not have the benefit of other people hearing it--if you submit the statement, it certainly will be included in the transcript and receive the fullest of consideration.

Thelma Parker indicated on the card, apparently, that she simply has questions.

Apparently she is not here at the--

(Thelma Parker) I pass.

(Col Ratcliff) Oh, you pass? All right. Wanda Grider.

(Wanda Grider) I have very little to say. Can you hear me? I would venture to say that the EIS has virtually been shot full of holes tonight and I would like to know the name of the company that issued this EIS and what it has cost the taxpayers to put it on. One more thing I would like to say, I notice that they have covered all of the issues on the wildlife in the area and the domestic animals; but they have not said a thing about the human element. And, I would also like to ask Capt Moss if he has ever heard of the game that some of the pilots play of connect-the-dots?

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I have this from one of the pilots from Albuquerque that this is where they every once in awhile get the good idea of a game going; and all of the people that have called in to complain of the noise, they make a point to make a low flight over that area.

(Col Ratcliff) Jack Greathouse. I believe you're speaking on behalf of the Landowners and Operators?

(Jack Greathouse) Yes sir. I'm president of the Melrose Landowners and Operators, an organization which some bewildered people thought we needed to organize because we're not experts in studies. People call me and call me, "What can we do? What can we do? What can we say? How do we go about it?" We organized and we got some words of encouragement from Ft Hood, Texas, where some people had been moved around three or four times stuck together and defeated a 66,000 expansion about eight years ago. We're following that same pattern, folks. They said document your facts, keep your credibility high, be polite, do not be bashful, contact your Congressman, ask your Air Force your serious questions, and proceed.

Let me briefly review--and I want to be very brief here--to be sure you know where we're coming from. First of all, a letter dated April 24th, 1984, from my Senator, Pete V. Domenici, when I asked the question, after securing a book referred to in one of his previous letters, that he assured me that the full environmental impact statement would be made. His letter was very brief but did answer my questions. Quoting from his letter, "This EIS is the

major document that will be used by the Air Force with regard to this issue."

A letter addressed to me from the President's liaison, Air Force man, Husmann, when I was asking some pertinent questions--the important thing in the letter: "The target date for the completion"--this letter was dated March 20, 1981--"The target date for the completion of the environmental impact analysis is the spring of 1981." That's why Mrs Davis was asking the question, how much longer must she know what to do. They violated the Federal Code of Regulations, folks. They cannot delay EIS publication after scoping meeting because the planes change and people change. 249

Let me assure those people that came--that may have left or may not have left--we've been confronted with some harassment that says if they do not get this expansion there is a possibility of closing the Cannon Air Force Base. We have more faith in your good work and your good defense than to close that base because you don't get this expansion. We're for you.

Quoting from the book--the DEIS--which I referred to and our Senator Domenici tells me to use, page 12, "Relocation of the fighter wing if a more suitable training area could be located, followed by possible base closure." That was not addressed at the scoping meeting. It's a brand new issue. It's not valid, because we're not going to let them close Cannon Air Force Base, folks. We love you. We had relatives write to establish that base after World War II. We're not going to let them close that base; but 250

we do think you need some realistic training where you can't see the target 20 miles before you get to it.

And, for those people who think the expansion of the Melrose Range is going to bring dollars to your pockets for selling cars, automobiles, real estate, and so forth, let me assure you what the DEIS says--page 34--"Neither the size of Cannon Air Force Base or use of the range is projected to increase. Under these conditions, no appreciable change would result in base population, local revenues or community economy."

We have appreciated the Air Force listening to us--coming to Floyd, New Mexico. We more than appreciate our congressional delegation for answering our letters promptly and as thoroughly as they knew how. We're in this together to have a great country; and this can be accomplished by working together. And we don't treat you like an enemy and we hope you don't treat us like one. We can work together with a suitable training site that will enhance Cannon, bring in another wing, bring in helicopter groups, have a better training area, and make for a better America.

I thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Bill Beverage. Is he not here? (There was a negative response.) Okay. Robert Grider.

(Robert Grider) I feel that all of the questions I could have asked have done been asked.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Kent Best.

(Kent Best) I really don't have anything to add. I just want to turn two letters in to the reporter. (Atchs 12, 13 & 14)

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Let the record reflect that Kent Best had turned in some documents for the record. Thor Stephenson.

(Thor Stephenson) My name is Thor Stephenson. I'm a range management specialist with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture; and the comments I'm going to present tonight are on behalf of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Dr William P. Stephens, Director.

We have reviewed the DEIS and we have two concerns about the proposal that are over and above the validity of the proposal and the adequacy of the DEIS. First, the commitment of productive agricultural lands to other uses is a major concern to us and many others throughout the country. A second major concern in the continuing acquisition of private land by the federal government. This federal expansion is particularly acute in New Mexico because 34 percent of the land base is already controlled by the federal government. This problem is further compounded when land is acquired by branches of the Department of Defense, which do not make restitution to local governments through payments of taxes as do other federal agencies.

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In New Mexico, we already have a large commitment of land resources for defense purposes. In addition to several Air Force Bases, the White Sands Missile, Fort Bliss Military Reservation, and Fort Wingate Ordnance Depot are all located in this state.

The as yet 40-year unresolved compensation of displaced landowners and leaseholders, in the case of White Sands Missile Range, has resulted in dissatisfaction and mistrust by the New Mexico citizens in further federal acquisition of private and state land by the Department of Defense.

We have reviewed the DEIS and the balance of these comments contain our general statistic and technical comments. Our review of the DEIS has led us to conclude this document appears to be more a biased justification of the proposed action--expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range--than an unbiased analysis of alternatives or the environmental consequences of the proposal. For this reason, generally, and those that follow, specifically, we believe the DEIS is inadequate.

This inadequacy is a result of superficial analyses and lack of data which presents a concise, knowledgeable analysis of the proposal and its environmental impact. In many instances, the DEIS proposes to delay collection and dissemination of important data--and I refer to pages 16, 30, 32, 34 and 36--from public review until the proposal has been approved and funded by Congress. We believe then it would be too late.

This procedure limits the ability of reviewers to address the adequacy of the document and the validity and merits, or lack thereof, of the proposal. Section 2.0.3.2, on page 5, contains what is purported to be an analysis of other areas considered that are predominantly federally or state owned. However, the DEIS contains

only superficial analyses of why the Air Force believes these areas to be "infeasible."

The prominent reasons presented for rejecting these areas include: present soil and gas extraction, production and transportation facilities; interference with existing commercial flight paths; and required cooperation with other defense-related activities. Although the Loco Hills and Lon-Mesa sites do have energy minerals extractive and transport facilities in place, of the area proposed for expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, 65 percent is presently leased for the same purposes. If these leases were developed prior to Congressional approval of the proposed action, the same difficulties to Air Force operations would exist.

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Acquisition of private property, including mineral leases and subsurface mineral rights, prior to lease development, may prevent the present landowners and leaseholders from realizing the profit potential of developing these resources. Would the Air Force compensate landowners and leaseholders for this potential financial loss?

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The Gran Quivira site was rejected because the Air Force found it infeasible to coordinate its training activities with other federal agencies, in particular the Federal Aviation Administration and White Sands Missile Range. We believe it is unfortunate the Air Force would prefer to condemn private property and remove agricultural land from productivity rather than coordinate its activities with other federal entities--for example, the U.S. Department of the

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Interior, the Federal Aviation Administration, White Sands Missile Range, Fort Bliss Military Reservation, and etc. 254

While we basically concur that the stated impacts in Section 2.1 will occur, we do not agree with either the magnitude or scope of the environmental impacts as presented in the DEIS.

In Part D, page 10--and reiterated on pages 4, 29, 32 and 34--it is stated--and I quote--"Aircraft activity over the range will not increase." We believe this to be a questionable assumption because, in our opinion, increasing the Melrose Air Force Range size and number of targets could result in increased use of the range by military aircraft. As evidence of this, note the following quotation from a March 2nd, 1980, letter from Lt Col Curtis O. Ziegler to the New Mexico State Planning Office, documenting the present Melrose Air Force Range use by other aircraft: "Examples of other users are A-7 aircraft from bases in New Mexico, Louisiana and Colorado; F-4 aircraft from bases in Arkansas and Texas; F-111 aircraft from Idaho; and F-105 aircraft from Oklahoma. We believe it reasonable to assume that increasing the size of the Melrose Air Force Range, to make it more compatible with training requirements of the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, could also make it more attractive for training exercises by the aforementioned present other users of the range and possibly for training by other military entities. 255

Further evidence of the validity of our assumption is contained in the DEIS on page 8, where it indicates, five percent

of Cannon Air Force Base training exercises are presently accomplished at other ranges which are currently utilized from 75 to 100 percent of capacity. Additionally, the DEIS states on page 30--and I quote--"An average of 12 days each calendar month are non-use days on the Melrose Air Force Range." Therefore, the very real possibility of increased aircraft activity is probable, contrary to statements in the DEIS.

One of the measures to mitigate the loss to private wells discussed in Section 2.2.1.7 is the construction of new water wells. Who would be responsible for the cost of construction of these new wells? No discussion is contained. 256

Although the DEIS acknowledges that livestock grazing is the predominant use of the affected range lands, no information is presented on the specific number of livestock currently using the 15,249 acre buffer zone or on the 49,800 acres of range land proposed for acquisition. We estimate, from data presented on page 23, of 15 to 20 animal units per section, up to 363 animal units will be irretrievably lost by incorporating the present buffer zone into the target zone. This is only an estimate. The actual data should be available to the Air Force, since they out-lease grazing; and this information should have been included in the DEIS. Furthermore, what lease rates are currently being charged and what services are provided by the Air Force? What future lease rates will be charged and what services will be provided on the 49,800 acres proposed for acquisition? Will future lease rates 257 258

allow continued grazing on this area to be economically and/or practically feasible; or, would an additional 1183 animal units estimate be lost due to the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range?

259 What measures would be taken to prevent soil erosion and noxious plant infestation to the croplands proposed for acquisition? If these lands are not revegetated with forage species, their value for grazing would be minimal. 259

Section 4.11 is purported to be an analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the proposed action. However, we find this section to be totally incomplete. We believe it is imperative that the following questions be answered before this document can be considered adequate: (1) Many federal agencies--for example, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture--are required to produce benefit/cost analyses of any proposed action before federal funds can be spent. In order to produce a benefit/cost analysis, quantification of all project benefits and costs, even if only estimates, must be provided. It is in this area that the DEIS is most deficient. What is estimated to be the value of the benefits--as stated, increased training efficacy--in dollars and cents of the proposal? What value does this have? 260

261 (2) The DEIS quantifies the loss of annual tax receipts to Curry and Roosevelt Counties, the Melrose and Floyd school districts, highway maintenance and hospitals. What effect or effects will these losses have upon the affected entities? Although we believe 261

these losses to be significant, when viewed relative to the magnitude of other costs, they constitute only a small portion of the cost of the proposal--and yet they are the only ones quantified in the DEIS.

The most significant questions we have relative to the costs of the proposal is how many tax dollars will have to be appropriated by Congress to fund the purchase of 54,497 acres of land, mineral leases covering 65 percent of the area, and 46 water wells? What will be the effects upon the local and state economies of the loss of jobs for eight to ten ranch employees, crop production from 4,480 acres of productive farm land, grazing on 15,249 acres, and water resources from 26 irrigation wells and 22 livestock wells.

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Additionally, how many farm employees will lose jobs? The DEIS reports the value of all crops grown on all farm land in the two-county area for 1979. Although these figures make it possible to estimate the average value of crops produced per acre, it really avoids the issue of direct and indirect economic impact of the specific removal of 4480 acres of crop land from production.

(Col Ratcliff) Excuse me, sir. Your time is up. If you would, please--

(Thor Stephenson) I'll finish.

(Col Ratcliff) --draw to a close; and, if you've got it, as you apparently have there, in writing, certainly you may submit the document for it--in its entirety.

(Thor Stephenson) It has been submitted already, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) All right.

(Thor Stephenson) Using figures presented on page 23, we have calculated the value of crops produced on the 4480 acres affected by this proposal, which would be lost, were of the magnitude of $501,760 per annum, based upon 1979 receipts in the two-county area. This would be the value in forgone direct receipts to farmers. These receipts would be multiplied in the two-county area as the farmers use them to pay taxes and for goods and services. What impact would the loss of these annual receipts to farmers have on the economies of Curry and Roosevelt Counties? 264

What social and economic impacts will occur in the area of displaced families or those with operations on the periphery of the expansion area are unable to maintain viable incomes? These are important questions that need to be answered and which we believe should have been addressed in the DEIS. 265

(Col Ratcliff) Perhaps you could just sum it up, if you don't mind. It looks as though you've still got several pages that you are reading through.

(Thor Stephenson) I have one page, sir.

(Col Ratcliff) Well, would you please--

(Thor Stephenson) One question I think needs to be brought out right now is page 21 of the DEIS reports there are 46 water wells within the proposed expansion area. Twenty-four of these wells are irrigation wells. That's a direct quote. The remaining

wells are livestock wells. Yet, on page 34 of the DEIS it says all 46 wells are irrigation wells. Additionally, Figure 5 on page 20 is captioned "WELL LOCATIONS - IRRIG." The figure shows the locations of 36 wells; and if we believe the figure's title, all 36 are irrigation wells. Which of the reported numbers of irrigation wells is correct--46, 36 or 24? We suggest these inconsistencies be corrected.

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In the final analysis, I reiterate that we find this DEIS to be inadequate for many reasons: lack of sufficient data, inadequate analyses of impacts; and technical errors. We therefore request that, prior to submission of this proposal to Congress, the necessary data be acquired, impact analyses and analyses of alternatives be reanalyzed, and the DEIS be rewritten and rereleased again for public comment.

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Guy Holmes.

(Guy Holmes) In view of time I'll just submit my statement (handed statement to the court reporter). (See Atch 15)

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. I'm not really sure with regard to this last name. It's John DePiney, or?

(John DePuy) I'm John Depuy, Route 1, Floyd, New Mexico, and I'm associated with the Gottsch Feeding Corporation. I don't have a lot to say. I'd like to say that the water wells in the statement was--we have three parcels north of the black top that goes--runs to the east and the west--and there's three parcels to the south.

There's three submersible wells in the wells on the south side that, well, I guess you would say is a livelihood to the range. They will take care of more land and more cattle than we'll lose on the north side of the road, the whole thing combined; and there's the headquarters and we have a camp over to the west and the wells also service that.

I noticed in the impact deal it says that they can be relocated or they will try to relocate them. Well, in the area that we're in, there's no way to do it. That's the reason that the wells are the way they are and it would be awful hard. And we would like to ask that all the people in the community and things ask to ask for another impact, I suppose, and try to get--or, maybe to get another area or something. We are out on the ranch there and we have the school bus coming in. We have kids coming up here and we would like to ask them for another area, if possible, or for some way to help the situation in any way we can for the community.

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I thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Lloyd Grau. I note, sir, that you just have a town, Grady, as an address. If you have a further address you'd care to give us for the record, we'd appreciate it.

(Lloyd Grau) I'm Lloyd Grau from Grady, New Mexico. Forty years ago today, I was in the European Theater helping defend our way of life and our land. Recently, up in the northern Curry County and our area of Grady, I was helping defend our way of life and our

land from the proposed MX system. Tonight, I'm down here trying to help our friends at Floyd and Melrose defend their way of life and their land. And I think that the Air Force has a good alternative; so, personally I think you should leave our good land alone.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Fred Jewell. Apparently he's not here at this time. Guy Martin.

(Guy Martin) My name is Guy Martin and my family raised me right out there where they're going to put this. And my dad, my mother, a sister and a brother are buried there and it will be right in the bombing range itself. I don't know whether any of you-uns have ever had them talking of coming in and blasting your head stones off your parents and all of that; but it's something to think about. And, I have some mineral rights in the area and they were just outside of it when all this leasing was going on a few years ago and I couldn't talk to anybody at all about it. They says, "No, it's too close. The planes will come over and mess everything up." And that's what I'm here tonight to let you know how I feel about the whole thing.

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. Joe Alonso.

(Joe Alonso) I'll make my statement brief, too. Though my concern is not as important as the people who stand to lose land or the communities who stand to lose revenue, I'd still like to share it with you. And what I'm speaking about is the possibility of there being endangered species on the proposed area. The

current range is within the historic range of the black-footed ferrat, the peregrine falcon and the golden bald eagle. And we know we do have a nest close to the proposed range.

The DEIS states that these animals--that none of these animals inhabit the current range; but they cite that letter that's dated December 12th, 1977. My question is, has the Air Force recently asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to survey the current range and see if that population has expanded towards the range? And, if they did do that, what was determined? If no, why not? Why didn't they do that? 268

Another question is, has research been conducted to investigate fires or startle reactions to these animals, as recommended by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Reference Letter Number 10? I honestly can say I've never seen any of these animals myself; and I'm wondering if I'll ever get the chance to do that. 269

In closing, I just want to share with you a billboard I saw on the way here; and it read "The U.S. Constitution is your government, not the federally paid employees."

Thank you.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you. Diana Russell. (No response) Wilby S. Russell (no response). Linda Russell (no response). Dorothy Russell (no response). Robert--looks like it may be Billing (no response). Rod McClain.

(Cruey Spencer) I'm not Rod McClain, but my name is Cruey Spencer. I'm here to speak--make a point on his behalf. (See Atch 16)

(Col Ratcliff) All right. Do you have an address, possibly, that might be provided? I do not see one on the card, as well.

(Cruey Spencer) I'll write it down afterwards.

(Col Ratcliff) All right.

(Cruey Spencer) After reading the impact statement from cover to cover, there's still a few things unsettling. Here, tonight, I believe that we've seen speaker after speaker point out the deficiencies of the impact statement; but, I think perhaps the think we should consider more is the people it's going to affect. Every landowner here, I'm sure, is defense conscious, because-- they have to be because they have the most to lose. We may complain when we hear aircraft shake the foundations of our homes; but we do understand that it's necessary. However, when our forefathers founded our government, it was to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people. These are the people; and any government that's to fulfill this has to take care of the concerns of the people.

It's been suggested that perhaps our country is turning to one that substitutes the word "State" for people; and perhaps if we let this go on, we're one step closer to substituting state for people. And we don't want our government to be a government of the state, by the state and for the state. That's not what we want.

I think perhaps we have faith, though, that this hearing will keep it a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

(Col Ratcliff) Thank you. Herman James.

(Dan Greathouse) I'm not Herman James; but I'll summarize quickly a letter that he wanted to have read here. He has several qualifications--you can catch this later.

In the environmental impact analysis I have gone over very carefully, there are a great number of discrepancies. I state these discrepancies because I am very familiar with the area and have done a great deal of research in the area. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department stated that an environmental impact study must be done and an environmental impact study was not done. And I stress that very strongly--an environmental impact study was not done.

Materials of previous research people may have been gone over; but I know personally--from being in the area, from being involved with wildlife in the area, from being involved with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services--I also grew up 19 miles north of the Melrose Bombing Range--I know what animals are found there and what animals are not. There are 17 species of reptiles that are not mentioned in the environmental impact analysis and they can be found there year round. There are 24 mammals that could not be found therein.

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It also suggests here that there's a very important book that apparently you don't have access to and he would be glad to give this book to you. It's called "The Blackfooted Ferrat of New Mexico." It states that the Blackfooted Ferrat has been found in this area in past years and he offers that he would give you a copy

of this publication, if you don't have this. Also, nowhere in the impact analysis is mention of estimation of population or of size of any of the wildlife found in the area. And at this point, he wants to mention a quote of a very famous and well-known individual, Dan True, whose quote was, "If the eagle cannot make it here, neither can we." And he would like to add a little bit more to that. He says, "If the wildlife in this area cannot make it, neither can we."

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I am all for the Air Force and their training and practice bombing ranges and--let's see--however, I feel very strongly that there's probably better areas for this to be conducted. Again, I strongly suggest that an environmental impact study be done in the area because of the number of discrepancies in the environmental analysis report.

I thank you very kindly for listening to what I have to say. Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

(Col Ratcliff) That was a statement by Mr James?

(Dan Greathouse) Yes.

(Col Ratcliff) All right. And were you submitting that for the record? (See Atch 17)

(Dan Greathouse) All right. Thank you. Thomas L. Gorley.

(Thomas Gorley) I'm Thomas Gorley. I'm a landowner in this area. I'm a recent retiree from the Air Force; so, I guess that puts me on both sides. I bought a small piece of property in this proposed area about two years ago. I've been paying taxes on it

for two years, although there was nothing in your study that even mentioned my name. My name's not on your chart. I haven't gotten any of your literature. I didn't know anything about the boundary until today at noon. I'm at Eastern New Mexico at the university and they had a copy of the statement at the library. My wife heard that you was going to have this meeting yesterday on the radio.

I'm in the process of building a $60,000 house on this piece of property to be my home. The basement is already in. What I want to know is, do I put down my hammer and go elsewhere? Are you going to let me know in the next two or three years, or 10 years, what to do? Do I quit and move and pick up my life somewhere else; or do I go ahead and continue here?

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(Col Ratcliff) Thank you, sir. The last card that I have is Henry Greathouse. (Nor response) All right. Apparently he is--

(Jack Greathouse) I have impact statements from four people.

(Col Ratcliff) All right, sir. If you would, just come to the microphone and identify the individual for the benefit of the record; so that it will be clear that their statements have been submitted.

(Jack Greathouse) Impact statement from John D. Greathouse, Northwest 260 Martin Lane, Florence, Montana, Zip Code 59833; and a notarized statement that I'm to present this. I don't think I'll go into the identification. I just want to present it. (Atch 18)

(Col Ratcliff) All right. If it's just for that, all you might do is to identify--

(Jack Greathouse) He's a former--

(Col Ratcliff) --the individual.

(Jack Greathouse) --Air Force man who flew secret missions for about 20 years. Another impact statement from Margaret Greathouse and also from her mother, Sadie M. Greathouse, who is 95 years old and receiving income from the mineral lease land in the proposed Melrose Bombing Range expansion. I have a memorandum and a letter to the hearing officer from James R. Whiteman, with his two-page comment. His address is Route 1, Box 126, Clovis, New Mexico. And--what name did you call, sir? Henry? (See Atchs 19 & 20)

I have a memorandum--

(Col Ratcliff) Henry was the one I had called.

(Jack Greathouse) We're going to have to look him up. We thought we got them all. I have a memorandum from Lucille Lukits, address: 736 S. Citrus Avenue, Los Angeles, California. She grew up in the Floyd area and has mineral rights there and is much concerned about the takeover of her future mineral rights. I'd like to present these for the official record as official documents for your publication. And, I don't know whether I'm the one to ask or not; but it's been asked tonight, when will the public expect the printing of the final Draft Environmental Impact Statement? Thank you, sir. (See Atch 21)

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(Col Ratcliff) Thank you. I might indicate, also for the record, that I have a statement that has been submitted by Mr and Mrs F. Guy Holmes, which I will provide to the reporter; and

Margaret Spencer had indicated that she would withdraw her card as far as making an oral statement and that she would, however, submit a statement. (Atch 22, 23 & 24)

Perhaps there is a date that has been asked for that perhaps, if it is known, perhaps that information could be provided at this point, if anyone is aware of it. (There was a negative response)

All right. Apparently we're not in a position to supply a date at this particular point.

This, as I've indicated, is the last of the oral statements. Is there anyone who perhaps I someway or another overlooked? I would indicate, of course, with regard to the written statements that, if you have them and you wish to submit them, just as has been done, you might come up and announce the name of the individual whose statement is being submitted for the record and then provide that to the reporter.

Now, as I previously indicated, if you wish to submit a written statement and you do not have it ready but you desire to have it included in this hearing, let me provide at this point an address for you. This is to Headquarters Tactical Air Command--or you might simply use in capital letters, T-A-C, then put a slash and the capital letters D-E-E-V, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665. I'll repeat that again: Headquarters TAC/DEEV, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665.

As I previously had indicated, of course, all statements are to arrive not later than 30 June 1984.

At this particular point, the environmental hearing itself is terminated; however, as had previously been indicated, when we first started the proceedings much earlier this evening, there was a briefing that was to be given and then you were to be given an opportunity to ask questions with regard to real estate. And this would basically pertain to how the land is to be acquired, if the proposal to expand the Melrose Range is approved. At this particular time, we will go ahead with this briefing; and of course, certainly, anybody who does not desire to stay, obviously you're free to depart.

JIM BACA
COMMISSIONER

State of New Mexico
OFFICE OF THE
Commissioner of Public Lands
Santa Fe

P.O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-1148

COMMENTS OF THE HONORABLE JIM BACA,
NEW MEXICO COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS,
PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD TO
COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE MELROSE BOMBING RANGE.

At the outset, it must be made clear that I strongly oppose the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as it is currently proposed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). My opposition is based on obvious deficiencies in the DEIS--primarily the failure to address the impact of this proposal on my office and its functions.

My opposition shall remain strong and I will direct all the resources at my disposal to defeat this proposed expansion unless and until the Air Force and the federal government realistically recognize the importance and purpose of the state trust land involved in the proposal. What I desire is that the federal government make commitments to exchange land equal in value and potential before actually acquiring any state trust land. I am further compelled to take this position because of the awful experience I and my predecessors have had and continue to have with the federal government's acquisition of White Sands Missile Range. For over 40 years New Mexico citizens, including Commissioners of Public Lands, have attempted to get fair treatment in compensation and an exchange of land for state trust land taken for the use of that facility. Those attempts have failed. We have even had to file lawsuits in order to protect our interests. To date, we are still waiting for the proper satisfaction. To the extent I am able I will not create for my successors and for the citizens of New Mexico another White Sands Missile Range problem here in eastern New Mexico.

To correct a serious misconception evident in the DEIS, the state land involved is not land of general use for the public - it is not public land. No one uses it without paying a fair market value fee for that use. This land in fact is land held in trust by the state and administered in trust by me, as the elected Commissioner of Public Lands, to generate revenue exclusively for specifically identified beneficiaries. These beneficiaries include public schools and certain public institutions. In this particular case we are dealing with land held to support elementary and secondary education and to support water conservation programs administered by the State Engineer.

The state trust land which is the subject of the proposal to expand the Melrose Bombing Range was granted to New Mexico as part of the compact New Mexico entered into with the United States for the grant of statehood. Legislative history strongly shows that Congress wanted to make sure that New Mexico had a land base sufficient to make New Mexico financially viable as a state. In granting land to New Mexico, Congress placed very stringent controls on how I, as the trust administrator, can use the trust land. These stringent controls assure that the purpose of the land is properly fulfilled and that the land's potential remains dedicated to its beneficiaries and is not transferred to others at a loss to the beneficiaries. A prime example of these restrictions is the proscription against selling mineral rights. I can only lease them, collecting bonuses and royalties for the beneficiaries from the development of the minerals.

The proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range seeks to acquire approximately 16,000 acres of state trust land where the trust owns both the mineral and surface rights, and another 6,000 acres of only mineral interests. The DEIS is inaccurate in this respect, indicating only 15,800 acres of state trust land are affected by the proposed expansion and making no distinction between surface and mineral estate ownership. Since the proposal encompasses 54,500 acres, I control as a fiduciary approximately one-third of the land that the Air Force desires. In this regard, it would be more accurate to consider this land privately held by a trust rather than general purpose public land.

Currently, this land is fulfilling its Congressionally mandated purpose. It is making money for the trust beneficiaries and has a potential for earning much more. The highest and best use of the surface estate of the state trust land involved is for ranching and agricultural purposes and all of the surface estate is in fact leased out to several different entities for these purposes, producing rental income for the beneficiaries. This rental income money goes into the beneficiaries' income account and is thus available annually for the beneficiaries' needs. As far as the mineral estate of the state trust land goes, at the present time well over half the land is under oil and gas lease, generating lease bonus income. In this area there is potential for a high level of oil and gas development. This is a specific reason why I believe the beneficiaries will suffer greatly if this land is acquired by the government and not replaced by land of equal value and potential. For example, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology has classified this area as being the most favorable for exploration and potential development. Further, the United States Department of Interior in "Geological Survey Circular No. 725," published in 1975, estimated that the reserves in this area were 79 barrels of oil and 539 MCF of gas per acre. On the state trust land involved in the expansion proposal alone, this is the equivalent of approximately 1,750,000 barrels of oil and five and one-third million MCF gas worth approximately, at today's market rates, $66,500,000. Considering that the Commissioner is presently

authorized to issue oil and gas leases containing a one-sixth royalty interest to the state beneficiaries, the potential loss of royalty revenue for the beneficiaries, if the proposed expansion is carried out without an exchange of land, is over $10,000,000.

Moreover, in light of the potential for oil and gas development in the entire proposed expansion area, New Mexico will be deprived of millions of dollars in severance and property taxes and the state's share of federal royalties if the expansion as proposed is carried out. Again, the DEIS is silent on this crucial impact.

The primary fault of the DEIS is that it contains not one mention of the purpose of the state trust land in regard to the impact and consequences of the proposed expansion on the land's revenue generating potential. In fact, the DEIS implies that state trust land was purposefully sought for expansion because it would be the easiest and the cheapest to acquire. For instance, on page 4 of the DEIS a reference to AFR 50-46, Chapter 2, indicates that the Air Force is only looking at potential areas where there are blocks of federal and state land. Again, I must emphasize that state trust land should be considered by the Air Force as if it was privately owned land; thus it does not fit the proper criteria for the proposed expansion area, unless the proposal also contains the identification of land of equal value and potential for exchange.

An entry on page 12 of the DEIS reiterates the current Bureau of Land Management Policy against participating in three-party land exchanges. In this case that would involve the Air Force acquiring the state land and BLM, as merely another facet of the federal government, transferring land of equal value and potential to New Mexico, rather than the trust receiving monetary compensation. This recitation of BLM policy, however, does not tell me what the Air Force believes about an exchange and whether or not the Air Force is willing to convince the BLM and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior that such an exchange is in fact in the public interest. Obviously, from what I have commented here so far, an exchange of land is the only way in which the Air Force and the federal government are going to get my cooperation as the administrator of a third of the acres the Air Force needs in accomplishing the proposed expansion.

I strongly believe that limiting New Mexico to compensation in the form of cash actually perverts the purpose for which Congress gave New Mexico this trust land. We all know, as a practical matter, that retention of land will return revenue to New Mexico beneficiaries many times greater than a monetary award could generate. Moreover, by retaining land and leasing it I am able to create current income for the beneficiaries from rents and bonuses, while increasing the beneficiaries' permanent funds from royalties. Of course, as pointed out here already, the DEIS has no discussion of the impacts on the beneficiaries of the

loss of income and permanent fund monies that this land can generate.

Finally, I must criticize the DEIS for its superficial treatment of alternatives to the proposed expansion. Considering the extremely negative impact that the proposed expansion will have on the landowners and beneficiaries without any evident positive economic impact on the community (on page 4 of the DEIS it is stated that the Air Force does not foresee an increase in activity at Melrose Bombing Range), every attempt should be made to make one of the alternatives acceptable for the 27th Tactical Fighter Wings weapons training requirements.

Jim Baca

JIM BACA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

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FLOYD MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

Floyd, New Mexico 88118

I am Ed Cole, Superintendent of the Floyd Municipal School System.

This evening I would like to speak a few moments on the position of the school district and the community that the school district represents on the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

As I start, I would first like to erase a misconception or two. Recently, in the past few weeks, the statement has been made that the school district is against the bombing range or an expanded bombing range that would be in flying time of the Cannon Air Force Base. That is wrong. The school district and the people represented by it support a strong military force.

If you will think back to 1976, this nation celebrated its 200th birthday of independence and freedom. From the time this area was homesteaded for agricultural purposes every endeavor of the nation has been supported. In Fact, I recently read in an old issue of the local newspaper about the July 4th celebration of the Floyd community and how the people celebrated 200 years of freedom and remembered those who gave their lives for their county.

The people of this community have always paid their taxes, supported their schools, their churches, their community enterprises, and have worked in what I call the work ethic to have a strong nation. But if there becomes a point in a man's life when the government begins to take more than he feels is right he must stop and question whether the government is right or wrong. That is why the school district is questioning the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range by taking private property. Whether the people are a <u>servant</u> of the government or whether the government is a <u>service</u> to the people, is the important issue.

It is the school's position to oppose the expansion of the present range at the detriment of the school system. It has been mentioned earlier the history of this bombing range. In 1950, the Air Force leased 7,771 acres of land that came from the Floyd School District. In 1969 the range was expanded to 22,120 acres. A majority of the land came from the Floyd District and some from the Melrose District.

If the geographical size of the district is continually reduced, eventually, although we may be given money, what good does it do the district without students to serve? At one time the school had two bus runs toward the present bombing range. Due to the range expansion the runs have been reduced.

Some of you might say this is far fetched but if you drive the Floyd or Bethel Highway and crisscross, notice the homes and children.

There is always the possibility that the bombing range could be expanded. Who wants to buy and make improvements to a homesite they may not be able to keep? So we must consider whether we want a school district with a long history beginning with an original court suit on busing that has affected school transportation nationwide. Do we wnat to destroy the Floyd School District? If the expansion of the range goes through and it subtracts from the school district then maybe we would like to look at the rearrangement of the school districts that derive the most economic and student growth from this expansion.

But looking at the bombing range expansion, I would like to pose questions and state some facts. If the bombing range is expanded to 76,617 acres that is 25 to 27% of the Floyd School District.

First, let's consider the safety of the range. The flights now are from a north to south direction. But what happens if the flight pattern becomes an east-west one? There could be on display this evening bombs dropped outside of the range in a home and as far north as the House Community. There could be the misfortune of dropping a bomb on the school grounds. The noise level, the low flying planes and the building deterioration are concerns. What type of safety factor would there be?

The second point I would like to bring out is the school bond indebtedness. How will it be solved? What about future bond indebtedness? Do you want less and less land owners picking up more and more bond indebtedness? Sometimes I wonder how people who are in favor of the expansion would feel if it were their school and property being taken?

Third, is the bus run that would be in the buffer area of the expansion safe? Would the run have to be curtailed during bombing practice? What type of factors would be taken into consideration for safe bus runs?

Fourth, the EIS booklet is out of date. If the impact statement is four years old starting about 1980, it needs to be revised. An example is the Boy's Ranch now being built. We talk about the habitat and trying to protect the eagles, what about the people who have made this area livable and lived in it for decades?

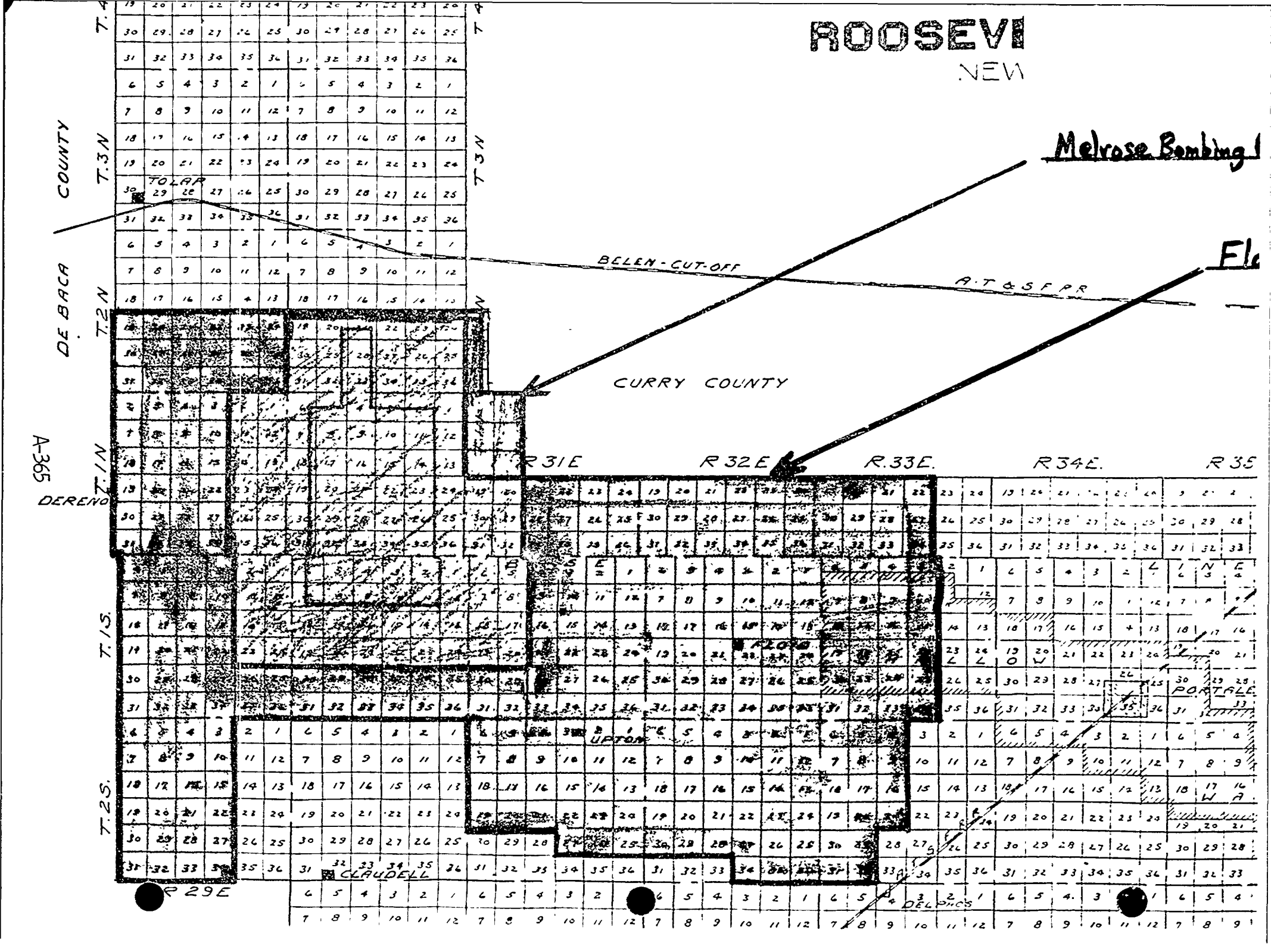
Last, what about the
- cultural resources?
- historical impact?
- water wells?
- miles of water pipe lines?
- utilities?

These have not been addressed correctly in the EIS.

The Floyd School System would like to propose placing the bombing range at the Lon-Mesa alternative site. This is not a major problem when you consider people would not be dislocated, schools not affected, and the taking of private land avoided.

So to the government and the U.S. Air Force, do not take private land and destroy a school system by expanding the Melrose area, but use the Lon-Mesa alternate site for your bombing practice.

Thank you,


ROOSEVI
NEW
Melrose Bombing
COUNTY
DE BACA
CURRY COUNTY
BELEN - CUT-OFF
A.T.&S.F.P.R.
TOLAR
CLAUDELL
UPTON
KLOTO
PORTALE
DELPHOS
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Floyd Salutes Nine War Dead

FLOYD (Staff) — Nine young Floyd men who made the supreme sacrifice for their country during World War II were honored as "distinguished citizens" by the community of Floyd Saturday night during the final night of the annual Country Jamboree.

In addition, a present resident of the community, Henry Elliott, was honored as the "outstanding citizen" in Floyd for 1976 An "outstanding citizen" is chosen each year and presented at the Country Jamboree, but recognition of the nine servicemen is a special feature this bicentennial year.

Plaques in the community building bear the names of those chosen for the honors.

Honored posthumously as "distinguished citizens" Saturday are:

— Leo M. Eminger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eminger. Born and reared in the Upton community, Leo was killed when his Army Air Corps plane was shot down over the Solomon Islands in 1942.

— Pecos Uvalde Finley, an outstanding athlete at Floyd and at New Mexico State University, was captured in the Philippines as he served with an artillery batallion. He made the Bataan death march only to die in a Japanese prison camp in March, 1942. His mother was later the wife of "Big John" Ralston, a Roosevelt County rancher.

— William Loyd (Billy) Gregory, son of the late Mr. and Mrs Charlie T Gregory, was killed in action with the U S Army in France in the fall of 1944.

— Earl M Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Richardson of Portales, was a top high school baseball player He joined the Army Air Corps and was shot down and reported missing over Politz, Germany, on June 20, 1944

John Benett Stanford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Stanford, was killed at St. Lo, France, on July 14, 1944. He was with the Army.

— Willie Garmany Blakeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Blakeley, entered the Army Air Corps in 1942 after attending Eastern New Mexico University. He was killed March 2, 1945, in a raid on Magedeburg, Germany..

— Fred Neal Barr, son of Mr. and Mrs F H Barr, was lost in action March 19, 1945, off the coast of Japan as he served with the U.S. Navy.

— Gurley Fred Richards, married to Kate Evans and the father of one son, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium on New Year's Day, 1945 He was serving with the Army.

— John Howard Andes, son of Mr and Mrs M. E Andes, was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 15, 1944. He was also serving with the U.S. Army

Gurley Richards

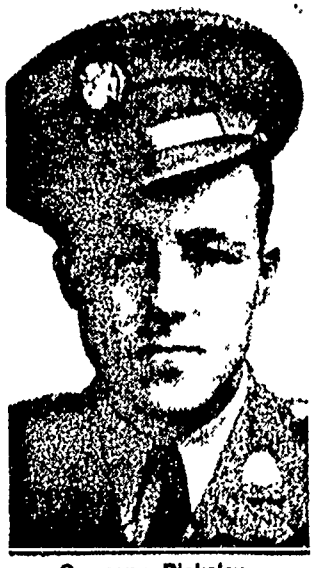
Henry Elliott "Citizen" 1976

Fred Neal Barr

John H. Andes

Earl Richardso

Leo N. Eminger



Garmany Blakeley

John B. Stanford

Billy Gregory

Pecos Finle

STATEMENT PRESENTED AT PUBLIC HEARING
ON MELROSE BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION
by
John W. Russell
June 6, 1984
Floyd, New Mexico

My name is John W. Russell. My residence is at Route 4, Box 199, Los Lunas, New Mexico. I represent a group of people who cannot all be present here tonight who own mineral or subsurface rights within or directly adjacent to the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. I am not here in an official capacity representing a federal agency but my professional experience and credentials are relevant. I am the Director of Land Management Planning for the Southwest Region of the Forest Service and am responsible for environmental coordination for the National Forest lands in Arizona and New Mexico, and the National Grasslands in Texas. I have been involved in preparing and reviewing both environmental statements and land use plans since 1971.

I am submitting a copy of this statement for the record here tonight, and want the record to also show that we are preparing a document that we will submit before the end of the extended comment period, expecting it to be responded to in the nex Environmental Impact Statement when filed. This document will cover in more detail some things I want to cover more generally tonight.

The three major areas I will cover are: 1. The procedures used, i. e., the NEPA environmental assessment and decision making process; 2. The logic or substance of the issues and possible decision; and 3. The moral, ethical or emotional values involved. This last one I want to cover first, because it sounds weird to me to even be saying it. I will tell you why it sounds weird to say it.

I attended a large number of public meetings while assigned to Washington D. C. from 1975 to 1979, and was reponsible for capturing the public and agency comments on the promulgation of regulations for Forest Service planning. These were meetings like this one here tonight with people like you and I expressing our views and concerns. My job was to compile those comments and incorporate them into the regulations and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and assure that those regulations met Congress' intent for the 1976 National Forest Management Act. I mention this because I observed in those meetings that emotional appeals or statements based primarily on moral or ethical values don't usually sway government officials at all, unless it generates huge masses of votes or gets widespread news coverage. Occasionally that happens when enough people are affected, but normally, feelings don't seem to matter to the federal government.

Therefore, when I first became involved with this controversy I swore that I would deal only with procedure and with substance or facts.

I successfully avoided this emotional trap until last week when I flew directly over Clovis and Melrose in a commercial jet from Atlanta to Albuquerque. For

miles and miles across Texas there had been nothing but farms below the plane, with the familiar irrigation sprinklers making a pattern of circles and squares. From an altitude of some 30,000 feet, I could pick out peoples homes and farms, many that I knew and some that are close relatives of mine near Melrose and Floyd. From that height, the nearness of the Melrose Bombing Range to the pattern of farmland east of it is startling, and of course, part of that farmland pattern is within the proposed range expansion. For several seconds, I looked at a large symmetrical pattern that looked just a few inches away from those farms at that distance, and I tried to figure out what it was. Then it dawned on me that that was what this controversy was about. It was the impact area of the Melrose Bombing Range.

Nothing I had read in the DEIS prepared me at all for what I saw. Certainly my early childhood memories of first attending school at the Mesa school house, when my father was foreman of Bob Price's ranch, and later growing up on Charlie Greathouse's ranch, and knowing how that country north of there looked then, in comparison to now, did not prepare me for what I saw. It just added to that initial shock of how close the Range is to where people live. The patterns of what appear to be denuded vegetation and bare soil are really obvious and ugly even from that height. I can only guess at what it looks like on the ground. Probably worse.

Then when I realized, only seconds later, that I was looking directly south at the Pecos River and then at what is called the LON-MESA site, I started to get more than just shocked. I was upset. I was angry. The LON-MESA site is in the middle of nowhere. But the LON-MESA site can be reached very quickly from Cannon Air Force Base in a jet. In contrast, the MBR is so close I wonder if pilots don't have to circle out in the opposite direction from CAFB in order to have room to make their bombing run. I also realized that I had just flown in a commercial jet directly over the same area near the Range where I watched fighters maneuvering at low altitude and high speed last summer near Melrose, obviously in the flight pattern for bombing. I remember that I stopped my car on the highway between Fort Sumner and Melrose to watch because they were so fast and spectacular.

Looking at all this, I wondered why the Air Force wasn't eager to move the Range further from CAFB, to provide more opportunity for F-111D trainers to maneuver; move the Range further from what is obviously a well used transcontinental commercial jet flight path; and move the Range to an area that is away from such an obviously well inhabited farming area, and where there is room for future expansion if needed. Why not move to an area that is still only brief seconds away from CAFB at the speed I was flying, and certainly a brief run in the fast fighter planes I saw last summer.

Looking at the logic or substance and the facts, as I have recently learned them, I concluded that the Air Force wants to expand the present Bombing Range primarily because it is there already and they have been using it all these years. It is already there and they are accustomed to using it. They are comfortable with it. Why change if you don't need to?

But maybe another reason is because they have never calculated the comparative costs of purchasing both surface and subsurface private property and been

required to pay a fair market value for both real estate and mineral rights. Nor have they been charged for potential or future loss of revenue from farming, ranching, oil or gas.

It is not just tax revenue loss that matters here, but fair market value of property and the economic loss or benefit values foregone that must be considered and they are enormous. In fact, payment to counties in lieu of taxes by government agencies is considered by many people, including some legislators, to be inadequate and inequitable in todays economic environment.

Nor perhaps have they calculated the energy loss of non-development of an area that is presently almost blanketed with oil and gas leases outside the present area. An area that is obviously in the path of oil and gas development to the south. The DEIS says "while expansion...would not affect the ultimate potential of any mineral resources in the area, their exploitation could be indefinitely delayed...". But the actual effect of such "indefinite delay" is not estimated at all. The energy crisis may be at a lull, but it is certainly not over!

Neither have they apparently considered the nonsense of the unecessary purchase of all those property rights and of future revenues foregone especially in light of the present controversy over budget deficits in the halls of Congress. If there is public land of less value and less economic and environmental effects the Air Force should be using it.

I concluded that the Air Force has not really backed up and looked at the existing Bombing Range as I did, from 30,000 plus feet and also has not really looked at the relationship of that Range to the rest of the surrounding area. That brought me to the third point I want to address tonight.

The NEPA environmental assessment process when properly used requires that a government agency take an objective look at such effects and compare different ways of doing things to ultimately make a decision with the least impact on the quality of the human environment. There is no evidence in the DEIS that I reviewed that such evaluations were made in any deliberate or systematic way. It was apparently not even done by or participated in by those responsible for making the decision. The DEIS was apparently prepared under a contract! This is contrary to the basic purpose and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA) and the implementing regulations by the Council on Environmental Quality(CEQ) as stated in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508. The CEQ regulations make it clear that the purpose of NEPA is not better documents, but better decisions and actions by public officials.

I will quickly summarize other major points of the inconsistencies I found when I reviewed the DEIS for Expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the CEQ regulations. Additional details and questions will be furnished to the Air Force later so that they may be responded to in the revised Draft Envrironmental Impact Statement.

In the interest of time, I will paraphrase or quote, if short, the substance of each code, then give an example or instance quoted from either correspondence,

the DEIS, or other sources. These quotes will be related to the fact or statement that varies from the requirement in the regulation.

1. "Agencies shall not commit resources prejudicing selection of alternatives before making a final decision" (1500.2(c), 1501.2,1502.2, and 1502.5).

The Air Force apparently told Congressman Skeen in February 1983 that "efforts were made to include expansion proposals for the F. Y. '85 budget but were subsequently dropped. Current plans call for the purchase of approximately 50,000 acres of land as part of the F. Y. '86 budget request." Sounds like the Air Force had made up its collective mind already back in February 1983 and were committing resources in making their budget proposal to Congress.

2. A related example - EIS's shall be used to assess impacts rather than justifying decisions already made.

The Clovis News Journal July 7, 1980 quoted Senator Domenici who had received detailed information from the military: "The military will be reporting to me the exact names of the landowners, what the owners think about the proposal and how they will be compensated." This may have been a slip of the tongue, but it looks like the decision to compensate was made back in 1980.

But these examples could be construed as only hearsay, lets see what the DEIS says in comparison to 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

3. Agencies shall use "an inter-disciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts. The disciplines of the preparers shall be appropriate to the scope and issues identified in the scoping process (sec 1501.7)."

Page 37 of the DEIS shows an overall preparer, Mr. Shotton, and 9 other developers of information. These latter cover Operational Information(?), Legal Information, air and noise pollution, water resource, soils, and real estate. There is no educational or experience given as professional credentials for these preparers. Based on the issues and/or the environmental impacts discussed in the DEIS itself, one would also expect to see additional disciplines for archeology or cultural resources, wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species such as Southern Bald (Golden) Eagle, geology, petroleum engineering, ecology, range or grazing science, and economics or social science.

Since the scope of issues is not presented in the summary as required in Section 1502.12 it is difficult to evaluate the total interdisciplinary needs.

4. "Agencies shall reduce delay by: ...(d) Using the scoping process for an early identification of what are and what are not the real issues(Sec. 1501.7). (e) Establishing appropriate time limits for the environmental impact statement process (Sections 1501.7(b)(2) and 1501.8). (f) Preparing environmental impact statements early in the process(Sec. 1502.5). Also in scoping the agency shall "Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analysis and the agency's tentative planning and decisionmaking process"(Sec. 1501.7 (a)(7); and "Federal agencies are encouraged to set time limits"(Sec. 1501.8).

A chronology or history of the expansion of MBR is both revealing and is in conflict with CEQ's regulation "Reducing Delay":

Page 1 of the DEIS says that the assignment of F-111D aircraft was in 1971.

Page D-4 of the DEIS is a letter about threatened and endangered species dated December 14, 1977.

The notice of intent was published in the Federal Register Monday, June 9, 1980 giving three alternatives to expansion, i. e., (1) status quo; (2) close present MBR and acquire other land; and (3) close MBR and conduct training on other military service ranges. A public scoping meeting was held June 24, 1980 at 7:30 at Melrose.

On September 26, 1980, Colonel Schroeder's letter to Senator Sam Nunn gives a target date of January 1981 to finish the DEIS.

March 20, 1981, Colonel Hausmann wrote a letter giving a target date for the DEIS of Spring 1981.

August 5, 1981, Senator Domenici's letter on status of expansion based on an Air Force discussion states "completion of full scale EIS ... will consider all implications ... (and) is expected in the fall of 1981. (NOTE: It also states: "The expansion cannot occur without Congressional approval.")

The Notice of Availability of EIS No. 840100, Draft, VAF, N. M., MBR expansion was published in the Federal Register, Vol 49, No. 53, page 9956 on Friday, March 16, 1984. Comments due: April 30, 1984. As you know, the comment period was extended 60 days.

Thus, thirteen years after F-111D aircraft were assigned to CAFB, six years after a USDI letter on threatened and endangered species, and four years after the notice of intent, the DEIS was filed. Target dates for completion varied by almost a full year, but were no later than the fall of 1981.

Regardless of the reasons for delay, there are at least two important results, i. e., the long delay does not meet the intent of 40 CFR 1500-1508, and the net effect on those people who are directly affected is prolonged harassment, mental anguish, and economic loss. How can they plan for their personal economic future and operation of farms and ranches, or oil and gas development, with this hanging over their head? How long should people be forced to suffer under such delay? Since Congress must approve the expansion, perhaps they need to pass legislation prohibiting it forever.

5. The alternatives "section is the heart of the environmental impact statement(Sec. 1502.14). ...it should present the environmental impacts of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." (Sec. 1502.14) The regulations go on more specifically, to tell what to base alternatives on, and how to evaluate and treat them.

Page 2 of the DEIS states that there are two feasible courses of action and two courses of action considered but found infeasible. These four alternatives are those given in the notice of intent in the Federal Register on June 9, 1980. The two rejected as infeasible were, of course: (1) Close MBR and build a new range elsewhere; and (2) Train at other ranges.

Three general areas and three specific areas were considered for possible new ranges and evaluated against three criteria (paraphrased): (a) Mostly public land; (b) Availability of restricted airspace; and (c) Close enough to allow present usage, or maximum of 250 nautical miles. No criteria were given for evaluating and comparing effects on the quality of the human environment, although (a) does imply an economic criteria for private land. All these areas were rejected as infeasible under the criteria given. In fact, the present Melrose Bombing Range or the expansion is infeasible under these criteria, especially (a), and probably under (b)!!

There is no comparison of the environmental or economic effects or impacts that provides a clear basis for the decisionmaker or the public to make a choice among these options. Each alternative is given a brief description of why the Air Force rejected it, but without the entire picture, one has no way of knowing whether the environmental or economic impacts outweigh the reasons for rejection or acceptance of any alternative over another alternative. No basis for choice is clearly given in the MBR DEIS.

6. Rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated.(Sec. 1502.14(a))

This is the area most open to challenge and is challenged most often in environmental assessments. The question is whether an adequate range of alternatives has been considered. The MBR DEIS is certainly open to challenge for lack of consideration or objective evaluation of all reasonable alternatives with any rigorous exploration. A reasonable or adequate range would include at least the comparison of environmental and economic effects for alternative bombing areas just discussed. The only reason, for example, given for the LON-MESA site being infeasible is a strong objection to realigning air routes by the Federal Aviation Administration. How does that objection compare to the environmental and economic impacts of expansion of the present site? The trade off or benefits gained might be worth changing the air route, but we do not know, because it was not discussed or compared in the DEIS.

7. Encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisions...(Sec. 1500.2). ...insure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken (Sec. 1500.1). ...affirmatively soliciting comments from those persons or organizations who may be interested or affected. (Sec. 1503.1) Make diligent efforts to involve the public...(Sec. 1506.6) (also Sections 1506.6, 1506.6(b)(1), 1506.6(b)(3)(viii), and 1506.6(c).

At least a dozen or more people, including myself, received a DEIS that was undated, did not state when the cutoff date for comments was, nor did it provide the person or address to send comments to.

At least one individual was assured in a September 26, 1980 letter that he would receive a copy of the DEIS. He received it recently only after calling the Secretary of Defense in Washington, DC, and then calling CAFB. He received an undated DEIS with no comment date and no address to comment to.

One mineral rights owner received a DEIS after the original 30 days, with no notice of the 60 day extension.

The Air Force has not been diligent in its efforts to involve the public and to affirmatively solicit comments from those interested and affected. The facts are clear that they have not been really seeking or soliciting input or they would have insured that those who called knew when, where, and to who to submit comments.

In summary, I have discussed the emotional moral or ethical values as they affected me personally from a birds eye view at 30,000 feet. I have provided a brief opinion on why I believe the Air Force really wants to keep MBR and expand and why I think they have not objectively looked at it. I discussed some logic that would aid in making a better decision. I have also provided comparisons of the CEQ regulations with documented examples of non-compliance by the Air Force within those regulations.

I have deliberately avoided some individual environmental and economic issues here except where they are needed to make a point with an example. I have dealt primarily with the process and will let others more qualified speak to the individual issues. I believe it is up to the Air Force to follow the National Environmental Policy Act and the required environmental assessment procedure in the CEQ regulations to the letter and meet both their spirit and intent. The Air Force will then clearly explain what they want to do, why they want to do it, why it is better to do it that way rather than some other way. If they follow the procedure, they may truly have public involvement, understanding and perhaps, even support.

When they do this, and resubmit a draft environmental impact statement, for that is the only way that they can reasonably comply, they will surely discover that it is in the best interests of the people of the United States, both economically and environmentally, to close Melrose Bombing Range and train elsewhere on public land.

John W Russell June 6, 1984

ROOSEVELT COUNTY
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.
P.O. Box 867
Portales, New Mexico 88130
Phone 505-359-1273

June 6, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Melrose Air Force Range Proposed Expansion

The telephone plant involved in the proposed expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range affects two certified exchange area's of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated, located at 217 South Avenue C in Portales, New Mexico.

The statement in Section 3.10, page 28, paragraph 4, of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is incorrect. There are approximately twice as many miles of underground telephone lines within the expansion area.

These lines serve improvements within and west of the proposed expansion area and would require relocation and therefore cannot be severed from the parent system as stated.

The certified exchange areas filed with the State Corporation Commission of New Mexico are as follows:

1. Floyd Exchange Area

   There are approximately 24 miles of underground telephone lines within the expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range which serves 12 members from the Floyd Exchange area.

   These lines serve only 2 members within the proposed expansion area and 10 other members to the west and southwest of the proposed expansion area.

2. Melrose Exchange Area

   There are approximately 12 miles of aerial telephone plant within the expansion area which serves 5 members from the Melrose Exchange area.

   These lines serve only 2 members within the proposed expansion area and 2 other members to the northwest of the proposed expansion area.

The book value of aerial and underground telephone line in the proposed expansion area to be abandoned are as follows:

1. Floyd Exchange Area

24 miles of underground cable	$60,133.00
House wiring, aerial and underground drops	1,216.00
Total Book Value	$61,349.00
Loss of annual revenue of 2 members if not relocated	$ 2,810.00

2. Melrose Exchange Area

12 miles of aerial telephone plant	$19,561.00
House wiring and aerial drops	608.00
Total Book Value	$20,169.00
Loss of annual revenue of 2 members if not relocated	$ 2,430.00

The total book value of aerial and underground telephone lines in the proposed expansion area are:

Floyd Exchange Area	$61,349.00
Melrose Exchange Area	20,169.00
Total Book Value	$81.518.00
Loss of annual revenue of 4 members if not relocated	$ 5,240.00

Reviewing the Environmental Impact study, I find no comments about the relocation of the underground and aerial telephone facilities that are affected in the proposed expansion area of the Melrose Air Force Range.

It will cost the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated approximately $187,000 to relocate the telephone facilities to serve the 12 members that are west of the proposed expansion area that are receiving telephone service.

If not reimbursed for book cost of abandoned telephone facilities, relocation cost of new underground facilities and lost revenues of the families that are affected by the proposed expansion, this will not only affect the 8 families and 43 surface land owners, but would affect approximately 1500 members of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative who will have to carry the burden of the added expense to abandon and relocate the telephone facilities in the proposed expansion area.

The questions we would like answered as soon as possible are as follows:

1. Will the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative be reimbursed for the loss of cable facilities in the proposed expansion area?

2. Will the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative be reimbursed for relocation cost of facilities to serve the 12 existing members west of the proposed expansion area?

3. If any of the 8 families as stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement relocate in the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative service area, will relocation costs for telephone plant be reimbused?

4. If the families do not relocate in Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative service area, will there be compensation for lost revenue?

All telephone plant in the proposed expansion area is mortaged to the United States Government and sale of existing facilities will have to be approved by the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration subject to requirements of the loan documents.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY RURAL TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC.

James D. "Bo" Shackleford
Manager

JDS:ca

"Boys and Girls Ranch Depend on Generous Friends"

NEW MEXICO BOYS RANCH and GIRLS RANCH
Boys Ranch, New Mexico 87002
(505) 864-2777 or 865-9720

April 11, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ USAF/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shutton
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shutton,

The New Mexico Boys Ranch was chartered as a non-profit, 24 hour child care facility for abandoned, homeless, neglected and orphaned boys in 1944. Since its inception we have experienced much more demand for our services than we have been able to provide. Three years ago in response to public pressure to help more children the Board of Directors expanded our program and facilities to include the New Mexico Girls Ranch near Santa Fe at Lamy, New Mexico, the Hart Youth Ranch near Melrose, New Mexico and Families for Children - an adoption and foster home placement agency in Albuquerque. We now have new dorms under construction at the Girls Ranch and the Hart Youth Ranch. When these new facilities are completed we will be caring for about a hundred children. All our facilities are built and operated without the use of any county, state or federal monies.

Because it has been four years since we have heard directly from the Air Force and the negative response of those contacted since 1980, we felt that the expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range was no longer being actively considered. Consequently, in late 1983, the Board of Directors authorized the construction of a $300,000.00 child care facility on the Hart Youth Ranch. In light of our development plans and the conflicting issues addressed in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement I have the following concerns:

1. Safety: when completed the new cottage will become the home of 10 to 12 minor children with later possible expansion to care for up to 24 children. On many occasions I have observed very low flying aircraft passing directly over the area where the new cottage and complimentary livestock and recreation facilities are located. Based on what happened to Alva J. Parker, how much danger are

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ALAMO

the children being exposed to from accidents by the increased traffic and/or noise levels?

2. Compensation: one of the primary considerations in building this facility on the Hart Ranch was the concept that much of the cost of caring for the children can be offset by the production and sale of livestock. The ranch as it was received from the Clovis National Bank and the Buela Hart Miller estate only included approximately 5,800 acres. If the Air Force is successful in taking the land indicated in the Environmental Impact Statement it will diminish the ranch even further and consequently seriously reduce its earning capacity to an impractical level.

3. Lease back: I have discussed this possibility with several individuals involved and tried to determine both the possibility and probability of this practice. Even the study seems self contradictory. Will the Air Force guarantee a lease back arrangement prior to settlement? What would be the conditions of the lease? Under what conditions would the lease be cancelled or changed? All of these issues and concerns would have to be addressed before a final decision could be made on the legal resistance to the expansion.

4. Eagles: as you have indicated in your E.I.A. report there are two Golden Eagles that return to nest annually on section 32 of the Hart Youth Ranch. The tree in which the nesting occurs is within view of the old ranch house and new cottage. On many occasions I have personally witnessed along with other members of our staff low flying aircraft fly directly over the nest. The danger to the eagles is not the noise level as indicated. The danger, both to the birds and the pilots is that of a midair collision. I feel the Environmental Protection Agency should pursue the Air Force with the same vigor and resolve that they have pursued the private business and commercial sectors when the safety of Endangered Species are in question. Would the Air Force give written guarantees of restricting the air space over this area?

5. Water: in the production of beef, the distance that cattle are forced to walk to water each day has a direct bearing on production. The two wells that provide water for the western portion of the Hart Youth Ranch are located on land that the Air Force is trying to obtain. The loss of those wells would negatively impact our development plans and production goals.

6. Historical Significance: as indicated on page D-17 of the E.I.A. report, the old ranch house on the Hart Youth Ranch is the oldest inhabited building in Curry County. We have planned from the beginning of our acquisition of the property to convert the old ranch house into a museum and tribute to the Hart Family. Eventhough I do not have scientific proof, I am convinced that the vibration caused from low flying aircraft is contributing to the deterioration of the old structure. I am confident electronic monitoring would either confirm or deny these suspicions.
7. Mineral Deposits: proper consideration must be given to mineral development potential. Oil, gas, carbon dioxide, and potash have all been located in the general vicinity. Also caliche and gravel are produced nearby. The economic impact of mineral development has been the lifeblood of many New Mexico counties, yet it is treated as highly unlikely by the report, a conclusion I don't feel is justified and must be addressed.
8. Relocation Assistance: the financial assistance figures you have quoted on pages 12, 13, and 14 of the E.I.A. report are ridiculously low and outdated. In light of the economic circumstances of the past fourteen years I would like some realistic indication of the true cost and subsequent reimbursement of such expense.

I have tried to limit my concerns to those areas that have the most significant impact on our facility and program. Eventhough I did not address such issues as the impact on the local school system from the loss of students and funding, loss of irrigated farm land, loss of future mineral income to state and county, school district and individuals, or the lack of concern for Archaeological sights, I am still vitally concerned with them. I also want to note that developments on the property of the past two years were not addressed by the report.

In conclusion, I feel the report is heavily slanted toward the concerns of the Air Force and adequate concern has not been given to the individuals, families, corporations, ranches, wildlife, etc. that will be adversely affected by the expansion. Further, adequate financial data is almost nonexistent. What financial compensation will be allowed the families and corporations involved for loss of income, potential mineral income, water rights, mineral rights, homes and other

hard to replace appreciating assets? Adequate consideration must also be given to such depreciation assets as equipment, corrals, windmills, pumps, sprinkler systems, etc. Until these concerns are adequately addressed, we oppose the proposed expansion as presented and ask that alternative "a" be adopted to wit: "continue in the present status and train within the limitations dictated by range size constraints."

Even if the Air Force continues to operate the range under its present size and training schedule, I strongly recommend that the area directly over the Boys Ranch dorm and eagles nest be restricted from low flying aircraft for reasons previously mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

Michael H. Kull
Executive Director

MHK/sa

Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association
528 MAIN P.O. BOX 428 PHONE 355-2468
FORT SUMNER, NEW MEXICO 88119
SERVING FLOYD · MELROSE · FORT SUMNER

DARREL BOSTWICK, PRESIDENT

DIRECTORS:

FORT SUMNER-	MELROSE-	FLOYD-
DONALD FRANKS	DARREL BOSTWICK, PR.	GARVIN L. CHANDLER, V.P.
EMIL BIGLER	JIM GRIZZLE	WILEY RUSSELL
R. W. EDWARDS	BOB BENNETT	DWAYNE VIDLAR, SEC.

June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

This statement is in reply to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as it affects the Eastern New Mexico Natural Gas Association, Inc.

Due to the expansion, gas service to thirty-one irrigation wells will be discontinued and disconnected. The annual revenues derived from these wells are approximately $236,000.

The Association is a non-profit organization that operates on a marginal budget. Because of the lost revenues, the cost of service must be increased to meet the operating expenses and the debt retirement to HUD. An increase in the price may cause natural gas to be non-competitive with propane and other energy sources. Presently, the Association is looking to new areas of expansion to avoid having to increase the cost of service to meet their current obligations. If natural gas is not competitive, the expansion is impossible ultimately driving the price increase even higher. The Association is concerned with the effect the price increase will have on the people who are living on a fixed income, our senior citizens, in the Melrose, Fort Sumner, and Floyd areas.

The Air Force has not addressed the question of who will own the above ground equipment, meters, and risers presently owned by the Association. The Association is looking at a large expenditure to remove, store, and prepare the equipment for resale at a price much less than original cost. Some of the above ground equipment cannot be reused or salvaged.

The Air Force cannot possibly compensate the Association for the loss of revenues, extra expenditures, and the effects this will have on it's membership.

Darrel Bostwick

Darrel Bostwick
President

Dr. Phillip H. Shelley, PhD
812 E. Elbe
Portales, NM 88130

3/25/84

Enviornmental Planning
ATTN: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton,

I have the following comments on Section 3.7 of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Range, New Mexico. This section of the EIS deals with the identification and evaluation of archaeological and cultural resources on the current Melrose Range.

As a professional archaeologist with over 15 years experience in the Southwest, I am appalled by the lack of quality and minimal professionalism exhibited in this section of the report. For the following reasons, I feel that any statements regarding archaeological and cultural resources in the area should be considered inadequate.

1. "Twenty cultural sites were identified in the 10% area survey" (page 27, paragraph 4, line 4, Melrose EIS). A basic premise of sampling surveys whether they are political, economic, or archaeological, is that in order to make statements concerning the sample universe (ie. the Range in this case), a representative sample must be drawn in accordance with probability theory. If this premise is not adhered to there is no way of determining the reliability of the sample. This is a particularly acute problem in archaeological surveys because humans, like all mammals never have been, nor are today, distributed evenly across the landscape. Factors such as the availability of water, fuel, food, and other necessary resources affected decisions concerning human use of the area. In addition, historic factors such as plowing, grazing, collecting, construction activities, natural patterns of erosion and deposition severely affect the ability of archaeologists to identify prehistoric resources. The statement concerning sampling of the existing range in section 3.7 of the EIS says nothing which would insure the reader that this survey was in fact a non-biased, representative, sample of the range. Nor is there anything within the document that demonstrates that the area surveyed is any way representative of the area which would be impacted by the proposed expansion.

2. If we set the sampling problems aside, I would doubt the reliability of the survey on substantive grounds. The extant range and the proposed expansion include areas traversed by the prehistoric course of the now extinct Brazos River, as well as numerous playas and springs. These concentrations of water created situations of ecological diversity which were exploited by prehistoric inhabitants of the Southern High Plains. This is indicated by the number of known significant sites located along this and other such drainages (ie. Blackwater Draw, Lubbock Lake, and Plainview Sites). In a recent review of Southern High Plains Archaeology, T. Stafford stresses this point when he states:

> Geologic studies have shown that three alluviated valleys crossing the Llano Estacado contain rich archaeological deposits. Fluvial lacustrine, and marsh environments were principal attractions for large number of [illegible] Blackwater Draw [illegible]

extensive series of paleo-Indian and Ceramic/Historic sites. The few alluvial sites already excavated, such as Blackwater No.1, Plainview, and Lubbock Lake, portend the archaeological wealth for unexplored valley segements (Thomas Stafford, Alluvial Geology and Archaeological Potential of the Texas Southern High Plains, American Antiquity Vol. 48, No. 3, p. 563).

Sites in such situations are relatively difficult to identify as they are quite frequently buried and exhibit little artifactual material on the surface. These problems can be dealt with by an archaeologist who is familar with the archaeology and geomorphology of the area, which brings me to my third criticisim of the report.

3. The use of terms relating to the greater Southwest cultures (ie. "Picosa or Basketmaker", EIS p. 23) serves to underscore the lack of familiarty of the investigators with the area. These terms and associated concepts are not appropriate for the Southern High Plains. Most professional archaeologists recognize that the culture history of this area (as mantioned in the EIS) is in fact peripheral to major Southwest cultures. Both Picosa and Basketmaker are Archaic antecedents of the Anasani of the 4-corners region and are meaningless in this context. In addition, there is no mention of expected ceramic age sites in the EIS, however numerous archaeological reports as far back as the 1940s note the presence of such sites west, east, and south of the range.

In conclusion, it is my professional opinion that given the questions of sampling, the geomorphic setting of the area, and the obvious lack of familiarty with the area indicated by the investigators that the EIS statements concerning the archaeological and cultural resources of the Melrose Range are worthless. Before the EIS is accepted I would recommend a scientifically structured archaeological survey of the area, taking geomorphological variation into consideration, be carried out by professionals familar with the Southern High Plains.

Sincerely,

Phillip H. Shelley, PhD

xc: Senator [illegible]
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Joe Skeen
Tom Merlin, SHPO
Melrose Bombing Range Landowners and Operators

June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and Col. Kenneth Ratcliff, USAF, Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: DEIS, Melrose Bombing Range Proposed Expansion

First, let me say that I am for a strong defense of America. While I may not be qualified about the serious need to expand the present 22,120 Acre Melrose Bombing Range, I am qualified on the adverse economic impact the expansion will have on the Floyd school and even on the lives of people in the Floyd area. I would honor the Air Force's alternatives they gave in the original announcement in the Federal Register, June 9, 1980.

If the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range is accomplished, the Floyd School will be unable to continue under that type of economic stress. The School has already suffered in growth and revenue from the existing range.

The vast amount of land the Air Force is asking for would be ten times the size as the size of their original range. It would mean taking good agriculture land, both range land and farming, some of which is irrigated. It would mean the loss of potential oil and gas resource area which could furnish revenue to the entire State of New Mexico.

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Oil companies presently hold many oil and gas leases in Western Roosevelt County, some of which are even in the proposed expansion area. The individual quoted in the DEIS was not ~~the~~ an authority, at least should have not have been the only source, regarding the evaluation of the oil and gas projections, and was to my knowledge not connected with any company or agency. The Bureau of Mines and Minerals, at Socorro, NM and the large leasing firms should have been used for the reference material concerning the potential of oil and gas in Western Roosevelt County. This will be a great economic source to the entire State. There are two gas wells west of the present bombing range waiting for future development of additional wells in that immediate area.

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It would be tragic for the Floyd School to close as it is one of the first rural consolidated schools in the nation. The consolidation was subject of a landmark decision, in the courts, confirming the legality of tax money being used for transportation of children to school.

If a larger bombing range is essential to the training program of Cannon Air Force Base, there is a site referred to in the EIS. It is indicated it well could be a desirable site and would be very little, if any more, flight time from the base to the range. It is even, either in or extremely close to the Military Operation Area that the planes from CAAB presently are using. As described

in the DEIS, this area is 75% Federally owned, 20% State-owned, and 5% privately-owned. Perhaps the State Land Commissioner would be agreeable to trade that State-owned land for some of the acreage at the present Melrose Bombing Range and help both parties. This alternate site known as LON-MESA area would even provide ample expansion in the future if the Air Force needed a larger site then.

My prediction that the 54,496 Acre (DEIS figure) expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range would cause the Floyd School to close is made from my knowlege of the distribution formula of school funds in New Mexico. I was a member of the State Senate for 20 years and was chairman of the Education Committee for about half of that time. I was sponsor of the legislation creating the School Study Committee. I was chairman of the committee during the process of creating the distribution formula.

When a school declines in enrollment below a certain level it reaches a point where it can no longer make a viable budget. The expansion of the Melrose Range would be certain to contribute to such a decline. Monetary compensation alone cannot substain a good school.

We just think it is unnecessary to make the expansion at the expense of the Floyd Consolidated Schools.

It is my hope that a serious look at several alternatives be looked at before the final decision on MBR is too hurriedly made.

Respectively yours,

R. C. "Ike" Morgan
1311 West 17th Lane
Portales, New Mexico 88130

cc: All the New Mexico Congressional Delegation

June 2, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and the Public Comment Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: RE: DEIS on the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the Melrose Bombing Range presently located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico, and being a native of that area and owning land and mineral rights that will be taken, in this expansion, and future expansions, I feel that I must make the following comments, ask some serious questions, and express the following concerns:

1. FLOYD SCHOOL: On page twelve (12) of the DEIS 2.21.2 TAX REVENUE LOSS: "Department of Defense facilities do not make payments "in lieu of" taxation, therefore the tax revenue loss would be unmitigated. State action to redefine school districts is one method to assist the Floyd School District, but this would simply spread the revenue loss equally among districts."

   Is this saying that the Air Force would assist the State in the problem of redistricting the area? Does this mean you have already consulted the State and the School Districts about such plans? Why wasn't the proposed redistricting map not in the DEIS? If redistricting, is one method to solve this problem according to the DEIS, will Floyd School District receive part of the Portales School District? Will the Floyd School District receive part of the Melrose School District? Will the Floyd School District receive part of the Elida School District? If the Melrose School District gives some to Floyd will Melrose receive some of the Clovis School District? If Elida gives some to Floyd will Elida take part of the Dora School District? Just where does the redistricting stop?

   Is it lawful for another School District to inherit the indebtedness of another school district?

   Since the Floyd School District voted bonds for their recent school construction will the remaining land owners have to pay more, on their particular land, than they would have originally if land is taken away for the MBR expansion? And what about future bond issues at Floyd if taxable land is taken by the Air Force? This will curtail the bonding capacity of the Floyd School District, would it not?

At the Scoping Meeting, June 24, 1980, Melrose, New Mexico, on the proposed expansion of the MBR, Mr. Wendell Best asked some important questions about the Floyd School District, about the amount of taxable land that will be removed, about the bonding indebtedness, who pays off the existing bonds, "Will this be left in the laps of the remaining people or what will happen here?" Is it true the DEIS did not address this issue? It appears that I must have overlooked as how this issue was addressed after it was called to the attention of the Air Force. Is it true the DEIS did not comply with the CFR 40, Section 1501.7 Scoping especially paragraph (2) "Determine the scope (§1508.25) and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement."?

According to the Map on page 26, in the DEIS, the County Road going due west of Floyd, New Mexico, to the De Baca County Line or the west side of the Floyd School District, will not be relocated. Thus, this particular road, which is also a school bus road for the Floyd School system will remain in the expansion area, known as a safety buffer zone. It appears that there is a direct conflict of purpose in proposing the expansion. The Air Force desires to enhance the safety of the present MBR, yet the DEIS shows that it is safe for a school bus to travel in the safety buffer zone. Is it true the DEIS does not address this issue? One would believe the boundry of a bombing range should be back one or two miles from any school bus route. Will this be addressed in the final DEIS? Will the County Rd. 25, west of Floyd remain in the buffer zone? The DEIS, page 25, calls this road State Road 252. According to my information State Road 252 runs north and south and is in De Baca County and furthermore not involved in the proposed expansion. (My map references are from the official Roswell Resource Area Map published by the Roswell District BLM, Roswell, NM, and the County Road Map of Roosevelt County, New Mexico)

Unless some type of redistricting of the Floyd School System is accomplished, to secure both taxable property and maintain the school population, the Floyd School is doomed.

Why should the Air Force destroy a school system when, in their own words in the Federal Register, June 9, 1980, it gives three (3) alternatives rather than making the expansion.

2. MINERAL RIGHTS: On page twenty-nine (29) of the DEIS 4.4: EFFECTS ON THE MINERAL RESOURCES: "The Air Force normally obtains surface and subsurface mineral rights with any land purchase. This is the intent with respect to the proposed expansion of Melrose Range. The majority of mineral leasing would be on a no-surface-disturbance basis." The DEIS did not explain how can I have access to the potential oil and gas minerals without disturbing the surface when drilling for those resources? This will mean that the 54,496.99 Acre proposed expansion will eliminate the development of a future oil and gas resource area.

The DEIS, as I understand it, denies me the privilege to explore for oil and gas, let alone drill a well. The Air Force once denied seismographing on the buffer zone of the present MBR. (Reference of this denial was in a letter dated 25 September 1981, Colonel George H. Tissaw, Chief, Real Property Division, Directorate of Engineering and Services, to Rogers Exploration, Inc.) This denial of exploration even hindered exploration of adjacent land to the existing MBR as this particular seismographing project was to go from Roosevelt County into De Baca County to an existing gas well located in eastern De Baca County. The DEIS mentions that slant drilling would require approval from the range commander. If my mineral right is subsurface right only (I own the mineral but not the surface) and is two miles within the new proposed extension boundry, does the DEIS address of how I can have access to oil and gas potential?

Is it true the DEIS omitted one important land owners name from the detailed list of land owners, that being the State of New Mexico, State Land Commissioner? Is it true the DEIS omitted, entirely, the names and addresses of the mineral right owners? Is it true the DEIS does not state that the owners of subsurface rights will receive fair compensation for such ownership?

3. OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: The DEIS coverage of oil and gas resources is very inadequate and incomplete. A very outstanding example of why I say this is the fact that the Air Force, at CAAB, had in their possession a letter from the State of New Mexico's State Planning Division which gave the following statement; "On the 1974 map, "The Future of New Mexico Oil and Gas Resources," produced by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, we found that this whole region involved is a Class I exploration area for oil and gas." Is it true the DEIS did not have a copy of this map? Is it true that this is in violation of 40 CFR, Section 1501.1 Purpose, paragraph (b) "Emphasizing cooperative consultation among agencies before the environmental impact statement is prepared rather than submission of adversary comments on a completed document."

The future does not look good for the State of New Mexico's energy resources. According to a draft report from the State's Energy and Mineral Department most of the engery resources that generate income for state government in New Mexico will be depleted by the year 2000. A U. S. Geological Survey estimates: "At least half a dozen basins have the source rock, reservoir rock and maturity to produce significant amounts of oil and gas, and they are virtually unexplored." The Melrose Bombing Range and the surrounding area is Class I exploration area for oil and gas. WE CANNOT IGNORE THIS POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ENERGY AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A REVENUE SOURCE FOR NEW MEXICO.

4. DUE PROCESS OF LAW: The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States, Article V, guarantees I would not "-----be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law-----."

Did the Draft Enviromental Impact Statement for the MBR comply with the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, 1502.11 (f), since this document WAS NOT DATED? The DEIS did not have a "letter of instruction" or directions as to the Federal Register reference, the comment period, or the name and address of where comments were to be sent. There are many other, documented, cases where citizens received a copy of the DEIS without it being dated, without the comment period time, and without the name and address of where to send comment. My point is that my lack of the required information, which is supposed to be a part of the Official Document, is not an isolated case. Libraries even had copies of the DEIS without the required information.

After reading the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, 1500.5 Reducing Delay, I question the due process of law being met. Is the DEIS in direct violation of the National Environmental Policy Act? The transcript, of the Scoping Meeting at Melrose, NM, June 24, 1980, gives the information, and being present also, that Mr. Shotton when asked about the DEIS gave this information; "If the Air Force decides that a full environmental statement process is required, announcement will be made one way or the other by January of next year, 1981." Is it true the Air Force complied with 40 CFR, 1500.5 Reducing Delay when it has been nearly four (4) years since the Scoping Meeting (June 24, 1980) and the most recent letter, in the DEIS, page D-53, Ref. #24, is dated June 24, 1981? The Air Force also had knowledge of our interest in the time-table for this process. The Scoping Meeting transcript even quoted Senator Pete Domenici's Field Representative, Mr. Poe Corn as; "I have two questions. Number one, I think, also, the people of the community here have a right to know, at least from the financing standpoint and their concern, on some type of milestone schedule that you must have in your planning, for their information. And secondly, how would the people here that are involved be kept informed on a timely basis as to what is transpiring?"

A letter signed by F. W. Husmann, Colonel, USFA, dated March 20, 1981, to Jack Greathouse, stated: "The target date for completion of the environmental impact analysis is Spring 1981." We took that letter very seriously. And now I am very serious about the March 1984 release of the DEIS as being a delay and in violation of the NEPA.

5. BENSON CEMETERY: The map the Air Force presented at the Melrose Scoping Meeting, June 24, 1980, included the Benson Cemetery in the proposed expansion area. The DEIS map is not clear enough to show whether or not the Benson Cemetery was eliminated from the expansion area. The text of the DEIS does not say if the boundry was adjusted or not. There are soldiers from World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict buried at Benson. Will these graves be relocated if the proposed expansion is made?

6. PAYMENT: If this MBR acquisition of land and mineral rights is made, will it take forty (40) years to receive compensation like the ranchers at White Sands?

How many more years of deficit spending can America afford? The use of Federally owned land, land of less value, land of fewer improvements, perhaps no homes to relocate, no farmland, etc. would most certainly cost less than the proposed expansion in Roosevelt and Curry counties.

My greatest concern is that this is the third time the Air Force will be taking land for the Melrose Bombing Range. It is difficult to understand why they need ten times the size as their original range. Air Force planes have sophisticated anti-satellite weapons, airborne electronic devices, and advanced computer graphics and data systems. The planes should become more precise and perhaps not need as much area.

Since the Federal Government owns 34% of my State (New Mexico) I am opposed to one more acre of privately owned land taken by them. If CAAB has to have a larger bombing range then it should be in an area where they can expand every ten (10) years as they have historically done. That area could very well be on Federally owned land and easily accessable for the planes at CAAB.

I appreciate the opportunity to make comments to the DEIS.

Sincerely,

Betty Greathouse

Betty Greathouse
1300 South Globe Ave.
Portales, NM 88130

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
405 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Jeff Bingaman
502 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Rep. Joe Skeen
1007 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Rep. Bill Richardson
1610 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Rep. Manual Lujan
1323 House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Governor Toney Anaya
Office of the Governor
4th Floor, State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

North Star Rt.
Elida, New Mexico 8811[illegible]
June 6, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Lewis Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

and the Public Comment Hearing Officer

Dear Sirs: RE: Proposed Melrose Bombing Range Expansion - DEIS

After reviewing the DEIS, concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, I wish to make a few comments including a copy of my official impact statement which was presented at the Air Force Scoping Meeting, at Melrose, New Mexico, June 24, 1980. My impact statement, of June 24, 1980, is even more relevant in 1984 than it was in 1980.

I have endured more anguish these past four years, of waiting for the DEIS to be released, than any Air Force person or Congressman can realize. The reason is two-fold. The first reason is that I was told, sometime around 1968, when the Air Force took land from me, for the second time, that "this would be the last expansion." This statement was made by a representative of the United States Government. The second reason is that information, from both the Air Force and the Congressmen, indicated that the DEIS would be released in 1981.

In reviewing the DEIS, the latest reference letter on page D-23, was dated June 24, 1981. The DEIS was released, according to the Federal Register, on March 16, 1984. The CFR 40, Section 1500.00 discourages delay from scoping meeting to DEIS release.

The copy of the DEIS I received was not dated, didn't give the the public comment period, or the name and address to which comments were to be sent.

All of the above comments will have more meaning if you will read my, enclosed, official impact statement given June 24, 1980, in that the proposed expansion will be the third time the Air Force will have taken land and this time they will be taking my home.

I humbly and respectively beg you to terminate the expansion plans of the MBR and seek less costly alternatives.

Respectively,

Mrs. H. H. Davis

cc: All the NM Congressional Delegation

Mrs H. H Davis

Enclosure: My Impact Statement

June 24, 1980

To: Public Scoping Meeting Moderator

From: Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Davis

Subject: Impact Statement, Expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range

Dear Moderator and fellow Americans:

The Air Force took land from us in 1952 for the original bombing range. Then, again, a second time in 1968 they took more land. Now, in 1980, they propose to take a vast amount more of our land and this time they will be taking our home. This expansion by the Air Force will be the first time families will have to be moved and this will mean that four families will have to leave.

We have not, through all the years, made any complaint against the Air Force concerning the bombing range. We continued our ranching as best we could and let the Air Force do their thing.

You cannot blame us now for thinking it seems a bit unfair for the Air Force, in proposing another expansion, not taking the initiative to secure Federally owned land for the vast expansion rather than to continue taking privately owned land from American citizens, particularly when the Constitution of the United States sets aside Federal lands to be used in the best interest of the people, especially for use in National Defense.

The use of Federal lands, for a new bombing range, would likely cause less environmental impact than expanding the existing range.

So, in the best interest of the people, and national defense, we sincerely hope that the relocation of the Melrose Bombing Range, at another geographical location, as mentioned in one of the recent Air Force news releases, will occur.

Thank you.

Mrs. H. H. Davis

Mrs. H. H. Davis
North Star Rt.
Elida, New Mexico 88116

(The above impact statement was presented at the Air Force Scoping meeting at Melrose, New Mexico, June 24, 1980)

Put in many years on Floyd board of education, tried to build it up. Back lapses of Melrose bombing range, the bonded indebtness that was against it was put back on other property owners to pay, no compensation to the school district what so ever. Also taking land out of district that no more revenue was coming in from. We feel that the school district should have been compensated in some way for these past expansions and feel very strongly that the district does not need more land taken out of it.

If additional acreage is taken as planned the actual acreage of the distsc will be cut back by almost one third of original amount. This cuts back bonding capacity as well as yearly revenue.

Since so much of New Mexico is here only to balance the world, why take good productive land?

Wendell Best
North Star Route
Elida, NM 88116

Silas McCabe Heirs

We do not want part of our Ranch taken, as it will affect the rest of our Ranch very much. Our father loved the land & what it would produce. Very much, Ranching a means of making a living.

c/o Evelyn Cater
Elida, New Mex.
88116

Ohio 13

Silas McCabe Heirs

We are very much against taking good productive land, for this cause. Would like very much for the air Force or Melrose Bombing Range Expansion to consider the damage, and inconvenience it will cause people that own Property, that are Ranching & Way's of making a living, in this area. "Could you find land more suitable for this cause that will not grow any thing; Some where else.

We would like very much to keep the Ranch all to-gether - also our mineral interest to-gether.

Silas McCabe - (deceased) prized this Ranch very much - came to New Mexico in 1902 to get started in Ranching, it Takes him several years to accumulate this land, and valued it very much as he always considered land the best investment a person could have. Died at the age of 96 So you can see how long it takes to get a little hold on land, Would like very much for You to take this in Consideration & Would like to Keep all to gether, if take part of it

A-397
Atch 14

Will ruin the rest of the Ranch.
Also Water is Very important and hard to find on part of this ranch another reason we would like it left alone if a water well was taken will ruin all the rest of the Ranch, as well as taking part of the land.
Would like very much for all of this to be taken in Consideration.

We Thank You Very much.

T. Gary Holmes — (Land Commissioner Assoc. of Elida
Rte 1
Elida, N.M. 88116

I commend the Air Force for considering the Fox Mesa site as it is geographically & culturally oriented and shows a low impact on the area.

I also refer you to the statements of State Land Commissioner Jim Baca, ~~Logistics~~ Superintendent of Floyd Schools Superintendent Mel Mahone Schools and Mike Hull of N.M. Boys & Girls Ranch, and others

I am in favor of Military preparedness, ~~training~~, but I am good business Management.

I hope the Air Force will seriously consider these statements and consider other sites.

Atch. 5

Gentlemen:

After reading the impact statement from cover to cover twice, a few things are still unsettling.

First, ~~how much benefit will this proposed acquisition be to the Air Force?~~ Twice, it is distinctly stated that there will be no military use of the area to be acquired, only a theoretically better use of the present range. It has been stated that low level fly-overs should decrease. As a matter of fact, low-level fly-overs occur on a continous basis on practice days well into De Baca county. Why should increasing the size of the range decrease fly-overs that are well outside the boundaries of the proposed range? 276

Of high economic importance is proposed mineral acquisition. The map furnished in the impact statement is inadequate. Notice that the only wells shown west of the present range have production. How much farther east does this production go? Possibly to the western boundary of the present range. 277

Every landowner here is defense conscious. They have the most to lose. We may complain when aircraft shake the foundations of our homes, but we understand their purpose. If expansion must occur, why not a compromise? Why not long-term easements which would allow the Air Force access to this buffer zone, but allow landowners to retain possession? This would mean sacrifices of land use and some homes, and a lot of headaches, but it would not be taking land from the people. 278

A final thought: This is a government of the people, by the people, for the people. These <u>are</u> the people. So, what <u>right</u>, not what <u>law</u>, entitles a government- a mere institution- to take legal possessions from people.

276 277 276

To Whom It May Concern: June 6, 1984

This is Herman James reporting on the Environmental Impact Analysis of the Melrose Bombing Range.

First of all let me state my qualifications. I am a Research Associate of the Llano Estacado Center for Advanced Studies and Research, Eastern New Mexico University, Natural History Museum, Portales, New Mexico. I am also a Science teacher in the Portales Public Schools, Portales, New Mexico. I have done a numerous number of research projects through the Game & Fish Department, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, ERDA, and various other agencies. I have a publication, co-author, of the Enviromental Baseline Study of the Las Madanos Waste Isolation Pilot Project Area of New Mexico. This was a project that was done through Sandia. I have another publication, Texas Journal of Science, Herpetofauna of the Pedro Armendariz Lava Field of New Mexico, Texas Journal of Science, 1983. Another recent pulbication, "Rattlesnakes of the Pedro Armendariz Lava Field of New Mexico, Copeia, March, 1984. I was also a consultant to PBS, Public Broadcasting Systems on the national network on their Educational Science Series.

In the Environmental Impact Analysis, I have gone over very carefully, there are a great number of discrepancies. I state these discrepancies because I am very familiar with the area, I have done a great deal of research in the area. The New Mexico Game & Fish Department stated that an environmental impact study must be done and an environmental impact

study was not done and I stress that very strongly. An Environmental Impact Study was not done. Materials of previous research people may have been gone over, but I know personally from being in the area, from being involved with wildlife in the area, being involved with the New Mexico Game & Fish Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services; I also grew up 19 miles north of the Melrose Bombing Range. I know what animals are found there and what animals are not. There are 17 species of reptiles that are not mentioned in the Environmental Impact Analysis that can be found there the year around. There are 24 mammals species that are found there the year around that are not mentioned in the Environmental Impact Analysis. Also there is a recent publication through the Bureau of Land Management by Hubbard & Schmidt. The title of the publication is "The Blackfooted Ferrat of New Mexico." It states that the Blackfooted Ferrat has been found in this area in past years. If you do not have a copy of this publication, I suggest you get one, if you have trouble getting one, I will be happy to get one for you. Also, nowhere in the Impact Analysis is mention of estimation of population or of size of any of the wildlife found in the area. At this point I would like to mention a quote of a very famous and well-known individual, Dan True. His quote was, "If the eagle cannot make it, neither can we." I would like to add a little bit to that quote. "If the wildlife in this area cannot make it, neither can we."

I am all for the Air Force and their training, and their practice bombing ranges, and their practice bombing missions, these are very important. However, I feel very strongly that there are better areas for the Air Force to train in. I feel that there are areas that they can receive better training in than they can out on the open terrain.

Again, I strongly suggest that an Environmental Impact Study be done in the area because of the number of discrepancies in the Environmental Analysis Report.

I thank you very kindly for listening to what I have to say. Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

Herman C. James

Herman C. James
Research Associate
Eastern New Mexico University

John D. Greathouse
NW 260 Martin Lane
Florence, Mt. 59833

June 1,1984

Jack Greathouse
Box 548
Portales, NM 88130

Dear Jack;

As per our telephone conversation of last evening, enclosed are two copies of my response to the Air Force's DEIS. Please keep one copy for your files and hand deliver the other to the party in charge of the meeting on June 6th.

This letter will also serve as my affidavit and proxy, appointing you to act on my behalf including voting and/or other actions that may be necessary to take at the meeting on June 6th or subsequent meetings which I may not be able to attend.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

John D. Greathouse

JDG/jma

encl.

STATE OF MONTANA)
COUNTY OF Missoula)

On June 1, 1984, before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared John D. Greathouse known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State

Notary's Signature Beverly A. Kuka

Type or Print Nortary's Name Beverly A Kuka

My commission expires 6-21-87

NW 260 Martin Lane
Florence, Mt. 59833

Environmental Planning
H.Q. TAC 1DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion Melrose Bombing Range, New Mexico

TO: Mr. Shotton

1. On April 18, I wrote to you requesting an extension of time to prepare my response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. You chose to ignore my request. It was only thru the consideration and concern of Senator Jeff Bingaman's office that I was able to find out that a 60 day extension was granted. This 60 day period is INADEQUATE time to do the necessary research and write an adequate response.

2. To identify myself, my name is John D. Greathouse, Distinguished Military Graduate, West Virginia University; Extended active duty, USAF, Jul 55, Air Force Officer, AO3028633, Graduate PBOC Class 56-13C, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas; assigned 58th WX Recon. SQDN., Fairbanks, Alaska. Flew in excess of 100 missions over the polar region, and approximately 100 missions in the area of the Soviet owned Kormandorsky Islands. No. 1 SQDN Mission, TOP SECRET. Final mission was to Wheelus AFB, Tripoli, N. Africa, and Dharhran AFB, Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Released from active duty June, 1960. Entered the Real Estate Field. Extensive study and work personally and for clientele in land planning and real estate development, interpreting Environmental Impact Statements for developments and marketing, Sacramento, California. Presently residing in Missoula, Montana.

3. I wish to comment on the DEIS with reference to three areas, hereafter referred to as AREA A,B & C. But first I would like to make two statements:

   a) My comments do not contain the depth that I would like since the extension of time to do the research and fully prepare is inadequate.

   b) In studying the DEIS, it is obvious that the Air Force made a decision as to the action it wanted to take and then proceeded to justify that decision with a very poorly written, subjective, inadequate DEIS.

AREA A: DEIS Summary Sheet, page i, paragraph 3, "Existing deficiencies produce a 'canned' training environment. After a few missions on the range, Air Crews can easily identify the limited target array. Versatility and realism in training are greatly reduced. The overall result is that student and mission ready Air Crews receive extremely limited training, dealing only with the basics of their aircraft's capabilities".

My comment is that to expand Melrose CANNOT meet objectives of "allowing complexity and realism in attack maneuvers, and provide space for development of target array, similar or identical to those that may be found in actual combat situations".

I am very familiar with the relative flat plains area encompassing the existing Melrose Bomb Range and proposed expansion area. With thousands of hours flying time both privately and with the USAF, I know that any sharp young Air Crew will have the entire Clovis, Portales, Floyd, Melrose Range and surrounding area committed to memory after a couple of flights.

It will be virtually impossible to meet objectives of "allowing complexity and realism and provide space for development of target array similar or IDENTICAL to those that may be found in actual combat situations", by a simple expansion essentially of flat plains terrain. Whether viewed visually or by radar screen, instant memorization of landmarks, roads, small towns, and targets within the range will still produce a "CANNED" training mission. Therefore, the objectives will not be met by an expansion of the existing range.

AREA B: Mineral Resources: DEIS page 10, 2.1.1.1 Environmental Impacts: paragraph C. "While this action would not affect the ultimate potential of any mineral resources in the area, their exploitation could be indefinately delayed if such could not be accomplished in a manner compatible with Air Force operations". Page 16, 3.3 Mineral Resources: "Sixty five percent of the expansion area is under oil and gas lease". Page 17, "the State of New Mexico has classified the Melrose, New Mexico area as having high potential for the discovery of oil and gas, etc".

My comment is that those who prepared the DEIS have essentially overlooked, or attempted to make insignificant, the greatest impact the expansion of Melrose may have, that being the potential for oil and gas discovery in the area. Page 16 indicates that 65% of the expansion area, being Class I Mineral Lands is now under oil and gas lease. In telephone conversations with Mr. Keith Ranum, DEPCO, (Denver Petroleum) he has informed me that their intent is to do seismographic testing in the area this year followed by drilling in the event the testing shows positive results.

Fact 1: In a letter dated October 6,1981, from Col. Gilbert K. St. Clair to Jack Greathouse, Col. St. Clair explained that Rogers Explorations, Inc. was denied permission to conduct seismographic testing on Melrose Bombing Range.

Fact 2: In your DEIS, Page 7, the Loco Hills Site was ruled out as a possible site for an alternative bombing range, based on A."Numerous oil and gas wells are located in the southern portion of the site".

From these two facts, it is obvious these lands will be locked out from any development of potential oil and gas fields if Melrose is expanded. We all know that both gas and oil are non-renewable resources, being rapidly depleted in the world! Therefore, to lock up these Class I lands is a significant impact!

AREA C: Taking of Private Lands and the Relocation of People residing in the area. Page ii, 3. Summary of Impacts: "the principal adverse impacts associated with the proposal are the relocation of people residing in eight dwellings". Page 4; 2.0.3.1, a. "the taking of privately owned land is the primary concern identified in the public scoping process". Page 16; 3.1 Description, ownership and land use: paragraph 1, "there is a total of 43 surface owners and 55 tracts within the proposed expansion".

My comments are: There is no reference to the number of sub-surface mineral owners as discussed in AREA B. Those preparing the DEIS pass it off lightly as seemingly an insignificant impact to take private property and relocate families. After being in the marketing of private property and relocation of families for 24 years, I am keenly aware of the impact on people's lives who have to tear out their long extablished roots, give up their homes, leave their friends, neighbors, and surroundings. Scientific studies that have been made indicate that a major move by a family rates third in traumatic impact on members of that family; the first one being the death of a close loved one, and the second being divorce. The basis of "Pursuit of Happiness" as written into the Preamble to our Constitution is defined as "the right to acquire property both real and personal". To flippantly write a DEIS justifying the taking of 54,496 acres of land of which the majority is privately owned by some 43 surface owners and an unstipulated number of sub-surface owners; and uprooting and relocating 8 families from their homes is confiscation, and is a mockery of the basis of the meaning of America. Especially when to do so will not solve the problem of the "CANNED" training now existing; and when other suitable sites are available which will:

a) Give Diversity in training to the Air Crews,
b) Are 75% Federally owned and only 5% privately owned,
c) Meets many of the cirteria for selecting a bombing site.

I am referring to the Lon-Mesa site discussed in the DEIS page 8. In the first paragraph on page 8, it states the site is situated approximately 50 miles northwest of Roswell; then in paragraph labeled 2., the DEIS says " the close proximity of the Lon-Mesa site to the Roswell airport would add to the complexity of

departures proceeding to the northwest and arrivals descending from the northeast.

Come on now--surely you jest! We're discussing low flight sorties of TAC Aircraft, principally the F-111D, making bomb runs at a site 50 miles from the commerical airport. What are those commercial pilots doing these days-- climbing 10 feet per minute? And descending 50 miles before final approach coming in low and slow, huh? Let's be serious. I am totally opposed to the expansion of Melrose Bombing Range for the reasons stated herein. I suggest you reconsider other sites to give the Air Crews at Canon serious diversification in training; ie; use Melrose as their beginning target, then as they advance, let them bomb the heck out of the target array at a different site, such as Lon-Mesa; then schedule them to Nellis, Luke, Red Rio, and Oscura for their finals. They will then be ready for combat!

I suggest the Air Force work it out with the FAA to move the Beak A and Pecos MOA if it interferes with development and use of Lon-Mesa. It is a lot less impact to move an Omni and an Airway than it is to lock up mineral lands, take private property, and relocate families forcing them into the 3rd most traumatic experience they can endure; especially if expansion of the existing faciality really doesn't solve the problem of not having combat ready Air Crews.

Very truly yours,

John D. Greathouse

JDG/jma

CC: Sen. Pete Dominici, Rm. 140 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Suite 175 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Rep. Joe Skeen, Rm. 127 Fed. Bldg., Roswell, NM 88201
Governor Toney Anaya, 4th Floor State Capitol Bldg., Sante Fe, NM 87501
Mr. Paul Biderman, Director Energy and Mineral Dept., 400 Cammo De Los Marquez, Sante Fe, NM 87501
Mr. Jim Baca, Director Public Lands Commission, 310 Old Sante Fe Trail, Sante Fe, NM 87501
Sen. Max Baucus, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Sen. John Melcher, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington,DC 20510
Jack Greathouse, Box 548, Portales, NM 88130
Mr. Keith Ranum, DEPCO, 1000 Petroleum Bldg., Denver, CO 80202
Lovell R. Greathouse, 331 N. Coleman, Roswell, GA 30075
Denny Gentry, NM Cattleman's Assn., 2231 Rio Grande Blvd., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87194
Michael H. Kull, Executive Director NM Boy's Ranch, Belen, NM 87002
Milton Datsopoulos, Attorney at Law, 201 W. Main, Missoula Montana, 59802
John W. Russell, Star Route 7, Box 23A Belen, NM 87002
U.S. Air Force(USAF),Dept. for Environment & Safety, (SAF/MIQ) Washington, DC 20330

May 31, 1984

To: Chairman, Public Hearing, Floyd, NM

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose, NM, Bombing Range

The purpose of this letter is to go on record officially to protest the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

In the Federal Register dated 9 June 1980 the Air Force openly admitted they have alternative plans other than spending millions to disrupt families, telephone, electric and gas lines, roads, mail services, a cemetary, tax base, school districts, Boys Ranch, ruining productive farm and ranch land and robbing mineral rights owners of any potential gain. The land they propose to take is choice range and farm land and class I area for future gas and oil development.

Alternative plans include closing the Melrose Range and using other Air Force or other militry service ranges, such as Lon-Mesa. The Federal Government now owns 34% of the land in New Mexico.

The I. R. Greathouse family homesteaded in Roosevelt County in 1907, maintaining the Greathouse Ranch until it was sold in 1958 with mineral rights retained for heirs of the original owners. The Air Force did not notify mineral rights owners of their proposed action nor were the oil companies who have leases on much or all of this land.

Since other suitable Government facilities are available to the Air Force, it seems unnecessary to add to the huge Federal budget deficit by expanding this facility at great cost to the Government and the people who are affected.

I sincerely urge the Air Force to use other facilities.

Margaret G Zwagner

Margaret Greathouse Wagner
229 West 1060 South
Orem, Utah 84058

M.G. Wagner

Sadie M Greathouse, (Age 95)
for 1405 Willow Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

copy:Environmental Planning Hq.
TAC/DEEV
Attn: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Route 1, Box 126
Clovis, NM 88101
June 6, 1984

Public Hearing Officer
DEIS, Proposed Expansion Melrose Bombing Range
% Floyd High School
Floyd, New Mexico

Dear Sir: RE: DEIS, Public Hearing

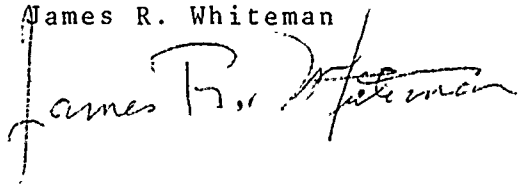
Since I will not be able to attend the Air Force's Public Comment Meeting, June 6, 1984, 7 p.m., Floyd, New Mexico, I am sending a copy of my letter to Environmental Planning which will be my comment for the Public Hearing also.

Please enter my comment in the Official Record as a written comment for the Floyd meeting.

Thank you for this consideration.

Respectively,

James R. Whiteman



JRW/jg

Enclosure: My Official Comment, DEIS, MBR

James R. Whiteman
RT. 1 - BOX 126
CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101
ARTS & CRAFTS

April 23, 1984

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton: RE: EIS on the Expansion of the Melrose Range in Roosevelt County, New Mexico

I wish to enter my protest, in the official records, of the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. My reasons are as follows:

More than a hundred square miles of prime land is a lot of land to be used as a bombing range.

Second and most important about taking this good land is it will upset too many farmers and ranchers. It takes a lifetime to build a ranch. Money can't compensate for a homestead and the work that went into building these places.

Third, This land is marked for oil and gas and a big expanded field in the not too far distant time. Those having mineral rights will LOSE IT ALL. The EIS doesn't address the oil and gas issue with very much authority.

The Floyd School system will also lose money from the present tax system. We shouldn't destroy our educational programs when other alternatives exist.

Fourth, I went with the Archaeologist checking on the enviornment at the Melrose Bombing Range and the report was watered down pretty much, in my opinion. There were no Pueblo ruins in the area, however there were some remains in a few places of the Pit house people, also the Folsom Man and the Clovis Man roamed this area. The points of the mesas, in the MBR area, were sacred to the Indians, and some of the points had Indian graves on them. Right where the observatory for MBR is located there use to be an Indian grave. The whole mesa has been blasted to pieces! I can't believe such destruction! I have observed this country in the 1920's and up through the '30's. I miss the green grass and fresh air, also the beautiful rolling mesas. In spite of the cleaning and policing of the MBR grounds there is nothing but old busses, trucks, junk cars, all full of bullets holes and the smell of oil barrels.

I agree with one of our senators who said; "The people treat the EARTH like they were renting it."

I am for a strong defense of America but we must make the best use of our lives and resources. Therefore, I favor the Air Force's own alternatives instead of taking 52,000 Acres and that is: 1. Continue to use the present

Environmental Planning
Attn: Mr. Shotton
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

bombing range with it's limitations. (The limitations are very minimum) 2. Closing the Melrose Range and acquiring land in some other geographic location for a new Air Force range. (This can be done in New Mexico with 34% of the land in our State being Federal Land) 3. Closing the Melrose Range and conducting training on other Air Force and/or other military service ranges. (This is a good alternative as the planes from CAAB presently uses seven (7) other bombing ranges. Planes from other bases use the Melrose Range only 4% of it's usage according to the EIS and that isn't significant)

The Air Force continues to tell us they need a more realistic bombing range. If they will be fair about this statement then they should use either alternative plan No. 2 or alternative plan No. 3. Navigation is about as important as merely dropping bombs. The Melrose Range offers very little realistic training in cross-country flying as it is only twenty (20) miles from the base.

So, instead of using good agricultural land I favor using existing ranges or locating land that has very little of anything but dry desert with no habitation.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Whiteman

Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Joe Skeen
Mr. Jose' H. Lucero

MEMORANDUM May 27, 1984

TO: Public Hearing Officer - DEIS, MBR

FROM: Mrs. Lucile Lukits

SUBJECT: Public Hearing Melrose Bombing Range at Floyd, N. M.

Since I will not be able to attend the Air Force's Public Hearing Meeting, June 6, 1984, 7 p.m., at Floyd, New Mexico, I am sending my written statement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attachment: My written statement

Att. 21

May 27th 1984

To whom it may Concern: Los Angeles, Ca

Since I have written my senators and Congressman, Secretary of the Interior & others; this is just to go on record as one of the beneficiaries, who would be affected.

I am deeply concerned and violently opposed to what the Air Force proposed to do in this area!

The government owns much too much land now in these Western States!

It is unthinkable and almost criminal that the Air Force would even consider uprooting these farmers, ranchers and the Blessed people who've worked so hard to overcome unbelievable hardships to establish homes and communities here; especially, when there are better alternatives.

This is my heritage and my birthplace and no matter where I go I'll always love 'New Mexico' as it says in the State Song.

The benefits as they exist far outweigh what the Air Force would do in my humble opinion.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lucile Greathouse Luketa
736 So. Citrus Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca - 90036

Ph. (213) 935-6652

Since 51% of N.M. is Govt. owned, it is only fair and reasonable that other states have the privilage of contributing land and resources. This proposed expansion means N.T.A. and U.S.F.S. lands cutting off many residents and land owners 24 hrs a day. Boyd Ranch is in jeopardy, take out of production good productive land and in turn, it has a many adverse effect on resources of our state and nation. Even expenditures need to be cut.

The air force needs to be commended for their utilization of alternate locations as they have stated in the Federal Register. This is especially true of other Government owned land as a good alternate location.

Mr + Mrs J. Guy Holmes
Elida, N. Mex
88116

page 1

This letter is to inform you we are against the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. We do not feel any group of people has the right to take homes and a life time of work from Ranchers in order to make jobs and bring business to another group. With the thought in mind homes, away of life, inheritance, peice of mind are at stake go with me through this little blue book that is so repetious. I would like you to see things from where I stand, a few miles from the perposed expansion on a Ranch, sometimes we call it the end of the road, because one starts opening gates when they pass our home. We have a 20 year old son away at college. My husband has lived here since 1939 he is 79 years old. One wonders will the next expansion get us. Also keep in mind we've had a shut in gas well since 1974. This is the third takeover, and I have been nothing was paid for the mineral rights on the first two takeovers.

ii 3-Summary of Impacts: Move 8 familes. One other purposed place had endangered species-couldn't consider that place.

page 2 - there is other existing ranges. Our nation shouldn't spend money it hasn't got on something it doesn't need. Remember the National Land Protection Policy Act.

page 4 - a-The takeover of privately owned land is still a primary concern and rightly so.

page 5-A-I question the wisdom of not wanting to use mountainous terrain-your first battle might not be in the wide open country. White Sands (a promised back takeover) part of the training could be coping with the airspace.

page 7-b-Beneath commercial air route - MOVE THE AIR ROUTE ! ! ! Homes and their people and land are still on top of the list.

page 7-c-Oil and gas located on this site. This purposed expansion has even hindered the lease of some mineral.

page 8-Train at other Ranges. There there use them to the fullest. In other words get your moneys worth out of what is alread There.

page 10-Noise impact is concidered NO IMPACT. We who live here see what takes place in a fly(beside)over.

page 11-b-Will it indeed be used for grazing. May not be prime or unique land - but the fact remains - it's someones home and most likely been so for many years - thats what really counts with me - how about you. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act. Speaking of repetion, must be catching.

page 10-c-Not does but has affected potential mineral resouces in this area. And the mineral right owners have not been listed or notifyed. And what about the Oil and gas people - they aren't listed and have they been noifyed. I think not - one person at the Cannan Air Base didn't seem to know the importance of letting these two groups know nor now to find them. ??????????????????

page 10-d-If no increase of aircraft activity over the range - why the need for increase land.

page 10-e- WATER - I think perhaps some people have never heard of a dry well. Ranchers have to have water lots of water.

page 10-f-A no flying area would be established around the nesting site of a pair of Golden eagles - GREAT. Wish we people were so important. Bald heads.

page 11-g-Grass fires do damage air quality. Why no increase.

page 11-h-665 acres of vegetation removed and just the pledge of

Guts 'N' Feathers

[An Opinion Column by the Editor]

By ED DUCKWORTH, Editor

Bombs or beef and beans?

Should New Mexicans, especially those who farm or ranch in the eastern part of the state, continue giving blanket approval to the U.S. government for military base expansions? Or is it time to say 'no' to some federally proposed projects as several states did to the MX missile proposal?

Rural residents in Curry and Roosevelt Counties are faced with the dilemma of a proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, used by the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing stationed at the nearby Cannon Air Force Base. The expansion, as proposed, would increase the land area of the bombing range by nearly 347%.

In the early 1950s, 7,771 acres were leased for the range. In 1969 that was expanded to its present size of 22,120 acres. The new proposal calls for an increase of 54,497 acres, or a total size of some 76,617 acres.

Involved are 43 landowners and 55 tracts of land. Residents of eight dwellings would have to be relocated. Boundaries would be moved 2¼ miles south; 2¾ miles west; ½ mile north, and 3 miles east. The approach corridor would be enlarged from its present 1,920-acre size, to 10,697 acres.

The historic Hart Ranch, now the New Mexico Boys Ranch, would lose 640 of its 5,640 acres to the planned enlargement. The ranch headquarters would be little more than half a mile outside the northeast corner of the buffer zone.

Nearly 15,250 acres of grazing land, with a carrying capacity of 15-20 head per section, would be removed from that agricultural use. That's nearly 24 sections with a total carrying capacity of 360-480 head. Another, 4,480 acres of irrigated cropland would be converted to rangeland. The Air Force Environmental Impact Statement reports that there is no surface water within the proposed expansion, but there are 46 wells within the area, divided almost equally between irrigation and stock watering uses.

Two underground water basins, 30 square miles in the Portales and 4 square miles of the Fort Sumner Basins, are in the expanded area of the Ogallala Aquifer that would fall within the parameters of the area being sought.

One of the most disturbing factors to those holding mineral rights in the area is the inability to proceed with oil and gas exploration. Sixty-five percent of the area is under oil and gas lease, and the state has classified the Melrose area as having a high potential for oil and gas discovery. There are two producing gas wells in De Baca County, 6 miles west and 12 miles south of the proposed range expansion.

There are other concerns, such as increasing the danger of grass fires; interrupting wildlife habitat; tax revenue losses and the expansion's effect on the Floyd School District, and the loss of employment by eight or ten ranch workers.

The Air Force has rejected the alternatives of: 1. Continuing the present status; 2. Acquiring land elsewhere. 3. Training at other ranges.

Here's how the Air Force rationalizes those rejections:

1. Long-term socio-economic impacts are unpredictable. Implementation of this alternative would make Cannon AFB less desirable as a base supporting a tactical fighter wing.

2. Sufficiently large areas of federal or state land within a 250-mile radius of Cannon AFB are unsuitable due to terrain, land use, or commercial air corridors.

3. Increased use of the facilities at other Air Force Ranges is not feasible because of their already intense use.

A 7 p.m. public meeting has been arranged at the Floyd High School auditorium for Wednesday, June 6. Also, the public comment period has been extended to June 30.

Several factors need to be considered when 'taking sides' in this disputed proposal. No doubt the expansion would aid this nation's military preparedness program. Also, it would benefit businesses and the economic situation in the Clovis-Portales area through more purchasing power from possibly an increase in military personnel.

Still, with agriculture being one of the major commodities this state exports, to cut into one of New Mexico's most highly productive agricultural areas merits serious consideration.

We favor a strong military program for defense. We also like to see communities improve economically. However, we oppose the taking of prime agricultural land for any purpose—urban sprawl, mining, or military expansion. We feel there are alternatives that have not yet been discovered (or discussed) that should be explored before this nation gives up any more of its food-producing capabilities.

U.S. statesman and former presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, July 9, 1896, put it in proper perspective. He said:

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

Amen, Brother Bryan. Amen.

EVERYONE
IS INVITED
TO ATTEND

OPEN HOUSE
of
FARMERS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
NEW
HEADQUARTERS
FACILITY

Cannon AFB to stop erosion isn't the answer. Thats a big problem in this part.

page 11-a-Why train to protect a School when your training place destroys what you train to protect. The Floyd School isn't just any ole school.

page 11-b-Relocation of persons and dwellings. This sin't just persons this is family, friends, loved ones being forced to leave homes not dwellings. Places many have spent years of hard work on.

page 11-d-We need land for food and fiber. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

page 11-e-Waste of more land. Remember the National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

page 11-f-A ranch without water. You can't find water just any place in this part.

page 11-g-Remember National Farm Land Protection Policy Act.

page 12-(1) Possible base closure. Sure would miss that noise.

page 12-(2) No three party exchange of land says the BLM. The private land owner has no say.

page 13-Relocation at takeover price.

page 14-For disturbance of these birds-you admit desturbance.

page 14-Soil erosion and undesirable plants is a full time battle not time left for bombing.

page 14-Relocation of roads-sure the volume traffic on this road is light. And when people are moved out will another road be needed. Thats what roads are for people.

page 14-Just what does't transfer of water rights mean.

page 19-Lots of people haven't gotten to release mineral because of this purposed expansion. And this can well be part of why these two well are still shut in wells.

page 12-the location and owners of each 46 (some unknown owners) wells -and they weren't sent a little blue book before the notice in the paper. Why. Some of these folks are up in years. Have a heart.

page 21-There may well be more wildlife than named.

page 23-Burial site - Doesn't have to be in the National Register of Historic Places - was all these land owners notified.

page 24-What came and pushed out agriculture and is still pushing.

page 28-Fly overs do take place and far from the proposed boundary lines.

page 29-So we have unreclamed land - what a waste to keep spreading unreclamed land - surely there must be a stopping place.

page 29-This is not right to take mineral rights from people and not pay them for now and what they could bring in the future and that loss to the family in years to come. Isn't it true the first takeovers didn't pay for mineral - just maybe some folks have a right to demand some back pay with interest.

page 29-Land adjacent to the purposed expansion is and will affect oil and gas exploration because the general feeling is thats in the next takeover. It does affect the price of land and discourages exchange of land and mineral leaseing.

page 33-Will there be need of mail and bus route if no people.

page 34-You can't find water where it isn't.

page 3

page B-1 Property owners were't notified. Shouldn't they have gotten the little blue books first. Some are very greatly distressed even to the point of despair - when will the next takeover be. Help can't someone do something - hasn't this been going on since 1952?

D-4 - There is Golden Eagles:

D-5 - Overlap-Prime Farmland:

D-6 - Class 1 exploration area for oil and gas:

D-12 - Theres other ranges to use for public defence:

D-14 - Public interest: ? ? ? ? ?

D-18 - Other homes mean just as much to those near and dear to them.

d-20 - No Indian land impacted. Wasn't this once Indian country. Could make one feel like an Indian of long ago.

D-23 - Shouldn't Impacks be prepared by a third party?

D-25 - Adverse affect on agriculture to great.

D-29 - Outdated map - I question the interest of this person and understand I am not the only one.

D-47 - Grazing lease?

APPENDIX E - Animal response - one must live with and care deeply for Animal to note the response. Ever on a horse and meet up with a fly-over or should I say a flyby.

D- Correspondence Received on proposed expansion - No Rancher report. What about input from meeting at Melrose??????????????????????

I feel about this expansion the way I felt about the M X.

M X Monster Go Away

M X Monster goaway!
We don't want your shell game play,
Out upon our lone prairie.
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We don't need your roads I say
Out amongest our fields of hay
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We don't want our taxes wasted
Just to get sand in our faceses
Thats not where you ought to be.

M X Monster go away!
We can't take your nuclear ways
Near our homes and near our people
Thats not where you ought to be.
April 22, 1981 Margaret Spencer

THANKS
Margaret Spencer
Margaret Spencer and all at our HOME-Nina, Eulah, Earl and CRUEY.

Margaret Spencer
Star Route Box B-204
Jaibar, N.M. 88134

The DEIS doesn't adequately address the impact on the purposed expantion are lands joining. What about these lands. Page 10 E Can water wells be moved? What is done to mineral owners? Please look again at the site where just air-space is the question

Thanks

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VI
INTERFIRST TWO BUILDING, 1201 ELM STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

MAY 02 1984

Mr. Lewis Shotton
Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotton:

We have completed our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on expanding the Melrose Air Force Bombing Range in Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. We offer the following comments for your consideration:

279

1. On page 28, the EIS addresses the effects of noise on fringe area residents but we found no mention of reference environmental noise levels or if there were any sensitive noise receptors near the proposed expanded Melrose Bombing Range such as the New Mexico Boys Ranch shown on Figure 4. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified residences (including farm residences), hospitals and schools as sensitive noise receptors and asks that the Air Force depict those receptors within the 65 Ldn contour on an Ldn noise contour map.

2. The Final EIS would be strengthened by including an evaluation of noise impacts on these above sensitive receptors using appropriate criteria in the "Condensed Version of EPA Levels Document" dated November 1978, and the HUD Site Acceptability Standards published on July 12, 1979.

279

We classify your Draft EIS as LO-2. Generally, we have no objections to the proposed action as discussed in the Draft EIS. However, we are suggesting additional information on noise levels at sensitive receptors in order to evaluate fully the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Definitions of the categories are provided on the enclosure. Our procedure is to categorize the EIS on both the environmental consequences of the proposed action and on the adequacy of the EIS at the draft stage, whenever possible.

We appreciated the opportunity to review the Draft EIS. Please send our office five (5) copies of the Final EIS at the same time it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

Allyn M. Davis

for Dick Whittington, P.E.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

LO - Lack of Objections

EPA has no objections to the proposed action as described in the draft impact statement; or suggests only minor changes in the proposed action.

ER - Environmental Reservations

EPA has reservations concerning the environmental effects of certain aspects of the proposed action. EPA believes that further study of suggested alternatives or modifications is required and has asked the originating Federal agency to re-assess these aspects.

EU - Environmentally Unsatisfactory

EPA believes that the proposed action is unsatisfactory because of its potentially harmful effect on the environment. Furthermore, the Agency believes that the potential safeguards which might be utilized may not adequately protect the environment from hazards arising from this action. The Agency recommends that alternatives to the action be analyzed further (including the possibility of no action at all).

ADEQUACY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

Category 1 - Adequate

The draft impact statement adequately sets forth the environmental impact of the proposed project or action as well as alternatives reasonably available to the project or action.

Category 2 - Insufficient Information

EPA believes the draft impact statement does not contain sufficient information to assess fully the environmental impact of the proposed project or action. However, from the information submitted, the Agency is able to make a preliminary determination of the impact on the environment. EPA has requested that the originator provide the information that was not included in the draft statement.

Category 3 - Inadequate

EPA believes that the draft impact statement does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed project or action, or that the statement inadequately analyzes reasonably available alternatives. The Agency has requested more information and analysis concerning the potential environmental hazards and has asked that substantial revision be made to the impact statement. If a draft statement is assigned a Category 3, no rating will be made of the project or action, since a basis does not generally exist on which to make a determination.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Roswell District Office
P. O. Box 1397
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

1792.5

April 25, 1984

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Attention: Mr. Shotton
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range. In general we feel the document could benefit by increased quantification. The specific comments are listed below:

280

Pg. 3 — A general location map should preceed this map.

281

Sec. 2217 — This section talks about relinquishing water rights on the expanded range. The EIS does not indicate if water will be maintained on the expanded range for pronghorn antelope and other wildlife.

282

Sec. 3.4 — Reference is made to livestock wells not needing state licensing if the capacity is less than 10 acre feet. We believe that what is meant is that stockponds less than 10 acre feet do not need state licensing.

283

Sec. 3.5 — This section would benefit from better quantification. The number of wildlife present (eg. pronghorn antelope) would help the reader determine the significance of the impacts.

284

Socio/Econ Sections — Nowhere were we able to find the cost of the expansion. It is important for the reader to know how much money the expansion would cost the taxpayer.

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The section should quantify to a greater degree the loss of revenue that will result from the loss of 3,500 acres of farmland.

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The economic loss of the leasees who currently hold oil & gas leases within the proposed range expansion should be addressed.

Our records indicate 11.54 acres of Public Land (T. 1 S., R. 30 E., Section 6) within proposed area, and 3418 acres of Federal subsurface mineral estate.

The Air Force, will need to apply for a withdrawal of the Public Lands included in the range expansion.

Sincerely yours,

Earl R. Cunningham

District Manager

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

April 26, 1984

Department of Environmental Planning
H.Q.TAC.-DEED
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

Attention: Mr. Shotton

Re: Proposed Expansion of Melrose Bombing Range

Dear Mr. Shotton:

The New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department is in receipt of a copy of a letter to you from John D. Greathouse requesting extension of time in which to comment upon the draft and environmental impact statement dealing with the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

The Energy and Minerals Department of the State of New Mexico supports that request for extension and requests that you grant the maximum extension possible to allow Mr. Greathouse and other interested parties to comment upon this draft environmental impact statement. We hope that this extended comment period would allow for the development of information about non-renewable energy and minerals resources which may be affected by this proposed expansion and the impact of the loss of utilization of those resources upon the State of New Mexico and the country as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Biderman

PAUL L. BIDERMAN
Secretary

PLB/h

A-426

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
(505) 827-5950

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (505) 827-5925
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT DIVISION (505) 827-5860
MINING & MINERALS DIVISION (505) 827-5970
RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (505) 827-5900
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION (505) 827-5800
Land Office Building, P.O. Box 2088, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

JUDITH A. PRATT
BERNALILLO COUNTY
District 18
3800 SILVER, SE
Home Telephone: (505) 256-3816
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

COMMITTEES:
Chairman:
LABOR
Member:
JUDICIARY
RULES & ORDER OF BUSINESS

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS
COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Chairman:
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Santa Fe

June 27,1984

Mr. Lewis Shotten
Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Mr. Shotten:

Re: Melrose Bombing Range expansion

As a New Mexico state legislator and a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from New Mexico, I am writing to express my concern with the mistreatment of ranchers,farmers and mineral owners in Eastern New Mexico and to state my opposition to the expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range as described in the DEIS.

A careful review of the DEIS has left me appalled. There is hardly a mention of the state land that comprises one third of the proposed expansion area. Economic issues and revenue losses are treated superficially, and perhaps worst of all, alternatives to an action which would profoundly affect hundreds of New Mexicans are almost casually dismissed.

As a state legislator I am particularly concerned with the state trust land that the Air Force wants to acquire under the expansion proposal. Rental from grazing and mineral leases from this land is used to support elementary and secondary education in New Mexico and to support water conservation programs administered by the State Engineer. As you know the whole expansion area has been classified by the state as having great potential for the discovery of oil and gas. NM Land Commissioner Jim Baca says that loss of royalty revenue to the state from oil and gas on the state area could total over $10 million, not to mention severance tax losses and loss of the state's share of federal royalties.

I am also concerned with the New Mexico Boy's Ranch, part of which falls within the proposed expansion area. The ranch is in the process of building a $300,000 facility which will be detrimentally affected by expanded testing nearby.

The proposed expansion will have a devastating effect on the Floyd School District, one of the small rural districts

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289 289 289

that form the backbone of our educational system here in New Mexico. The District will lose students, tax revenue, bonding capacity and a school bus route, yet there is no discussion in the DEIS of alternatives or mitigating measures for the students, parents and teachers of the Floyd Schools.

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Economic issues and revenue losses are treated superficially in the Air Force's brief DEIS. The DEIS for example estimates that only about $5300 in tax revenue would be lost each year and only 8-10 people would be thrown out of work. But this is a gross underestimation of the value of the land in a larger social and economic context. The New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture estimates that farm income from crops produced on the 4,400 acres that the Air Force would take totals approximately $500,000 each year. This is income that farmers use to pay their loans, buy farm equipment, cars and groceries. It is recycled into the local economy and multiplied many times over.

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Historically farming and ranching have comprised the economic and social backbone of life in Eastern New Mexico. Oil and gas are its future. Loss of potential oil and gas revenue, which could reach as high as $100 million in the proposed expansion area according to the Roosevelt County Commission, are nowhere accounted for in the impact statement.

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Instead, the Air Force, both formally and informally, has threatened to close Cannon Air Force base if the expansion is not permitted. The DEIS states (p.12) that continuation of present status could result in "Relocation of the fighter wing if a more suitable training area could be located, followed by a possible base closure." This kind of intimidation of Eastern New Mexicans serves only to intensify the split between the farm and urban communities and it has no place in our public life. As both a state legislator and a New Mexican, I am resentful of this economic blackmail.

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The DEIS also gives very superficial treatment of alternatives to the proposed expansion including the use of other testing ranges and the relocation of the bombing range to another area where there are fewer private owners. One such alternative, the Lon-Mesa site, south of Fort Sumner, is dismissed because the FAA says it would interfere with commercial flights between Roswell and Albuquerque. Realignment of these flights is "out of the question." The Air Force needs to give the public a fuller account of its negotiations with the FAA in the final EIS, including their response to other alternative sites in the area of Lon-Mesa. Although the DEIS considers using existing bombing ranges as an alternative, discussion of the use of other Air Force land (including White Sands) for construction of a new bombing range does not exist in the DEIS. With three million acres set aside for defense in New Mexico and private farm land threatened from all directions, it is an outrage that the Air Force does not even consider using a portion of the land that has already been taken from farmers and ranchers for such use.

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Finally, I wish to comment on the process which the Air Force has used in gathering public input on this serious matter. I understand that many of the farmers and ranchers who face loosing both their land and their livlihood did not even receive a cover letter indicating how and when to comment on the Air Force action. After being in limbo for almost five years, not knowing whether to build, to plan or to vacate, many feel that the Air Force does not want their input. Copies of the rather flimsy DEIS were not available in Albuquerque, whose citizens are also involved since they own a share of the royalties from the state land affected. The proposed action, in short, is a fairly well kept secret to those outside the area. This is a clear violation of both the spirit and the letter of NEPA. When the government threatens to take an individual's land, it is striking at the very heart of democracy. Especially in that case it is important that every opportunity be given to those affected to be heard and have all the information available to them. Then, once the decision has been made, it is the responsibility of the government to act swiftly. Neither has been done in this case.

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For these reasons I am asking the Air Force to further justify the need for such a facility and to look elsewhere for an expanded bombing range should the need be determined to exist. At minimum, the Air Force should rewrite the EIS, hold further public hearings and reconsider all the alternatives.

Sincerely Yours,

Judith A. Pratt

N.M. State Representative District 18

JAP:df
xc to: news media

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

VILLA RIVERA, ROOM 101
228 EAST PALACE AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
(505) 827-8320

TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

JILL Z. COOPER
CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

THOMAS W. MERLAN
DIRECTOR

June 25, 1984

Mr. Lewis R. Shotton
Command Natural Resources Manager
Environmental Planning Division
Headquarters Tactical Air Command
Department of the Air Force
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 23665

RE: Melrose Air Force Range Expansion

Dear Mr. Shotton:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range, Curry and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico to evaluate the consideration given to cultural resources affected by the proposed undertaking. Specifically, my comments are addressed to the statements in Sections 3.7 (pp. 23-24) and 4.8 (pp. 32-33) of the DEIS which discuss the nature of cultural resources in the Melrose expansion area and the effect on those resources.

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It is true that at the present, no properties entered in or determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places exist within the current range boundaries or proposed expansion area. However, no adequate sample or inventory cultural resource surveys of either area have ever been completed, and no data on which to adequately predict the occurrence of significant archaeological and historical resources presently exist. The 1981 sample survey discussed in the DEIS has been judged to be wholly inadequate to provide useful information necessary to evaluate cultural resources or to make predictions concerning the effect of any undertaking on those resources. In a March 26, 1984 letter, the Chief Engineer, Cannon Air Force Base, agreed to the worthlessness of this investigation.

296

The statement in Section 3.7 of the DEIS that no sites were recommended or identified as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is based solely on the recommendations in the report of the 1981 sample survey. In view of the inadequacies of this investigations, these recommendations must be disregarded. No evaluation of the National Register eligibility of any archaeological or historical sites on the Melrose Range has been made by this office or the Keeper of the National Register. Since no adequate effort has yet been made to identify affected cultural resources, it is

impossible to make the statement in Section 4.8 that there are no historical or architecturally significant structures (or sites) on the existing or proposed expanded range. I do agree that portions of the proposed expansion areas, as well as areas within the existing range, have a high probability of containing significant cultural resources.

In order to rectify the inadequacies of the DEIS, I would recommend the following course of action:

1. Complete a professionally acceptable sample cultural resource survey of the existing range and proposed expansion area. This survey should include the survey of historic properties as well as archaeological sites. If an alternative site is considered, a sample survey of the alternative area should be conducted. Cultural resource data on all alternative locations should be developed to the extent necessary to allow cosideration of the effects to cultural resources as part of the selection criteria.

2. Initiate a memorandum of agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and this office, describing the Air Force's responsibilities to further identify, evaluate, nominate, and protect cultural resources affected by range expansion and subsequent range facilities development. This agreement should be formally entered into pursuant to authorization of the acquisition of the selected expansion area. If no expansion is authorized, a memorandum of agreement for the continuing operation of the present range should be initiated. In either case, the agreement should use data from historic overview statements and sample survey reports to identify known and expected classes of historical and archaeological properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register, establish schedules for completing inventory surveys of areas of the range affected by development, operation and maintenance activities, describe measures to avoid and protect significant properties, and prescribe measures to mitigate adverse effect, should avoidance and protection prove unfeasible.

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It is my opinion that if the Air Force makes a reasonable effort to locate and identify cultural resources affected by the proposed undertaking, and takes steps to develop a program to complete inventories and protect resource values, an Environmental Impact Statement consistent with the requirements to consider effects to cultural resources can be developed. As always, this office is ready to assist you with developing scopes of work, research designs, or to provide other information necessary for developing an adequate resource base for the range. I am also confident that the Advisory Council will be willing to provide guidance for developing an appropriate agreement for the range.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Merlan
State Historic Preservation Officer
TWM:DER:jmg
cc: J. R. Beauvais
Alan Downer

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SANTA FE
87503

TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

June 29, 1984

Environmental Planning
Hq. TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Attention: Mr. Lewis Sholten

Gentlemen:

This letter is the comment of the State of New Mexico on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) providing for expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR), Curry and Roosevelt counties, New Mexico. It is my understanding that Public Land Commissioner Baca intends to submit added comments under separate cover which will specifically address in detail the public land issues raised by the DEIS. The following are matters of specific concerns which the state feels must adequately be answered prior to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

A. Removal of Agricultural Land

297 The commitment of productive agricultural land to other uses is a major problem within the state. According to the Critical Area Study (CAS) maps and information provided by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, under the proposed MAFR acquisition there will be a significant overlapping of the military installation and suitable soils for irrigated agriculture. Since New Mexico remains a rural state, agricultural and range enterprises comprise a major segment of the economy of the state. We are very concerned that the DOD has established a pattern of proposals which require the taking of state and private lands to augment existing federal enclaves. 297

298 Another substantial factor in the state's economy is its reliance on non-renewable energy resources. Consequently, it is not in the state's interest to have the lands from which those resources come withdrawn from production until all the recoverable oil and gas reserves have been developed to the maximum extent of their economic usefulness. 298

B. Public School Trust Lands

299 We believe the Air Force failed to recognize that the state lands considered for acquisition are comprised of sections which are held in trust in perpetuity for school benefits. There are probable locations of oil and gas reserves in that area which means that it would be imprudent, from a fiduciary standpoint, to allow those lands to be taken in fee to be forever lost to the schools financial bases. 299

C. Relocation of Affected Families

The financial impact to eight families comprised of forty-four individuals who would be displaced would be devastating because these farm and ranch operations heavily depend on augmenting their fee lands with leases from the state and federal government. If these families were to be compensated solely for the lands owned outright and not given a fair market value on the lease lands, or if they were not given a preferential 300 right on their leaseholds, it would be impossible for them to compete in the marketplace. These individuals would be both displaced and deprived of their means of livelihood. 300

D. Alternatives in the DEIS

301 We resist the continuing policy of the federal government to acquire state and private land for federal purposes over which the state has little or no control. Because 35% of the land area of our state is under ownership of the United States, we must question the acquisition of state and private land which has such environmental and sociological impacts. This will remain the state's position until an exhaustive evaluation of existing land areas owned by the federal government is conducted prior to the acquisition of state and private land proposed in the DEIS. 301

302 The decision to reject the Lon-Mesa area as an alternative site should be reconsidered due to a perceived conflict with existing commercial air routes serving the Albuquerque to Roswell flightway. Weighed in balance, the relocation of Beak A and Pecos MOA and realignment of V68-V83 would substantially reduce federal action, and costs from the acquisition or condemnation of state and private land. 302

E. Surface and Subsurface Rights

303 Although not treated as a significant adverse action in the DEIS, the withdrawal of ownership and leases of the mineral rights in the proposed acquisition would have a negative impact on state and federal leaseholders. 303

304 The Air Force has previously gone on record stating that it does not intend to place any oil and gas drilling restrictions on the lands which constitute the buffer area around the actual bombing range. Yet, the DEIS states that one of the alternative sites which is primarily under federal ownership (Loco Hills) was deemed unfeasible due to the presence of oil and gas extraction and production equipment within the vicinity of the site. 304

F. Archeological Site Densities

305 At the present time, no known archeological sites are located within the existing range boundaries or in the proposed acquisition area and none have been submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. However, the State Historic Preservation Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs has determined that the site survey conducted in 1981 is wholly inadequate in assertaining the number and importance of anticipated archeological resources in the proposed expansion.

The state opposes any action which would destroy archeological sites deemed of significant importance to the historical record of that area or make them inaccessible to the public. A cultural resource survey of the present range site and proposed expansion area, the allowance of adequately protecting such sites, and sample archeological excavation conducted to preserve the record or mitigate adverse effect would be appreciated. 305

G. Possible Closure of Cannon Air Force Base

306 The statements included in the DEIS from which it can be inferred that if the MAFR is not expanded, employment and ancillary benefits from Cannon Air Force Base would be moved elsewhere are inappropriate. Such commentary, unless founded in fact, and elaborated upon, unduly influences public comment in favor of expansion. 306

The State of New Mexico supports the need for a well trained military force to defend and protect the people and interests of the United States, as is demonstrated by the large number of military and defense installations located in the state. The State of New Mexico is convinced that many of the conclusions and rationalization contained in the current DEIS are either ill-founded or unsubstantiated and that many major issues require further public comment prior to submission of the FEIS to Congress.

Until the issues are addressed, the State must reserve final comment. We would appreciate your cooperation with us in finding a mutually satisfactory plan and anticipate hearing from you as you consider the issues raised herein.

Sincerely,

Mike Runnels

MIKE RUNNELS
Acting Governor

MR/jv

OMB Approval No. 29-R0218

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

2. Applicant's application — a. Number: | b. Date 19 (Year Month Day):

3. State application identifier — a. Number: NM 84 03 14-049 | b. Date Assigned 19 (Year month day): 84 03 14

1. Type Of Action (Mark appropriate box)
- ☐ Preapplication
- ☒ Application
- ☐ Notification Of Intent (Opt.)
- ☐ Report Of Federal Action

Leave Blank

Section I - Applicant / Recipient Data

4. Legal Applicant/Recipient
- a. Applicant Name : Department. of the Air Force
- b. Organization Unit : Environmental Planning
- c. Street/P.O. Box : HQ TAC/DEEV
- d. City : Langley AFB
- e. County :
- f. State : Virginia
- g. Zip Code : 23665
- h. Contact Person (Name & telephone no.) : Mr. Shotton/James F. Boatright

5. Federal Employer Identification No.:

6. Program (From Federal Catalog)
- a. Number: 12.000
- b. Title: Dept. of Defense

7. Title and description of applicant's project

DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range
Curry & Roosevelt Counties NM
The Draft EIS addresses the proposed action and alternatives to expending the Melrose Range from 22,120 acres to 76,617 acres and eassociated airspace. The existing range configuration is too small for current and forecasted tactical aircraft and weapons training requirements.

8. Type of applicant/recipient
A-State; B-Interstate; C-Substate District; D-County; E-City; F-School District; G-Special Purpose District; H-Community Action Agency; I-Higher Educational Institution; J-Indian Tribe; K-Other
(Specify): Federal — Enter appropriate letter: K

9. Type of assistance
A-Basic Grant; B-Supplemental Grant; C-Loan; D-Insurance; E-Other
Enter appropriate letter(s): A

10. Area of project impact (Names of cities, counties, states, etc.)

Melrose, Curry Roosevelt, New Mexico

11. Estimated number of persons benefiting:

12. Type of application
A-New; B-Renewal; C-Revision; D-Continuation; E-Augmentation
Enter appropriate letter: A

13. Proposed Funding

a. Federal	$	.00
b. Applicant		.00
c. State		.00
d. Local		.00
e. Other		.00
f. Total	$	.00

14. Congressional Districts Of:
- a. Applicant: Federal
- b. Project: 02

15. Type of change For 12c or 12e
A-Increase Dollars; B-Decrease Dollars; C-Increase Duration; D-Decrease Duration; E-Cancellation; F-Other Specify:
Enter appropriate letter(s):

16. Project Start Date (Year month day): 19 84 04 22

17. Project Duration (Months):

18. Estimated date to be submitted to federal agency 19 (Year month date): 84 04 22

19. Existing federal identification number:

20. Federal agency to receive request (Name, city, state, zip code)

Dept. of Defense/ Dept of The Air Force

21. Remarks added: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section II - Certification

22. The Applicant Certifies That

a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will compiy with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved

b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:

	No response	Response attached
(1) NM State Clearinghouse Bu. Mgnt & Contract	☐	☐
(2)	☐	☐
(3)	☐	☐

23. Certifying representative
- a. Typed name and title:
- b. Signature:
- c. Date signed (Year month day) 19

Section III - Federal Agency Action

24. Agency name:

25. Application received (Year month day) 19:

26. Organizational Unit:

27. Administrative office:

28. Federal application identification:

29. Address:

30. Federal grant identification:

31. Action taken
- ☐ a. Awarded
- ☐ b. Rejected
- ☐ c. Returned for amendment
- ☐ d. Deferred
- ☐ e. Withdrawn

32. Funding

a. Federal	$	.00
b. Applicant		.00
c. State		.00
d. Local		.00
e. Other		.00
f. Total	$	.00

33. Action date (Year month day) 19:

34. Starting date (Year month day) 19:

35. Contact for additional information (Name and telephone number):

36. Ending date (Year month day) 19:

37. Remarks added: ☐ Yes ☐ No

38. Federal agency A-95 action

a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.

b. Federal Agency A-95 Official (Name and telephone number):

SECTION IV—REMARKS

MIS 1

STATE SUPPLEMENT TO STANDARD FEDERAL FORM 424

1. Is continuation of program anticipated?

   Yes_____ No_____ Unknown_____

2. Source of funds: _____direct from the federal government _____indirect through an intermediary. If indirect, specify source _____

3. Have you applied for any other funds for this project: Yes_____ No_____

   If yes, please list: _____

   _____

4. Number of positions that will be funded by this program/grant. Total positions _____

   How many permanent status:_____ How many term status_____

5. Estimate the total personnel costs including benefits for the program/grant for the

   current year: $_____

   next year: $_____

6. Will subgrants be made under this program/grant? Yes_____ No_____

7. Is a State Plan required: Yes_____ No_____ Is a Regional Plan required: Yes_____ No_____ Is a City Comprehensive Plan required: Yes_____ No_____

8. List the Sub-state Clearinghouses to which this application has been submitted for review:

   _____San Juan Regional Committee
   _____Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments
   _____McKinley Area COG
   _____Eastern Plains Council of Governments
   _____Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
   _____North Central New Mexico Economic Development District
   _____Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District
   _____Southern Rio Grande Council of Governments

9. Are there matching requirements: Yes_____ No_____ If yes, indicate

   _____% Federal _____% State _____% Local

10. Are the matching ratios expected to change in future years:

    _____Yes _____No; Indicate expected changes: State Increase_____, State Decrease_____, Local Increase_____; Local Decrease_____.

11. Is Indirect Cost Recovery allowed under this program/grant:

    _____Yes _____No; Does your entity have an indirect cost recovery plan that covers this grant:

    Yes_____ No_____

12. Source of Funds for Matching:

STATE:	MUNICIPAL:	COUNTY:
General Fund_____	General Fund_____	General Fund_____
Dedicated Funds_____	Dedicated Funds_____	Dedicated Funds_____
Other_____	Other_____	Other_____

2 - white
1 - for applicant to send with application to Fed. Agency
1 - Review Div.
1 - yellow - SPD copy
1 - pink - COG's copy
1 - goldenrod - applicant copy

Approved July , 1978
Secretary, DFA

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW CERTIFICATION FORM SCR-2

TO: Mr. Shotton DATE: July 3, 1984

TITLE: DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties

APPLICANT: Department of the Air Force - Environmental Planning

STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER (SAI) NUMBER: NM 84 03 14-049

FEDERAL CATALOG NO.: 12.000

FEDERAL AGENCY: Department of Defense

PROPOSED FUNDING (PER 424 FORM)	AMOUNT	TYPE OF ACTION
FEDERAL	$	( ) Preliminary Review
APPLICANT	$	( ) Final Review
STATE	$	( ) State Plan/Area Plan
LOCAL	$	(X) Draft Environmental Impact Statement
OTHER	$	
TOTAL	$	

REVIEW RESULTS

✓ Proposed action is supported.

Proposed action is not in conflict with State, Areawide or Local Plans.

✓ Comments are attached for submission with this proposed action.

Pat Gonzales
Clearinghouse Review Coordinator

TO THE APPLICANT

You may now submit your application package, this form, and all review comments to the Federal or State Agency(ies) from whom action is requested.

Please notify the State Clearinghouse (single point to contact) of any changes in this project. Refer to the SAI Number on all correspondence pertaining to this project.

Peter C. Pence
DIRECTORY
Title
7/9/84
Date

Distribution:
White: Federal Agency
Green: Applicant
Canary: Clearinghouse

A-438

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SCS) PROCESS SCR-1

(Upon completion return this form to the State Clearinghouse)

[ ] Application
[XX] Draft Environment Impact Statement
[ ] State Plan

TO: David Martinez
FROM: State Clearinghouse Bureau

The attached proposed action is submitted to you for review and comment. Please return this completed form by 4/22/84

A. Title DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties
2. Applicant Department of the Air Force/Environmental Planning
C. State Application Identifier (SAI) No. NM 84 03 14-049

1. To the best of your knowledge, does the proposed action conflict with any applicable statute, policy, order, or regulation?
[ ] Yes If "Yes" please cite conflict on the reverse side.
[✓] No

2. Describe any concerns, suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed action. Please note comments on reverse side.

3. Does the proposed action duplicate any activities which are geared towards the same target group?
[ ] Yes If "Yes" please identify on the reverse side.
[✓] No

4. Identify the masterplan or the comprehensive plan that this proposed action relates to N.A.
Is the proposed plan compatible with the plan?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No If "No" please cite conflicts on the reverse side.

5. Identify the block grant, if any, which the proposed action relates to.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

_____ Proposed action is supported
✓ Proposed action is supported with ~~recommendations on reverse side~~ comments attached, and as per Governor's letter
_____ Proposed action is not supported. Note comments on reverse side

David Martinez
Reviewer/Date

State Budget Div.
Agency

cc. [ ] Applicant. This acknowledges receipt of your proposed action and it is now under clearinghouse review.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SCS) PROCESS SCR-1

(Upon completion return this form to the State Clearinghouse)

[ ] Application
[XX] Draft Environment Impact Statement
[ ] State Plan

TO: Bill Isaacs, Natural Resources Dept.

FROM: David F. Martinez, Economic Analysis Division, DFA

The attached proposed action is submitted to you for review and comment. Please return this completed form by 4/16/84

A. Title DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties

2. Applicant Dept. of the Air Force/Environmental Planning

C. State Application Identifier (SAI) No. NM 84 03 14-049

1. To the best of your knowledge, does the proposed action conflict with any applicable statute, policy, order, or regulation?
   [ ] Yes If "Yes" please cite conflict on the reverse side.
   [✓] No

2. Describe any concerns, suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed action. Please note comments on reverse side.

3. Does the proposed action duplicate any activities which are geared towards the same target group?
   [ ] Yes If "Yes" please identify on the reverse side.
   [✓] No

4. Identify the masterplan or the comprehensive plan that this proposed action relates to N/A
   Is the proposed plan compatible with the plan?
   [✓] Yes
   [ ] No If "No" please cite conflicts on the reverse side.

5. Identify the block grant, if any, which the proposed action relates to.
   N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION

___✓___ Proposed action is supported

_____ Proposed action is supported with recommendations on reverse side

_____ Proposed action is not supported. Note comments on reverse side

Bill E. Isaacs 4-18-84
Reviewer/Date

Natural Resources
Agency

cc: [ ] Applicant. This acknowledges receipt of your proposed action and it is now under clearinghouse review.

A-440

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SCS) PROCESS SCR-1

(Upon completion return this form to the State Clearinghouse)

[ ] Application
[XX] Draft Environment Impact Statement
[ ] State Plan

TO: Bob White, Aviation Div., Transportation Dept.
FROM: David F. Martinez, Economic Analysis Division, DFA

The attached proposed action is submitted to you for review and comment. Please return this completed form by 4/16/84

A. Title DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties
2. Applicant Dept. of the Air Force/Environmental Planning
C. State Application Identifier (SAI) No. NM 84 03 14-049

1. To the best of your knowledge, does the proposed action conflict with any applicable statute, policy, order, or regulation?
   [ ] Yes If "Yes" please cite conflict on the reverse side.
   [XX] No

2. Describe any concerns, suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed action. Please note comments on reverse side.

3. Does the proposed action duplicate any activities which are geared towards the same target group?
   [ ] Yes If "Yes" please identify on the reverse side.
   [XX] No

4. Identify the masterplan or the comprehensive plan that this proposed action relates to _____
   Is the proposed plan compatible with the plan?
   [ ] Yes
   [ ] No If "No" please cite conflicts on the reverse side.

5. Identify the block grant, if any, which the proposed action relates to.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

_____ Proposed action is supported
XX Proposed action is supported with recommendations on reverse side
_____ Proposed action is not supported. Note comments on reverse side

Bob White 3/29/84
Reviewer/Date

Transportation Dept., Aviation Div.
Agency

cc: [ ] Applicant: This acknowledges receipt of your proposed action and it is now under clearinghouse review.

RE: DEIS Expansion of Melrose Range

According to the DEIS there will be no requirement for increasing the amount of airspace dedicated to the use of an exnanded bombing and gunnery range. Since the proposal does not anticipate expanding either the restricted areas or the military operations area, this agency has no formal interest in the proposal.

Bob White, Director
Aviation Division
New Mexico Transportation Dept.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SCS) PROCESS SCR-1

(Upon completion return this form to the State Clearinghouse)

[ ] Application
[XX] Draft Environment Impact Statement
[ ] State Plan

TO: Charles Greene, NMSU
FROM: David F. Martinez, Economic Analysis Division, DFA

The attached proposed action is submitted to you for review and comment. Please return this completed form by 4/16/84

A. Title DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties
2. Applicant Dept. of the Air Force/Environmental Planning
C. State Application Identifier (SAI) No. NM 84 03 14-049

1. To the best of your knowledge, does the proposed action conflict with any applicable statute, policy, order, or regulation?
[ ] Yes If "Yes" please cite conflict on the reverse side.
[X] No

307

2. Describe any concerns, suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed action. Please note comments on reverse side. In our opinion the whole EIS process must be redone including data collection, impact analysis and rewriting and rereleasing the DEIS
3. Does the proposed action duplicate any activities which are geared towards the same target group?
[ ] Yes If "Yes" please identify on the reverse side.
[X] No

4. Identify the masterplan or the comprehensive plan that this proposed action relates to _____
Is the proposed plan compatible with the plan?
[ ] Yes N/A
[ ] No If "No" please cite conflicts on the reverse side.

5. Identify the block grant, if any, which the proposed action relates to.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

_____ Proposed action is supported
_____ Proposed action is supported with recommendations on reverse side
X Proposed action is not supported. Note comments on reverse side See No. 2

Charles A. Greene 4/18/84
Reviewer/Date

Agriculture
Agency

cc. [ ] Applicant. This acknowledges receipt of your proposed action and it is now under clearinghouse review.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW (SCS) PROCESS SCR-1

(Upon completion return this form to the State Clearinghouse)

[ ] Application
[XX] Draft Environment Impact Statement
[ ] State Plan

RECEIVED
MAR 28 1984
STATE PLANNING DIV.

TO: Tom Merlan, Historic Preservation
FROM: David F. Martinez, Economic Analysis Division, DFA

The attached proposed action is submitted to you for review and comment. Please return this completed form by 4/16/84

A. Title DEIS Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range Curry & Roosevelt Counties

2. Applicant Dept. of the Air Force/ Environmental Planning

C. State Application Identifier (SAI) No. NM 84 03 14-049

308 308

1. To the best of your knowledge, does the proposed action conflict with any applicable statute, policy, order, or regulation?
   [X] Yes If "Yes" please cite conflict on the reverse side. UNDERTAKING DOES NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS
   [ ] No OF NHPA, NEPA, 36 CFR 800 REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES.
2. Describe any concerns, suggestions or means of improving or strengthening the proposed action. Please note comments on reverse side. BRING INTO COMPLIANCE WITH ABOVE REGS.
3. Does the proposed action duplicate any activities which are geared towards the same target group?
   [ ] Yes If "Yes" please identify on the reverse side.
   [X] No
4. Identify the masterplan or the comprehensive plan that this proposed action relates to _____
   Is the proposed plan compatible with the plan?
   [ ] Yes
   [ ] No If "No" please cite conflicts on the reverse side.
5. Identify the block grant, if any, which the proposed action relates to.

_____

RECOMMENDED ACTION

_____ Proposed action is supported

_____ Proposed action is supported with recommendations on reverse side

_____ Proposed action is not supported. Note comments on reverse side

— COMMENTS ATTACHED —

6-25-84
Reviewer/Date

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIV., OCT
Agency

cc: [ ] Applicant. This acknowledges receipt of your proposed action and it is now under clearinghouse review.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY
Box 3189/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
Telephone (505) 646-3007

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

April 24, 1984

03.18 SHOTTON

Environmental Planning
HQ TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Attention: Mr. Shotton

Gentlemen:

This letter is to serve as comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR), Curry and Roosevelt counties, New Mexico. As Director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and Secretary of Agriculture in the Governor's Cabinet, I as well as members of my staff and the agricultural community in New Mexico, have two concerns about this proposal that are over and above the validity of the proposal and the adequacy of the DEIS.

First, the commitment of productive agricultural land to other uses is a major concern to us and many others throughout the country. A second major concern is the continued acquisition of private land by the federal government. This federal expansion is particularly acute in New Mexico because 34 percent of the land base is already controlled by the federal government. This problem is further compounded when land is acquired by branches of the Department of Defense which do not make restitution to local governments through payments in lieu of taxes, as do other federal land agencies. In New Mexico we already have a large commitment of land resources for defense purposes. In addition to several Air Force bases, the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), Fort Bliss Military Reservation, and Fort Wingate Ordinance Depot are located in this state. The as yet 40-year unresolved compensation of displaced landowners and leaseholders in the case of WSMR has resulted in dissatisfaction and mistrust by New Mexico citizens in further federal acquisition of private and state land by the Department of Defense.

We have reviewed the DEIS and the balance of this correspondence contains our general, specific, and technical comments. Our review of this DEIS has led us to conclude this document appears to be more a biased justification of the proposed action (expansion of MAFR) than an unbiased analysis of alternatives or the environmental consequences of the proposal. For this reason generally, and those that follow specifically, we believe this DEIS to be inadequate.

This inadequacy is the result of superficial analyses and lack of data which prevents a concise, knowledgeable analysis of the proposal and its environmental impacts. In many instances, the DEIS proposes to delay collection and dissemination of important data (pages 16, 30, 32, 34 and 36) from public review until the proposal has been approved and funded by Congress. This procedure limits the ability of reviewers to address the adequacy of the document and the validity and merits, or lack thereof, of the proposal.

Section 2.0.3.2 (page 5) contains what is purported to be an analysis of other areas considered that are predominantly federally or state owned. However, the DEIS contains only superficial analyses of why the Air Force believes these areas to be "infeasible." The prominent reasons presented for rejecting these areas include: presence of oil and gas extraction; production and transportation facilities; interference with existing commercial flight paths; and required cooperation with other defense related activities. Although the Loco Hills and Lon/Mesa sites do have energy minerals extractive and transport facilities in place, of the area proposed for expansion of MAFR, 65 percent is presently leased for the same purposes. If these leases were developed prior to congressional approval of the proposed action, the same difficulties to Air Force operations would exist. Acquisition of private property, including mineral leases and subsurface mineral rights, prior to lease development may prevent the present landowners and leaseholders from realizing the profit potential of developing these resources. Would the Air Force compensate the landowners and leaseholders for this potential financial loss? The Gran Quivira site was rejected because the Air Force found it infeasible to coordinate its training activities with other federal agencies, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and WSMR. We believe it is unfortunate the Air Force would prefer to condemn private property and remove agricultural land from productivity rather than coordinate its activities with other federal entities (U.S. Department of the Interior, FAA, WSMR, Fort Bliss M. R., etc.).

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While we basically concur that the stated impacts in Section 2.1 will occur, we do not agree with either the magnitude or scope of the environmental impacts as presented in the DEIS. We also believe that several impacts will occur that are not addressed in this document (discussed later in this correspondence). In part d (page 10 and reiterated on pages 4, 29, 32 and 34) it is stated: ". . . aircraft activity over the (expanded) range would not increase." We believe this to be a questionable assumption because, in our opinion, increasing MAFR size and number of targets could result in increased use of the range by military aircraft. As evidence of this, note the following quotation from a March 2, 1980 letter from Lt. Colonel Curtis O. Ziegler to the New Mexico State Planning Office documenting present MAFR use by other aircraft. "Examples of other users are: A-7 aircraft from bases in New Mexico, Louisiana and Colorado; F-4 aircraft from bases in Arkansas and Texas; F-111 aircraft from Idaho; and F-105 aircraft from Oklahoma." We believe it reasonable to

assume that increasing the size of MAFR to make it more compatible with training requirements of the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, could also make it more attractive for training exercises by the aforementioned present other users of MAFR and possibly for training by other military entities. Further evidence of the validity of our assumption is contained in the DEIS on page 8, where it indicates five percent of Cannon AFB training exercises are presently accomplished at other ranges, which are currently utilized from 75 to 100 percent of capacity. Additionally, the DEIS states (page 30): ". . . an average of 12 days each calendar month are non-use days (on MAFR)." Therefore, the very real possibility of increased aircraft activity is probable, contrary to statements made in the DEIS (pages 10, 29, 32, 33 and 34).

We believe the occurrence of "occasional small grass fires" could negatively impact more than "some grassland birds" (part g. page 11). The habitats of various other species that utilize this area could also be impacted. Furthermore, although the impacts on wildlife species due to low-level flyovers is discussed (Section 4.6, page 21 and Appendix E), no analysis of the impacts to wildlife of exploding ordnance and practice gunning (20 and 30 mm) is presented. We believe an analysis of these impacts should have been included in the DEIS. 310

One of the measures to mitigate the loss of private water wells discussed in Section 2.2.1.7 is construction of new water wells. Who would be responsible for the cost of new well construction? 311

Although the DEIS acknowledges that livestock grazing is the predominant use of the affected rangelands, no information is presented on the specific number of livestock currently using the 15,249 acre buffer zone or on the 49,800 acres of rangeland proposed for acquisition. We estimate (from data presented on page 23, 15-20 AU per section) up to 363 animal units (AU) will be irretrievably lost by incorporating the present buffer zone into the target zone. This is only an estimate, the actual data should be available to the Air Force since they "outlease" the grazing and this information should have been included in the DEIS. What lease rates are currently being charged and what services are provided by the Air Force? What future lease rates will be charged and what services will be provided on the 49,800 acres proposed for acquisition? Will future lease rates allow continued grazing on this area to be economically and/or practically feasible or would an additional 1183 AU (estimate) be lost due to MAFR expansion? 312 313

What measures would be taken to prevent soil erosion and noxious plant infestations of the croplands proposed for acquisition? If these lands are not revegetated with forage species, their value for grazing would be minimal. 314

Section 4.11 is purported to be an analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the proposed action, however, we find this section to be incomplete. We believe it is imperative the following questions be answered before this document can be considered adequate:

1. Many federal agencies (Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example) are required to produce benefit/cost (B/C) analyses of any proposed action before federal funds can be spent. In order to produce a B/C anaylsis, quantification of all project benefits and costs, even if only estimates, must be provided. It is in this area that the DEIS is most deficient. What is estimated to be the value of the benefits (increased training efficacy) in dollars and cents of the proposal? 315

2. The DEIS quantifies the loss of annual tax receipts to Curry and Roosevelt counties, the Floyd school district, highway maintenance and hospitals. What effect(s) will these losses have upon the affected entities? Although we believe these losses to be significant, when viewed relative to the magnitude of other costs, they constitute only a small portion of the costs of the proposal and yet they are the only ones quantified in the DEIS. 316

3. The most significant question we have relative to the cost of the proposal is how many tax dollars will have to be appropriated by Congress to fund the purchase of 54,497 acres of land, mineral leases covering 65 percent of the area and 46 water wells? 317

4. What will be the effects upon the local and state economies of the loss of: jobs for 8-10 ranch employees, crop production from 4,480 acres of productive farmland, grazing on 15,249 acres and water resources from 26 irrigation wells and 22 livestock wells? How many farm employees will lose jobs? 318

5. The DEIS reports the value of all crops grown on all farmland in the two county area for 1979. Although these figures make it possible to estimate the average value of crops produced per acre, it really avoids the issue of the direct and indirect economic impacts of the removal of 4,480 acres of cropland from production. Using the figures presented on page 23, we have calculated that the value of crops produced on the 4,480 acres affected by this proposal, which would be lost, are of the magnitude of $501,760 per annum based upon 1979 receipts in the two county area. This would be the value in foregone direct receipts to farmers. These receipts would be multiplied in the two county area as the farmers use them to pay taxes and for goods and services. What impact would the loss of these annual receipts to farmers have on the economies of Curry and Roosevelt counties? 319

320 6. What social and economic impacts will occur in the area if displaced families or those with operations on the periphery of the expansion area are unable to maintain viable incomes? 320

These are important questions that need to be answered and which we believe should have been addressed in the DEIS.

In addition to the above comments regarding the adequacy of the environmental analysis presented in the DEIS, we found the following technical errors, oversights and concerns in the document.

1. On page 21 the DEIS reports there are 46 water wells within the proposed expansion area. "Twenty-four of these wells are irrigation wells. The remaining wells (22) are livestock wells." Yet, on page 34 the DEIS says all 46 wells are irrigation wells. Additionally, Figure 5 (page 20) is captioned "WELL LOCATIONS-IRRG." The figure shows the locations of 36 wells and if we believe the figures' title, all 36 are irrigation wells. Which of the reported numbers of irrigation wells is correct 46, 36 or 24? We suggest these inconsistencies be corrected. 321 321

2. We believe our review of the DEIS would have been more complete if figures 4, 6 and 7 were of higher quality.

322 3. The format used in the document is awkward and makes review of the document cumbersome. The most prominent example is the placing of the "Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives" (Section 2.1) before the description of the "Affected Environment" (Section 3.0). 322

323 4. Although comments from private individuals were received, none were published in Appendix D. Only the comments of local, state and federal agencies were included here. Colonel John G. Schroeder acknowledged receipt of "constituent letters" in a reply to former Senator Harrison J. Schmitt dated December 19, 1980. Where are these letters and why were they not included in Appendix D? 323

324 5. In our opinion the statement, "There is no requirement for a license for livestock wells with annual capacities of less than 10 acre feet", which appears on page 21, is incorrect. A correct statement would read, "There is no requirement for a license for livestock wells with annual capacities of less than 3 acre feet." 324

325 6. We have been informed by several residents and former residents of the expansion area that sandhill cranes and geese frequent the area during their biannual migrations. No mention of these wildlife species is made in Section 3.5.2. 325

7. We believe that a statement of public comment procedures and deadlines should have been included in the text of the DEIS.

8. The DEIS is rife with typographical errors, a majority of which are minor. However, their presence indicates, to us, the haste and lack of thoroughness with which the document was apparently prepared.

In the final analysis, I reiterate that we find this DEIS to be inadequate for many reasons: lack of sufficient data, inadequate analyses of impacts, and technical errors. We therefore request that, prior to submission of this proposal to Congress, necessary data be acquired, impact analyses and analyses of alternatives be reanalyzed, and the DEIS be rewritten and released again for public comment.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the DEIS.

Sincerely,

William P. Stephens
Director/Secretary

WPS/ts

cc: The Honorable Pete Domenici
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Manuel Lujan
The Honorable Joe Skeen
The Honorable Bill Richardson

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

ELTON BROWN
District 1

WAYNE HAHN
District 2

ROBERT GRIDER
District 3
Chairman

MAUDENE HARAGAN
County Clerk

JOYCE LEE FRAZE
Chief Deputy Clerk

Roosevelt County

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

PORTALES, NEW MEXICO 88130

June 29, 1984

Mr. Shotton
Hq. Tac/Deev
Langly AFB, Va. 23665

Dear Sirs:

Please find the following as Roosevelt County's written comments and concerns relating to the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. These comments are the direct result of careful and diligent study of E.I.S. These comments were presented and elaborated on at the E.I.S. public hearing June 6, 1984 in Floyd, New Mexico.

A. There will be no real increase in general economic activity in the surrounding communties. Because there is no projected change in the mission at Cannon AFB, no increase in personnel or training flights.

326 B. We need the assurance that this tripleing of the size of the range, by taking 54,000 public and private acres, will indeed bring the range into compliance with AFR 50-46, and that the county tax base will not be required to make further sacrifices in the near future. 326

C. Of the concerns that the County has, the following are the most predominate:

327 1. 42 miles of roads will be removed from the distribution formula for road maintaineous payments. Total cost of fixed and overhead costs will not decrease accordingly. 327

328 2. Although your figures for ad valorem taxes seem to be correct, you fail to address the losses incurred from tax on livestock, corporate assests (power, telephone, gas lines). These will more than double the impacts noted. Also the gross receipts lost from the loss of production on the private land is $90,000/year or $900,000 for ten years, and using the figure used by Cannon AFB for other impact determinations. 328

3. Potential losses in mineral production tax base, using the White Sands formula for undiscovered minerals and the same figures used by the State Commissioner of Public Lands for state land involved. The oil wealth is in excess of $60,000,000. and the gas wealth is in excess of $40,000,000.

4. We are concerned about the treatment of the private citizens affected. We request that they be compensated at per acre values determined by recent local voluntary sales of similar property. This will average $160. to $200. per acre. In addition to this they should be compensated for mineral holdings at not less than that paid the State. Also, if property owner operation is substantially reduced due to this acquisition and they desire to sell their entire constituent properties that you would purchase their entire holdings, to allow for an orderly and effective relocation of the operations. This will help mitigate personal losses and local government losses as well.

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5. Generally we are very concerned by the poor quality of the impact statement as it relates to the real economic impact analysis on the surrounding communities and units of local government.

Please include these comments in the final Impact Statement and place the County of Roosevelt, New Mexico on your mailing list to receive the initial mailing.

Sincerely,

Robert Grider

Robert Grider, Chairman
Roosevelt County Commission

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY Portales 88130

Agency for Conservation Archaeology

June 30, 1984

Headquarters
TAC/DEEV
Langley Air Force Base
Langley, Virginia 23665

Dear Sirs:

330

I would like to offer several comments concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, Cannon Air Force Base. As a professional archaeologist I am alarmed about the poor treatment of the cultural resources, as evidenced in the EIS. The cultural resources section of the EIS is substantially inadequate and in need of total revision. Errors abound in the EIS discussion. No indication can be found concerning survey methodology, sampling techniques, or other professionally required information.

In sum, the cultural resources management section lacks sufficient depth or detail to be considered a professional job. It does not indicate an understanding of the regionally important cultural resources affected by the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range. This section of the EIS is not sufficient to evaluate direct and indirect impacts on cultural resources. It needs to be totally revised in a professional manner.

330

Sincerely yours,

John Montgomery

John L. Montgomery, Ph.D.
Director

Board of Economic Development
of Portales, New Mexico

7th & Abilene Street Portales, New Mexico 88130

June 28, 1984

Mr. Lewis R. Shotten
TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Shotten:

The attached copy of our letter to the Secretary of the Air Force giving our views on the proposed expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range is forwarded to you as our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bender

Gary L. Bender
Chairman

Board of Economic Development
of Portales, New Mexico

7th & Abilene Street Portales, New Mexico 88130

June 28, 1984

The Honorable Verne Orr
Secretary of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Portales Board of Economic Development supports the Air Force proposal to expand the Melrose Range and opposes the alternative of closing the Range and establishing a new range in the Lon-Mesa area as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Board recognizes the hazards to the residents and workers on the lands adjacent to the Range and to the aircrew operating over the Range which are inherent in its present size. A larger range is clearly necessary.

It is equally clear that expanding the existing range with its close proximity to Cannon AFB is a less costly option than obtaining the land and constructing new range facilities at a site over 80 miles from the main operating base.

The Board fully appreciates the contribution that Cannon AFB and its personnel make to the economic well-being of Portales. Further, the Board understands that significant economic growth in this community would occur if the operations and the personnel complement at Cannon were increased. The Air Force has now, and will have in the future, a substantial economic impact on this community.

While the Board endorses the proposal to expand the Range, it recognizes that there is an adverse impact on the farmers and ranchers whose lands are involved. Further, the diminution of the taxable land and potential loss of students adversely affects the Floyd School District. All individuals affected and the School District must receive full and fair compensation. Their economic viability is of signal importance to us.

We respectfully request that our views be considered in the final decision on the Melrose Range.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bender
Chairman

A-455

PORTALES
NEW MEXICO

HOME OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

ROOSEVELT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PHONE 356-8541
P.O. BOX 488

June 29, 1984

Mr. Lewis R. Shotten
TAC/DEEV
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range

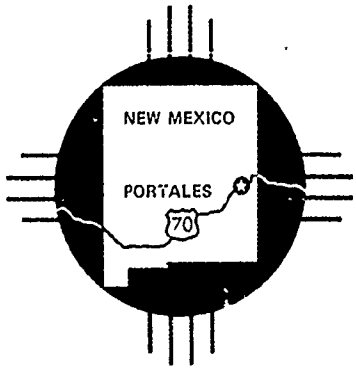
Dear Mr. Shotten:

Please find attached a copy of the Chamber's letter to the Secretary of the Air Force on the above subject. The letter should be considered the Chamber's comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gilbert K. St. Clair

Gilbert K. St. Clair
Executive Director



A-456

PORTALES NEW MEXICO

HOME OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

ROOSEVELT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PHONE 356-8541
P.O. BOX 488

June 28, 1984

The Honorable Verne Orr
Secretary of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Board of Directors of the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce endorse the Air Force proposal to expand the Melrose Air Force Range. The Board explicitly opposes the alternatives considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to close the existing range and establish a new range at some other site.

We understand that expansion of the range is necessary for the safety of those who live and work near it and for the military personnel who fly aircraft over it. Further, it is apparent to us that it will cost less money to expand the existing range than to establish a new range with its necessary facilities at a location many more miles from Cannon AFB.

We strongly support the preservation and growth of Cannon AFB as a tactical fighter base. The Air Force has had and will have in the future, a very significant impact on the economic well-being and the cultural diversity of this area. We appreciate its positive presence and want that to continue.

However, the property rights of the individuals who would be affected by the range expansion must be respected and all must receive full and fair compensation for the losses they will incur. The viability of the Floyd School District must be preserved and the assistance of the Federal Government in assuring this result is requested.

We offer you our assistance in your efforts to reach an early and favorable conclusion to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Don Bigham

Don Bigham
President

NEW MEXICO
PORTALES
70

A-457

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Roswell District Office
P. O. Box 1397
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
2300

June 20, 1984

Capt. Martin Compton
Chief, Public Affairs Division
27thTFW/PA
Cannon Air Force Base, NM 88103

Dear Sir:

Personnel from the Roswell District Office of the Bureau of Land Management were in attendance at your June 6, 1984 meeting concerning the proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range.

One of the deficiencies noted by many of the speakers was the failure of the DEIS to adequately analyze an alternate area known as the Lon-Mesa site. The Lon-Mesa alternative is an area composed primarily of BLM and state lands, located approximately 45 miles northwest of Roswell (see enclosure).

The Roswell District has a considerable amount of information available concerning the Lon-Mesa site. The BLM would like to insure early involvement in any further consideration of the Lon-Mesa site as an expansion area.

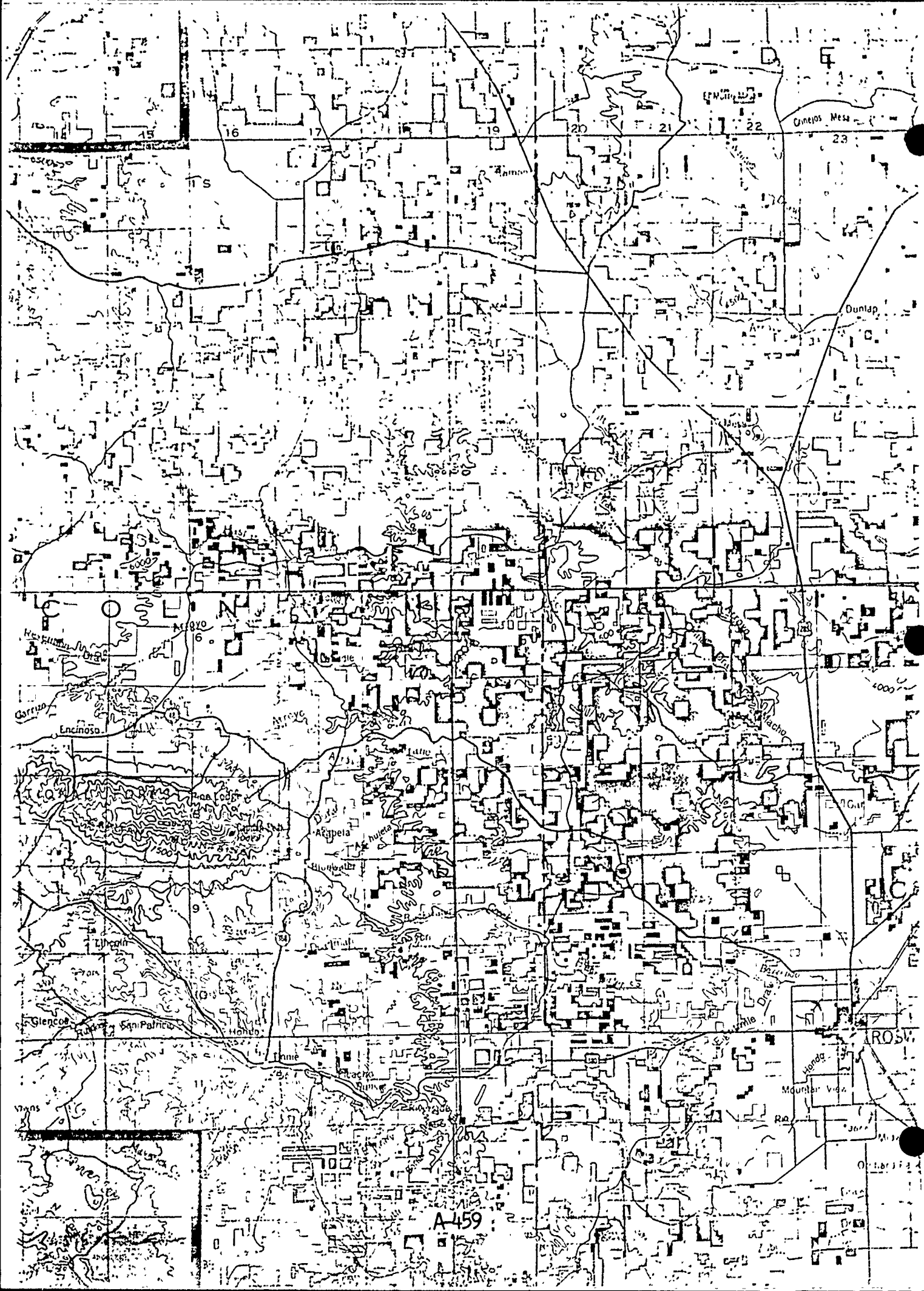
If we may be of any assistance, your contact would be Pat Kelley, Planning Coordinator, BLM, P.O. Box 1397, Roswell, NM 88201, (505) 622-7670 or FTS 476-9251.

Sincerely yours,

Earl R. Cunningham

District Manager

Enclosure
1) Map


Dunlap
Arroyo
Encinosa
Glencoe
Honda
Mountain View
A-459

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20332

REPLY TO ATTN OF: LEEV

12 JUL 1984

SUBJECT: Public Comments on Melrose Range EIS

TO: HQ TAC/DEE

Attached letters from the Board of Economic Development of Portales, New Mexico (Mr. St. Clair, Mr. Bender) and from the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Bigham) Are forwarded for conclusion in comments on the draft EIS.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

ROBERT L. KLINGENSMITH, Col, USAF
Chief, Environmental Division
Directorate of Engr & Svcs

3 Atch
1. 29 June 84 Ltr from Mr. St. Clair
2. 28 June 84 Ltr from Mr. Bender
3. 28 June 84 Ltr from Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce.

cc: SAF/MIQ w/o Atch

Board of Economic Development
of Portales, New Mexico

7th & Abilene Street Portales, New Mexico 88130

June 29, 1984

The Honorable James Boatwright
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
for Installations, Environment and Safety
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Mr. Boatwright:

The Portales Board of Economic Development and the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have both taken a public position supporting the proposal to expand the Melrose Air Force Range. Please find enclosed copies of their letters to Secretary Orr.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in bringing the expansion to fruition in a fair and equitable manner.

Sincerely,

Gilbert K. St. Clair

Gilbert K. St. Clair
Executive Director

A-461

8406817

Board of Economic Development
of Portales, New Mexico

7th & Abilene Street Portales, New Mexico 88130

June 28, 1984

The Honorable Verne Orr
Secretary of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Portales Board of Economic Development supports the Air Force proposal to expand the Melrose Range and opposes the alternative of closing the Range and establishing a new range in the Lon-Mesa area as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Board recognizes the hazards to the residents and workers on the lands adjacent to the Range and to the aircrew operating over the Range which are inherent in its present size. A larger range is clearly necessary.

It is equally clear that expanding the existing range with its close proximity to Cannon AFB is a less costly option than obtaining the land and constructing new range facilities at a site over 80 miles from the main operating base.

The Board fully appreciates the contribution that Cannon AFB and its personnel make to the economic well-being of Portales. Further, the Board understands that significant economic growth in this community would occur if the operations and the personnel complement at Cannon were increased. The Air Force has now, and will have in the future, a substantial economic impact on this community.

While the Board endorses the proposal to expand the Range, it recognizes that there is an adverse impact on the farmers and ranchers whose lands are involved. Further, the diminution of the taxable land and potential loss of students adversely affects the Floyd School District. All individuals affected and the School District must receive full and fair compensation. Their economic viability is of signal importance to us.

We respectfully request that our views be considered in the final decision on the Melrose Range.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bender
Chairman

A-462

PORTALES NEW MEXICO

HOME OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

ROOSEVELT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PHONE 356-8541
P.O. BOX 480

June 28, 1984

The Honorable Verne Orr
Secretary of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Subject: Expansion of the Melrose Air Force Range

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Board of Directors of the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce endorse the Air Force proposal to expand the Melrose Air Force Range. The Board explicitly opposes the alternatives considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to close the existing range and establish a new range at some other site.

We understand that expansion of the range is necessary for the safety of those who live and work near it and for the military personnel who fly aircraft over it. Further, it is apparent to us that it will cost less money to expand the existing range than to establish a new range with its necessary facilities at a location many more miles from Cannon AFB.

We strongly support the preservation and growth of Cannon AFB as a tactical fighter base. The Air Force has had and will have in the future, a very significant impact on the economic well-being and the cultural diversity of this area. We appreciate its positive presence and want that to continue.

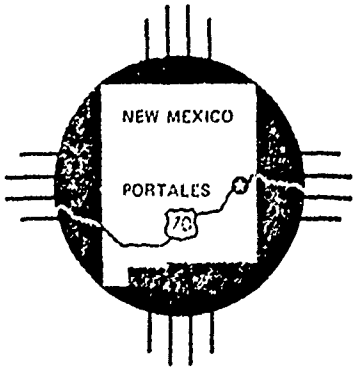
However, the property rights of the individuals who would be affected by the range expansion must be respected and all must receive full and fair compensation for the losses they will incur. The viability of the Floyd School District must be preserved and the assistance of the Federal Government in assuring this result is requested.

We offer you our assistance in your efforts to reach an early and favorable conclusion to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Don Bigham

Don Bigham
President



A-463

Also, those who encourage this expansion should consider. What happens when the government- this institution- decides to take again? City property or government sponsored retirement programs might be in demand next time. If we let a government of the people do this, we are one step closer to substituting the word "state" for "people" in our definition of government. Isn't this the spirit of the governmants in easternEurope?

Rod McClain

Cruey Spencer
Star Rt Box B-20Y
Taiban NM. 88134

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

1: Our public participation program involved publishing a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register along with news releases to the local media and circulation of the DEIS to those people expressing interest. Additionally, the comment period was extended 60 days. While there were some difficulties, the Air Force believes the notification efforts (coupled with the comment priod extension and public hearing) were adequate.

2: These alternatives are not viable for reasons detailed in Section 2.3

3: The need for improved facilities is discussed in Section 1.0. Because of the high level of current use of other regional ranges by other units, the Cannon mission cannot be "parceled out" to these other ranges. See Section 2.3.

4: See Section 2.3.1.

5: See response 1.

6: A cover letter containing a comment deadline and address was prepared; however, a clerical error resulted in some DEIS's being mailed without it. News releases sent to media (See response 1) contained information about comment deadline and address.

7: The Air Force recognizes the interests in mineral rights, and has modified its proposal to allow maximum private retention of mineral rights. See Section 4.8.3.

8: Oil and mineral rights would be acquired, at Fair Market Value, on lands to be acquired in fee simple title. The government also would compensate at Fair Market Value the leasehold interests acquired. No oil and mineral rights would be acquired on lands acquired in restrictive easement or lease. No oil and mineral rights would be acquired outside the proposed expanded Melrose Range.

9: The Lon-Mesa alternative was re-investigated. See Section 2.3.1 for a discussion of that alternative.

10. The Lon-Mesa alternative was re-investigated. Re-routing flight paths was found not to be possible in this area. See Section 2.3.1.

11: See response 8.

12: This comment references the "Farmland Protection Policy Act," Public Law 97-98, 95 Stat. 1341, 7 U.S.C. 4201. The purpose of this legislation was to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, and to assure federal programs are compatible with state and local farmland protection policies. However, section 1547(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 4208) states that "None of the provisions or other requirements of this subtitle shall apply to the acquisition or use of farmland for national defense purposes." Although the Farmland Protection Policy Act is not a bar to proposed expansion of the Melrose Bombing Range, the Air Force has taken steps to minimize impact on agricultural activities. See Section 4.8.2.2.

13: Air Force tactical aircrews practice flying in mountainous terrain regularly. However, building a range in mountainous country is not practical because targets must be built, policed, and scored, all of which requires convenient access.

14: See response 10.

15: See response 12 concerning the Farmland Protection Policy Act. The impact to home owners is discussed in Section 4.8.1.

16: The expansion of Melrose Range is not intended to increase activity but to more effectively perform existing training sorties. The extra land is needed to practice F-111 deliveries and to put Melrose Range in compliance with the Air Force's stringent weapons safety criteria, as contained in Air Force Regulation 50-46.

17: Grass fires of the size indicated do have a transitory adverse effect on air quality within the immediate area of the fire. However, their overall effect on regional air quality is negligible.

18: The indication, in section 2.1.1.1h of the draft statement, that 665 acres of vegetation would be removed was an error. As noted in Section 4.6, approximately 400 acres of vegetation will be removed for new fire breaks, targets, and target maintenance roads.

19: See response 12.

20: The Benson cemetery would not be acquired under this proposal, nor would the graves be disturbed.

21: See Response 1.

22: The public input from the scoping meeting was incorporated in the DEIS. Public comments during the DEIS review are herein addressed.

23: See responses 7, 8, and 12.

24: No gas transmission lines will be severed. If utilities/transportation lines must be moved, costs will be borne by the Air Force. See Section 4.8.4, 4.8.5, and Response 20.

25: See response 6.

26: The entire EIS process is predicated on determining the various (i.e. alternative) solutions to solving the initial problem: severe training limitations. Discussion of a "no-action" alternative is required. In this instance no alternatives (except the proposed action) met the operational requirements for an acceptable range. See Section 2.0 and 2.3.

27: Possible alternatives were considered but rejected because they were operationally unacceptable. See Section 2.3.

28: See Section 2.3.1, which contains a re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa alternative.

29: The need for training is discussed in Section 1.0. The impact of reduced military preparedness cannot be quantified.

30: The proposed expansion would capitalize on using existing range acreage. The proposed expanded Melrose Range would consist of approximately 38,000 acres of private, 22,000 acres of federal, and 15,000 acres of state land. It would be in the government's best economic interest to use available government land; however, no suitable lands could be found.

31: The discussion of real estate acquisition was made at the request of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. The Air Force desired to present the proposed real estate acquisition plan in order to facilitate public comment on both the range expansion and the real estate actions.

32: Because of the high level of interest, the matter of compensation in the Melrose area was dealt with in detail. However, at no time was the matter considered by the Air Force to be more than response to public inquiry. The Air Force statements indicated have explained Air Force policy on such matters, and indicated likely courses of action should the expansion alternative be selected. A final decision to expand the Melrose Range has not been made. Any decision to expand the range must also be approved and funded by Congress.

33: Comment noted. Section 5 has been revised.

34: The Air Force has used an interdisciplinary team. Members of the team have consulted with appropriate agencies and utilized available resources to analyze potential effects to the different environmental attributes.

35: As with most federally proposed or funded programs, some individuals may be affected during the deliberative process or program development. This is regrettable; but, unfortunately in some cases unavoidable. Cannon AFB personnel have been very sensitive to the local needs and problems and have tried to work with individuals to the best of their ability. This effort will continue regardless of the decision to expand or not to expand the Melrose Range.

36: Once an alternative was found not capable of meeting operational requirements, further investigations into the environmental aspects of that alternative were neither warranted nor required. Section 2 discusses the proposed and alternative actions and the document does provide a basis for comparative analysis. Section 2.4 compares the impacts of the viable alternatives.

37: Comment noted. Socio-economic and human environment impacts are discussed in Section 4, and compared in Section 2.4.

38: The requirements set out in Section 1.0 are based on technical and operational considerations.

39: See response 10.

40: See response 6. Notification of the extended comment period was made by a news release by Cannon AFB on 27 Apr 84; responses were accepted until June 30, 1984. See responses 1 and 6.

41: See responses 1 and 6.

42: Discussion of these alternatives is now included in Section 2.3.2.

43: See response 9.

44: See paragraph 2.3.1.

45: See Section 4.6. All new target areas would be within the existing range.

46: The Air Force would be as flexible as possible in the acquisition process to ensure the land owners are not left on untenable tracts. See Section 4.8.2.1.

47: The referenced sentence, in its entirety, bases a no effect determination upon (a) correspondence from the Area Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, (b) the possible establishment of a no fly area around the nest of the protected golden eagle, (c) an inventory of flora and fauna accomplished when the wildlife management plan was prepared, and (d) a literature review (presented in Appendix E of the draft statement) of the results of numerous field studies regarding the response of wildlife to military jet noise. The Air Force has complied with its responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act.

48: Section 3.5 of the DEIS recognizes the Melrose Range is within the historic range of three endangered species, including the black-footed ferret. Section 3.4 of the EIS contains a more complete catalog of faunal species. Although population sizes and trends, habitat trends and many other aspects of the area's ecosystem would be of great interest and value for wildlife management, this information would not significantly contribute to the analysis presented regarding the effect(s) of the proposal on wildlife.

49: A survey of the existing range was conducted by a contractor: the Air Force agrees with the SHPO that the survey was inadequate. The Air Force is now proceeding to reaccomplish the survey. The Draft EIS was incorrect when it stated that a survey of lands off Air Force property had been conducted. In consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, it has been agreed upon that, pursuant to the authorization of funds for the acquisition of proposed expansion areas, the Bureau and the Air Force will initiate a Memorandum of Agreement.

50: The reference to Reference #19, DEIS Appendix should refer to Reference #20. See response 49.

51: Investigations must be undertaken in areas impacted by Air Force activities. The Air Force has notified the State of New Mexico of its commitment to such investigations (see Reference #20, DEIS Appendix). However, this investigation will not be accomplished until a final decision is made as to what lands (if any) would be acquired, and title gained.

52: Using risk analysis statistical procedures and other planning guidance, new targets are located on Air Force ranges such that the probability of ordnance striking outside of the prepared impact area is less than 1 in 10,000. The probability of ordnance striking an eligible archaeological site outside of a prepared impact area is remote. Wherever possible, impact areas and other ground disturbed areas will be located to avoid sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

53: See response 20.

54: See response 51.

55: Past safety incidents occurring in the vicinity demonstrate the need for expansion of Melrose Range. The expansion will increase the containment area for weapons footprints to fully comply with safety standards. An aim of the expansion is to lessen the risk to the public.

56: Tactical aircrews are briefed with regard to permanent obstacles (such as power lines) prior to missions.

57: Section 4.8.1 discusses the impacts of the proposed action on the school districts. Although the impacts do not appear to be of a magnitude to threaten the existance of either school district, an overview of applicable laws is provided below.

Public Law 94-565, 20 October 1976, 31 U.S.C. 6901 et seq. provides for federal payments to units of local government when "entitlement lands" are located within the taxing jurisdiction of such local government unit. However, the Secretary of the Interior makes such payments, and "entitlement lands" are defined as: National Park/National Forest System lands; land administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management; U.S. lands dedicated to federal water resource development projects; and U.S. owned dredge disposal areas under Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. Therefore, it is the Air Force's opinion that this provision for payment of "in lieu of" payments has no application.

If federal acquisition of acreage since 1938 results in a decrease of at least 10% or more of the total assessed value of all real property in the school district, creating a substantial financial burden on the district for which it is not otherwise compensated, then the district is eligible for financial assistance through the Secretary of Education if funds are available (20 U.S.C. 237, (Educational Agencies Financial Aid Act)).

The original bombing range consists of 22,120 acres of federal property purchased subsequent to 1952. The proposed expansion totals 55,000 acres. Annual taxes assessed on acreage proposed for expansion (only) is estimated to be $2568.60 as of March 1984. At the current mill rate reported by the Roosevelt County (NM) assessor of 18.339 mills per $1000 assessed valuation, taxes lost on the original range property would total approximately $1200. Since the EIS reflects annual school district receipts of $1,099,000 of which $700,000 is state contributions, a maximum of $399,000 represents real estate taxes. Thus, $3768.60 would be attributable to the 76,617 acres withdrawn from the tax base for an impact of .8% on the Floyd budget. This is far short of the 10% threshold necessary to trigger in lieu of payments.

58: Mineral rights are recognized in Section 3.8.2. Mineral resources are discussed in Section 3.8.3. Section 4.8.3 discusses the procedures the Air Force will follow to minimize losses to mineral rights owners.

59: Air Force and Department of Defense policy is to allow oil and mineral exploration and exploitation to the maximum extent possible as long as it does not affect the mission of the installation. See Section 4.8.3.

60: The Air Force's land acquisition policies for the proposed expansion are intended to have minimum impact on land ownership and land use. (See Section 4.8.2.)

61: Other ranges are currently receiving heavy use. See Section 2.3.2.

62: Continuation in present status would be unsafe and would seriously affect combat readiness of Cannon AFB aircrews.

63: The Hart bequest (Boys Ranch) will not be purchased. A portion of its grazing lands will, however, be put under restrictive easement, which should have a minimum impact.

64: Family burial sites, historical/archaeological sites and other sites would remain accessible to individuals with bonafide purposes for visiting the sites. Visit arrangements would have to be coordinated with Cannon AFB to avoid subjecting visitors to dangerous situations.

65: It is Air Force policy to identify and protect sites of this type. To do this, investigations are often undertaken See Section 4.7.

66: See response 1.

67: The usual comment period (45 days) was extended an additional 60 days.

68: From the perspective in the cockpit, the expansion will enormously increase the realism of the target area at Melrose. Both visual aids and radar attacks on targets from different directions pose a variety of tactical problems that aircrews must cope with each time.

69: See response 58.

70: See response 59. Furthermore, the proposed use of the land does not destroy the value of the minerals underneath, although it may temporarily or occasionally restrict access.

71: A detailed evaluation of the Lon-Mesa and other alternatives is given in Sections 2.3.1. and 2.3.2.

72: A proposal by the Air Force to the FAA to move MOAs was rejected. Airspace in the entire area is extremely restricted.

73: The Lon-Mesa area also supports agriculture. See Section 2.3.1.

74: See response 59.

75: The Air Force agrees with this proposal. Section 4.8.2.2 outlines the lease-back policy to be followed.

76: Prime and unique farmlands are formally defined by USDA. These definitions are given in Section 3.6 of the DEIS.

77: Exploration/Exploitation may be possible on many parts of the proposed expansion, providing certain conditions are met. This topic is discussed in Section 4.8.3.

78: See response 8.

79: The Air Force recognizes the importance of water rights in the Melrose Range area. Air Force policy is outlined in Section 4.3. The evaluation of wildlife impacts, and Air Force actions to minimize them is given in section 4.4. Mineral exploration will be possible in many instances, as discussed in Section 4.8.3.

80: Comment noted.

81: Although the area is rated Class I, drilling in the area has heretofore yielded disappointing results. See Appendix A, pages A-27 and A-35.

82: The EIS has expanded the discusion of mineral rights and their acquisition. See Section 4.8.3.

83: See response 57 for a discussion of possible Department of Education financial assistance. County tax revenue losses are discussed in Section 4.8.6.

84: Comments noted.

85: Comments noted. The EIS has been corrected.

86: See response 82.

87: See response 83.

88: Comments noted.

89: The Air Force is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze potential environmental impacts of proposed actions together with a complete evaluation of alternative actions and their effects, if implemented. The notice which appeared in the 9 July 1980 Federal Register formally noted possible alternatives to expanding the Melrose Range. These included: continuing to use the present range unchanged (no action); closing Melrose Range and acquiring land for a new range elsewhere; and closing Melrose Range and conducting training at other military ranges. All these alternatives are required to be dicussed as part of environmental analysis process. The Air Force does not, as the comment implies, have an alternative plan to the proposed expansion. The Farmland Protection Policy Act is discussed in response 12.

90: Comments noted. See response 1.

91: Comments noted. Section 4.8.1 discusses the impacts on individuals, and outlines compensations. Section 4.8.2.1 Discusses the procedures the Air Force has developed to minimize its land acquisition needs.

92: The proposed target area is the existing Melrose Range. The land proposed for acquisition will serve as buffer only. The potential for hunting on the proposed expansion area is discussed in Section 4.8.6. An outdoor recreation plan for the Melrose Range will be prepared in the near future and could include provisions for the activities mentioned in the comment. The final decision authority regarding compatible outdoor recreation activities would rest with the Wing Commander at Cannon AFB.

93: There is no indication that disturbance to wildlife species in the land proposed for acquisition will be significant. See Section 4.6 of the DEIS.

94: Comments noted. The information in the paragraph in question was obtained from the staff of Eastern New Mexico University's Agency for Conservation Archaeology. The section on archaeological/cultural resources has been revised.

95: As noted in Section 3.7, a contracted survey of the existing range revealed no sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Specifications for the survey were approved by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office. The final report prepared by the contractor was determined by Cannon AFB and SHPO to be unacceptable. This decision was not reached until after publication of the DEIS.

96: The sentence quoted was inaccurate. Section 3.7 has been revised.

97: A 10% sample was recommended to the Air Force, as an initial effort, by Eastern New Mexico Universty. The Statement of Work for the contracted survey called for a 100% survey of areas that would be impacted during possible future ground disturbing activities and a 10% survey following a specified sampling design for the remainder of the existing range. The Statement of Work (and sampling design) was approved by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office.

98: Specific legal criterion must be met before a site/structure can be declared eligible for inclusion on the National Register. "Significant" or "important" sites may not necessarily meet eligibility criterion. Also see response 95.

99. Cannon AFB and the SHPO have jointly attempted to obtain contractor compliance. See response 95.

100. Section 4.9 now mentions archaeological sites. However, the probable presence of significant sites in no way implies an inevitable adverse effect. Moreover, the Air Force will identify and protect such sites.

101. Comments noted.

102: See response 35.

103: See response 6.

104: Comment noted.

105: The survey specifications were recommended by a professional archaeologist. The report was found deficient, and will be reaccomplished. See Sections 3.7 and 4.7 for a revised discussion of archaeological/cultural sites.

106: Comments noted.

107: The Air Force has extensively reorganized the EIS. A detailed investigation of alternative sites is included in Section 2.3.1.

108: See response 12.

109: See response 8.

110: See response 12.

111: See response 36.

112: The Air Force believes the EIS meets the requirements of NEPA.

113: Mineral rights are discussed in Section 3.8.1 and 3.8.3. Air Force policies aimed at minimizing acquisition of mineral rights are discussed in Section 4.8.3.

114: An expanded discussion of alternative sites is given in Section 2.3.1.

115: See response 40.

116: The Lon-Mesa discussion of alternatives is given in Section 2.3.1.

117: There is no indication that significant numbers of children would be displaced from the Floyd School District such that "growth" would be restrained. According to Table 2, the Floyd School District would potentially lose $3,051.29 of a total annual budget (1983-84) of $1,099,000. This loss represents less than 1% of the total annual budget. Due to the size of surrounding ranching operations, there is also no specific indication that the existing range has restricted the student population attending Floyd School District facilities.

118: Sections 4.8.2.1, 4.8.2.2, and 4.8.3 discuss the Air Force's policies aimed at minimizing impacts on landowners, mineral rights owners and land use.

119: Comments noted. The presence of two gas wells was noted on page D-29 of DEIS.

120: There is no proof that a range expansion will unilaterally force a closure or consolidation of the Floyd School District. As one of the smallest school district in the state, the potential economies of consolidation could, however, lead to that result at some future date.

121: A re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa site is given in Section 2.3.1.

122: The FAA was re-approached on the subject of feasibility of a range in Lon-Mesa. Their position is given in Section 2.3.1.

123: The Lon-Mesa area is constrained by multiple considerations. See Section 2.3.1.

124: The Lon-Mesa area, much like the Melrose area, is used for grazing. See Section 2.3.1.

125: Several sites in the Lon-Mesa area were considered, but none could avoid airspace conflicts. See Section 2.3.1

126: See response 55. The area described in this comment lies outside the proposed range expansion deemed necessary for safety. Also see Section 4.2 for a discussion of noise impacts.

127: The Air Force will not purchase Boys Ranch lands in fee simple. Certain grazing lands will be acquire by restrictive easement, so the current pattern of land use should not be severly altered.

128: Air Force policy will be to lease back lands to current landowners or leaseholders for the initial lease period. See Section 4.8.2.2.

129: See Section 4.4. The Air Force could establish a no fly area around the nesting site of the golden eagles.

130: Not at this time. The golden eagle is not an endangered species.

131: Some Boys' Ranch lands would be acquired by restrictive easement. Water rights and wells would not be affected.

132: Comment noted.

133: See response 7.

134: The manner in which reimbursements are set out can be confusing. 42 United States Code 4622 (Moving and Related Expenses), subsections (a), (b), and (c) are alternative elections available to the applicant. That is, the applicant may first elect to apply for (subsection "a"):

(1) Actual reasonable expenses of relocating a family, farm operation, business or other personal property. There is no dollar limitation included in this section.

(2) Actual direct losses of tangible personal property resulting from either moving or discontinuing business or farm operations. This amount is limited to an amount equal to reasonable expenses required to relocate (as opposed to discontinuing) the property.

(3) Actual reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm.

All three of the foregoing expenses are claimable and payable. However, an applicant may elect instead to follow subsection (b) and accept both a moving expense allowance of up to $300 and a dislocation allowance of up to $200 in lieu of sub-section (a) payments. These two payments are not keyed to actual expenses and therefore appear keyed to someone who occupies a small rental apartment.

Subsection (c) offers yet another alternative to sub-section (a). A person displaced from a farm or business can apply for these benefits and receive a fixed payment equal to average net annual earnings of from $2,500 to $10,000. Average annual net earnings is further defined as one-half of any net earnings of a business or farm operation before taxes for the preceding two years.

By the terms of 42 U.S.C. 4623, an additional payment of up to $15,000 is authorized to be made to any person displaced from a dwelling owned and occupied for not less than 180 days prior to initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of the property.

See Section 4.8.1 for a discussion of the intent of the laws involving dislocation.

135: Comment noted. Such developments would be acquired if they were located in lands where fee acquisitions were required.

136: Section 4.8.1 discusses compensation of individuals for losses incurred in dislocation.

137: Comment noted.

138: Lease-back for the first lease period will take place. See Section 4.8.2.2.

139: Roosevelt County or the school district would not receive any monies from rents collected on leased government lands.

140: Utility lines and roads located within the lands acquired in fee would be acquired by the Air Force at Fair Market Value. Should these utility lines or roads serve others, they would be relocated at Air Force expense. Utility lines and roads located on lands acquired by restrictive easement or lease would remain in place to serve the public. See Section 4.8.5.

141: The question concerning the bonded indebtedness of the Floyd School District is premature. There is absolutely no proof that an expansion of Melrose Bombing Range will force a closure of the Floyd School District. Approximately eight school-age children will be relocated if range expansion is approved, and they might continue to attend Floyd schools from adjusted locations. See Section 4.8.1. Section 4.8.6. discusses the impacts of the proposed expansion on Tax Revenues.

142: The Lon-Mesa site is also supporting grazing. The site was re-evaluated, but still found to be unacceptable. See Section 2.3.1.

143: Redistricting of school districts is exclusively a state function. The federal government would have no recommendation or decision in such a matter.

144: This is a question of New Mexico State law that should properly be referred to the attorney for the school district and the New Mexico Department of Education.

145: The impact on property tax rates if the Melrose Range expansion is approved will depend upon school district decisions. See response 57.

146: The Air Force believes it complied with CFR 40, Section 1501.7, para 2, in that the DEIS noted that a total of eight families would be displaced if the Melrose Bombing Range is expanded. A projected annual tax loss of $3,051.29 would be sustained by the Floyd School District. There is absolutely no proof that this impact will result in a closure of either the Floyd School District or its facilities. See also response 141.

147: The safety buffer zone is established to provide maneuver room for aircraft. Transitional vehicular traffic through the buffer zone will not be endangered. SR25 lies within the buffer zone.

148: A more detailed explanation of Air Force policy with regard to mineral exploration is given in Section 4.8.3.

149: Correct. The implication of these questions appears to be the DEIS concealed the existence of the proposed range expansion from mineral rights owners. Dissemination of this information is discussed in response 1. Also, see response 8 concerning compensation.

150: The Air Force was informed that the whole region was Class I as early as 14 Apr 1980 (letter from State Planning Division Dept of Finance and Administration, State of New Mexico). However, more detailed information received from the U.S. Dept of the Interior (letter, August 4, 1980) and ELCO, a private consulting firm (letter, July 22, 1980) reported that actual drilling results had not been encouraging.

151: See response 6.

152: See response 35.

153: See response 20.

154: Payment for lands acquired in the proposed Melrose Range Expansion would be made as soon as practical, upon conclusion of negotiations and obtaining clear title to the property.

155: The Siveletta Wildlife Refuge was partially donated and partially sold to the Nature Conservancy by the Campbell family. The sale had a reversionary clause stipulating use of the land for nature study and ancillary activities. The land was in turn donated by the Nature Conservancy to the State of New Mexico with reversionary clauses stipulating use of the land for nature conservation and study. The land was then donated by the State of New Mexico to the Fish and Wildlife Service Department of Interior, with reversionary clauses stipulating use of the land for nature conservation/reversion to nature, and scientific study. This land is currently in the second year of a ten-year study and research period investigating reversion to natural conditions associated with the arid climate.

There are lands within the wildlife area which could possibly be utilized for Air Force training purposes. However, based on the stipulations of the reversionary clauses attached to the use of this land, the area was dropped from further consideration.

156: The Air Force has again met with the FAA in an effort to determine if the Lon-Mesa holds any areas which might be suitable for a Bombing Range. No such site was found. See Section 2.3.1.

157: Comments noted. The information has been corrected.

158: Suitable alternative sites meeting Air Force safety and training criterion have not been found in the course of this investigation. See Section 2.

159: See responses 7 & 8.

160: Comments noted. The tract and the well in question would not be acquired in fee, but by restrictive easement. It is expected that present use of the land and well will be unaffected by the proposed expansion.

161: See responses 7.

162: See responses 77.

163: Our statistics indicate that approximately $700,000 of the $1,099,000 budget (1983-84) of Floyd School District was contributed by the State of New Mexico. School district revenue therefore amounted to just about $400,000, or 43% of the district budget. The projected loss of $3,051.29 in school taxes represents less than 1% of this figure. Speculation that this loss will lead to closing of the district therefore appears unwarranted. We have no indication that expansion of the range will also have a "significant" impact on the Melrose School District student enrollment. See Section 4.8.1 and 4.8.6.

164. See response 51 and Section 4.7.

165: The minimum public comment period for DEIS's, of all types is 45 days. A 60-day increase in the comment period was deemed appropriate.

166: See response 6. The Federal regulations for an EIS are contained in 40 CFR parts 1500 - 1508.

167: See response 31.

168: See Section 2.3.1 For a discussion of the re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa area. Alternatives are developed and investigated by the Air Force, using internal staff analysis, comments and assistance from outside agencies, and public comments.

169: Comment noted. Section 4.8.2.1 describes the Air Force's proposals which would minimize impacts on state land holdings.

170: See response 1.

171: Comments noted.

172: Gas and oil extraction activities outside the perimeter of the proposed expanded range will not be restricted.

173: The Air Force has taken steps to minimize the loss of land, production, and therefore, revenue. See Sections 4.8.2.2 and 4.8.3.

174: There is no projected increase in sortie activity. See response 55.

175: See response 92. Additionally, fishing is not available in the Melrose Range area.

176. The Air Force will comply with applicable laws regarding identification and protection of archaeological/cultural sites. See Section 3.7 and 4.7.

177: The Air Force believes impacts on wildlife by the proposed expansion will be minimal. It is also developing procedures to monitor and protect the wildlife in the area. See Section 4.4.

178: Correct.

179: Correct.

180: Correct.

181: The real estate briefing was held at the request of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. The Air Force desired to present the proposed real estate acquisition plan in order to facilitate public comment on both the range expansion and the real estate actions. No decision on the future of the Melrose range has been made.

182: Correct.

183: Correct.

184: Correct. See Sections 3.8.2, 3.8.3, and 4.8.3 for a discussion on mineral rights policies.

185: See response 6. The DEIS was printed at Langley AFB, Virginia in the spring of 1984. Several printings were made.

186: Correct. This topic is addressed in Section 2.2.1.1 and Table 2 of the DEIS.

187: Correct. This topic of gas and oil potential was addressed in Section 3.3 and appendix reference #11 and #13 of the DEIS, and appears in Section 3.8.3 of the EIS.

188: Comments noted. A contracted survey was determined to be deficient, but a satisfactory survey will be accomplished. See Sections 3.7 and 4.7.

189: See response 1.

190: Comment noted.

191: Section 4.8.1 explains the Air Force's proposal to exchange lands with the state.

192: Comment noted.

193: Current acreage figures are in Section 4.8.2.1.

194: Comments noted.

195: The present policy of the BLM does not permit three party land exchanges. The Air Force however, hopes to arrange a land exchange with the state. See Section 4.8.2.1.

196: See response 55. There are no plans to have an east-to-west approach pattern.

197: See responses 141 and 163.

198: See response 147.

199: The document has been reorganized. The Boys Ranch is not proposed for acquisition.

200: Acquistion patterns are designed to minimize impacts on landowners and land use. Any decision to expand the range must be approved and funded by Congress, and property would be acquired at fair market value.

201: Section 2.3.1 Discusses a re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa site.

202: Only 940 acres are affected in all of Curry County and the assessed value of this property at $5,922 only yields $50.63 in tax revenues. These lands will not be acquired in fee. Therefore, there is no indication that there will be a school tax loss to the Melrose School District anywhere close to $800 to $1000.

203: It is assumed that bus routes are constantly adjusted to match the location of the school-age student population. The Air Force cannot predict where families would relocate, and any route adjustments would be the responsibility of the school district.

204. See response 64.

205: Comments noted. See responses 7 and 8.

206: Comment noted.

207: The DEIS was prepared by individuals listed in Section 5 of the EIS, not by contractor. The EIS will be submitted to Headquarters, Air Force to be used by decision-makers. This is in accordance with the intent of NEPA. The ultimate decision will be made by Congress, which directly controls funds for this project.

208: No resources were committed. It is reasonable to begin general planning well in advance of the detailed final decision. The commitment of resources is made by Congress, which must make any "give-and-take" decisions.

209: See response 31.

210: Section 5 has been revised.

211: See response 35.

212: See response 36.

213: Acquisition of private land is undesirable, both for social and economical reasons. Unfortunately, it is not possible to locate the required land in areas of complete federal ownership, so acquisition of private lands must be considered.

214: See response 6.

215: Comment noted.

216: Relocation of utilities would be paid for by the Air Force.

217: See response 140.

218: See response 140.

219: There will be no compensation paid to the utilities for costs involved in establishing new service to relocated customers. Dislocated families would be paid normal utilities hook-up costs.

220: There will not be any compensation to the Telephone Cooperative for lost revenues if affected individuals do not relocate in Roosevelt County. However, since employment opportunties may remain, it may be expected that some dislocated individuals will remain in the vicinity.

221: Comments noted.

222: Comments noted.

223: Gas lines on Air Force lands would be purchased. See Section 4.8.5.

224: Comments noted. See response 134 and Section 4.8.2.

225: Several possible sites were evaluated at Lon-Mesa. None were feasible. See Section 2.3.1.

226: Re-evaluation of Lon-Mesa was accomplished. No suitable sites were found. See Section 2.3.1.

227: Air Force safety guidelines are based on known weapon impact safety areas and are unlikely to change.

228: 1980 census figures reflect 14,431 people live in Roosevelt County and a maximum of eight families would have to relocate (not necessarily move out of the county) as a result of a range expansion. At least three of the eight affected families appear to reside in Curry County. Vehicle registration formulas may not be expected to significantly change. Because of the policy of purchasing restrictive easements, the miles of road lost is substantially reduced. See Section 4.8.4.

229: We have no information to indicate how much (if any) corporate tax revenue county assessors are collecting on the proposed expansion area. According to representatives of the Clovis office of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, they are unaware of any county taxes on corporate fixed assets such as telephone lines, gas pipelines, and radio towers. Furthermore, according to paragraph 3.10, of the DEIS, removal of the radio tower is not foreseen. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 provides reimbursement for expenses incurred pursuant to federal property acquisitions.

230: The Air Force believes that there is a difference in the economic impact of dollars flowing through a community (for example, a payroll) and dollars generated by a commodity (such as feed grains or livestock). Therefore, we question assertions of a quadrupling of the assumed annual crop/livestock monetary production figures. The New Mexico gross receipts tax is 3.75%, collected by the State with Curry County receiving an additional .375% and Roosevelt County receiving an additional .125% on transactions outside of a municipality but within their respective counties.

231: See response 7.

232: Comments noted.

233: See response 8.

234: This is basically the intent of the Air Force. See Section 4.8.2.1.

235: See response 97.

236: Comment noted.

237: See response 55.

238: See response 154.

239: See responses 1 and 6.

240: Comments noted. See Section 3.7.

241: Comments noted. See Section 3.7.

242: The Air Force will have a contracted survey performed which will be acceptable to the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and which will comply with the requirements under title 36 CFR 800.

243: Reference #20, Appendix to DEIS is a memorandum of discussions between the Air Force and the State of New Mexico. The described position of the Air Force with regard to protection of cultural sites and mutual cooperation remains unchanged.

244: Comments noted.

245: The EIS addresses these topics in section 3.7 and 4.7.

246: See response 20.

247: An applicable memorandum is discussed in Section 3.7.

248: See Section 5.0.

249: Comments noted. See response 35.

250: The closure of Cannon AFB is not considered a practical alternative in the EIS.

251: Comments noted. Section 4.8.2.2 Describes policies the Air Force has developed to maximize land use under the proposed expansion.

252: Comments noted.

253: No, but see response 8.

254: Comments noted. The Air Force believes there are no suitable tracts of federal land available. See Section 2.3.1.

255: The contention that the Melrose Range expansion will attract increased activity is without merit. All other aircraft cited as users are only occasional users. It would be senseless for other fighters to use fuel and time to transit to Melrose Range more often than is done now. The reason an

expanded Melrose Range would not be more attractive to non-Cannon users is the same reason Cannon sees traveling to another range beyond Melrose as unattractive. Melrose is a convenient distance from Cannon.

256: The government would pay Fair Market Value for wells acquired. Cost of new wells constructed would be the responsibility of the owner. When construction of a new well is not a viable alternative, and when mission requirements and well locations permit, arrangements for use of existing wells by the current owner/tenant would be considered. See Section 4.3.

257: In the original proposal, the grazing leases currently in force at Melrose Range would have been cancelled. However, in an effort to minimize impacts on agriculture, the Air Force's revised proposal would permit (with certain restrictions and limitations) continued grazing in both the current and proposed buffer areas. See Section 4.8.2.2.

258: Action to set lease rates would not take place until after a decision of whether to expand Melrose Range had been reached, and after land acquisition was complete.

259: Air Force Regulation 126-1 requires grazing and cropland management plans to be developed and approved before executing outleases or service contracts. These management plans will insure provisions are established to prevent erosion and noxious plant infestation.

260: The benefits of expanding the range is enhanced safety and better training environment which will have a positive effect on combat readiness. The Air Force has not tried to quantify this in dollars.

261: Economic impacts capable of quantification have been addressed in the DEIS. The decrease in revenues is a very small portion of the local budgets. See Section 4.8.6. Effects will depend upon how local governments respond to the small losses.

262: The current estimated cost to expand Melrose Range is $13.7 million. The revised acquisition proposal will minimize impacts on landowners, land use, and revenue. See Sections 4.8.2.1, 4.8.2.2, and 4.8.3.

263: We have no figures as to how many farm/ranch employees will lose their jobs versus being shifted to duties on other acreage. This secondary impact is both uncertain and unknown.

264:. The figures quoted in the comment indicate the proposal area produces approximately 0.6% of the crop income for the two counties. Like predicted reductions in tax revenues, the ultimate impacts have not been modelled, but are doubtlessly small.

265: We cannot predict social and economic impacts on the families to be relocated if range expansion is approved. There is no evidence that farm/ranch operations on the periphery of the expanded range area, (that is, adjacent to the out-leased buffer zone) will be affected in any way.

266: It is difficult to identify wells from records, as only certain types of wells in certain locations need to be registered. Air Force policy regarding wells - regardless of type or size - is given in section 4.3.

267: The EIS has been revised to more comprehensively address water rights, alternative sites, and school districts.

268: See response 48. Additionally, a revised wildlife management plan for the existing Melrose Range was recently prepared by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The inventory of wildlife found on the range does not include any endangered species.

269: See Section 4.4.

270: See response 48. The EIS contains an expanded species list. The fauna list is not meant to be exhaustive, but representative. See Section 3.4.

271: Comment noted.

272: Improvements subsequent to Notice of Intent to acquire the land are not compensated. Notice of Intent has not been given. It is anticipated that a final decision will be reached before the summer of 1985.

273: Comment noted. There is no plan to publish an additional DEIS.

274: See response 119.

275: The Lon-Mesa site, upon re-evaluation, still fails to meet operational requirements. See Section 2.3.1.

276: The current restrictive run-ins "funnel" flight patterns over certain areas. The expansion of the range will permit more flexibility for run-ins from north, south, and west, thereby lessening the funneling effect.

277: Comments noted. Mineral exploration would not be precluded by range expansion.

278: The Air Force plan currently includes minimum purchase of land by fee simple, supplemented by the purchase of restrictive easements. See Section 4.8.2.1.

279: The EIS has been revised to show existing and future 65 and 75 DNL noise contours. There are no schools or hospitals within the 65 DNL or greater contour. Locations of residences/ranches can be seen in respect to the noise contours in Sections 3.2 and 4.2.

280: Comment noted. A general location map was included on page 6 of the DEIS.

281: A wildlife management plan made in cooperation with appropriate agencies will address these and similar matters. See Section 4.4.

282: Comment noted. The EIS has been corrected. See Section 3.3.

283: See response 48.

284: See response 262.

285: Because of the Air Force's flexible acquisition policy (See Section 4.8.2.1) and land use policy (See Section 4.8.2.2), the actual amount of land lost to production cannot be quantified.

286: See response 8.

287: Comments noted. See Section 4.8.2.1.

288: Boys Ranch lands will not be purchased. Some grazing lands will be placed under restrictive easement.

289: There is no statistical support for the assertion that a range expansion will have a "devastating" effect on the Floyd School District. A total of eight families residing in two counties would be relocated. Not only is there no indication that they would relocate outside of their present county (Roosevelt or Curry), the potential tax loss to the Floyd School District is less than 1% of tax revenues generated within the district ($3,051.29). District officials have not specifically identified any school bus route for termination as a result of relocating specific families who reside within the Floyd system. The District is free to make application for assistance to the Secretary of Instructions.

290: See response 264.

291: Geological data included at pages D-29 and D-30 of the DEIS does not support projections of significant potential oil and gas strata in the immediate vicinity of Melorse Range.

292: The EIS does not list closure of Cannon Air Force Base as a practical alternative.

293: The Lon-Mesa site has been re-evaluated in Section 2.3.1

294: Section 2.3.2 discusses the possibility of using other ranges. It was found that other ranges are currently receiving high use, and could not accept the Cannon AFB training mission.

295: See resposes 1 and 7. It is the intent of the Air Force to move swiftly if the proposal is approved and funding appropriated.

296: See responses 242 and 243. Also see Sections 3.7 and 4.7.

297: See response 118.

298: See responses 7 and 113.

299: The Air Force proposes to exchange lands with the state where possible. See. Section 4.8.2.1.

300: Cattle leases would continue. Current landowners or leaseholders would be given preference during the first lease period. See Sections 4.8.1 and 4.8.2.2.

301: Comments noted.

302: A re-evaluation of the Lon-Mesa site is discussed in Section 2.3.1.

303: Comments noted.

304: The Loco Hills site has mineral extraction activities taking place on

the property. The Air Force has no objections to such activities taking place near an Air Force range, but cannot permit them within range boundaries.

305: Because of deficiencies in a contracted survey, the Air Force does not have reliable archaeological data on the site. However, the Air Force will comply with applicable law, and to work cooperatively with appropriate agencies to identify and protect archaeological/cultural sites. See Sections 3.7 and 4.7.

306: See response 292.

307: The EIS has been substantially reorganized. The Air Force believes the EIS complies with NEPA, and will be a valuable aid in decision-making.

308: See response 305.

309: See response 8.

310: The overwhelming majority of ordnance will impact close to established targets. The figure of 10 acres (as given in para 4.7) may be considered representative of the extent of continual habitat disturbance. Since most ordnance is practice-type, explosive detonations will be uncommon, and noise and concussion perceived by wildlife would come more from aircraft, not ordnance.

311: See response 256.

312: See response 257.

313: See response 258.

314: See response 259.

315. See response 260.

316: See response 261

317: See response 262.

318: See response 263.

319: See response 264.

320: See response 265.

321: See response 266.

322: The EIS has been upgraded.

323: Comments received from private individuals were considered during preparation of the DEIS. Appendix D contains reference material solicited and used by the preparers of the DEIS.

324: Comment noted. The discussion of wells has been revised. See Section 4.3.

325: Many migratory bird species may be seen in the area during biannual migrations to and from the Isthmus of Panama. However, they are not common visitors to the Melrose Range. This position is based in part upon an inventory of common species provided by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The inventory will be included as part of the newly revised wildlife management plan for the Melrose Range.

326: See response 227.

327: Section 4.8.4 contains a revised estimate of the impact of the proposed expansion on roads.

328: See responses 229 and 230.

329: The Air Force would pay fair market value for properties. See Section 4.8.2.1.

330: See response 305.

APPENDIX B

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

This appendix identifies all property to be acquired under the proposed action. No differentiation is made between lands to be purchased in fee, acquired by restrictive easement, or leased from the state.

Proposed land to be acquired encompasses the following:

Roosevelt County, New Mexico

Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, T1N, R31E.

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19 and 20, T1S, R31E.

Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, and 36, T1N, R30E.

Sections 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, T1S, R30E.

S 1/2 of the S1/2 of Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11, T1S, R30E.

W 1/2 of Sections 6 and 7, T1S, R30E.

S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 7, T1S, R30E.

Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23 and 24, T1S, R29E.

W 1/2 and the W 1/2 of the E 1/2 of Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, T1N, R30E.

E 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Section 6, T1N, R30E.

NW 1/4 and the W 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Section 5, T1N, R30E.

Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36, T1N, R29E.

Section 30 and 31, T2N, R30E.

W 1/2 and the W 1/2 of the E 1/2 of Sections 29 and 32, T2N, R30E.

S 1/2 of Section 19, T2N, R30E.

SW 1/4 of Section 20, T2N, R30E.

W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 20, T2N, R30E.

S 1/2 of the N 1/2 and the S 1/2 of the N 1/2 of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, T2N, R30E.

S 1/2 of Sections 22, 23, 24, T2N, R30E.

E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21, T2N, R30E.

E 1/2 of the E 1/2 of Sections 28 and 33, T2N, R30E.

E 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 4, T1N, R30E.

Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, T2N, R30E.

N 1/2 of Sections 2 and 3, T1N, R30E.

Curry County, New Mexico

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18, T1N, R31E.

West 1/2 and the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Sections 30 and 31, T2N, R31E.

SW 1/4 of Section 19, T2N, R31E.

S 1/2 and S 1/2 of the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 19, T2N, R31E.

SW 1/4 of the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 19, T2N, R31E.

W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 19, T2N, R31E.

APPENDIX C

WATER WELLS

This appendix contains the locations and known owners of wells in the proposed expansion area.

LOCATION	OWNER
1. 2N 31E 31 221	Hart Ranch
2. 2N 30E 19 412	Harris Cattle Co.
3. 2N 30E 23 423	Unknown
4. 2N 30E 25 432	Jack Simon
5. 2N 30E 25 441	Hart Ranch
6. 2N 30E 26 442	Nolan Lawrence
7. 2N 30E 26 442	H. L. Harral
8. 2N 30E 27 132	Bob Jenkins
9. 2N 30E 27 234	Bob Jenkins
10. 2N 30E 31 233	Harris Cattle Co.
11. 2N 30E 31 343	Robert Grider
12. 2N 30E 31 344	Robert Grider
13. 2N 30E 33 314	Davis Bros.
14. 2N 30E 33 434	Unknown
15. 2N 30E 34 121	Bob Jenkins
16. 2N 30E 34 141	Bob Jenkins
17. 2N 30E 39 341	Bob Jenkins
18. 2N 30E 34 432	Bob Jenkins
19. 2N 30E 35 332	Bob Jenkins
20. 2N 30E 35 432	Bob Jenkins
21. 1N 31E 17 132	Lenord Bigler
22. 1N 31E 17 341	Lenord Bigler
23. 1N 31E 17 441	Lenord Bigler
24. 1N 31E 18 224	Harris Cattle Co.
25. 1N 30E 01 212	Harris Cattle Co.

LOCATION	OWNER
26. 1N 30E 02 443	Unknown
27. 1N 30E 03 213	Guar Tex Inc.
28. 1N 30E 04 231	Davis Bros.
29. 1N 30E 05 123	Russel Grider
30. 1N 30E 06 212	Robert Grider
31. 1N 30E 06 222	Robert Grider
32. 1N 30E 07 211	Robert Grider
33. 1N 30E 13 223	State of NM
34. 1N 30E 13 314	Jim Grizzle
35. 1N 30E 13 414	Grayum Steele
36. 1N 30E 15 322	J. J. Steele
37. 1N 30E 24 114	H. H. Davis
38. 1N 30E 24 114	Steele Ranch
39. 1N 30E 30 111	H. H. Davis
40. 1N 30E 31 313	H. H. Davis
41. 1N 30E 32 344	H. H. Davis
42. 1N 30E 32 344	H. H. Davis
43. 1N 31E 20 321	J. J. Steele
44. 1N 30E 33 211	J. J. Steele
45. 1S 30E 06 111	H. H. Davis
46. 1S 30E 18 221	A. J. Parker
47. 1S 30E 23	F. L. Martin

APPENDIX D

RESPONSES OF WILDLIFE AND FARM ANIMALS TO LOW LEVEL MILITARY JET OVERFLIGHT

Response of Wildlife and Farm Animals to Low Level Military Jet Overflight

by Lewis R. Shotton

Reviewers of Air Force proposals for new low level training routes and military operating areas frequently express concern regarding the effect of jet noise on wildlife and farm animals. Repeated exposure to loud noises can be an irritant for humans. However, we must be careful not to assume animal responses to noise are analogous to human responses. Review of this issue is important in responding to these concerns.

Most published studies regarding the effects of jet aircraft noise on wildlife and other animals deal with sonic booms (generated by supersonic flight). A review of reports dealing with subsonic, low altitude, jet aircraft overflights suggests that animals, unaccustomed to jet aircraft noise, generally respond in the same manner as they do to sonic booms. Responses range from a momentary pause or alteration of behavioral activity to a startle reaction followed by running (or flight). The apparent similarity in animal responses to jet overflight less than 1500 feet above ground level and sonic booms (usually generated at altitudes higher than 8000 feet above ground level) is not surprising. In both instances, the noise is usually loud, sudden and of relatively short duration. (Keep in mind the purpose of low level flying tactics is to surprise the opposing forces.) For comparative purposes, the noise level from an F-4 at 200' slant distance, operating at cruise power and 300 knots indicated air speed is about 144 dB(C), whereas sonic boom noise level from air combat maneuvering operations ranges from 111 to 116 dB (C).

On the other hand, differences in noise from low level subsonic overflight and higher altitude supersonic overflight include the increased duration of noise from a low level overflight, the greater probability that noise from low level overflights will be accompanied by visual perception of the aircraft and the broad band frequency distribution for jet engine noise (about 200—20,000 Hz) versus the low frequency noise of sonic booms (with most of the sound energy between 15-50 Hz).

Cottereau (1978) summarized studies regarding the effects of sonic booms on wildlife and farm animals. Reported studies reached the following conclusions:

a. Deer on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., show no apparent response to sonic booms.
b. Except for a group of young chimpanzees, the reactions of London Zoo animals to sonic booms are negligible. (The term negligible was not expanded upon.) Chimpanzees showed a "tendency toward fright."
c. Sonic booms with overpressures of about 1.25 lbs/sq ft caused a slight startle effect among reindeer confined in a one acre corral. Reactions were more noticeable when boom overpressure increased to about 4 lbs/sq ft; however none of the lying or resting animals arose.
d. Ravens converged or flocked immediately following exposure to a chance sonic boom. They began to disperse within 10 minutes
e. Wild pheasant and quail egg production and hatching success were unaffected by simulated booms.
f. Sonic booms appear to have no effect upon fish.
g. The hatchability of chicken eggs, exposed to over 600 booms at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, was not affected.
h. Sooty Tern eggs failed to hatch after chance exposure to sonic booms. Three very intense sonic booms (overpressures unrecorded) may have caused embryo damage due to egg abandonment or physical damage to uncovered eggs.
i. A sonic boom test conducted at Edwards AFB, Calif., revealed minimal responses from horses, cattle and sheep. Poultry responded by occasionally flying, running, crowding and cowering.
j. Cattle responded to sonic booms by briefly

EDITOR'S NOTE: [illegible] are listed at the end of this [illegible]

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stopping or altering their current behavioral activity. Milk yield was not affected. Semen quality or quantity was not changed. Calves were born at term after sonic boom exposure during the first month of pregnancy.

k. Sheep responded to sonic booms by briefly stopping or altering their behavioral activity. Running together was observed but there was no panic or injury.
l. Pigs stopped their current activity and remained quiet for a few seconds when exposed to a sonic boom.
m. Horses (especially purebreds) have been reported to jump and/or gallop in response to a sonic boom.
n. Repeated exposure to sonic booms caused no signs of disturbance or deleterious effects on reproduction related activity in mink.

Many wild animals appear to acclimate easily to low-level jet overflights. Fletcher (1977) recognizes this by pointing out that if aircraft engine noise was aversive to wild animals, areas around large airports would be devoid of wildlife. Actually, large airports often provide habitat for a high diversity of wildlife species. At some Air Force installations (bases and bombing/gunnery ranges) management of wildlife populations is a major aspect of intense programs for multiple use of natural resources. In many instances the concentrations of birds create a hazard to aircraft landing and taking off (e.g. Fisher, J. 1978). This conclusion is supported by experience with Air Force programs to reduce the probability of a bird or deer collision with aircraft taking off or landing. Discouraging use of areas adjacent to runways by birds and other wildlife is a difficult task. Techniques involving loud aerial burst of pyrotechnics are only temporarily effective.

Milligan (1980) indicates that a review of scientific studies and his own experience as a veterinarian and poultry scientist supports the conclusions quoted below:

a. Sound has no effect on hatching success of quail eggs.
b. Sonic booms do not affect embryonic mortality in quail.
c. The hatchability of chicken eggs is unaffected by sonic booms.
d. Sound has no effect on spermatogenesis

in roosters, growth of chickens or hatchability of eggs.

e. Repeated sonic booms have no effect on hatchability of eggs of free-living wild birds.
f. Pressures sufficient to break eggs are approximately one order of magnitude greater than those that can be expected from sonic booms.
g. Poultry exposed to sonic booms experience a startle reaction and cease activity for 20—30 seconds after each boom.
h. Starlings, skylarks, linnets, ravens, and condors all display startle reactions to sonic booms.
i. Mallard, tufted, and eider ducks show a startle reaction to sonic booms and feeding activities are briefly interrupted.
j. Raptorial and songbirds also show a startle reaction to sonic booms.
k. Brooding behavior of terns, chickens and domestic turkeys is affected by sonic booms, but there is no effect on the eastern wild turkey.
l. Sonic booms have no effect on pheasant egg production.
m. Egg production in domestic turkeys is unaffected by noise.
n. Poultry scientists are convinced that sonic booms have no effect on egg production.

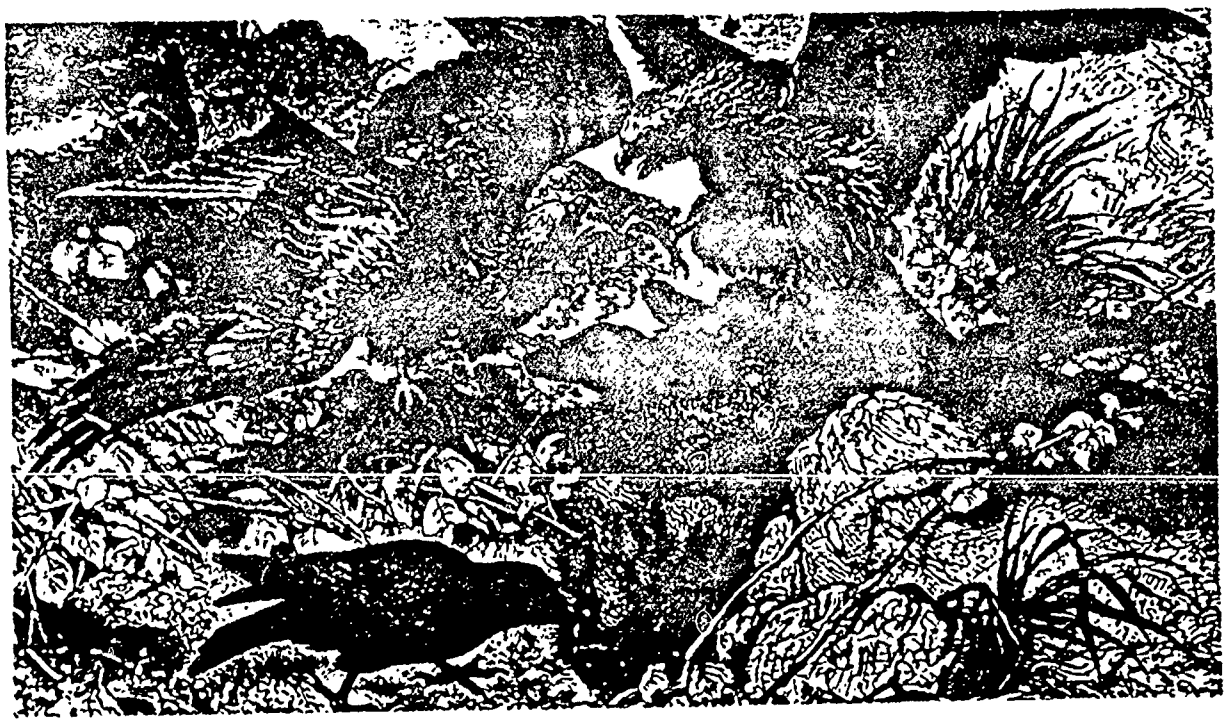
A two year study conducted by Ellis (1981), under cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Air Force, involved nearly 1000 low level jet aircraft passes at 47 breeding sites of eight species of birds of

prey (including the endangered Peregrine Falcon) to record responses to low-level jets and sonic booms. Ellis' conclusions regarding low level passes are:

a. Small nestlings do not noticeably respond.
b. Large nestlings may cower or flee (within the nest area) when military jets pass at distances of 100 meters or less.
c. Large nestlings are alerted, but show no alarm when jets pass at distances greater than 300 meters.
d. Adults are usually alerted or alarmed by jets passing closer than 300 meters. At times adults ignore even the closest aircraft. On rare occasions adults flee when a jet approaches to within 300 meters.
e. Aircraft passing nestling sites at distances greater than 500 meters are ignored or casually watched by adults.
f. Adult behavior indicative of site abandonment was not observed. In no case was nestling death or aerie abandonment implicated.
g. Nesting success and second-year reoccupancy rates were high for all aeries.

In a contracted report for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Dufour (1980) reviewed studies regarding effects of noise (all sources) on animals. Synopsized study results (not previously covered in this article) dealing with the effects of jet engine noise on animals indicated the following:

a. Swine repeatedly exposed to recorded aircraft noise of 120 to 135 dB (frequency weight scale not reported) experienced no injury to the inner ear. Temporary physiological responses reported in other studies using recorded aircraft noise included increased heart rate, excess secretion of the hormone aldosterone and "severe" retention of water and sodium in young castrated males. However, there were no effects regarding feed utilization, rate of weight gain, food intake, or reproduction.
b. Milk production in 182 cow herds within three miles of eight Air Force Bases was compared over a period of one year to herds not exposed to jet noise. There was no significant difference in milk production.
c. Fertilized chicken eggs exposed to jet aircraft noise hatched normally and the quality of chicks hatched was unaffected.
d. Weight gain, feeding efficiency, meat tenderness and yield, and mortality of chicks frequently exposed to recorded aircraft flyover noise were not affected.
e. Infrequent exposure of chicks to over-



. flight noise did not effect weight gain or feeding efficiency.

f. Turkeys exposed to recorded jet engine noise for four minutes in the third day of broodiness resumed egg laying.

g. Studies done near airports in France indicate that wild rabbit populations are not affected by aircraft noise.

Many long term exposure effects and physiological responses remain to be studied; however, there are numerous examples of wildlife populations (including endangered species) that live in apparent harmony with long term exposure to low level jet overflights. The endangered Brown Pelican and numerous other wildlife species utilize a mangrove swamp habitat on either side of the approach end of the main runway at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. Fighter jet aircraft routinely pass about 300 to 800 feet above feeding or roosting Brown Pelicans. Pelicans and other wild animals show no behavioral response to the overflights. Animals on the Nellis, Luke and Eglin Air Force Ranges have been exposed to low level jet aircraft noise for over 25 years with no apparent effects. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service records show the age structure and population count of bighorn sheep on the Nellis Air Force Range have not significantly changed (McQuivey, 1978). Over the past two decades the "wild" horse population on the Nellis Air Force Range has grown from approximately 200 to an estimated 6,000 horses. On the Luke Range, falcons nest in low level corridors where jets frequently pass very close to the surface (Ellis, 1981). Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on the Eglin Air Force Reservation appear to be unaffected by frequent low level jet overflight. Cattle grazing in close proximity to target complexes on the Avon Park Air Force Range show no behavioral response while jet aircraft make low level target passes.

Reported scientific observations and studies regarding the effects of low level jet overflight on animals are not conclusive. There may be circumstances when it is prudent to avoid low level overflight of wildlife or other animals. For example, a confined farm animal may injure itself or other animals if startled by any noise. However, the preponderance of information on this subject indicates that wildlife and farm animals do not suffer major or long-term adverse effects from low level military jet overflight.

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APPENDIX E

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Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, proposed to increase the size of the Melrose Air Force Range from 22,120 to 77,120 acres. The expansion will increase the number of targets and attack headings to alleviate existing training deficiencies. In addition, the expansion will eliminate existing safety restrictions on maneuvers. The primary public concerns associated with the proposed action are socio-economic, focusing mainly on loss of mineral and water rights, land, and tax revenues, and on decreased viability of two small school districts. The primary environmental concerns were over lack of knowledge of (and therefore threat of inadvertent damage to) archaeological/cultural sites. If the proposed action were adopted, air and water quality would not change, and noise impacts would improve somewhat on the east side of the range. There would be minor negative effects on soil and vegetation caused by expanding the target arrays. A few families would be forced to relocated. Some of the mineral resources would remain undeveloped, and small loses in local tax revenue would occur.

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