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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/2/09

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HM 3

SHORT TITLE Study White Sands Missile Range Size Increase SB _____

ANALYST Lucero

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of Military Base Planning and Support

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 3 requests that the Legislative Council assemble a task force to study the impact of doubling the size of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR); to create a preliminary plan for transportation, school, and wastewater and water improvements; and to coordinate information and recommendations with existing local groups convened to analyze similar problems.

The task force shall examine issues including education, roads and transit, and other infrastructure needs, as well as the need for an interstate compact.

The task force shall report to the appropriate interim Legislative committee by October 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial has no appropriation; however, implementing the directives contained in this bill may have a minimal administrative impact including staff time and appropriate supporting resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Office of Military Base Planning and Supports notes:

WSMR is a historic test and evaluation facility, with various organizations from the three major military services involved in test and evaluation, or other research and development activities. WSMR reports to the Army Developmental Test Command, but tenant/associate units have other higher headquarters: the Navy unit reports to Port Hueneme, California; the Air Force reports to the 46th Test Wing at Eglin AFB, FL; the Center for Counter Measures reports to the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the Army Research Laboratory Activities report to the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, Maryland; the TRADOC Analysis unit reports to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas; and the High Energy Laser Systems Testing Facility reports to the Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

The Army is in the process of locating an Engineering Battalion at WSMR, eventually growing to over 700 soldiers; and the Army has announced plans to locate a Heavy Brigade Combat Team at WSMR, with over 3,500 soldiers. This unit will become part of the Armored Division which will be located on Ft. Bliss.

Eventually, over 4,200 soldiers and accompanying family members will locate in southern New Mexico, with associated impacts on local housing, school systems, transportation networks, medical facilities/services, social services, and utilities.

This growth will undoubtedly occur on a regional basis, including Las Cruces, Alamogordo, possibly Chaparral, and other communities. Currently, 50% of people who work at WSMR live in Las Cruces; 20% in Alamogordo, 17% in El Paso, the remainder in other communities, or on post.

Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) is also experiencing a change in mission, with two squadrons of F-22 raptors being assigned, and a UAV training unit being established. The changes at Holloman will have an impact on Alamogordo, Tularosa, Las Cruces, and other smaller communities.

The Department of Defense (DOD), Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) supports communities with several programs which address the impacts resulting from mission changes at military installations. One of these programs is a "growth" grant issued to communities for the purpose of studying impacts on schools, transportation, medical facilities, transportation, social services, and utilities. Grants are provided on a 10% matching basis; the requesting governmental entity provides 10%, OEA provides 90%.

For several months, Dona Ana and Otero Counties, Las Cruces, and Alamogordo have been in discussions with the DOD OEA, and have established a Southern New Mexico Growth Committee (elected officials), a Southern NM Growth Organization (community leaders), and a Technical Committee. The City of Las Cruces will serve as the fiscal agent for the Southern NM Growth Committee/Organization, which includes grant application, RFP development and review, etc. Each of the four governmental entities will contribute to the 10% match according to population.