



Establishment of Low Altitude Training Area for Cannon AFB, New Mexico

Making Your Voice Heard: Details on Public Comment

The U.S. Air Force invites stakeholders to comment on issues related to the *Establishment of Low Altitude Training for Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, Draft Environmental Assessment*, through November 5, 2011.

The 27th Special Operations Wing (27 SOW) at Cannon Air Force Base is proposing that various types of C-130 and CV-22 Osprey aircraft train at night at low altitudes in northeastern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado in mountainous terrain separated from large human populations.

How to comment

27 SOW encourages stakeholders to contribute comments in person during one of 17 community forums, or in writing. Comments will be considered equally, whether presented orally or in writing.

Stakeholders may comment in person at any of seventeen community forums scheduled for the locations and dates below. Each forum will be held from 6-9 p.m. and include an open house, a brief presentation on the Draft EA, followed by formal public comment opportunity.

Albuquerque, NM Monday, Sept. 19 CNM Workforce Training Center 5600 Eagle Rock Ave, NE	Taos, NM Tuesday, Sept. 20 Kachina Lodge 413 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte	Espanola, NM Wednesday, Sept. 21 Santa Claran Hotel Mountain View Room 460 N Riverside Dr	Santa Fe, NM Thursday, Sept. 22 Santa Fe Community College Jemez Room 6401 Richards Ave
Alamosa, CO Monday, Oct. 3 Alamosa Family Recreational Center 2222 Old Sanford Rd	Raton, NM Tuesday, Oct. 4 Raton Convention Center 901 S 3rd St	Pueblo, CO Wednesday, Oct. 5 Central High School Media Center 216 E Orman Ave	Colorado Springs, CO Thursday, Oct. 6 Colorado Springs Senior Center 1514 N Hancock Ave
Aspen, CO Monday, Oct. 10 Aspen High School Seminar Room 235 High School Road	Durango, CO Tuesday, Oct. 11 Doubletree Hotel 501 Camino Del Rio	Montrose, CO Wednesday, Oct. 12 Montrose Pavilion 1800 Pavilion Dr	Gunnison, CO Thursday, Oct. 13 Western State College College Center Ballroom 600 N Adams St
Farmington, NM Friday, Oct. 14 San Juan Community College Henderson Fine Arts Bldg 4601 College Blvd	Santa Rosa, NM Monday, Oct. 17 Comfort Inn 2524 Historic Route 66	Las Vegas, NM Tuesday, Oct. 18 Highlands University Kennedy Lounge 905 University Ave	Clayton, NM Wednesday, Oct. 19 Golden Spread Community Center 110 Walnut Street
Tucumcari, NM Thursday, Oct. 20 Tucumcari Convention Center Ft Bascom Room 1500 West Historic Route 66	All Community Forums 6-9 p.m.		

Stakeholders may deliver written comments at any of these forums, or send them by regular mail, fax, or e-mail to:

**27 SOW/PA
110 E Sextant
Suite 1150
Cannon AFB, NM 88103**

Fax: 575-784-7412

**E-mail:
27SOW.PA.NEPA@cannon.af.mil**

For more information phone: 575-784-4131, or visit:
www.cannon.af.mil/library/environment.asp

The due date for comments is November 5, 2011.



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Making Your Comments Count: Helpful Hints

Commenting on environmental issues or documents as a private citizen can be daunting, especially if the issues are technical. Consider the suggestions below to help make it a little easier and more effective to participate in the *Establishment of Low Altitude Training for Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, Draft Environmental Assessment* public comment period.

Following scoping, ensure that you stay informed by collecting information on the issues, including laws, regulations, agency materials or guidance.

Once a draft document is issued, review the document, then make your comments. Explain how proposed actions may affect you. Give examples. Try to frame your comments in the context of environmental analyses contained in the Draft EA and include:

- Issues not addressed or addressed inadequately
- Accuracy, substantive errors, or omissions
- Consistency with other information
- Relevance to issues you consider important
- What you do support about the proposed action as well as what you don't

During scoping or a draft document comment period, write your comments, or make notes if you are presenting them orally. Cover the following:

- Establish your authority to comment, whether it is as a concerned citizen, representative of an interest group, or an expert. If you are an oral commenter, state your name first.
- For extensive comments, summarize your major concerns first, then describe them in detail.
- If you are recommending changes to a document, suggest specific language when possible.
- If you believe technical information contained in the Draft EA or other resource document is in error or inadequate, cite the reference and explain why. Provide copies of back-up material.
- Offer solutions – draw on your expertise as an “interested stakeholder” to suggest innovative ideas.

Consider these format and style suggestions:

- Start by offering general or summary comments
- Even if you are commenting orally, use headings, topic sentences, and short sentences
- Avoid asking questions – rather, pose your questions as comments to be considered
- Be respectful of your fellow commenters and agency representatives

Finally, understand comment deadlines and processes. Find out how your comments will be used and considered and how responses will be provided.

Note: *Excerpted and adapted from “The Art of Commenting: How to Influence Environmental Decisionmaking with Effective Comments” by Elizabeth Mullin (Environmental Law Institute 2000), available at www.eli.org.*