

Cannon

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (AFSOC)



George R. Omley, P.E.
Chief, Environmental Branch
Installations and Mission Support Directorate
427 Cody Avenue, Suite 225
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5434



Ron Curry
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold S. Runnels Building
1190 St Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Curry

The United States Air Force (Air Force) is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a proposal to transfer certain Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) equipment and personnel to Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

The Air Force proposes to transfer aircraft and personnel from Hurlburt Field, Florida, or other existing operational locations to Cannon AFB. Potential AFSOC assets to beddown include aircraft, weapons systems, equipment, and personnel. Growth is planned through Fiscal Year 2013 at Cannon AFB, and AFSOC proposes to begin utilizing Melrose Air Force Range (AFR), existing training airspace, and existing Military Training Routes from Cannon AFB.

The proposed action will consider moving approximately 90 aircraft and approximately 3,500 personnel to Cannon AFB. AFSOC is considering what aircraft and other equipment to base at Cannon AFB, how best to utilize existing facilities, and what facilities will need to be modified or built. It is possible that additional facilities may need to be constructed at Melrose AFR. Locations for outlying drop zones within or outside of Melrose AFR, or water training within two hours travel from Cannon AFB may also be identified for training use. The impacts from the proposed actions and alternatives will be considered in the EIS.

The Air Force will hold a series of scoping meetings to solicit public input concerning the scope of the proposed action and alternatives, as well as to help identify other concerns and issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Scoping meetings will be held at the

locations shown in the table below. During the meetings, the Air Force will describe the proposed action and all alternatives, the National Environmental Policy Act process, and outline the opportunities for public involvement in the process. We look forward to receiving your comments as part of this process.

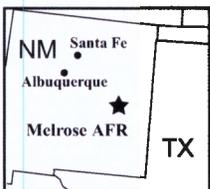
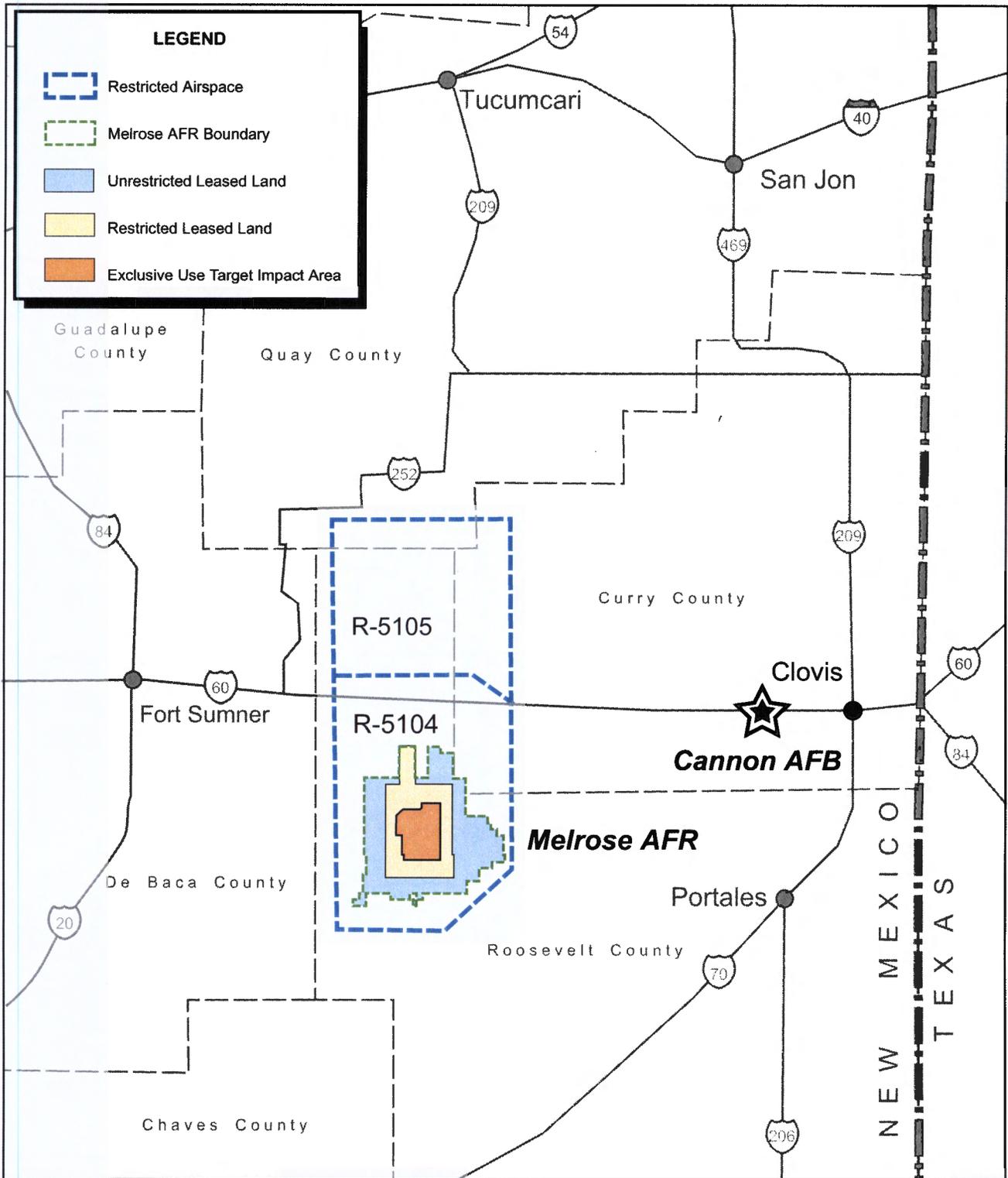
| Schedule for Scoping Meetings | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| Monday, September 18, 2006 6 to 8 p.m. | Clovis | Clovis Community College, 417 Schepps Blvd. |
| Tuesday, September 19, 2006 6 to 8 p.m. | Clayton | Clayton High School, 323 South Fifth Street |
| Wednesday, September 20, 2006 6 to 8 p.m. | Fort Sumner | Fort Sumner Community House, 137 East Baker Avenue |

In an effort to analyze the potential impact of this proposed action, the Air Force or its contractors may be contacting you in their data collection efforts. In advance, we thank you for your assistance in this activity. If you have any specific concerns about the proposal, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the AFSOC Project Manager, Mr. Carl T. Hoffman, at the above address. Mr. Hoffman can be reached at (850) 884-5984. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



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Map of Affected Areas



Vicinity Map of Cannon AFB and Melrose Air Force Range (AFR)

