MEMORANDUM FOR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES

FROM: 49 CES/CC
550 Tabosa Avenue
Holloman AFB NM 88330-8458

SUBJECT: Temporary Relocation of Two F-16 Squadrons to Holloman Air Force Base (AFB), NM

1. The United States Air Force is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with temporarily relocating two squadrons of F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft (total of 45 aircraft), currently based at Hill AFB, UT, either together or separately, to a location or locations currently hosting a F-16 Flying Training Unit (FTU).

2. The purpose of and need for this action is the temporary (approximately 5 years) relocation of F-16 aircraft to make room for F-35 aircraft bedding down at Hill AFB, while continuing F-16 pilot training during the selection and preparation of permanent F-16 FTU beddown location(s). Actions to support this relocation, include renovation of existing facilities and training in existing military airspace and ranges. No new military construction and no significant ground disturbance would occur.

3. The EA will consider the potential impacts of this proposed action and assess installations that meet the requirements to host the F-16 FTU. Alternative 1 is Holloman AFB, NM and Alternative 2 is Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Lackland (Kelly Field), TX. The No-Action Alternative will also be considered. Maps depicting the location of Holloman AFB and facilities that would support the F-16 FTU are included as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

4. The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.), the Council of Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, and the Air Force’s Environmental Impact Analysis Process, 32 CFR 989. As part of this EA, we request your assistance in identifying potential areas of environmental impact to be assessed in the study.

5. If you have any specific items of interest about this proposal, please contact Mr. Andrew Gomolak, 49 CES/CEIE, 550 Tabosa Avenue, Holloman AFB, NM 88330-8458, by e-mail to andrew.gomolak@us.af.mil, or at (575) 572-6647 within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

2 Attachments:
1. Holloman AFB Location Map
2. Map of Facilities Supporting the F-16 FTU Interim Relocation
Oscura, Red Rio, and Centennial Training Range Locations

Attachment 1
MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: 54 FG/CC

SUBJECT: Interagency/Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP)

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) F-16 Formal Training Unit (FTU) use of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) R-5111 C/D airspace.

2. The ProposedAction is to expand the F-16 training areas into available restricted airspace to support pilot production goals. F-16s are currently prohibited from utilizing R-5111 C/D airspace. R-5111 C/D is situated west of and adjacent to R-5111 A/B, and both are west of the WSMR R-5107 airspace (see Attachment 1, Proposed Action Area). If this EA finds F-16 flight in R-5111 C/D will not result in significant impacts to human health or the environment, this airspace can be made available. In that case, R-5111 A/B/C/D combined would provide adequate space for syllabus required maneuvers.

3. The EA will assess the potential consequences associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives. It will examine the cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably predictable future proposals. We request your input to identify general or specific issues or areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EA.

4. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public and agency input in the preparation of the Draft EA, please submit comments to Mr. Andrew Gomolak at 550 Tabosa Avenue, Holloman AFB, NM 88330-8458 or andrew.gomolak@us.af.mil within 30 days from the date of receiving this letter.

5. If you have any questions about the proposal, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mr. Andrew Gomolak, Cultural Resources Manager/NEPA Advisor, at (575) 572-3931. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

KEEN.JAMES.RUSSELL
SELL.1129178112
JAMES R. KEEN, Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 Attachments:
1. Proposed Action Map
2. IIICEP Distribution List