

Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Technical Committee Meeting #3

Project: Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Date/Time: 12/17/08 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: Building 7252, Combat Communications
Elmendorf AFB

Reporter: Nicole McCullough, WHPacific

Participants:

Emerson Krueger, MSB PM

Kelly Singh, WHPacific

Lauren Kruer, MSB

Lt Col Daryl Peterson, AKARNG-AVN

Nicole McCullough, WHPacific

Colonel Andrew Mamrol, AKARNG

Diana Rigg, WHPacific

Meeting Summary: Emerson Krueger, Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) project manager, opened the meeting with a brief overview of the project. Lt Col Daryl Peterson was sitting in for Col Doehl. Emerson reviewed the agenda and explained that we plan to present information collected to date and ask for comments on an initial implementation plan.

Nicole McCullough, WHPacific reviewed the schedule and reviewed chapters 1 and 2 and the issues known to date.

Communication with Public - Lt Col Peterson explained that he had tried to get to the Glacier View public meeting this summer but was stopped by construction. He has met with them in the past about noise complaints and is regular contact with Rick, the community council president. He has met with other groups in Glennallen and Chickaloon.

Lt Col Peterson said there seems to be a misunderstanding from many members of the public about how the military operates. He said they have to file a flight plan with the FAA if they are flying in IFR but not in VFR conditions. The local pilots would not be informed either way. He said that when they are in that area they are generally on a rescue mission. He says the Air Guard does not fly so low as to shake the shingles as was suggested from residents of the Glacier View area.

Colonel Mamrol agreed that they did not train in the Glacier View area. Tahnetta Pass is an area where traffic is constricted and there are rules about how to fly safely through that area. As for communication, the radio frequencies are laid out in the Alaska Supplement and should not be a problem.

Low Level Training Area 4 (LLTA4) - We discussed the drop zones and landing zones. Lt Col Peterson said we were missing some regular drop zones on our maps and he will provide us with the Latitude and Longitudes of them. He did not know which ones the Army Guard used. Communication between the Army and Air National Guard is limited. He explained that the drop zones are used by fixed wing aircraft or rotary aircraft to drop personnel or a small amount of supplies. They are picked up by rotary aircraft. The landing zones are used extensively by rotary aircraft. There are also numerous Bravo points which are used for navigation are also in the LLTA4.

LATN – Lt Col Peterson said that 99% of their training is done in the LATN, not in the areas to the east like Glacier View. If they are in this area it is probably a rescue. Col Mamrol would like the report to indicate this.

Noise - All noise complaints in the study area come to Lt Col Peterson and he addresses or forwards to the correct person. He said that the 11th Air Force Airspace Handbook indicates the flight exclusions for noise/flight sensitive areas for the Military Operation (MOA) areas in Alaska. These noise sensitive areas include areas requested by civilians as well as Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA).

MSB Regulatory Changes – We discussed the need to consider areas that may be appropriate for the Borough to re-zone or to create a noise overlay zone. Two areas were discussed; near Port McKenzie and in the LLTA4.

Port McKenzie – At the port, the 65 DNL noise contour impacts a few lots in two subdivisions. This noise contour also includes the Special Use District at the port but the type of land use in this area is compatible.

By placing at least an informational Noise Overlay Zone on the subdivision, potential buyers would be informed that they may experience military aircraft noise. Lauren asked why not expand the Noise Overlay Zone to include more than the few lots impacted in case that contour ever expanded. Lt Col Peterson and Col Marmol did not think this was likely to happen, certainly not in the foreseeable future. Lauren said they are currently working on instituting zoning in different parts of the Borough and thought it would be easier to expand that area while they are creating it rather than trying to come back and add it later.

Diana advised the Borough to consult Counsel before expanding the Noise overlay zone beyond the 65 DNL. She thought that may not be legal. Nicole said that in Fairbanks they wanted to be conservative so the Borough successfully created their Noise overlay zone to the 60 DNL even though the guidelines say that residential use within that contour is acceptable. She also said that you have to deal with the fact that the noise contour may bisect lots and so you may have to consider that as you develop your boundaries.

LLTA4 – We discussed the need to provide some sort of protection for the landing and drop zones at the LLT4. Lauren said that she felt now was a good time to protect this area, before it got developed. Both Lt Col Peterson and Col Marmol did not think there was a need to worry about protecting the Bravo Points.

Nicole discussed some areas where more information is needed, including the following:

Air Force

What is the current and future number of personnel at EAB? (military and civilian). How are operations expected to change in the future? (Col Marmol suggested contacting Valerie)

Army

Does the Post still have 3,300 soldiers and over 3,200 family with 1,200 civilian employees? Is this statement correct? – 1,700 more troops are anticipated by 2010 with 2,400 military family members. This includes 579 soldiers of the Maneuver Enhancement Brigade being relocated to the Post in 2010. (This is the type of information needed for all)

How are operations expected to change in the future?

Army National Guard

What is the current and future number of personnel?

How often are the landing and drop zones used and which ones are used?

How are operations expected to change in the future?

Air National Guard

What is the current and future number of personnel?