

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 11-09**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL COMMENTING ON THE SCOPING PORTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONCERNING PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RANGES, AIRSPACE, AND TRAINING AREAS IN THE JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX IN ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army are proposing to modernize, enhance, and expand the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex; and

WHEREAS, proposed action number one (expanding operating area) and proposed action number four (expanding hours of operation) would affect areas and communities within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, including the City of Wasilla, the State of Alaska's fastest growing city with a population of approximately 10,000; and

WHEREAS, all the proposed alternatives considered for proposed actions one and four, except the no action alternative, consist of significant increases in combat flight training exercises within airspace in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and near the City of Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to horizontally expand the existing Fox 3 Military Operations Area (MOA) airspace southerly and easterly would extend to much of the Talkeetna Mountains as well as areas adjacent to the City of Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of the current "Fox 3 MOA" would enlarge the military operating area within Borough boundaries by an estimated 2,000 square miles; and

WHEREAS, there exists an abundance of wildlife resources within the area proposed for expansion; and

WHEREAS, many city residents and visitors depend upon the proposed expanded airspace below for accessing private and public lands via aircraft, for commercial enterprise such as air taxi operations, outfitting, hunter/hiker guiding, lodges, etc., and for various non-commercial, recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, food gathering, sightseeing, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to vertically expand airspace includes establishing airspace training areas between 500 feet Above Ground Level and 18,000 feet above Mean Sea Level; and

WHEREAS, low level military aircraft operations may present significant negative impact on the precarious moose population who range in the proposed area, as well as the Nelchina caribou herd, which is classified as Tier II Subsistence harvest only; and

WHEREAS, the area below the proposed expanded airspace is rich in natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed minimum limit of 500 feet Above Ground Level could negatively impact continued mineral exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, income derived from aircraft supporting exploration and development equates to millions of dollars in local revenue; and

WHEREAS, proposed horizontal and vertical expansions would increase the probability of conflict between civilian and military aircraft; and

WHEREAS, proposed horizontal and vertical expansions would require the installation of numerous repeaters/towers for air to air communications; and

WHEREAS, proposed expanded airspace could include the flight of unmanned aircraft (drones) with changes to current Federal Aviation Administration regulations; and

WHEREAS, proposed action four alternatives could lengthen night time, flight training hours of operation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla City Council desires that the following concerns are addressed in the environmental impact statement for the proposed changes to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex regarding MOAs within the Matanuska Susitna Borough:

Economic effects on commercial activities dependent on natural resources/assets impacted by MOA training activity.

- A definition and scope of operation, including the duration and frequency of any operations.
- Noise effects on lifestyles and the peaceful enjoyment of residence and back country areas and for potential conflicts associated with noise.
- Noise, vibration and other potential effects on the existing population of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, particularly on residences, recreational and hunting areas.
- Noise, vibration and other potential effects on the projected rapidly expanding population of the City of Wasilla, particularly on residences, recreational and hunting areas.

- Noise effects on Dall sheep, moose, caribou, migratory birds, and other wildlife, particularly noise effects on feeding, birthing, nesting, migration of wildlife.
- Noise effects as a contributor to the creation of avalanches.
- Potential conflicts with civilian aviation, especially between high speed military fighter aircraft and relatively low, slow flying civilian aircraft.
- Potential conflicts and effects of siting and establishing radio communication repeaters/towers within or adjacent to military operating areas.
- Effects of expanded night flight training.
- Consequences of unmanned aircraft flights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army be requested to involve the City of Wasilla in the development of the proposal.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on February 28, 2011.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE L. SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

VOTE: Harris, Katkus, Menard and Woodruff in favor. Holler and Sullivan-Leonard absent.



**CITY OF WASILLA
LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT**

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 11-09: COMMENTING ON THE SCOPING PORTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONCERNING PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RANGES, AIRSPACE, AND TRAINING AREAS IN THE JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX IN ALASKA.

Agenda of: February 28, 2011

Date: February 16, 2011

Originator: Deputy City Clerk for Verne E. Rupright, Mayor

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Chief of Police	
	Public Works Director	
X	Finance Director	<i>[Signature]</i> 2/17/11
X	Interim Deputy Administrator	<i>[Signature]</i>
X	City Clerk	<i>[Signature]</i>

REVIEWED BY MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT: *[Signature]*

FISCAL IMPACT: yes\$ or no

Funds Available yes no

Account name/number: none

Attachments:
 Resolution Serial No. 11-09 (4 pp)
 Map of Proposed Actions (1 p)
 Proposed Action No. 1 (1 p)
 Proposed Action No. 4 (4 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City has been notified of a proposed military operation area modification and expansion. The proposed changes to military training activities requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is in a preliminary stage, the scoping stage, which is conducted prior to any environmental analysis. The purpose of the scoping stage is to identify relevant issues and interested parties to be considered in the analysis. The EIS will address a variety of options, including a no action alternative, in which the military would not implement the proposed action.

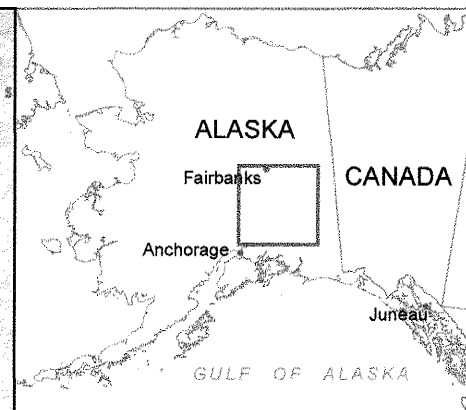
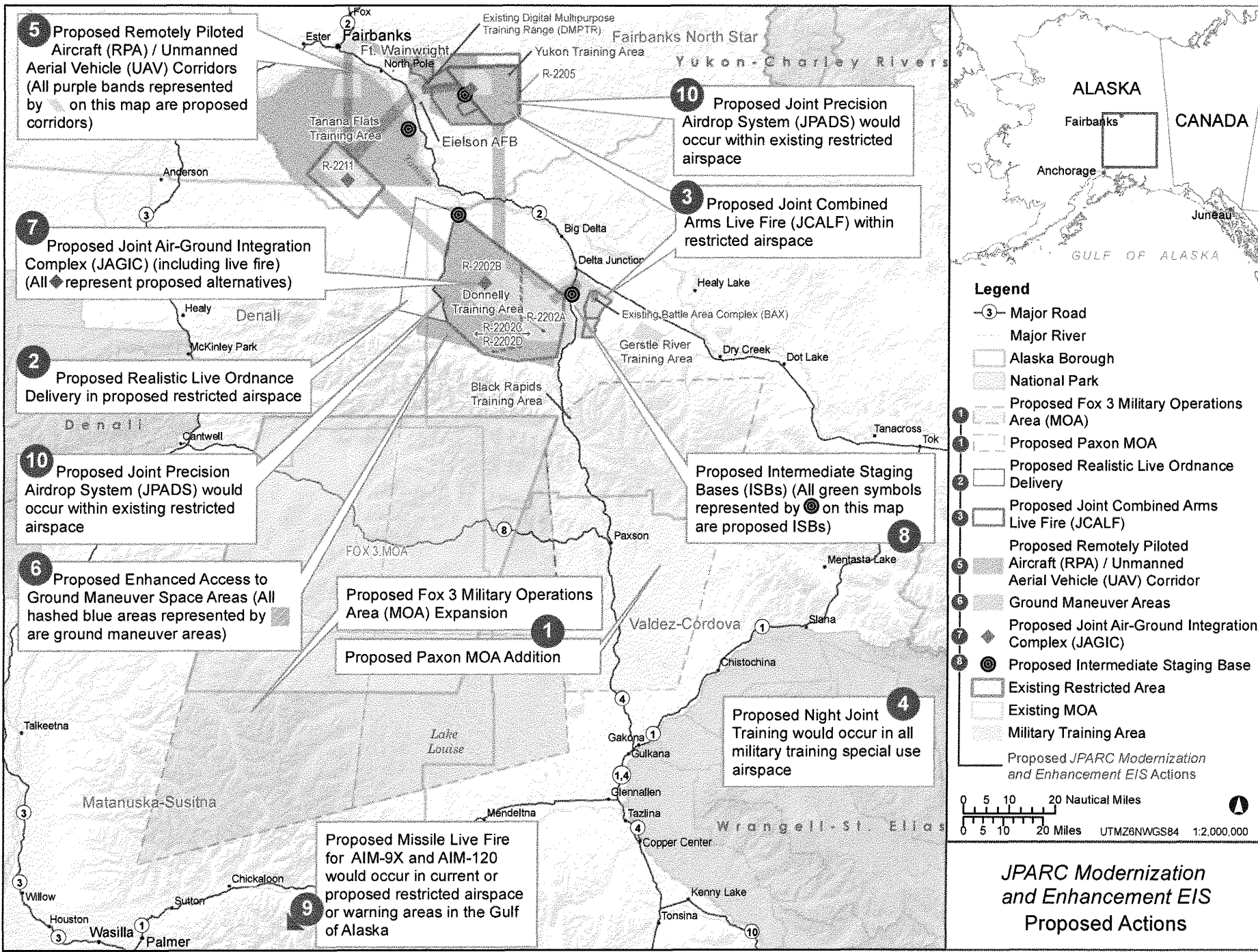
Proposed change number one would increase the airspace to the south and east and lower the flight deck from 5,000 feet above ground level to 500 feet above ground level in the FOX Military Operation Area. The proposed expansion of this area will include the Lake Louise Community and Lake Tyone. The southern boundary will be near the communities of Sutton and Chickaloon.

Proposed change number four would extend the night flight training hours from 10 PM up to two hours.

No other proposed changes appeared to have any effect within the Borough or on the City of Wasilla.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully requests the City Council review the attached information and adopt the attached resolution commenting on proposed modernization and enhancement of ranges, airspace, and training areas in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex.



Legend

- Major Road
- Major River
- Alaska Borough
- National Park
- Proposed Fox 3 Military Operations Area (MOA)
- Proposed Paxson MOA
- Proposed Realistic Live Ordnance Delivery
- Proposed Joint Combined Arms Live Fire (JCALF)
- Proposed Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) / Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Corridor
- Ground Maneuver Areas
- Proposed Joint Air-Ground Integration Complex (JAGIC)
- Proposed Intermediate Staging Base
- Existing Restricted Area
- Existing MOA
- Military Training Area
- Proposed JPARC Modernization and Enhancement EIS Actions

0 5 10 20 Nautical Miles

0 5 10 20 Miles UTMZ6NWGS84 1:2,000,000

JPARC Modernization and Enhancement EIS Proposed Actions



1 Proposed Fox 3 Military Operations Area (MOA) Expansion and New Paxon MOA

Proposed Action: The Army and Air Force propose to expand the Fox 3 MOA into a new proposed Fox 3, 4, 5, and 6 MOAs and to establish a new, adjacent Paxon MOA to provide the vertical and horizontal airspace structure needed to better accommodate low-altitude threat and multiple-axis mission activities during the JPARC training exercises.

Key Components: Expand the boundaries of the existing Fox 3 MOA, currently extending from 5,000 feet above ground level (AGL) up to, but not including, flight level (FL) 180 (18,000 feet above mean sea level [MSL]), to the south and east and subdivide it into four sectors, (proposed Fox 3, 4, 5, and 6 MOAs) with the newly expanded sectors extending from 500 feet AGL up to, but not including, FL180. Establish a new Paxon MOA, extending from 500 feet AGL up to, but not including, FL180, to adjoin the proposed expanded Fox 3 MOA to the east.

Alternative A - Includes the proposed expanded Fox 3 MOA (proposed Fox 3, 4, 5, and 6 MOAs) and the proposed new Paxon MOA with both the high- and low-altitude MOAs.

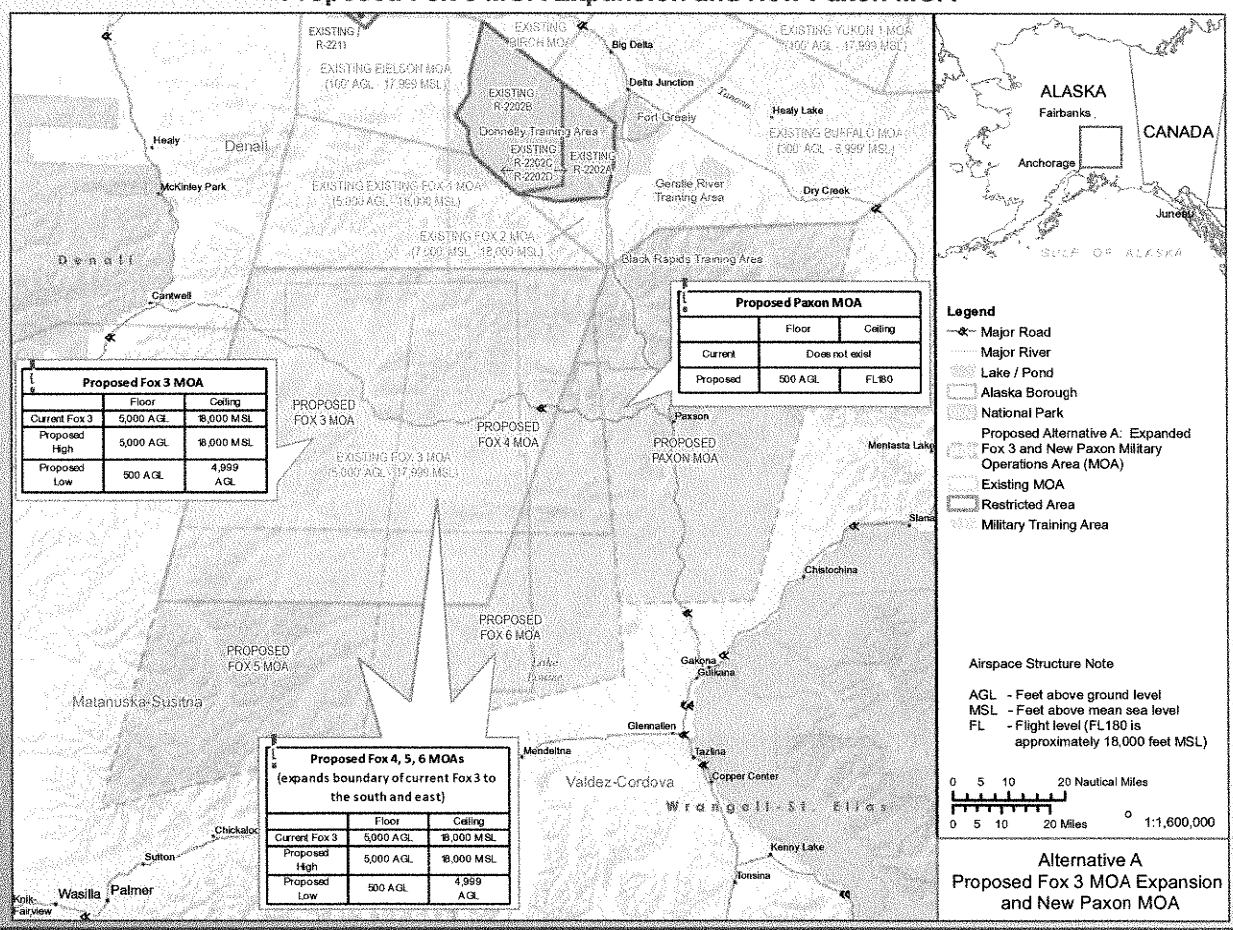
Alternative B - Includes only the Fox 3 MOA expansion (proposed Fox 3, 4, 5, and 6 MOAs as in Alternative A) but would not include the proposed new Paxon MOA.

Alternative C - Includes the Fox 3 MOA expansion (proposed Fox 3, 4, 5, and 6 MOAs) without the low-altitude MOA.

Alternative D - Proposes keeping the Fox 3 MOA boundaries the same as they currently exist, but separating the MOA into four subdivided sectors and high- and low-altitude strata. The low-altitude MOA stratum would extend from 500 feet AGL up to, but not including, 5,000 feet AGL. The high-altitude MOA stratum would match what currently exists.

No Action - No changes to current Fox 3 MOA and no proposed addition of Paxon MOA. This would not satisfy the requirement for multiple-axis, low-altitude threat training that is needed to effectively train with fifth-generation fighter aircraft. This alternative would continue to require distant travel, which would negate opportunities for potential energy savings.

Proposed Fox 3 MOA Expansion and New Paxon MOA





4 Proposed Night Joint Training:

Proposed Action: Proposes the extension of night, joint, flight training operating hours to allow after-dark events during major exercises.

Key Components: Key considerations applied for night joint training include: (1) that impacts on noise sensitive areas be minimized and (2) that existing MOAs be available for night training. Coordinated Universal Time would be considered, which would provide the time-use stability by remaining on the sun clock, as daylight savings time could be changed again.

Alternative A - Proposes to extend the special use airspace hours to 11:00 p.m. with landing by midnight, local time, to accommodate night training for major flying exercises during March and October. The hours are currently set to cease training activities by 10:00 p.m., with landing by 11:00 p.m., local time. The number of nighttime sorties is expected to remain the same, but the sorties would be divided between the months of March and October.

Alternative B - Proposes to extend the JPARC operating hours to allow tactical flight operations until midnight and landing by 1:00 a.m., local time, during March and October. This would allow night training during these months from a minimum of 1.5 hours to a maximum of 2.5 hours for each exercise.

Alternative C - Proposes the maximum extension of JPARC operating hours to allow tactical flight operations until midnight and landing by 1:00 a.m., local time, during all months of the year and for all training purposes, not just for military training exercises, as is the current situation.

No Action - Existing flight training would continue to allow a maximum of two night training exercises during October. It would not compensate for the extended length of daylight savings time into March and November, which impedes training during these months.

Proposed Areas for Night Joint Training

