

1 society. And to see an EIS in a magnitude of outlay of this in
2 such a credible body of -- there are so few credible bodies of
3 commentary anymore that are not talking and dodging points that
4 to see such a credible body as our military of which we have
5 conveyed the greatest hope and trust in not have an EIS
6 reference I think is -- needs to be addressed as a concern in
7 your next EIS.

8 And I think without getting -- doing some kind of sideshow
9 up here I should probably sit down and thank you for the
10 opportunity. I just can't stress enough that our societies are
11 going to be based upon energy and as complex and as cascading as
12 the problems are nest -- now that have become nested problems
13 with the proper amount of energy you can hold your family secure
14 while we take five to 10 years to settle these problems out.
15 You cannot do that with money, ladies and gentlemen. You cannot
16 eat the gold, you cannot eat the silver, you cannot eat the
17 money. Those are false constructs of pursuits which disconnect
18 you from understanding that all around you it is the wonders of
19 the universe which was our mission and we lost that mission.
20 And you are about to see that transform almost overnight if
21 these units come online in the next 18 months. And I assure you
22 there's more, but I can't get into the realm of that because of
23 the time constraints and -- but I -- but due to the -- your
24 accommodating me with your -- due to your generous
25 accommodation, I mean I'm beginning to feel particularly

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1 embarrassed here so I'll sit down.

2 But please, I think that it's imperative that you address
3 our more concrete values and those fundamental values are
4 individual freewill and complete and undeniable truth and if you
5 miss those along with the energy you will continue to have us in
6 a society that simply circles itself in some predatory mode of
7 disruption and lack of evolution. And so I think as a military
8 and a large body, a credible body, I am as obligated to bitch at
9 you as you are to lis -- to complain as you are to listen to me
10 in some ways and if I don't exercise that right then I'm as
11 guilty as those people who simply become disconnected and
12 suddenly push back in some malcontented position which harms
13 somebody. So.....

14 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

15 MR. KENDALL:I'll stop. Thank you very much.

16 COLONEL ORR: All right. Thank you. Anyone else? All
17 right. Well, on behalf of all current and future service
18 members I would like to thank each and every one of you for your
19 participation and input tonight. Alaska Command welcomes your
20 review and comments on the analysis contained in the Draft EIS.
21 Again, written comments can be substituted -- or can be
22 submitted by filling out a comment form tonight or mailing it to
23 the address on the comment form. Comments may also be submitted
24 via the website or by fax. All comments must be postmarked or
25 received by June 7th, 2012, to be considered in the final EIS.

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1 And if you haven't already done so, we encourage you to take a
2 look at the maps and other displays around the room. These
3 provide details on the individual proposals and we have someone
4 at each station to answer your questions. We appreciate the
5 time and JPARC and welcome your comments. That's why we're here
6 today. Thank you and this hearing is adjourned.

7 THE REPORTER: Off the record at 7:31 p.m.

8 (Off record at 7:31 p.m.)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
pages numbered 2 through 54 are a true, accurate and complete
transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held in Anchorage, Alaska, May 12, 2012, transcribed by
me from a copy of the electronic sound recording to the best of
my knowledge and ability.

5/16/12
Date

Nicolette Hernandez
Nicolette Hernandez

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M.4.6.2 May 14, 2012 Palmer, AK

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JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX

Public Comments

May 14, 2012

Palmer, Alaska

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On the record at 7:02 p.m.)

3 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. The hearing is scheduled to end
4 at 9:00 o'clock. Therefore I'm asking everyone's cooperation in
5 limiting your remarks to four minutes so that all who wish to
6 have the opportunity to speak within the time the facility is
7 available to us. And if you don't feel comfortable standing up
8 to make a statement you can make -- you can submit a written
9 comment here tonight using a comment form. You can also submit
10 comments until June 7th, 2012. Keep in mind that written
11 comments are given the same consideration as the verbal comments
12 offered here tonight.

13 Now to ensure that we get an accurate record of what you
14 have to say please help me by respecting the following ground
15 rules. First, please speak clearly and slowly into the
16 microphone and state only your name and any organization you
17 represent, if that applies. Please do not provide any other
18 personal information, such as your home address or phone number.
19 Your oral comments will be recorded verbatim, used to develop a
20 transcript and permanent record of this meeting and will be
21 published as a final EIS. The names of individuals making
22 comments, as well as their comments, will be disclosed in the
23 final EIS. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not
24 be published.

25 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to

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1 speak. In order to -- for each individual speaking to have the
2 full time allotted, audience members please be respectful of the
3 opinions offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate your
4 comments will extend beyond the time allotted please make the
5 most important comments first.

6 Third, if you have prepared a written statement you may
7 turn it in at the registration table or you may read it aloud if
8 you can do so within the four minute time limit. Please honor
9 any request that I make for you to stop speaking when you have
10 reached the four minute time limit. The timekeeper will hold up
11 a yellow card when you have 30 seconds left to assist you in
12 knowing when your allotted time is almost up so you can
13 comfortably conclude your remarks. When the red card is
14 displayed that means your four minutes are up and in the
15 interest of politeness and fairness to others who wish to speak
16 the speaker is asked to stop and return to his or her seat.

17 If there are no questions, we are ready to begin. The
18 first speaker for tonight is a Mr. Mike Wood.

19 MR. WOOD: Thank you again. Mike Wood, W-O-O-D.
20 Initially I asked the question about restricted areas that were
21 proposed just south of Delta and to the east of the highway.
22 Proposal A leaves a fairly wide corridor for VFR traffic going
23 north and south. It's the main route, we all know that, we've
24 (indiscernible) that area. Proposal B butts right up against
25 the highway, comes right close to the pipeline and it follows

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1 VFR traffic into an extremely small corridor that goes north or
2 south. If you've ever been in that area you more than know that
3 a lot of aircraft do not have radios. They go through there in
4 marginal weather and to put everyone in that small little
5 corridor is basically giving a high risk for the possibility of
6 a midair. I would like to see proposal B give an extra buffer
7 to take it further to the east of approximately maybe one
8 kilometer or even two kilometers. This way people who do follow
9 highways, and a lot do, will be able to know that they're well
10 clear of any restricted area.

11 As far as flying the pipeline, it is clear for us, however
12 I would still like to see it either 2202 (indiscernible),
13 proposed east restricted areas (indiscernible) so at least you
14 could go either to the west and stay away from the east
15 restricted area or vice versa.

16 As far as the MOA is concerned at Paxon, this area is not
17 supposed to be active as a MOA except under certain
18 circumstances. However, I believe 500 AGL for the base of it
19 when it is active is far, far too low. Many aircraft transit in
20 that area between Glenallen, Black Rapids, through the Alaska
21 Range or in through Tok and giving us only 500 feet when it is
22 active for all of us is just not enough. I would like to see a
23 base of 2,000 feet, but I would accept 1,000. And we must have
24 some form of radio communication such as there is to the north
25 where we can call up radar on -- on range rather on 125-3. They

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1 will tell us if they're active. If they're not, of course we
2 get the recording. If we have the same to the south that at
3 least you can actively find out if you're going into an active
4 MOA or not at the time that you are flying as opposed to doing
5 it the day before or the night before.

6 All in all I think the area, the MOA itself at Paxon being
7 500 and the undulating land between Summit, Black Rapids, it
8 undulates quite a bit, probably 1,500 to 2,000 feet. I would
9 like to see an MSL altitude and not an AGL. Thank you.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

11 COLONEL ORR: Our next speaker is Mr. William, I think he
12 goes by Bill, Folsom. Is he here?

13 MR. FOLSOM: Bill Folsom. I have several reasons that I
14 don't think that any of the MOAs in this corridor of the rail
15 belt should be activated, only on the military bases. There's
16 way too many reasons. We have a large population in the rail
17 belt now and there's a lot of hunting activity and fishing
18 activity and camping activity and what have you that goes on
19 that be accessed by the largest population area. You know,
20 hunting season from August 15th to October 15th would probably
21 be the outside parameters.

22 You currently have an MOA for a 5,000 foot fly zone in
23 part of the area that you're proposing. I've had friends that
24 have had some of the pilots come, they're not sure, 100 feet
25 above the top of them. And they don't see them, they hear them.

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1 I mean it's just kind of a shock when they go over. And so if
2 they are -- if they're breaking the 5,000 feet down to 100 foot
3 or whatever, the 500 feet is going to be put aside I'm sure.

4 Fish and Game I'm sure has all kinds of activities that
5 they would like to do in this area. When they are taking
6 surveys and their windows for taking surveys on game are very
7 narrow and to have them disrupted because of activity. I wrote
8 some of these down. You know, six events for 10 days each or 60
9 a year and then there was the Army would have 242 days if I
10 heard that right. And then there's 14 days per battalion. I
11 don't know how many battalions there are. So I'm not even sure
12 of the -- whether there's a weekend open in this thing. But I
13 think the whole operation except for your bases, if you want to
14 have a fly zone to do these things should be moved east now. I
15 was thinking west before, but east to the Wrangell St. Elias.
16 That's federal land and we can't go in there without a note from
17 God. So that would be a good place for you to take that
18 operation I think.

19 So I think that's about all I have. I just don't think
20 that it's advisable to put this right in the populated areas
21 accessible by the largest group of people in the rail belt. I
22 am the local chair of the Fish and Game Advisory for the Mat
23 Valley, however, and I think most of them will agree with
24 everything I've said, but we're going to get some consensus as a
25 group and put in some comments later. So I guess that's all I

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1 had to say. Thanks.

2 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Jim
3 Stocker. Is he here?

4 MR. STOCKER: Thank you, Colonel. For the record, my name
5 is Jim Stocker. And before I start my testimony or my comment
6 period I want to make something really clear to all the military
7 personnel here. Anything that I say please don't take it
8 personally. I have a high degree for all of you and for the
9 military itself and I know that this didn't come out of your
10 think tank. This probably came out of Washington somewhere,
11 somebody sitting at a desk that doesn't live here, doesn't
12 really understand the area, doesn't understand the issues.

13 But with that said, I've been here for 40 years. I've
14 been a pilot for 40 years. I have extensive time flying in this
15 proposed MOA or Military Operation Area 3 up in the Talkeetna
16 mountains, game management units 13 and 14. And when I first
17 heard about this, and I'll be up front about this, I don't know
18 a lot about it and I should know more about it. When you take
19 into consideration that the largest population of Alaska sits
20 right here in the Mat Su Valley in Anchorage and the playground
21 for the -- the epicenter of Alaska is the Kenai Peninsula and
22 the Talkeetna mountains. It's accessible -- let's talk about
23 the Talkeetna mountains, MOA 3 area and that little area that's
24 to the east of it there, that magenta area. It's accessible by
25 airplane, it's accessible by foot, it's accessible by boat, it's

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1 accessible for four-wheelers and by vehicles. That's the
2 playground for Alaskans right there and for somebody in
3 Washington to come down and want to put a military operation
4 right over the top of it is absolutely ludicrous. I cannot
5 believe that somebody would be so arrogant to do that. There's
6 areas in the state that would do just as fine as that area right
7 there. And Bill Folsom, you stole some of my thunder. The
8 Wrangell St. Elias National Park, I've been in it. There's
9 nobody there. It's empty. The Wrangell St. Elias gate to the
10 arctic, you've got the parks out to the west, the Lake Clark
11 Park, you have Mt. McKinley Park. You have all these federal
12 areas. This is a state -- mostly state property. Why don't you
13 think about taking those areas out to a federal park or taking
14 it out of this area. It doesn't belong here, this is wrong.
15 This is just totally wrong.

16 And I don't mean to be so outspoken, but I've been here
17 for a long time. I've been a guide. I know what goes on here.
18 I know how many caribou permits are given out, how many moose
19 are taken. I've been on the Board. I used to be the Fish and
20 Game advisory chairman here at one time and I've worked with
21 Fish and Game, I've worked with the biologists, I've worked and
22 done counts. This area right here is a very sacred area for
23 people that live in Alaska and, like I said, this is the
24 epicenter right here as far as hunting and fishing. Sure,
25 Alaska's big, but as we all know, if you want to hunt in the

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1 Brooks Range or you want to hunt out west or you want to hunt
2 down on the Alaska Peninsula it's a logistical nightmare, it
3 costs a fortune and it's not practical for a lot of people.
4 This area here should be left to Alaska, it should be left to
5 Alaskans. And again, nothing against the military, but this is
6 wrong and I would like to have the group of people here that
7 proposed this, you know, the people that really came up with
8 this idea in the first place because I'd really like to talk to
9 them.

10 But anyway, with that said, this is wrong and I don't
11 think it should be here. I think it should be moved and I think
12 this whole idea, this whole area of the military operation, MOA,
13 I see it on my flight map all the time, in this case three, Fox
14 3, and that other area should be changed and I think there
15 should be a great deal of consideration given to that. Thank
16 you.

17 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Rod
18 Arno.

19 MR. ARNO: Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My
20 name is Rod Arno, A-R-N-O. I'm the Executive Director of the
21 Alaska Outdoor Council which is a group of over 10,000 Alaskan
22 outdoors folks.

23 The Outdoor Council has looked over this plan and been
24 part of the process since the beginning. Our concerns remain
25 the same. It's been well pointed out that GMU-13 is one of the

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1 close accessible state land. The State only has about 24
2 percent of the land and this state is managed by the State.
3 Sixty-four percent of it is federal and 12 is private ANCSA
4 land. So this is extremely important to our membership for
5 hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational use of the Nelchina
6 basin.

7 The 500 foot lower level, you know, that's just totally
8 not going to work out just because of the way the Alaskans use
9 the aircraft for access up here. You know, what happens up in
10 GMU-20, which is another really important part of game
11 management and state land, well, you know, the military lands
12 there, you're -- you know, obviously you can do what you want on
13 those. But on this one little piece of state land here it's
14 extremely important for Alaskans to be able to access that.

15 Another point I'd like to make is in the last couple
16 decades I've participated in a number of EISs that the federal
17 government's put up, BLM, their resource management plans and
18 comprehensive conservation plans for refuges and I hope the same
19 standards are used by the military on their EIS as the standards
20 that are put on the Alaskans when we try to participate and
21 actively be on federal lands. Thank you.

22 COLONEL ORR: Our next speaker is Ms. Lisa Moorehead.

23 MS. MOOREHEAD: Lisa Moorehead, M-O-O-R-E-H-E-A-D. And I
24 have a cabin just south of the existing MOA 3. Is that what
25 it's called? Fox 3 Military Operations Area. Our recreational

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1 cabin's staked in a remote parcel staking 27 or eight years ago
2 and I go out there for peace and quiet. There's really not
3 anything else to say. I'd like it to stay that way. We
4 occasionally hear what are probably sonic booms from the
5 existing MOA and we would be probably encompassed in the
6 expansion. So my alternative would be a no action alternative
7 recommendation. Thank you.

8 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Peter
9 Probasco.

10 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah, I'm Peter M. Probasco and I have a
11 couple comments. The first one is about communications and I
12 have the draft copy of this plan and it is a very, very
13 difficult study I think from the perspective of many of us that
14 are civilians. I got out of the Air Force in 1960 and I was
15 never that familiar with that many acronyms then. But there are
16 five pages of acronyms that go with this draft copy and if you
17 start studying it, I took them out so I could refer to them all
18 the time, but it's very, very confusing. And I think when you
19 want to communicate something you need to do it with some
20 clarity and recognition to the audience you're trying to
21 communicate with and I thought that was very confusing. I think
22 there is more clarity with this meeting than the one we had last
23 fall in Wasilla at the Menard Center.

24 Another thing, the comments that the individuals have made
25 about this being the playground center and the aspects of this

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1 and the amount of it that's state land I think is very, very
2 significant. And I think state land is different from federal
3 land and is different from park land. Park land is federal
4 land. And I agree totally that there should be park land that's
5 part of this. Some of the park land is never even looked at by
6 anybody and it's not going to have any impact as far as
7 populations or probably not going to have any great impact on
8 our wildlife populations. But state land are -- have to be
9 managed supposedly in compliance with the Alaska Constitution
10 and so you need to take into consideration sovereignty of the
11 state.

12 And I think coordination was mentioned in one of the
13 presentations about coordination with FAA and a couple of other
14 entities. I think a coordination group should be actively
15 involved should be the department of Alaska Fish and Game
16 because game populations are very dynamic and the things that
17 game populations do is dynamic and what could be reasonably
18 acceptable one year may not be totally out of line the next year
19 because of changes in population, migrations, route and
20 everything else.

21 So I think all of these things -- I think it'd be very
22 important if there were clear statements in there that this has
23 been evaluated and assessments made by the Alaska Department of
24 Fish and Game.

25 Another concern, and coordination was a big one, but you

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1 talked about biological refer -- or biological resources and the
2 evaluation indicated in a couple cases that this was not
3 significant, the impact on the biological resource. I think
4 that if you evaluate a biological resource, be it caribou or
5 what, during calving season, during any stage of pregnancy, any
6 kind of impact, it's very significant. I know in domestic
7 animals it's not difficult to cause a whole flock of sheep to
8 abort by stress and I'm sure that the same thing can happen in
9 caribou and I'm sure with dall sheep. I don't know about moose,
10 whether they're prone to that sort of thing, but I think if you
11 harass them enough they do abort too.

12 So these are significant considerations that need to be
13 made and I think there needs -- you'd communicate much better if
14 there were references made in the publication that there were
15 assessments made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
16 coordination with other entities within the state clearly
17 stated. The fact that you went to studies is very, very good,
18 but where these studies came from, who made them and when is
19 very, very important. Thank you.

20 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Bob
21 Dittrick.

22 MR. DITTRICK: Thank you for letting me go on record. I'm
23 Bob Dittrick, D-I-T-T-R-I-C-K again.

24 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

25 MR. DITTRICK: And I was -- with my question earlier about

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1 the MOA 3 area and the groups of cabins which were included in
2 the new extension of it I was glad to hear that the -- there was
3 an alternative E that moves that over -- away from over the
4 heads of all the cabins that are out there. And so I would like
5 to support at least that, but I would like to go further and
6 support a non-alternative for that particular MOA because that
7 was -- I've had a cabin out there for 25 years and it was
8 presented by the state as a remote parcel and the reason we were
9 interested in having a cabin out there was to go out and live
10 remotely and quietly and sonic booms are going to be just a
11 short distance to the north of this sort of goes counter to the
12 reasons that we wanted to go out there to begin with. So I'd
13 like to support a no alternative or an alternative E at the
14 least.

15 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. All right. That is the last of
16 the comment cards that I have. Is there anyone here that hasn't
17 spoken that would like to give comments at this time?

18 MR. KREGER: Yes.

19 COLONEL ORR: All right. Come on up.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

21 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

22 MR. KREGER: Thank you, sir.

23 COLONEL ORR: All right.

24 MR. KREGER: My name is Frank Kreger, K-R-E-G-E-R, and
25 today I live in Wasilla. I don't have anything new to say.

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1 What I want to do is attempt to underscore some of the things
2 that have already been said. I would say it is not simply
3 inadvisable to do this, it is wrong. It is dead wrong. Not 99
4 percent, 100 percent. The federal government already has
5 control of 61 percent of this state. Do it there, period. End
6 of discussion. Go away now.

7 COLONEL ORR: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. HOLT: Hello. My name's Jean Holt, H-O-L-T, and I
9 just want to be put on the record that alternative E is not
10 enough. The border needs to move further north and -- because
11 there's too much at stake here and it is a recreational area and
12 that's what it has been and it should continue. But it should
13 -- the -- alternative E, the border needs to be moved further
14 north. Thank you.

15 COLONEL ORR: Is there anyone else that has not spoken
16 that would like to do so at this time? Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. MATTHEWS: My name is Beverly Matthews and I live at
18 Lake Louise and we have about 200 -- over 250 cabins up there.
19 Now in the summertime lots of people fly and they -- I don't
20 know that they fly 500 feet, but they're coming back and forth
21 to their cabins and this just isn't going to work. That's why
22 they like having property on the lake. It's a beautiful place
23 and we just got to get the military up higher.

24 COLONEL ORR: Okay. Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. KREGER: My name is Ann Kreger, K-R-E-G-E-R, and I

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1 agree with all that's been said so far for the most part. But
2 another thing that concerns me is a gentleman that we were
3 talking to back in the room when we first came in mentioned that
4 one of the reasons for the area that is under consideration, Fox
5 3, is because it is close, it's in close proximity to JBBER. It
6 would be cheaper, more economically feasible, for -- and more
7 cost effective to do training there, but I think for us as a
8 nation to look at something in terms of economic considerations
9 only and not human, animal and the land resources and sell out
10 for that reason is wrong. Thank you.

11 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Is there anyone else who hasn't
12 spoken that would like to do so at this time? All right. Those
13 of you that have already spoken, if you would like you have an
14 opportunity to use another four minute allotment if you'd like.
15 Come right on up.

16 MR. STOCKER: Thank you, Colonel. Once again, for the
17 record, my name is Jim Stocker. There's something that I
18 omitted that I wanted to bring up. And it was a few months ago,
19 I don't know, five or six months ago the Air Force lost a jet up
20 in the Talkeetna mountains. Correct? As a pilot it shut me
21 down. You guys -- and again, nothing personal, but you put a
22 big corridor around that area, blocked everything off, and if
23 that's just one example of what might happen when there's, you
24 know, training exercises on the ground or other exercises or if
25 you have an accident and accidents happen. And I don't have any

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1 problem with that. Accidents happen, we burn fuel. That's one
2 of my concerns. When that happened it really kind of threw my
3 plans into a tailspin and I don't want to be worrying all the
4 time if I'm flying in the wrong airspace or if I'm going to have
5 some jet come up and escort me down or I'm going to get turned
6 into the FAA and have a hassle with them. I don't need that.
7 You know, I'm 60 years old, I don't need anymore hassles. It's
8 a nice simple place to go. The rules right now are pretty
9 simple, you know, mostly class E airspace, everything's fine.

10 Another comment I wanted to make, as far as the fuel's
11 concerned, I can tell some of you military folks in the back
12 exactly how much fuel was used in Iraq per day. It was a lot
13 and I don't have a problem with that. If you need to use it,
14 use it, burn it up. But for us to say that -- or for you guys
15 to say, or the people that are, you know, proposing this, to say
16 that we're going to have to save some fuel, that doesn't work,
17 that doesn't work for me at all. You know, we move militaries
18 to Iraq, to Afghanistan. If we have to do it we do it, fuel's
19 not an issue, and I don't think it should be an issue here. The
20 issue here is the people in Alaska. In another state this
21 wouldn't happen, you wouldn't get away with it, not even maybe.

22 But with that said -- and I could stand here for hours and
23 hours and I appreciate the second opportunity to give a few
24 comments. I just basically wanted to state what happened here a
25 few months ago with shut down airspace, big inconvenience to

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1 what we were actually doing at the time. Anyway, thank you.

2 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Anyone else? Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. HOLT: Yes, Jean Holt again, H-O-L-T. I would just
4 like to make public comment that alternative E hasn't done
5 anything except move the border boundary 20 miles and that isn't
6 addressing the ceiling from 5,000 to 500. That's very crucial.
7 And also the increase of sonic booms from 35 to 50 decibels.
8 All these three impacts will -- these impacts and the six
9 adverse impacts on the MOA 3 haven't been addressed just by
10 expanding 20 miles and we do need to address the -- especially
11 the flight ceilings and the sound. Thank you.

12 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Anyone else?

13 MR. FOLSOM: Why not.

14 COLONEL ORR: Sure. Come on up.

15 MR. FOLSOM: I've been to a lot of hearings on proposals
16 right here in this same building, you know, Bogard or this and
17 that and the other and every time so far it's been a pre-drawn
18 conclusion as to what's going to happen and no matter what the
19 testimony is it's always gone the way they want it to go. I've
20 never seen one time where we've turned anything around. Well,
21 yeah, one time when they burned an FRG (ph) out here at the
22 Butte school (ph). But -- and I hope that that's not what's
23 happening here.

24 It seems like a lot of effort's been put into this and
25 that you give lip service to listening to people and their

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19

1 concerns, but then you continue to do exactly what you intend to
2 do with maybe a few little modifications. It does not belong in
3 the rail belt other than your bases. It just is not going to
4 work.

5 Now you have a small representation of people here, but as
6 soon as all this hits the fan and it actually starts happening
7 then people are going to come out of the woodwork and I mean
8 there'll be hundreds and hundreds of people that are going to be
9 upset. And so I hope that the whole thing is reversed except
10 for whatever you do on your existing bases and get all the MOAs
11 out of this rail belt area, these other expansions.

12 THE REPORTER: Sir, could you please state your name for
13 the record again?

14 MR. FOLSOM: Oh, yeah, Bill Folsom.

15 COLONEL ORR: Anyone else?

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Would anybody like to talk about what
17 we can do, what to do to make sure voices get heard, et cetera?
18 Because I don't think it's going to happen (indiscernible).

19 COLONEL ORR: Come on up here.

20 MS. HUTCHINS: (Indiscernible). My name's Jeanine
21 Hutchins. I do plan to come in online, but I do want to respond
22 to that. I think that a lot of people don't understand what an
23 acronym named JPARC means and I think that my comment -- one of
24 my comments, and I will make more online, is that we need to be
25 better communicated in layman's terms to the community than just

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1 acronyms that really don't -- even JPARC really doesn't mean
2 anything to me until I was alerted to the issue and did some of
3 my own research. And so I think people will be blindsided and I
4 think what we can do is to spread the word in our community that
5 people should be educated about this proposal, but it feels like
6 time is of the essence. We have less than a month to comment.
7 So I would encourage all of us here to tell everyone you know at
8 least about this and let them form their own opinion, but at
9 least make it more widely known what this obscure acronym means.
10 And there are great materials here and it seems like there is a
11 lot of information online, but I would say clearly by the
12 numbers here it is not very well known to the general public
13 that will be impacted by JPARC. Thank you.

14 THE REPORTER: Could you please spell your last name for
15 the record?

16 MS HUTCHINS: Hutchins, H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S.

17 COLONEL ORR: Yes, sir.

18 MR. PROBASCO: Peter M. Probasco. And as to the question
19 you stated and that's a very good question, as to what we can
20 do. Don Young spoke at the Palmer Chamber here a month or so
21 ago and one of the questions came up to him, the commentary made
22 about the amount of land up here that's controlled by the
23 federal people and the amount of land in parks. And of course
24 everybody thinks park land is totally sacred, they're not tread
25 or anything else, but there is a lot of park land that isn't

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1 even looked at. And this was brought up to Don and he thought
2 that was one thing that possibly that there could be some
3 changes made is to recognize that there is a lot of land
4 available there not being utilized that isn't going to hurt
5 people if we do use it.

6 One of the comments was made that this area up here, Unit
7 13, is the breadbasket of Alaska. Don did come back and very
8 rightfully so say that to much of Alaska military payrolls are a
9 breadbasket also. So we do need to be very conscious of the
10 role that military plays in our economy. But that park land up
11 there that's available to get away from using state land, there
12 is no reason why they can't do many of these things over. It's
13 not going to hurt it at all and it's not even going to hurt our
14 game populations because none of those probably migrate into
15 areas where we can utilize them as prescribed by the Alaska
16 Constitution. So I think that's -- Don was sensitive to that
17 and maybe there is an outlet to do something.

18 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Any additional comments? All
19 right. Going once. All right. Well, on behalf of all current
20 and future service members I would like to thank you again for
21 your participation and input tonight. Alaska Command welcomes
22 your review and comments on the analysis contained in the Draft
23 EIS. Again, written comments can be submitted by filling out a
24 comment form tonight or mailing it to the address on the comment
25 form. Comment forms may also be submitted via the website or by

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1 fax. Comments must be postmarked or received by June 7th, 2012,
2 to be considered in the final EIS. If you haven't already done
3 so we once again encourage you to look at the maps and other
4 displays around the room. These provide details on the
5 individual proposals and we'll have someone at each station till
6 well after 9:00 o'clock to answer your questions. So we
7 appreciate your time and your interest in the JPARC and welcome
8 your comments. That's why we're here today. There being no
9 other further comments at this time the hearing is adjourned.
10 Thank you and have a safe trip home.

11 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 7:43 p.m.

12 (Off record at 7:43 p.m.)

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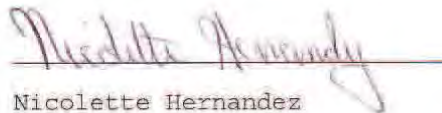
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I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
pages numbered 2 through 22 are a true, accurate and complete
transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held in Palmer, Alaska, May 14, 2012, transcribed by me
from a copy of the electronic sound recording to the best of my
knowledge and ability.

5/15/12

Date


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M.4.6.3 May 15, 2012 Lake Louise Lodge, Glennallen, AK

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12 JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX
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14 Public Comments
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17 May 15, 2012
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19 Lake Louise Lodge
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record at 6:32 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: On the record, 6:32 p.m.

4 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. My name is Colonel Bill Orr and
5 I'm a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force. As Colonel
6 Waring stated, I will be the presiding officer for this public
7 hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This
8 hearing is held in accordance with the provisions of the
9 National Environmental Policy Act Regulations that are published
10 by the Counsel on Environmental Quality and Corresponding Air
11 Force Regulations on Environmental Planning.

12 The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments,
13 that is your comments, on the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement commonly referred to as the Draft EIS. Before
15 receiving your comments I'd like to take a moment and explain my
16 role in this hearing. I am the full-time Chief Judge of the Air
17 Force Court of Criminal Appeals located at Joint Base Andrews
18 near Washington, D.C. I am not assigned or connected with
19 Alaskan Command and I am not involved in the Joint Pacific
20 Alaska Range Complex planning or proposals. I normally preside
21 over the appeals of military members who were tried by trials by
22 court-martial, but I've been requested to preside over these
23 hearings to support the public review and involvement process.
24 I am not here to act as a legal advisor to the Army or the Air
25 Force representatives of this proposal. My role as presiding

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1 officer is simply to ensure that we have a fair, orderly and
2 impartial hearing and that all who wish to be heard will have a
3 reasonable opportunity to speak. In summary, it's important
4 that you understand that I will be serving as the impartial
5 moderator for this hearing.

6 Your input and comments are important. The environmental
7 impact analysis process ensures that the public has
8 opportunities to review the analysis and provide comments for
9 the record. Your comments will ensure that the decision makers
10 have the benefit of your local knowledge and are aware of your
11 concerns about the environmental analysis for this EIS before
12 they decide on a course of action. Alaskan Command, the Army
13 and Air Force representatives are here to accept your comments,
14 but not to respond to them at this time. Public comments will
15 be reviewed and considered and addressed in the Final EIS.
16 Comments on issues unrelated to the EIS are beyond the scope of
17 this hearing.

18 To request an opportunity to make an oral comment, please
19 fill out the speaker request card and turn it in to a staff
20 person, if you have not already done so. Every speaker,
21 including public officials, organizational spokespersons and
22 private individuals, will have four minutes each to provide his
23 or her comment which is being transcribed by a court reporter.
24 I will call the speakers in the order which they signed in, with
25 elected officials having the opportunity to speak first. No

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1 electronic presentations will be permitted, although Alaskan
2 Command encourages you to submit them as part of the written
3 public record.

4 At this time we'll take a short break and that'll allow
5 you to sign up to make public comment and if you -- if you have
6 not already done so already. So we will reconvene at 7:00
7 o'clock to begin taking public comments. Thank you.

8 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 6:36 p.m.

9 (Off record at 6:36 p.m.)

10 (Off record at 6:59 p.m.)

11 THE REPORTER: On the record, 6:59 p.m.

12 COLONEL WARING: Okay. What we're going to do, it's kind
13 of unique because nobody's said they want to give a public
14 comment right now. We're going to give Colonel Orr the
15 opportunity to give you the opportunity to (indiscernible) if
16 you will and then you don't have to say anything, but then at
17 least we've done it and shown a full record that we've made the
18 opportunity. Okay? That's what we're going to do and if you
19 still want to comment we still welcome that, so.....

20 COLONEL ORR: Couldn't have said it any better. Yeah, if
21 you'd like to make comments here are the ground rules for making
22 comments. So to ensure that we have a accurate record of what
23 you have to say please help me by respecting these following
24 ground rules.

25 First, speak slowly into the microphone, state only your

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1 name and any organization you represent, if that applies.
2 Please do not provide any personal information, such as your
3 home address or phone number. Your oral comments will be
4 recorded by the court reporter verbatim and used to develop a
5 transcript and permanent record of this meeting and will be
6 published as part of the Final EIS. The names of individuals
7 making comments, as well as their comments, will be disclosed in
8 the Final EIS. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will
9 not be published.

10 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to
11 speak. In order for each individual speaking to have the full
12 time allotted, audience members, please respect the opinions
13 offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate that your comments
14 will extend beyond the time allotted, please make your most
15 important comments first.

16 Third, if you've prepared a written statement you may turn
17 it in to the registration table or you may read it out loud if
18 you can do so within the four minute time limit.

19 Fourth, please honor any request that I make that you stop
20 speaking when you have reached your four minute time limit. The
21 timekeeper will hold up a yellow card and -- when you have 30
22 seconds left to assist you in knowing when your allotted time is
23 almost up so that you can comfortably conclude your remarks.
24 When the red card is displayed that means your four minutes are
25 up and in the interest of politeness and fairness to others who

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1 wish to speak the speaker is asked to stop and return to his or
2 her seat.

3 Now as of this time no one has submitted any written
4 comments or a request to speak, so I ask anyone here would you
5 like to make any comments at this time?

6 (Pause)

7 (Whispered conversation)

8 COLONEL ORR: Okay. On behalf of all current and future
9 service members I'd like to thank you again for your
10 participation and input tonight. Alaskan Command welcomes your
11 review and comments on the analysis contained in the Draft EIS.
12 Again, written comments can be submitted by filling out a
13 comment form tonight or mailing it to the address on the comment
14 form. Comments may also be submitted via the website or by fax.
15 Comments must be postmarked or received by June 7th, 2012, to be
16 considered by the -- in the Final EIS. And if you haven't
17 already done so, we encourage you to look at the maps and the
18 displays around the room. These provide details on the
19 individual proposals and if we have -- and we will have someone
20 at each station to answer your questions. We appreciate the
21 time and interest you have in the JPARC and welcome your
22 comments and that's why we came here today.

23 Is there anyone else at this time that would like to make
24 a comment? An oral comment. All right. We'll be here until
25 9:00 o'clock, so if you change your mind, you know, you can

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1 still do so. But thank you again for coming out and the oral
2 portion of the hearing is adjourned. Please have a safe trip
3 home.

4 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 7:07 p.m.

5 (Off record at 7:07 p.m.)

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I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
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transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held at the Lake Louise Lodge in Glennallen, Alaska, May
15, 2012, transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic sound
recording to the best of my knowledge and ability.

8

9 5/30/12
10 Date

Nicolette Hernandez
Nicolette Hernandez

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M.4.6.4 May 16, 2012 Glennallen, AK

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JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX

Public Comments

May 16, 2012

Caribou Hotel

Glennallen, Alaska

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(On record at 6:43 p.m.)

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments, that is your comments, on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement commonly referred to as the Draft EIS. Before receiving your comments I'd like to explain my role in this hearing. I am the full-time Chief Judge of the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals located at Joint Base Andrews near Washington, D.C. I am not assigned or connected with Alaskan Command and I am not involved in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex planning or proposals. I normally preside over the appeals of military members who were tried by trial by courts-martial, but I've been requested to preside over these hearings to support the public review and involvement process. I am not here to act as a legal advisor to the Army or the Air Force representatives of this proposal. My role as presiding officer is simply to ensure that we have a fair, orderly and impartial

M-331

1 hearing and that all who wish to be heard will have a reasonable
2 opportunity to speak. In summary, it is important that you
3 understand that I will be serving as an impartial moderator for
4 this hearing.

5 Your input and comments are important. The environmental
6 impact analysis process ensures that the public has
7 opportunities to review the analysis and provide comments for
8 the record. The comments will ensure the decision makers will
9 have the benefit of your local knowledge and are aware of your
10 concerns about the environmental analysis for this EIS before
11 they decide on a course of action. Alaskan Command, the Army
12 and the Air Force representatives are here to accept your
13 comments, but will not respond to them at this time. Public
14 comments will be reviewed and considered and addressed in the
15 Final EIS. Comments on issues unrelated to the EIS are beyond
16 the scope of this hearing.

17 To request an opportunity to make an oral comment, please
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19 person, if you haven't already done so. Each speaker, including
20 public officials, organizational spokespersons and private
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22 comment which is being transcribed by the court reporter. I
23 will call the speakers in the order in which they are signed in,
24 with elected officials having the opportunity to speak first.
25 No electronic presentations will be permitted, although Alaskan

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1 Command encourages you to submit them as part of the written
2 record.

3 We will now take a short break so -- to allow you to sign
4 up to make public comments, if you have not already done so.
5 And we will reconvene at 7:00 o'clock to begin taking public
6 comments. Thank you.

7 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 6:46 p.m.

8 (Off record at 6:46 p.m.)

9 (Off record at 7:00 p.m.)

10 THE REPORTER: On the record, 7:00 p.m.

11 COLONEL ORR: Could I ask everyone to please take a seat?
12 Hello. Hello.

13 COLONEL WARING: We're going to start the public comment
14 portion of the hearing, so. This is a transcribed service over
15 here in the corner that is recording this public comment and
16 public record. Just keep the noise down to a minimum please.

17 (Whispered conversation)

18 COLONEL ORR: All right. Thank you. The hearing is
19 scheduled to end at 9:00 o'clock. So if anyone -- if everyone
20 who wishes to do so has spoken and you'd like an opportunity to
21 expand on your remarks you may do that if you have the chance
22 and time permits. Now if you don't feel comfortable standing up
23 to make a statement you can submit a written comment here
24 tonight using a comment form. You can also submit your comments
25 until June 7th of 2012. Keep in mind that written comments are

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1 given the same consideration as the verbal comments offered here
2 tonight.

3 Now to ensure that we get an accurate record of what you
4 have to say please help me out by respecting the following
5 ground rules. First, speak clearly and slowly into the
6 microphone. Now these microphones don't amplify, they're just
7 -- they just record. And state only your name and any
8 organization you wish to represent, if that applies. Please do
9 not provide any other personal information, such as your home
10 address or phone number. Your oral comments will be recorded by
11 the court reporter verbatim and used to develop a transcript and
12 permanent record of this meeting and will be published as part
13 of the Final EIS. The names of individuals making comments, as
14 well as their comments, will be disclosed in the Final EIS.

15 Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

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18 audience members, please be respectful of the opinions offered
19 by your neighbors. If you anticipate your comments will extend
20 beyond the time allotted, please make the most important
21 comments first.

22 If you've prepared a written statement you may turn it in
23 at the registration table or you may read it aloud if you can do
24 so within the four minute time limit.

25 Fourth, please honor any request that I may make for you

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1 to stop speaking when you have reached your four minute time
2 limit. The timekeeper will hold up a yellow card when you have
3 30 seconds left to speak to assist you in knowing when your
4 allotted time is almost up so that you can comfortably conclude
5 your remarks. When the red card is displayed that means your
6 four minutes are up and in the interest of politeness and
7 fairness to others who wish to speak the speaker will be asked
8 to stop and return to his or her seat.

9 Before we begin are there any questions?

10 (Whispered conversation)

11 COLONEL ORR: All right. Well, then we are now ready to
12 begin. The first speaker of the night is Mrs. Mary Odden. Do I
13 have it right?

14 MS. ODDEN: Yeah.

15 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

16 MS. ODDEN: Thank you. Glasses.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

18 MS. ODDEN: Thanks.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sure.

20 MS. ODDEN: Okay. Well, I hope to give a better more
21 detailed and objective statement written. This is a perhaps
22 emotional reaction or perhaps socioeconomic, whatever you want
23 to call it. We are mostly concerned with the Fox 3 MOA
24 expansion and especially with the low level and the effects on
25 commercial aviation, general aviation, people getting to their

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1 homes, wildlife management. But we're concerned in general
2 about the appropriation of land and sky resources in Alaska in
3 general and we're not unappreciative of what the military is
4 doing for us, so please don't think that we are.

5 John Adams, second President, father of the U.S. Navy,
6 established the U.S. Navy, once disbanded the standing U.S. Army
7 of the United States even under the threat of conflict with
8 France at that time because he believed the soldiers should
9 never again be garrisoned in our homes. He thought that was a
10 substantial reduction of our freedoms that Americans should
11 never be subjected to and because of his concerns that is in our
12 Bill of Rights today. We do not have soldiers garrisoned in our
13 homes, Americans do not. What would John Adams think about the
14 military taking our sky above our homes in so many areas? What
15 should we think about it, what should you think about it as
16 members of the military?

17 You've heard about what we think is a treasure chest of
18 resources in our area. Some of the only recreation area, the
19 public -- Nelchina public use area that we've worked hard since
20 the 1970s to maintain for snow machines, for airplanes, for
21 hunting, for the exploration for oil and gas, for many levels of
22 public use and we didn't want the restrictions that were put
23 elsewhere by the national park. We didn't want the restrictions
24 on people's basic freedom to do those things. We wanted to
25 share the use. It's not empty space. We've worked hard to keep

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1 that space free for the development -- economic development,
2 maintenance of our wildlife stocks, our fish.

3 You've heard about the noise levels at Paxson Hatchery,
4 that they can't slam a door at certain times a year, they cannot
5 play music in the fish hatchery where this very important red
6 fishery hatchery for the whole Copper River loses the fry. We
7 have deep concerns about the expansions of these MOAs.

8 This is the age of digital reality. We don't want you to
9 kill young pilots. We want you to have the simulations, we want
10 you to be able to go over the terrain. We've worked in Alaska,
11 since the 1970s we've worked around the MOAs out at McGrath, up
12 north at Fort Yukon. We know that you spend the same amount of
13 gas when airplanes go like this or if they go like this. That's
14 the same amount of gas. The reality is that the MOA does not
15 have to come over the top of us. You can keep it north, you can
16 keep it further north than 20 miles and we believe that you
17 should stay above, caution, 5,000 feet.

18 Okay. You who have given much to us to protect, our
19 freedom, and we know what that means. There's people in this
20 area that have lost their kids to the wars overseas. Do not
21 proceed with plans which reduce our freedoms. We've lived here
22 a long time. This is important to us. Be careful, careful how
23 you do this. Thank you.

24 COLONEL ORR: Ma'am, before you sit down, I do this in
25 court a lot. When people use their hands it doesn't translate

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1 onto the -- so can you describe what you were doing with your
2 hands?

3 MS. ODDEN: You have an air....

4 COLONEL ORR: Take as long as you'd like.

5 MS. ODDEN: You have an airplane at point A and point B
6 and they want to do an exercise between them. They spend the
7 same amount of gas if they meet in the middle or if airplane A
8 stays where it is and point -- and airplane at point B goes to
9 meet it. Does that adequately -- does that get it?

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I understand it.

11 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

12 MS. ODDEN: Okay.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

14 MS. ODDEN: Thank you very much.

15 COLONEL ORR: All right. Our next speaker is Mr. David
16 Parmenter.

17 MR. PARMENTER: Yeah, that's correct.

18 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

19 MR. PARMENTER: David Parmenter. I operate Copper Valley
20 Air Service here in the basin. Again, the other air taxis
21 around here aren't here so I'm kind of speaking for them. But
22 the MOA low level, we have limited time in the Basin. We got
23 tremendous winter months. We don't see why there should be low
24 level essentially say from the month of June -- or month of May
25 through October when all the revenue is being developed in that

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1 four months.

2 The expand or have a boundary say from the Denali Highway
3 north, Talkeetna, Richardson Highway, use that -- don't use that
4 in the month -- for four or five months out of the year and
5 maintain at least 5,000 feet above with your original MOA. We
6 just don't need the conflict with our revenue, tourism, three
7 major holidays and hunting season. And I do a tremendous amount
8 of flying in the Basin in that time and that's just one more
9 thing I got to watch out for. That's one of our main concerns.

10 But we got a tremendous amount of land here and, again, I
11 don't think we should be whipping around here over the top of
12 everybody's houses, homes, cabins. Call it what you like, but
13 essentially it's going to disrupt a tremendous amount of
14 revenue. Thanks.

15 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Ms. Ruth
16 McHenry.

17 MS. MCHENRY: Thank you. My name is Ruth McHenry. I
18 represent Copper Country Alliance which is a nonprofit
19 organization in the Copper Basin that seeks to protect our
20 natural resources and the way that people use them. This is
21 such a complicated document and I haven't had time to really go
22 through it, that these are very, very preliminary remarks that
23 I'm making tonight. I'm going to, however, come out in support
24 of the no action alternative. I'm going to limit my comments to
25 Fox 3 and to Paxson MOA.

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1 As I said, I haven't looked deeply into the EIS, but where
2 I have it seems to me to be quite inadequate in spite of its
3 great length. I have the impression that the writers simply had
4 a lack of knowledge of this area and its resources. Probably it
5 was written by those who don't live here in the Basin and if
6 they are living in Alaska haven't been here for a long time and
7 probably won't be here for a long time. I -- we are used to
8 seeing environment impact statements that are written by people
9 who live and work here and they're very different.

10 I want to make an example of the cumulative impact area.
11 With regard to cumulative impacts, I haven't found any mention
12 of the Susitna Dam which would greatly affect this area and our
13 biological resources or recreation. No mention of the mineral
14 exploration and possible development around Tangle Lakes. No
15 mention of biomass harvest, climate change. I did find
16 cumulative impacts regarding the oil pipeline and the gas
17 pipeline, but not with respect to the biological resources, only
18 with respect to some of the other resources.

19 With respect to biological resources, there is a very
20 short paragraph on cumulative impacts with other non-military
21 actions. In other words, how does this proposal relate to
22 things that are going on that are non-military in terms of
23 effects on us. No substantive non-military actions have been
24 identified for the areas under the proposed expanded Fox 3 or
25 Paxson MOAs. Therefore, contributions of non-military actions

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1 to cumulative impact effects in the Fox 3 Paxson MOA proposal
2 area would be insignificant. Now that's in the biological
3 resources section for cumulative impacts. I just am quite
4 amazed at that statement. Caution.

5 Biological resources, recreation and subsistence all
6 intermesh. Biological resources are essential to subsistence
7 and to almost all recreation and I think that recognition is
8 lacking in this EIS and it makes for a very confusing document.
9 Thank you for your time and for making this opportunity
10 available.

11 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Gloria
12 Slick.

13 MS. STICKWAN: Stick.

14 COLONEL ORR: Stick?

15 MS. STICKWAN: Stickwan.

16 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

17 MS. STICKWAN: I've just begun to read this EIS. A lot of
18 this is new to me, so I'm trying to read through it and
19 understand what I'm reading through. I want to first say that I
20 have family members that are in the Navy and in the Army and I'm
21 proud of them. I respect the military. I respect what you're
22 doing for our country.

23 I just want to say that I have a concern about the low
24 level flights, especially when we're out camping, hunting,
25 fishing, you know, how it'll affect our subsistence, customary

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1 and traditional use of the areas when we're out there. You
2 know, how it's going to affect the caribou and the moose and
3 other wildlife. Those are my concerns.

4 The other one I'm concerned about is the hunting and
5 fishing season dates. Every year the Board of Game meets and
6 they change the season dates. So when you say late August, you
7 know, that doesn't -- that isn't in -- doesn't time with our
8 seasons. It should be August 1st through the end of September
9 in the report or the EIS.

10 Those are my concerns mostly is the hunting and fishing
11 and being able to continue that and -- without interruption or a
12 lot of noise and to the wildlife management, being able to make
13 sure those wildlife stay out there and they're healthy and
14 they're not being destroyed, or damaged, or ruined, or taken
15 away from us. Thank you.

16 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. All right. Those are all the
17 comment cards that I have or requests to speak. Is there anyone
18 who hasn't spoken that would like to do so at this time? Is
19 there anyone that -- who has previously spoken that would like
20 to supplement their remarks? That looks like a yes.

21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'll write it.

22 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

24 COLONEL ORR: All right. Anyone else? Would you like to
25 come back up or....

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1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

2 COLONEL ORR: All right. Okay. All right. Well, on
3 behalf of all current and future service members I would like to
4 thank you again for your participation and your input tonight.
5 Alaskan Command welcomes your review and comments on the
6 analysis contained in the Draft EIS. Again, written comments
7 can be submitted by filling out a comment form tonight or
8 mailing it to the address on the comment form. Comments may
9 also be submitted via the website or fax. All comments must be
10 postmarked or received by June 7th, 2012, to be considered in
11 the Final EIS. Now if you haven't already done so, we encourage
12 you to look at the maps and other displays around the room.
13 These provide details on individual proposals and we will have
14 someone at each station to answer your questions. We appreciate
15 your time and interest in the JPARC and we welcome your
16 comments. That's why we're all here today.

17 Thank you for your time and attention. This hearing is
18 adjourned. Please have a safe trip home.

19 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 7:20 p.m.

20 (Off record at 7:20 p.m.)

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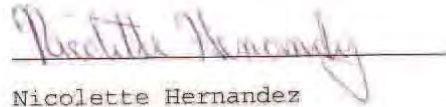
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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
pages numbered 2 through 14 are a true, accurate and complete
transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held at the Caribou Hotel in Glennallen, Alaska, May 16,
2012, transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic sound
recording to the best of my knowledge and ability.

5/29/12

Date


Nicolette Hernandez

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M.4.6.5 May 17, 2012 Paxson, AK

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JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX

Public Comments

May 17, 2012

Paxson Lodge

Paxson, Alaska

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record at 6:59 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: On record, 6:59 p.m.

4 COLONEL ORR: All right. Okay. The hearing tonight is
5 scheduled to end at 9:00 o'clock and if everyone who wishes to
6 do so has spoken and you'd like an opportunity to expand on your
7 remarks you will have the chance to do so if time permits. Now
8 if you don't feel comfortable standing up and making a statement
9 you can submit a written comment here tonight using a comment
10 form. You can also submit comments until June 7th, 2012. Now
11 keep in mind that written comments are given the same
12 consideration as the verbal comments offered here tonight.

13 To ensure that we get an accurate record of what we have
14 to say please help me by respecting the following ground rules.
15 First, speak clearly and slowly into the microphone. Now this
16 microphone does not amplify, but it does go right to the court
17 reporter's machine. State only your name and any organization
18 you represent, if that applies. Please do not provide any
19 personal information, such as your home address or phone number.
20 Your oral comments will be recorded by the court reporter
21 verbatim and used to develop a transcript and permanent record
22 of this meeting and will be published as part of the Final EIS.
23 The names of the individuals making comments, as well as their
24 comments, will be disclosed in the Final EIS. Personal home
25 addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

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1 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to
2 speak. In order for each individual speaking to have the full
3 time allotted, audience members, please be respectful of the
4 opinions offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate that your
5 comments will extend beyond the time allotted, please make the
6 most important comments first.

7 Third, if you have prepared a written statement you may
8 turn it in at the registration table or you may read it out loud
9 if you can do so within the four minute time limit.

10 Fourth, please honor any request that I may make for you
11 to stop speaking when you have reached your four minute time
12 limit. The timekeeper will hold up a yellow card when you have
13 30 seconds left to speak to assist you in knowing when your
14 allotted time is almost up so that you can comfortably conclude
15 your remarks. When the red card is displayed that means your
16 four minutes are up and in the interest of politeness and
17 fairness to the others who wish to speak the speaker is asked to
18 stop and return to his or her seat.

19 At this time are there any questions about the ground
20 rules? Well, then we're ready to begin. The first speaker
21 tonight is Audubon Bakewell.

22 MR. BAKEWELL: (Indiscernible).....

23 COLONEL ORR: Could I get you to -- hold on. I'll bring
24 it to you. But like I said, it doesn't amplify.

25 THE REPORTER: Could you state your name and spell your

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1 last name for the record, sir?

2 MR. BAKEWELL: Thank you. I am Audubon Bakewell, B-A-K-E-
3 W-E-L-L from Paxson and I'd like to take this time to thank the
4 members of the Air Force and Army who came to Paxson tonight to
5 present your statements and I yield the balance of my time.

6 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Lucas
7 Catledge.

8 MR. CATLEDGE: Thank you. My name is Lucas Catledge, C-A-
9 T-L-E-D-G-E. I work with the Gulkana hatchery here locally and
10 my main concern is probably the sonic booms. And working at the
11 salmon hatchery here in the fall especially when we have eggs
12 loaded in the incubators I see that as a potential threat to the
13 safety of the eggs. They're very susceptible to shock and even
14 at the 5,000 foot a sonic boom will rattle and shake things here
15 on the ground. And fortunately we haven't seen any substantial
16 loss in the past, but I see here on the scheduling for their red
17 flag training exercises that this year's proposed to be August
18 -- or scheduled to be in August and again in October. And that
19 first date, August 6th through the 17th, is when we're first
20 loading eggs into the incubators and they're very fragile until
21 they eye up. That's about two months in time. And so that
22 would extend -- and our main egg take extends into the first
23 part of October often and so the eggs are a very fragile state
24 at the -- at that point. And so like I said, even at 5,000 feet
25 a sonic boom directly over the canyon would be detrimental.

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5

1 So my concerns are mainly for this -- the Paxson MOA here.
2 And that's all of my comments. Thanks.

3 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Ms. Jenny
4 Rodina.

5 MS. RODINA: My name is Jenny Rodina, spelled R-O-D-I-N-A.
6 And this is a comment period, but it's kind of a question also.
7 My question comment is about the alternative E for the Paxson
8 MOA. It's stating that there's the potential for moving the
9 southern boundary of the Paxson MOA north by approximately 20
10 miles because residents around Lake Louise complained about
11 potential noise and there are also impacts to residents, tourism
12 companies and other organizations in that area. And the
13 alternative E was proposed after the public comment -- the first
14 public comment period. Well, my question is a number of us here
15 in the Paxson community also made public comments about noise
16 and impacts to residents and tourism companies in this area. So
17 my question is if you're listening to the people in Lake Louise
18 and moving the southern boundary of the Paxson MOA by 20 miles
19 why not move it 20 miles north of Paxson as well.

20 You already state in your literature that there are
21 significant adverse impacts for socioeconomics, land use and
22 noise. You already know that these are potentially big problems
23 and we know it too. So I'll just make the comment again
24 verbally that we'd like for you to listen to us here in Paxson
25 just the same as you listened to the folks down by Lake Louise.

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1 Thank you.

2 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Gary
3 Martinek.

4 MR. MARTINEK: Yeah, my name is Gary Martinek, M-A-R-T-I-
5 N-E-K. I'm the hatchery manager at Gulkana hatchery, a State
6 facility started in 1973. This is the largest sockeye facility
7 in the world. It's three miles north of Paxson Lodge on a
8 series of springs. The salmon that we provide are basically
9 used for commercial fishing, subsistence, personal use and sport
10 fishery. The upper Copper River is the source of one of the
11 most valuable sockeye and king salmon resources in the state.
12 Besides the hatchery springs, there are over 10 different wild
13 sockeye stocks and at least six different stocks of wild king
14 salmon and the most northern stock of wild rainbows in the
15 United States. Like Luke Catledge mentioned, our single biggest
16 concern is during this window of incubation which is roughly --
17 can be 120 days. These eggs are extremely susceptible to any
18 type of noise or shock and can be killed with just a simple
19 sound of a gunfire in an incubator. And we definitely would
20 like you to relook at this situation. I mean this is a very,
21 very valuable resource to not just people in the state of
22 Alaska, but people world wide. So thank you.

23 COLONEL ORR: All right. Our next speaker is Mr. Tony
24 Peterson.

25 MR. PETERSON: My name is Tony Peterson, P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N.

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1 I represent Paxson Lodge. I'm also the President of the
2 Community of Paxson. My concerns mostly are the effect on
3 tourism along with this lodge being as old as it is the sonic
4 booms, the possibility of blowing out windows and guests being
5 in the rooms. If a window was to shatter the impact on that
6 guest as well. These are single pane windows. This lodge is
7 old. It's been here forever. It's been in this area since
8 1904, this lodge has been here since 1946.

9 The hatchery is also a concern. The hatchery provides the
10 salmon not only for this area, but like Gary said, for the
11 entire northeast mar -- or northwest market and around the world
12 actually.

13 The drop in altitude to 500 feet above ground level will
14 also impact the hunting for this area as far as I am concerned
15 and it will also impact the industry that we have where we have
16 people coming to stay here and stay at this lodge and in this
17 area and provide business to not only myself but to Myers (ph)
18 Lake and to Mr. Bakewell's Denali Cabins. This area -- I am --
19 I'm for the military training and having the ability to train
20 and to provide these maneuver -- or to do these maneuvers, but I
21 do not believe that the Paxson area is an area that is
22 susceptible to these maneuvers. There's plenty of area to the
23 north. Expand the Yukon River. Yukon River there is little to
24 no inhabitants. I understand that you need the geographical
25 with the mountains and that for your training, but Pax -- the

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1 area of Paxson and the Gulkana River I do not believe are your
2 best points of interest, they need to be moved. Even if you go
3 north beyond the Paxson area between Fielding (ph) Lake and the
4 Donnelly (ph) area. That would be even -- that'd be very well
5 acceptable for me. Thank you very much.

6 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Those are the comments from the
7 folks that have signed up already. Is there anyone who hasn't
8 spoken that would like to make a comment at this time? All
9 right. And could I ask you to give your name and spell it for
10 the court reporter?

11 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: John Schandelmeier, S-C-H-A-N-D-E-L-M-
12 E-I-E-R. I'm chair of the.....

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You need to.....

14 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: Did you get it? You didn't get it?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: S-C-H-A-N-D-E-L-M-E-I-E-R. I'm a
17 Paxson resident, also a resident McClaron (ph) River, Chair of
18 the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee. And my comments
19 are kind of based on this same thing everybody else is here.
20 It's -- low level training is a negative impact for this area,
21 the whole Nelchina Basin actually. It's the highest use
22 recreational area in the interior of Alaska or one of the
23 highest in southcentral I guess it would be if you want to call
24 it southcentral instead of interior. Seems like could have
25 picked a better area, a lot less impact, lot less controversy.

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1 The solution I have if you're stuck on this area is no fly
2 zones, 10 mile radius around Paxson, Tangle Lakes, McClaron (ph)
3 River, wherever else is a concern, wherever there's people. If
4 you have the no fly areas around those it seems like that solves
5 a lot of problems as long as you can keep people out of those
6 areas. And that seems to be a concern because right now
7 Paxson's supposed to have aircraft at 18,000 feet and no lower.
8 We certainly do. We have their right on the deck at times. So
9 like to see that -- some -- the way to monitor that, again, is a
10 no fly zone at all, you don't have to worry about it, their
11 altitude. So that's the solution that I see and other than
12 moving the whole MOA out of here and putting it somewhere else
13 where there's less people that's it. Thank you.

14 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Is there anyone else who hasn't
15 spoken that would like to give a comment at this time?

16 MR. ALCOTT: I guess.

17 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

18 (Conversation and laughter away from microphone.)

19 MR. ALCOTT: You're laughing and I haven't even started.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's right.

21 MR. ALCOTT: What's up with that. My name's Gary Alcott
22 and I get some very.....

23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

24 MR. ALCOTT: All right. A-L-C-O-T-T. Louise May was my
25 mom. Yeah, Gary. So probably my biggest concern is with the

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1 hatchery and stuff too because I think that's such a huge deal.
2 But I really feel the need, you know, to have these live
3 exercises and stuff and -- but probably don't want it right here
4 where it's going to damage the hatchery. But I definitely --
5 you know, you can fly over my house down in there anytime you
6 want, you know. I get my pacemaker struck up there a little
7 bit.

8 But the other thing I'm thinking is I know -- now, you
9 know, our pilots I'm sure would not violate any, you know, drop
10 down and go for it, but we also have other pilots, right, that
11 do these things from all over the world, you know, England and
12 whatever. So, you know, maybe our guys might get in a little
13 bit of trouble if they did something like that, but you might
14 not be able to control the people from the other countries. And
15 so, you know, it just takes one jet, go down there go right over
16 the hatchery and just like wasn't that a blast. But -- you
17 know, and then that's done.

18 So anyway, I really want all the training because you look
19 at what our Air Force does and stuff in the world and dominates
20 like that. Well, they don't do that on computers, you know,
21 they got to have it. So -- but I guess the hatchery's my
22 biggest thing I'm worried about because it is such a huge thing
23 and it doesn't even look like it, you know. So a lot of people
24 don't even know it. So anyway, I guess that's it. Oh, sorry.

25 COLONEL ORR: That's okay. Thank you.

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1 (Conversation away from microphone.)

2 COLONEL ORR: Is there anyone else who hasn't spoken that
3 would like to give comments now? All right.

4 MR. DANSBY: My name is Mike Dansby, D-A-N-S-B-Y, and I
5 just want to say that I support -- I work at the hatchery and I
6 support what everybody's said about the flyovers. I know for
7 sure that -- I mean I know if you drive by one of those
8 incubators and it -- even the truck throws a rock and hits one
9 of those incubators you've killed thousands and thousands of
10 fish. And that's not including the wild stock and what it's
11 doing to them because they're just as fragile and it's the same
12 time. So thank you very much.

13 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Anyone else who has not spoken
14 would you like to make a comment at this time?

15 MS. MACCALLUM: Yeah, I might as well.

16 COLONEL ORR: All right.

17 MS. MACCALLUM: Oh. My concern too is with the hatchery.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Your first name, spell.....

19 MS. MACCALLUM: Oh, Nancy MacCallum. M-A-C capital C-A-L-
20 -L-U-M.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay.

22 MS. MACCALLUM: My concern -- my first concern is with the
23 hatchery. They are -- they do a wonderful job and they're a
24 very necessary part and they're a great part of our community.
25 And I also look as a lodge owner. As you can look around and

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1 see, my windows. I would hate like a sonic boom to take out any
2 windows here for -- also with guests coming in here. We rely on
3 our summer business to get us through the winter because we are
4 open 365 days a year. And so, you know, if we get into being
5 known as complaints about people not being able to sleep here,
6 being scared, you know.

7 But again, I go back to the hatchery. The hatcheries are
8 wonderful neighbors of ours. They rent from us. They're great
9 people, they do a wonderful, wonderful job and I do not want to
10 see anything happen to their fish. Thank you.

11 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Is there anyone else who has not
12 spoken that would like to speak at this time? All right. Is
13 there anyone who has already spoken that would like to
14 supplement their comments? Anyone? Okay.

15 MR. PETERSON: Tony Peterson, P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N. Again, I'd
16 like to enforce that I do support the training of our military,
17 but this area -- John Schandelmeier made a great point with a no
18 fly zone for a 10 mile radius. However, the entire Gulkana (ph)
19 River, Gakona (ph), Gulkana (ph), the entire system that is
20 supported not only by the hatchery but the wild sockeye and, as
21 they said, that they are so fragile for that 120 days out of the
22 year even in the wild stock. That loss would be a magnitude
23 that I could pretty much assume would be unimaginable. It would
24 devastate the commercial fishing, it would devastate the
25 personal fishing and it would devastate the subsistence fishing

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1 for the northern part, if not most of the central and southern
2 part of the state of Alaska along with other communities in
3 Washington and British Columbia. That is the biggest concern
4 with this area. Thank you very much.

5 COLONEL ORR: Anyone else?

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible).

8 COLONEL ORR: (Indiscernible).

9 (Conversation away from microphone.)

10 COLONEL ORR: Anyone else? Well, all right. On behalf of
11 all current and future service members I'd like to thank you
12 again for your participation and input tonight. Alaskan Command
13 welcomes your review and comments on the analysis contained in
14 the Draft EIS. Again, written comments can be submitted by
15 filling out a comment form tonight or mailing it to the address
16 on the comment form. Comments may also be submitted via website
17 or fax. All comments must be postmarked or received by June
18 7th, 2012, to be considered in the Final EIS. If you haven't
19 already done so, we encourage you to look at the maps and other
20 displays around the room. These provide details on the
21 individual proposals and we'll have someone standing by each
22 station to answer your questions. We appreciate your time and
23 interest in the JPARC and welcome your comments. That's why
24 we're here tonight.

25 Thank you. This hearing is adjourned.

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1 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 7:23 p.m.

2 (Off record at 7:23 p.m.)

3 (On record at 8:22 p.m.)

4 THE REPORTER: On the record, 8:22 p.m.

5 MR. PETERSON: Tony Peterson. As to the expansion area of
6 MOA 3 Paxson the suggestion would be to put a three mile
7 corridor to the east of the Gakona (ph), Gulkana (ph) River and
8 three miles west of the.....

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Now (indiscernible) rivers. They all
10 start (indiscernible).

11 MR. PETERSON: Gakona, Gulkana. And three miles to the
12 east as well with a ceiling of 10,000 feet -- this area would be
13 open to 10,000 feet and above for exercises. The way to
14 designate this as a no fly zone is to put this as a kill zone
15 during activity. If they drop below 10,000 feet in this area,
16 in this no fly zone, then they would be essentially terminated
17 as far as the exercise goes.

18 COLONEL ORR: All right.

19 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 8:23 p.m.

20 (Off record at 8:23 p.m.)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
pages numbered 2 through 14 are a true, accurate and complete
transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held at the Paxson Lodge in Paxson, Alaska, May 17,
2012, transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic sound
recording to the best of my knowledge and ability.

5/29/12

Date

Nicolette Hernandez

Nicolette Hernandez

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M.4.6.6 May 18, 2012 Delta Junction, AK

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JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX

Public Comments

May 18, 2012

Alaska Steakhouse and Motel

Delta Junction, Alaska

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record at 7:02 p.m.)

3 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. This hearing tonight is
4 scheduled to end at 9:00 o'clock and if everyone who wishes to
5 have spoken to do so and you'd like an opportunity to expand on
6 your remarks you may have an opportunity, if the time permits.
7 Now if you don't feel comfortable standing up to make a
8 statement you can submit a written comment tonight using a
9 comment form. You can also submit comments until June 7th,
10 2012. And keep in mind that the written comments are given the
11 same consideration as the verbal comments offered here tonight.

12 Now to ensure that we have an accurate record of what we
13 have to say please help me by respecting the following ground
14 rules. First, speak clearly and slowly into the microphone.
15 Now this microphone does not amplify, but it goes right into the
16 tape recorder machine there. So we want to make sure that we
17 have an accurate depiction of what you've said. State only your
18 name and organization you represent, if that applies. Now
19 please do not provide any other personal information, such as
20 your home address or phone number. Your oral comments will be
21 recorded by the court reporter verbatim and used to develop a
22 transcript and permanent record of this meeting and will be
23 published as part of the Final EIS. The names of the
24 individuals making comments, as well as their comments, will be
25 disclosed in the Final EIS. Personal home addresses and phone

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1 numbers will not be published.

2 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to
3 speak. In order for each individual speaking to have the full
4 time allotted, audience members, please be respectful to the
5 opinions offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate your
6 comments will extend beyond the time allotted, please make the
7 most important comments first.

8 Third, if you have prepared a written statement you may
9 turn it in at the registration table or you may read it aloud if
10 you can do so within the four minute time limit.

11 Fourth, please honor any request that I make for you to
12 stop speaking when you've reached the four minute time limit.
13 The timekeeper will hold a yellow card when you have 30 seconds
14 left to assist you in knowing when your allotted time is almost
15 up so that you can comfortably conclude your remarks. When the
16 red card is displayed that means your four minutes are up and in
17 the interest of politeness and fairness to the others who wish
18 to speak the speaker is asked to stop speaking and return to his
19 or her seat.

20 Are there any questions before we begin? Our first
21 speaker for the night is Representative Eric Feige.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FEIGE: Okay. I guess for the record, I'm
23 Representative Eric Feige. I represent House District 12 which
24 includes most of the JPARC area that we're talking about. One
25 of the things I'd like the folks to address is the issue of the

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1 proposed floor for the Fox 3 MOA. Currently it's proposed to go
2 to 500 feet AGL and in talking to a number of the air taxi
3 operators, the pilots, for the record I'm -- I am a commercial
4 pilot with 17 years of bush flying experience here in Alaska.
5 I'm very familiar with the Talkeetna mountains and essentially
6 the rest of the Fox 3 MOA and do fly through it on a regular
7 basis in -- just in doing this job.

8 The area that really gets the most general aviation
9 traffic is the area sort of -- if you draw a line from about the
10 Susitna River across to the Alphabet Hills and south that area
11 seems to have the most -- the densest amount of general aviation
12 traffic, you know, mostly Supercubs and Cessnas and whatnot,
13 small float planes getting in and out of hunting cabins. It's
14 primarily during the non-winter months where you see a lot of
15 that traffic. It's during the, you know, primarily May to
16 October with a lot more activity occurring in the late August
17 through mid-October timeframe. It's kind of the highlight of
18 hunting season.

19 If that floor were to be raised to say 1,500 feet AGL or
20 at least a -- perhaps a new sector created within the MOA that
21 can be left off most of the time but only turned on when
22 absolutely necessary I think that would go a long way to
23 reducing some of the general aviation pilots' concerns about
24 basically getting run over by an F-16 or something larger. So
25 I'd ask that the folks putting this proposal together go ahead

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1 and take a good long look at that.

2 I think alternative E where the southern boundary of the
3 Fox 3 MOA was -- instead of being south of Lake Louise it was
4 moved a little bit to the north so it only covered Tyone or Lake
5 Tyone or Lake Susitna I believe. Even if you move that southern
6 boundary in that sector to the outlet of Lake Susitna at the
7 very mouth of Tyone Creek that would be another good point to
8 put in there that would, again, relieve some of the concerns
9 that folks in the Lake Louise area have. And that's all I got
10 for now.

11 COLONEL ORR: Thank you.

12 THE REPORTER: Could you please spell your last name for
13 the record, sir?

14 REPRESENTATIVE FEIGE: It's spelled F-E-I-G-E and first
15 name is Eric with a C.

16 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

17 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Ms. Mary
18 Leith is it?

19 MS. LEITH: Leith.

20 COLONEL ORR: Leith. All right. Thank you.

21 MS. LEITH: I'm Mary Leith, Mayor of the city of Delta
22 Junction. And the city of Delta Junction wants to state that we
23 made a memorandum of agreement with the Army in '06 and upon
24 investigation it was essentially omitted from the full JPARC
25 Draft EIS and as a result we feel the EIS is -- the Draft EIS is

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1 defective.

2 There -- will there be an amended version of this before a
3 final version -- of the EIS before a final version comes out is
4 something that we're concerned about. Because we think, again,
5 it should be available for public comments after we see -- after
6 you've heard what people are concerned with. We will object
7 JPARC -- to JPARC moving the Final EIS without this opportunity
8 for review and comment. We note that JPARC was provided with a
9 copy of the '06 MOA by -- at the scoping meetings and still
10 failed to address it in the Draft EIS.

11 Numerous commitments contained in the '06 MOA are violated
12 by the proposed changes in the Donnelly training area and other
13 portions of training ranges near Delta and Gulkana. A partial
14 listing of the violations will be included in our written
15 comments which will be coming. The failure to discuss these
16 violations and the necessity for them makes the EIS incomplete
17 and inaccurate.

18 The proposed changes violate many of the concerns
19 underlying the '06 MOA, including, but not limited to, danger
20 from wildfire which is a big concern in this area, danger from
21 flooding, public safety arising from increased levels of
22 activities and increased noise in the area. The issues are more
23 critical given the higher intensity levels of training, the
24 broader types of training and greater expanded use of the
25 training area. These issues are not addressed or inadequately

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1 addressed in the Draft EIS.

2 When the city acquiesced to the inadequate use or ac --
3 Donnelly range expansion EIS in '06 it did so with the
4 commitment by USARAK that training at the Caktif (ph) and Backs
5 (ph) would be limited to those described in the supplemental EIS
6 prepared by USARAK. The city pressed for those facilities to be
7 located at the south end of the Donnelly training area. USARAK
8 pressed for a location at the north end of the Donnelly training
9 area immediately joining city limits. We did much of this based
10 upon our own experience with fire only a little bit prior to
11 that. The compromise described in the 2006 MOA is that the city
12 would acquiesce to the closer, more dangerous location, but only
13 with safeguards and with the Army's assurance that the training
14 activities would be limited to those described in the
15 supplemental Draft EIS. The JPARC Draft EIS fails to address
16 that bargain or JPARC's reasons for violating the bargain.
17 Which we searched it, there -- it was never mentioned once.

18 These comments to the public hearing are not a complete
19 list of our concerns. Complete written comments will be
20 submitted to you by June 7th, 2012, but unless these issues are
21 fully addressed in a supplemental Draft EIS it's more likely
22 than not that the city will challenge the adequacy of the JPARC
23 Draft EIS leaving aside any claim by the city for breach of the
24 '06 MOA. And if we have any -- like I say, we really do expect
25 to see again the Draft EIS so that -- you know, amended one so

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8

1 that we can indeed see if that is finally remembered that we did
2 have a mem -- an MOA with everybody. And my last name is
3 spelled L-E-I-T-H.

4 COLONEL ORR: Thank you.

5 MS. LEITH: Uh-huh (affirmative).

6 COLONEL ORR: Our next speaker is Ms. Judy Olson Hicks.
7 Got it?

8 MS. OLSON HICKS: Uh-huh (affirmative). I am Judy Olson
9 Hicks and I represent just me. But as a citizen of Delta I know
10 that tonight is a major scheduling conflict for our small town
11 in that it is high school graduation and so many of the leaders
12 in our community are not available to come here tonight. I also
13 noticed that there were no signs posted up at our grocery store
14 where everyone goes or at our post office about this meeting.
15 There was nothing published on our website about this meeting or
16 in our local newspaper. So I feel as if trying to engage the
17 public in this very important meeting was not really done in
18 earnest or not done with truly getting to know who we are.
19 Thank you.

20 COLONEL ORR: And could you spell your name.....

21 MS. OLSON HICKS: Yes.

22 COLONEL ORR:for the.....

23 MS. OLSON HICKS: J-U-D-Y, O-L-S-O-N, H-I-C-K-S.

24 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. All right. Those are all the
25 comment cards that I have. Is there anyone that has not spoken

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1 who would like to do so at this time? Yes, sir.

2 MR. QUARBERG: I turned a card in, it already got lost.

3 Maybe that's an omen.

4 COLONEL ORR: Oh, you know what? Whoa, whoa, whoa. Are
5 you Don?

6 MR. QUARBERG: That's it.

7 COLONEL ORR: Okay. (Indiscernible), that's my fault.

8 MR. QUARBERG: My name is Don Quarberg, Q-U-A-R-B-E-R-G.
9 I'm a private pilot and a hunter and I'm here to represent
10 myself. But maybe what I have is a request and some
11 observations, but, you know, I preface this with saying that we
12 appreciate everything you fellows do. Not only fellows, Armed
13 Forces Service. We don't want to jeopardize your mission and
14 training and we want you to be the best prepared that there are
15 when we ask you to step into harm's way and so we all appreciate
16 that.

17 Game Management 20A which is out here to the west of Delta
18 and south of Fairbanks is one of the most intensively managed
19 game management units in the state. It currently has a very
20 healthy population of most -- in fact you could probably pick up
21 a Sports Afield or a Petersen's Hunting magazine and read about
22 20A in there. As I look at the EIS and what is planned for that
23 activity, and I've hunted over there for over 30 years. It's
24 beautiful, nestled in between Mount Hayes and Mount Moffit where
25 I go and it looks like it's over. Unless we look at all the

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1 opposition, if you will, I don't even know what's controlled
2 opposition, people that have concerns as Representative Feige
3 mentioned over on Lake Louise and the pilots and things like
4 that. This area is accessed by a number of air taxis and
5 transporters, it's accessed by a number of guides, it's accessed
6 by a whole array of private hunters and recreators of which the
7 military is well represented. I hate to lose that and I wish we
8 could share it and I think we can. And the way we can share
9 that is if there was some way we can impress upon the military
10 to maybe adjust their scheduling just -- because I would guess
11 that 90 some percent of the use over there, recreational use, is
12 during the month of September, maybe from August 15th on. And
13 Range Manager Sharp that retired from Fort Greely was a hunter,
14 like probably all of you are. He had the ability to schedule
15 maintenance on the range during September. An OCA who was in a
16 Cub could putz around out there, you know, and go hunting and
17 whatever we had to do and we didn't conflict with anybody. Past
18 couple of years we've had a little bit of an off flavor with the
19 scheduling because we've had people that schedule years in
20 advance, for example, especially with commercial operators.
21 With me it's my relatives coming up when we go hunting. And
22 they're sitting there with airline tickets and all of a sudden
23 they close it, the air space is closed. And that's the way we
24 get in there. Most of that's all fly in. And then of course we
25 call Representative Feige or Murkowski or whatever happens and

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1 then the day before hunting season they open it back up again,
2 but that really didn't help the person that changed their
3 ticket. I mean they lost that opportunity.

4 And I don't know who to ask, but I think there's some
5 pretty good minds in here that could probably get that to the
6 right place. And so if there's any way possible to schedule
7 this. You know, in addition to us flying around, at that time
8 there's lots of cranes and waterfowl and things like that and
9 it's a little bit hazardous too, even for us, you know. We
10 don't -- they can almost out fly me, so they can get out of my
11 way but not with an F-16 or a 22. I guess that's, you know, the
12 gist of my request is look at scheduling, see if there isn't
13 some way we can accommodate both of us. Thank you.

14 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Is there anyone else who hasn't
15 spoken that would like to speak at this time? Is there anyone
16 who has already spoken that would like to supplement their
17 comments? Anything else? Mayor?

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have a question (indiscernible). Is
19 this -- no, it's -- I'm not making comments. Mary was asking
20 for review of the Draft before its final draft. Is this the
21 last public comment opportunity I mean other than written
22 comments (indiscernible)?

23 COLONEL ORR: You have to talk to the folks back there on
24 that one.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mike, you want to (indiscernible)?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible) question.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's going to come up.

3 MR. MASLYK: Thank you. Would you please repeat your
4 question again?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is this the last opportunity for
6 public comment on this before the record of decision?

7 MR. MASLYK: First of all, my name is Lou Maslyk and I am
8 with SAIC, Incorporated, and we are a contracting group that has
9 been hired by the Army and the Air Force to help prepare the
10 Draft -- or the EIS. Right now we are at the draft stage and
11 the next phase of the process will be the preparation of the
12 Final EIS which is due towards the end of this year or early
13 next year. And that -- and when the Final EIS has been approved
14 by the Army and the Air Force there will be a Notice of
15 Availability published in the Congressional Federal Register,
16 just as there was with the Draft EIS, to let folks know that the
17 final has been prepared. There will be 30 day waiting period
18 once the final -- once the Notice of Availability has been
19 prepared where people, that they can request -- during this
20 period they can request copies of the Final EIS to review and
21 still issue comments and it will be, you know, up to the Air
22 Force and the Army to review the comments. So no, the answer is
23 no, you -- there will be another period to review the Final EIS.
24 And then the next phase after that is the preparation of the
25 record of decision. Does that answer your question?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think so. So those comments on the
2 final will still be considered in the record of decision.

3 MR. MASLYK: That will be up to the Army and the Air Force
4 to make those -- to make that decision. But there will be a 30
5 day period in which the public and agencies have a 30 day
6 opportunity to review the Final EIS. Ma'am.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There won't be any supplemental --
8 even if you find large things that need altered and again seen
9 by the public?

10 MR. MASLYK: That is a possibility, yes, ma'am, but,
11 again, that will have to be decided by staff of the Army and the
12 Air Force. And it would not be a supplemental EIS, it would
13 still be the Final E -- no, it would still be a Final EIS with
14 significant -- potential significant revisions. And there are
15 requirements under Council of Environmental Quality and also Air
16 Force and Army NEPA regulations that could allow for an
17 additional public review and comment period. Those are
18 definitely in the Army and the Air Force regulations, but,
19 again, those would have to be decided by, you know, command
20 elements of the Army and the Air Force. Sir.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is it typical for the permittee or the
22 person filing the -- for the permit to have the final decision
23 on the.....

24 MR. MASLYK: The permit?

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right, the Army and the Air Force are

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1 the ones who (indiscernible).

2 MR. MASLYK: Oh, they are the -- they are con.....

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is it normally the EPA that would be
4 making the decision whether or not it would be heard or
5 reopened?

6 MR. MASLYK: The EPA does have a role in the review
7 process, but they do not make the final decision. The final
8 decision is made by command elements of the Army or the Air
9 Force as joint lead agencies for this EIS. Under the current
10 NEPA implementing regulations. Any other questions? Here you
11 go, sir.

12 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Would anyone else like to make
13 additional comments?

14 MR. MUSGROVE: (Indiscernible).

15 COLONEL ORR: Sure.

16 THE REPORTER: Could I ask you to spell your name for the
17 record?

18 MR. MUSGROVE: Yeah. Jay W. Musgrove, M-U-S-G-R-O-V-E.
19 I'd like to echo Don Quarberg. We're glad that -- for the
20 opportunity to make a comment and all the effort that they have
21 obviously put into this. Some people don't agree with pieces
22 and parts of it, but I personally appreciate the fact that we
23 have a military and we want them to keep strong and capable.
24 And of course at any -- sometime in the future what they may
25 need as far as equipment will change and that's something that

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1 we don't really know. So I can see why it would be -- it would
2 -- might look like something of a land grab because they're not
3 really sure what their capabilities might require at some time
4 in the future. But I personally don't feel that it's going to
5 be that large of an effect on, you know, most little guys. And,
6 you know, when it comes to the bigger airlines or the -- say the
7 air taxis that do emergency flights, I think they've got some
8 provisions to take care of most of that. So I don't see a
9 really big problem with this personally. Thank you.

10 COLONEL ORR: Thank you.

11 (Whispered conversation)

12 COLONEL ORR: Any additional comments? Yes, sir.

13 MR. QUARBERG: May I make a request?

14 COLONEL ORR: You may.

15 MR. QUARBERG: (Indiscernible). As long as I don't have
16 to do anything. This is Don Quarberg again. My request this
17 time is to the Army and it -- I made some comments earlier about
18 the Eielson range control and that special use airspace
19 information service that they have where we can call an 800
20 number and talk to them in the air. And, you know, they'll
21 really accommodate us pilots that are flying around because if
22 the 16s or 15s or whatever it is are out of the way they'll tell
23 us how long is it going to take you to get across there and I
24 tell them 35 minutes. You can hear them gasp a little, you
25 know, but they'll say go ahead but call us when you get there

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1 and of course you don't ever forget that because they'll -- be
2 out there with them.

3 But the -- what I really want -- would like from the Army
4 is they will take -- a prime example is restricted area 2202
5 alpha out here and that's where they're apparently flying these
6 UAVs. And they will inform the Air Force that this -- they're
7 going to be hot, active, tonight from 5:00 o'clock to forever
8 and it'll be that way sometimes through Monday or Tuesday. You
9 know, and I realize I can't hear one, can't hear much anyway,
10 but -- and you can't see them. So after awhile it's kind of
11 like hollering wolf, you know, I don't think anybody's out
12 there. But the Air Force will let us through, you know, they
13 know the current status. And I don't know what the
14 complications are to be able to provide the same kind of
15 service, but if you could do that it would be deeply
16 appreciated. Thank you.

17 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Is there anyone else that would
18 like to make a public comment? Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. FARRAR: I'd just like to (indiscernible).

20 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

21 MS. FARRAR: (Indiscernible). I'm Dianna Farrar. Dianna
22 Farrar, F as in Frank, F-A-R-R-A-R, Dianna, and I'm a resident
23 of Delta Junction and I'm just speaking for myself. And I grew
24 up here and it's been an uneasy partnership with the military
25 most of the time because we had different goals and different,

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1 you know, directives. And I do appreciate the military and I
2 thank the young men for their service to our country, but I
3 would like to feel that we had more respect for each other in
4 these kind of proceedings that what we say will actually be
5 heard. I have some of the same concerns that other people
6 mentioned tonight and wildfires are definitely one of them. At
7 times the military will choose not to fight a wildfire that they
8 may or may not have caused across the river with ordinance fire
9 and that's -- it's not threatening the town or anything, but it
10 can -- it impacts our air quality and over the course of a
11 summer, depending on how many fires happen, air quality can be a
12 significant thing in Alaska. You don't -- you know, you don't
13 think about that, but wildfire season is -- can be pretty
14 hazardous for people with any young children or respiratory
15 problems, allergies and stuff.

16 I'm concerned with access and use of the -- to the Granite
17 Mountain area between the Richardson Highway and the Alaska
18 Highway. This is a great subsistence and recreational use area
19 that I hope will remain open to the public and area residents.
20 It's really my strongest hope that this -- the reservation of
21 Fort Greely not expand anymore southward into that area because
22 it's already pretty close. And, you know, we're out there in
23 the fall, I'm out there berry picking and fishing when Don's
24 hunting. So it's just a great area. Noise is some concern, but
25 I would have to say it would be access and wildfire for me.

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1 Thank you very much.

2 COLONEL ORR: Is there anyone else? All right. Well, on
3 behalf of all current and future service members I would like to
4 thank you again for your participation and input tonight.
5 Alaskan Command welcomes your review and comments on the
6 analysis contained in the Draft EIS. Again, written comments
7 can be submitted by filling out a comment form tonight or
8 mailing it to the address on the comment form. Comments may
9 also be submitted via the website or by fax. All comments must
10 be postmarked or received by June 7th, 2012, to be considered in
11 the Final EIS. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you
12 to take a look at the maps and other displays around the room.
13 These provide details for the individual proposals and we will
14 have someone at each station to answer your questions. We
15 appreciate your time and interest in the JPARC and welcome your
16 comments. That's why we're here today.

17 This hearing is adjourned. Please have a safe trip home.

18 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 7:31 p.m.

19 (Off record at 7:31 p.m.)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Nicolette Hernandez, hereby certify that the foregoing
pages numbered 2 through 18 are a true, accurate and complete
transcript of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex Public
Hearing held at the Alaska Steakhouse and Motel in Delta
Junction, Alaska, May 18, 2012, transcribed by me from a copy of
the electronic sound recording to the best of my knowledge and
ability.

5/30/12 Nicolette Hernandez
Date Nicolette Hernandez

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M.4.6.7 May 19, 2012 Fairbanks, AK (10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.)

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JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX

Public Comments

May 19, 2012

University of Alaska Fairbanks

William R. Wood Center

Fairbanks, Alaska

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record at 12:00 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: On the record at 12:00 noon.

4 COLONEL ORR: Could I ask everyone to take -- please take
5 their seats?

6 (Pause)

7 COLONEL WARING: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your
8 attention please? We're going to start the public comment
9 portion of this. (Indiscernible) attention please, we're going
10 to start the public comment portion of this. We'd like you to
11 keep your voice down. If you have a question (indiscernible)
12 interrupt anything with the court reporter.

13 COLONEL ORR: All right. This hearing is scheduled to end
14 at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon and if anyone who wishes to do so
15 has spoken and you would like the opportunity to expand on your
16 earlier remarks you may have the chance, if time permits. If
17 you do not feel comfortable standing up to make a statement you
18 can submit a written statement -- submit a written comment here
19 tonight using a comment form. You can also submit comments
20 until June 7th, 2012. Keep in mind that written comments are
21 given the same consideration as verbal comments offered here
22 this afternoon.

23 To ensure that we have an accurate record of what you have
24 to say please help me by respecting the following ground rules.
25 First, please speak clearly and slowly into the microphone and

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1 state only your name and organization you represent, if that
2 applies. Please do not provide any other personal information,
3 such as your home address or phone number. Your oral comments
4 will be recorded by a court reporter verbatim, used to develop a
5 transcript and a permanent record of this meeting and will be
6 published as part of the Final EIS. The names of the
7 individuals making comments, as well as their comments, will be
8 disclosed in the Final EIS. Personal home addresses and phone
9 numbers will not be published.

10 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to
11 speak. In order for each individual speaking to have the full
12 time allotted, audience members, please be respectful of the
13 opinions offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate your
14 comments will expand beyond the time allotted, please make the
15 most important comments first.

16 Third, if you have prepared a written statement you may
17 turn it in at the registration table or you may read it out loud
18 if you can do so in the four minute time limit.

19 Fourth, please honor any request that I make for you to
20 stop speaking when you've reached the four minute time limit.
21 The timekeeper will hold up a yellow card when you have 30
22 seconds left to assist you in knowing when your allotted time is
23 almost up so that you can comfortably conclude your remarks.
24 When the red card is displayed that means your four minutes are
25 up and in the interest of politeness and fairness to others who

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1 wish to speak the speaker is asked to stop and return to his or
2 her seat.

3 Are there any questions concerning the ground rules? All
4 right. Then we are now ready to begin. The first speaker this
5 afternoon is Mr. Jay Harris.

6 MR. HARRIS: Is this the microphone? Yes.

7 COLONEL ORR: It doesn't amplify, it just records.

8 MR. HARRIS: It doesn't amplify? Okay. Yes, I'm here
9 today in protest of civilians being killed by drone attacks in
10 Pakistan. I think that this should be addressed in this forum.
11 My concern is that much of the testing that is being done isn't
12 taking into account the need to protect civilians in battle
13 zones and it's really my opinion that sometimes drones are
14 misused to actually depopulate areas of northern Pakistan and I
15 hope that this will be addressed today. Thank you.

16 COLONEL ORR: Our next speaker is Chris White.

17 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He just stepped out, sir.

18 COLONEL ORR: Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible).

20 COLONEL ORR: All right. Mr. Al Barrette.

21 MR. BARRETTE: Thank you for this opportunity. I would
22 just like to point out that the federal government owns 67
23 percent of the lands in Alaska currently and I understand that
24 the whole ordeal about having this added access is because the
25 federal government and those people that manage those lands do

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1 not want to create anymore ordinance drops and so they want to
2 ask Alaskans to give up some of their lands and their airspace
3 to provide the safety for all Americans to support our men and
4 women who honorably defend our freedoms. I think we ought to be
5 asking the federal government to do the same and since they own
6 67 percent of Alaska that they could create a few more drop
7 zones on their land and allow their activities and their
8 training for our soldiers. Thank you.

9 COLONEL ORR: All right. Our next speaker is Ms. Anna
10 Godduhn.

11 MS. GODDUHN: Thank you. Do appreciate the opportunity.
12 Hello? Okay. The mic's not working, so I'll just talk loud.

13 COLONEL ORR: No, it doesn't amplify, it just records.

14 MS. GODDUHN: Oh, it's a recorder. Okay.

15 COLONEL ORR: Right.

16 MS. GODDUHN: You probably said that before. I don't have
17 comments prepared and I regret that because I understood and
18 last year for the scoping meetings the public comments were
19 taken in a closet, so I wasn't inspired by that. So I didn't
20 write these comments down, but I do object to this expansion on
21 both local and global grounds. I personally find the sounds of
22 fighter jets and bombs dropping very, very deeply disturbing.
23 And I can hear them from my house way out in northwestern
24 Fairbanks and I'm on the other side of campus, you know, well
25 away from Wainwright. But I can hear those bombs and it is

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1 disturbing, but that is certainly not why I object to this
2 expansion. I -- mostly on the same grounds as Jay and some of
3 the other folks here do not see our need for predator drones. I
4 do not see assassination and targeted killings that do just
5 happen to kill a lot of civilians as well as an appropriate
6 method of dialogue with the world. I really think we need more
7 peaceful methods and I don't think we need more predator drones
8 that are indiscriminate and lethal. And pretty bad for the
9 pilots who do the job too. The guys who are running these drone
10 strikes from Arizona and Texas are not in real good shape. And
11 the lie that we put to our kids when they're young and want to
12 fly airplanes that they should join the Air Force and be trained
13 as pilots is just another fallacy. Thank you.

14 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Robert
15 Mulford.

16 MR. MULFORD: Thank you. I have spent much of the last
17 two and a half years or so attending conferences as a systems
18 integrator engineer at The Institute for Defense and Government
19 Advancement conferences. I've been briefed by generals like
20 General Peter Chiarelli, General Michael Vane, heads of DARPA,
21 et cetera, on some of the new technologies that I think your
22 JPARC expansion is going to be using.

23 You talk in your preamble about these technologies. These
24 are pretty horrific technologies. They're very invasive and
25 they're also very destructive and there's no way to protect

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7

1 civilians from them. And they also find use inside Homeland
2 Security in the United States. I've heard the head of the
3 Department of Homeland Security's commercialization department
4 say to a group of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon (ph) people, hey,
5 you write a 10 page white paper, you can get \$20 million to
6 design some of these anti-terrorism systems. This is all linked
7 together.

8 And your weapons, your drone operators, your drone
9 navigation operations and your drone sensor controls, all this
10 are all based on commercial off the shelf technologies. These
11 are technologies that anybody, a kid with facial jewelry, can
12 learn how to program. You know that it's going to be -- there's
13 going to be proliferation of these technologies and I'll bet you
14 that is why we now have a cyber command in the United States.
15 This is going to come home to us in the United States. This
16 network centric warfare that your -- Admiral Cebrowski started
17 years ago and what your doctrine is all about is going to come
18 home to bite the people in this country. And I'm sure opposed
19 to it and if I can stop you any way and how I'm going to. Thank
20 you.

21 COLONEL ORR: All right. Our next speaker is Mr. Luke
22 Hopkins.

23 MR. HOPKINS: Yes, thank you. Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks
24 North Star Borough, the Mayor. So I will be submitting written
25 comments that would be much more extensive. I don't have those

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1 formulated at this time. I do want to state though that I am
2 disappointed that this public hearing is on a Saturday, has been
3 scheduled here in Fairbanks, one of the major -- the second
4 largest community in Alaska, that it was scheduled for Saturday.
5 There are two sessions, I understand that, but Saturday night is
6 not a good time to have a public hearing. So I'm hoping that if
7 there are further public hearings held in this overall process
8 that they are scheduled in Fairbanks. We have the best turnout
9 and information dissemination on weekdays and I would ask that
10 that please be put into any further scheduling. I don't think
11 it's appropriate to have a -- as I said, a public hearing on
12 this issue on Saturday noon, especially in the summer. Thank
13 you.

14 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Tom
15 Lamal.

16 MR. LAMAL: My name is Tom Lamal and the comments I have
17 to make are mostly on the Paxson area for pilots. And I would
18 like to see for this area for safety reasons two corridors in
19 the area, one down the Richardson Highway that's high enough
20 that if there's turbulence that private pilots can get out of
21 that and also wide enough that if there's snow squalls or
22 thunderstorms that they have enough room to maneuver around
23 those. Also another corridor I'd like to see is on the Denali
24 Highway going more east and west from Paxson over to Denali Park
25 and also wide and high enough for safe flying for private

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1 pilots. And another area on the Paxson would be towards Tok
2 that if the area was drawn farther away from the highway, maybe
3 to the foothills of the Alaska Range, so that safe passage could
4 happen along there and maybe have it up to an elevation of the
5 foothills of 5,000 feet or something like that, I'm talking
6 about ground elevation, so that people could fly towards the
7 Canadian border without having air restrictions along that area.
8 If that was pulled in I think it would make it a lot easier for
9 people to travel back and forth, myself included. Thank you
10 very much.

11 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Chris
12 White. Right over here, sir.

13 MR. WHITE: My name is Chris White. I've been up in --
14 living here in Alaska for 30 or 40 years and I like to hunt and
15 trap and fish and I'm kind of concerned how this is going to
16 affect the people who hunt and fish in that area. So I hope as
17 soon as you can get that thing sorted out because if you have to
18 restrict that area we'd like to know what these restrictions are
19 before we go along with this thing.

20 Another concern that I have is that if this -- using these
21 drones, it doesn't seem to be too good for the people that get
22 hit by them and it seems there's quite a few where it's been
23 used kids are getting killed because of the inaccuracy of these
24 things. But apparently it gets accurate enough, sometimes it
25 isn't. So people -- my concern would be that when the military

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1 starts using this stuff it'll start using them on civilians.
2 When the business communities come together with your military
3 communities we end up getting more authoritarian type government
4 and that's on a road to fascism. You got to be careful with
5 that slide because we don't want to live and lose the republic
6 that way.

7 So that's another concern I have, not just the hunting and
8 the fishing and the trapping, but how big of an area are you
9 going to be taking over in square miles to do these exercises.
10 And we're kind of concerned you might have the people on the
11 other side getting hit with this stuff regard us as terrorists
12 and if we start mirroring that way of doing business with drones
13 just dropping out of the sky, boom, if we start mirroring their
14 behavior. And we've seen this with, you know, our government
15 with torture even. They actually think it was okay at one
16 point. If we start seeing us going that was this is not good
17 for the republic.

18 So besides hunting and fishing and trapping in those areas
19 you're about to use is also the broader issue is this going to
20 harm the republic as we know it. That's my concern, sir.

21 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. All right. Those are all the
22 comment cards that I have for this afternoon. Is there anyone
23 else who did not submit a comment card that would like to speak
24 at this time? Sir, if I could, when you begin could I ask you
25 to spell -- say your name and then spell your name for the court

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1 reporter?

2 MR. OSBORN: Hi. My name's Phil Osborn. I've been here
3 40....

4 COLONEL ORR: Could you spell it for him please?

5 MR. OSBORN: O-S-B-O-R-N. I've been here 45 years and
6 I've come to love this place a great deal. My concern today is
7 that I believe firmly that our nation is in decline. We are a
8 hair breath away from insolvency in so many areas. I think
9 there's no business whatsoever expanding the military presence
10 in our state at this critical time. We need money for people
11 and what they need, not to fight a phantom enemy which doesn't
12 exist. There's no state actor in today's world that demands our
13 high level of technology. That's a fallacy. So I would say I'm
14 categorically opposed to expanding JPARC and that's a big thumbs
15 down to JPARC.

16 COLONEL ORR: Thank you. Anyone else that hasn't already
17 spoken? Is there anyone who has already spoken that would like
18 to expand their comments? You may do so at this time? Can you
19 please state your name before you begin again?

20 MR. HARRIS: I'm John Harris and I had a few comments to
21 add to my prior comments. I want to remind everyone here that
22 the media grossly misrepresents the use of drones and their use
23 in Pakistan. The evidence that I've been able to gather clearly
24 indicates that the drones are being used for much more than
25 isolated targeting of particular individuals. I believe that

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1 they're being used to actually depopulate north Pakistan and I
2 think that more attention should be brought to this issue and
3 this forum. Thank you.

4 COLONEL ORR: Is there anyone else? Okay. On behalf of
5 all current and future service members I would like to thank you
6 again for your participation and input this afternoon. Alaskan
7 Command welcomes your review and comments on the analysis
8 contained in the Draft EIS. Again, written comments can be
9 submitted by filling out a comment form this afternoon or
10 mailing it to the address on the comment form. Comments may
11 also be submitted via the website or by fax. All comments must
12 be postmarked or received by June 7th, 2012, to be considered in
13 the Final EIS. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you
14 to look at the maps and other displays around the room. These
15 provide details on the individual proposals and we will have
16 someone at each station to answer your questions. We appreciate
17 your time and interest in the JPARC and we welcome your
18 comments. If you think of something during the course of the
19 day that you would like to say later we're going to reconvene
20 another hearing this afternoon.

21 Thank you for your time and participation. This hearing
22 is adjourned.

23 THE REPORTER: Off record, 12:25 p.m.

24 (Off record at 12:25 p.m.)

25 (On record at 12:38 p.m.)

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1 THE REPORTER: Back on the record at 12:38 p.m. Please
2 state your name one more time please.

3 MR. WHITE: Yes. My name is Chris White and I mentioned
4 in my comments previously about an area that I was concerned
5 about and the area I was specifically concerned about was the
6 Tanana Flats and the -- well, I'm actually concerned about all
7 of the area that the JPARC or Range Complex covers and what
8 restrictions will be put on the citizens and how will we -- will
9 we have to sign up to hunt in these areas? This is prime
10 hunting and trapping areas and the -- many people are going to
11 be concerned if you start closing this off to -- or restricting
12 us too much out of it. That would not be good. So those are
13 the areas I mentioned in my previous comments regarding the
14 hunting, fishing and trapping in those areas.

15 COLONEL ORR: All right. Thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That should do it.

17 THE REPORTER: Off the record, 12:39 p.m.

18 (Off record at 12:39 p.m.)

19 (On record at 6:05 p.m.)

20 THE REPORTER: On the record, 6:05 p.m.

21 COLONEL ORR: Okay. Is it going? You good?

22 (Pause)

23 COLONEL ORR: All right. Could I ask you all please take
24 your seats? Thank you. This hearing is scheduled to end at
25 8:00 o'clock this evening and if anyone who wishes to do so has

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1 spoken and you would like an opportunity to expand your remarks
2 you may do so if that chance -- you have that chance if time
3 permits. If you do not feel comfortable standing up to make a
4 statement you can submit a written comment here tonight using a
5 comment form. You can also submit comments until June 7th,
6 2012. Keep in mind that written comments are given the same
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8 To ensure that we get an accurate record of what you have
9 to say please help me by respecting the following ground rules.
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11 only your name and any organization you represent, if that
12 applies. Please do not provide any other personal information,
13 such as your home address or phone number. Your oral comments
14 will be recorded by a court reporter verbatim, used to develop a
15 transcript and permanent record of this meeting and will be
16 published as part of the Final EIS. The names of the
17 individuals making comments, as well as their comments, will be
18 disclosed in the Final EIS. Personal home addresses and phone
19 numbers will not be published.

20 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes to
21 speak. In order for each individual speaking to have the full
22 time allotted, audience members, please be respectful of the
23 opinions offered by your neighbors. If you anticipate your
24 comments will extend beyond the time allotted, please make the
25 most important comments first.

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1 Third, if you have prepared a written statement you may
2 turn it in at the registration table or you may read it out loud
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4 Fourth, please honor any request that I make for you to
5 stop speaking when you reach the four minute time limit. The
6 timekeeper will hold up a yellow card when you have 30 seconds
7 left to assist you in knowing when your allotted time is up so
8 that you can comfortably conclude your remarks. When the red
9 card is displayed that means the four minutes are up and in the
10 interest of politeness and fairness to others who wish to speak
11 the speaker is asked to stop and return to his or her seat.

12 Are there any questions concerning the ground rules before
13 we begin?

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Colonel Orr, sir, have you made it
15 clear that that microphone does not amplify, it only goes to the
16 court reporter?

17 COLONEL ORR: I have not, but you just did. This
18 microphone over here does not amplify. Well, there being no
19 other questions we are now ready to begin and the first speaker
20 for tonight is Rasool Ameen. Is that -- all right.

21 THE REPORTER: Sir, could you please spell your last name,
22 state your name and spell your last name?

23 MR. AMEEN: My name is Rasool Ameen, last name A-M-E-E-N.
24 All right. Good evening everybody, thank you. I guess my main
25 concern is the unmanned drones. That's my main concern. I

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1 already know of several places in the United States where drones
2 are being used to gather intelligence on American citizens. Now
3 I understand the need for this as far as military training and
4 everything, but nothing in the world is constant. We don't live
5 in a vacuum and everything that's happening in our country and
6 around the world is connected. We're seeing more and more
7 people overseas who are discontented. We're seeing in our own
8 country discontented people. I mean I was watching PBS news
9 hour last night and the Congress just passed a huge defense
10 bill. Now I understand we need a strong defense, we do, but
11 we're living in a time where we just came through an economic
12 collapse where they're -- many of our fellow citizens are
13 hurting. I mean the latest figures, over 46 million people are
14 out of work. There's a lot of discontented people. We see that
15 on the news, we see that in protests, we see that in things that
16 are happening.

17 So my biggest fear is I understand that this is right now
18 being used militarily, but, you know, it's happened before in
19 history and I see it happening again, that we have a lot of
20 citizens who are discontented and if this technology is already
21 being used to gather intelligence on our fellow citizens who
22 decides -- who is deciding what is a threat. I mean who makes
23 the decision that says an American citizen is a threat? And if
24 we're using this technology on citizens what's to stop us from
25 using other tactics?

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