

**PRESENTATION TO THE
MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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Office of Military Base Planning and Support
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Introduction: Thank you for the opportunity to present a recap of the Military Base Planning program and provide an overview of military installations-related issues. Attached is a current list of the Military Base Planning Commissioners and an overview of the functions of the Office of Military Base Planning and Support and the Military Base Planning Commission.

Overview--My remarks will include the following:

- Impact of 2015 Legislative Session on the Office of Military Base Planning (OMBPS) and Military Base Planning Commission (MBPC)
- Brief update on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2016 and its impacts on New Mexico bases
- Summary of issues affecting the military bases around New Mexico

2015 NM Legislation

- SB 318 – Extended MBPC & OMBPS Sunset Dates to July 2022
- SB 369 – Revised the Military Base Planning Commission
 - Appointment authority is Governor (previously NM Homeland Security Advisor)
 - Commission consists of 12 members -- Lieutenant Governor + 11 appointees (Previously 17 members)
 - Nine members appointed from counties or adjoining counties in which bases are located
 - Two members appointed from other counties in New Mexico
- SB 448 – Extends End Date for Deduction of NMGR from Transformational Acquisition Programs
- OMBPS budget approved

NDAA FY16

The NDAA for FY 16 is being negotiated between both chambers of Congress. Highlights of the bills as they move through the authorization and appropriation committees:

- The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) supported the President's Budget and authorized a total of \$68.71M in military construction projects on New Mexico bases:
 - \$3 million Holloman AFB, Marshalling Area Arm/DE-Arm Pad
 - \$12.8 million Kirtland AFB, Space Vehicles Component Development Lab
 - \$7.8 million Cannon AFB, Construct AT/FP Gate-Portales
 - \$20.4 million Cannon AFB Construct Pump House and Fuel Storage
 - \$11.565 million Cannon AFB SOF Squadron Operations Facility
 - \$13.146 million Cannon AFB SOF ST Operational Training Facilities
- Both the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and SASC have proposed bill language for a pilot program authorizing the use of \$100-150 million for construction of laboratory facilities, which could be used to support Kirtland Air Force Base's Air Force Research Laboratory and White Sands Missile Range's Army Research Lab.
- OMBPS has been working closely with the New Mexico Congressional delegation to insert language in the NDAA to support the missions of New Mexico bases. Specifically:

- The SASC included report language that expressed concern with the lack of investments in capabilities to support major range and test facility bases.
- The SASC report included our language requiring a review and investment strategy for Melrose Range. We believe this is important for increasing the military value of Melrose Range.
- SASC report included directive report language requiring OSD to develop a strategic plan for the use of ranges that support training and test missions. This language will be applicable to WSMR.
- Both the HASC and SASC Bill contained several actions that may impact or increase the Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) mission at HAFB
 - Increase of \$43.1M to the Air Force's operations budget to fund increases in RPA training
 - \$550M in President's Budget for 29 additional MQ-9 and an additional \$440M for 24 additional MQ-9 to support increased requirements
 - Measures to address the chronic shortage of RPA pilots
- There are a number of measures in the House bill that affect military pay and benefits, acquisition reform, and shaping the military force; however, these will be negotiated with the Senate before final passage
- Although requested in the President's Budget, there is no support in either chamber for a round of Base Realignment and Closure BRAC in 2017.

Summary of Issues around New Mexico

Holloman AFB

- The transfer of two squadrons of F-16 aircraft from Luke AFB, AZ remains the number one issue for the Military Base Planning Commission. The first squadron began arriving in 2014. This summer the arrival of the second squadron should be complete. Full training should begin in November 2015. One of the key aspects to this transition is the integration of the F-16 flying requirements into the FAA and WSMR-controlled airspace in Southern New Mexico. There will be minor changes to some of the Military Operations Areas controlled by the FAA, but the F-16 airspace requirements will also drive more efficient use of WSMR airspace. Protecting and improving the airspace in the Holloman-White Sands-Ft Bliss TRIAD is a major focus area for the Military Base Planning Commission in the long term.
- Holloman's Economic Impact is \$609 million per year.

Kirtland AFB

- The ongoing issues with the fuel plume dominate the headlines coming from Kirtland AFB. While this office does not track the fuel plume issue, it is highly important to the Kirtland base leadership and has been the number one topic when NM community leaders visit the HQ Air Force at the Pentagon. Recent media reports that Kirtland will achieve a milestone when it begins pumping contaminated water by the end of this month to remove ethylene dibromide.
- 377th Air Base Wing, managers of the base, will transfer to Global Strike Command from Air Force Materiel Command. This change in operational control will be transparent to the community but will be significant to the base; the operations of the base will be under a warfighting command vice a systems acquisition and logistics-oriented command.
- Kirtland AFB recently hosted the NM Pueblo Governors and commanders from the four NM military bases for a conference on airspace and flying training. The conference was well

attended and very productive. The governors appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the military flying activities in NM and address some longstanding issues regarding noise and low-flying aircraft. All parties agreed to continue the dialogue to deconflict training routes, establish no-fly areas and provide awareness of pueblo festival days.

- The association of the New Mexico Air National Guard 150th Special Operations Wing (Tacos) and the 58th Special Operations Wing is going very well. This association (known as Total Force Integration, or TFI) shares flying training instructors on MC-130 aircraft and maintenance personnel.

- The State Aviation Office recently provided a \$4.3 million grant to construct a new runway at Belen Airport. The runway will be a mile long and provide a venue for MC-130 training for the 58 SOW. Additionally the runway will offer a location for future airdrop and CV-22 training.

Cannon AFB

- The 27th Special Operations Wing and its Airmen remain very much engaged in combat operations around the world. The base keeps a very high operational tempo with many of its squadrons under a continuous deployment rotation.

- Special operations forces will continue to receive the highest funding priority within the DoD even if funding decreases under sequestration.

- The base has had \$1.3B in military construction in last 5 years. The wing is expecting to grow to >6,000 active duty assigned.

- Recap of Cannon "Land Acquisition;" \$5M Severance Tax Bond Appropriation (STB) to support Cannon:

 - Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR) expansion to 70,000 acres complete 2012, 74-year lease with NMSLO; MAFR lessees terminate Oct 2015. Environmental Impact Study expected summer 2015; all of 70,000 acres will be available for training. Completes the transition from fighter/bomber range to special operations range.

 - Land acquisition adjacent to Cannon: approximately 600 acres, (\$571.5 K)

 - STB Appropriation extended to June 30, 2016; approximately \$800,000 remains of original \$5M

- In early May, Cannon AFB received over 5 inches of rain in 3 hours, displacing 25 families due to flooding and causing over \$7M in damage to base facilities. The housing contractor, Balfour Beatty, secured temporary lodging off base for the affected families. The Air Force will provide additional funding for the base to repair Air Force buildings.

- Low Altitude Tactical Navigation

 - Re-initiates an application to designate training airspace for Cannon-assigned CV-22 and C-130 low level flying

 - MBPC, OMBPS and other State agencies stand ready to assist in what will be a major public relations challenge

White Sands Missile Range

- Brigadier General Tim Coffin, WSMR Commanding General, seeking "critical mass" of active duty soldiers to sustain the base. Currently active duty assigned population is very low.

 - 2d Engineering Battalion departed

 - 1000-4000 military personnel is goal for self-sustainment

- Strategic outlook -- Drafting 20-30 year plan with focus on upgraded capabilities to test against future threats

- Seeking to host more joint training opportunities; potential for collaboration with Ft Bliss on assigned units.

- The U.S. Navy will locate its Electromagnetic Rail Gun at WSMR for testing
- Potential for Grey Eagle (remotely piloted aircraft) and Theater High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) units
- TRIAD—Meeting between commanders and staffs from Holloman, WSMR and Ft Bliss to discuss common issues, especially airspace. Next meeting in August 2015.
 - Facilitating airspace reform will be focus of future MBPC efforts

SunZia

- Description: 515 miles of two single-circuit 500 kV transmission lines designed to connect and deliver electricity generated in AZ and NM to population centers in the Southern California
- Route traverses the White Sands Missile Range Northern Extension Area and impacts DOD ability to conduct tests against long range threats, especially cruise missiles
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Record of Decision – January 2015--Allows right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain facilities on BLM land
- Four mitigations steps agreed by DoD to minimize impact on WSMR's Northern Extension Area
 - Burial of a portion of the power lines--- 1-mile, 2-mile, 2-mile sections
 - Hold harmless clause
 - Allow for unimpeded testing to occur during construction & maintenance
 - "Micrositing" the power lines to minimize WSMR operational impact
- State Land Office must approve route through State Trust Land
 - State Land Commissioner Dunn imposed 60 day hold on the application and held hearings in Deming and Socorro to gather information and comments from stakeholders. Met with SunZia in April. No official word since.
- Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA) defunded
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must permit and has eminent domain authority if SunZia cannot agree to terms with private landowners
- NM Public Regulation Commission (PRC) must approve transmission lines
- MBPC continues to work to educate decision makers--State of New Mexico has demonstrated continued support for the DOD/WSMR/Army position-move the proposed route north, out of the WSMR Northern Extension Area and along existing utility rights-of-way (or bury the line for 35 miles)

Southern New Mexico/El Paso Joint Land Use Study

- Largest Compatible Use Study supported by DOD, Office of Economic Adjustment: five NM counties (Lincoln, Otero, Dona Ana, Sierra, Socorro); El Paso County; El Paso, Las Cruces, Alamogordo; the three bases-Holloman, WSMR, Ft. Bliss.
- City of Alamogordo, Otero County and Sierra County have not signed MOU...yet.
- Dona Ana County is the fiscal agent and program manager
- JLUS Report complete in January 2015. Implementation Committee is established and is applying for an OEA grant to fund a regional planner and grant administrator for two years.
- Five subcommittees formed; work to begin June 2015.
 - Airspace
 - Communication/Coordination
 - Energy Infrastructure
 - Local Gov't Plans
 - Land Use
 - Noise Management/Avoidance

Summary and Closing

- Holloman transition to F-16 remains #1 priority

Establishing a world class fighter base secures Holloman's future role in National Defense

- Office of Military Base Planning and Support and the Military Base Planning Commission are focused on enhancing military value at all the bases
- SunZia Transmission Line represents a threat to the long term testing capabilities of WSMR as currently planned
- Statewide cooperation between State, bases, communities, and Congressional delegation is the best way to enhance military value and limit potential impacts from encroachment



New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission

- **Mission of the Military Base Planning Commission**
 - Obtain and evaluate information about the federal government's plans, policies, and initiatives relative to military base realignment and closure
 - Collaborate with and assist community organizations that have as their purpose the long-term viability of the military bases in their local area
 - Facilitate collaboration between community organizations
 - Coordinate with and assist the State's Congressional Delegation on matters relating to federal base realignment and closure plans
 - Advise the Governor on measures necessary to support and ensure the continued presence of military bases in New Mexico
- **Mission of the Office of Military Base Planning and Support**
 - Support the Military Base Planning Commission
 - Inform the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor regarding issues impacting the military bases in the State
 - Serve as a liaison with community organizations whose purpose it is to support the long-term viability of the military bases
 - Communicate with the staffs of the State's Congressional Delegation
 - Identify issues, prepare information and provide for presentations necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties

New Mexico's Military Base Planning Program recognized by Office of Secretary of Defense as a model state-program



Military Base Planning Commission Roster

Albuquerque

- VACANT Commission Chair
- Sherman McCorkle President/CEO, Technology Ventures Corporation
- John Garcia NM Home Builders Association, Past Chair, Kirtland Partnership Committee
- Jim Tegnalia, PhD Defense Science Board, Sandia National Labs, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- Jay Bledsoe Brigadier General, NM Air National Guard (Retired)

Clovis

- Stacey Martin Current Chair, Clovis Committee of 50
- Lee Malloy Past Chair, Clovis Committee of 50
- Mike Connolly Colonel, USAF (Retired)

Alamogordo

- Ed Brabson Immediate Past Chair, Alamogordo Committee of 50; Business Owner
- Bill Burt NM State Senator; Burt Broadcasting
- Lance Grace President, Alamogordo Forum

Las Cruces

- Bill Connor Chair, Las Cruces Military Affairs Committee; El Paso Electric Executive
- Kiel Hoffman President, Pioneer Bank
- Joe Martinez Staff, Congressman Pearce

State of New Mexico

- John Sanchez Lieutenant Governor
- Jay Mitchell Colonel, USAF (Retired), Secretary, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security