

Santa Fe County

Resolution No. 2010-_____

A Resolution Opposing the United States Air Force Establishing a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation Training Area In Northern New Mexico

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force would like to establish a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) training area in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado for Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) aircraft training flights; and

WHEREAS, personnel at Cannon AFB have proposed to utilize the training area to support Low Altitude Tactical Navigation training for the C-130 Hercules and CV-22 Osprey aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the proposed LATN training area would allow the Air Force to train aircrew members and conduct military flight activities which may include, but are not limited to, air combat maneuvers and low altitude tactics; and

WHEREAS, proposed training would consist of approximately three sorties per 24-hour period, or approximately 688 flights annually and aircraft altitudes would remain between 200 and 3,000 feet above ground level, with the majority of the sorties taking place at 500 feet above ground level at airspeeds at or below 250 knots, and the majority of flights would taking place after dusk; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Santa Fe County should be allowed full enjoyment of the peaceful surroundings and quality of life that this area has to offer and that they have been accustomed to; and

WHEREAS, many national and international visitors travel to Santa Fe County annually for the serenity and peaceful life style and should be able to enjoy the serenity they've come to expect; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is rich in history and is world renowned for its peaceful natural beauty and cultural sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is home to wildlife that inhabit the air, land, and waters; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has concerns regarding the establishment of a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) training area in this region because of possible detrimental effects to Airspace/ Air Traffic, Noise Levels, Public Safety, Air Quality, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Cultural and Historic Resources, Land Use and Recreation, and Socioeconomic elements; and

WHEREAS, the examination of the draft Powder River Training Complex Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, Environmental Impact Statement demonstrates similar concerns which are had for this region for a similar proposed training area; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of Santa Fe County acts in the best interest of its citizens and visitors to provide a safe environment to live and visit and allowing a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) training area causes concern on many issues that relate to protecting these best interests;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT SANTA FE COUNTY OPPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY LOW ALTITUDE TACTICAL NAVIGATION TRAINING AREA IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED THIS ____ DAY OF OCTOBER 2010.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Harry B. Montoya, Chairman

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney