



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 27TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

FEB 22 2006

Colonel John D. Posner
Commander
100 S DL Ingram Blvd Suite 100
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

Mr. James Bearzi
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Dr E, Bldg 1
Santa Fe NM 87505-6303



Dear Mr. Bearzi

Thank you for your letter dated 18 January 2005 outlining the concerns of Mr. A.S. Elliott and the New Mexico Environment Department regarding U.S. Air Force chaff and flare use. We appreciate your interest in our operational program and are committed to maintaining a proactive environmental protection and stewardship program with the State of New Mexico.

Attached is a copy of a letter we recently sent Mr. Elliott addressing his concerns. We note that your other comments are similar to those submitted by your Department in September 2001 regarding our Draft Defensive Training Initiative Environmental Assessment. Appendix G of the attached Final Defensive Training Initiative Environmental Assessment provides responses to the comments cited in your letter. Response MM-2 on page G-26 addresses your first comment, response BI-7 on page G-26 addresses your second comment and response BI-4 on page G-24 addresses your third comment. Your concern regarding fire risk is addressed under Environmental Consequences in Section 4.2.3.1, Fire Safety, beginning on page 4-2.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your Department to fulfill our mutual commitment to the environment. If after reviewing these documents you have further questions, please contact Mr. Mike Poston of my environmental flight at (505) 784-1146 or e-mail michael.poston@cannon.af.mil.

Sincerely

JOHN D. POSNER, Colonel, USAF

2 Attachments:

1. Letter to EL Bigote Cattle Co., L.L.C., 27 Jul 05
2. Final Defensive Training Initiative Environmental Assessment



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

**HEADQUARTERS 27TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO**

Colonel Jeffrey P. Harrell
Vice Commander
100 S DL Ingram Blvd Suite 100
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5214

27 July 2005

Mr. A. S. Elliott
Managing Partner
El Bigote Cattle Co., L.L.C.
HCR 32 Box 25
Uvalde TX 78801-9700

Dear Mr. Elliott

I am writing regarding the components you presented to Air Force officials during the New Mexico Training Range Initiative public hearings held in January 2005. Although it was our intention to have a representative visit you personally to convey our appreciation, we will honor your request to do so in writing.

First and foremost, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Our analysis of the components you presented indicated they are residual debris from an MJU-7 flare. This type of flare may be used over Melrose Range. However, it was not specifically analyzed for use in the surrounding airspace as part of the Defense Training Initiative Environmental Assessment. Due to a lack of communication, the significance of using the MJU-7 flare was not properly understood.

After the public hearings, the Air Force took several actions. For training operations in this area, we have ordered that MJU-7 flares may only be used in the airspace over Melrose Range. Also, the Air Combat Command Director of Air and Space Operations sent a letter to all ACC Wing Commanders directing them to ensure personnel properly coordinate which training materials have received the appropriate environmental analysis.

At this time, we are working to clarify the residual debris from flares proposed for use in Cannon's airspace outside of Melrose Range. We intend to include an additional opportunity for public involvement and comment.

Once again, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harrell", is written over the typed name.

JEFFREY P. HARRELL, Colonel, USAF

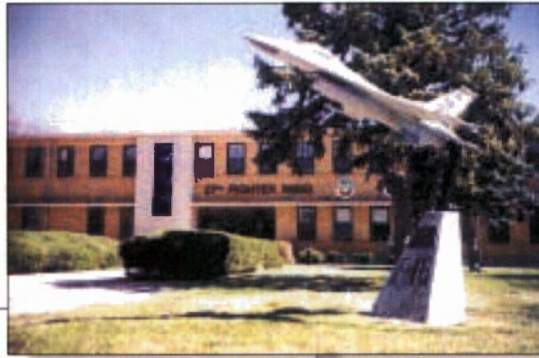
Atch 1



LIBRARY COPY

FINAL

Defensive Training Initiative Environmental Assessment



Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico
September 2001

Atch 2