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Notice of Availability of Alaska Military Operations Areas Final Environmental Impact Statement

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended, HQ Pacific Air Forces through the 11th Air Force has prepared a Final Environmental Impact statement (FEIS) for proposed improvements to Alaska Military Operations Areas (MOAs). The FEIS describes the proposed action and proposed alternatives, identifies the preferred alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative, and analyzes identified potential impacts.

The FEIS also addresses potential impacts of the proposed action; the no action alternative; the alternative of no Clear Creek MOA; the alternative of a new Tanana MOA; and the preferred alternative, Mitigated Alternative A. Key issues identified and analyzed in the FEIS include airspace management and aircraft operations, noise, safety, land use and aesthetics, wildlife, subsistence, recreation, socioeconomic, and air quality.

The preferred alternative, a modification of one of the proposed alternatives, would convert seven previously utilized temporary MOAs to permanent MOAs, modify the operating conditions of five existing permanent MOAs, and create one new permanent MOA. This alternative also modifies the external boundaries of two existing permanent MOAs and the previously utilized MOAs proposed for conversion to permanent MOAs. Supersonic aircraft operations are also proposed for selected MOAs. These actions are necessary to upgrade the existing MOA structure which significantly restricts the Air Force's ability to conduct effective readiness training. The proposed air combat training areas will support major flying exercises, joint (multi-service) training, improvements in weapons systems and aircraft, changes in air combat tactics, composite air wing training, and routine operations for present and future readiness training needs.

Flight operations, whether routine training or major exercises, would normally occur, but are not limited to, between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal Holidays. Training may occasionally occur on weekends between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. with notification being provided by use of the Notices to Airman System (NOTAMs).

The Alaska MOA FEIS will be available for public review at the following locations beginning September 8, 1995:

<u>City/Village</u>	<u>Location</u>
Anchorage	Bureau of Land Management Alaska Resources Library Consortium Library, University of Alaska, Anchorage Anchorage Law Library Arctic Environmental Information & Data Center
Aniak	Public Library
Arctic Village	Old Community Hall
Bethel	Kuskokwim Consortium Library
Chalkyitsik	Village Council Building
Circle/Central	Circle Hot Springs Resort
Delta Junction	Public Library
Denali National Park	Denali National Park Library
Dillingham	Public Library
Eagle	Eagle School Library
Eielson AFB	Base Library
Elmendorf AFB	Base Library
Fairbanks	Noel Wien Library Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Fort Yukon	Native Village Building
Glennallen	Copper Valley Community Library
Juneau	Alaska State Library
Kenai	Kenai Community Library
Lime Village	Lime Village School
McGrath	McGrath Community Library
North Pole	Public Library
Palmer	Public Library
Sleetmute	Sleetmute School
Talkeetna	Public Library
Tok	Public Library
Venetie	Tribal Council Office
Wasilla	Public Library