

NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE LETTERS

Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown Final EIS

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Testimony given to:
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Initial F-22
Operational Wing Beddown

Public Hearing
May 16, 2001
Owyhee Human Development Center
Duck Valley

Lindsey Manning
Environmental Planner/Educator
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation are committed to the defense of the freedoms and rights of all citizens of the United States of America. The tribes have supported the Idaho Training Range facility located in the tri-state area of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada, with certain stipulations, which protect our way of life and resources. We have been in support of the continued operation of the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) during past base-closure considerations. We have always stated that during time of war we would gladly sacrifice along side other Americans. During peace we have stated that we would defend our right to live in peace and perpetuity on our homeland.

Duck Valley is the highest populated area in the Military Operations Area (MOA). Our community has a hospital, public school, senior center and the entire infrastructure that supports our population, resources and future. We are the highest impacted human group of the forecasted F-22 sorties in the MOA.

In past consultations with the Department of Defense (DOD) and specifically with the United States Air Force regarding the Owyhee Military Operations Area (OMOA) we expressed our concerns related to sonic booms, chaff/flares, reservation over-flights, wildlife and disruptions to our adjacent sacred lands and ceremonies requiring solitude and natural settings. Each concern relates to our continued way of life on and near our reservation and homeland.

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The DEIS states that because the F-22 is a new combat fighter aircraft, projections are based on the best available data. The uncertainty of exact future impacts relays that a mechanism should be in place from which the tribes of Duck Valley can have DOD reconsider the extent of their training activities. Approval of the alternative F-22 beddown at MHAFB should be underscored with the statement *that impact conditions concerning Duck Valley will be quarterly evaluated through consultations with officials of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.*

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I am pleased to see the present Reservation over flight restrictions in protection of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes listed in the DEIS: No over flights below 15,000 AGL, no supersonic activity, no chaff use, no flare use below 20,000 AGL or at night. I will have to state into the record that present flights have projected loud sonic booms that startle people and animals to high levels of discomfort. In the past month or two, I personally witnessed a low level flight over the northern portion of the reservation and the aircraft released at least 5 flares.

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The DEIS states there will be an enhanced boom factor. *Future sonic booms of the F-22 could be a problem that could be or become unbearable.* The tribes at Duck Valley should be offered a Boom Event Recording device as to help record decimal levels and frequency of booms for mitigation purposes.

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Air and water quality readings are a must for conditions at Duck Valley. Again, because the F-22 technology and futuristic uses cannot be accurately projected for this advanced fighter, funding should be provided to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes for air and water monitoring.

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Of great importance to the people of Duck Valley is the availability of the Life Flight helicopter transportation of our emergency patients. Numerous lives have been saved by the transportation service to St. Alphonso's Hospital in Boise. The increase of sorties in the MOA could cause Life Flight to cease operation into Duck Valley. *Emergency*

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transportation of critically injured or ill patients out of Duck Valley must be assured a safe and continued Life Flight availability. Direct radio communications availability and airspace precedence of Life Flight transports in the MOA is insisted upon.

Finally, annual funding for monitoring and oversight should be afforded the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley. Cultural resource protection and anthropological funding should be given directly to the tribes so they may be able to contribute in a meaningful way, with DOD funding, specifically to the Idaho Training Range. 144

Thank you for your considerations to our needs and requests. Further written comments will be submitted before the deadline date.

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KNIK TRIBAL COUNCIL

KNIK, THE OLDEST VILLAGE IN COOK INLET

June 13, 2001

HC ACC/CEVP
129 Andrews St., Suite 102
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769
ATTENTION: Brenda Cook

RE: Comments For F-22s at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Dear Sirs:

We are apposed to the F-22s coming to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. We do not want them in our back yards for several reasons. These are some reasons just to name a few: noise impact, air pollution, fuel dumping, human crimes by military, lack of supervision, accidents, not to mention they do not clean up after themselves and leave toxic wastes lay wherever they may. We don't want them here, maybe they should be stationed in Kosovo, better yet the "no fly zone" or Iraq. 145

Thank you very much,

Chief Paul B. Theodore
Chief Paul B. Theodore
Knik Tribal Council

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