

TESTIMONY OF COLONEL WAYNE MONTEITH**BEFORE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COMMITTEE****SUPPORT FOR HB 1201 (2009)****Introduction**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Peniston and committee members, I am Colonel Wayne Monteith, Vice Commander of Peterson Air Force Base. I have come here today to voice support for this important encroachment legislation on behalf of Peterson Air Force Base and the Air Force. This Legislation is important to protect the mission and security of the base and the health of the members of the community around our installations.

I am also accompanied by Colonel (Col) Cruz-Gonzalez from, Col Pope, and Mr Tindell all from Head Quarters Air Force Space Command. I am also joined by Col James Zemotel from Buckley AFB and Major Blackburn the Regional Counsel for Colorado. They are here to assist me in answering any questions that you might have.

Today, you are considering whether to support legislation which will assist Military installations throughout Colorado with responding to impacts from nearby development. By supporting this legislation, you can help improve the bases ability to carry out their missions and at the same time promote the health and safety of the surrounding communities. Thank you for your serious consideration of this legislation.

Military Installations in CO

I would like to start by briefly discussing the Air Force facilities in CO and then I'll discuss Peterson AFB in greater detail. The Air Force has four major installations in CO including Buckley AFB, Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, and the United States Air Force Academy. Each of these bases are critical elements of both the local communities as well as the National Defense infrastructure.

The Air Force Academy is the single largest commissioning source of Air Force officers. Their mission is to educate, train and inspire young men and women to become officers and leaders in the U.S. Air Force. Over the years, they have trained almost 38,000 officers and almost 40 percent of those are still on active duty in the Air Force. This facility is truly the leadership backbone of the Air Force, but the Academy's training areas and three air fields are suffering from encroachment, primarily along the eastern border of the facility.

Schriever AFB is the home of the 50th Space Wing which operates and supports more than 170 DoD satellites that provide integrated combat effects from space.

The 6,000+ personnel are responsible for monitoring the launch of satellites, putting them in proper orbit, and then operating them while in orbit. Colorado Springs is growing in the direction of Schriever AFB increasing the Air Forces concerns over both physical and electro-magnetic encroachment.

Buckley Air Force Base is home to more than 10,000 men and women of the 460th Space Wing and the base's 77 tenant units. The 460th Space Wing mission is to proudly guard our nation's high frontier by delivering global infrared surveillance, tracking, and missile warning for theater and homeland defense and provide combatant commanders with expeditionary warrior Airmen. Buckley is home to more than 77 other units representing every branch of service and components -- Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve. As such they estimate that they support over 90,000 people in the front range community and contribute over \$1 Billion annually to the local economy. Brigadier General Eyre (discussed/will discuss) encroachment issues as they relate to the 140th Fighter Wing at Buckley but the 460 SW mission is also impacted by both physical encroachment and frequency/electro-magnetic encroachment.

Now I would like to discuss Peterson AFB. Like many bases these days, Peterson Air Force base is home to 51 organizations in addition to the 21st Space Wing—Head Quarters Air Force Space Command (HQAFSPC), NORAD, United States North Command (USNORTHCOM), Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the 302nd Air Lift Wing all call Peterson home. Peterson AFB is home to almost 18,000 military and civilian employees as well as their families. Peterson AFB has an estimated annual economic impact to the local community of \$1.2 Billion dollars. The mission of the various residents of Peterson AFB is critical to our Nation's defense. For example:

- NORAD is bi-national collaboration between homeland defense, security and law enforcement organizations that is responsible for safeguarding North American airspace and preventing attacks against the United States or Canada.
- USNORTHCOM conducts operations to deter, prevent and defeat threats aimed at the United States as well as providing support to civil authorities in response to national disaster-- man made or natural.
- HQAFSPC oversees all Space Command units in the CONUS or overseas in an effort to provide trained airmen with unrivaled space capabilities to defend America.
- 302nd Airlift Wing is Petersons flying unit which provides airlift forces in world wide support of national interest as well as providing aerial drops in support of firefighters using the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems.

- 21st Space Wing conducts flawless missile warning and space control operations as well as being responsible for the day to day operation of all facilities, support and protection at Peterson AFB.

Peterson AFB proper is located north of the Colorado Springs Airport and the runway as well as most of the base proper is owned by the city of Colorado Springs but leased by the Air Force. Peterson AFB also exerts operational control over Cheyenne Mountain Air Station. Because of the complex nature of our facility we have planning strategies with both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. This has created a strong mutual relationship with the neighboring areas that house and support much of our base population, but we still face numerous threats from encroachment.

Discussion of encroachment

What is encroachment? Officially, encroachment is the cumulative result of any and all outside influences that inhibit normal military training, testing and operations. The simple answer is that encroachment is the growth of communities around bases that interferes with the bases ability to perform the mission. Encroachment has emerged in recent years as a major issue for the Department of Defense (DOD), as ever-increasing population growth continues near once remote and isolated military installations. The transformation of areas around military bases over the last 10-20 years has been truly dramatic.

It is also very important to understand that development can interfere with military functions in many ways other than just the size and location of buildings. Clearly building a high rise at the end of a run way is the simplest, clearest example of encroachment but there are many other forms of encroachment. Finally, electro-magnetic or radio emissions interfere with our ability to use communication or navigation equipment and in the case of our space command missions can be the most serious form of encroachment facing our CO bases.

Encroachment is also a concern for the community because military needs of the base could create safety and security demands in the surrounding community. Examples of military impacts are overflights, artillery and weapons noise, interference with radio spectra, or the need for safety buffer zones around installation. These can range from mere nuisances like interference with radio reception to more severe interferences. These are some of the more important aspects of military operations that are incompatible with certain civilian development near military ranges.

Most communities love their installations and all the uniformed and civilian members of the base also live in and love the local communities. The Air Force uses many tools to try to assure that we can complete our mission while still protecting the safety of the local community, and maintaining excellent working relations with our neighbors.

Today, we focus on community partnering and intergovernmental planning to achieve compatible land use and zoning to protect ever-evolving management needs. We are integrating these activities as appropriate with such programs as the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) program and the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Program. The Air Force integrates these activities through the Front Range Encroachment Prevention Working Group. Concurrently, DOD is also working with national organizations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the Environmental Council of States, and many other state and local organizations to encourage state legislation and policy development to enhance long-term sustainability of our military installations. The legislation before the committee is just that sort of legislation.

HB 1201

HB 1201 is similar to other legislation that has been adopted in other states across the country. It is an important next step to the legislation that was passed a few years ago by now United States Congressman Lamborn. HB 1201 goes the next step by requiring master plans to acknowledge the location and extent of base facilities and then try to identify consistent uses within 2 miles of those facilities.

The Air Force understands that urban development near facilities may create adverse risk public health and safety and can adversely affect the ability of the military to complete our mission. Although we can accomplish some of the goals of HB 1201 through cooperation with local boards, a uniform and consistent standard across all our partnering communities insures that neither the installation nor the residents are left to the vagaries of local regulations. As I have said, we may currently have great relations with our local boards but people change and as the DOD has learned too often, it is too late to pass this sort of legislation after the damage is done.

Our interpretation Section 1 of HB 1201 is that it will require local governments with land within two miles of a military airport or land in a high noise or accident potential zone to ensure that future development is compatible with that high noise or accident potential. An analysis of our bases indicates that this section will only apply to the Air Force Academy and Buckley AFB because the others either do not include runways or in the case of Peterson AFB do not use AICUZ. Further, most of the area covered at the Academy will be within installation boundaries.

Section 2 and 3 will cover the needs of the facilities that are not covered in Section 1. Section 2 requires counties to include a military installation element in their master plan that indicates how development of land within two miles of a military facility is compatible with the military mission. Section 3 requires municipalities to identify bases in their master plan and zoning plan and indicate

how development of property within two miles of the facility is compatible with military uses. These sections would apply to the installation named in Section 5 but may not apply to our auxiliary fields. As such, the Air Force suggests using the broader definition Section 29-1-207 in place 24-65.1-104 or at least including language stating "and their auxiliary fields" at the end of the definition of "military installation".

The only concern that the Air Force has with the bill is that the bill does not seem to discuss broader encroachment issues, such as electro-magnetic interference, that could create greater mission impact on non-flying missions. Given the large number of Space related missions, the Air Force would recommend including a definition or examples of incompatible uses that includes frequency or electro-magnetic interference. Overall though, all four Air Force installations support this legislation.

Conclusion

I would like to thank you for giving me and the Air Force an opportunity to speak on this legislation. The Air Force requests that you support this legislation and further assist Military installations throughout Colorado. By supporting this legislation, you can help improve the Air Force bases in the states ability to carry out their missions and at the same time promote the health and safety of the surrounding communities. Thank you for your serious consideration of this legislation.