Colonel Richard A. Goodman
Commander
366 Gunfighter Avenue Ste 331
Mountain Home AFB  ID 83648

Memorandum for:  Federal, State, and Local Public Agencies
                 Interested Parties
                 Members of the Public

Subject:  Airspace Optimization at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho – Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement - Notice of Public Meetings

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and its implementing regulations, the United States Air Force (Air Force) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with Airspace Optimization at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho (see Attachment). Modifying this airspace will allow us to provide a more realistic and efficient airspace training environment, and improve aircrew proficiency in low-altitude tactics and radar masking using mountainous terrain for survival in a highly contested environment. The proposed airspace changes include:

1) changing low-altitude operational airspace floors that currently prohibit realistic low-altitude training certification and maintenance training and negatively impact vertical capability and capacity

2) providing consistent low-level operational floors for low-altitude flights to allow use of topographic features of mountainous terrain to mask the aircraft and safely neutralize or avoid technologically advanced threats, and

3) allowing aircrews to descend at supersonic speed and to fly at lower supersonic altitudes so they can realistically train on evasive maneuvers.

While only a small portion of overall flights, any low-altitude operations would be subject to specific limitations; however, these operations are essential for training and mission completion.

The Air Force published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on October 18, 2019 initiating the public involvement process. Open-house style public meetings will be held at the locations, dates, and times listed below. The purpose of the meetings is to provide information about the proposal and solicit comments on the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. No formal presentation will be given. Please attend at your convenience.
Monday, November 4, 2019 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM McDermitt Combined Schools 100 Olavarria Street, McDermitt, NV 89421

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM The Riverside Hotel 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714

Thursday, November 7, 2019 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Grand View Elementary School 205 1st Street, Grand View, ID 83624

Friday, November 8, 2019 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Mountain Home Junior High School 1600 E. 6th S Street Mountain Home, ID 83647

We request your participation and solicit your comments on the Proposed Action. Though comments will be accepted throughout the EIS process, please provide your comments no later than November 25, 2019 to ensure consideration in the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted at any of the public meetings, on the project website (www.mountainhomeafbairspaceeis.com), or in writing to Mountain Home AFB Airspace EIS, c/o Leidos, 1740 East Fairview Ave., PMB 20, Meridian, ID 83642.

Respectfully,

RICHARD A. GOODMAN, Colonel, USAF

Attachment:
Figure 1. Current Airspace Configuration at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho
Figure 1. Current Airspace Configuration at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho