

STOP THE AIR FORCE PLANS FOR LOW-ALTITUDE NIGHTTIME TRAINING FLIGHTS IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO



**The US Airforce proposes to fly the CV-22 Osprey and the C-130 airplanes
at altitudes of 300 feet above ground level.
They also want to use our air space to train and test drone warfare.**

They will fly at night and at speeds up to 350 MPH. These maneuvers include in-flight refueling. There will be three flights per night over the mountains and valleys of a 60,700 square mile area of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. In addition, the area will be used for the training of pilots controlling attack and surveillance drones (UAVs)

Peaceful Skies Coalition formed in the Fall of 2010 to stop the proposed Low Altitude Training Area (LATA) military training flights over the skies of New Mexico and Colorado. Our intent is to generate a ground-swell of written comments to Cannon Air Force Base against the proposal and to persuade them that the Draft Environmental Assessment just released is not sufficient and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. Fort Carson's Combat Aviation Brigade seeks to test their drones over our community. We are also working to ban the use of drones by state, county and town law enforcement agencies. Peaceful Skies Coalition will continue, after defeating LATA, to help New Mexico and Colorado end its' dependence on the military economy and focus instead on the needs of the people, the land, and our world.

Peaceful Skies Coalition

c/o Cliff Bain, - PO Box 297, Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513 - www.peacefulskies.org
We also work with Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition - pinoncanyon.org

WHY WE OPPOSE THE LOW ALTITUDE TRAINING AREA OVER OUR COMMUNITY

TEN IMPORTANT REASONS TO STOP AIR FORCE PLANS FOR LOW-ALTITUDE NIGHTTIME TRAINING FLIGHTS IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO

- 1) The People Don't Want It! Natives of this region cherish the tranquility of this sacred land. And many artists and retirees have moved here from all over the country especially for peace.
- 2) Health Problems for People: Repeated loud noise and loss of sleep can cause stress, elevated blood pressure, heart problems, irritability, and reduced daytime productivity. It also reactivates trauma for PTSD vets.
- 3) Population Shift and Reduction in Property Values: Over time, some noise disturbed people would move away and others would decide not to come here. Result: decline in property values.
- 4) Decline in Tourism: Repeated nighttime noise disturbance would eventually reduce tourism, a lifeblood of this area.
- 5) Wide Impact: Population in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico are not just concentrated in villages that can be flown around. A great many people live scattered widely in sagebrush land and mountain forests.
- 6) Danger to Ancient Adobe Churches and Pueblos: Loud noise vibrations of low-flying double-prop aircraft threaten structural integrity of ancient adobe structures.
- 7) Danger to Animals: Noisy, low-flying aircraft distress livestock and wildlife, and can cause bodily damage when panic-stricken animals run into fences. It can also cause pregnant animals to abort. Flights could also further endanger already endangered species.
- 8) Danger of Crashes and Forest Fires: With aircraft flying as low as 200 feet at night in mountainous terrain, there is always the possibility of crashes. Result: deaths, property damage and the igniting of forest fires.
- 9) Danger of Air, Water, and Soil Contamination: With the possibility of three fly-overs per night, there is a danger of contaminating our air, water, and soil from the toxic jet fuel emissions. This can cause long term health problems in humans and animals, and damage the environment.
- 10) Danger of Avalanches: Under certain circumstances, low flying aircraft can create downdrafts that can blast loose rocks and snow from mountainsides.

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Anti-Drone Ordinance Taos County

PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC AGAINST USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (DRONES)

Whereas:

1. United States airspace is the busiest in the world, with up to 87,000 flights per day, including commercial airliners and freight haulers, air taxis and private and military aircraft.
2. Unmanned aerial vehicles (referred to in the remainder of this ordinance as drones) are not now allowed in United States general airspace because of the threat they present to other aircraft. Under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 the FAA is directed to create regulations that will enable drones to fly throughout US airspace by September 2015.
3. Small drones, 25 pounds or under, are now permitted to fly in general airspace below 400 feet for the use of police and first responders, with FAA permission.
4. Drones have limitations in "vision" compared to the vision of human pilots, do not have the same capability to avoid other aircraft as aircraft piloted by humans, and there has been at least one instance outside the United States of a drone collision with an aircraft with a human pilot on board and as well as a near miss. These instances occurred in airspace much less crowded than that of the United States.
5. Drones have at times gotten out of human control, in at least one instance having to be shot down, and drones are susceptible to having control seized electronically by unauthorized operators.
6. Drones have the capability of carrying a variety of weapons, including 12-gauge shot guns, tear gas, rubber bullet guns, bombs and missiles, but drones have significant limitations in identifying specific individuals and groups.
7. Unmanned aerial vehicles have the capability to watch individuals, groups and populations on a 24-hour basis, following and recording their movements for days and weeks in an unprecedented way.
8. Unmanned aerial vehicles have the capability to continuously monitor cell-phone and text messaging of individuals, groups and populations.
9. Drones are being developed that will use computerized facial images to target individuals and, once launched, to operate, autonomously, without further human involvement, to locate and kill those individuals.

We find therefore that:

Drones present an unreasonable and unacceptable threat to public safety in the air and to persons and property on the ground in the County of Taos due to limitations in drone "vision", capability to avoid other aircraft and adequate control,

and

Armed drones and surveillance drones present an unreasonable and unacceptable threat to the rights of individual privacy, freedom of association and assembly, equal protection and judicial due process in the County of Taos.

Therefore:

1. Drones are hereby banned from airspace over the County of Taos, including drones in transit. Flying of a drone within the airspace of the County of Taos shall be considered a gross misdemeanor carrying a penalty of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed \$5,000. More than one offense of flying a drone within said airspace will be considered felonies, with jail time and fines based on the number of violations. (Specifics on misdemeanor and felony classifications and penalties will vary by locality.)
2. Drones will not be purchased, leased, borrowed, tested or otherwise used by any agency of the County of Taos.