



THE TAOS NEWS

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Cannon Air Force sets hearings in Taos, other areas

By Chandra Johnson

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Cannon Air Force Base announced Monday morning (Oct. 4) that it plans to hold public informational meetings around Northern New Mexico — including Taos — in the next few weeks.

Capt. Lawrence Van der Oord of Cannon said in a release Monday that the meetings would “present information and hear issues and concerns regarding the proposal to establish a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation area for Special Operation Forces here during a series of upcoming public scoping meetings hosted by several New Mexico cities.”

The schedule of those meetings is as follows:

Oct. 14, 1-3 p.m., State Capitol Building Rm. 322, 425 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe

Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m., Rio Grande Hall, 121 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos, N.M.

Oct. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Commission Chambers, City Hall, 224 Savage Ave., Ratón

Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m., Leveo Sanchez Auditorium, 800 National Ave., Las Vegas, N.M.

The Air Force announced via public notice last month that it was currently taking public comment for an “environmental assessment” in preparation for low-altitude aircraft training over Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.

Van der Oord also said in the release that similar meetings would soon be scheduled for various locations in Southern Colorado and that the entire process was just beginning.

“The Air Force is in the very preliminary stages of the Environmental Assessment process. The initial public scoping period runs through Nov. 15, and it is the first of several opportunities for public input on the proposal,” van der Oord said.

Peaceful Skies Coalition coordinator Cliff Bain said Tuesday (Oct. 5) that the coalition is looking forward to the opportunity.

“I’m pleased they’re coming here. We’ve been expressing our concerns and organizing up here, so they know they have to come here,” Bain said. “The more they come here to listen to our concerns, the more complete their process will be.”

Comments can also be mailed to: Cannon AFB Public Affairs Office at 110 E Sextant Avenue, Suite 1150, Cannon AFB NM 88103; or sent via email to 27SOWpublicaffairs@cannon.af.mil by Nov. 15. For more information, visit the Cannon AFB website at www.cannon.af.mil.