

RESOLUTION #013-2010

OPPOSING FLY-OVER TRAININGS KNOWN AS LOW ALTITUDE TACTICAL NAVIGATION (“LATN”)

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force intends to conduct fly-over trainings, known as Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (“LATN”), over areas of Southern Colorado, including the Town of Crestone (“Town”), Colorado; and

WHEREAS, C-130 and CV-22 Osprey aircrews from Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico would fly as low as 200 feet at speeds around 200 mph, or subsonic speed, as often as three times a day as part of the training program, including 3 flights per night;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, the C-130 is a very large and very loud propeller-driven cargo plane and the CV-22 Osprey is a smaller loud prop-driven plane;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, a single C-130 emits four (4) trails of black smoke; and

WHEREAS, the C-130 and the CV-22 Osprey both emit perchlorate and other contaminants which would contaminate the Town’s water supplies as well as the San Luis Valley, since the aircraft will fly over tributary creeks that end up recharging the aquifer; and

WHEREAS, aircrews in training will be simulating war games over the skies of the Town indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, the unlimited war games will include: (1) dispersing chaff, a micro-fine filament of fiberglass and aluminum, to simulate combat-type conditions, which will be inhaled by humans and wildlife alike, and will pollute our creeks; (2) mid-air refueling missions, whereby jet fuel, containing known carcinogens, can leak; (3) the potential for accidents/crashes with high-intensity jet fuel feeding any fire, which may happen in our pristine wildlife areas or near the Town; and

WHEREAS, our first responders, who will undoubtedly be the first ones to respond, lack the proper equipment and wherewithal to fight jet-fuel fires; and

WHEREAS, the Saguache County Office of Emergency Management has made the following statement:

“It would be prudent to require the U.S. Air Force to stage fire suppression aircraft in Alamosa or Saguache during every training flight period. We would not support the flights occurring over population centers at all. We just don’t have the fire suppression capabilities in most areas of the Valley to deal with a large fire, and additional resources are often far away. Our vegetation is highly flammable most of the year. A jet aircraft accident would likely spread fuel over a large area. If a large area ignited in the frequent windy conditions we experience in the valley we could have a catastrophic fire very quickly. Any proposal should include an agreement of who would pay for fire suppression costs in case of an accident”;
and

WHEREAS, the Town is home to spiritual centers, including the Ashtanga Yoga School and Buddhist Nuns Temple, whose practice of meditation, peacefulness, and solitude would be shattered by the deafening roar and rattle of such airplanes; and

WHEREAS, there are more than twenty-one (21) traditional, cultural and spiritual centers within nine miles of the Town, who would be similarly affected; and

WHEREAS, the Town is surrounded by a National Forest, the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Wilderness Areas, and the Baca Wildlife refuge, where the tranquil sounds of nature would be drowned out by the roar of the C-130 and the CV-22 Osprey; and

WHEREAS, the Town's vitality and sustainability depends on the tourism caused by these spiritual centers and proximity to pristine outdoor areas unpolluted by noise; such tourism includes hiking, camping, and hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Town will soon be home to the Crestone Charter School, and studies have shown that students need a tranquil and peaceful environment free from the sounds of combat aircraft in order to learn; and

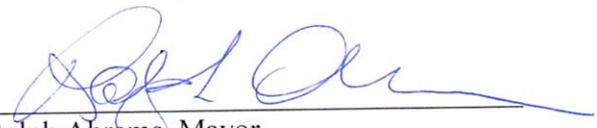
WHEREAS, the Town enforces a noise ordinance to protect the quality of life of its citizens and the surrounding environment and the citizens of the Town should be given as much consideration as citizens of metropolitan areas by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, there are other mostly unpopulated areas in the San Luis Valley where it would be appropriate for the Air Force to conduct its fly-overs; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the Air Force training efforts, but equally supports the tranquility and peace of mind of its citizens and nature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Crestone, Colorado, does not and will not support the fly-over training, as detailed in the LATN, in order to protect the citizens, tourism, nature, and the economic well-being of the Town.

Adopted this 1st day of November, 2010.


Ralph Abrams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Akia Tanara, Town Clerk

ⁱ Matt Hildner, *Air Force proposes training flights over region*, The Pueblo Chieftain, accessed on October 11, 2010 at http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/article_0aca6658-b7f1-11df-b790-001cc4c002e0.html.

ⁱⁱ *Low-Flying Training Flights Over Southern Colorado*, The Pagosa Springs Journal, accessed on October 11, 2010 at <http://pagosasprings.com/low-flying-training-flights-over-southern-colorado/>.