

Basher Community Council
c/o Dirk Sisson, President
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Anchorage, AK 99507
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June 8, 2010

Ms. Carrie McEnteer
Directorate of Public Works
Attn: IMPC-FWA-PWE (C. McEnteer)
1060 Gaffney Road #4500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-4500

Re: **Basher Community Council Comments**
Draft EIS for Resumption of Year-Round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson

Dear Ms. McEnteer:

Enclosed are the Basher Community Council's comments on the Draft EIS for Resumption of Year-Round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson. The Basher Community Council represents the residents of the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood in east Anchorage, which is directly adjacent to the area where live firing is proposed to occur under "Alternative 3" in the Draft EIS. Members of the council voted unanimously at our May 6, 2010, meeting to oppose Alternative 3 because of the serious and prolonged impacts it would have on our neighborhood and the Anchorage community as a whole. On behalf of the council I urge you to remove Alternative 3 from consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dirk Sisson
President, Basher Community Council

Enclosure: Resolution of the Basher Community Council

**Resolution
of the
Basher Community Council**

Regarding

Draft EIS for Resumption of Year-Round Firing
Opportunities at Fort Richardson

Background: In 2010 the U.S. Army developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Resumption of Year-Round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Three alternatives were presented in the DEIS. Alternative 3 would develop a new permanent explosive munitions area on Fort Richardson referred to as the "South Post Impact Area." Two firing points would be within 1.5 miles north of our neighborhood and are of concern to residents. We are particularly concerned about Alternative 3 which includes live firing of mortars and howitzers close to the neighborhood. The following resolution offers recommendations from the Community Council that both address residents' concerns while fulfilling the Army's need for a year-round firing range on Fort Richardson.

Resolution:

Whereas, the community recognizes the Army's need to conduct live fire of mortars and howitzers on Fort Richardson;

Whereas, the community is concerned that troops must currently leave their families for extended periods during the summer months in order to train at live fire ranges elsewhere because the Eagle River Flats are closed to live fire;

Whereas, Under Alternative 3, the footprint of the South Impact Area totals 2,000 acres, of which 545 acres would be impacted by live rounds;

Whereas, up to 4,500 howitzer rounds and 8,000 mortar rounds per year would be fired under this alternative between the South Impact Area and the Eagle River Flats;

Whereas, there are significant noise concerns by residents of our neighborhood, and, according to the DEIS, the projected complaint risk is projected to be moderate to high from residents;

Whereas, the DEIS projects the possibility of damage to property from concussions in areas that are high risk for noise complaints, including the north side of our neighborhood as projected by the DEIS;

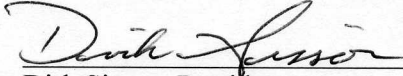
Whereas, we have significant concerns about wildfires spreading south into the neighborhood from the South Impact Area, an area, according to the DEIS, that has "abundant flammable fuels, and access for firefighting crews would be limited and difficult;"

Whereas, there is concern for wildlife in the Ship Creek Drainage in general and Snowhawk Valley in particular. In addition, this area has alpine vegetation, its recovery is projected to be slow and the area may be closed in perpetuity because of unexploded ordinance remaining that could not be recovered.

Therefore be it Resolved,

- The Basher Community Council opposes Alternative 3 because of its unacceptable impacts on the Basher community from noise, damage to property from concussions, possibility of wildfires and impacts to wildlife and vegetation.
- We support Alternatives 1 or 2 because, according to the DEIS, there are fewer cumulative effects on the environment and adjoining neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted by the Basher Community Council



Dirk Sisson, President
Basher (Stuckagain Heights) Community Council

5-6-10

Date