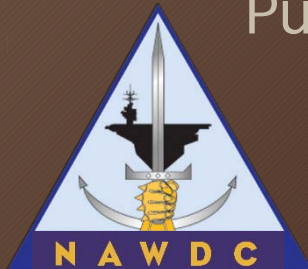




Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
www.FRTCMmodernization.com

Public Review and Comment Period
Nov. 16, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019



Capt. David Halloran

Commanding Officer
Naval Air Station Fallon



Agenda

- Fallon Range Training Complex
- Need for range modernization
- Overview of Proposed Action and alternatives
- Summary of Draft EIS findings
- National Environmental Policy Act process
- Oral comment session



Fallon Range Training Complex

- “The Carrier in the Desert”
- Navy’s premier aviation training range
- Aviation and ground training
- Air wing and integrated training

100 percent of deploying naval aviation and naval special warfare units train on the Fallon Ranges.





Need for Modernization

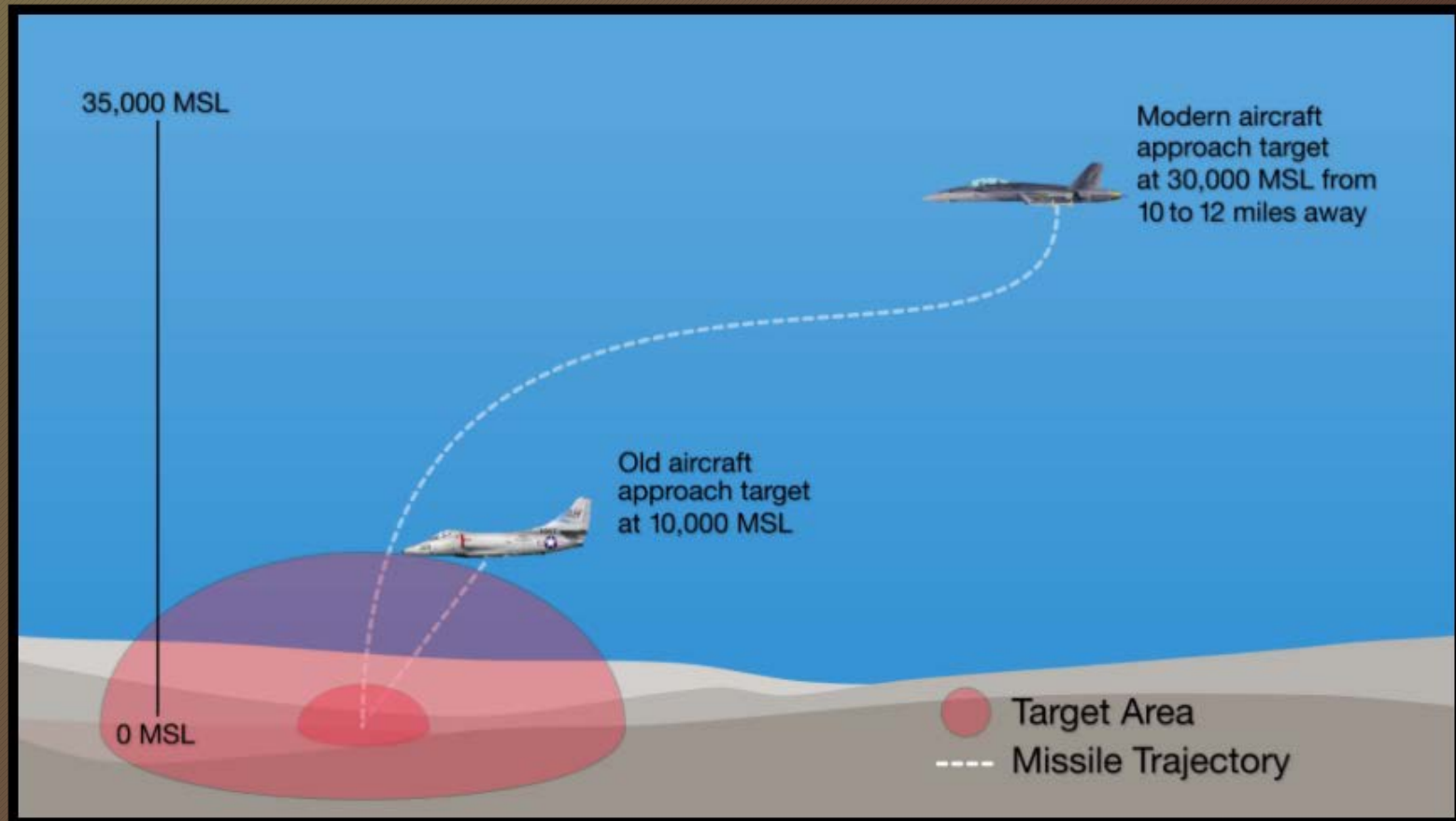
Ninety Days to Combat

- Weapons systems and technology have significantly advanced
- Gaps identified in aviation weapons and ground mobility training
- Current size of land and airspace ranges severely restricts ability to use weapons systems to train for combat
- Current training is limited and not meeting requirements



Need for Modernization

Advanced weapons technology requires larger ranges





Need for Modernization

The Fallon Ranges must be able to support how the Navy fights today so personnel are prepared for the conflicts of tomorrow.

Range modernization would:

- Address gaps in aviation weapons and ground mobility training
- Provide realistic training capabilities needed to meet evolving requirements
- Provide land and airspace needed to train to tactically acceptable parameters
- Maintain safety of local communities

Mr. Alex Stone

Fallon Range Training Complex
EIS Program Manager
U.S. Pacific Fleet



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Public Scoping (Aug-Dec 2016)
- Cooperating Agencies (14)
 - Counties (6)
 - State agencies (5)
 - Federal agencies (3)
- Federally recognized tribes (13)
- Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
- Draft EIS (Nov 2018)
 - Extensive analyses
 - Twenty supporting studies

Alternative 1

Modernization of Fallon Ranges

- Renewal of current public land withdrawal
- Land range expansion through additional withdrawal of federal land and acquisition of non-federal land
- Airspace expansion and modifications
- Upgrades to range infrastructure

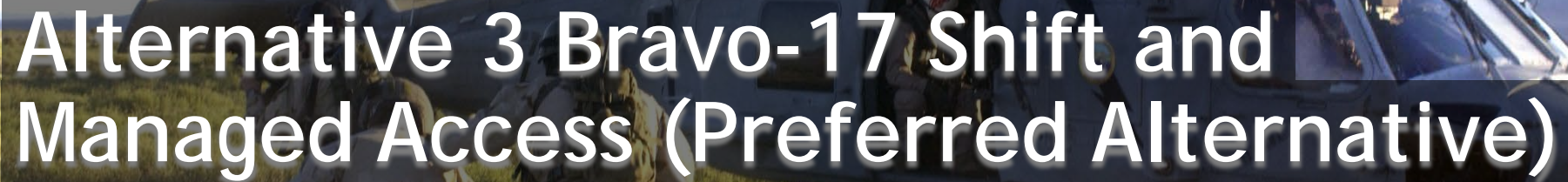




Alternative 2

Modernization with Managed Access

- Expand Fallon Ranges to same extent as Alternative 1
- Continue to allow certain public uses within bombing ranges when not operational
 - Large event off-road races (subject to coordination with Navy)
 - Bighorn sheep hunting (conditionally) on designated portions of Bravo-17
 - Geothermal and salable minerals exploration and development (conditionally) on Dixie Valley Training Area

A photograph of a military helicopter, likely a Black Hawk, in a grassy field. Several soldiers in camouflage uniforms are visible around the helicopter. The background shows a line of trees and distant mountains under a clear sky.

Alternative 3 Bravo-17 Shift and Managed Access (Preferred Alternative)

- Developed through extensive coordination with cooperating agencies and tribes
- Shifts Bravo-17 range off areas important for public access
- Includes potential relocation of State Route 361 and Paiute Pipeline
- Includes a Special Land Management Overlay

Alternative 3 best meets the Navy's purpose and need while allowing greatest amount of compatible public land access and use.



No Action Alternative

- Required by NEPA; does not meet purpose and need
- Land range renewal, expansion, and airspace changes would not occur
- Navy would re-evaluate mission of Naval Air Station Fallon
- Navy would address relinquishment of currently withdrawn lands to the Bureau of Land Management



Resource Areas Analyzed in the Draft EIS

- Geological Resources
- Land Use
- Mining and Mineral Resources
- Livestock Grazing
- Transportation
- Airspace
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Public Health and Safety
- Environmental Justice

Mining and Mineral Resources

Alternatives would result in significant impacts on exploration and development of mining and mineral resources.

- Withdrawal includes lands with high potential for locatable, leasable (geothermal), and salable minerals
- Bombing ranges closed to all mining exploration and development
- Locatable mining not allowed on Dixie Valley Training Area
- Exploration and development of geothermal and salable resources conditionally allowed on Dixie Valley Training Area (Alternative 3)

Livestock Grazing

Alternatives would have significant impacts on grazing.

- Closure of portions of 12 BLM allotments and one Bureau of Reclamation grazing area
- Impacts on individual permit holders
- Impacts on total economic activity within affected counties not significant

Transportation

Impacts from closing roads, rights-of-way, OHV areas, and customary/familiar transit routes would be significant.

- Proposal to potentially relocate SR-361 (Alternative 3) or SR-839 (Alternatives 1 and 2), subject to further study
- Impact on traffic patterns in areas surrounding Bravo-16 due to closure of Sand Canyon Road
 - Simpson Road would be open for public use (Alternative 3)
- Loss of access via customary transit routes due to closure of Bravo-20 Access Road (Pole Line Road)

Noise

Significant impacts on the acoustic environment, but would not interfere with typical land uses.

- New areas of noise exposure on lands under eastern portion of special use airspace
- Incidents of speech interference, classroom interference, and probability of awakening increased, especially near Gabbs
- New areas potentially receiving sonic booms
- Noise contours above 65 decibels contained within bombing ranges, except Bravo-16

Water Resources

Alternatives would not have significant impacts.

- Continue to implement management practices
- Update plans to reflect new conditions
 - Range clearance
 - Integrated natural resource management
 - Spill prevention
- Evaluate necessity to purchase or modify affected water rights on case-by-case basis



Cultural Resources

Alternatives are not anticipated to have significant impacts.

- No adverse effects on historic properties anticipated
 - Continue to work with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized tribes
- Access for ceremonial, cultural, and academic visits allowed (conditionally)
- Noise and vibration from sonic booms could impact historic properties
 - Effects not anticipated to alter key characteristics contributing to National Register eligibility



Recreation

Alternatives would have significant impacts on recreation.

- Public no longer able to access areas proposed as expanded bombing ranges
- Bravo-17 shift off popular hunting areas, Sand Springs Range, and Fairview Peak (Alternative 3)
- Congressional legislation to remove Wilderness Study Area designation of withdrawn portions, potentially opening areas to new recreation (Alternative 3)
- Portions of Fallon National Wildlife Refuge and Churchill County conservation easements closed to public
- Manage bighorn sheep hunting in Bravo-17 with Nevada Department of Wildlife (Alternatives 2 and 3)

Mitigation Measures

Management practices, monitoring, and mitigation measures developed and will continue to be developed with input from public scoping and Draft EIS comments and feedback from cooperating agencies/tribal participants.

- Mitigation classifications:
 - Avoid the impact
 - Minimize the impact
 - Rectify the impact
 - Reduce or eliminate the impact
 - Compensate for the impact
- Mitigation examples:
 - Allow geothermal and salable mining in Dixie Valley Training Area, with required design features
 - Implement five-mile overflight/noise buffer around Crescent Valley and Eureka
 - Implement new three-mile airport exclusion area over Gabbs Airport

NEPA Process

Comment Table



Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS
Aug. 26, 2016

Scoping Period *

Aug. 26, 2016 - Dec. 12, 2016

Public Release of the Draft EIS
Nov. 16, 2018

Public Meetings and Comment Period *

Nov. 16, 2018 - Jan 15, 2019

Public Release of the Final EIS
Fall 2019

Final EIS Public Review and Wait Period *

Fall 2019

Record of Decision
Winter 2019/2020

* Opportunities for public review and comment



Public Review and Comment

- Comments today
- Project website:
www.FRTCModernization.com
- Written comments:
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
Code EV21.SG
1220 Pacific Highway, Building 1, 5th Floor
San Diego, CA 92132

All comments must be postmarked or received online by
Jan 15, 2019, for consideration in the Final EIS.