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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Construction and Operation of a Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) at the Summit of Mauna Kea, HI

**ACTION:** Cancellation of Pan-STARRS EIS.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Parts 1500-1508), and U.S. Air Force (USAF) policy and procedures (32 CFR part 989), the USAF issued a notice on 10 Jan 07 advising the public of its intent to prepare an EIS evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) by the University of Hawaii (UH) Institute for Astronomy (IfA). Pan-STARRS was to be a USAF-funded, UH IfA research program to discover, characterize and track Near-Earth Objects (NEOs), primarily asteroids and comets, whose trajectories pass close enough to Earth that they may pose a danger of collision.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please direct any written comments or requests for information to Ms. Connie Rankin, Office of Public Affairs, 377 ABW/PA, 3550 Aberdeen Ave., SE., Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5776 (Phone: 505-846-4321; e-mail [Connie.Rankin@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:Connie.Rankin@kirtland.af.mil)).

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Department of the Air Force and U.S. Army; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Modernization and Enhancement of Ranges, Airspace, and Training Areas in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex in Alaska

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, on behalf of Alaskan Command (ALCOM), are issuing this notice to advise the public of their intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with modernizing and enhancing current military ground and air training assets in Alaska.

This notice is published pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321, *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508); Executive Orders 11514 and 11991; the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*); the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989); and the "Environmental Analysis of Army Actions" (32 CFR 651). This Notice of Intent describes the Air Force's and Army's scoping process and identifies ALCOM's point of contact.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1322.18, *Military Training*, and Commander U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), Joint Training Program of Excellence, ALCOM as DoD's regional joint headquarters in Alaska, has coordinated with the Services to develop a joint strategy to identify joint training opportunities in Alaska, maximize the utilization of training resources, and improve joint training. The JPARC Modernization and Enhancement EIS will evaluate the elements of this strategy which are reasonably foreseeable.

At present, the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) consists of all land, air, and sea training areas used by the Army, Navy, and Air Force in Alaska. The military uses the JPARC to conduct testing, unit-level training, and to support various joint exercises and mission rehearsals. The JPARC was originally developed to support cold war weapons, tactics, and techniques.

Its current configuration cannot fully meet the training requirement for forces and exercises located in Alaska. The proposed JPARC enhancements would enable realistic, joint training and testing to support emerging technologies, respond to recent battlefield experiences, and train with tactics and new weapons systems to meet combat and national security needs. JPARC enhancements would enable the Services to train realistically and jointly so military personnel could succeed in their mutually supportive combat roles when exposed to situations faced in actual combat.

The proposal would modernize existing military training and testing capabilities located in the interior of Alaska through expanding and/or establishing new Military Operations Areas, restricted airspace, airspace corridors, ground maneuver training areas, and training complexes to provide adequate airspace and controlled-access land to test and train under realistic and varied conditions. The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of the proposed changes and their alternatives.

All of the actions proposed in this EIS are independent of each other and have stand-alone value for improving training operations. While full implementation of all the proposed actions is desired and would result in the greatest training benefit for aircrew and ground troop training, each of the proposals, if implemented alone, would have a positive effect on the use and/or management of JPARC. Depending on decisions made and the availability of funding, it is possible that some of the actions being proposed could be implemented soon after a Record of Decision (ROD) is issued, some actions could be implemented quite some time after the ROD is issued, some actions may be deferred until such time as they are ripe for decision, and some proposed actions may not be implemented. The following projects are those currently proposed to be addressed in the *JPARC Modernization and Enhancement EIS*.

*Fox 3 Military Operations Area (MOA) Expansion and New Paxon MOA:* The Air Force and Army propose to expand the Fox 3 MOA and establish a new, adjacent Paxon MOA to provide the vertical and horizontal airspace structure needed to better accommodate low-altitude threat and multiple-axis mission activities during JPARC training exercises. The Air Force and Army intend to consider the following alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative: Alternative A includes the proposed expanded Fox 3 MOA and the proposed new Paxon MOA with both