

CONDOR MOA

Public Comment Hearing, November 14, 2009

Seabury Lyon, Bethel, Maine 207.836.2576

Introduction:

We, the people of western Maine are here to present our Public Comments according to NEPA requirements and the EA and EIS processes. We request that this session be restricted to that purpose and no other. No responses or discussions from anyone must be allowed to interrupt the conduct of this Public Comment Hearing.

I am Seabury Lyon, resident of Bethel, Maine. Several of us have looked at safety-related items relevant to the ANG proposal to modify the CONDOR MOA, which is used by MA ANG and other, as yet undisclosed services. The product of that research gives cause for concern and in some cases, alarm.

We know, for instance that there have been serious fires created during exercises, such as one in New Jersey Pinelands that consumed 10,000 acres of a pristine nature preserve. We also know that a high school was strafed by 20mm cannon fire, and that practice bombs have been dropped on, and crashes and forced landings have occurred in civilian areas.

We know that the MA ANG itself has a good safety record spanning many years, no doubt due to the scrupulous attention to safety matters given by officers such as General Rice, on down the line. But we now live in urgent times of stressed budgets, cutbacks, aging aircraft and not the least, personnel fatigue. We know these things and are here to express our many concerns, and to ask for your cooperation and support in resolving them.

Below is a list of safety-related items that are not mentioned in current or past ANG proposals. They include:

- 1.) How might all of the proposed changes affect the MA ANG safety record?
- 2.) What is the safety record for other, non-MA units who will fly CONDOR?
- 3.) What **ordinance** will be carried by MA ANG aircraft over our area?
- 4.) What **units other than MA ANG** are, and will be permitted to exercise here?
- 5.) What **kinds of aircraft** will be used over our area, by any and all services?
- 6.) What kinds of **ordinance** and **weapons** will they be carrying, and using?
- 7.) What happens when **flares** don't burn out before landing in a dry forest, or town?
- 8.) Who assumes the **costs and liabilities** for damages, responders, economic impacts, and personal injuries on the ground?
- 9.) What is the record of military aircraft "**mishaps***" **and incidents** in the U.S. over the past ten years?
- 10.) What recourse does a **Maine property owner** have in cases of military mishaps and incidents?
- 11.) Why do **these crucial items remain not addressed**, through so many years and iterations of the proposal process, apparently not given high regard or due diligence by the MA ANG? This despite repeated promises by ANG and their contractor?

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* “Mishaps”: USAF term for incidents resulting in loss of life, permanent total disability, destroyed aircraft, or greater than \$1,000,000,000. in damage.

It grieves us deeply that we must state our request in the following terms, but the lateness in the process and limited opportunities now make it necessary.

Given:

1.) persistent dismissal and trivializing by the MA ANG of the entire EA and EIS process and of the concerns of the people of Maine, and

2.) the enormity of potential negative consequences attached to each of the stated concerns, We The People Of The State of Maine request that the CONDOR proposal cease and desist immediately and not be presented again until such a time that each and every item worthy of our concern –and yours, is satisfactorily resolved.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Seabury Lyon

Reference Statistics

Flight hrs, 2007 ANG	Mishaps, 2007 Note 1.	Avg. Mshps/Yr Note 2.	Cost/Avg. fire Note 3.	\$\$ Pinelands Note 4.
338,000	1.33 = 4.4	16		

NOTES: (data from 2008 USAF Almanac)

1. (Per 100,000 flying hrs.) X (338,000 flying hrs)

(Loss of life, permanent or total disability, destroyed aircraft, >\$1mil. prop. damage.)

2.) “Class A Aircraft”; 10 yr avg. per yr. = 10 fatalities, 16 aircraft; X 10yrs = 100 fatalities and 160 aircraft.

3. Maine, U.S. Forest Service, BFD,

4.) FY 2000?

Provided copy of USAF Almanac data.