

Expansion of the New Mexico Air National Guard Facilities as a Blackhawk Military Training Base.

On September 12, 2000 the Air National Guard came forward with their plans to expand their facilities at the Santa Fe Airport. They did presentation to the City Council and the Santa Fe county commission.

The 35 La Cienega and La Cieneguilla Residents Committee filed a Tort Claim notice in 2000 to the City asking for these codes and laws to be implemented. The City never responded. The City and the County are Not following the laws nor are they enforcing their own codes. These Blackhawk facilities include hanger space, buildings for military personnel and extended runway space. This lease agreement was approved by City Council as of April 11, 2001. See who voted for the lease.

§ The National Guard and the City entered into on August of 2000 for 55-year lease.

§ These Facilities expansion plan include from 11 acres to 34 acres on the Airport site.

§ The former lease states that the City of the Santa Fe Pays for all Water, Sewer and Garbage pick up and Snow removal and all toxic and hazardous waste is being deposited at the Santa Fe Jet Center. Many of these provisions were simply rolled over to the current lease.

§ Water is drawn from and **well at 550 ft deep** this is also **supporting 1,400 US army personnel** including locker rooms and showers.

The City of Santa Fe provides sewer hookups last year to the facility We don't know who paid for this, the City or the Guard but bottom line the taxpayer paid and will pay from here on out.

§ Blackhawk has a horrible safety record. Blackhawks were designed to fly low and slow. That is why so many of our service military crash or are shot down. This is not a helicopter meant to be the type of workhorse that it is now being used for. Even prior to the war Blackhawks along with the Chinook helicopters have the worst safety records in training accidents. These will be flying and training over the homes surrounding the airport. While the Guard states at time that they will utilize other flights paths that last about three operations and then they are back to flying over

home.

§ Blackhawk sound has and LDN of 105. The zoning out there is 55 during the day and 45 at night. Noise testing must be done with the Blackhawk and the all-9 Blackhawks flying over the homes of the residents out there.

§ IN the EA the Guard admits to over 8,300 operations per year. This equals 22 operations a day, 365 days a year.

§ To see more about the CES Response to the EA please see our web page

It is interesting to note that the lease makes no mention of how many helicopters were to be housed at the facility and that they needed to only let them know as to what improvements to the facility would be done.

HOW MANY HELICOPTERS?

At the time of signing the lease there were 4 helicopters at the facility. The Guard was allowed up to 7 according to the presentation that the National Guard officers made at the time of initial presentation. At that time this would allow a total # of Blackhawks to 15 which would increase noise over 200% percent.

• **This facility is built to house 25 Blackhawk Helicopters for military training exercises to be held out in the Caja Del Rio.** This number has always been a point of contention. The US Army National Guard currently has 9 helicopters.

Domenici also release a statement in which he asked for an allocation to 6 new helicopters for the Blackhawk Facility in Santa Fe. The article ran in both the Journal and New Mexican. In 2008 plans are in the works to bring in up to **10** more Blackhawks. There are plans to close the Nevada Air Station and bring the personnel, helicopter and air support wing here.

This is an excerpt from the MAY 28 03 Memorandum filed by the JAG officer to the Federal Court. ...

... 'That New Mexico State law Authorizes local government entities, as here involving the City of Santa Fe, to enter into long term leaseholds, but he had to approved at a public meeting by city ordinance' ... Which they did.... 'In this case the military construction project was required to be approved by the City of Santa Fe because the hanger facility would increase from an existing hanger facility of 28,000 sq. ft to approximately 150,000 square ft and overall leasehold acreage for 17 to 35 acres....

the date was extended for the existing expiration date from 2025 to 2055. The leasehold

would also permit up to a maximum of twenty -five (25) military helicopters to be stationed at the 717th medical evacuation Company (AA) (UH-60) facility...' emphasis added

· The National Guard pursued an agreement with the BLM for 55 years. This Site has been leased from BLM by the NMNG since 1986. Now the sites are increasing to 4 different areas in the Caja. This area is also used for covert operation training. · Current training missions now include night operations, in which we have flights that fly in at 9-11 PM and up to 3-4 am. These flights are so loud that you cannot hear the TV or your phone conversation and it will wake you up at night.

The reason for the 55 year contracted leases is that the U.S Army wants to implement its Modernization plan with the National Guard. These leases have allowed an open door for a Military Training Base that also allows US Army aircraft to be housed at the Santa Fe Airport. I refer you to Friday 9/15/00 Albuquerque Journal Report.

After the Judge Vasquez dismissed the CIMINO Vs US Army NM NG Federal suit, an Environmental assessment was released the same day. The EA States that the US Army has plans for expansion that includes jet aircraft c-12's and other Air Support equipment and personnel. The overall *design* of this project has cost over \$ 22,M, which was allocated in 2000 under the MILCON Appropriations bill. Now Bingaman is going to request 190M in the Appropriation Bill some of which 35 M is to build the Blackhawk Facility at the Santa Fe Airport.

The NM National Guard has been deceiving the people of Santa Fe about its intentions and misrepresented to the City council on the type of expansion that they approved based on the presentation they gave city Council. I have the copies from that Power Point Presentation from the slides. Whether the city council will revisit the ordinance or have any power to change the lease agreement is up to the political willing of the Council.

Calls, faxes and letters to the news media and the Congressional Delegation to re-open their dialog with our group. All Congressional delegation members have denied talking to us about this issue and considered this issue 'off-limits'. Calls to their offices and letter to theirs offices and the newspapers are appreciated.

The Representatives state that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed because the City has not requested one. Please call the City State Guard and congressional Delegation to request an EIS for this Facility.

This is a Social and Moral issue as well on many levels. Remember, this project is about military expansion in our state and what it supports to the international political agenda in this administration and in past. If we want to take back our America, an America for the people and

by the people we must stop this project locally.

It time that the people know that the NM National Guard is deceiving the people and even has deceived City council on the type of expansion that they approved based on the presentation they gave city Council. I also have that Presentation Documents from Power point Slides. Whether the city council will revisit the ordinance or have any power to change the lease agreement is up to the political willing of the Council.

Also, please a word to the critics of CES and the neighborhoods surrounding the airport and US ARMY NM National Guard Facility. For over 6 years CES has been involved in this project with not one fact that we have ever presented to any of the local newspapers actually printed. Even Channel 13 has gone as far as implying that I as a rabid dog, "foaming at the mouth over airport expansion". Many people in our community worked tirelessly for many years on this project. We spoke to many community groups in Santa Fe and in the County without any vocal support from them. So please don't say that we did not do enough to get this message out. We have been isolated, detracted and squashed on most news outlets. There has been retribution, hate mail, hang up phone calls and threats from working on this issue.

While the National Guards mission is an honorable one, the National Guard states that the current military mission is Medi-Vac and Search and Rescue. The National Guard would not be on stand by for fire and rescue operation at the airport if there were an emergency. There is more funding for slating this operation under search and rescue. However, the amount of people lost in the woods or stranded on a mountain trail does not substantiate the number of Blackhawk Helicopters stationed at the airport.

Please remember that that Base is a FEDERAL U.S. Army base during any war or active service duty or call. It is appropriated with Federal Funds. The governor only has jurisdiction during a time of peace.

What Can YOU do to Help!

CES would appreciate people calling and writing the congressional Delegation to re-open their dialog with our group. All Congressional delegation members have denied talking to us about this issue and considered this issue 'off-limits'. Calls to their offices and letter to theirs offices and the newspapers are appreciated.