

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes of the Desert Managers Group (DMG) Overflight Working Group (OWG)

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2001

Place: Anza Borrego State Park
Borrego Springs, California

Chair: Mary Risser (Joshua Tree National Park)

Members Present:

Sr. Chief Michael Beauvais	Naval FAA Rep	(310) 725-3903
Jacki Caron	Flight Safety, March ARB	(909) 655-4567
Sandy Ciriaco	Airspace Manager, China Lake NAS	(760) 939-5423
Jim Collins	Env. Prot. Spec., El Centro NAF	(760) 339-2261
Jim Dice	Ecologist, Anza Borrego State Park	(760) 767-3074
Clarence Everly	Program Coordinator, DOD, DMG	(760) 255-8896
Lt. Col. Bill Frank	Air Force FAA Rep	(310) 725-3900
Lt. Cmdr. Ron Freitas	ATC/Airspace, Pacific Fleet	(619) 545-1617
Mat Fuzie	Anza Borrego State Park	(760) 767-3074
Ken Gebicke	Park Ranger, Mojave National Preserve	(760) 928-2572
John Hamill	Program Coordinator, DOI, DMG	(760) 255-8888
Lt. Col. Jolene Hollingshead	Miramar MCAS	(858) 577-6264
Michael Huber	Regional Environmental Coord., Navy	(619) 524-6264
Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton	WCDF Biologist, BLM	(760) 251-4855
Major Bill Koukourikos	Director, R2508, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-2508
Jan Larson	Natural/Cultural Resource Dept. Navy	(619) 545-2583
Lt. Chuck Lewis	Public Works Officer, El Centro NAF	(760) 339-2201
Kirk Lott	Airspace Manager, R2508	(661) 277-2508
John O'Gara	Environmental Planning, China Lake NAS	(760) 939-3213
Michael Roberts	Airspace Manager, China Lake NAS	(760) 939-5071
Bruce Shaffer	Asst. District Manager, BLM	(909) 697-5205
Robert Shirley	NEPA Env. Planner, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-1473
Major Dennis Teitzel	Operations Officer, MCAGCC	(760) 830-6819
Dave Van Cleve	California State Parks, Desert District	(760) 767-3074
Lt. Col. Chris Volk	Army FAA Rep	(310) 725-3908
Timothy Williams	Wilderness Coordinator, USFS	(707) 562-8838
Richard Wood	Director, Env. Mgmt, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-1402

Approximately 15 members of the group met at Park Headquarters at 0830 for a field orientation and briefing about overflight issues. The group traveled to Fonts Point, where park staff pointed out areas of the park being impacted by fixed-wing and rotary flights. They also provided an overview of the natural and cultural history of the park. Participants returned to park headquarters for the general meeting.

General Administration

1. Dave Van Cleve welcomed the OWG to Anza Borrego State Park and provided a brief overview of the park. Anza Borrego State Park is approximately 600,000 acres and the

largest state park in the lower 48. It is the lowest, highest, and hottest park in the California State Park system.

2. Mary Risser announced that she was transferring to Golden Spike National Historic Site in June. Dennis Schramm, the Management Assistant at Mojave National Preserve, has agreed to serve as the Chair of the OWG for the remainder of the fiscal year.
3. Mike Roberts, the Air Space Manager at China Lake Naval Air Station, will serve as the Vice Chair for the remainder of the fiscal year and will assume the Chair duties next fiscal year. An individual from the land management agencies will be identified to serve as the Vice Chair.
4. The mailing list was updated to remove the names of people who are no longer active in the OWG and new names were added.
5. John Hamill provided a briefing about the DMG and described the formation of the OWG. He also provided copies of the DMG's 5-year plan.

Agenda Topics

1. Since the creation of the OWG, the creation of a generic interpretive brochure that explains the importance of military training opportunities to visitors of the public lands in the California Desert has been a work plan item. The brochure was envisioned as a tool to educate the public about why military flights were occurring and to inform them that the military was authorized to fly over public lands. It would also explain that the OWG had been established as a vehicle for Department of Defense installations and land managers to work together to address issues.

Mary Risser circulated a draft brochure for the group's review. Most of the language comes directly from the OWG's charter. She also circulated a very rough mock-up of a brochure to give the members an idea of the type of lay-out that could be used. An electronic version will be sent to the OWG. Comments are due to Mary by the end of May. This gives members the opportunity to have public information officers review the text and provide comments. Mary will work with Mike Roberts to compile the comments and make necessary changes to the text before giving it to the DMG's Information group. After DIRT provides a draft brochure, the OWG will review it before the brochure goes to the DMG for final approval.

2. Clarence Everly produced a map of Joshua Tree National Park that included all of the military routes that flew over the park. Any other land managers, who are interested in having a similar map of their area, should contact Clarence directly.
3. Jacki Caron, the Aircraft Mishap Coordinator at March ARB, presented a briefing to advise land managers of procedures to follow if a military aircraft went down in their area.
 - Call the nearest military installation immediately. Provide the location and type of aircraft, if known.
 - Coordinate Fire/Rescue response (if needed)
 - If there are no apparent survivors, do not go near the crash due to unknown HAZMAT or unsafe conditions.
 - Secure the perimeter with any resource you have (i.e. rangers, sheriffs). If resources permit, establish an "entry-control point" restricting non-essential personnel from entering the mishap site.
 - Attempt to stay up-wind from crash-site.
 - If crash survivors are taken by ambulance, notify military representative as to location of medical treatment facility.

- Once a military representative (accident investigator or emergency response member) arrives on scene, they will assume control of the mishap **site** as the “On-scene commander.
 - Expect a high level of press interest, especially initially. Limit access to the mishap site to non-military personnel. If any land managers or park visitors witnessed the mishap, provide the military representative a list of names and phone numbers for possible interview by investigators.
 - Land managers will provide briefings to the military “on-scene commander” about resource issues, including sensitive species, cultural sites, wilderness, etc that may be affected by the rescue and recovery operation.
 - Communication and Cooperation is essential during the rescue, investigation and recovery for all agencies involved.
 - The 24-hour FAA Regional Operations Center is 310-725-3300. The USAF/FAA Liaison is 310-725-3900.
4. Staff from Anza Borrego State Park provided an overview of the military flights over the park. The OWG identified three primary issues: aircraft that strays from an identified military training route (MTR); transient flights; and rotary aircraft. After hearing the description of the rotary aircraft use, the members speculated that Border Patrol, Customs, or DEA were probably conducting some type of operations over the park.

Action items include:

- Staff at Anza Borrego will begin compiling specific information about flights (date, time, location, type of aircraft, etc.)
 - Staff will immediately contact one of the military representatives to the FAA. Phone numbers were provided.
 - Mike Beauvais will set up a meeting between the park staff and the appropriate staff from LeMoore NAS and Yuma NAF to identify issues and determine if mitigation can be made.
5. Bruce Shaffer discussed the issues of Peninsula bighorn sheep as stipulated in the settlement agreement between the BLM and the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, and PEER. The BLM and Clarence Everly will exchange datafiles to promote a better understanding of the issues. Clarence will be providing the BLM with a map of the routes over critical Peninsula bighorn sheep habitat. Bruce also informed the OWG that a BLM representative will attend the Recovery Team meetings. The OWG will continue to discuss the issues.

Mary Risser informed the OWG that Lt. Col. Bill Frank and Senior Chief Mike Beauvais have announced their retirement plans. Both have been active participants in the OWG and have provided welcome support. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

The next meeting will be scheduled in early September at China Lake NAS.