

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

1. Date: Thursday, January 18, 2001
2. Place: 161st ARW Arizona National guard
3200 East Old Tower Road
Phoenix, AZ 85034
3. Chair: Ms. Mary Risser (Joshua Tree National Park)
4. Members Present:

Michael Beauvais	Naval FAA Rep	(310) 725-3903
Sandy Ciriaco	Airspace Manager, China Lake NAS	(760) 939-5480
Ed Forner	Ranger/Aviation Officer, Death Valley	(760) 786-3248
Lt. Col. Bill Frank	USAF FAA Rep	(310) 725-3900
Maj. Curt Ganther	Airspace Manager, March AFB	(909) 655-7493
Bill Gries	Airspace Manager, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-3873
John Hamill	Executive Coordinator DMG	(760) 255-8888
Lt. Col. Ann Matonak	USAF FAA Rep	(310) 725-3900
Mary Risser	Assist. Supt., Joshua Tree NP	(760) 367-5503
Lt. Col. Jim Robigotta	USAF FAA Rep	(310) 325-3900
Dennis Schramm	Management Assistant, Mojave Preserve	(760) 255-8840
Robert Shirley	Environmental Planner, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-1473
Timothy Williams	Wilderness Coordinator USFS	(707) 562-8838
Robert Ulrigg	Airspace Manager, Edwards AFB	(661) 277-2508

1. General Administration:
 - a. John Hamill handed out the latest DMG "Memorandum of Understanding & Charter. This document is also available electronically on the DMG Web page.
 - b. Lt. Col. Bill Frank will retire from the Air Force in July 2001; he introduced his replacement, Lt. Col. Jim Robigotta.
 - c. Tim Williams announced a newly designated national monument. The 272,000-acre Santa Rosa National Monument is located in the San Jacinto Mountains to the south and west of Palm Springs. It is comprised of State of California, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service land.
 - d. The OWG has not identified a Department of Defense Vice Chair for FY01. Robert Shirley will act as interim Vice Chair until one is formally identified.
2. Agenda Topics
 - a. R2508 Letter of Agreement (LOA): The LOA between land managers and the R-2508 Complex Control Board (CCB) was presented and discussed. The LOA is currently being updated. The LOA has some useful procedures detailed. Land managers expressed interest in applying some of these procedures in a LOA at other locations. The first question was if a LOA was necessary at other locations. The R2508 LOA was unique in that R2508 was overseen, scheduled, and coordinated by the CCB and Joint Policy and Planning Board. Other restricted airspace structures do not have similar organizations and setups.

The military representatives (MilReps) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) encouraged the use of the existing process: contacting the scheduling agencies and, if needed, elevate issues up to the MilReps, who can work at the DoD secretariat level. MilReps can be used to get required route and use information.

Downed aircraft and aircraft mishap investigation and cleanup procedures are formalized in Air Force and other DoD instructions (AFIs), guidance and regulations. A recommendation was made to have a representative from the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base come to the next OWG meeting and brief these procedures.

Education of users of the airspace was also discussed and a recommendation was made to brief users of the de-confliction requirements used by the military when flying in airspace. Information on scheduling agencies and point of contact numbers are found in Flight Information Program planning documents AP1-B Military Training Routes. Options available to schedulers of special use airspace is restricting use or closing specific routes if necessary. It is important for aviators to coordinate with the scheduling organizations. Reference Julie Stewart's inter-agency coordination guide (fire-fighting flights).

- b. Public Outreach for Military Overflights: The OWG discussed additional public outreach options to educate the public about the need for military overflights of the California Desert. We discussed several examples that are currently available: the R2508 Military Flight brochure, the draft National Park Service/U.S. Air Force joint pamphlet entitled "Peace and Quiet," etc.

Joshua Tree National Park will include a short article in the park newspaper about the win-win situation for the park and U.S. Navy because of their cooperation. Two segments of VR-1257 were relocated to another area of the park where impacts to park visitors and natural and cultural resources are either eliminated or drastically reduced. Because one segment's route floor was returned to 200 feet above ground level, the pilots receive enhanced training opportunities. In addition, a wayside exhibit is being planned for Keys View, the area of the park where the overflights will be most visible, to inform the public about the need of the military to train.

The suggestion was made for the OWG to develop a generic overflight pamphlet for the whole California Desert region. The pamphlet could include aircraft identification silhouettes as well as other useful information. Coordination with the DMG DIRT working group should be initiated for this effort. The first step is for the OWG to produce a draft pamphlet then to coordinate with DoD Public Affairs offices and DIRT. The pamphlet could later be presented to the DMG for approval. Public Outreach should be coordinated with the DIRT as part of the OWG FY2001 workplan.

- c. Next OWG meeting: The next OWG meeting was tentatively scheduled for the 16th of May at Anza Borrego State Park. OWG would like an update on Anza Borrego overflight issues. The Kirtland Safety Center will be invited to give presentation about Aircraft Mishap coordination and cleanup (Maj. Curt Ganther, March AFB).