

Arctic PSTI
Outdoor Range Training Facility
Project No. 1307.01 / 2.6.1

MEMO: Site Selection Presentation
Eagle River Community Council
MOA Conference Room
11901 Business Boulevard, Eagle River, AK
January 10, 2008

Attendance: 6 members of the public.
Presenters: Don Simmons, Rise AK, Steve Smith, Deputy Chief APD,
Matthew Leveque, State of Alaska Department of Public
Safety, Steve Wharton, Immigration & Customs
Enforcement – Department of Homeland Security, and
Jonathan Steele, ECI/Hyer, Inc.

There was no resistance or stated opposition to the project. At the appropriate time the CC will forward correspondence after review of the final report and recommendation.

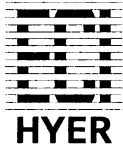
Following the presentation was a question period summarized below (*response*):



1. What are the hours of operation and will night shooting occur?
The normal range of hours would match Birchwood, 7AM to 10PM. Notification of night shooting occurrences, outside of the 7AM to 10PM normal hours, would be provided to the community.
2. Is the acreage adequate? *All sites work, Birchwood is smaller than ideal but will work with the addition of a bullet proof barrier between the existing Birchwood range and the proposed range.*
3. Will the range meet the long term needs of the Coalition? *The facility program is based on a 10 year projection of needs. Additional range space beyond the planned 50/150/300 yard, 4 range layout can be added but must be constructed with "buffering". The buffering adds cost.*
4. When the Beach Lake site was being advanced there was a 600-yard range. Is this size of range needed by the Coalition? *There were only one or two members of the Coalition that identified the need for this size of range. Because the 600 yard range adds significantly to the land requirement and development cost the Coalition decided to drop the 600 yard range from the program. None of the sites being reviewed have been analyzed for the incorporation of a 600-yard range.*
5. At the time of Beach Lake presentations the Coalition noted that Birchwood Range would not work for training due to interaction and observation of training by the public. Does this problem exist with the Birchwood site and proximity to the public range? *Deputy Chief Smith noted that an adjacent range does not represent a problem for Coalition use.*

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6. What caliber of ammunition will be used (question related to noise levels)? *Standard arms used by law enforcement includes non magnum revolvers and pistols, 12 gauge shotguns, assault rifles which are primarily .223 caliber and sniper rifles which are primarily .308 caliber. Occasionally larger calibers are used but nothing larger than what is currently used at Birchwood.*
7. We reported that Ft Richardson land is not available what about Elmendorf? *We don't have anything in writing similar to the fort, but the verbal input from base representatives is no. An additional problem with Elmendorf is that all of the land is behind security gates. This can be very disruptive to scheduling routine training.*
8. What about use of the current landfill? Deputy Chief Smith responded to the question. *The landfill reclamation and capping does not support developed use. The capped area does not have enough flat area. The future expansion area would take an act of congress for use and is not a timely process.*
9. Years ago there was the potential discussed of a joint FBI/Military range at the Arctic Valley biathlon site. Is use of this site a possibility? *Deputy Chief Smith spoke to the history of this plan and in the end it was not supported by the FBI and went away. The site has not been reactivated or considered.*
10. Does the range present any problems with airport operations? *We have submitted the intended use to FAA for their approval. To date we have received only informal verbal feedback.*
11. Eagle River is faced with industrial zoned lands being depleted and used for development other than industrial. The Birchwood Airport site has had master planning efforts describing development of hangar space and float plan tie-downs. The development of the Birchwood Airport was seen as a relief to congestion at Merrill Field and Lake Hood (small plane traffic). The use of this site for a range appears to displace industrial zoned land and may preclude previous master planning considerations. *Eklutna Inc. is the land owner, we have been in contact with their representative who supports a lease use for the parcels as a range, and the issue of industrial zoned lands will be part of the discussion and deliberation by the PZC.*

End of Meeting Summary – Eagle River Community Council

Handouts Distributed:

Comment Form – Outdoor Range Training Complex
ArcticPSTI – Level 2 Screening Matrix