

KEN SALAZAR  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Sallie Clark  
Chair  
El Paso County Commission  
27 E. Vermijo Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80903-2208

Dear Commissioner Clark:

I am writing to seek your input on how we can better address encroachment issues that Colorado's military installations are encountering. It is essential that as our communities in Colorado grow we ensure that the military missions of our installations are not compromised. This is both a national security issue and an economic one, considering the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic benefits that our military bases provide to Colorado.

The Pikes Peak region has long been a shining example of a community that does all it can to meet the needs of the Armed Services, service members, and their families. I would like to hear your thoughts on how we can continue to improve land use and planning processes to ensure that development does not jeopardize the mission or the security of our bases.

I often speak with Colorado's base commanders about encroachment and about their long-term vision for an installation. Most recently, I met with Colonel John Hyten, Wing Commander of the 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base. He reported that Case International Company has proposed a development, called Eastglen Village, near Schriever AFB. I understand that Colonel Hyten will be sharing with you, if he has not done so already, some of his concerns with the proposal. As drafted, the plan shows housing located in close proximity to the fence line at Schriever, which could create force protection problems for the Air Force. My staff will soon be meeting with city and county planning officials, along with the developers, to discuss this issue.

While I am certain that you will assess the Eastglen development plans with the Air Force's comments in mind, I would like to gather additional information about how the City and County coordinates with the military when making land use decisions that could potentially affect one of the bases.

Specifically, I would like to better understand the mechanisms through which the City and County consider development applications that may affect a military installation. For example, are developers currently required to submit documentation assessing the possible impact of their development on a military installation? How do City and County officials ensure that the base commander has had an opportunity to review and comment on all development applications that may have an impact on their installation? Are developers currently required to inform potential homeowners about the proximity of a lot or house to military bases or military flight paths? Is

the Department of Defense effectively communicating its long-term vision for uses and plans at the military installations in the Pikes Peak region, so that your planning decisions may be informed by the best available information?

I ask these questions knowing the strength of your commitment to supporting our men and women in uniform. I have heard repeatedly from Colonel Hyten at Schriever AFB, General Regni at the Air Force Academy, Colonel Santee at Peterson AFB, and General Mixon at Fort Carson of the City and County's responsiveness whenever they raise a question about the effects of nearby development on their installation. I commend you and thank you for your long history of support for these bases.

As Fort Carson continues to expand in the coming years, and as the Pikes Peak region grows even more central to the operations of Air Force Space Command and Northern Command, we must redouble our work to ensure the sustainability of the installations in the Pikes Peak region. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to ensure that the Pikes Peak region remains the crown jewel of our military in the West.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

Cc: Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy  
Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., Commander, Division West, First Army and Fort Carson  
Brig. Gen. Jay Santee, Commander, 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing  
Col. John Hyten, Commander, 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing  
Lorne Kramer, City Manager, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Scott Hente, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Darryl Glenn, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Jerry Heimlicher, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Margaret Radford, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Tom Gallagher, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Randy Purvis, Councilmember, Colorado Springs  
The Honorable Jan Martin, Councilmember, Colorado Springs

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May 25, 2007

The Honorable Lionel Rivera  
Mayor  
City of Colorado Springs  
P.O. Box 1575  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The Honorable Larry Small  
Vice Mayor  
City of Colorado Springs  
107 North Nevada Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Mayor Rivera and Vice Mayor Small:

I am writing to seek your input on how we can better address encroachment issues that Colorado's military installations are encountering. It is essential that as our communities in Colorado grow we ensure that the military missions of our installations are not compromised. This is both a national security issue and an economic one, considering the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic benefits that our military bases provide to Colorado.

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Col. John Hyten, Commander, 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing  
The Honorable Wayne Williams, El Paso County Commissioner  
The Honorable Jim Bensberg, El Paso County Commissioner  
The Honorable Douglas Bruce, El Paso County Commissioner  
The Honorable Dennis Hisey, El Paso County Commissioner