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## *Proposed military operations area modification*

Under this airspace proposal, the Cheyenne Low and High military operations areas located in Colorado and Kansas will change to the Cougar Low and High and Bobcat High military operations areas in the Colorado counties of Cheyenne, Kiowa and Kit Carson, and in the Kansas counties of Greeley, Logan, Scott, Wallace and Wichita, decreasing the density of aircraft in the military operations areas.



This proposal will raise the flight floor from 300 to 500 feet above ground level in the military operations area. This change will mean less noise experienced on the ground than under current conditions. Within the airspace training areas, outside the exclusion bubbles, military aircraft would fly no lower than 1,000 feet above ground level at night, and as high as 18,000 feet above mean sea level.

Modification of the Cheyenne military operations areas will create a regularly-shaped airspace enabling the primary military user of the airspace, the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard (which flies the F-16C+ fighter jet), to employ the full capability of aircraft weapons systems to practice tactically-realistic scenarios required for air combat training, prepare for deployments as an Air Expeditionary Force in support of ground troops in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and train to effectively counter 21st-century threats.

Realistic mission-oriented training to meet military readiness requirements, mitigation of mishap potential with general aviation and minimization of impact on arrival vectoring areas near Goodland Airport, Kan., and on departure/arrival corridors for Denver International Airport, Colo., were considerations for military operations area shape and location.

The 140th Wing, through consultation with Native American tribes, agreed to maintain a 5-nautical mile radius buffer around the center of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historical Site, Colo., with a flight floor of 5,000 feet above ground level. The current 1,500-foot above ground level flight exclusion bubble within five nautical miles of the Cheyenne Wells airfield, Colo., will be maintained.

The 140th Wing, based at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., is the only centrally-located alert fighter location in the U.S., protecting our homeland 24/7/365 at a quarter of the cost of a similar active duty unit. Citizen-Airmen guard our communities, state and nation by responding rapidly to potential air threats over U.S. cities in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the military response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The 140th Wing generally trains during the week and on one weekend a month during two to three time periods per operating day. Pre-deployment training may require additional sorties during other times of the day or week. A typical training mission in the military operations areas employs as few as two jets or as many as 16 jets.

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