

DRAFT PUBLIC HEARING SCRIPT
REALISTIC BOMBER TRAINING INITIATIVE (RBTI)
SUPPLEMENTAL EIS PUBLIC HEARINGS
SCHEDULED December 2005

[Slide 1: Welcome Slide]

Hearing Officer (Judge): Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Colonel Kirk Granier and I will be the presiding officer at this public hearing on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative or RBTI as it is abbreviated.

This hearing is being held in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and the regulations that are published by the Council on Environmental Quality. The purpose of this hearing is to receive the public comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, commonly referred to as a Supplemental EIS.

I'd like to explain my role in this hearing. I am a Reserve Air Force military judge. I am currently assigned to Air Reserve Personnel Center at Robbins AFB, Georgia. My reserve duties include serving as a judge in courts martial. In civilian life I am a State District Judge from the New Orleans, Louisiana area. I'm not assigned to either Dyess or Barksdale Air Force Base's or Air Combat Command, and I've had no involvement in the development of RBTI or any past litigation or court proceedings involving

the RBTI. Additionally, I am not here to act as a legal advisor to the Air Force representatives of the RBTI Supplemental EIS.

My role as the hearing officer is simply to ensure that we have a fair, orderly, and impartial hearing, and that all who wish to be heard will have an opportunity to speak. In summary, it is important that you understand I will be serving as an impartial moderator for this hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in two parts. First, *Ms. Sheryl Parker*, on my right, who serves as the *RBTI Supplemental EIS Team Leader from Air Combat Command*, will make a presentation on the background of RBTI, outline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that has occurred for the RBTI EIS and is taking place for the Supplemental EIS, and will summarize the analysis presented in the RBTI Draft Supplemental EIS. The second part of this hearing, after we take a short break, will be your opportunity to provide the Air Force with comments and make statements for the record. The input you give will provide the decision-makers for RBTI the benefits of your knowledge of the local area and your concerns about the Supplemental EIS analysis.

Throughout this hearing, I ask that you keep in mind that this public hearing is not a debate; nor is it a popularity vote on the analysis presented in the Draft Supplemental EIS; nor is it designed as a question and answer session, although legitimate clarifying questions as part of your comments

may be asked and be recorded for clarification in the Final Supplemental EIS.

This hearing is about the adequacy of the analysis presented by the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration or FAA, a cooperating agency. Concerns about non-environmental issues should not be raised at this hearing. They will not add anything to the record and will simply take away time from others' opportunities to comment on the Air Force's analysis.

When you came in, you should have been asked to register and filled out a card indicating whether you would like to speak publicly (i.e., make a comment this evening). If you have not filled out a card, or did not indicate that you wanted to speak, and now you wish to speak so your comments will be recorded by the court reporter, please raise your hand at this time and we will get a card for you to fill out so we can call upon you.

[Slide 2: Address to send comments]

Should you choose to submit any comments in writing, this would be the appropriate place. So, if you want to comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS, but do not want to speak tonight, or if you do speak tonight, but want to make additional comments, you may:

- elect to provide written comments tonight
- provide comments by mail at a later date

- present them to the court reporter as part of your presentation

Written comments will be accepted through the mail until January 2, 2006 at the address shown. All comments made at the hearings or provided in writing will be given equal consideration.

[Slide 3: List of Cooperating Agencies]

Before we move forward with the Air Force briefing, I would like to introduce the cooperating agency representatives attending the hearing tonight. (*Mr. Joe Yadouga, FAA*) and (*Ms. Nan Terry, FAA*).

At this time Ms. Sheryl Parker will give a presentation. (**Ms. Parker** takes the podium).

Ms. Parker presents Briefing with enclosed notes (10-15 Minutes)

Hearing Officer: Thank you for your presentation, Ms. Parker. I would like to explain the ground rules for the public comment period.

This is the part of the process that gives you the opportunity to provide the Air Force with information and to make statements for the record. This input ensures that the decision-makers may benefit from your knowledge of the local area and your comments on the analysis.

Elected officials that choose to speak will be given an opportunity to speak first. Then, members of the public will be called upon, in the order that they were received, from the cards that have been handed in that indicate your desire to speak.

Please speak only after I have recognized you and please address your remarks to me.

Please speak clearly into the microphone, stating first your name and address and the capacity in which you appear if you are representing anyone other than yourself. We need this to ensure the court reporter gets an accurate record of what is said tonight.

Each person will be allowed 3 minutes to speak. This time limit applies to everyone – public elected officials, spokespersons, and individuals speaking for themselves.

You do not have to speak for the full 3 minutes, however, if you choose to speak for the full 3 minutes, when you have only 30 seconds remaining to speak a yellow card will be raised and then when your time has expired, a red card will be raised.

Out of respect for others who would like to make comments, I ask that you please honor any request from me to stop speaking. If you think you have more comments than you can present in the time allotted, make the most

important comments first. If you do not get a chance to voice all of your comments, you can and should submit them in writing. If you have a written statement, you may simply hand it in or read it aloud within the time limit, or do both.

This hearing is scheduled to end at 9pm. If we have time, we may give you an opportunity to expand on your remarks later after all others have commented.

You may have noticed that the court reporter will record everything that is said tonight. The transcript of these proceedings will become a part of the record of the hearing and will be included in the Final Supplemental EIS.

Finally, I would like to remind you to limit your comments to the analysis presented in the Draft Supplemental EIS. That is the purpose of this public comment period. Also, I ask that you avoid repeating what another speaker has said. There is nothing inappropriate about agreeing with other speakers, but to repeat the same thing just delays others in making their comments. If you agree with a previous speaker on a particular issue, you may just state your agreement.

If you would like to turn in your written comments you may give them to the Air Force members located in the back and at the side of the room.

Thank you.

Hearing Officer: As I mentioned before, we will start with comments from elected officials. Following their remarks, we will take oral comments for those of you who have filled in cards, in order in which we have received them. Again, I wish to remind you of the 3-minute limit on speaking. Our first speaker is . . .

(Begin Oral Testimony)

(Breaks called at Hearing Officer's discretion.)

Hearing Officer: Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes this public hearing. Thank you for your participation and input. Please remember the public comment period will extend through January 2, 2006, and comments can be sent to the address shown on the slide.

[Slide 19: Mailing Address]

This public hearing is adjourned.

Thank you again.