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March 4, 2013

Mr. Gene A. Zirkle
NEPA/Wildlife Program Manager
Building 2159, 13th Street
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223

Re: AOPAs request for an extension of the comment period for the Fort Campbell KY,
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Zirkle,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 400,000 general aviation members nationwide, requests a 30 day extension to the comment period slated to close on March 15, 2013 for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate current and future training and mission-related activities at Fort Campbell, KY.

Based on participation from the flying public during recent public meetings and the complexity of concerns raised by the aviation community impacted by the PEIS, the extended current 14 day comment period is inadequate to allow for a comprehensive review and public input. While AOPA recognizes the military put forth a 30 day comment period after initial scoping meetings, during that time there were several concerns brought to light from both local and transient pilots. These issues were unable to be addressed at initial public meetings, as there was not aviation representation. While AOPA appreciates the Army's efforts to address the concerns of the public by arranging an additional public meeting, and understands the military's desire to remain on schedule, attempting to move forward without an ample public review opportunity seems to negate the true spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

AOPA requests the Department of the Army offer an additional 30 days beyond the March 15 deadline for review of new information presented at the meeting slotted for March 4, 2013. This will ensure the public is offered time to provide well thought out comments on the potential consequences of any actions.

Sincerely,

Melissa McCaffrey
Senior Government Analyst
Air Traffic Services