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Ms. Linda DeVine
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Ansreus St. Room 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Shaw Air Force Base Airspace Training Initiative,
Shaw Air Force Base (AFB), South Carolina

Ms. DeVine,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 415,000 members nationwide, submits the following comments in response to the FEIS for the Airspace Training Initiative at Shaw AFB. AOPA is appreciative of the Air Force's efforts to mitigate impacts on general aviation with the changes incorporated in the Mitigated Proposed Action. Based on the range of options, the Mitigated Proposed Action largely addresses the concerns raised by airspace users during the initial Draft EIS comment period. However, with the implementation of some additional operational procedures to allow Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) access to Victor Airway 70 and T-route 209 in the southeast corner of the airspace complex, the Mitigated Proposed Action could better address the impacts of the proposed airspace initiative on general aviation.

The addition of the Bulldog C & E MOAs under the Mitigated Proposed Action will restrict access for IFR traffic on Victor Airway 70 and T-route 209 in the southeast corner of the airspace complex any time either Military Operations Area (MOA) is active. AOPA is encouraged by the ongoing efforts to ensure real-time Special Use Airspace information is provided to non-participating aircraft. However, dissemination of this information continues to be a challenge and we would again encourage the Air Force to release SUA back to the National Airspace System to accommodate both IFR and Visual Flight Rules (VFR) traffic in the area .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal. We appreciate the efforts to address general aviation concerns with the Mitigated Proposed Action and look forward to working with the Air Force in an effort to mitigate the remaining access concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Kramer
Manager
Air Traffic Services