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March 12, 2008

Mr. Alan E. Wickman
Chief, Ranges and Airspace Division
HQ USAF/A30-AR
1621 North Kent St. Suite 320
Arlington, VA 22209

RE: AOPA Request for Airspace Disposition Process for YANKEE TWO MOA

Dear Mr. Wickman:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 415,000 general aviation (GA) pilots, including over 33,500 in the New England and New York area, requests the United States Air Force (USAF) and the Air National Guard (ANG) initiate the Airspace Disposition Process for the YANKEE TWO Military Operations Area (MOA), in accordance with Air Force Instruction (AFI) 13-201, Chapter 3.9.

As indicated in the Environmental Assessment (EA) dated December 1981, the YANKEE TWO MOA was designed and assessed specifically for the low altitude training required by the Realistic Aircrew Proficiency (RAP) for the A-10 aircraft. At the time, these aircraft were assigned to the 104th Fighter Wing (FW) located at Barnes Municipal Airport, Westfield, Massachusetts and the 103rd FW located at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT.

The 2005 Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) recommendations have since reassigned the A-10 aircraft to other units, and no longer utilize the YANKEE TWO MOA. As a result of BRAC, the USAF and ANG no longer have a need or requirement for the airspace.

AOPA understands that the YANKEE TWO MOA will be offered to other units and services before being released to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The absence of based A-10 aircraft in the northeast region along with the existing low altitude MOAs in the area is an indication that the YANKEE TWO MOA is no longer needed. As a result, AOPA requests that the military take immediate action to initiate the Airspace Disposition Process for YANKEE TWO MOA.

AOPA values the working relationship with the USAF and the ANG and looks forward to working collaboratively on this issue. If you have any questions regarding this request, I can be reached at 301-695-2207.

Sincerely,

Pete Lehmann
Manager
Air Traffic Services