

National Park Service News Release

For Immediate Release: April 28, 2003
Contact: (NPS) Carol Anthony, 202/208-4988
(USAF) Marriane Miclat, 703/693-9091

National Park Service and United States Air Force Announce
New Tool to Improve Cooperation

The United States Air Force (USAF) and the National Park Service (NPS) announced today the publication of the Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook.

The book, designed to share information about airspace users and appropriate NPS units, is expected to improve cooperation between the USAF and the NPS. The objectives of the sourcebook are to foster communication and promote the building of relationships between USAF airspace managers and NPS park managers.

In a recent memo issued by NPS Director Fran Mainella and USAF Chief of Staff John P. Jumper to USAF and NPS personnel, General Jumper and Director Mainella stated, "This regional sourcebook is based on the belief that local issues are best worked by local experts. Effective, mission-oriented collaboration between our two agencies will be achieved by using the sourcebook as a link to building stronger relationships between USAF and NPS leaders and staff."

The sourcebook was made possible by a partnership among NPS, USAF and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Tom Kiernan, president of NPCA said, "The collaboration between NPCA, the Air Force, and the Park Service is a stunning example of partnership that draws on shared values and respect. The defense of nation is critical to the preservation of our way of life, and parks are a fundamental part of the life we must preserve."

The USAF and NPS Regional Sourcebook builds on the progress made at the USAF Airspace and Range Council's regional conferences, which bring together all types of airspace users and land management agencies for discussion. These meetings have resulted in numerous agreements between the two agencies. Nonetheless, the USAF and the NPS recognized that they had undoubtedly missed opportunities to work together, which was the primary motivation for developing the sourcebook. As Director Mainella stated, "Improved communication will lead to fewer conflicts and more opportunities for cooperation."

Accomplishing the objectives of the two agencies in the same space is a

complex and challenging task. The USAF must test its equipment and train its people to defend the nation, while the NPS must strive to serve, satisfy, and educate today's visitors, and protect the wildlife, natural, cultural and historic assets of this country for future generations. Military flights, for training and/or operations purposes, take place in designated airspace, such as military training routes (MTRs) and military operations areas (MOAs). Roughly 150 of the 388 NPS units underlie or are in the vicinity of MTRs or MOAs, so military park overflights can sometimes be heard and/or seen from those parks. Accordingly, the two agencies have been working together to reduce conflict. The joint production of the Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook is a prime example of the enhanced partnership and cooperation that has developed between the USAF and the NPS.

The Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook is available at www.AFRanges.net/sourcebook.html. The USAF and the NPS hope to publish sourcebooks for other areas of the country, following the same format.

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