DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
30TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

3 Jan 2006

Mr. John Kirlin
Executive Director
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento CA 95814

Col Franklin R. Wolf
30 SW/CV
747 Nebraska Ave, Suite A-200
Vandenberg AFB CA 93437-5000

Dear Mr. Kirlin

As you know, we have been an involved Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Stakeholders Group member. While the Air Force supports the MLPA Initiative, we cannot support its implementation within Vandenberg Air Force Base's (VAFB's) military operating area. VAFB supports critical national defense military missions. Therefore, we find under California Public Resources Code, Section 36711, that any marine protected area (MPA) classifications within VAFB's military operating area would be inconsistent with mission critical United States military activities.

We have attached a map depicting VAFB's operating area within the 3 mile limit of California Coastal Waters. This map provides overlays of the Danger Zones and Restricted Areas that impact coastal waters. The military uses VAFB's operating area for critical spacelift, ballistic, aeronautical, and training operations.

We respect the MLPA Initiative and appreciate the great work you and your staff are doing. We look forward to continuing to work with you. Please don't hesitate to call us if you need more information..

My point of contact for this effort is Mr. Walter Schobel, Airspace and Offshore Management Flight Chief at 805-606-3602.

Sincerely

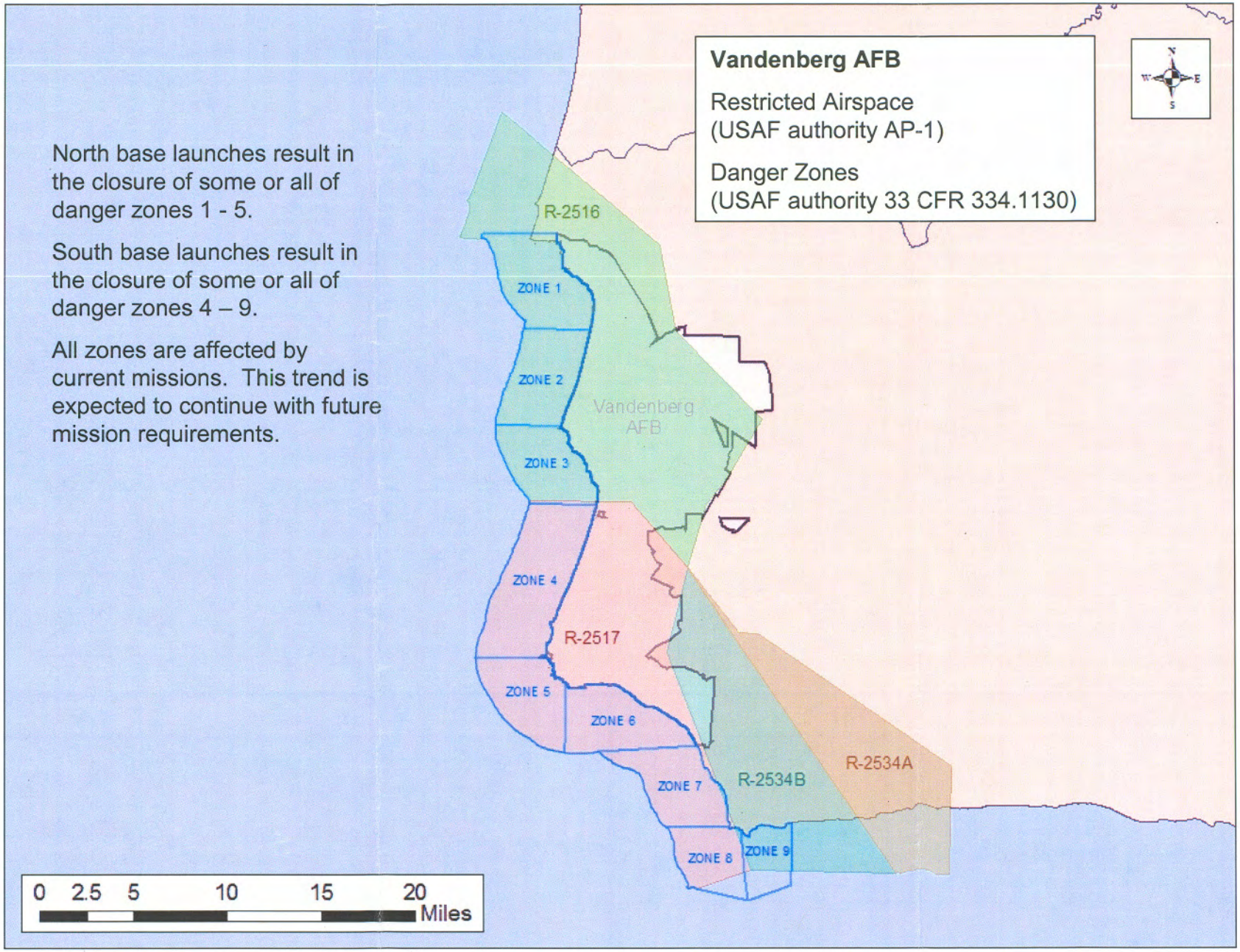
FRANKLIN R. WOLF
Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander

Attachment:
Vandenberg Operations Map

North base launches result in the closure of some or all of danger zones 1 - 5.

South base launches result in the closure of some or all of danger zones 4 – 9.

All zones are affected by current missions. This trend is expected to continue with future mission requirements.



California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Blue Ribbon Task Force

Phil Isenberg, *Chair*
Isenberg/O'Haren, Government Relations

William Anderson
Westrec Marina Management, Inc.

Meg Caldwell
Stanford Law School

Ann D'Amato
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

Susan Golding
The Golding Group, Inc.

Dr. Jane Pisano
Natural History Museum of L.A. County

Cathy Reheis-Boyd
Western States Petroleum Association

Douglas P. Wheeler
Hogan & Hartson, LLP

John J. Kirlin, *Executive Director*

January 9, 2006

Mike Chrisman
Secretary, California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am attaching a faxed letter received January 4, 2006, from Colonel Franklin R. Wolf, Vice Commander, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The letter finds that any marine protected areas within Vandenberg's military operating areas would be inconsistent with mission critical United States military activities, citing California Public Resources Code Section 36711.

Resolution of this issue appears to me to lie outside the competence of the MLPA Initiative and I ask you to refer it to the appropriate decision makers within the Resources Agency or elsewhere.

I will also take the letter to the Blue Ribbon Task Force at their next meeting, January 31-February, 2006. At that time, I anticipate recommending they proceed to consider the proposals of networks of MPAs that are coming forward without consideration of this issue. The issue can then be addressed as a preferred alternative is developed by the Department of Fish and Game and considered by the Fish and Game Commission.

I am personally hopeful that a mutually agreeable outcome is possible that will allow protection of marine resources as anticipated in the proposals being developed in the MLPA Initiative while the United States Air Force is well able to fulfill its critical national defense responsibilities.

Sincerely,

John J. Kirlin

Cc: Phil Isenberg
Colonel Wolf

California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.653.5656 phone
916.653.8102 facsimile
www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
resources
AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
MIKE CHRISMAN, Secretary

January 23, 2006

Colonel Franklin R. Wolf
30 SW/CV
747 Nebraska Avenue, Suite A-200
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5000

Dear Colonel Wolf,

Dr. John Kirlin, the Executive Director of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPA Initiative), has provided me with a copy of your January 3, 2006 letter raising concerns about the implementation of the MLPA Initiative within the offshore operating area of the Vandenberg Air Force Base. I am interested in working with the Air Force to identify an outcome that would allow the state to fulfill its mandates under the MLPA, while protecting the critical military mission of the United States Air Force. I believe that by working together we can come to a solution that would be mutually beneficial to both parties.

As you know, the state is committed to designing an effective network of marine protected areas as mandated by MLPA. We believe that the designation of marine protected areas in state waters within your operating areas would not compromise your mission. However, we recognize the significant challenges faced by the military and would like to work with you to explore feasible solutions.

Per your suggestion, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Brian Baird, will contact Walter Schobel, Airspace and Offshore Management Flight Chief, to set up a meeting to discuss this issue in full detail. We look forward to working with you and Mr. Schobel on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mike Chrisman

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources

cc: Congresswoman Louis Capps
Phil Isenberg
John Kirlin

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 http://resources.ca.gov