



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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December 19, 2005

Docket Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: FAA Docket No. FAA-2005-22680; Airspace Docket No. 05-ASW-3

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing over 406,000 pilots nationwide, is opposed to the creation of restricted area R-5601F associated with Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The restricted area would negatively impact general aviation by closing one of the last VFR corridors left in southern Oklahoma. Pilots depend on this area to transition from east to west over the Wichita Mountains.

Additionally, the activities proposed in R-5601F do not meet the minimum requirements for restricted airspace set forth in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 7400.2E Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) refers only to “additional maneuvering area” as the justification for more restricted airspace. Maneuvering airspace does not meet the requirement as an aerial activity that constitutes “a hazard to nonparticipating aircraft” as stated in FAA Order 7400.2E.

While AOPA understands the Army’s need to properly train, we do not feel that its proposed activity constitutes a hazard, and thus it would not be appropriate to establish a new restricted area. AOPA stands ready to assist with questions or comments on proposed R-5601F.

Sincerely,

Heidi Williams
Director
Air Traffic Services