



# ACTION ALERT

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March 1989

## Wilderness Tranquility Threatened by Treetop Bomber Runs — Your Letters Now Can Make All The Difference

Your letters at this critical moment to your U.S. Senators and Representative can head off a threat to the Adirondack Park that promises to be every bit as destructive of natural values as acid rain and rampant land subdivision.

Like acid rain, this threat comes from above and originates outside the Park.

For many years, a growing number of people have come to the Adirondacks to experience the natural beauty of the region--and they have tolerated the shattering intrusion of low-level military flights through the Park's valleys and mountain passes, over the lakes, rivers, and wild summits.

The latest plans by the United States Air Force have crossed that threshold of tolerance. The Air Force has announced plans to intensify Adirondack training flights as follows:

- Giant B-52 bombers and FB-111 fighter-bombers are scheduled to begin low-level flights between Ticonderoga, at the Park's eastern boundary, and Malone and Watertown (Fort Drum) near the northern boundary. SEE MAP ON PAGE 2.

- The Air Force plans to send 20 pairs of B-52s and 20 pairs of FB-111s over this route each week. That's 16 planes every day, Monday through Friday. The planes will fly as low as 400 feet above the ground. Said an Air Force spokesman in a moment of candor: "Once these bad boys are over you, you stick your fingers in your ears."

WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Adirondack Park is the last extensive natural area in the northeastern United States. About 40% of the Park is publicly-owned Forest Preserve, protected as "forever wild" by the State Constitution for almost a century. One million acres of these public lands have been further designated as Wilderness, where no motors are allowed and where--until recently--natural serenity has prevailed.

The Adirondack Council believes that the escalating militarization of the Adirondack Park must cease. Thanks to a recent public outcry in the Midwest, similar USAF plans for bomber runs over the federal Boundary Waters Canoe Area were scuttled.

We can stop these misguided plans for the Adirondacks, as well. The Air Force does respond to public opinion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Your letters at this time will help persuade your congressional representatives--and through them the Air Force flight planners--that low-level bomber runs over the treetops of sensitive Adirondack lands cannot be tolerated.

Please write to one or both of your U.S. Senators and to your U.S. Representative listed below and on page 4. Please request a full environmental impact analysis of this and all other military exercises in and over the Adirondack Park.



Charles M. Clusen  
Executive Director

United States Senators

Hon. Alphonse D'Amato  
U.S. Senate  
Room 520, Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
U.S. Senate  
Room 464, Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN  
NEW YORK

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 1, 1989

Ms. Debbie E. Blanken  
54 Timber Hill Rd.  
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089

Dear Ms. Blanken:

Thank you for your thoughts regarding the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) training routes over New York State's Adirondack Park.

As you may already know, SAC has issued a final environmental assessment on their low-altitude training flights. Several provisions are included in this assessment which are aimed at maintaining the environmental quality of the Park. Through a combination of higher altitudes and altered flight paths, SAC now will attempt to avoid environmentally sensitive areas along its training route. They will also fly clear of wildlife habitats, avoiding known nesting areas by a distance of at least 1.5 miles. Furthermore, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has the additional authority, under the assessment, to request temporary rerouting of training missions if necessary for environmental reasons.

These actions will hopefully provide adequate protection for Adirondack Park. Rest assured that if these measures are found to be inadequate I will insist on revisions. Our State constitution requires that the Park remain "forever wild", and this must be safeguarded.

Thank you once again for your thoughts, and please do not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel Patrick Moynihan

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 23, 1989

Ms. Debbie Blanken  
54 Timber Hill Road  
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089

Dear Ms. Blanken:

Thank you for contacting me and please excuse the delay in replying. I'm sorry not to have had the opportunity to respond sooner.

The Strategic Air Command (SAC) is working closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to balance its need for realistic training with the environmental and recreational needs of New York State. Flights will increase by about 20 per month on the northern fringe of Adirondack State Park, but will be offset by a reduction of 20 flights per month through the center of the park. Training missions will also be timed so as to avoid peak use of the park. SAC aircraft have operated continuously in this area since 1966 without reported adverse environmental effect.

I welcome the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,



Alfonse D'Amato  
United States Senator

AD:es