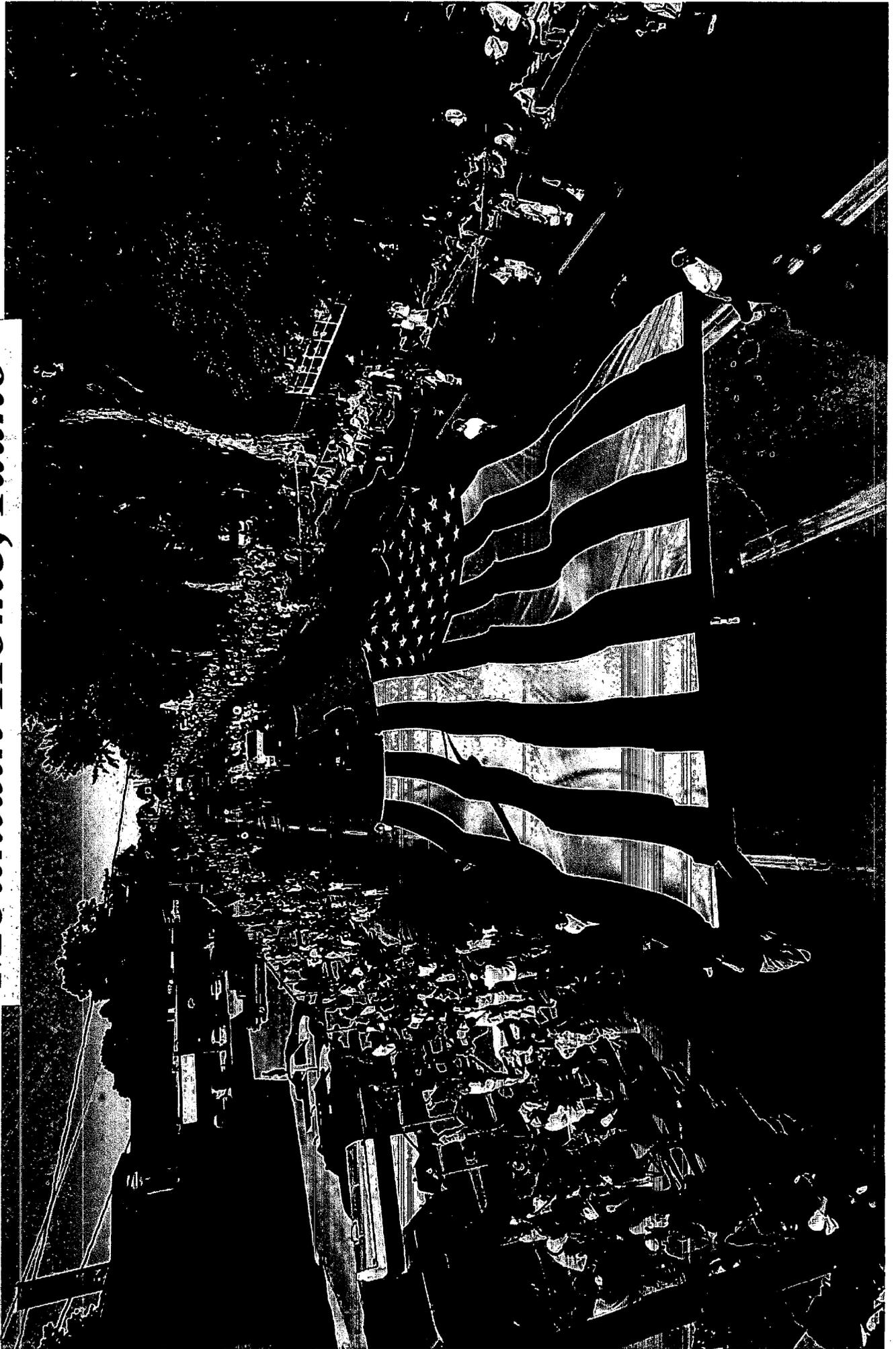


Mountain Home, Idaho

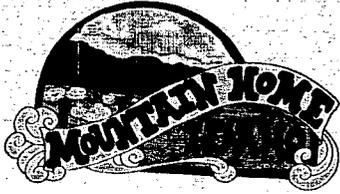


Mountain Home, Idaho

and

Mountain Home AFB

One community!



Mountain Home, Idaho *On the Move*

The City of Mountain Home has over fifty years of history with Mountain Home Air Force Base. On numerous occasions, there have been major changes at MHAFB that resulted in significant increases/decreases of military personnel. The City has always been able to adapt to the changes and maintain an excellent, mutually beneficial relationship with our Air Force neighbors.

Southern Idaho, as a whole, has been growing a lot for a decade and Mountain Home is no different. The 1990 Census established our City population at 7,913. That figure increased 40.8% (11,143) in the 2000 Census. Our current population is approximately 13,000. Naturally, some of the local growth is directly attributable to additional Air Force personnel. However, the balance of the growth comes from a number of sources. Californians are selling property for large prices and moving to this area because of quality of life and cost of living. Retirees of all kinds, including military, have made Mountain Home their home. We have a large sector of our population that works in Boise, an easy 35 minute commute. One of the attached charts indicates that over 1,600 Elmore County residents commute to Ada County each day.

Mountain Home has not sat idly by during these growth years. The City, County, School District and other entities have taken numerous actions to position ourselves for whatever may lie ahead.

SCHOOLS: Citizens passed a school bond for a new Jr. High with a 77% yes vote. The school opened in 1999. The School District currently has the capacity to handle a lot of additional students. The School District has an ongoing maintenance program that keeps all our school buildings in excellent condition.

CITY: Since 1996 there have been over 1,400 living units built in Mountain Home. This is in contrast to only 39 per year during the previous ten years. The construction has been divided into about 400 rental units and 1,000 single family units. Construction and development is still at a very high pace with 14 subdivisions currently in one stage or another. Several other projects reflect the growth of Mountain Home:

- A new 180 MW, gas-fired, turbine power production facility was completed in April 2005 at a cost of \$58,000,000.
- A 74 room Hampton Inn is under construction and will include a 2,200 s.f. meeting and convention facility.
- A Wal*Mart Super Center opened here in 2001.

- A new, million dollar expansion of DeMeyer Furniture was complete in 2000.
- A juvenile detention facility opened here in 2001. Three Springs, Inc. is privately owned, operates under a State contract and employs 61 people.
- Several new businesses have opened in the past five years to include: Shucks Auto Parts, Jade Palace, Dollar Tree, Wendy's, Washington Mutual Bank and others. Many more businesses remodeled and/or expanded.

In order to keep pace with the growth, the City has continuously evaluated its infrastructure and has taken several steps to remain proactive instead of being reactive, including:

- The City built a new law enforcement building in 2002.
- The City, after 15 years of planning and negotiating with the Idaho Dept. of Transportation, received a new four lane underpass in the center of town that can handle the ever increasing traffic.
- The City added nine holes to its existing nine hole golf course.
- The City is currently out to bid on the first phase of a \$6.2 million water and sewer expansion project.
- The City has invested over a million dollars in fire equipment, including a ladder truck and three new fire engines being delivered in the summer of 2005. Mountain Home enjoys an ISO rating of 3. This rating keeps our insurance premiums low for both commercial and residential users.
- The City has developed numerous parks and outdoor recreation areas.
- The City has an active Downtown Revitalization group that has made numerous improvements and they have a lot of projects ahead.
- The City Library is currently under construction. The \$1.5 million project will almost double the size of the facility and greatly increase the computer lab.

The City of Mountain Home Economic Development Office was originally formed in 1989 and was known as the Elmore County Impact Steering Committee. DoD Office of Economic Adjustment funded the original operation as a planning group for potential impacts of changes at MHAFB. In 1991, OEA wanted the group to change to an economic development mode. The Economic Development operations have enjoyed a great amount of success. There are over 1,000 more non-military jobs now than there were in 1990 and tens of millions of dollars have been invested in commercial ventures. The Economic Development Office works throughout Elmore County on every facet of business retention and diversification. Tourism, planning and zoning issues, local events, public awareness, marketing, grant writing, information gathering and many other tasks are performed at the Economic Development Office. The Governor's Special Assistant on Military Affairs, Billy Richey, operates from the Economic Development Office and both attempt to coordinate their efforts for the mutual benefit of the Air Force, the State of Idaho and the City of Mountain Home.

County: Elmore County saw a lot of growth between the 1990 and 2000 Census, increasing in population from 21,205 to 29,130. They continue to grow with approximately 200 residential lots under development. Commercially, Simplot Land and Livestock built a granary and milling facility three miles outside Mountain Home,

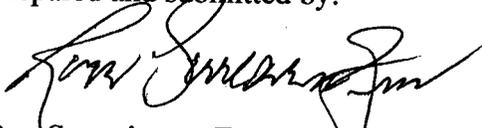
investing \$20+ million dollars. The same Simplot organization operates the nation's largest commercial beef feed lot in southern Elmore County. Two new dairies are up and running and two more are under construction. The operational dairies currently employ 90 people full time. Agriculture has seen ebbs and flows depending on electrical rates and commodity prices but it remains a mainstay of our economy.

A 90 MW gas-fired, turbine power production facility was built in 2002. Wind power generation facilities are up and running and more wind mills are planned.

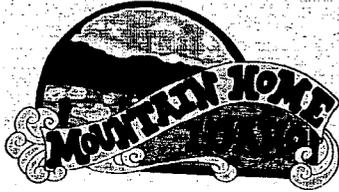
As part of its re-licensing agreement at C J Strike Dam, Idaho Power is working on numerous projects that will benefit the recreational opportunities in the area.

Our area has prepared itself for growth through planning, the forming of viable partnerships, dedication of financial resources and hard work. We are ready to accommodate the new missions and businesses that are in our future.

Prepared and submitted by:



Ron Swearingen, Executive Director
Economic Development Office
City of Mountain Home
(208) 587-2173



Economic Impacts Mountain Home, Idaho

The Department of Defense's recommendations to the BRAC Commission, made on May 13, 2005, included realignment at Mountain Home Air Force Base. The realignment, if approved would result in a net loss of 538 military personnel, 31 civilian personnel at MHAFB and 305 indirect jobs. The economic impacts of such actions would be noticeable in a small community like Mountain Home. As a general analysis, I see the following potential impacts:

- The loss of 538 military personnel represents 12% of the 4,465 assigned here. That loss represents payroll of \$21,109,320.
- The loss of 31 civilian personnel from the base represents 3.7% of the total. That loss equates to a payroll decrease of \$918,340.
- The loss of 305 indirect jobs (school teachers, clerks, dental assistants, etc.) represents an estimated payroll loss of \$6,839,625 (305 x 22,425 which is the per capita income level of Elmore County according to the U S Census 2002)
- Approximately 550 living units would be affected, either owned units that would be for sale or rentals that would become vacant. This would undoubtedly result in a downturn in the real estate market for the area.
- The school district would see a reduction in Impact Aid from DoD based on the specific number of children no longer enrolled here.

Numerous, ancillary impacts would be felt that are impossible to define precisely. Water user fees at the City of Mountain Home would decrease, recreational programs would see a drop in participation and all local businesses would see a noticeable reduction in revenue. These are just a few examples.

The Mountain Home Air Force Base FY04 Economic Impact Statement, a copy of which is attached, was used for much of the information above and I will use it for the second part of this paper, dealing with the devastating impacts of Closure at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

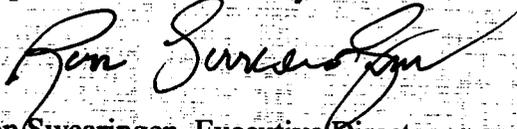
In the event of closure of Mountain Home AFB, the impacts would rattle the State of Idaho's economy. Simply speaking, closure of MHAFB would result in a direct loss of \$400,965,825 to the State economy. When the multiplier is used, the resulting impact is over \$850,000,000. The effects would be the most devastating in the City of Mountain Home.

- Military and civilian employees at MHAFB represent about one third of the population of Elmore County and about 40% of the citizens of Mountain Home.
- The loss of 4,465 military and 828 civilian jobs would result in the loss of another 3001 indirect jobs. In other words, Mountain Home and Elmore County would be reduces to less than half of their current population.

In the late 1960s, the Air Force moved SAC from MHAFB and turned us into a TAC base. The 2-3 year lag time between missions resulted in over 500 VA and FHA repossessed homes. That number would be three fold now, a huge loss for the government and a huge loss for those remaining here as all property values would be decimated.

The City of Mountain Home has had some success in economic development and diversity over the past 8-10 years. Even so, the economy of Mountain Home and the surrounding area has revolved around Mountain Home Air Force Base and agriculture for over fifty years. Agriculture has seen a steady decline in profitability over the past decade. Therefore, any decrease in the mission at Mountain Home Air Force Base is accentuated in the local economy.

Prepared and submitted by:



Ron Swearingen, Executive Director
Economic Development Office
City of Mountain Home
(208) 587-2173

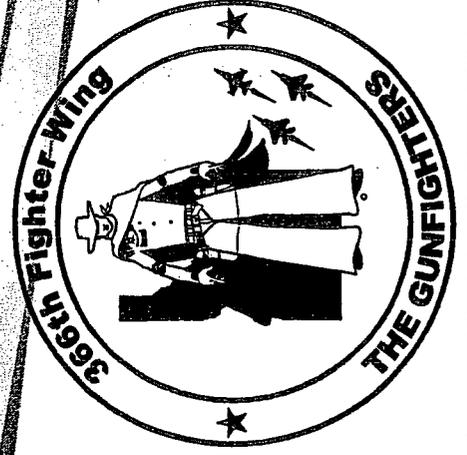
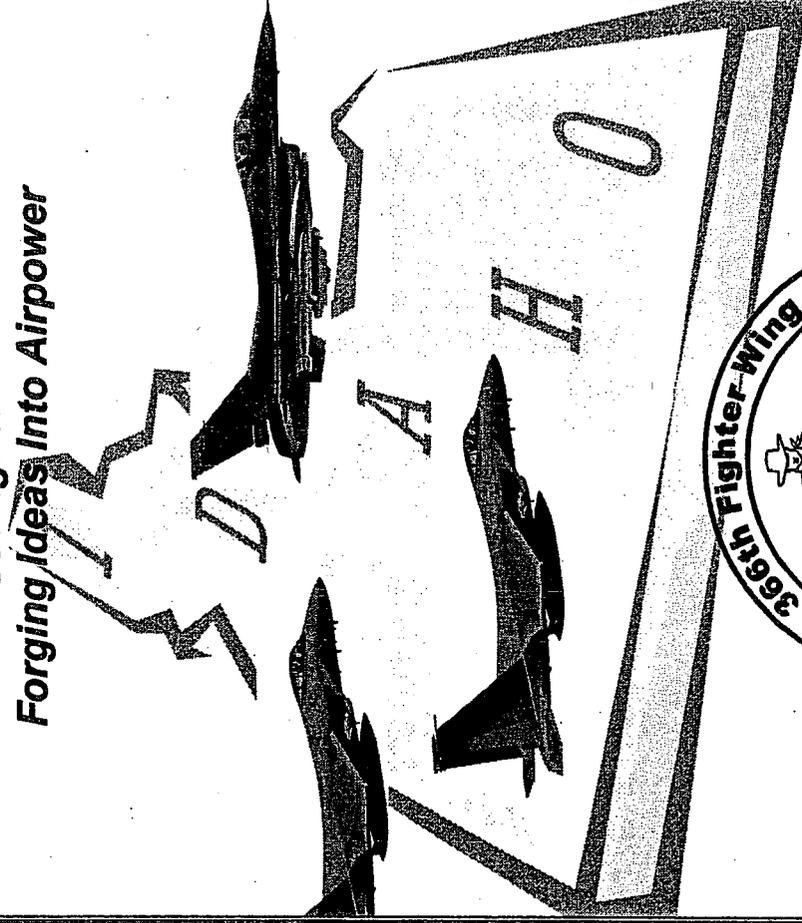
Mountain Home AFB

FY04 Economic Impact Statement

Expeditionary Combat Leaders...

Gunfighters...

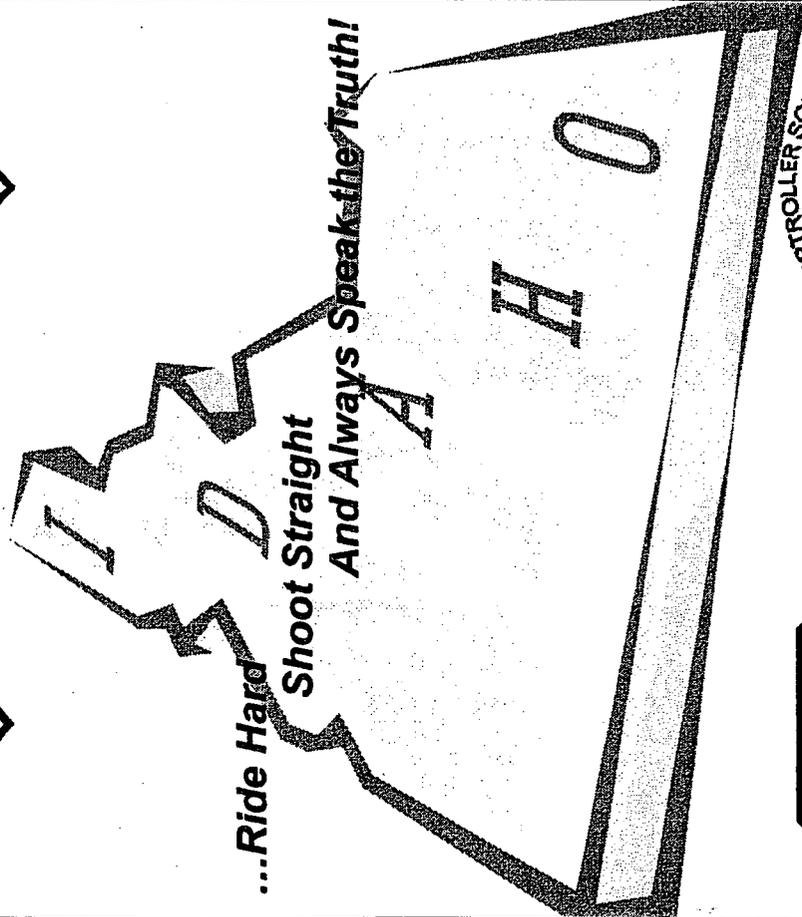
Forging Ideas Into Airpower



...Ride Hard

Shoot Straight

And Always Speak the Truth!



FOREWORD

The men and women of the 366th Fighter Wing impart a unique blend of rapid firepower to locations all over the globe. The Fighter Wing's Gunfighters are ready to deploy against the spectrum of conflict in any conceivable environment. Our F-15C/D Eagles, F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C/D Fighting Falcons afford the Gunfighters unmatched air-to-air and air-to-ground combat superiority. These remarkable aircraft are supported through combat and control, communications, intelligence and numerous support functions. The Gunfighters, a team of Expeditionary Combat Leaders, consolidate these capabilities and forge ideas into airpower.

The Economic Impact Statement (EIS) provides the public with key unclassified information about the 366th Fighter Wing. It highlights various aspects of the fighter wing's mission and resources, as well as its financial impact on the local area.

Prepared by the Comptroller Financial Analysis Flight, the EIS was compiled from numerous sources, including on-base activities, other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the local community. The facts and figures contained throughout are accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, approximations were used in some instances to ensure operational security. Also, where data was not readily available, estimates were used to reflect the general level of activity. These estimates and approximations do not diminish the accuracy of this report nor the base's impact on the surrounding communities.

The Fiscal Year 2004 direct financial impact is \$401 million. The total economic picture can be reflected by using a Gross Multiplier Index (GMI) of 2.15; provided with assistance of Dr. Don Holley, Professor of economics at Boise State University. Using the direct impact multiplier of 2.15 yields an estimated local economic impact of \$862 million.

If you have any questions, comments or would like additional copies of this product, please contact the base Public Affairs Office, 366 Gunfighter Ave, Suite 314, Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648-5260, telephone (208) 828-6800 or DSN 728-6800.


CHARLES K. SHUGG, Colonel, USAF
Commander

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ORGANIZATIONS

366TH FIGHTER WING (Air Combat Command):

366TH FIGHTER WING STAFF

Command Chief Master Sergeant Public Affairs Chaplain
 Plans and Programs Manpower and Organization Judge Advocate
 Inspector General Historian Military Equal Opportunity
 Safety Protocol Comptroller Squadron
 Wing Operations Center Retiree Affairs

366TH OPERATIONS GROUP

Operations Support Squadron 391st Fighter Squadron
 389th Fighter Squadron 726th Air Control Squadron
 390th Fighter Squadron 266th Range Squadron (ANG)

366TH MAINTENANCE GROUP

Component Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
 Equipment Maintenance Squadron Maintenance Operations Squadron

366TH MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

Contracting Squadron Logistics Readiness Squadron
 Civil Engineering Squadron Services Squadron
 Security Forces Squadron Communications Squadron
 Mission Support Squadron

366TH MEDICAL GROUP

Medical Support Squadron Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

TENANTS

Det. 1, 366th FW (ACC) OL-A, 372nd Training Squadron, Det 7 (AETC)
 Det 221, Office of Special Investigations Air Force Audit Agency
 Area Defense Counsel Defense Commissary Agency
 Defense Reutilization Marketing Office Defense Printing Service
 Defense Investigation Service Army & Air Force Exchange Service
 American Red Cross Air Expeditionary Force Battle Lab (ACC)
 Army Corp of Engineers

FORCE STRUCTURE

Squadron	Aircraft Type	Aircraft Assigned	Hours
389 FS	F-16C/D	22	5,068
390 FS	F-15C/D	20	4,625
391 FS	F-15E	29	5,502
Total:		71	15,195

CAPITAL ASSETS

ACRES OF LAND:	M.H. AFB	Saylor		Juniper		Total
		Creek	Butte	Butte	Other	
Public Domain	4,192	102,746	11,152	2,747	121,537	
Fee Domain	2,250	640	0	0	2,890	
Leased Land	0	6,080	960	3,005	10,045	
Easements & ROW	402	0	700		402	
Total :	6,844	109,466	12,812	5,752	134,874	

RUNWAY:
 NW/SE (120/300) Width Length
 200' 13,500'

BUILDINGS (ON-BASE):

	Number	Square Footage
Maintenance	50	799,446
Recreation	35	281,934
Administration	19	306,672
Warehousing Supplies & Equipment*	22	115,498
Civil Engineering	20	109,495
Defense Commissary Agency	1	53,525
Army Air Force Exchange Service	5	112,720
Dorms	9	350,630
Other	108	784,477
Total:	269	2,914,397
Total Off-Base Buildings:	43	47,157
Total:	312	2,961,554

FAMILY HOUSING:

	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	Total
Officer	57	82	37	176
Enlisted*	497	506	166	1,169
Total:	554	588	203	1,345

COMPUTERS:

	Owned	Leased
	5,289	0

VEHICLE FLEET:

	Owned	Leased
	664	54

DORMITORY & LODGING QUARTERS:

	Bed Capacity
Airman & NCO Quarters	883
Visiting Airman Quarters	54
Visiting Officer Quarters	43
Temporary Lodging Facilities	15
Total:	995

*Buildings scheduled for demolition have not been included

VALUE OF RESOURCES

WEAPON SYSTEMS (Aircraft): \$3,860,000,000
CAPITAL ASSETS* (Buildings, Land, Runway): \$387,027,217
REPLACEMENT COST** \$1,776,960,720

EQUIPMENT:

Appropriated Funds:
Base Equipment \$292,621,847
Automated Data Processing \$20,277,490
Medical Equipment \$7,031,179
Vehicles Owned \$52,220,800
Commissary Surcharge Equipment \$1,430,578
Nonappropriated Funds: \$15,290,572
Total: \$388,872,466

SUPPLY INVENTORY:

Material Support \$124,563,759
General Support \$10,092,844
Medical & Dental \$1,023,159
Ground Fuels \$34,565
JP8 Fuel (Jet Fuel) \$3,548,563
Total: \$139,262,890

SALES OUTLET INVENTORY:

Nonappropriated Funds \$174,118
Army and Air Force Exchange Service \$4,060,263
Total: \$4,234,381

RETAIL SALES:

Nonappropriated Funds \$4,902,443
Army and Air Force Exchange Service \$19,385,358
Defense Commissary Agency \$10,880,272
Total: \$35,168,073

BASE OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE*:**

\$221,201,902

CONSTRUCTION & PROCUREMENT

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS:

Operations & Maintenance \$19,691,869
Military Family Housing \$14,920,988
Military Construction Program \$117,751
Nonappropriated Funds \$1,604,000
Total: \$36,334,608

PROCUREMENT

SERVICES, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES:

Government Purchase Card \$14,691,701
Buildings & Maintenance \$16,879,233
Utilities & Energy \$6,094,250
Other Services \$1,194,556
Total: \$38,859,740

COMMISSARY, BASE EXCHANGE, NAF, LODGING, MEDICAL:

Defense Commissary Agency \$1,166,469
Army Air Force Exchange Service \$470,000
Nonappropriated Funds (NAF) \$4,412,743
Lodging, Temporary Duty & Permanent Change of Station \$1,024,011
Tricare Claims \$9,341,225
Total: \$16,414,448

Education:

Impact Aid \$3,316,213
Department of Defense Supplemental \$248,252
Military Tuition Assistance \$1,460,446
Civilian Tuition Assistance \$15,933
Total: \$5,040,844

Total Procurement:

\$60,315,032

Total Procurement & Construction:

\$96,649,640

*Original purchase price plus improvements.

**This is a total cost basis for all sites.

***Cost to replace Mountain Home Air Force Base

****Without Civilian Pay

IMPACT OF MILITARY RETIREES*

*Includes only Zip Codes 83600X & 83700X of Southern Idaho

RETIREMENT PAYROLL:	
Air Force	\$61,332,000
Army	\$21,288,000
Navy	\$16,440,000
Marines	\$3,672,000
Coast Guard	\$852,000
Total:	\$103,584,000

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER AND DOLLAR VALUE OF INDIRECT JOBS CREATED

TYPE OF PERSONNEL:	Number of Base Jobs	Multiplier	Number of Indirect Jobs
Military	4,465	0.29	1,295
Appropriated Fund Civilians	462	0.43	199
Non-appropriated Fund Civilians	366	0.43	157
Total:	5,293		1,651

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INDIRECT JOBS CREATED: 1,651

AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY: \$31,550

ESTIMATED ANNUAL DOLLAR VALUE OF JOBS CREATED*: \$52,085,580

*Mountain Home AFB is the number 2 employer of personnel in Treasure Valley.

PERSONNEL-STRENGTH & PAYROLL

STRENGTH

MILITARY:	Living On-Base	Living Off-Base	Total:
Active Duty	1,046	3,419	4,465
Dependents	3,338	3,056	6,394
Total:	4,384	6,475	10,859

APPROPRIATED FUND CIVILIANS:

General Schedule Employees	295
Wage Grade Employees	81
Defense Commissary Agency Employees	36
Contract Employees	50
Total:	462

NONAPPROPRIATED FUND CIVILIANS & PRIVATE BUSINESS:

Nonappropriated Fund Employees	228
Army Air Force Exchange Service Employees	123
Wells Fargo	5
Pioneer Federal Credit Union	10
Total:	366

Total Civilian Employees: 828

Payroll

MILITARY:	Living On-Base	Living Off-Base	Total:
	\$53,374,072	\$122,537,190	\$175,911,262

APPROPRIATED FUND CIVILIANS:

General Schedule Employees	\$13,553,071
Wage Grade Employees	\$3,558,836
Defense Commissary Agency Employees	\$1,192,376
Contract Employees, n.e.i.*	\$2,377,188
Total:	\$20,681,471

NONAPPROPRIATED FUND CIVILIANS & PRIVATE BUSINESS:

Nonappropriated Fund Employees	\$2,115,202
Army Air Force Exchange Service Employees	\$1,846,317
Wells Fargo	\$25,115
Pioneer Federal Credit Union	\$152,818
Total Payroll at Mountain Home AFB:	\$4,139,452

Total Payroll at Mountain Home AFB: \$200,732,185

*not elsewhere included

ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

ANNUAL PAYROLL:			
Military	\$175,911,262	Multiplier 2.15	\$378,209,213
Appropriated Fund Civilian	\$18,304,283	2.15	\$39,354,208
Contract Civilian, n.e.i.	\$2,377,188	2.15	\$5,110,954
Nonappropriated Fund Civilian	\$4,139,452	2.15	\$8,899,822
Retiree	\$103,584,000	2.15	\$222,705,600
Total:	\$304,316,185		\$654,279,798

**ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION
& PROCUREMENT:**

\$96,649,640 2.15 \$207,796,726

IMPACT TO LOCAL ECONOMY:

Direct Impact: \$400,965,825 Total Impact: \$862,076,524

**ESTIMATED TOTAL DOLLAR IMPACT ON
SURROUNDING COMMUNITY***

\$862,076,524

*Amount based on Gross Multiplier Index of 2.15 provided by Boise State Univ.

Economics Dept.

*This number includes the \$103,584,000 in Military Retirement Payroll, equating to \$222,705,600 million of the economic impact.

DISTRIBUTION

366th Wing:	
Executive Staff	4
Unit Commanders	28
CPTS/FMA	28
WG/PA	300
	<u>360</u>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Although too numerous to list, the Budget Office extends a sincere thanks to all of the individuals and agencies who generously contributed data for the FY04 Economic Impact Statement. Without their assistance, this publication could not become a reality.

Financial Management Analysis Flight:

- Sherrye Strain, Budget Officer
- 1st Lt Jessica Reuss, Deputy Budget Officer
- 2nd Lt. Kathy Cyr
- MSgt Nick Hollinger, Analyst
- TSgt Michelle Meserve, Analyst
- SSgt Colleen Beverly, Analyst
- Greg Loper, Lead Analyst
- Melissa Derr, Lead Analyst
- Sue Belt, Analyst
- John Phillips, Analyst
- Nate Beck, Analyst

366 CPTS/FMA
366 Gunfighter Ave, Suite 274
Mt Home AFB, ID 83648
DSN 728-3487
(208) 828-3487

@

Mountain Home
strongly supports
its Airmen and is
proud to be

An Air Force Town

by Louis A. Arana-Barradas
photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

As she took a bite of her barbecue beef sandwich, Dorothy Tennant closed her big blue eyes and let out a slow "Mmm." Some of the tangy sauce oozed on her hands. But she didn't let any drip onto the sleeve of her black leather jacket.

Around her, hundreds of people were also enjoying barbecue beef sandwiches and corn on the cob. The food was free this day at Mountain Home, Idaho's, Carl Miller Park.

"This is real good barbecue," she said, and then took another big bite.

Two older gents, dressed in leather biker regalia, flanked her at the picnic table, "chowing" down. Hell's Angels they weren't. But emblazoned on the back of their leather jackets were the "colors" of the Idaho Motorcycle Club.

The trio, all in their late 50s, ride for leisure and travel, not mayhem. And they weren't locals. They rode into town from Magic Valley — as they have for several years — to ride in the town's annual Air Force Appreciation Day parade. For the past 44 years, the two-day event in September is how the town shows its appreciation to the Airmen at Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's the town's biggest annual hoopla. And town officials say it's the state's biggest parade.

"The Airmen at the base are a good bunch of people," Ms. Tennant said. "They're not strangers here. I support them, and so does this community."

She's not kidding. Just about every one of Mountain Home's more than 11,000 citizens showed up for the parade, and barbecue that followed. And like Ms. Tennant, many people came from out of town to show their support, some from as far away as Oregon.

For a few hours, more than a hundred floats — many from the base — paraded down the town's main street: American Legion Boulevard. People on the floats tossed candy to the children along the route. Bands played patriotic songs. And the grand marshal, the base's 366th Fighter Wing commander, got out at the reviewing stand.

"This celebration is how we say thanks to the base and its people for what they do for our country and for



being an important part of our community," said Jerry Rost, the chamber of commerce military affairs committee member. "We're partners."

From sheep to jets

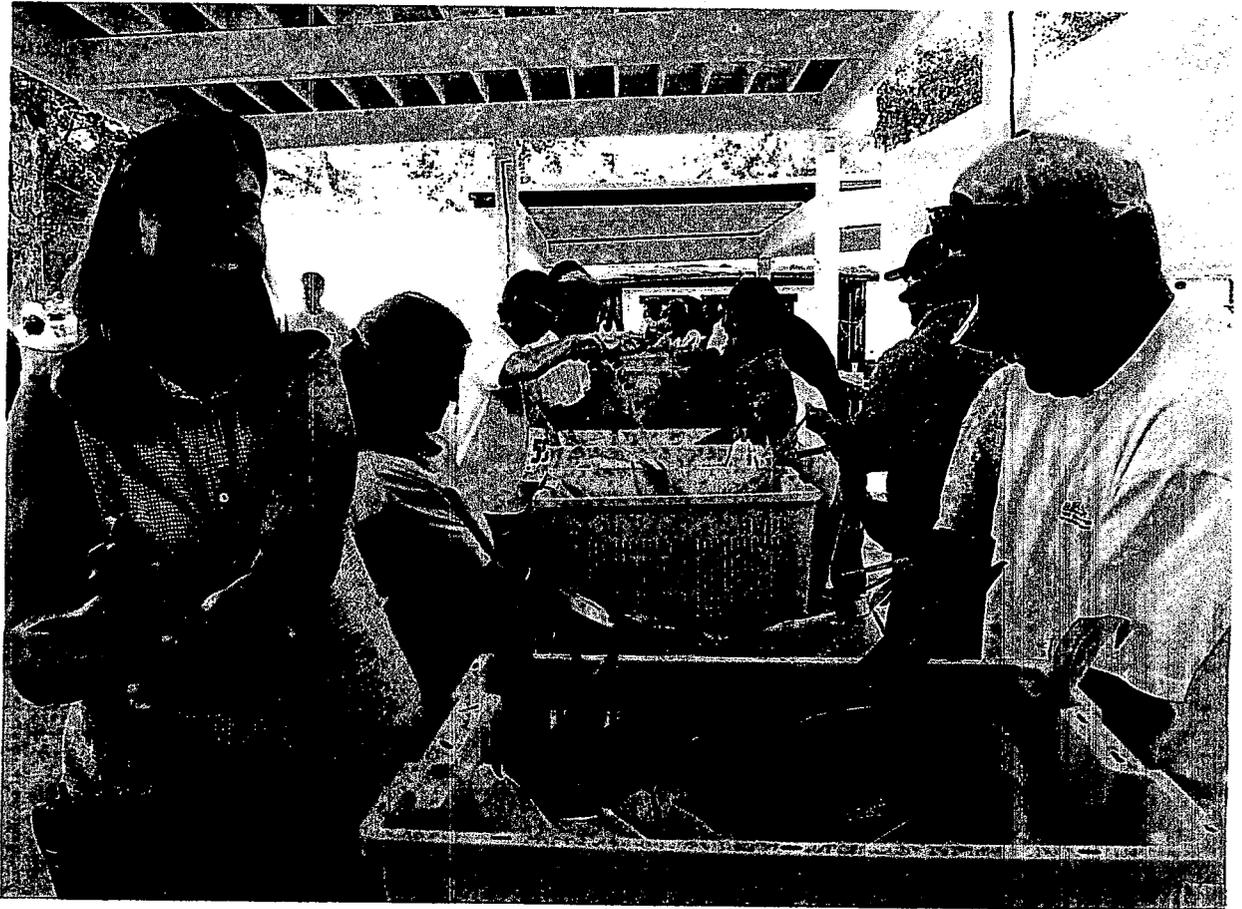
Because as the fortunes of the base go, so do those of the town, Mountain Home Mayor Joe B. McNeal said. And that, he said, makes Mountain Home the quintessential military town.

"This is an Air Force town, and we're proud of it," said the mayor, an Air Force retiree.

The town, 36 miles southeast of Boise, was once a busy sheep wool shipping station. But it was the

@

The day officially starts with a cornhusking competition at Mountain Home's Carl Miller Park. It's the town's version of "shuck and awe," one participant said. Master Sgt. Courtney Hiller (left) and Master Sgt. Ed Van Etten helped shuck the corn that people would eat at the event's second-day barbecue.



Mountain Home at a Glance

Mission: Home of 366th Fighter Wing "Gunfighters" and the Air Warfare Battlelab, the wing flies F-15C Eagles, F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16CJ Fighting Falcons. The wing's mission is to "develop and nurture Airmen, prepared to deploy and ready to fight."

Location: Town of Mountain

Home is 36 miles from Boise, and the base is another 10 miles from there. Between Boise and Mountain Home are Mayfield and Orchard. Southeast of Mountain Home are Hammett, Glens Ferry and Bliss; south are Bruneau and Hot Springs.

Getting around: By road: A straight shot on Interstate Highway 84 southeast from Boise — City of Trees — to the town of Mountain Home. Then it's a 10-mile drive on State Highway 67 from the town to the base.

By air: Boise Air Terminal is the only airport around; on Highway 84.

Population: The base has about 4,400 Airmen, 825 civilian workers and 6,500 family members. The town of Mountain Home: a bit more than 11,000 inhabitants.

History: Mountain Home began as an Army airfield in November 1942, and officially opened in August 1943. Airmen began arriving right away, training for B-24 duty in World War II. Several bomb groups occupied the



Want more info?

For additional details, go to: www.mountainhome.af.mil; www.afcrossroads.com; www.ci.mountainhome.id.us; <http://www.idahofitness.com/ski-idaho.htm>

opening of the base in November 1942 that secured its future. Life has revolved around the base ever since. Most town residents are retired from the Air Force, work at the base or help support it in some way, Mayor McNeal said.

"Mountain Home people love America," he said. "And they love the Air Force."

Over the years, Airmen who have retired in town continue to support the new Airmen at the base, located in the high desert 10 miles west of town. It's a never-ending cycle, and the goodwill continues today. There are signs of that support anywhere

one goes. Nearly every business offers military discounts. Marquees welcome Airmen home from deployments. And military spouses are a large part of the town's workforce.

It's the open-arms welcome Mountain Home gives Airmen that makes it a great place to live, said Randy Valley, an Air Force retiree and Air Force Appreciation Day committee chairman.

"I stayed because this town provides the best support to the military of anyplace I've ever lived," he said. "Plus, it's got good weather. And it's a great place to raise a family."

For example, some people don't

The parade down main street, American Legion Blvd., is the highlight of Air Force Appreciation Day at Mountain Home, Idaho. Nearly the entire town lines the street to show its support for the Airmen.

lock their doors at night. Bikes left in front yards will be there in the morning. There's no smog or traffic. Negligible crime. The roar of the base's jets is seldom heard. And the "great outdoors" starts at the town limits. It's small-town life at its best.

These reasons are why Master Sgt. John Lawicki and his wife, Kim, have homesteaded there for 10 years. The family lives in town, and most of their neighbors are Airmen. A 366th

Security Forces Squadron flight chief, Sergeant Lawicki said what appeals to him is the pace in Mountain Home, which is calm enough that he and his family can enjoy their life more.

But not everyone likes the laidback lifestyle, which can be tough on young airmen, he said.

"Fun and excitement won't go knocking at your dormitory door," he said. "So you find it."

That's exactly what 19-year-old Airman 1st Class Chris Sears found out. After the long drive from Boise, he felt banished to the wilderness.

He wondered about the next four years.

"It was horrible, at first," the 366th Services Squadron troop said. "But the people here are so friendly, and the base tries so hard to keep you busy and active."

He adapted and after a few months rediscovered his love of the outdoors and camping. Making friends and doing "outdoorsy" stuff helped erase the first impression.

"I like the base now," he said. "There's a lot to do."

Most people grow to love Mountain Home, Mr. Valley said, "because of

the people." He should know. He saw his wife cry for only the second time in her life when they drove into town. She didn't want to plant roots. "Now she'd cry if we had to leave," he said.

The bond between the people on both sides of the base gate makes Mountain Home the robust Air Force town it is, Mrs. Lawicki said.

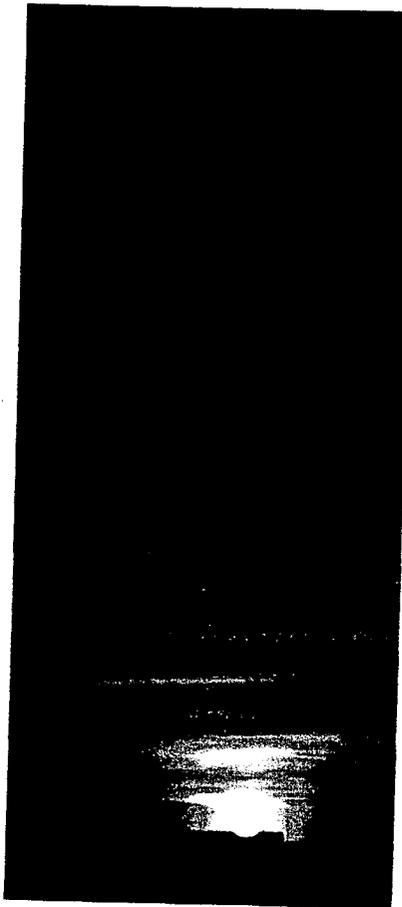
"There's great camaraderie here," she said. "And it didn't take a tragedy like 9-11 to build the relationship, for this town to support the base. That support has existed for a very long time."

When the Air Force Appreciation Day celebration ended, Mountain Home returned to its serene existence. Some people carried foil-wrapped plates of barbecue to the few neighbors who didn't show for the festivities. Ms. Tennant and her biker buddies mounted up and headed home.

"I'll be back next year," she said. "You can count on that."

By early next morning, not a scrap of paper littered the parade route. Mountain Home had returned to being the small town that makes Airmen feel at home. ☉

The high desert is the base's backyard. It's home to a cannibalistic ground squirrel the locals call a "whistle pig" and desert flora and fauna. But its jaw-dropping sunset views are what locals say is best about the desert.



Town Mayor Joe B. McNeal told Airmen they are depended on to "protect the nation as a shepherd does his flock."



and during the war. After the war, the base went inactive, until the Air Force returned with reconnaissance units and renamed the installation Mountain Home Air Force Base. There have been special operations, bomber, missile and reconnaissance missions at the base over the years. The base received its first fighters in 1966. It has been a major base ever since.

mate: Locals say Mountain Home is a "quite pleasant" year-round climate. But it's windy. Average annual

temperature is about 65 degrees. July is the hottest month, with a 93 degree average, but the summer average is 85 degrees. January temperatures drop into the high teens, but winter average is 36 degrees. Annual rainfall is about 10 inches; snowfall about 10.9 inches.

Cost of living: Cheap by big city standards. Rents for homes range from \$375-\$425 for a one-bedroom to \$700-\$900 for a four-bedroom house. Apartments range from \$375-\$425 for

a one-bedroom to \$550-\$750 for a four bedroom.

Recreation: Just name it. There's plenty of outdoor stuff to do all year: camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain climbing, biking, skiing, snowboarding, water sports — whew. Plus, there are numerous state and national parks near the base, old ghost towns and historical and natural landmarks. Nearby are mountains, rivers, canyons and even sand dunes.

Airman

A one-horse town. That was my first impression of Mountain Home, Idaho.

And first impressions usually last. So I didn't relish the thought of spending a whole week there. After one look, I wanted to hightail it back to Boise, get on a plane and go home.

No such luck, though. I had a job to do. So I sucked it up — jumped on the grenade.

As we drove on, photojournalist Master Sgt. Lance Cheung and I looked for

the entrance to Mountain Home Air Force Base. But we had to drive another 10 miles to reach it. Curiously, stray stalks of corn grow along that road, yet nobody we asked knew why.

The base is home to the 366th Fighter Wing "Gunfighters." An appropriate name for a unit in cowboy country. We went there to report three stories [See "The Children Left Behind," November 2004, page 36; "@mountainhome," page 44 and

"Out of the Comfort Zone," page 42].

My first reaction to the town and base was typical. During my week visit, several people told me they felt like running away when they arrived. Some even cried.

What this big-city boy didn't expect was how fast the people of the town and base won me over. Made me feel at home. How quickly I felt content, like the Airmen who retire there.

Why? Maybe because Mountain Home is an Air Force town. True Air Force blue, through and through.

Everyone's so cheerful some people think it's an act. It's not. The handshakes of welcome, like the people, are genuine. Folks make strangers feel like "their casa, is your casa."

It grows on you. That's great. But could I live in a town of 11,000 people? How would I keep busy? I don't hunt, climb mountains or go around planting stray stalks of corn. Why would anybody want to serve, let alone retire, there?

Maybe it's better to ask: what is it

by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung



about Mountain Home that makes people want to stay?

Leslie Tomme, a young waitress at a steak, ribs and burger place a mile outside the base main gate, gave me the answer. Or at least why she, a big-city girl, decided to stay there.

"People here have a lot of pride in the military," she told me. Once an Airman herself, she left the Air Force to enroll in college. But she didn't want to return to Houston. "I stayed here because this is a good town, and the people really care about you."

She's right. After two days, people we didn't know just walked up and said, "Hey, you're the guys from Airman magazine, right? Welcome to Mountain Home."

News travels fast in Mountain Home.

One night — with a million stars in the sky — I went outside the Sagebrush Hotel to call my buddy in San Antonio, to recount my adventures. I had a doggie bag of Chinese food, which I set on the hood of our rental car. I reached for it just as a coyote did. We made eye contact. Then he turned tail and raced off, yelping to high heaven.

That's when it hit me. When I realized why people love life in Mountain Home: great people and the great outdoors for a back yard. I'd gotten an Idaho education all in one day.

Mountain Home life winds along a country road. It has a key mission. Neat homes. Children ride bikes to school. And Airman leadership school troops honor the flag at retreat each day.

But it's different. What sets it apart is the special relationship that exists between the town and base community. There's trust. I never saw a better bond during my 26 years in blue.

I learned there's a lot more to Idaho, and Mountain Home, than famous potatoes.

— Louis A. Arana-Barradas

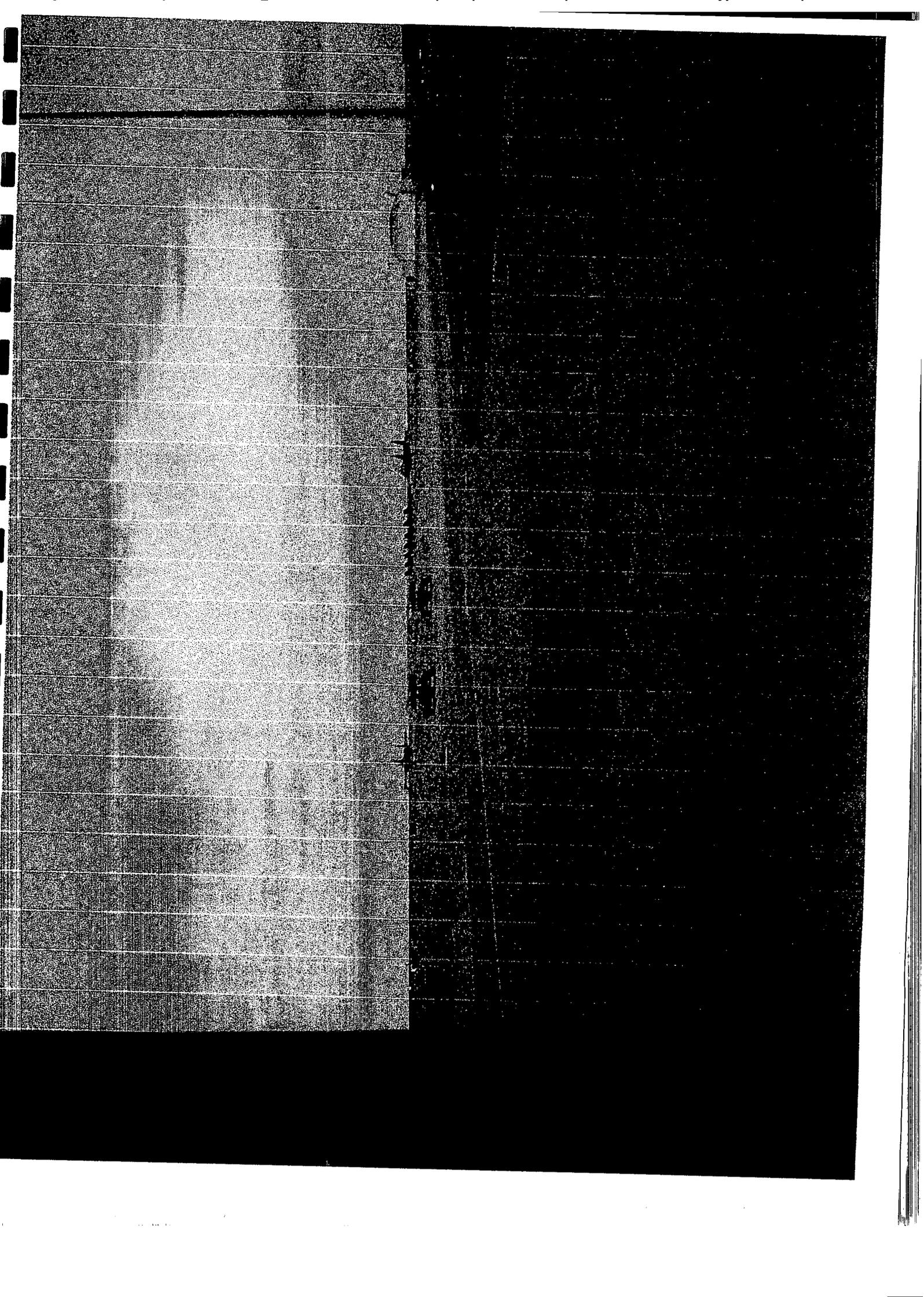
Leslie Tomme is a big-city-turned-country girl who loves the slow-paced Mountain Home, Idaho, lifestyle. She works two jobs, saving for college tuition. But when there's a break, she puts on her bathing suit and spends a day drifting on an inner-tube down a nearby river. "Can't do that in the big city," she said.

Military Value

New Ramp

Realistic Training Range

for the future!



Mountain Home Range Complex Mountain Home AFB, Id

In 1995, the Air Force, in partnership with the Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, The State of Idaho and all of the citizens of Idaho embarked on the development of a realistic training range with the project *Enhanced Training in Idaho*. The Air Force using an open public process developed a new \$42 million training range that is second to none. (Attachment 1)

The complex is located in southwestern Idaho, Oregon and Nevada and encompasses 5.6 million acres that has varied terrain with high rolling desert, deep canyons and mountains. In addition, it is sparsely populated with most of the lands under the Military Operating Area being Bureau of Land Management and state lands used for grazing. The airspace is not encroached by airline traffic as depicted in the attached FAA photo taken during a military down day in 2000. (Attachment 2) The range complex has tremendous realistic targets complexes and a large array of mobile threat emitter sites that provide realistic electronic threats that can be varied to meet the needs of the mission. Saylor Creek Range, 110,000 acres, is a drop range with targets that simulate airfields, bunkers, and realistic army tanks plus various buildings. (Attachments 3,4,5,6&7)

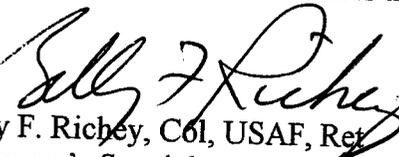
Approximately 20 miles south of Saylor Creek Range is Juniper Butte Range that began operation with *Enhanced Training in Idaho* in 2000. Juniper Butte Range is made of modern realistic targets with a large industrial complex and a railroad yard that is protected by two surface to air missile complexes and a forward edge of the battle (FEBA) line with numerous simulated tanks. All of these targets are optically scored for great crew feedback. In addition to the two large drop areas there are 5 target areas developed that provide realistic targets spread over a large area for multiple target simultaneous attack during routine training or large scale exercises. Four 5 acre targets, two with industrial buildings, a radar complex and a missile site, plus, a 640 acre site consisting of large array of approximately 150-200 simulated tanks and trucks. (Attachments 8,9,10,11&12)

Supporting it are 30 parking sites for electronic threat emitters scattered over eastern Owyhee County, where mobile emitters can provide realistic threats that can vary locations for day to day or hour to hour. This combined with the realistic targets provide the best training possible for the aircrews.

Enhanced Training in Idaho resolved several long term issues that were being aired by several environmental and conservation groups in Idaho. The new range was built using a minimum amount of land and allowed the Air Force to study today's environment under an airspace that had been used for 50 years and make adjustments that did not hinder their operations but resolved many long term public misconceptions and concerns. The wing did agree to provide protection to some areas for the lambing season and the leking season for sage grouse. A caveat does exist that these restrictions can be lifted by

the wing commander if national defense needs dictate. As far as invertebrate species of concern with the Mountain Home Range Complex (MHRC) airspace is the Bruneau Hot Spring Snail. This snail became a news item of interest following its federal listing in 1992 resulting in rancher's irrigation water being restricted from the Bruneau River (later overturned). AF operations do not affect the snail in any known way. Range and Airspace operations are not restricted in any way because of the snail. There are three other snails (Idaho Springs Snail, Bliss Rapids Snail and Snake River Physa) in the Snake River that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but there is no linkage between them and our operations either. The MHRC is not limited by any species list as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Mountain Home Training Range Complex provides outstanding training for the 366th Fighter Wing as they prepare for combat as proven in their actions in Afghanistan, and Iraq. It hosted numerous large scale wing, Air Force and joint exercise, even holding a Red Flag North. Most currently it has been chosen for use by our foreign allies for training, i.e., Israeli, Great Britain and, soon to participate, will be German crews. We are very confident that if you visit Mountain Home and talk with the aircrews flying today and review the data, Mountain Home Range Complex will definitely impress you and stand on its own merits. It is the very best backyard range in the Air Force.


Billy F. Richey, Col, USAF, Ret
Governor's Special Assistant Military Affairs
PH (208) 587-2173 CP (208) 599-1256

Mountain Home Range Complex

Mountain Home AFB



Additional EC Sites
And No Drop Tgts

Saylor Creek Range

Juniper Butte Range

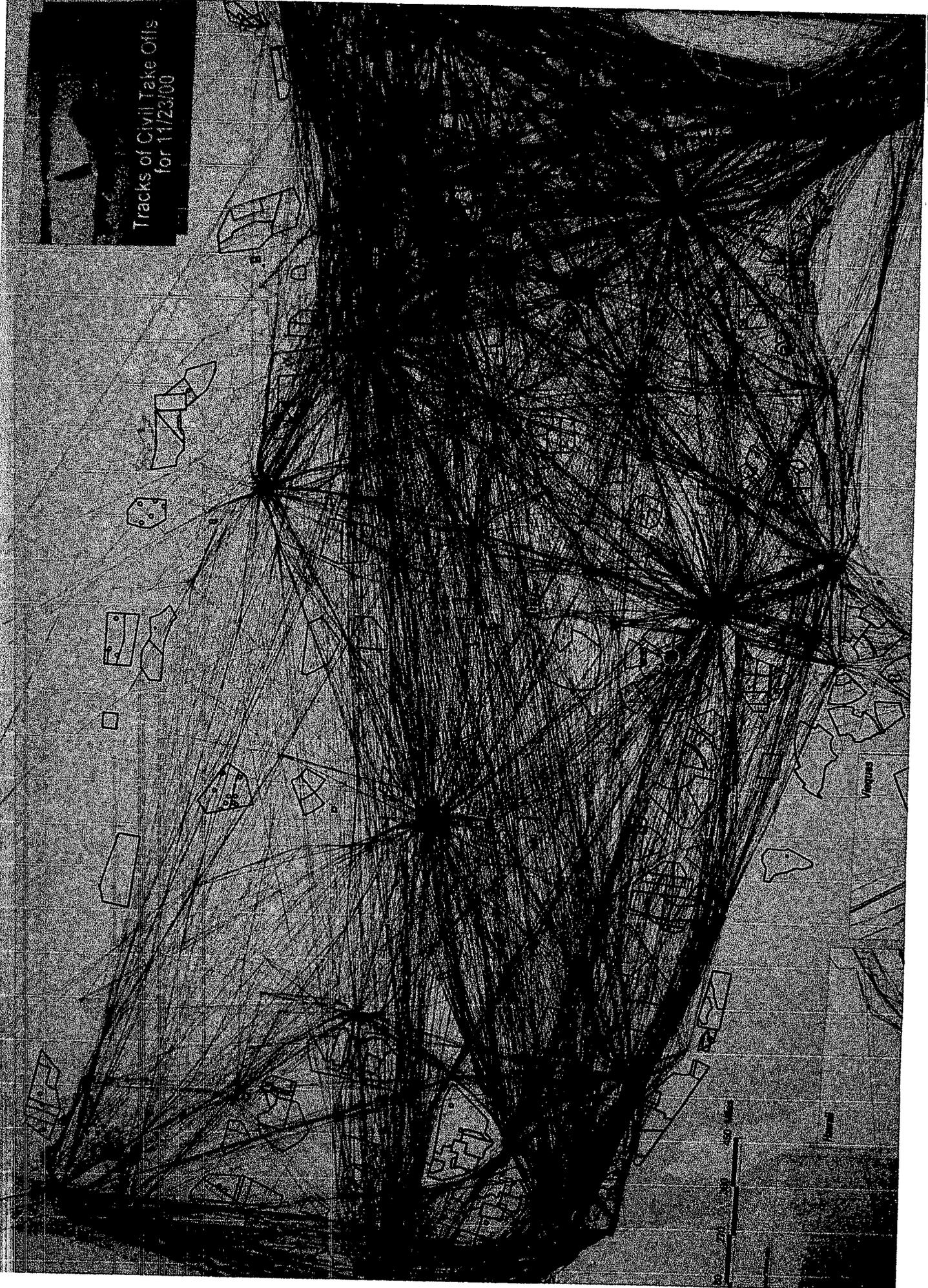
Oregon Idaho

Nevada

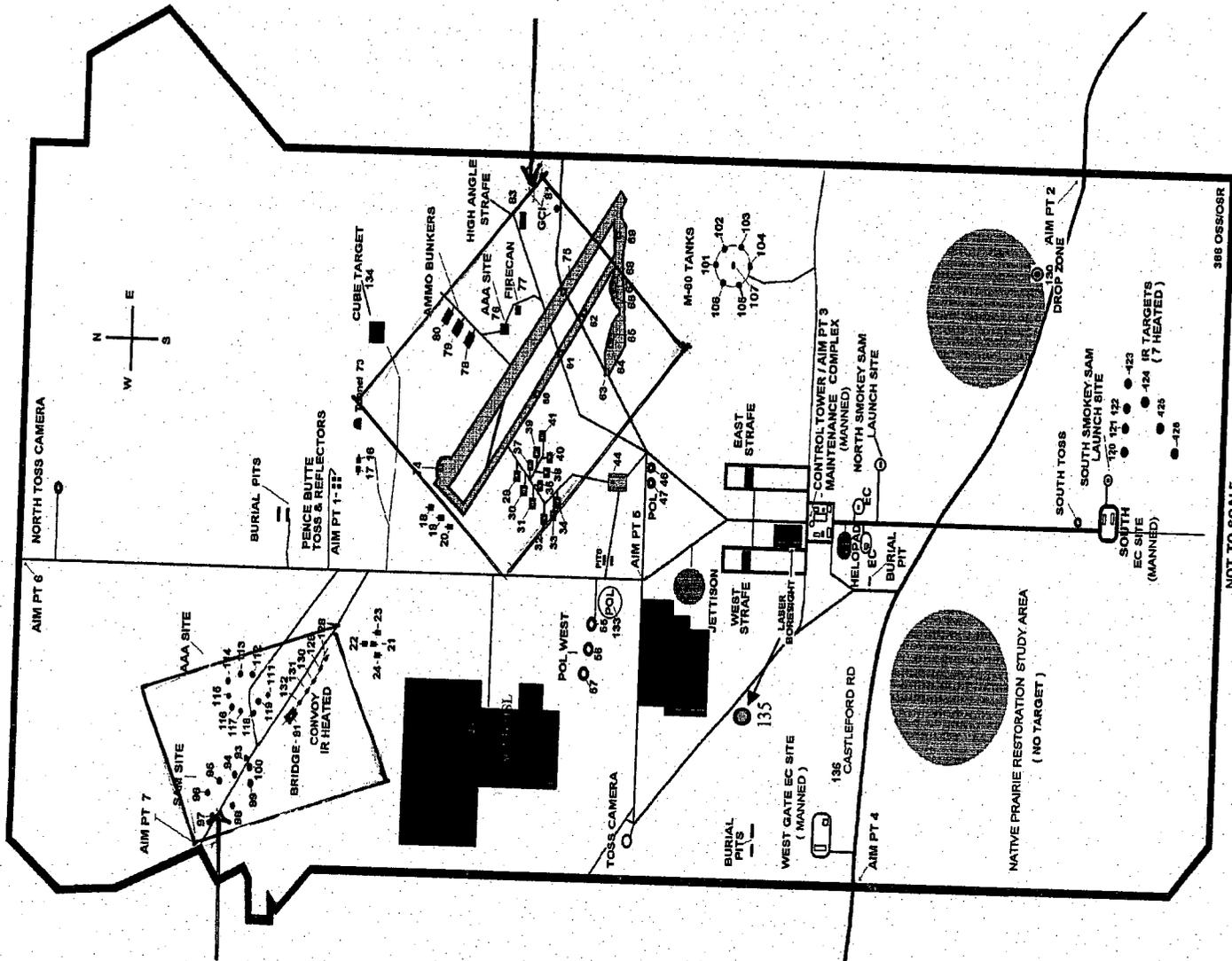
5,621,120 acres



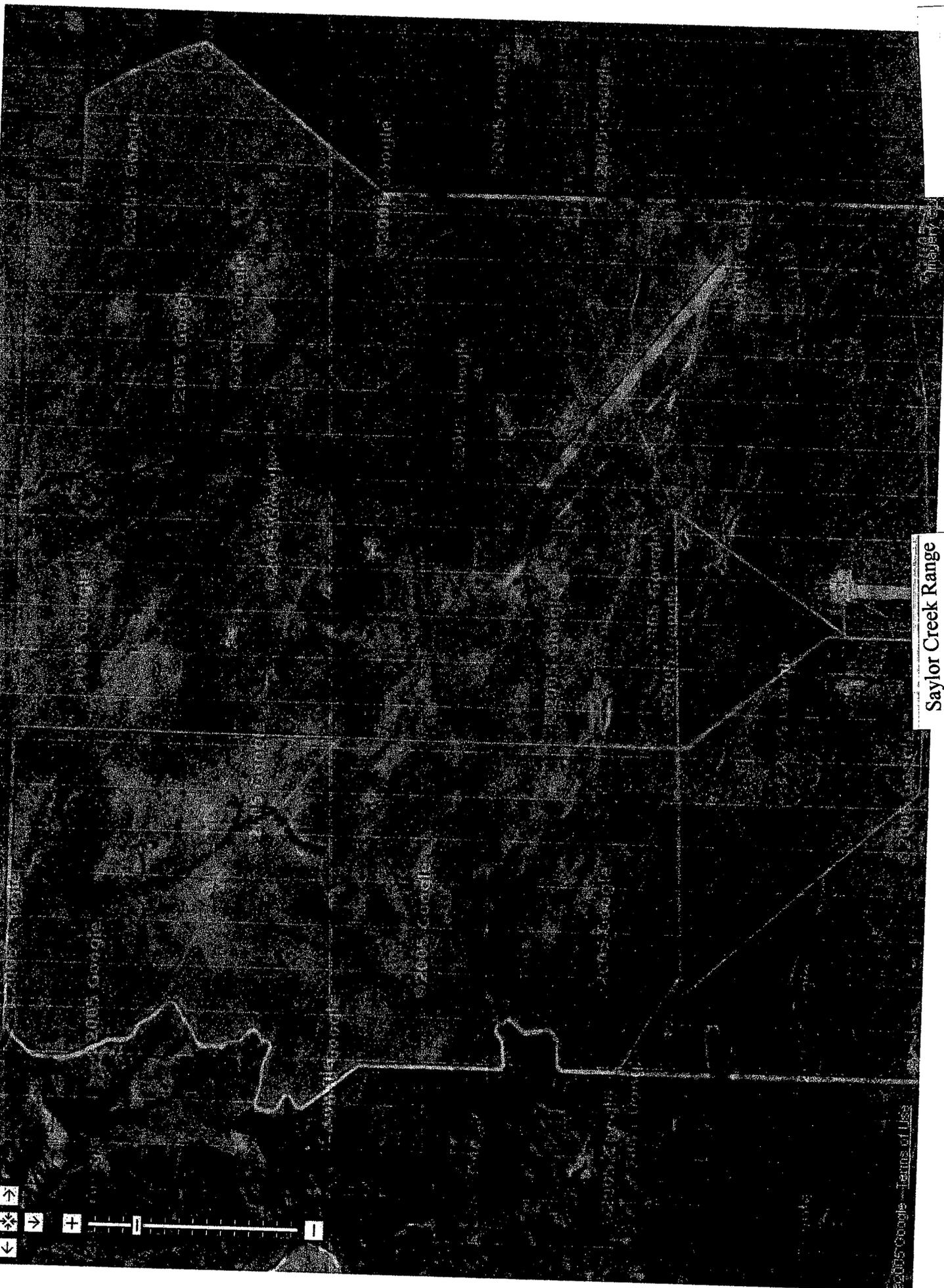
Tracks of Civil Take Offs
for 1/123/00



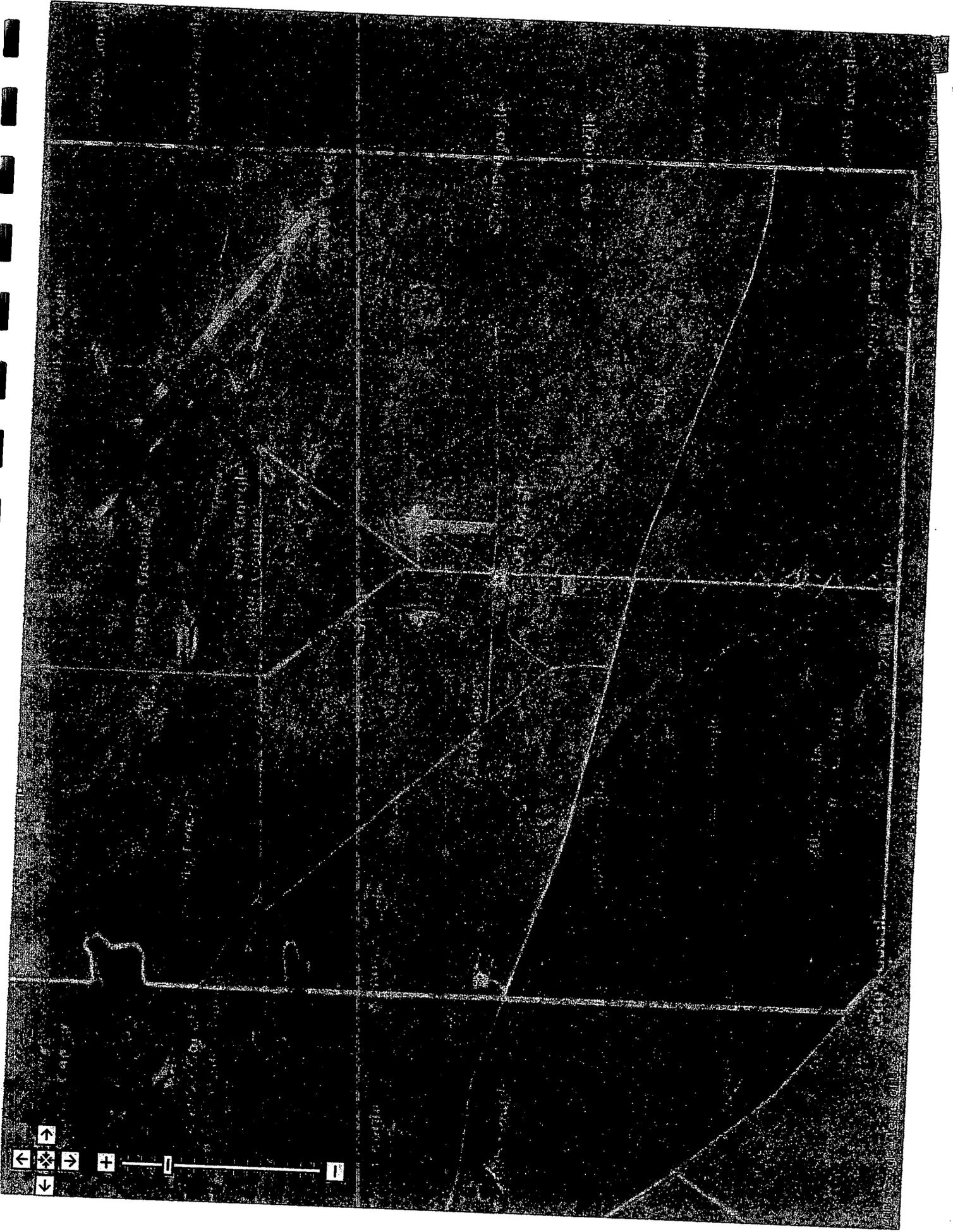
Atch 7
SAM Radar



Atch 6
Ammo Bunker



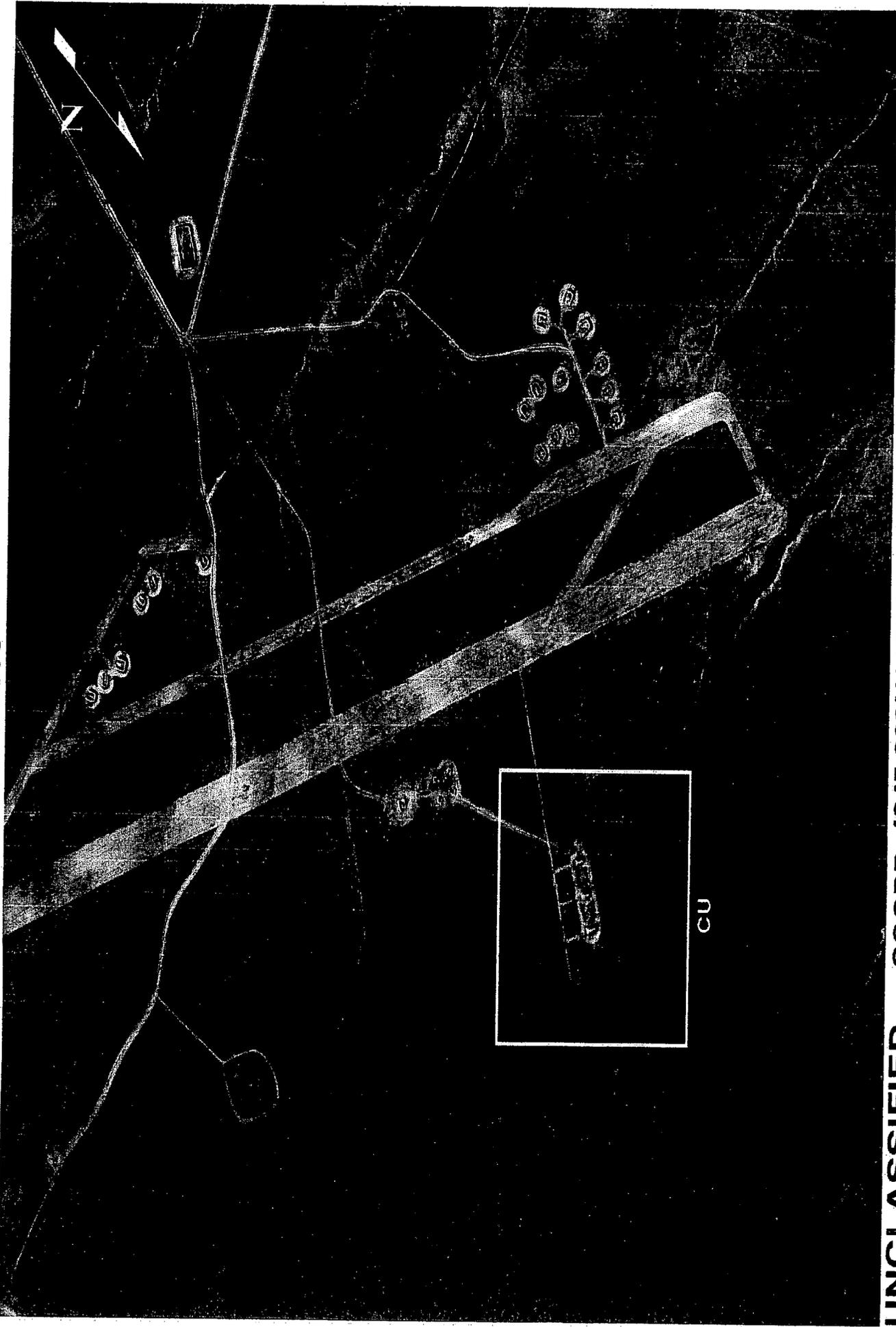
Saylor Creek Range



91S
BEALE AFB, CA

CTR AMMO BUNKER OV
SC79

UNCLASSIFIED



CU

UNCLASSIFIED
ELEV: 3611 FT MSL

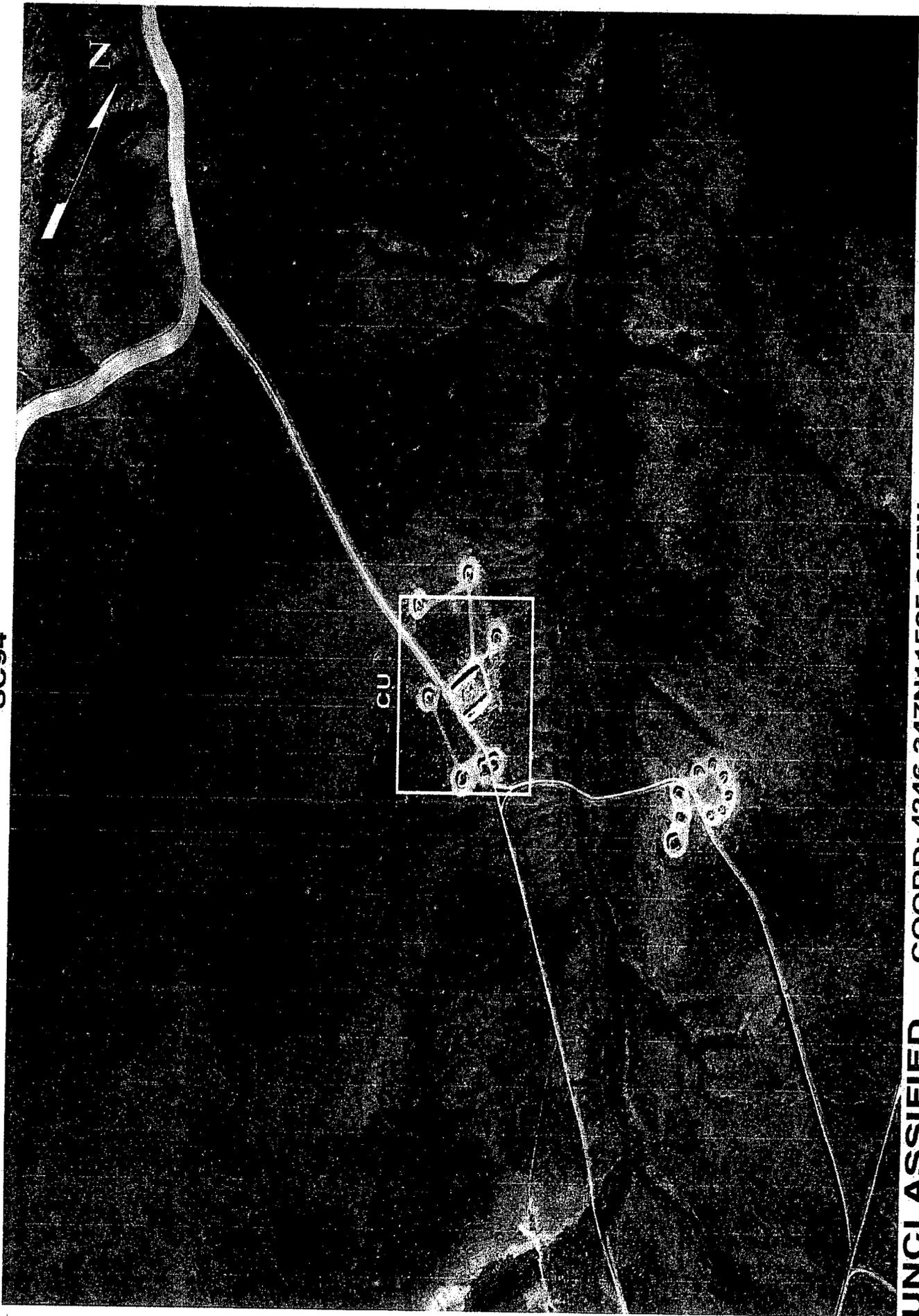
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DOI:11 MAR 04

91S
BEALE AFB, CA

SAM RADAR VAN OV
SC94

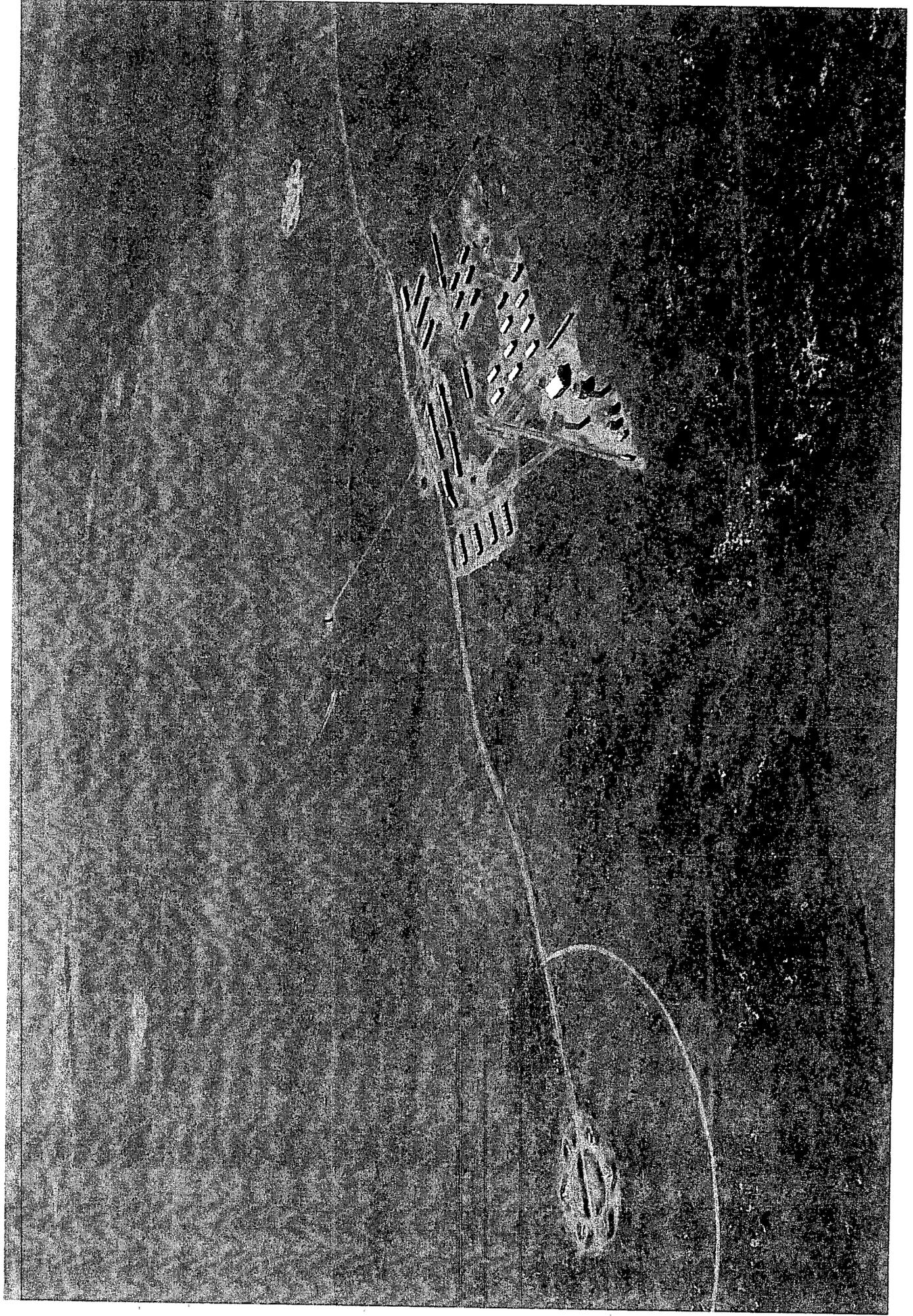
UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED
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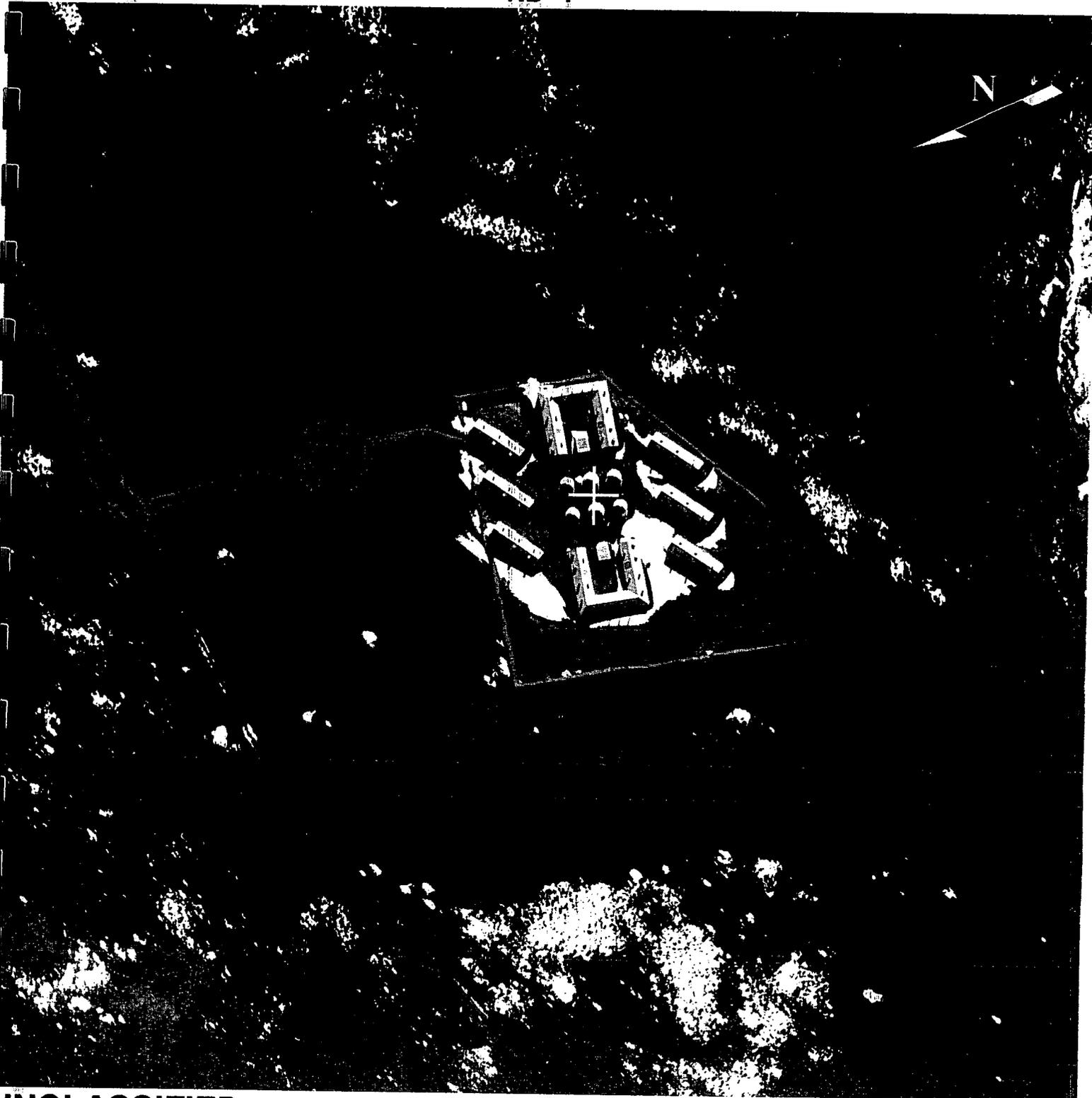
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IS
BEALE AFB, CA

C POL CU
ND-4

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED
ELEV: 5493 FT MSL

COORD: 4223.23N11557.638W

DOI:11 MAR 04

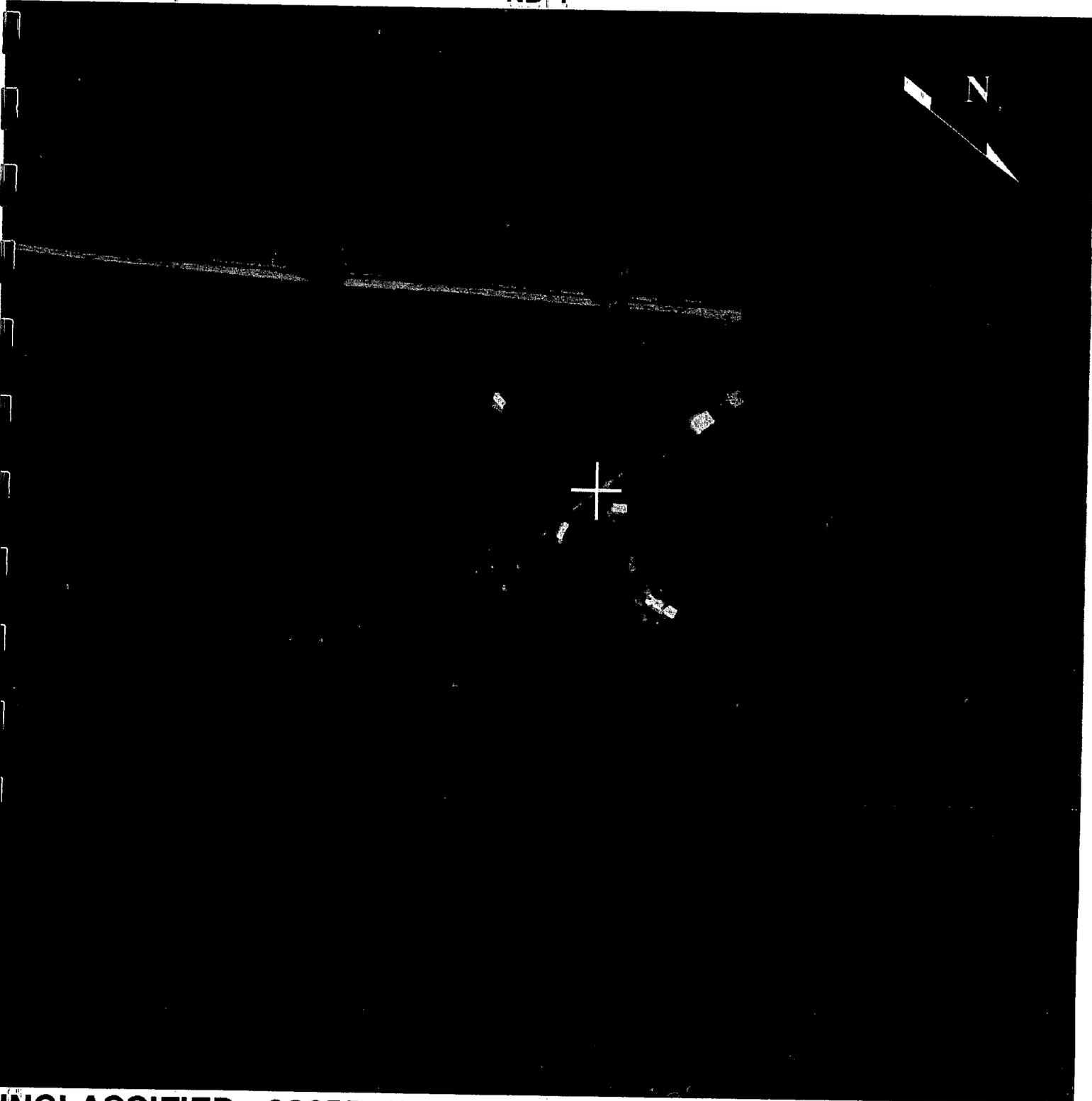


ND-5 COM
422657N 1155717W

IS
BEALE AFB, CA

COM N CU
ND-7

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED COORD: 4221.925N11527.083W
LEV: 4983 FT MSL

DOI: 11 MAR 04

Attachment 11



UNCLASSIFIED
ELEV:5091 FT MSL

COORD: 4218.188N11557.149W

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