

Introduced by Senator Ashburn
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Maze)

August 4, 2004

Senate Joint Resolution No. 34—Relative to the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 34, as introduced, Ashburn. Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to support the establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) for joint use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the California Air National Guard, Fresno and would request the Federal Aviation Administration to approve the creation of the Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Navy at Naval Air Station
2 (NAS) Lemoore in joint partnership with the California Air
3 National Guard (CANG) 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, have
4 proposed the establishment of a new Military Operations Area
5 (MOA) over NAS Lemoore to satisfy many critical national
6 defense training requirements, the Lemoore MOA Initiative; and
7 WHEREAS, The current price of military aircraft training in the
8 existing training environment is substantial. The cost per flight
9 hour of military aircraft is high. The current need to travel long
10 distances to secure needed training requires large amounts of fuel
11 and time to transit to and from the training location. Current
12 training locations are increasingly crowded with other joint users

1 of the training airspaces, which interferes with the quality of
2 training and the safety of these training events. The current need
3 of our military personnel to travel within the United States to
4 secure needed training unavailable in the current training
5 environment increases their time away from home in a time where
6 they are already overtaxed with overseas commitments; and

7 WHEREAS, The benefits of training in the new Lemoore MOA
8 would be substantial because pilots would train closer to home
9 base and reduce the costs of longer transits to existing training
10 locations. The establishment of an additional, new training
11 airspace location would relieve the pressure on the existing
12 training locations increasing their training quality and safety. Our
13 military personnel would have reduced requirements to travel
14 away from home to secure needed training. It is estimated up to 30
15 million taxpayer dollars annually could be saved or better utilized
16 in training for national defense requirements. The increase in
17 military service member morale resulting from fewer training
18 deployments from home would also be significant; and

19 WHEREAS, The existing NAS Lemoore Air Traffic Control
20 (ATC) airspace already exists and is approximately 30 nautical
21 miles by 70 nautical miles to support current NAS Lemoore airport
22 operations. The Lemoore MOA Initiative would allow tactical
23 training flights inside this existing airspace. No supersonic,
24 weapons employment or aggressive maneuvering flights over
25 populated areas will be allowed in the new airspace; and

26 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the high altitudes of the desired
27 training flights and the sparsely populated rural environment of the
28 land below the Lemoore MOA will have minimal environmental
29 impact. To ensure this, the Navy in cooperation with the Federal
30 Aviation Administration (FAA) is completing an Environmental
31 Assessment (EA). The Lemoore MOA would not increase air
32 emissions for the State Implementation Plan. Military training
33 flights over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, including wilderness
34 areas and the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks could be
35 reduced if some of these flights were redirected to the Lemoore
36 MOA; and

37 WHEREAS, The impact of the Lemoore MOA Initiative on the
38 current civilian air traffic environment is considered minimal. The
39 Navy in conjunction with the FAA is completing an operational
40 analysis on both military and civilian air traffic patterns within the



1 vicinity of NAS Lemoore. The footprint of the Lemoore MOA
2 does not impact most air traffic flows; and

3 WHEREAS, Both the Navy and FAA are conducting outreach
4 programs to the civilian aviation community to explain that the
5 Lemoore MOA Initiative will allow for simultaneous military and
6 civilian use of designated training airspace. These outreach
7 programs are also informing civilian pilots that the Lemoore MOA
8 will be managed in real time in an effort to prevent conflict
9 between military and civilian aircraft; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
11 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges the
12 President and the Congress of the United States to support the
13 establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations Area for joint
14 use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air Station Lemoore
15 and the California Air National Guard, Fresno; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the California Legislature requests that the
17 Federal Aviation Administration approve the creation of the
18 Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible and that the California
19 Congressional Delegation pursue all efforts to ensure that the
20 Lemoore MOA is established; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
22 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
23 States, each Senator and Representative from California in the
24 Congress of the United States, the Administrator of the Federal
25 Aviation Administration, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary
26 of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and to the author for
27 appropriate distribution.

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29 CORRECTIONS

30 **Heading — Line 2.**

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