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Space Missile Command and Control

RESTRICTED AREA/DANGER ZONE ENTRY



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This instruction implements and extends guidance from AFI 13-201, *Air Force Airspace Management*, dated 30 September 2001, and designates a single point of contact for all requests to enter the restricted airspace over Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and ocean surface Danger Zone 4 offshore from VAFB. The restricted areas and Danger Zone 4 were established as security measures to prevent the close-in observation of missile activities. Recognizing that some requesters have legitimate reasons for entering the restricted areas and Danger Zone 4, this instruction explains 30th Space Wing (30 SW) policy to enter these areas. This instruction applies to all 30 SW organizations and provides guidance for other agencies requesting permission to fly in the restricted airspace or enter surface Danger Zone 4. Refer recommended changes and questions about this supplement to 2 ROPS/DON, 1602 California Blvd, Suite 146, VAFB CA 93437-5233 using AF IMT 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publications**. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 37-123 (will convert to AFMAN 33-363), *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://afirms.amc.af.mil/>.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This revision incorporates the following changes: Throughout the document, 30th Range Squadron and 30 RANS have been changed to 2d Range Operations Squadron and 2 ROPS respectfully. Throughout the document, DOUN has been changed to DON. Throughout the document, 30th Range Squadron Tasking Section and DOUS have been changed to 2d Range Operations Squadron Scheduling Flight and DOS respectfully. Throughout the document, “section” has been changed to “flight”. Throughout the document, 30 SW/XPOO has been changed to 30 SW/CCH; includes delegation statement (paragraph 1.2.); “It shall” has been changed to “2 ROPS will” (paragraph 1.2.); reworded (paragraph 1.3.); “surface” has been removed (paragraph 1.5.); “exclusive 30 SW use” has been changed to “exclusive to 30 SW”; “the Commander, 30 SW” has been changed to “30 SW/CC”; “missile” has been changed to “launch”(paragraph 2.); Santa Barbara TRACON has been added and the paragraph has been reworded (paragraph 3.); 2 ROPS address has been updated (paragraph 4.1.); “example” has been changed to “sample” (paragraph

4.2.3.); “FRONTIER CONTROL” has been changed to “Vandenberg Control Tower” and both paragraphs have been reworded (paragraphs **4.4.1.** and **4.4.2.**); Approval Authority has been updated; references section has been added; Frontier Control is no longer all capitals; Santa Barbara Terminal Radar Control (TRACON) and Class D Airspace have been added; “Code of Federal Regulations” has been added to definition for Surface Danger Zones; “Visual Flight Rules” has been removed **Attachment 1**; office symbols and phone numbers have been updated **Attachment 2**; office symbols and phone numbers have been updated and “upon” is no longer capitalized **Attachment 3**., Frontier Control is no longer capitalized **A4.2.**; “dangerous firing zones” has been changed to “hazardous zones”; **A4.3.**, office symbol, address, and phone numbers have been updated **A4.4.**; Frontier Control is no longer capitalized **A4.5.**; Frontier Control is no longer capitalized **A4.6.**; added **Figure A4.1.** in **Attachment 4**; office symbols and phone numbers have been updated; Frontier Control is no longer capitalized in **Attachment 5**. A bar (|) indicates a revision from the previous edition.

1. Responsibilities:

1.1. All 30 SW organizations will promptly forward all requests to enter restricted airspace over Vandenberg AFB or surface Danger Zone 4 to the 2d Range Operations Squadron Airspace and Offshore Management Flight (2 ROPS/DON).

1.2. 30th Space Wing Commander (30 SW/CC) has delegated 2 ROPS/DON as the approval authority for all requests to enter the restricted airspace over Vandenberg AFB or Danger Zone 4. 2 ROPS will ensure the use of the restricted areas and Danger Zone 4 is in keeping with the purpose for which they were established. It will review and coordinate with the appropriate offices on entry requests and prepare a response memorandum per both 30 SW policy and operational considerations.

1.3. The 30th Space Wing Operations Security Office (30 SW/CCH) will have the option to review photographs taken by any agency that is given permission to overfly restricted airspace or enter Danger Zone 4.

1.4. The 2d Range Operations Officer (2 ROPS/DO) is responsible for the real-time management of all range operating areas.

1.5. The 2d Range Operations Squadron Scheduling Flight (2 ROPS/DOS) ensures all operations in the restricted areas and Danger Zone 4 are properly approved and authorized before they are assigned an operation number and the requested entry is scheduled.

2. General Provisions. There are several airspace restricted areas and offshore danger zones associated with Vandenberg AFB. Restricted Area 2517 is not opened to outside agencies (exclusive to 30 SW) unless specific written entry permission is given. The stopping or loitering of vessels is expressly prohibited within Danger Zone 4, unless prior permission is obtained from 30 SW/CC. The purpose of these restricted areas and Danger Zone 4 is to contain hazardous operations and enhance security by preventing “close in” observation of launch facilities. Therefore, during range operations, airspace and selected danger zones are closed (as appropriate), and at other times entry is controlled for safety and security reasons. There are nine danger zones extending from Point Sal to Point Conception which are selectively closed at frequent and irregular intervals for hazardous range operations.

3. Restricted Area and Danger Zone 4 Entry Policy. 2 ROPS/DON will approve requests for operations in restricted area airspace and surface Danger Zone 4 as long as they comply with the purpose for

which the restricted areas and Danger Zone 4 were established. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved on their individual merits in conjunction with the status of military operations activities. In emergency cases involving immediate threat to life, limb, or safety of flight, authorizations for immediate passage through restricted areas may be granted by Frontier Control, Vandenberg Control Tower, Santa Barbara TRACON, or Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC).

4. Procedures.

4.1. 30 SW organizations will refer entry requests to restricted areas or danger zones to 2 ROPS/DON, Bldg. 7025, 1602 California Street, Suite 144, Vandenberg AFB CA 93437-5233. Submit requests, in writing, at least 10 duty days before the requested entry. The requests should identify a point of contact, contain the purpose of the entry request, and indicate the date and time for which entry is requested.

4.2. 2 ROPS/DON will:

4.2.1. Review all requests to enter restricted airspace and surface Danger Zone 4.

4.2.2. Coordinate incoming requests, as required, with 30 SW/CCH, 2 ROPS/DOS, and 2 ROPS/DO.

4.2.3. Draft an appropriate outgoing response memorandum and forward with the corresponding instruction sheet, to the requesting agency. [Attachment 2](#), Sample Overflight Request Memorandum and [Attachment 3](#), Sample Danger Zone 4 Entry Request Memorandum are example response memorandums. [Attachment 4](#), Vandenberg AFB Danger Zone Information and [Attachment 5](#), Restricted Area Flight Instructions, are the instruction sheets.

4.2.4. Coordinate the response memorandum with all appropriate agencies.

4.2.5. Ensure the response memorandum is properly distributed.

4.3. 30 SW/CCH will expedite review of all entry requests involving photography.

4.4. 2 ROPS/DON will:

4.4.1. Coordinate with Vandenberg Control Tower to ensure they only clear properly authorized and scheduled operations into the restricted areas and Danger Zone 4.

4.4.2. Coordinate with Vandenberg Control Tower to ensure overflights which affect other control agencies are properly coordinated, as appropriate.

4.4.3. Ensure the operations associated with the entry approval comply with the conditions in the entry approval.

4.5. 2 ROPS/DOS will:

4.5.1. Schedule properly approved restricted areas and surface Danger Zone 4 operations on a noninterference basis to range mission operations.

4.5.2. Schedule operations that enter the restricted areas and surface Danger Zone 4 only after approval and according to the restrictions and conditions contained in the approval memorandum.

4.5.3. Coordinate operations associated with entry approvals with the 30th Space Wing Command Post (30 SW/CP).

5. Adopted Form:

5.1. AF IMT 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publications.**

JACK WEINSTEIN, Col, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 13-201, *Air Force Airspace Management*

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, and Part 334.1130

Terms

Control Tower—Provides air traffic control service to aircraft within Vandenberg AFB Class D airspace.

Frontier Control—Voice call sign for the Western Range Area Control Center.

Los Angeles Air Route Control Center (ZLA)—An FAA air traffic control facility providing service to the southwest United States, located in Palmdale, California.

Restricted Area—Airspace designated under Title 14 Aeronautics and Space Part 73 and identified by an area on the surface of the land or waters of a state within which the flight of aircraft, while not wholly prohibited, is subject to restrictions.

Santa Barbara Terminal Radar Control (TRACON)—An FAA air traffic control facility, located in Santa Barbara, California, which provides service to Vandenberg AFB.

Surface Danger Zones—Areas designated in *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33 CFR 334.1130* and identified by an area on the ocean surface extending three nautical miles seaward from the shoreline of Vandenberg AFB within which marine traffic, while not prohibited, is subject to regulation.

Class D Airspace—Generally, that airspace from the surface to 2,500 feet above the airport elevation (charted in MSL) surrounding those airports that have an operational control tower. The configuration of each Class D airspace area is individually tailored and when instrument procedures are published, the airspace will normally be designed to contain the procedures.

Attachment 2**SAMPLE OVERFLIGHT REQUEST MEMORANDUM**

MEMORANDUM FOR (Addressee)

FROM: 2 ROPS/DON

SUBJECT: Overflight Request

1. Your request to enter restricted airspace over Vandenberg AFB is granted for flight(s) between _____ for the purpose of _____.

2. The approval granted herein is expressly contingent upon your agreement to follow all instructions and requirements discussed in the attachment to this memorandum.

3. If there are any questions, contact the Airspace and Offshore Management Flight at (805) 606-3602.

NAME, RANK, SERVICE

Airspace and Offshore Management Flight

Attachment:

Instruction Sheet

cc:

30 SW/CP/CCH

2 ROPS/DO/DOF/DOS

Attachment 3

SAMPLE DANGER ZONE 4 ENTRY REQUEST MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR (Addressee)

FROM: 2 ROPS/DON

SUBJECT: Permit to Enter Danger Zone 4

1. Permission is granted for the vessel identified in the request to enter Danger Zone 4 at Vandenberg AFB for the purpose of conducting _____ operations. This approval is valid for the period _____. Instructions for entering Danger Zone 4 are included as an attachment to this memorandum.

2. The approval granted herein is expressly contingent upon your agreement to follow all instructions and requirements discussed in the attachment to this memorandum.

3. If there are any questions, contact the Airspace and Offshore Management Flight at (805) 606-3602.

NAME, RANK, SERVICE

Airspace and Offshore Management Flight

Attachment:

Instruction Sheet

cc:

30 SW/CP/CCH

2 ROPS/DO/DOS/DOF

Attachment 4

VANDENBERG AFB DANGER ZONE INFORMATION

A4.1. The closure areas shown on the reverse of this notice are designed for the protection of life and property and the preservation of security for national defense missile programs. The full cooperation of all small craft operators is requested.

A4.2. Zone closure information will be broadcast by the 2d Range Operations Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, call sign "Frontier Control". This information will be broadcast on 156.3 MHz (Marine Channel 6) and 156.8 MHz (Marine Channel 16) at 0900 hours and 1200 hours, local time, daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

A4.3. The hazardous zones are established in conformance with provisions of the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, and Part 334.1130*. The zones as published should be considered primarily as guidelines for hazardous surface operations. In many instances, the hazardous conditions will exist seaward in excess of the 3-mile limit. As a general rule, when a zone is indicated as being hazardous to surface operations, boat operators should not assume that the area adjoining the zone to seaward is safe from fall-out of missile debris.

A4.4. The stopping or loitering of vessels is expressly prohibited within Danger Zone 4 unless prior written permission is obtained from the Airspace and Offshore Management Office, 2d Range Operations Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Mailing Address

2 ROPS/DON
1602 California Blvd, Suite 144
Vandenberg AFB CA 93437-5233

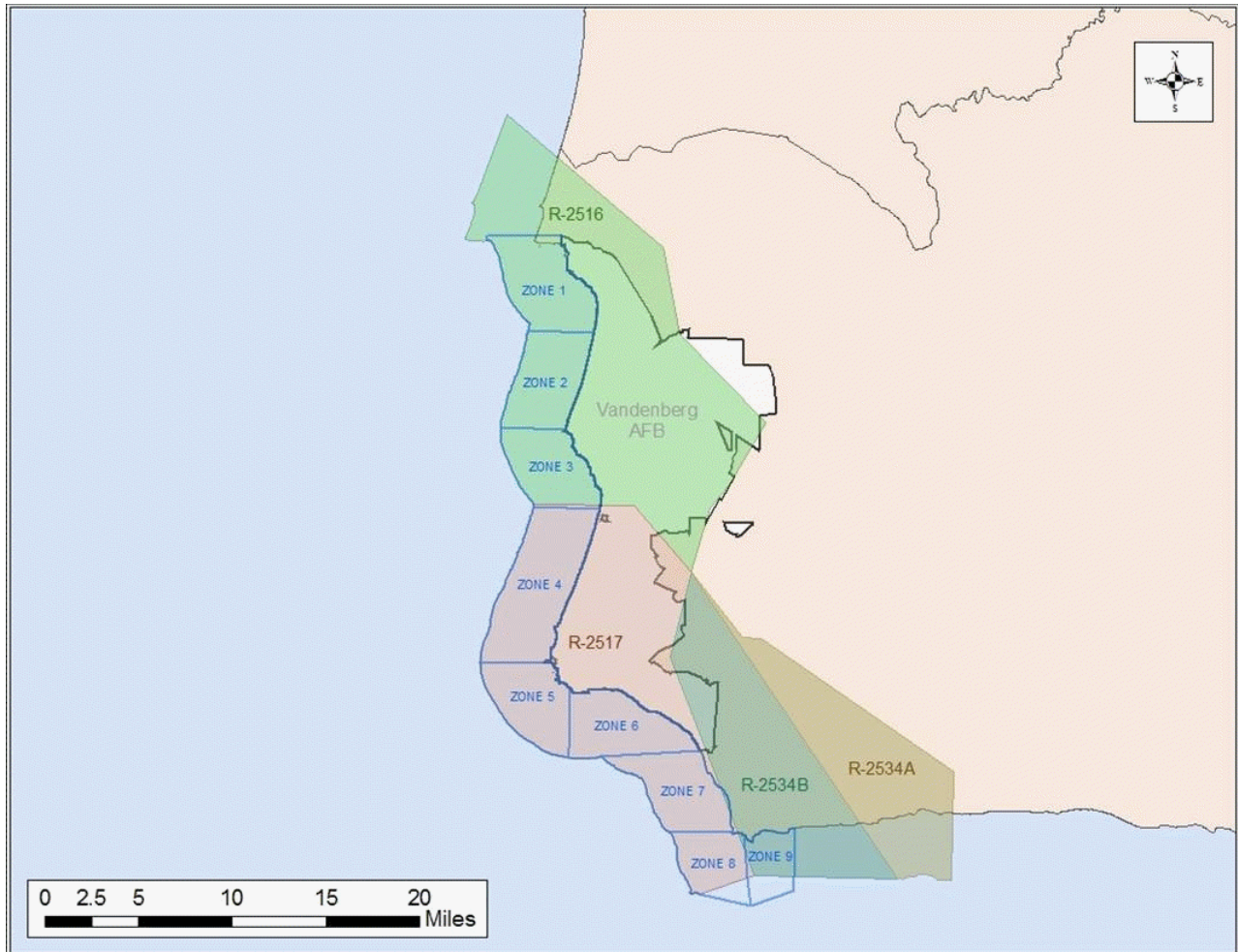
Telephone

Commercial: (805) 606-3602
Coml. FAX: (805) 605-2663

A4.5. Small craft operators are invited to call "Frontier Control" on 156.3 MHz or 156.8 MHz any time they are in difficulty or in distress. When the Western Range has patrol craft or aircraft in the area, assistance will be rendered, if possible. Any other time, the US Coast Guard will be alerted by Frontier Control.

A4.6. Danger Zone ([Figure A4.1.](#)) status can be obtained by calling (800) 648-3019. Personnel at "Frontier Control" can be reached by radio or by telephoning (805) 606-4508 or 606-4472, Monday through Friday from 0745 to 1545 hours for any additional information desired.

Figure A4.1. Restricted Areas and Danger Zones



Attachment 5**RESTRICTED AREA FLIGHT INSTRUCTIONS**

The following instructions provide guidance for scheduling and conducting the requested flights in restricted areas at Vandenberg AFB:

A5.1. If photography is desired, contact the 2d Range Operations Squadron Airspace and Offshore Management Flight (2 ROPS/DON) at (805) 606-5144, at least 24 hours prior to each flight. 2 ROPS/DON must review any photography made during the flight. Arrangements for review can be made with 2 ROPS/DON. You must agree to surrender, without charge, the negatives and prints of any photography determined by the government to contain classified or sensitive information.

A5.2. Schedule each flight with the 2d Range Operations Squadron Scheduling Office (2 ROPS/DOS) at (805) 606-8825. The flight(s) may be made at the discretion of the requester within the approved time, subject to scheduling office restrictions to avoid conflicts with other operations. 2 ROPS/DOS will provide an "operations number" for each flight which will be used in all subsequent telephone and radio contact.

A5.3. Contact the Western Range Area Control Center, call sign "Frontier Control", on VHF 121.4 MHz or UHF 256.0 MHz prior to entering and departing the restricted area at Vandenberg AFB. Frontier Control will coordinate the flight with Vandenberg Tower, Santa Barbara TRACON and Los Angeles Center. Frontier Control may be called prior to takeoff by telephone at (805) 606-4472/4508.

A5.4. If you use an aircraft other than the one identified in the basic memorandum, advise 2 ROPS/DOS and Frontier Control prior to takeoff.