

December 2006
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
FOR BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, INSTALLATION SUPPORT, AND ASSOCIATED
FUTURE MASTER PLANNING ACTIONS AT
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1400-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et. seq.) and the US Department of Army Regulation 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule), as well as policy and guidance provided by the 2005 Army Base Realignment and Closure National Environmental Policy Act Manual, the US Army Garrison – Redstone conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), installation support, and associated future master planning actions at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Purpose and Need. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended certain actions at Redstone Arsenal, AL. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005 and were forwarded to Congress, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

Description of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action involves BRAC-directed actions, BRAC-discretionary actions, and non-BRAC installation support and associated future master planning actions. BRAC-directed actions involve the construction and/or renovation of the following nine facilities: 1) US Army Materiel Command (AMC) and US Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC) Headquarters Complex – Phase I; 2) AMC Band Facility; 3) AMC Mail Facility; 4) Von Braun Complex – Phase III; 5) Rotary Wing Center (Test and Evaluation Facility and Secure Storage Facility); 6) Redstone Arsenal Airfield Fire Station; 7) Redstone Arsenal Airfield Fuel Tanks; 8) Rotary Wing Center of Excellence; and 9) 2nd Recruiting Brigade Headquarters. BRAC-discretionary actions involve the following two actions that are consistent with or supplement the proposed BRAC-directed actions but which were not specifically included in the BRAC 2005 recommendations: 1) Relocation of three personnel with the AMC Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOG CAP) from Fort Belvoir, VA to Redstone Arsenal; and 2) Relocation of 27 personnel with the USASAC Field Office from St. Louis, MO to Redstone Arsenal. Non-BRAC installation support and associated future master planning actions involve construction and/or renovation of the following eight facilities to provide services and facilities for the population growth on the installation, of which BRAC is a component or to address installation-specific relocation or operational needs: 1) AMC and USASAC Headquarters Complex – Phase II; 2) Von Braun Complex – Phase IV; 3) Rotary Wing Simulation Center; 4) Child Development Center; 5) Gate 1 Replacement and Visitor Center; 6) Gate 3 Replacement and Truck Inspection Center; 7) Gate 3 Shipping and Receiving Warehouse; and 8) Fire and Emergency Services Facility.

Redstone Arsenal would undergo a net increase of approximately 4,050 personnel as a result of implementing the BRAC Commission's realignment recommendations and the approved BRAC-discretionary actions and an additional 2,800 personnel for non-BRAC installation support and associated future master planning actions.

Alternatives Considered. Three categories of alternatives were considered in the EA that represent 1) new facility construction and existing facility renovation (Preferred Alternative), 2) use of existing facilities, and 3) no action. The alternatives were screened for inclusion in the EA using the following

criteria: operational constraints, safety constraints, geographic/environmental constraints, and existing facility and mission constraints. The Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative were carried forward and evaluated in the EA. A BRAC-directed-actions only alternative was considered, but was not carried forward in the EA because related projects would facilitate implementation of BRAC on Redstone or would become an integral part of administrative complexes which are BRAC funded.

Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative involves BRAC-directed actions, BRAC-discretionary actions, and a number of non-BRAC installation support and associated future master planning actions. Although not integral to implementation of the BRAC actions, the non-BRAC installation support and associated future master planning actions were included in the EA since they will facilitate installation missions and were deemed sufficiently developed to merit NEPA analysis at this time. If these non-BRAC projects are not funded in the future, this would not affect construction of the BRAC projects.

No Action Alternative. Although implementation of the BRAC-directed actions is mandated by law, an environmental analysis of a No Action Alternative is required by CEQ Regulations to serve as a baseline against which the Proposed Action can be evaluated. Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented.

Environmental Effects. The EA, which is incorporated by reference into this FNSI, examined the potential effects of the Proposed Action on thirteen environmental and human resource areas: land use; aesthetics and visual resources; air quality; noise; geology and soils; water resources; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; transportation; utilities; hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and environmental restoration sites; and safety and occupational health. Cumulative impacts were also examined.

Construction activities would cause short-term adverse effects to aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and transportation. Potential long-term adverse effects would include increased air emissions, noise, and traffic congestion; however, no adverse effects were deemed significant, and no mitigation is required. As part of the Proposed Action, the US Army Garrison – Redstone, would implement the Proposed Action in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and in accordance with best management practices and Redstone’s own environmental requirements.

Beneficial visual impacts would be realized in cases where older, utilitarian buildings would be replaced by well-landscaped, contemporary structures. Replacement of two entrance gates may have especially beneficial impacts to aesthetics, because gates provide the first and last impression of the arsenal. Beneficial socioeconomic impacts would also be realized, including beneficial impacts to fire protection on-post through the addition of a more modern, efficient, and centrally located facility, as well as renovation and update of the airfield fire station.

Conclusion. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the Preferred Alternative would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. Since no significant impacts would result from the Proposed Action, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.

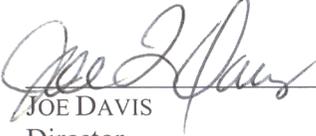
Public Comment. The US Army Garrison – Redstone published a public notice of availability on November 12, 2006 in *The Huntsville Times*. No public comments were received.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA

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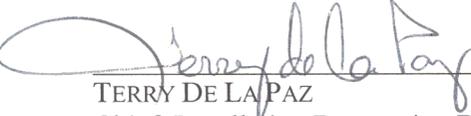
PROPONENT OF THE ACTION:


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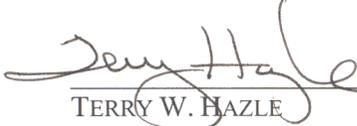
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