

# **Final Finding of No Significant Impact:**

## **Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois**

### **Implementation of BRAC Actions**

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The 2002 Base Closure and Realignment law (commonly referred to as BRAC) amended the Defense Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, by authorizing another round of realignments and closures in 2005. Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) in Illinois has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with personnel and munitions functions being relocated from other installations. Specifically, the EA covers the relocation of the Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army from Fort Gillem, Georgia to RIA; the relocation of artillery cartridge case metal parts functions from Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant (AAP) in California to RIA; and the relocation of 155 millimeter (MM) Improved Conventional Munition (ICM) artillery metal parts functions from Mississippi AAP to RIA. These actions reflect the recommendations of the BRAC Commission.

The actions evaluated in the EA are the components of a major federal action, which must be evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The attached EA, which is incorporated by reference, was prepared pursuant to 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651 and U.S. Council on Environmental Quality regulations (Title 40, U.S. Code, Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA. In preparation of the EA, it was determined that no alternatives other than the proposed action would satisfy the purpose and need of the proposed action without greater costs and/or impacts to installation resources.

### **Description of the Proposed Action**

RIA proposes to remodel Building 68 to accommodate the relocation of the Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army from Fort Gillem, Georgia, and to remodel a portion of Building 299 to accommodate the relocation of munitions functions from Riverbank AAP and Mississippi AAP.

The 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army would occupy approximately 2½ floors of Building 68. Significant structural modifications to the building would not be needed based on RIA engineering estimates. The remodeling of Building 68 would include modifications to the interior layout to provide an Emergency Operations/Joint Operations Center (EOC/JOC), a command suite for General Officers, and up to five video teleconference rooms. The EOC/JOC would be equipped with an emergency generator and an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). Modifications would include upgrades to meet current force protection and anti-terrorism standards such as replacing windows and doors, as well as installing perimeter barriers and landscaping to meet the required set-back distances from roadways and parking.

The remodeling of Building 299 would involve modifications to the interior of the southwestern part of the building to provide space for the incoming munitions storage and production functions. The most significant structural modification that would be made would be raising one of the high bays approximately 20 feet to accommodate the equipment from Riverbank AAP. Other modifications would include constructing shop offices, restrooms, locker rooms, and shower facilities; modifying loading dock facilities; providing utilities including electrical, steam, cooling

water, compressed air, nitrogen, and natural gas to process equipment; and upgrading lighting, insulation, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

The proposed action is the preferred alternative in this analysis.

## **No Action Alternative**

The no action alternative would not satisfy the need for the proposed action, but was considered in the analysis to provide a baseline for comparison of impacts of the proposed action. Under the no action alternative, RIA would not remodel any of its facilities to accommodate the relocation of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army Headquarters or the munitions functions. The no action alternative would not implement the 2005 BRAC Commission's recommendations.

## **Environmental Consequences**

The EA evaluated potential impacts to land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. No significant negative environmental or socioeconomic consequences were identified by the EA for the proposed action. No mitigation is required to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Under the proposed action, there would be no significant changes to the human or natural environment. Any impacts that the proposed action may have on the natural environment would be temporary and negligible. During the proposed renovation of Buildings 68 and 299, there would be *de minimus* increases in air emissions from fugitive dust and construction vehicle exhaust emissions. The air emissions that would be generated by the production of artillery cartridge case metal parts being relocated from Riverbank AAP would cause *de minimus* impacts to air quality and are not expected to collectively exceed the federal air quality thresholds. Construction-related noise would be temporary and the levels are expected to be negligible or not audible off post. Remodeling of the buildings would have minor impacts on topography and soils during construction. The soils around the buildings are already disturbed and no significant land contouring would be required. Sediment and erosion controls would be implemented during construction to prevent any indirect impacts to surrounding soils or surface waters. Construction activity that occurs on the building exteriors may have a minor, temporary impact on vegetation, which consists entirely of mowed grass and sparse landscaping vegetation. After construction is completed, any affected areas would be restored to the original vegetative conditions. The establishment and operation of staging areas for the remodeling, as well as general construction noise, may temporarily disturb common wildlife species. The immediate areas around the buildings provide poor quality wildlife habitat because they are mostly developed. Any disturbance experienced by wildlife would be limited to the construction period and is expected to be minimal.

The remodeling of Buildings 68 and 299 would not have a significant impact on the structural integrities of the buildings and would not diminish the historic value of the structures. The increase in personnel-related traffic from relocation of personnel would not be significant and would be easily be accommodated by the existing transportation system of the installation. The increase in truck traffic to and from Building 299 associated with the incoming munitions functions is not expected to create a significant burden on the installation road system because it would be intermittent and traffic could be rerouted to other parts of the road system as needed. The increase in construction-related traffic would be temporary and would return to current levels when

remodeling is completed. All hazardous waste generated by the production process would be handled, stored, and disposed in accordance with all applicable environmental regulations and with all hazardous materials management plans implemented at RIA. As part of the proposed action, RIA would install a treatment system in Building 299 for the hexchrome (hexavalent chromium) waste that would be generated by the production of artillery cartridge case metal parts. Generated wastewater would be monitored for compliance with the installation's Wastewater Discharge Permit. The asbestos abatement necessary for the remodeling of Building 299 would be conducted in accordance with the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and all other applicable state and federal regulations.

The remodeling and operation of the buildings would have little potential to interact with any past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions at or outside RIA. Personnel relocations associated with the proposed action would increase the population in the region of influence (ROI); however, the population increase would represent a negligible proportion of the baseline population. Increases in resident population and demand for public services would be more than offset by other BRAC and non-BRAC actions that are projected to result in a decrease in population and public service demand in the ROI. When coupled with other BRAC and non-BRAC actions, the proposed action would not permanently increase traffic at RIA or increase potable water consumption or wastewater and solid waste generation at the installation. The proposed action would have some minor positive effects on the local economy resulting from short-term, temporary increases in employment and expenditures during construction.

## Public Review and Comment

The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) underwent a 30-day public review during 13 April - 12 May 2007. The public review period was announced in public notices that were published in the *Quad City Times* newspaper out of Davenport, Iowa and the *Moline Dispatch* newspaper out of Moline, Illinois. Copies of the EA and draft FNSI were made available for public review during the review period on the BRAC website and at Davenport Public Library in Davenport, Iowa and at Moline Public Library in Moline, Iowa. No comments were received during the public review period.

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, I find that implementation of the proposed action, as described, would have no significant impact on the human or natural environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is issued for the proposed action and no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

  
Alan G. Wilson  
Garrison Manager  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Rock Island Arsenal

31 May 2007  
Date