

Finding of No Significant Impact Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky Construction and Operation of Armed Forces Reserve Center and Field Maintenance Shop

Introduction

Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and Field Maintenance Shop (FMS). This action will transfer U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) units currently assigned to Richmond and Maysville to BGAD. The existing USAR unit currently at BGAD will relocate within the BGAD premises. The Kentucky Army National Guard (KYARNG) units from Richmond and Lexington will also move to BGAD. These actions reflect the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission and were required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107). The KYARNG prepared the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR 651).

1. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is the KYARNG's Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action involves implementation of the BRAC Commission recommendations. The recommendations include construction of an AFRC and FMS, and the relocation of personnel to and on BGAD. An AFRC and FMS will be constructed on approximately 10 acres of land north of the main entrance to BGAD. The entrance to BGAD will be reconstructed to alleviate traffic congestion on US 421, and other traffic associated with BGAD security and to facilitate access to the new AFRC without having to pass through BGAD security.

The AFRC would provide administrative, supply, classroom, locker, latrine, and kitchen space as well as the recruiting area. The FMS would consist of a one-story structure with mechanical and electrical equipment, a locker room, latrine, break/assembly area, physical fitness area, and a work area that includes repair and machine shops. Additional support facilities will include military and privately owned vehicle parking, fencing, sidewalks, exterior fire protection, lighting, access roads, a wash platform, fuel storage and dispensing system, and work bays. The buildings would be collocated to reduce construction costs and allow for convenient access to the equipment.

An extended access lane, parallel to US 421 would be constructed on BGAD property. This would result in moving the turn from US 421 into BGAD to the north approximately 1,000 feet, eliminating the obstructed view for left turns. Locating the AFRC outside the main BGAD security fence would permit unrestricted public access to the AFRC by potential recruits. The specific components of the proposed action are described in the attached EA, which is incorporated by reference.

Alternatives Considered. In addition to the Proposed Action, the KYARNG analyzed an Alternative Action alternative that would implement the BRAC Commission recommendations to construct an AFRC and FMS, relocate personnel to and on BGAD, and reconfigure the BGAD entrance. The Alternative Action alternative differs from the Proposed Action in that the FMS would be constructed in a different location on BGAD, in a current vacant area south of the entrance.

The components of the AFRC and FMS would be the same under the Alternative Action as described for the Proposed Action. The BGAD entrance would be reconfigured the same as described for the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative. In addition to the Proposed Action and Alternative Action alternative, the KYARNG analyzed a 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, BGAD would not construct facilities as described in the Commission's recommendation and the entrance to BGAD would not be reconstructed. Traffic congestion would continue on US 421. Implementation of the No Action alternative would result in units continuing to occupy aging, decentralized facilities that lack capacity of expansion or consolidation. This would impair the ability of units to fulfill their designated missions, and conflict with the BRAC Commission recommendations to close the three Army Reserve Centers and to realign those units to BGAD.

2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, it has been determined that the known and potential impacts of the Proposed Action on land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, environmental justice, infrastructure, traffic and transportation, and hazardous and toxic materials will not be significant. The Proposed Action will have no adverse effects on cultural resources and beneficial effects on socioeconomics.

The Proposed Action and Alternative Action alternative will not have disproportionately high or adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations near the proposed site.

Mitigation. No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce adverse impacts to less than significant levels. To mitigate the minor adverse impacts of the Proposed Action, the KYARNG will implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) set forth in the final EA. Minor impacts to flora and fauna would occur during and following construction. Displacement of wildlife, both temporary and permanent, would occur from the construction area and adjoining areas, but this impact would be temporary as animals would acclimate to the areas into which they relocate or return to areas adjacent to the construction sites.

The Proposed action would result in the unavoidable loss of approximately 0.02 acres of emergent wetland, while the Alternative Action alternative will not impact wetlands. Approximately 95% of the emergent wetland would remain unimpacted following implementation of the project. No other wetland impacts would result. The loss of approximately 0.02 acres of emergent wetland would not constitute a significant impact on wetland resources.

3. Regulations

The Proposed Action or Alternative Action alternative will not violate NEPA, its regulations promulgated by the CEQ, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, or any other federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

4. Commitment to Implementation

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and KYARNG affirm their commitment to implement this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The KYARNG and the NGB's Environmental Programs, Training, and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this EA.

5. Public Review and Comment

The final EA and draft FNSI were made available for public review from October 22 to November 23, 2006 at locations listed in the EA's public notices. No comments were received.

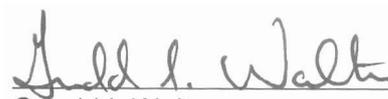
6. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the information presented in the final EA, the KYARNG proposes to implement the Alternative Action alternative. The requirements of NEPA and the CEQ regulations have been met. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau will issue this Finding of No Significant Impact.

9 Jan 07
Date


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28 Dec 06
Date


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