

January 7, 2008

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER CONSTRUCTION,
DEFENSE REUTILIZATION AND MARKETING SERVICE CONSTRUCTION,
DEMILITARIZATION AND STORAGE RELOCATION, AND
SENSOR FUZED WEAPON RELOCATION
TO
McALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, OKLAHOMA**

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 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the U.S. 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 (BRAC) NEPA Manual, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of BRAC actions at MCAAP.

Purpose and Need. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended certain actions at MCAAP. 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.

The BRAC Commission has recommended the relocation of the following functions to MCAAP:

- Storage and demilitarization (DEMIL) functions from the Red River Army Depot, TX
- Munitions maintenance functions from Red River Army Depot, TX
- DEMIL functions from Sierra Army Depot, CA
- Sensor Fuzed Weapon (SFW)/Cluster Bomb function and missile warhead production and field testing range from Kansas Army Ammunition Plant (Kansas AAP)
- Storage and DEMIL functions from Lone Star AAP, TX
- Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) functions from Lone Star AAP, TX

The BRAC Commission has also recommended closure of the Floyd Parker United States Army Reserve Center in McAlester, OK, and re-location of units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and Consolidated Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) on MCAAP. The new AFRC would have the capability to accommodate Oklahoma Army National Guard units from the following Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Centers: the Field Maintenance Shop in Durant, OK; the Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Centers in Atoka, Allen, Hartshorne, Madill, McAlester, and Tishomingo, OK; and the Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Center and Field Maintenance Shop in Edmond, OK, if the State of Oklahoma decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Description of the Proposed Action. To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes the construction of a new AFRC and consolidated OMS, which would be used for training purposes by up to 400 Army Reserve and National Guard personnel from incoming units. These additional personnel would be present on weekends when the plant is typically not operating. Between 15 and 50 new permanent personnel would also be stationed at these facilities. This action reduces costs for maintaining existing Oklahoma National Guard facilities by consolidating other units in the area into a single facility on an existing U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) installation.

The Proposed Action also includes construction of a new DRMS facility, including a new Centralized DEMIL Processing Center (CDC). This facility would process, recycle, and dispose of excess DoD non-munitions property, and would not require any additional personnel for operations.

The Proposed Action also calls for relocation of SFW/Cluster Bomb function and missile warhead production and a field testing range to MCAAP. This action would entail renovation of an existing building at MCAAP, and would not require any additional personnel for operations. The facility would have the capacity to produce from 250 to 609 SFW/cluster bomb units per year.

Lastly, the Proposed Action calls for the relocation of munitions DEMIL and storage functions to MCAAP. This action would require converting existing facilities from other uses, particularly for the testing and certification of missiles. Up to ten storage sheds would be erected to house missiles. There would be no substantial changes to existing functions at MCAAP, or any additional personnel at MCAAP. MCAAP would provide only shipping, receiving, storage, testing, and certification.

The new functions included in the Proposed Action would allow for effective and efficient utilization of resources and personnel in support of the Army's mission.

Alternatives Considered. Potential site locations for the AFRC and OMS and the DRMS facility were screened for inclusion in this EA. Screening criteria consists of operational constraints, safety constraints, geographic constraints, and existing facility and mission constraints. Reuse of existing facilities was not considered, because there are no existing facilities available that could adequately house or support the mission of the proposed AFRC and OMS and DRMS facility. Based on the selection criteria, three alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, were developed for evaluation in the EA. Alternatives 1 and 2 differ solely in the placement of the AFRC, OMS, and disposition of the existing Mature Theater of Operation Advanced Logistics Base Camp Force Provider Unit Training Center ("Base Camp").

Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative. Under Alternative 1, the AFRC would be constructed in the current Base Camp area on top of the hill just northeast of the Main Gate. The OMS facility would be constructed adjacent to the AFRC in the same location. Under this alternative, Base Camp (consisting of 50 concrete pads and associated facilities, comprising 3.6 acres of facilities within a 15-acre area) would be relocated east of the Motor Pool and just to the west of the proposed DRMS facility, in the northeast portion of the plant. Within the Base Camp footprint a consolidated mess hall and latrine facility would also be constructed. Demolition of six trailers,

a dining hall, a laundry facility, two shower facilities, and a freezer would also take place under this alternative. Existing access roads, utility, and sewer easements would be used at this location. A new water tower would be constructed to address low water pressure in the area. New fencing would also be constructed to enclose the new AFRC and OMS facilities.

The DRMS facility would be located in the northeast corner of the plant, in the Dahlstrom area, west of a set of Quonset hut warehouses. Advantages to this site location include ample expansion room, minimal impact on the ammunition plant, and the fact that existing warehouses on site could be used with the existing vehicle rail loading dock.

The relocation of SFW/Cluster Bomb functions and missile warhead production, including the field testing range, would be placed into existing facilities on MCAAP that would be renovated. The relocation of munitions storage and DEMIL functions would also be relocated into existing facilities and up to ten new storage sheds to be erected on MCAAP.

Alternative 1 is the Preferred Alternative because it best maintains the integrity of Base Camp, in that it provides separation between Base Camp and the AFRC/OMS complex, which would be used by different commands.

Alternative 2. Under Alternative 2, the AFRC and the OMS would be located within the area northeast of the Main Gate. The buildings, comprising approximately 7.5 acres on a total of about 25 acres of land, could either be co-located within a 75-acre proposed AFRC/OMS area or located individually within the area. Under this alternative, Base Camp would remain at its current location or be moved to a new location within the proposed AFRC/OMS area. In a likely scenario under Alternative 2, the AFRC and OMS would be located together south of Base Camp, and Base Camp would not be moved. Existing access roads, utility, and sewer easements would be used at this location. A new water tower would be constructed to address low water pressure in the area. New fencing would also be constructed to enclose the AFRC and OMS facilities.

The DRMS facility would be located as described under Alternative 1. The relocation of SFW/Cluster Bomb functions and missile warhead production, including the field testing range, and the relocation of munitions storage and DEMIL functions would be as described under Alternative 1.

No Action Alternative. CEQ regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA require Federal agencies to consider a “no action” alternative. These regulations define the “no action” alternative as the continuation of existing conditions and their effects on the environment, without implementation of, or in lieu of, a proposed action. Because of the compulsory nature of the 2005 BRAC Commission’s recommendations once Congress has allowed them to become law, the Army may not select the No Action Alternative with respect to the relocation of functions and personnel to MCAAP.

Factors Considered in Determining that no Environmental Impact Statement is Required. No significant environmental impacts were identified in the EA (attached). Impacts were analyzed for land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities,

safety and occupational health, and hazardous and toxic substances. Likewise, the Proposed Action, when combined with II present and future projects, would not result in significant cumulative effects.

Some short-term impacts could result during construction of facilities and renovation of existing structures. Sediment and erosion controls would be used to prevent water quality impacts and storm water management would be implemented to control runoff from new facilities. Controls could include minimizing earth-moving activities during periods of higher rainfall, installing silt fences, and other best management practices around the perimeters of construction sites would be taken in compliance with the Clean Water Act to prevent storm water from carrying soil to water bodies or streams. These measures would also reduce soil losses by keeping the soil on the construction site.

Long-term impacts caused by an increase in training personnel, such as those to socioeconomics, utilities, and transportation, would largely be offset by the fact that the training operations would occur on the weekends.

Beneficial impacts were also identified. Construction of the AFRC and OMS on the site of the existing Base Camp would result in beneficial visual impacts to the site, as older, utilitarian, and temporary structures would be demolished, allowing for a cohesive, modern, and well-landscaped complex of buildings to be one of the first and last sights seen by visitors as they enter and exit the installation. Integration of new functions into existing facilities on MCAAP furthers existing land use objectives. The increase of permanent personnel and those due to training missions would provide a minor beneficial increase in the local economy.

Interaction with appropriate government agencies will ensure that potential impacts to surface water, biological resources, and cultural resources would not be significant. Prior to construction, MCAAP will obtain concurrence from the USACE that an unnamed intermittent channel that bisects the proposed relocation site of Base Camp is not considered a jurisdictional wetland. If the USACE rules that this drainage feature constitutes a jurisdictional wetland, and if the final construction footprint cannot be changed to avoid the wetland, MCAAP would develop and implement appropriate mitigation with USACE.

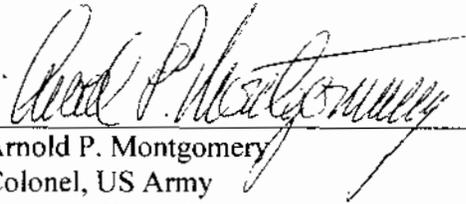
In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, MCAAP has initiated consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has also notified the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regarding the Proposed Action and has solicited their comments. As described in MCAAP's Endangered Species Management Plan, surveys would be performed to ensure that no endangered American burying beetles are within the areas to be disturbed.

MCAAP has determined that no historic properties would be affected by the Proposed Action. In accordance with Section 106, this determination is currently being coordinated with the Oklahoma SHPO as well as the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the following Federally recognized Native American Tribes with ties to the region: Caddo Indian Tribe; Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma; Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Quapaw Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma. Section 106 coordination will be completed prior to any ground breaking activities on the property.

Conclusion. Based on the environmental impact analyses found in the EA, which is hereby incorporated into this FNSI, it has been determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the natural or the human environment. Because no significant environmental impact would result from implementation of the Proposed Action, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.

Public Comment. Persons wishing to comment may obtain a copy of the EA or inquire into this FNSI by writing to Mark Hughes, Public Affairs, or by calling (918) 420-6591, within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Date: 11 Jan 2003



Arnold P. Montgomery
Colonel, US Army
Commanding Officer
McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Oklahoma