

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER AT FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA

Prepared for:



99th Regional Support
Command
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division
5231 South Scott Plaza
Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640

Prepared by:



4422 E. Indian School Road
Suite 101
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER
AT FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA
OCTOBER 2010

Introduction: An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential for significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of a U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Center at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia (FAPH). FAPH (the Installation or the Fort) is a military installation encompassing more than 75,000 acres of land between the Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia. The Installation is located approximately 70 miles south of Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.), and 35 miles north of the state capitol, Richmond, Virginia. United States Route 301 bisects the Installation and provides the main thoroughfare between Bowling Green and Port Royal.

The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 US Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR 651). This Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is a document that briefly states why the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH, Virginia. The USAR Center will include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building will provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS will provide work bays for maintenance activities and administrative offices. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 Reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, one track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel will work five days a week and the Reservists will train at the USAR Center one weekend a month. The Company's role is to provide personnel and equipment required for the transportation, assembly, disassembly, maintenance, and retrieval of U.S. Army bridging systems. The Proposed Action will provide adequate unit storage and both Military Equipment Parking and Privately Owned Vehicle parking areas.

Alternatives Considered: Two Alternatives and a No Action Alternative were evaluated for their potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human environment. Alternative One, the Army's preferred alternative, involves the construction and operation of the USAR Center at Site F, which is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. Site F is approximately 15 acres, is relatively level and would require minimal grading and backfill work. There are a few trees on the northwest corner of the site that would require removal, and the eastern property boundary is forested which may require additional tree removal, depending on the site layout. Site F would provide great visibility for the USAR Center and would allow easy access for military vehicles and equipment. Alternative Two involves the construction and operation of the

USAR Center at Site B, which is located off Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Campsite. Site B is approximately 10 acres, but could be expanded to the north and west to accommodate USAR Center construction requirements. Site B is relatively flat. The majority of the site is densely forested and would require more substantial tree removal than Site F. Expansion of Site B is restricted to the south by Archer Campsite and to the east by a fuel pumping station. Site B provides poor visibility due to its remote location, does not allow easy access for military vehicles and equipment, and would require reconfiguration of existing roads or new road construction. The No Action Alternative is required under the CEQ regulations implementing the NEPA, and serves as a baseline or benchmark to be used to compare the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not construct or operate the USAR Center at FAPH. The USAR would not be able to provide adequate facilities to support the activation of new units and would be unable to meet current and future war fighting missions.

Anticipated Environmental Effects: Based on information gathered and presented in the EA, it has been determined that implementation of the Proposed Action under either Alternative would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse impacts on the environment. Adverse impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action at FAPH would be local in context with the exception of air quality and transportation, which although regional in context, would still only constitute a minor adverse impact due to very low levels of anticipated emissions and increased traffic. Likewise, the intensity of potential adverse impacts is anticipated to be less than significant for all resources evaluated. Consequently, the overall environmental effect of implementing the Proposed Action at FAPH is anticipated to be less than significant.

30-Day Public and Agency Review Period: The EA and a draft copy of this FNSI were made available to the general public and applicable government agencies for review and comment during a 30-day period that commenced with the publication of a Notice of Availability in the Free Lance Star and Caroline Progress newspapers on 5 August 2010. Copies of the EA along with instructions for submitting comments were available at the Caroline County Public Library, Bowling Green Branch, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514; Caroline County Public Library, Port Royal Branch, 419 King Street, Port Royal, Virginia 22535; Essex Public Library, 117 N. Church Lane, Tappahannock, Virginia, 22560; and at <http://www.aphill.army.mil/sites/directorates/ea.asp>. Copies of the documents were also sent directly to applicable agencies for review.

Public and Agency Comments Received: Comments from the public and government agencies received during the 30-day public comment period were considered and included in Appendix C of the EA. Comments were received from the following agencies and citizens: Bowling Green Town Council; King George County; Mr. Helmut Linne von Berg; Town of Port Royal; and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ). The USAR and FAPH provided responses to the Bowling Green Town Council and VADEQ and copies of those responses are also included in Appendix C of the EA.

Findings: Based on the analysis contained in the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Consequently, implementation of the Proposed Action does not require the preparation of an EIS.

Approved By:



JOHN W. HAEFNER
LTC, EN
Commanding

30 NOV 2010
Date

HOW THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS ORGANIZED

The EXECUTIVE SUMMARY briefly describes the Proposed Action and alternatives. Impacts and conclusions are summarized.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND NEED discusses the purpose and need for the proposed action, the regulatory background surrounding this project, and the scope of this Environmental Assessment.
- SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES discusses the Proposed Action and alternatives addressed in this Environmental Assessment.
- SECTION 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES describes the existing environment within the Region of Influence. It also provides a comparison of environmental consequences associated the alternative. Conservation and mitigation measures are also addressed in this section.
- SECTION 4 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
- SECTION 5 REFERENCES provides bibliographical information for sources cited in the text of this Environmental Assessment.
- SECTION 6 LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS
- SECTION 7 DISTRIBUTION LIST
- SECTION 8 LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED



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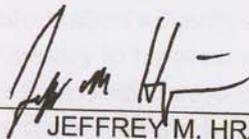
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER
AT FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA

Prepared by:

Vernadero Group Incorporated

Prepared for:

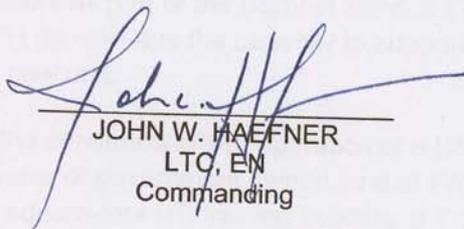
99th Regional Support Command



JEFFREY M. HRZIC
Chief, Environmental Division

Approved by:

Fort A.P. Hill



JOHN W. HAEFNER
LTC, EN
Commanding

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of a United States Army Reserve (USAR) Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia.

FAPH (the Installation or the Fort) is a military installation encompassing more than 75,000 acres of land between the Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia (Figure 1-1). The Installation is located approximately 70 miles south of Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.), and 35 miles north of the state capitol, Richmond, Virginia. United States Route 301 bisects the Installation and provides the main thoroughfare between Bowling Green and Port Royal.

The Grow the Army (GTA) program supports the Army's initiative to sustain force readiness, match Army force capabilities with mission requirements, and preserve Soldier and Family quality of life. This growth and transformation will enhance operational readiness by providing Soldiers with increased training necessary to meet current and future security and defense requirements, and will decrease the time Soldiers are deployed, allowing them more quality time at home (HQDA, 2007). FAPH was chosen as the location of the Proposed Action because it provides secure, government-owned land, and it is located close to Fredericksburg, Virginia, which has been identified as a desirable recruitment area for the military occupational specialties needed for the unit proposed for stationing.

The Proposed Action would support the USAR's new Brigade Combat Teams being activated within the Army's active component as part of the Combat Service Support Reset Initiative. Existing USAR facilities at FAPH do not have the capacity to support additional personnel and equipment associated with the new unit.

The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government owned land at FAPH, Virginia. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide work bays for maintenance activities and administrative offices. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 Reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, one track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the Reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month. The Company's role is to provide personnel and equipment required for the transportation, assembly, disassembly, maintenance, and retrieval of U.S. Army bridging systems. The Proposed Action would provide adequate unit storage and both Military Equipment Parking and Privately Owned Vehicle parking areas.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would allow the USAR to meet mission requirements and maintain mission readiness. Implementing the Proposed Action would also support the GTA initiative to provide additional ground forces to meet strategic demands and mitigate persistent capability shortfalls, and reduce stress on Soldiers and their Families.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not construct or operate the USAR Center at FAPH. The USAR would not be able to provide adequate facilities to support the activation of new units and would be unable to meet current and future war fighting missions. The No Action Alternative is required under the Council of Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and serves as a baseline or benchmark to be compared with the Proposed Action and alternatives.

No significant impacts are anticipated to result from implementing the Proposed Action at FAPH. The construction and operation of the USAR Center at FAPH would have minor adverse impacts to regional air quality, transportation, and the noise environment. However, these effects would be less than significant. Likewise, the impacts for all other resources evaluated are anticipated to be less than significant. Implementation of the Proposed Action would also have direct, beneficial impacts to the local economy. A summary of potential impacts and measures to minimize adverse impacts of the Proposed Action is provided in Table EX-1.

Based on the analysis contained herein, it is the conclusion of this EA that the Proposed Action, under Alternatives One or Two, and No Action Alternative would not constitute a major federal action with significant impact on human health or the environment and that a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action should be issued to conclude the NEPA documentation process. Table 4-1 lists a summary of potential impacts and measures to minimize them.

Table EX-1. Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts for the Proposed Action

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
Land use		X		There would be no significant impacts to land use at Site B or Site F. Both sites are used for training and construction at either site would result in a loss of a minimal amount of training land at the Fort. Additionally, Site B would require substantial tree removal, resulting in a loss of forest. However, these impacts are anticipated to be minor.
Topography, Geology, and Soils		X		No significant impacts are anticipated at either site. Short-term minor impacts to soils would be expected during construction. The USAR would obtain applicable permits and implement best management practices (BMPs) during construction to minimize the potential for soil erosion and sediment runoff on the site.
Hydrology and Water Resources		X		Implementation of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts to surface water, groundwater, coastal zone, or floodplains. Neither project site is located within a floodplain or contains any surface water

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
				features. The USAR would comply with the IDPCP and site-specific SWPPP to prevent oil products and hazardous substances from reaching waterways. The USAR would obtain applicable permits and implement BMPs during construction and operation to minimize the impact to water resources at the Installation.
Biological Resources and Wetlands		X		No significant impacts to biological resources or wetlands are anticipated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. There are no threatened and endangered (T&E) species or critical habitat known to occur on either project site. There are no wetlands on either site. A population of swamp pink exists in a wetland located 1,150 feet east of Site F. The Proposed Action is not anticipated to have direct impacts to this wetland, however indirect impacts could result from stormwater runoff, especially during construction. Implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would minimize the potential impacts to the wetland and swamp pink population.
Cultural Resources		X		No significant impacts to cultural resources are anticipated at either project site. There are no structures on either site. A site-specific Phase I survey was conducted at Site F, which identified an historic farmstead and associated artifacts in the northeastern, wooded portion of the site. However, the site and artifacts were determined to contain insufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No further action was recommended and it was determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources. A site-specific Phase I survey would be necessary at Site B prior to any ground disturbing activities. However, there are no known cultural resources on the site.
Air Quality		X		FAPH is located in an attainment area for all criteria air pollutants. Air emissions from construction activities, and vehicles and equipment associated with the operational activities at the USAR Center are anticipated to result in a less than significant, adverse impact to local and regional air quality. Implementation of BMPs during construction activities would minimize potential adverse impacts to air quality.
Visual Resources		X		The USAR Center would be constructed to conform to the FAPH Installation Design Guide. Neither project site is visible from outside the Installation and would have no impact to visual resources of surrounding communities. Both project sites are undeveloped and the Proposed Action would result in a minor loss of natural habitat, however these impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Noise		X		Minor, short-term adverse impacts are expected to result during construction of the USAR Center. However, neither project site is located in area of sensitive noise receptors. Construction-related noise impacts would be temporary and would cease once construction was complete. Operational noise impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice		X		Minor short and long term beneficial impacts would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. Minor short-term impacts to the local economy would be expected during construction activities. Long-term beneficial impacts to the local economy would result from the addition of new personnel that would relocate to the area. Additionally, during drill weekends and annual training activities, Reservists would travel to the area and contribute to local business sales volumes. No adverse environmental justice impacts are expected to occur.
Transportation and Circulation		X		The transportation infrastructure at and surrounding FAPH is sufficient to support the Proposed Action. Minor short-term impacts to transportation and circulation would result during construction activities as construction vehicles and equipment

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
				are brought to and from the project site. However, these impacts are expected to be less than significant and temporary in nature. Long-term, minor impacts to transportation and circulation are expected from the additional full-time personnel that would staff the USAR Center during the week and from Reservists traveling to and from the USAR Center for drill weekend and annual training events. However, these impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Utilities		X		Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the utilities at FAPH. The utilities infrastructure would support construction and operation of the USAR Center. Site B is located in a more remote location and would likely require a greater extension of utility services than Site F. However, impacts from the extension of utilities services are expected to be less than significant. USAR Center operations are not expected to result in any significant impacts to utilities at either site.
Hazardous and Toxic Substances		X		Long-term minor adverse impacts related to hazardous materials and waste would be expected as a result of the Proposed Action. There would be an increased use of materials such as POLs, solvents, and paints from maintenance activities. All hazardous materials and waste would be handled in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations and in accordance with the Installation's procedures established in the Hazardous Waste Management Plan, IDPCP and site-specific SWPPP. Construction-related impacts would be minor and temporary in nature. Operational impacts would be long-term, but minor. No significant impacts are expected to result from construction or operational activities.
Human Health and Safety		X		No significant adverse impacts to human health and safety would be expected. Implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would minimize potential adverse impacts. All personnel would be properly trained and would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety regulations during all construction and operational activities. Impacts to human health and safety are anticipated to be less than significant.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter of air
AAF	Army Airfield
amsl	above mean sea level
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AR	Army Regulation
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ASIP	Army Stationing and Installation Plan
AWG	Asymmetric Warfare Group
AT/FP	anti-terrorism/force protection
BCT	Brigade Combat Team
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BMP	Best Management Practices
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CS	Combat Support
CSS	Combat Service Support
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Program

D.C.	District of Columbia
DA	Department of the Army
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DNL	day-night average sound level
DoD	Department of Defense
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIFS	Economic Impact Forecast System
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISA	Energy Independence and Security Act
EO	Executive Order
EOD	Explosives Ordnance Disposal
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPACT	Energy Policy Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
EST	Engagement Skills Trainer
FAPH	Fort A.P. Hill
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRED	Fredericksburg Regional Transit
ft	feet
FT	full-time
FY	fiscal year

GTA	Grow the Army
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
IDG	Installation Design Guide
IDPCP	Integrated Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LOS	level of service
LQG	large quantity generator
LZ	landing zone
MEP	Military Equipment Parking
MSA	metropolitan statistical area
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NDB	non-directional beacon
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O ₃	ozone
OMS	Organizational Maintenance Shop
Pb	lead
PIF	Partners-in-Flight

PM _{2.5}	particulate matter, very fine
PM ₁₀	particulate matter, fine
ppm	parts per million
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricants
POV	Privately Owned Vehicle
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REC	Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
ROI	Region of Influence
RPA	resource protection area
RPMP	Real Property Master Plan
RTV	Rational Threshold Value
sf	square foot
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
STP	sewer treatment plant
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
sy	square yard
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TM	Technical Manual
TPH	total petroleum hydrocarbons
TSD	Transportation, Storage, and Disposal
U.S.	United States
USAR	U.S. Army Reserve
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGBC	U.S. Green Building Council

VAC	Virginia Administrative Code
VOC	volatile organic compound
VPDES	Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
VSMP	Virginia Stormwater Management Program

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of a United States Army Reserve (USAR) Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia.

FAPH (the Installation or the Fort), is a military installation encompassing more than 75,000 acres of land between the Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia (Figure 1-1). The Installation is located approximately 70 miles south of Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.), and 35 miles north of the state capitol, Richmond, Virginia. United States (U.S.) Route 301 bisects the Installation and provides the main thoroughfare between Bowling Green and Port Royal.

FAPH was established as an Army training facility in 1941. The Installation's mission, as a Regional Training Center, is to provide realistic joint and combined arms training in support of America's Defense Forces. FAPH serves as a training and maneuver center for active and reserve troops of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Several government agencies, such as the Departments of State and Interior; U.S. Customs; and federal, state, and local law enforcement and security agencies also train at FAPH. The Installation has also hosted foreign ally training. FAPH is the sixth largest military installation on the East Coast and is used for training year round (FAPH, 2008a).

1.1 Purpose and Need for Action

In 1999, the senior leadership of the Army articulated a vision for the Transformation of the Army to ensure it remained an effective operational force in the 21st Century. The Army's decision to transform began a dynamic process through which the Army is continuously assessing and calibrating its force structure and capabilities to face the evolving threats and mission requirements. The overall goal of Army Transformation and force structure review is to provide the nation with a relevant and ready all-volunteer force capable of supporting the nation's security, defense, and policy interests (HQDA, 2007).

As part of the overall Army Transformation effort, the Army has transitioned to a modular, or standardized, force structure. This resulted in a shift in the Army's structure from large, powerful, fixed organizations at the Division level (10,000 to 12,000 personnel) to an Army designed around smaller, standardized self-contained, rapidly deployable Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) (3,500 to 4,000 personnel). The Transformation of the Army's BCTs to a standardized BCT-based structure is almost complete within the Active and Reserve components of the Army. The Army is also conducting ongoing analysis of the size and structure of Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) units to ensure the Army is fielding the proper force to support modular BCTs and operational mission requirements. Additionally, the Army has identified a critical need to grow its forces to meet increased national security and defense needs of the 21st Century. The Army has identified shortfalls in people, equipment, and time to train that have posed considerable challenges to Army force managers as they attempt to sustain force readiness and Soldier and Family quality of life (HQDA, 2007).

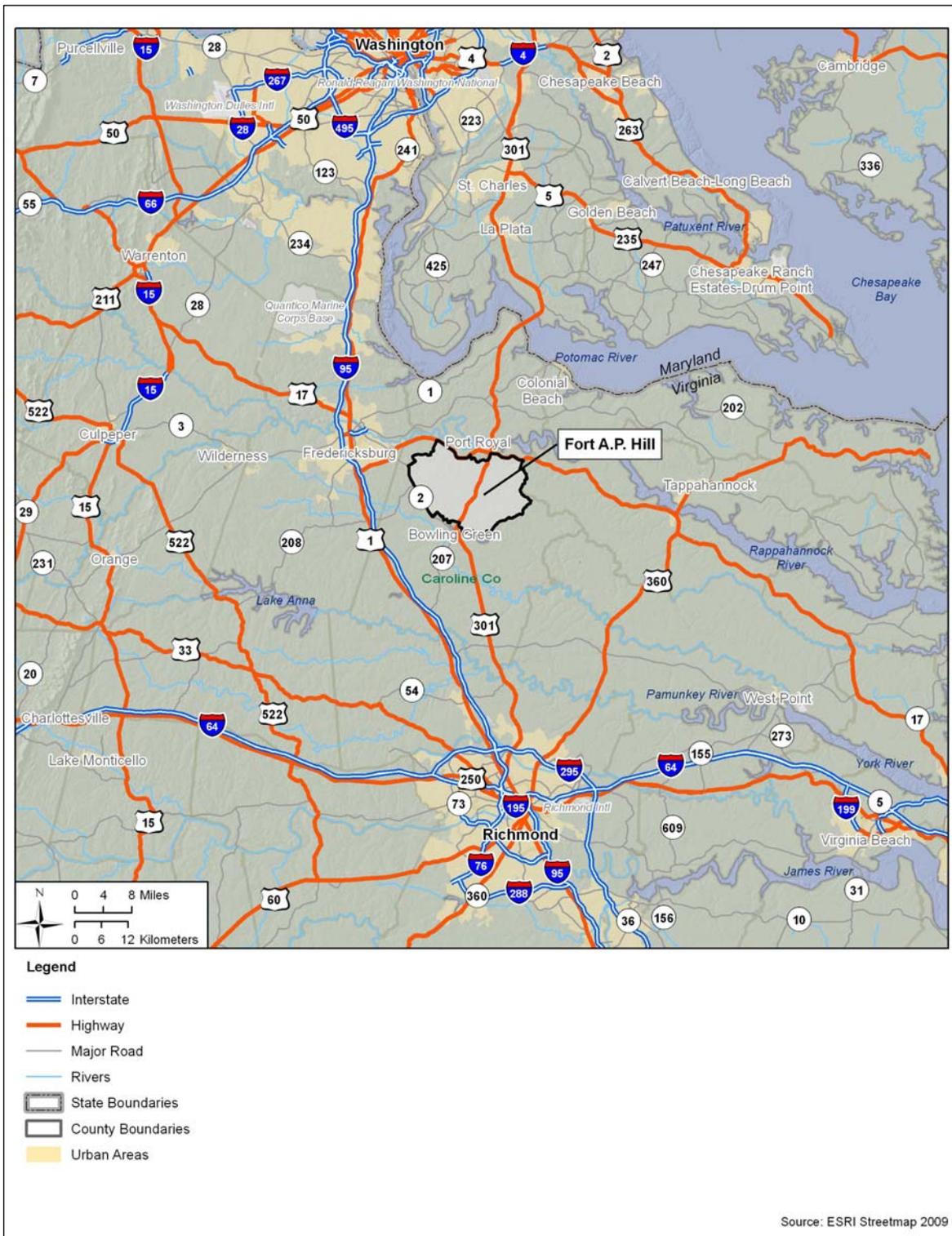


Figure 1-1. Regional Location Map

As a result of the imbalance between mission requirements and available forces, the Army has defined the growth and restructuring to meet the greater demands of the current security environment as its top priority (HQDA, 2007).

The Grow the Army (GTA) program supports the Army's initiative to sustain force readiness, match Army force capabilities with mission requirements, and preserve Soldier and Family quality of life. This growth and transformation will enhance operational readiness by providing Soldiers with increased training necessary to meet current and future security and defense requirements. It will also decrease the time Soldiers are deployed, allowing them more quality time at home (HQDA, 2007).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to construct and operate a USAR Center at FAPH as part of the GTA program. The Proposed Action would support the USAR's new BCTs being activated within the Army's active component as part of the CSS Reset Initiative. The unit that would occupy the proposed USAR Center at FAPH is a Multi-Role Bridge Company, which provides personnel and equipment required for the transportation, assembly, disassembly, maintenance, and retrieval of U.S. Army bridging systems. Existing USAR facilities at FAPH do not have the capacity to support additional personnel and equipment associated with the new unit.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would allow the USAR to meet mission requirements and maintain mission readiness. Implementing the Proposed Action would also support the GTA initiative to provide additional ground forces to meet strategic demands and mitigate persistent capability shortfalls, and reduce stress on Soldiers and their Families.

1.2 Regulatory Framework

Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1969 with accompanying regulations requiring federal agencies to consider potential impacts before taking actions that may impact the environment. The NEPA process is not intended to fulfill the specific requirements of other environmental statutes and regulations. However, the process is designed to provide the decision maker with an overview of the major environmental resources that may be affected, the interrelationship of these components, and potential impacts to the natural and human environment. Hence, the NEPA process:

- Integrates other environmental processes;
- Summarizes technical information;
- Documents analyses and decisions;
- Interprets technical information for the decision-maker and public;
- Helps to identify potential alternatives to the Proposed Action; and
- Assists the decision-maker in selecting a preferred action.

NEPA is intended to be incorporated in the early stages of the decision making process to ensure planning and decisions reflect environmental values, avoid delays later in the process, and minimize potential impacts to the natural and human environment.

In addition to NEPA, this EA has been prepared in compliance with two Department of the Army (DA) regulations that provide guidance for environmental analyses:

- 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions dated 29 March 2002, is designed to provide policy, responsibilities, and procedures for integrating environmental considerations into Army planning and decision making. It establishes criteria for determining which of five review categories a particular action falls into, and thus, what type of environmental document should be prepared. If the Proposed Action is not covered adequately in any existing EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and cannot be categorically excluded from NEPA analysis, then a separate NEPA analysis must be completed prior to the commitment of resources (personnel, funding, or equipment) to the Proposed Action;
- Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement dated December 2007, describes DA responsibilities, policies, and procedures to preserve, protect, and restore the quality of the environment. The regulation incorporates a wide range of applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

1.3 Use of this Environmental Assessment

This EA analyzes and documents the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action and Alternative, relative to the No Action Alternative. The Army will use this EA to determine if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate or if a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS should be issued for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at FAPH.

1.4 Public Participation Opportunities

In keeping with established Army policy to provide a transparent and open decision-making process, this EA and draft decision document will be made available to applicable federal, state, and local agencies and the general public for review and comment. Officials and representatives from these offices will be coordinated with throughout the EA preparation, as necessary.

Scoping letters were sent out on May 24, 2010 to agencies, organizations, and interested parties notifying them of the preparation of the EA. Copies of these letters and responses to the letters are located in Appendix C. In response to the scoping efforts, the *Caroline Progress* and *Free Lance Star* newspapers published articles notifying the public of the preparation of the EA. Copies of these articles can also be found in Appendix C. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the *Caroline Progress* and *Free Lance Star* newspapers and a copy of the EA will be made available to the general public on the Internet at

<http://www.aphill.army.mil/sites/directorates/ea.asp> and at the following libraries:

Caroline County Public Library
Bowling Green Branch
17202 Richmond Turnpike
Milford, Virginia 22514

Caroline County Public Library
Port Royal Branch
419 King Street
Port Royal, Virginia 22535

Essex Public Library
117 N. Church Lane
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

Comments must be postmarked within 30 days of the publishing date of the NOA to be considered during the NEPA process. Comments should be submitted to:

Ms. Jennifer Erickson
Fort A.P. Hill
Public Affairs Office
18436 4th Street
Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427
Phone: (804) 633-8324
Email: Jennifer.Erickson3@us.army.mil

A final decision document in the form of a FNSI or a NOI to complete an EIS will be issued upon completion of the 30-day review period.

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH, Virginia. AR140-483, Army Reserve Land and Facility Management, prioritizes the use of available government-owned land for new construction over the acquisition or lease of property outside federal ownership. FAPH has ample government-owned land available for the USAR Center construction and has sufficient infrastructure to support construction and operation of the Center. The Installation was also chosen for the Proposed Action due to its proximity to Fredericksburg, Virginia, which was identified as a desirable recruitment area for the military occupational specialties needs of the unit proposed for stationing.

The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide work bays for maintenance activities and administrative offices. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 Reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, one track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the Reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month. The Proposed Action would provide adequate unit storage and both Military Equipment Parking (MEP) and Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) parking areas.

The new buildings would be of permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; masonry veneer walls; standing seam metal roofs; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); plumbing; and mechanical, security and electrical systems. Supporting activities include land clearing, paving, fencing, general site improvements, and the extension of utilities. Physical security measures would be incorporated into the design in accordance with the Army's anti-terrorism force protection (AT/FP) requirements, including maximum standoff distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas. Berms, heavy landscaping and bollards would be used to prevent access when standoff distances cannot be maintained. Construction is expected to be completed in 2013.

2.2 Alternatives Considered

2.2.1 Alternative One (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative One, the Army's preferred alternative, involves the construction and operation of the USAR Center at Site F, which is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road (Figures 2-1 and 2-2). Site F is approximately 15 acres, is relatively level and would require minimal grading and backfill work. There are a few trees on the northwest corner of the site that would require removal, and the eastern property boundary is forested which may require additional tree removal, depending on the site layout. Site F provides great visibility for the USAR Center and allows easy access for military vehicles and equipment.

2.2.2 Alternative Two

Alternative Two involves the construction and operation of the USAR Center at Site B, which is located off Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Campsite (Figures 2-1 and 2-3). Site B is approximately 10 acres, but could be expanded to the north and west to accommodate USAR Center construction requirements. Site B is relatively flat. The majority of the site is densely forested and would require more substantial tree removal than Site F. Expansion of Site B is restricted to the south by Archer Campsite and to the east by a fuel pumping station. Site B provides poor visibility due to its remote location, does not allow easy access for military vehicles and equipment, and would require reconfiguration of existing roads or new road construction.

2.2.3 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is required under the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA, and serves as a baseline or benchmark to be used to compare with the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not construct or operate the USAR Center at FAPH. The USAR would not be able to provide adequate facilities to support the activation of new units and would be unable to meet current and future war fighting missions.



Figure 2-1. Location of Sites at FAPH



Figure 2-2. Alternative One (Preferred Alternative) Site Map

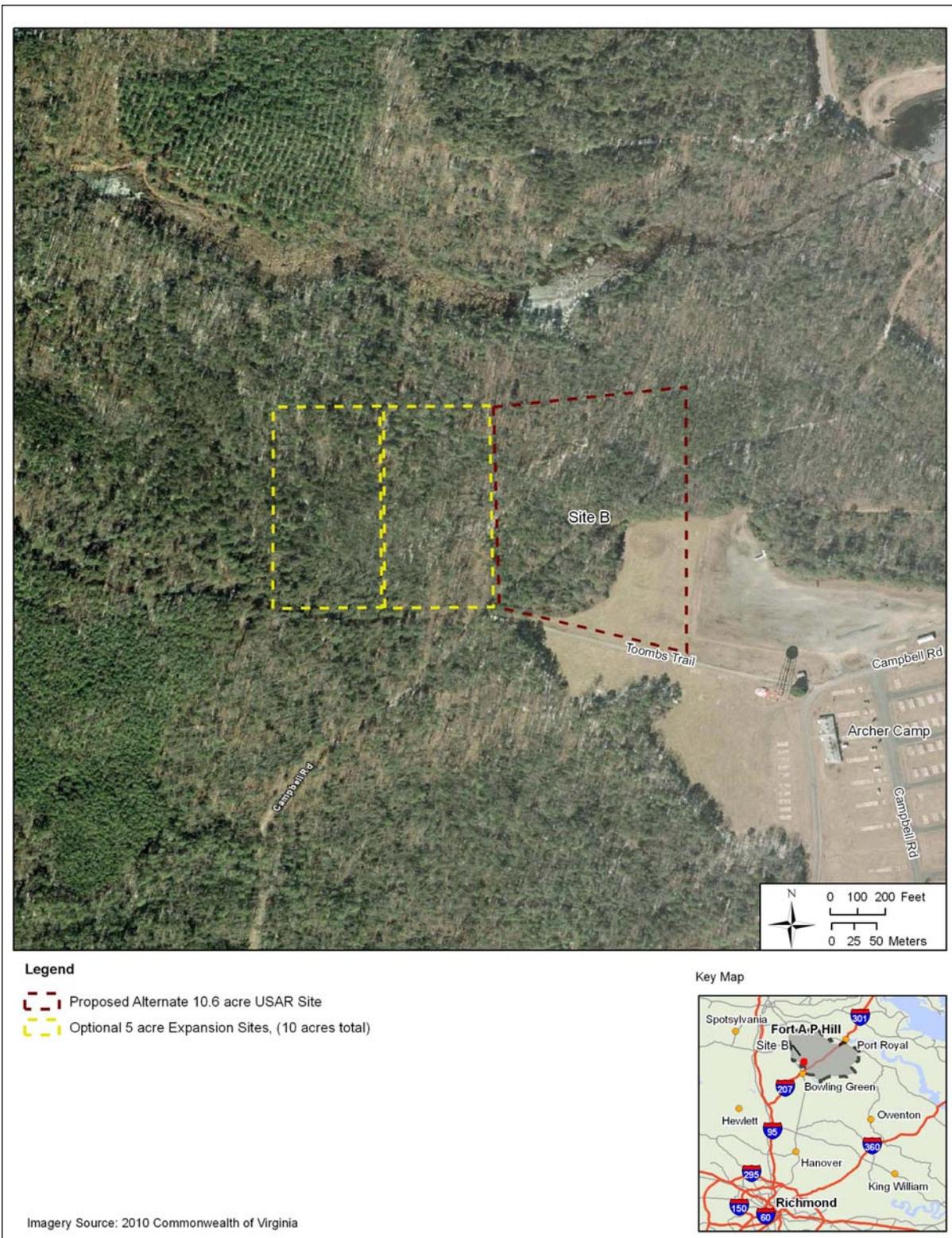


Figure 2-3. Alternative Two Site Map

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3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Introduction

This section describes conditions of, and possible impacts to, environmental resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives. The description of existing conditions provides a baseline understanding of the resources from which any environmental changes that may result due to the implementation of an alternative can be identified and evaluated. Following the existing conditions, potential changes or impacts to the resources are described as environmental consequences. As stated in CEQ regulations, 40 CFR 1508.14, the “human environment potentially affected” is interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical resources and the relationship of people with those resources. The term “environment” as used in this EA encompasses all aspects of the physical, biological, social and cultural surroundings. In compliance with the NEPA and CEQ regulations, the description of the affected environment focuses only on those aspects potentially subject to impacts. Finally, cumulative impacts are addressed, as defined by CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508 as those impacts attributable to the proposed action combined with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future impacts regardless of the source.

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is a U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) program that establishes performance goals in five environmental categories: Sustainable Sites; Water Efficiency; Energy and Atmosphere; Materials and Resources; and Indoor Environmental Quality. In addition, a sixth category, Innovation and Design Process, addresses those environmental issues not included in the environmental categories such as acoustics, community enhancement, education, and expertise in sustainable design (USACE, 2010).

LEED awards points for sustainable design features or construction practices in a project. These features or construction requirements are incorporated into design documents, and carried out during construction when feasible. The project is registered with the USGBC and the documentation would be uploaded to the USGBC LEED-Online website. The USAR Center would demonstrate compliance with LEED credit requirements and would be certified through USGBC, according to the LEED Implementation Guide (USACE, 2010). Discussion of LEED components for the proposed USAR Center is incorporated into applicable resource areas evaluated in Sections 3.2 through 3.15.

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 *Affected Environment*

FAPH is a military installation located in the northeastern portion of Caroline County, Virginia. Caroline County is one of the larger counties within the Commonwealth of Virginia, encompassing approximately 549 square miles. FAPH is situated on more than 75,000 acres, of which approximately 85 percent consists of undeveloped forests. Outside the Installation boundaries, the County is comprised mostly of rural areas and agricultural land. Land use and

development for Caroline County is guided by the County's Comprehensive Plan, which includes specific guidance for the Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal.

The Installation is situated between the Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal and is bisected by U.S. Route 301, which is the main thoroughfare between the two towns. Installation land use is guided by the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP), which defines the Fort's five types of land use areas as: maneuver training areas (58.5 percent); ranges and impact areas (35.6 percent); cantonment area (4.2 percent); recreational and housing areas (1.4 percent); and airfields and support facilities (0.3 percent) (FAPH, 2007a). FAPH has 30 training and maneuver areas; 24 of them are located on the area north of Route 301. Additionally, the cantonment area and housing area are located on the northern side of the Installation. The range and impact areas and the airfield are located south of Route 301.

FAPH was established as an Army training facility in 1941. It is the sixth largest military installation on the East Coast and is used for training year round (FAPH, 2008a). The Fort has more than 44,000 acres of maneuver training lands, suited for light and medium mechanized infantry, special forces, aviation, combat support, combat service activities. Water-based training activities, including aquatic bridge training, are conducted at White Lake and at a 24.7-acre leased site located north of the Installation boundary along the Rappahannock River. There are two dry-gap, fixed bridge training areas available at FAPH for USAR bridge training activities (FAPH, 2007a). The range complex provides facilities for small arms, machine gun, mortar, anti-tank, grenade, and explosives testing and training. The USAR unit would use the range complex for small arms training and during annual training and qualification. The average number of personnel training at FAPH per day, excluding holidays, is 1,500, and the average length of training is 7 days or less. Peak training populations occur during the months of April through August, with more than 9,000 personnel training at the Fort per month during the months of April and May. Training populations are at their lowest in December and January when only 2,000 to 3,000 personnel train per month (FAPH, 2007a).

Alternative One (Site F) is located within Training Area 23C. It is located approximately one mile from the Main Gate located on Route 301, at the corner of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road (Figure 2-1). The site is designated as a training and maneuver area and is used for basic tactical training, vehicle maneuvering, and land navigation activities (Earl, 2010). No live-fire training activities occur at this site. Site F was used as a petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) storage yard during the 1980s and early 1990s. The POL facility was closed in 1996 and tanks, buildings, equipment, and fencing were removed from the site. The POL storage yard closure is discussed in detail in Section 3.13, *Hazardous and Toxic Substances*. The footprint of the former storage yard is still visible in aerial photographs. The site has remained undeveloped since the closure of the POL storage yard.

Site F is surrounded by training lands used for similar training activities. It is immediately bordered to the west by Fort A.P. Hill Drive and to the south by Campbell Road. An aboveground electric line runs east-west on the southern portion of the site and connects with a larger north-south power line right-of-way just east of the project site's boundary. The property

located south of the project site, across Campbell Road, is a cleared grassy area that is sometimes used as a landing zone (LZ) for helicopters. This adjacent property also includes a small electrical substation and a pole-mounted non-directional beacon (NDB). The NDB is a radio transmitter that provides bearings for aviation navigation.

Alternative Two (Site B) is located within Training Area 2. It is located on Toombs Trail, off of Campbell Road, one-half mile west of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road (Figure 2-2). This site is undeveloped and the majority is densely forested. It is used as a training and maneuver area but no live-fire training occurs on the site. Based on historic aerial photographs and Fort records, this site has remained undeveloped since at least the 1950s. The site is mostly surrounded by forested areas. The southeast quarter of the site has been cleared and is bordered by cleared, undeveloped land. Toombs Trails runs along the southern boundary of the site. Archer Campsite is located southeast of the site at the intersection of Toombs Trail and Campbell Road. Archer Campsite is one of 11 campsites located on the Installation. A water tower is located on the west side of Archer Campsite and a recreational vehicle camping area is adjacent to Archer Campsite.

3.2.2 *Environmental Consequences*

Alternative One

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F is not anticipated to result in any significant direct or indirect impacts to land use. Although the area would no longer be available for training activities taking place on site, the land would still be used for military training purposes by the USAR. It is likely the project site would be reclassified within the Fort's RPMP to reflect its new land use. However, due to the small size of the project site, relative to the number of existing training and maneuver acres available, the change would be insignificant.

The eastern portion of Site F (approximately 3.5 acres) is forested and would require a minor amount of tree removal. The layout of the site would determine how much of the forested area would be removed. The Fort has an established timber management program, and would likely clear the site prior to USAR Construction, using an approved logging contractor. All tree clearing activities would comply with the Fort's Forest Management Plan, timber harvesting policies, and Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality; therefore, no significant adverse effects on forest lands are expected.

Training activities conducted by the USAR would be consistent with current land use at training and range areas. All training activities occurring on the Fort outside the USAR Center site would require scheduling through the Installation's Range Control Office. The Installation has adequate training and range facilities to accommodate peak training periods. The additional use of the facilities by Reservists is not anticipated to result in a significant impact to training or range lands.

Construction and operation of the USAR Center is not anticipated to have any adverse impacts to the FAA NDB located across the road from Site F. The USAR Center would be one-story and

would not be tall enough to conflict with the NDB signals. The distance between the NDB and Site F is great enough that no activities at Site F would be expected to affect the NDB signals. If construction cranes are used on site, they should be lowered at night or contain a flashing light to be seen by aircraft at night (Williams, 2010). Additionally, the USAR Center would not affect the use of the LZ on the property across the street.

Alternative Two

Impacts associated with Alternative Two would be similar to that of Alternative One. The main difference between the alternatives is that construction at Site B would require much more tree clearing, because almost all of Site B is forested. The exact amount of timber that would be harvested from the site would depend on the layout of the USAR Center. However, it would involve a considerable amount more than timber harvesting expected at Site F. All tree clearing activities would comply with the Fort's Forest Management Plan and timber harvesting policies, so no significant adverse effects on forest lands is expected. No significant impacts to land use are anticipated as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action at Site B.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct and operate a USAR Center at FAPH. This Alternative would not result in any impacts to land use, adverse or beneficial.

Cumulative Impacts

No significant cumulative impacts related to incompatible land use are anticipated. Implementation of the Proposed Action at either of the proposed sites would involve the construction of new facilities that are consistent with existing land use and mission at FAPH. USAR training activities would occur at existing training areas and ranges and would also be consistent with current land use.

The Fort's RPMP guides land use and development on the Fort and the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan (County Plan) guides land use and development in surrounding communities. The Town of Bowling Green also has a Comprehensive Plan (Town Plan) which guides development within the Town limits. The County and Town Plans are available to the public at <http://www.co.caroline.va.us/>. The Fort is updating the RPMP to include recent and predicted growth and development at FAPH. The updated RPMP is expected to be finalized in 2011. The County and Town Plans are reviewed and updated periodically to account for growth and change within the respective communities. These documents and cooperative programs minimize the potential for adverse impact to land use on and surrounding FAPH.

The County Plan identifies specific growth areas within Caroline County. The majority of proposed growth in the county is along the Interstate 95 corridor, which is located six or more miles west of the Fort's boundaries. Both proposed project sites are located more than a mile away from Installation boundaries. The Town of Bowling Green and surrounding community is closest in proximity to either proposed project site. Both the County and Town Plans identify

planned development in the Bowling Green area, however the majority is low-density residential. There is some proposed commercial development identified within the existing commercial area in downtown Bowling Green and along Route 301 between Bowling Green and the main entrance of FAPH. The development along Route 301 was specifically identified within the County Plan to support predicted growth at FAPH.

There are two projects proposed for FAPH in the reasonably foreseeable future: the Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) training complex and the Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) field training area. Noise associated with these other proposed projects may have a minor effect on residential land use surrounding FAPH. Additionally, the Fort will continue to renovate existing buildings and infrastructure and construct new facilities as needed in the future to support the Installation's mission. However, the Proposed Action, when combined with FAPH projects and proposed growth within the surrounding community, would not have significant cumulative impacts to land use on or off the Installation.

3.3 Topography, Geology, and Soils

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Topography

The Installation is located within the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. It is located just east of the fall line, and therefore displays characteristics of both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions (FAPH, 2008a). The topography of the Installation varies from relatively flat in the southern portion, moderately rolling in the northern portion and fairly steep in some central locations. Elevations on the Fort range from approximately 10 feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl) to about 255 ft amsl. The northern two-thirds of the Installation drain northward to the Rappahannock River and the southern one-third drains south-southeasterly to the Mattaponi River, which both eventually feed into the Chesapeake Bay (FAPH, 2008a). Both Sites B and F are relatively flat sites and are approximately 200 to 220 ft amsl (Figures 3-1 and 3-2).

Geology

The Atlantic Coastal Plain is underlain by a seaward-thickening wedge of regionally extensive, eastward-dipping strata of unconsolidated to partly consolidated marine and fluvial sediments of Cretaceous, Tertiary, and Quaternary age that unconformably overlie a basement of consolidated bedrock (USGS, 2006). The sediments are primarily composed of unconsolidated gravels, sands, silt, and clay, with variable amounts of shells. Available data estimates the thickness of these sediments to be greater than 450 ft and the depth to bedrock greater than 400 ft.

Soils

Soil survey data for the Installation identifies at least 26 unique soil series at FAPH (FAPH, 2009a). The majority of soils at FAPH are categorized as upland soils, which are mostly well-

drained sandy soils that develop on sandy, clayey and loamy Coastal Plain sediments. These soils have high permeability, low shrink-swell potential and are susceptible to moderate to severe erosion. Representative upland soils present at FAPH include the Kempsville-Emporia and Slagle-Kempsville complexes. A geotechnical engineering study conducted at Site F identified surficial fill materials throughout most of the site (AGS, 2010). This fill material is likely a result of previous development on the site and remediation completed during POL storage yard closure. Fill materials are not anticipated at Site B based on the undeveloped nature of the site.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

No significant adverse impacts to topography, geology, or soils are anticipated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action at Site F. A geotechnical study has been completed for the site and determined soils are suitable for USAR Center construction. Short-term minor adverse impacts to soils would be expected during construction of the USAR Center. However, these effects would be temporary in nature and are not anticipated to continue during operation of the USAR Center. The use of BMPs during construction would limit adverse impacts, such as soil erosion and sediment runoff. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) would be developed and implemented in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and applicable regulations. The USAR would obtain applicable storm water construction permits required by the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP).

Alternative Two

Impacts associated with Alternative Two would be similar to that of Alternative One. As with the Alternative One, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct and operate a USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to topography, geology, or soils.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts to topography, geology, and soils associated with the Proposed Action are anticipated to be less than significant. The activities related to construction would be short-term, and any associated impacts would be temporary. Erosion control measures and the use of BMPs during construction would minimize adverse impacts. Other projects proposed for FAPH would also require erosion control measures and construction BMPs, therefore the overall impact to topography, geology and soils at FAPH would be less than significant. Implementation of the Proposed Action when combined with development outside FAPH is not expected to result in cumulative impacts to topography, geology, or soils.



Figure 3-1. Alternative One (Preferred Alternative) Topographic Map

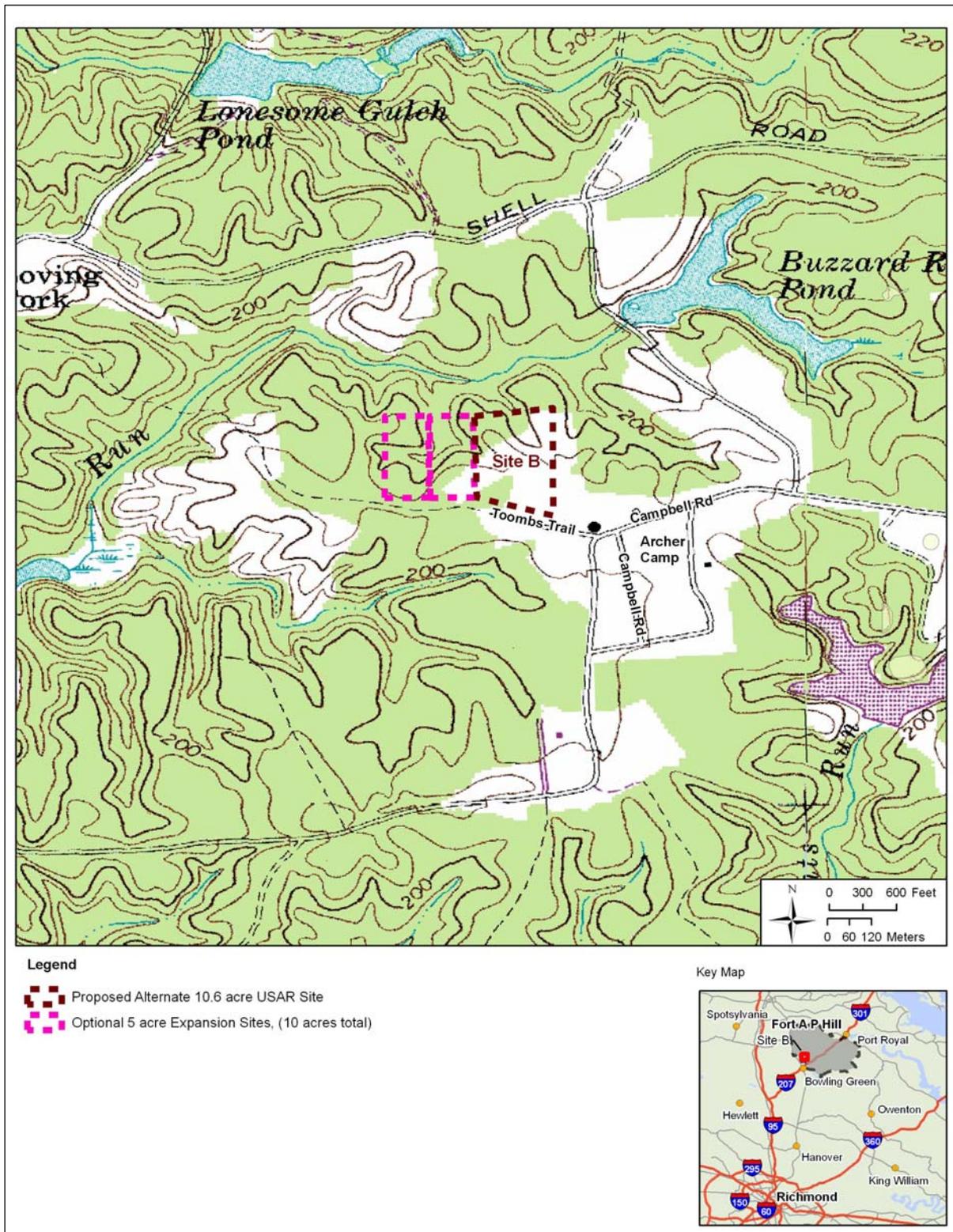


Figure 3-2. Alternative Two Topographic Map

3.4 Hydrology and Water Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Floodplains

The designated frequency for floodplain identification used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the 100-year flood. The 100-year floodplain is an area that has a 100 percent chance of flooding at least once within 100 years or a one percent chance of flooding per year. According to FEMA data, FAPH has approximately 1,970 acres of designated 100-year floodplain (FAPH, 2008). No floodplains exist on Sites B or F.

Coastal Zone

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (Title 16 U.S.C, Sections 1451 *et seq.*) provides management of the nation's coastal resources and balances economic development with environmental conservation by preserving, protecting, developing, and where possible restoring or enhancing the nation's coastal zone. CZMA provisions facilitated the development of the federally approved Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) in 1986. The Virginia CZMP is administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which enforces laws, regulations, and policies that protect coastal resources. Virginia's coastal zone encompasses 29 percent of the Commonwealth's land, including 29 counties, 17 cities, and 42 incorporated towns (VDEQ, 2010). All of Caroline County, including FAPH, is located within Virginia's coastal zone and is subject to the CZMP regulations. All federal actions occurring within the coastal zone must be consistent with Virginia's CZMP; therefore a coastal zone consistency determination for the Proposed Action is located in Appendix B.

Groundwater

The regional hydrogeologic framework of the Coastal Plain consists of eight confined aquifers, eight major confining units, and an uppermost water table aquifer. Coastal Plain groundwater is mainly recharged by precipitation infiltration and percolation to the water table. Water quality and permeability varies throughout the range of the Coastal Plain. The majority of unconfined groundwater flows relatively short distances and discharges to nearby streams; however a small amount flows downward to recharge the deeper confined aquifers. Most groundwater flows laterally through the unconfined and confined aquifers; however some vertical flow also occurs.

The sole source of potable water at FAPH is the groundwater located below the Installation. There are four aquifers in the FAPH area: the Yorktown-Eastover Aquifer, the Chickahominy-Piney Point Aquifer, the Aquia Aquifer, and the Middle Potomac Aquifer. FAPH pumps its water from the Middle Potomac Aquifer. This aquifer produces moderate to large quantities of high-quality fresh water. The average seasonal depth to groundwater at FAPH is 24 to 26 ft (FAPH, 2009a).

Surface Water

There are 20 impoundments totaling approximately 292 acres at FAPH. There are an additional 327 acres of unmanaged beaver ponds. The largest surface water features at FAPH include Travis Lake, Bowies Pond, Buzzards Roost Pond, Beaverdam Pond, Maxey Gregg Pond, Delos Lake, Smoots Pond, and White Lake. Water quality within the lakes and ponds is typical of shallow lakes and ponds within the Coastal Plain, exhibiting slightly acidic, tannin-stained water with low buffering capacity (FAPH, 2008a). There are no surface water features located on Sites B or F. The surface waters closest to Site B are Buzzard Roost Pond, approximately 1,500 ft northeast of the site, and Beaverdam Pond, approximately 2,000 ft southeast of the site. The surface water closest to Site F is Beaverdam Pond, located approximately 1,500 ft southwest of the site.

FAPH is located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed spans six states and more than 64,000 square miles, all draining into the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed is made of many smaller subwatersheds, which are further divided into smaller watersheds. FAPH is split between the Rappahannock Watershed and the Mattaponi Watershed, which are both subwatersheds of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The northern two-thirds of the Installation are located within the Rappahannock Watershed and drain northward to the Rappahannock River. The southern one-third of the Installation is located within the Mattaponi Watershed and drains south-southeasterly to the Mattaponi River. Both eventually feed into the Chesapeake Bay (FAPH, 2008a). Site B and Site F are located within the Mattaponi Watershed.

There are a number of streams located on FAPH. Headwaters of these onsite streams are formed by shallow aquifer groundwater discharges, which commonly create wetland areas locally referred to as seepage swamps (FAPH, 2008). Wetlands occurring on FAPH are discussed in Section 3.5 *Biological Resources*. FAPH has developed a Watershed Management Plan, which provides guidance for the protection and management of surface water and groundwater resources.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of Alternative One is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to water resources at FAPH. There are no surface water features located on Site F and the site is not located within a 100-year floodplain. There is adequate groundwater available at FAPH to service the site and existing water lines are available along A.P. Hill Drive. The Installation's water and wastewater utilities are operated by a private contractor, American Water. Construction activities would comply with American Water standards and applicable state and federal regulations, in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act (CWA). Applicable permits would be obtained for construction and operation to comply with the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) and VSMP. Minor adverse impacts to

water resources may result from soil erosion and sediment runoff, particularly during construction. However, implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would minimize the potential for adverse impacts to water resources on FAPH. An ESCP would be developed and implemented in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and applicable regulations.

All construction and operational activities would comply with the Installation's Watershed Management Plan, Integrated Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (IDPCP), and site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to ensure that activities do not adversely impact water resources. Construction of the USAR Center would follow guidance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA)* (USEPA, 2009). Low impact development practices would be evaluated and implemented when feasible to comply with LEED, EISA Section 438, Department of Defense (DoD) Stormwater Policy (dated 19 January 2010), and the VSMP. Site design would incorporate low impact development practices in an effort to avoid construction of traditional stormwater basins. However, if avoidance is not possible, stormwater would be diverted through a series of subsurface and surface drainage features to an aboveground stormwater management basin. The southeast corner of the site has been identified as the location of the stormwater management basin, because it is the most naturally occurring low area on the site.

Construction and operational activities would be consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZMP. All construction activities would occur outside the 100 ft resource protection area (RPA) that is maintained around wetlands at the Fort. The 100 ft RPA is required by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. No significant impacts to hydrology and water resources are expected to result from implementation of Alternative One.

Alternative Two

Impacts associated with Alternative Two would be similar to that of Alternative One. No adverse impacts to floodplains, groundwater, coastal zone, or surface water resources are expected to occur as a result of Alternative Two implementation.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to water resources.

Cumulative Impacts

No significant adverse cumulative impacts to water resources are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. The potential for short-term surface water quality changes during construction exists and could combine with other impacts to surface water quality already occurring on the Fort. Given the short duration of the added impact, it is unlikely to result in any lasting damage

to existing water resources. The addition of USAR personnel to the Fort, when combined with Installation and surrounding community population growth, would contribute to an increased demand on groundwater resources. However, impacts would be minimized and balanced with existing and future anticipated water needs of the Fort and surrounding communities through project design and use of BMPs during construction and operation of the USAR Center. Ongoing collaborative water conservation efforts and use of environmentally sound, water-saving technologies would also minimize potential adverse impacts to the groundwater supply. Cumulative adverse impacts to water resources are expected to be less than significant.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Vegetation

The majority of FAPH is undeveloped land, with forested area comprising approximately 85 percent of the Installation. Typical species of trees on FAPH include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia Pine (*P. virginiana*), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and hickories (*Carya* spp.). Grassland vegetation represents approximately 10 percent of the Installation. The majority of Site B is a mixed hardwood and pine forest. The southeastern corner of the site is open grassland, but is undeveloped. The majority of Site F is open grassland. The eastern side of the site is forested, and there is a sparse population of trees on the north side of the site. Many of the tree and plant species located along the eastern side of the site are not representative of the typical species at FAPH, including black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). These species are consistent with the former farmstead house site, which is further discussed in Section 3.6.2.

Wildlife

A cooperative agreement between the Fort and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identifies 130 bird avian species, 39 mammal species, and 40 fish species at FAPH. Additionally, more than 50 species of reptiles and amphibians may be present on the Fort. Common mammal species include white-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginiana*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), eastern mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and red fox (*Vulpes fulva*). Reptile and amphibian species expected to occur at FAPH include northern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*), northern black racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*), eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), eastern garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), red-spotted newt (*Notophtalmus viridescens*), American toad (*Bufo americanus*), spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), and bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*).

Common bird species on the Fort include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Eastern wood-pewee (*Contopus virens*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), gray catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

The DoD, in cooperation with Partners-in-Flight (PIF), prepared a strategic plan for the conservation and management of migratory and resident landbirds and their habitats on DoD lands (DoDPIF, 2002). Initially, the focus on bird species of conservation concern was on species that breed in temperate North America and winter in the tropics (neotropical migrants) that were declining. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation of the temperate breeding and tropical wintering grounds are likely the major reasons for these declines (Flather & Sauer, 1996 and Sherry & Holmes, 1996), as well as the loss of important stop-over habitat used during migration (Moore et al., 1993). In response to declines in bird populations, Executive Order (EO) 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, was issued on 10 January 2001. This EO requires federal agencies to evaluate the effects of their actions and plans on migratory bird species of concern. Species of concern are those identified in: 1) *Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern in the United States* (USFWS, 2008); 2) priority species identified by established plans such as those prepared by PIF; and 3) listed species in 50 CFR 17.11. The focus on these species of concern was expanded to include all landbirds breeding in the continental United States (DoDPIF, 2004) as well as some aquatic bird species. In addition to the strategic plan (DoDPIF, 2002), lists of bird species of conservation concern were prepared by conservation region. FAPH is in DoD PIF Conservation Region 32 (DoDPIF, 2006). There is potential for migratory birds to use Sites B or F for foraging or nesting, depending on the time of year.

Special Status Species

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects federally listed animal and plant species and their critical habitats. The USFWS maintains a listing of species that are considered threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidates under the ESA. An endangered species is defined as any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is defined as any species likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future. Candidate species are those that the USFWS has enough information on file to propose listing as threatened or endangered, but listing has been precluded by other agency priorities. Although Federal agencies are not required by the ESA to consider candidate species, AR 200-1 requires the Army to consider candidate species in all actions that may affect them. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) provides federal protection to bald and golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. There are 17 occurrences of federally

or state listed species and 63 occurrences of other rare species and significant communities on FAPH (FAPH, 2008a)

Review of current data from the USFWS federally endangered/threatened species by county report (USFWS, 2010), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VDGIF, 2010), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Database (VDCR, 2010), and the 2009-2013 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH, 2008a) revealed that 10 federal and state threatened, endangered, or candidate species (hereafter together referred to as special status species) have the potential to occur on or near the project sites. The 10 potential special status species include the small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*), New Jersey rush (*Juncus caesariensis*), tidewater amphipod (*Stygobromus indentatus*), yellow lance (*Elliptio lanceolata*), Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). No permanent or seasonal water resources are located on the project sites; therefore, neither site has habitat to support potential special status wetland species such as swamp pink, New Jersey rush, yellow lance, or tidewater amphipod. Even though swamp pink is not found on the project sites, a known population is located approximately 1,150 ft from the eastern property boundary for Site F (FAPH, 2004a). Swamp pink is discussed in detail in the following paragraphs because of potential indirect threats to the known population of this species from the construction of the USAR Center at Site F. New Jersey rush, yellow lance, and tidewater amphipod are not discussed in detail due to the lack of their potential habitat and known occurrences on or near the project sites. The known range for the upland sandpiper does not include FAPH, but this species may be a transient or migrant visitor to the area (Houston & Bowen Jr., 2001 and VDGIF, 2010). This species is not discussed in detail due to the unlikelihood of its occurrence on either project site.

Swamp Pink

Swamp pink is a federally threatened and state endangered species (USFWS, 2010 and VDGIF, 2010). This perennial herb blooms from March to May and its evergreen basal leaf rosette can be seen year-round. Even though this plant produces 30 to 50 small pink flowers around a central stem it reproduces primarily asexually through rhizomes. This asexual form of reproduction results in a clump distribution pattern within its populations (FAPH, 2004a). Swamp pink grows along springs, seeps, and small streams where water levels are stable and not subject to long periods of flooding. This plant will also grow in bogs, swampy woods, or shrub swamps.

A known population of swamp pink occurs in a wetland 1,150 ft from the eastern boundary of Site F. Direct threats to swamp pink include inundation of wetlands by beaver dams, direct trampling or habitat destruction through vehicular and human foot traffic, and deer browsing (FAPH, 2004).

Small Whorled Pogonia

The small whorled pogonia is a federally threatened and state endangered perennial orchid (USFWS, 2010 and VDGIF, 2010). In May, this orchid emerges as an erect vertical stem from the forest floor with five, six, or occasionally four leaves unfurled from a circle at the apex of the stem. The rest of the stem is leafless (FAPH, 2004b). Plant height ranges from three to 10 inches and it blooms between May and June throughout its range (NatureServe, 2009). This plant species produces a single greenish-yellow flower that arises from the center of the leaf whorl.

The small whorled pogonia is associated with third-growth upland hardwood approximately 40 to 80 years old. These forests are usually dominated by oaks with little to no pine (*Pinus* sp.) present (SEE, 2008). Typical habitat includes moderate to very sparse ground cover with an open understory canopy that permits flecks of sun to reach the forest floor. Individual plants usually grow in localized patches devoid of other ground cover species (FAPH, 2004b). Small whorled pogonia is intolerant of resource competition with dense stands of understory species. This orchid grows on highly acidic (pH 4.3-5.5) nutrient poor sandy loam soils (SEE, 2008).

The small whorled pogonia is highly susceptible to disturbance. Disturbance types known to affect this plant include vehicular and human foot traffic, fire, and deer grazing (FAPH, 2004b). Populations on FAPH mostly occur deep within wooded areas with no vehicular and little foot traffic. A matrix of the special status species that may occur in the vicinity of the project sites is shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Special Status Species Potentially Occurring On or Near Project Sites

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Swamp Pink	<i>Helonias bullata</i>	Federally Threatened; State Endangered
Small Whorled Pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Federally Threatened; State Endangered
American Ginseng	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	State Endangered
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	State Threatened
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Federal Species of Concern; State Threatened
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA ¹

¹ Federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

American Ginseng

American ginseng is a state endangered perennial plant that has palmate, serrated leaves and bears bright red fruits. This plant grows under a closed canopy in cool, moist hardwood or mixed forests. American ginseng naturally grows at low densities over a broad range, but populations have decreased since European settlement (NatureServe, 2009).

Two centuries of harvesting American ginseng for medicinal purposes and export to the Far East, have led to population declines throughout much of this plant's range. Virginia regulations state that only permitted collectors may harvest wild ginseng on public lands. Even with these regulations, poaching and unlicensed collecting is relatively common (FAPH, 2008a). Threats to this species include deforestation of preferred habitat, commercial harvesting, grazing by deer, inappropriate forest management practices, and insufficient enforcement of harvesting regulations.

American ginseng is known to occur on slopes and sheltered ravines within old growth hardwood forests of the Mount Creek and Goldenvale Creek Conservation Sites on FAPH (FAPH, 2008 and VDCR, 2010). Goldenvale Creek Conservation Site is the closest occurrence of American ginseng to the project sites and is located more than 6 miles northeast both sites.

Bachman's Sparrow

The Bachman's sparrow is a songbird endemic to southeastern North America. This species is listed as threatened in the state of Virginia and the northern-most limit of known breeding is at FAPH. This sparrow inhabits open pine savannas that contain a high density of grasses and forbs in the first meter layer above ground and low densities in the second to fourth meter layer above ground. This songbird builds nests on the ground within bunch grasses such as broomsedge. This preferred southeastern pine habitat can only be maintained if it is burned periodically. Generally, Bachman's sparrows will recolonize a burned area 2 to 3 years after a burn only if preferred vegetation has recovered. These sparrows will only occupy an area for 2 to 4 years and leave if woody vegetation is too dense (CCB, 2000).

A factor likely playing a significant role in population declines for this species is the replacement of open southeastern pine forests with closed-canopy pine and hardwood forests through fire suppression and harvesting. Pine savannas currently only occur on one percent of their former natural range. In 1993, an occurrence of breeding Bachman's sparrows was recorded on FAPH in the Installation's controlled access area. For decades the controlled access area has been used for ballistic training. This area burns frequently due to fires started from the ballistic impacts. These regular fires have created a diverse open savanna providing ideal habitat for Bachman's sparrows (CCB, 2000). The Bachman's sparrow has not been recorded outside of the controlled access area and was last recorded at FAPH in 1993 (FAPH, 2008a).

Loggerhead Shrike

The loggerhead shrike is a federal species of concern and listed as threatened in the state of Virginia (USFWS, 2010 and VDGIF, 2010). This species is experiencing population declines over much of its range and is considered a threatened species in Canada and other states in the U.S. (Robert & Laporte, 1991). This species inhabits open country with short vegetation such as pastures with fence rows, old orchards, golf courses, agricultural fields, grasslands, and open woodlands, and requires trees and or shrubs for nesting and perch sites. Loggerhead shrikes are fairly tolerant to human activity near its nests, and the nesting season is from February to July. The reasons for this species decline include shooting and trapping, environmental contaminants, and habitat loss or degradation on the breeding and wintering grounds (Yosef, 1996).

Foraging and breeding habitat for loggerhead shrikes exists at Site F. However, Natural Heritage Inventories conducted from 1992-1993 and 2005-2008 (VDCR, 2010) have not recorded this species at FAPH.

Bald Eagle

Bald eagles are large, broad-winged North American birds of prey associated with aquatic habitats with forested shorelines or cliffs. They are opportunistic foragers that eat a variety of prey, but prefer fish over other food types. Bald eagles prefer nesting in open mature forest stands within 0.5 miles from an open water source usually away from human development and activities (Buehler, 2000).

In 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. However, it is still listed in the state of Virginia as a threatened species (VDGIF, 2010). The bald eagle is also protected under the BGEPA (16 United States Code 668-668c), which prohibits the “taking” of any part of a bald eagle, its nest, or eggs. “Taking” can be defined as pursuing, shooting, intent on shooting, poisoning, wounding, killing, capturing, trapping, collecting, harassing, or disturbing a bald eagle, its nest, or eggs. Threats to this species have diminished since its protection, but still include pesticides, shooting, and loss of habitat.

The vast number of wetlands and forested lands on FAPH, and its proximity to the Rappahannock River make the Fort important habitat for breeding bald eagles in Virginia. Bald eagles have been recorded nesting on FAPH in the past (FAPH, 2008a).

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a federally threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may include areas that are not occupied by the species, but are necessary for its recovery. No critical habitat has been designated by the USFWS for the small whorled pogonia and swamp pink at Sites B or F (USFWS, 2010).

Wetlands

The U.S. Congress enacted the CWA in 1972 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.). Section 404 of the CWA delegates jurisdictional authority over wetlands to the Corps of Engineers and the EPA. Waters of the U.S. protected by the CWA include rivers, streams, estuaries, as well as most ponds, lakes, and wetlands. The Corps of Engineers and the EPA jointly define wetlands as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions".

There are approximately 5,856 acres of wetlands at FAPH. Typical wetland areas at FAPH are perennial swamps containing combinations of trees, shrubs and aquatic species. Although the majority of wetlands at FAPH are naturally occurring, the American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) influenced the creation of approximately 1,816 acres, and 609 acres resulted from human activity (FAPH, 2008b). There are no wetlands on either Site B or Site F. Although wetlands occur in the vicinity of both sites, neither site is within the 100 ft RPA that is maintained around wetlands at the Fort.

3.5.2 *Environmental Consequences*

Alternative One

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F would have long-term minor adverse impacts on wildlife and vegetation. The development of the site would result in the loss of natural habitat. The loss of habitat would have minor adverse impacts to the wildlife that use the site for foraging or nesting. However, due to the small size of the USAR Center, in comparison to the amount of natural habitat available at FAPH, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

Since no wetlands or swamp pink occur on Site F, construction of the USAR Center would not directly affect populations of this species. Stormwater runoff from the construction site or the finished USAR Center could have indirect threats to swamp pink through an increase in sediment loads or contamination of the wetland southeast of the project site. Throughout construction of the USAR Center, soil erosion and sediment control devices would be utilized and maintained to minimize runoff from the construction site. An ESCP would be developed and implemented in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and applicable regulations. To prevent contamination of surrounding habitats, garbage and debris from the construction of the USAR Center would also be collected and placed in proper storage until it is able to be properly removed. Construction of the USAR Center would follow guidance by the U.S. EPA's *Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the EISA* (USEPA, 2009). Following these guidelines should minimize any threat presented by stormwater runoff on the nearby wetland and swamp pink population. Additionally, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation recommends an 850 ft stand-off distance from swamp pink colonies. The Proposed Action at

Site F would provide at least a 1,150 ft stand-off distance from the known swamp pink colony located southeast of the site.

Small whorled pogonia was not surveyed for on the project site as part of the 2005-2008 Natural Heritage Reinventory at FAPH (VDCR, 2009), because the site does not meet the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's sampling scheme as likely habitat for rare and protected species (VDCR, 2009). The project site is considered unlikely habitat because the majority of the site is an open field with documented heavy land use over the past several decades (Applegate, 2010 and SEE, 2008). Although the wooded area on the project site has some habitat characteristics associated with the small whorled pogonia, the current and historic disturbances to this area are not favorable to this species. Current disturbances include military training in the forested areas and vehicular traffic along power line right-of-ways (Applegate, 2010). Historic disturbances include fire and activities associated with historic POL exercises. The dense shrub/sapling understory present in the forested area is considered low quality habitat for the small whorled pogonia (SEE, 2008). Even with marginal habitat on the project site, the small whorled pogonia is not expected to occur in the 3.5 acre wooded area due to its high prevalence of disturbance and low quality of habitat for this plant.

American ginseng is not expected to occur in the 3.5 acre wooded area on the project site due to its high prevalence of disturbance or the 11.5 acres of grassland due to lack of suitable habitat.

No Bachman's sparrows were observed on the project site or adjacent properties during a survey of the project site in March 2010. The grassland on the project site is quite dense, probably due to a long interval since it has been subjected to fire. Also, the wooded area on the eastern portion of the project site is a closed canopy mixed deciduous forest with very few pine trees. The lack of preferred habitat (open pine savannas) makes it unlikely that Bachman's sparrows occur on the project site.

Potential foraging and breeding habitat at Site F for loggerhead shrike would be eliminated by the construction of the USAR Center, but plenty of preferred habitat would still exist on adjacent lands. With the available habitat adjacent to the facility, planned replanting of new trees at the facility, lack of recorded sightings for this species at FAPH, and tolerance of human activities near its nest, no significant direct impacts from the construction of the USAR Center are anticipated to the loggerhead shrike.

With a wetland surrounded by an open canopy forest only 236 ft from Site F; there is a potential for bald eagles to nest on or near the project site, however the potential is low. The current (Army training maneuvers) and historic prevalence of human disturbance (POL berms and training exercises) in these wooded areas make it unlikely that a bald eagle would nest on or near Site F (Applegate, 2010). One abandoned raptor nest was observed on the project site during the March 2010 site survey, but was not characteristic of a bald eagle nest. No current or historical bald eagle nests were observed within the wetland area adjacent to the site during the survey, although access to the wetland was limited to its western edge.

Certain areas on the Fort are restricted for mechanized training activities due to designated natural resource protections areas. Training in some areas may also be restricted during certain times of the year to avoid adverse impacts to seasonal species occurrences. The USAR training activities would be conducted in compliance with FAPH's Endangered Species Management Plan, INRMP, and other applicable natural resource management plans to avoid any adverse impacts to the natural environment.

The USAR would plant native species to the extent practicable. Planting native species reduces the amount of maintenance and water required for the plants to establish successfully because native species have naturally adapted to the conditions of their environment. Additionally, some non-native species become invasive and can out-compete native species for resources. Avoiding non-natives ensures that native species have the greatest chance to flourish on the Site.

Alternative Two

Implementation of Alternative Two would have similar impacts to Alternative One. No special status species or their habitat is known to occur on Site B. There are no wetlands on the site and implementation of BMPs during construction and operation of the USAR Center would minimize the potential for adverse impacts to wetlands near the site. Site B would require substantially more tree clearing, resulting in a greater loss of forest than at Site F. However, this impact is expected to be less than significant.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would have no direct or indirect adverse impacts on biological resources.

Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in any significant cumulative impacts to biological resources or wetlands occurring on or near FAPH. Other projects proposed for FAPH would likely produce minor impacts to biological resources. However, projects would require compliance with Installation policies, and federal, state, and local regulations to prevent or minimize impacts to natural resources. Future development may potentially decrease the amount of naturally occurring habitat both on and off the Installation. Development outside FAPH is guided by County and Town Plans, which account for the consideration of biological resources during project planning. The development of Site F would require a substantially lesser amount of tree clearing than Site B. Due to previous development on Site F, there is also less naturally occurring habitat than Site B. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F would result in a smaller overall impact on biological resources. However, given the small size of the USAR Center site, even when combined with other proposed projects on and off the Installation, it would not be expected to produce any significant cumulative impacts to biological resources.

3.6 Cultural Resources

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes all aspects of human activities, including material remains of the past and the beliefs, traditions, rituals and cultures of the present. As mandated by law, all federal installations and personnel must participate in the preservation and stewardship needs of archaeological and cultural resources and must consider potential impacts to these resources prior to any installation undertaking. Resources include historic properties as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), archaeological resources as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), sacred sites as defined by EO 13007, to which access is provided under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), significant paleontological items as described by 16 United States Code (USC) 431-433 (Antiquities Act of 1906) and collections as defined in 36 CFR 79, Curation of Federally Owned and Administrated Archaeological Collections (DA, 2007).

The NHPA of 1966 and AR 200-1 constrain land uses and development where cultural resources are affected. The FAPH Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) guides the Installation's cultural resources management program. Specific guidance and procedures for managing and maintaining historic buildings is provided in Technical Manual (TM) 5-801-1, Historic Preservation Administrative Procedures, and TM 5-801-2, Historic Preservation Maintenance Procedures.

Implementation of the ICRMP ensures that current management complies with applicable laws and regulations and effectively combines with public interests to promulgate a plan of action that sacrifices neither the integrity of the Installation's mission nor that of the archaeological and cultural resources. Many requirements include consultation with affected parties before a planned action, as well as allowing maximum time for treatment efforts, alternative plans, or avoidance actions to be implemented. Determination of effects and decisions regarding appropriate treatment are specific to individual actions.

FAPH is a steward to an abundance of cultural and archaeological resources. Surveys have identified more than 350 archaeological resources, two historic structures, and one historic district. The two historic structures and historic district are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No significant archaeological resources are known to occur on Sites B or F. Neither site contains structures or is located in an historic district or adjacent to any NRHP eligible resources. There are no sites known to contain resources considered to be traditionally important to American Indian tribes.

3.6.2 *Environmental Consequences*

Alternative One

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F is not anticipated to adversely affect any cultural resources known to occur at FAPH. A site-specific Phase I Cultural Resources Survey was completed for Site F in March 2010. A historic farmstead site and several associated artifacts were found on the site. The old home site is located in the northeastern, wooded portion of the site. The entire site has been greatly disturbed and presents insufficient integrity to be eligible for the NRHP. Associated artifacts include nail fragments and pieces of stoneware consistent with a farmstead site. However, these artifacts are not believed to be historically significant. The Survey concluded that the Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources and no further archaeological investigations were recommended. The Survey process involved coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO concurred with the findings of the Phase I Survey. A copy of the concurrence documentation is located in Appendix C.

Should previously undiscovered archaeological materials be encountered during construction or operation, work would cease and the FAPH Cultural Resource Program Manager would be notified. The site would be protected until an evaluation is completed and any necessary coordination with the SHPO has taken place.

Alternative Two

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site B is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to known cultural resources. There are no buildings or structures on the site. A site specific survey has not been completed for Site B. Therefore, prior to any ground disturbance, a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey would be completed.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would have no direct or indirect adverse impacts on cultural resources.

Cumulative Impacts

The cultural resources located at FAPH are well-preserved and located within Installation boundaries, making them inaccessible to the general public and therefore better protected. The Installation's ICRMP is required to be updated at least every 5 years. The ICRMP anticipates projects that may affect historic properties, based on the Fort's mission and proposed activities and guides the Installation in ensuring historic properties are treated in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. All projects occurring on the Installation are evaluated for their potential to affect cultural resources. Projects are guided by the Installation's ICRMP and comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including the NHPA, ARPA, AIRFA, and

NAGPRA. Implementation of the Proposed Action when combined with past, present, and anticipated future projects, including those occurring outside the Installation, would not be expected to result in any significant cumulative impacts to cultural resources.

3.7 Air Quality

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C 7401-7671q), as amended, allows the EPA to set limits on certain air pollutants. The CAA requires the EPA to establish primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants that may be harmful to public health and the environment. Primary standards protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations, such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly; and secondary standards protect public welfare, including protections against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings (EPA, 2010). The NAAQS (40 CFR Part 50) set acceptable threshold standards for six criteria pollutants, including carbon monoxide (CO); nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particularly nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); ozone (O₃); sulfur dioxide (SO₂); lead (Pb); and particulate matter, including very fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and fine particulate matter (PM₁₀).

Areas where criteria pollutants are below NAAQS are designated as attainment areas and areas where criteria pollutants meet or exceed NAAQS are designated as nonattainment areas. Caroline County, including all of FAPH, is located within the Northeastern Virginia Intrastate Air-Quality Control Region (AQCR). This AQCR is in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Although, no specific air monitoring data is available for the Proposed Action, existing air quality conditions can be estimated using data collected from nearby criteria pollutant monitoring stations (Table 3-2). The CAA General Conformity Rule requires federal agencies to determine whether their action would increase emissions of criteria pollutants above preset threshold levels. These *de minimis* levels vary depending on the severity of nonattainment status and geographic location. Since the air quality at FAPH and the surrounding area is in compliance with federal standards and the Fort is located in a designated attainment area, a general conformity analysis is not required. A Record of Non-Applicability is provided at Appendix A.

The Virginia DEQ regulates stationary air emissions within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mobile sources, such as motor vehicles and aircraft are regulated by the EPA, which regulates the source manufacturers and types of fuels used by the sources. Therefore, only stationary air emissions sources are subject to Virginia DEQ permitting. Existing stationary sources of air emissions at FAPH include boilers, generators, degreasers, and gasoline dispensers. FAPH is considered a minor source of criteria pollutants, and operates under Virginia DEQ Stationary Source Permit No. 40306. Table 3-3 summarizes the 2008 FAPH emissions reported to the Virginia DEQ, which is the most recent information available on the Virginia DEQ website.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to local or regional air quality. Short-term adverse impacts are expected to occur during construction of the new USAR Center. However, these impacts are expected to be minor in context and intensity. Construction related emission sources include the operation of construction equipment and motor vehicles; tree clearing and vegetation removal; and fugitive dust, resulting from dry, windy conditions or vehicle and equipment movement. The use of BMPs, including wetting areas of bare soil and limiting the amount of movement on site to essential vehicles and equipment only, would minimize the potential for fugitive dust emissions.

Additionally, construction would comply with Virginia Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution, specifically Title 9 of the Virginia Administrative Code (VAC), Agency 5, Chapter 40, Part II.

Air emissions expected to result from operational activities at the USAR Center include military equipment (mobile generators), military and POV vehicle traffic, and stationary heating boilers and backup generators. However, these air emissions are not expected to exceed *de minimis* threshold levels or contribute emissions in violation of any federal, state, or local air quality regulations. Any new stationary sources constructed on the site would be recorded by the FAPH Environmental Division and included in the Installation's Virginia DEQ operating permit.

The project design includes the following LEED components to minimize impacts to outdoor and indoor air quality:

- a. Install HVAC equipment complying with the CAA.
- b. Install outdoor air delivery monitoring equipment.
- c. Incorporate source control and ventilation control to help control, reduce, and eliminate pollutants to produce a healthier indoor environment.
- d. Install materials that generate the least amount of contaminants.
- e. Manage the entry and spread of pollutants by doing all of the following:
 1. Install permanent entryway track-off systems.
 2. Exhaust spaces with hazardous gases or chemicals directly to the outdoors.
 3. Replace air-handler filters just before occupancy with super-high efficiency filters.
 4. Provide containment drains to control hazardous liquids wherever they are used.

Table 3-2. NAAQS and Monitored Air Quality Concentrations

Pollutant and averaging time	Primary NAAQS ^a	Secondary NAAQS ^a	Monitored data ^b	Location of station
CO				
8-Hour Maximum ^c (ppm)	9	None	0.9	City of Richmond
1-Hour Maximum ^c (ppm)	35	None	1.4	City of Richmond
Lead				
Rolling 3-Month Average ^d ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.15	0.15	No data available	--
Quarterly Average ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	1.5	0.15	No data available	--
NO ₂				
Annual Arithmetic Mean (ppm)	0.053	0.053	0.012	City of Richmond
1-Hour (ppm)	0.1	None	No data available	--
PM ₁₀				
24-Hour Maximum ^f ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) ^e	155	155	39	City of Fredericksburg
PM _{2.5}				
Annual Arithmetic Mean ^f ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	15	15	11.8	Henrico County
24-Hour Maximum ^g ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	35	35	27	Henrico County
Ozone				
8-Hour Maximum ^h (ppm)	0.075	0.075	0.080	Caroline County
SO ₂				
Annual Arithmetic Mean (ppm)	0.03	None	0.003	City of Richmond
24-Hour Maximum ^c (ppm)	0.14	None	0.010	City of Richmond
^a Source: USEPA, 2010 ^b Source: VDEQ, 2009a ^c Not to be exceeded more than once per year ^d Final rule signed 15 October 2008 ^e The 3-year average of the weighted annual mean of 24-hour PM ₁₀ concentrations not to exceed 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ more than once per year ^f The 3-year average of the weighted annual mean PM _{2.5} concentrations from single or multiple community-oriented monitors must not exceed 15.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ^g The 3-year average of the 98 th percentile of 24-hour concentrations at each population-oriented monitor within an area must not exceed 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ^h The 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.075 ppm (effective 27 May 2008) Note: ppm = parts per million; $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = micrograms per cubic meter of air				

Table 3-3. FAPH 2008 Stationary Source Total Air Emissions (Tons Per Year)

SO ₂	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	NO _x	VOC
1.1	0.72	0.32	0.31	3.39	2.35
Sources: VDEQ, 2009b and FAPH, 2009b					
*volatile organic compound					

Alternative Two

Impacts associated with Alternative Two would be similar to that of Alternative One. The impact on air quality is anticipated to be less than significant.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. There would be no direct or indirect impacts to local or regional air quality.

Cumulative Impacts

Construction activities would result in minor adverse impacts to air quality. However, these effects would be temporary in nature and are not likely to significantly affect the regional air quality even when combined with other past or future actions, including proposed FAPH projects and surrounding community growth and development. The long-term air quality impacts expected to result from operation of the USAR Center are negligible and would not contribute to any significant cumulative impacts to regional air quality, or violate federal, state, or local air regulations. The small size of the USAR Center and *de minimis* air emissions expected from the operation of the Center, when combined with proposed development on and off the Installation, is not expected to affect the attainment status of the region.

3.8 Visual Resources

3.8.1 Affected Environment

The majority of FAPH consists of undeveloped land. The natural habitat provides an aesthetically pleasing landscape from both within and outside the Installation boundaries. The Fort recognizes the importance of maintaining the natural beauty and unique landscape of the Installation. The FAPH INRMP ensures the natural resources on the Installation are maintained and protected, which subsequently preserves the beauty of the natural environment at FAPH. Additionally, development on the Fort is guided by several management programs and documents, such as the RPMP and Installation Design Guide (IDG). These programs and documents ensure that new construction is consistent with existing development on the Installation.

Although neither Site B nor Site F is currently developed, they are both in areas that contain existing development. Site B is located northwest of the Archer Campsite, which is a campsite

and recreational vehicle area. Site F was historically used as a POL storage yard and is located within sight of the Fort's housing and recreational areas. Neither site is visible from outside the Installation

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Under Alternative One, minor impacts to visual resources are anticipated. However, visual resource impacts are highly subjective. FAPH's commitment to sustaining the environment includes preserving the natural beauty of the Installation. Therefore, visual resource impacts would be considered during project planning in an attempt to avoid any negative impacts to the current viewshed. Construction would be consistent with guidelines established in the FAPH IDG.

Short-term adverse impacts may also result during construction of the USAR Center. Construction equipment and materials would be present at the site and would temporarily disrupt the existing landscape. However, these visual impacts would be minor in context and intensity and temporary, only last for the duration of the construction process. Long-term minor impacts would result from the conversion of undeveloped land to developed, which would diminish the aesthetics of the natural habitat. However, these impacts would be less than significant.

The following LEED component would be incorporated into the design when feasible: use exterior and interior light fixtures that eliminate direct beam illumination from leaving the building site to reduce visual impact on nocturnal environments.

Alternative Two

Implementation of Alternative Two would result in similar impacts as those associated with Alternative One. Since Site B is forested and would require a considerable amount of tree removal, a slightly greater impact is expected to result. The loss of a greater amount of forest may be considered by some to be more significant than development of the previously developed Site F. Site B is located in a more remote location and is located further away from existing developed areas.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. There would be no impact on visual resources.

Cumulative Impacts

The Proposed Action, combined with known future development on the Installation, is not anticipated to have a significant cumulative impact on visual resources. The IDG ensures buildings and structures are uniform in construction and conform to the overall aesthetics of the

area. Neither site is visible from outside the Installation boundaries. Development at either site would not be expected to affect or be affected by development outside the Fort.

3.9 Noise

3.9.1 Affected Environment

By definition, noise is unwanted sound; when sound interrupts daily activities such as sleeping or conversation, it becomes noise. The degree to which noise is considered disruptive is dependent on the way it is perceived by the people living or working in the affected area. Human response to noise depends on various factors, including the distance between the noise source and receptor, the sensitivity of the noise receptor, and the time of day.

Noise is physically characterized by its level, frequency, and duration and is measured in decibels (dB). The human ear is capable of hearing a large range of noise levels. The range of human hearing is represented by a decibel scale of the lowest audible level less than 20 dB and the threshold of pain of approximately 140 dB. Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the noise spectrum, measurements are more heavily weighted within frequencies of maximum human sensitivity. A-weighted decibels (dBA) are the most commonly weighted sound filter used to measure perceived loudness versus actual sound intensity. The unit of measurement used to describe environmental and transportation noise is known as day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is a time-weighted average of sound energy over a 24-hour period. Receptor sensitivity to noise is greater at night. To reflect this sensitivity, nighttime measurements are weighted by adding 10 dB to actual measurements between the hours of 2200 and 0700. Most people are exposed to sound levels of 45 to 85 dBA or higher on a daily basis (MANG, 2005).

Sources of noise at FAPH result from construction activities, facility maintenance activities, military and private vehicle uses, aircraft operations, weapons discharge and testing, training activities, and natural resource management activities. The primary source of noise at Sites B and F are the operation of motor vehicles and military equipment, training activities, and natural resource management activities. Vehicle type and speed influence noise levels generated by vehicular traffic. During vehicle maneuvers, vehicle speeds are relatively low on unpaved roads. The noise generated by High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and two-axle military trucks is comparable to noise from medium trucks (about 65 to 70 dBA at 50 ft). The noise generated by multi-axle heavy trucks is comparable to other heavy-duty trucks (about 78 to 80 dBA at 50 ft).

Construction equipment can generate noise levels of 80-90 dBA at a distance of 50 ft. If numerous pieces of equipment are operating simultaneously, relatively high noise levels can carry several hundred feet. The distance between the source and the receptor is relevant when analyzing noise impacts. In general, the more distance between the two, the less noise impacts.

Table 3-4. Common Noise Sources and Noise Levels

Noise Source (at given distance)	Noise Level (dB)	Typical Reaction
Civil Defense Siren (100 ft)	130	Pain
Jackhammer (50 ft)	120	Maximum Vocal Effort
Pile Driver (50 ft)	110	Maximum Vocal Effort
Ambulance Siren (100 ft)	100	Very Annoying/Discomfort
Motorcycle or Power Lawnmower (25 ft)	90	Very Annoying/Discomfort
Garbage Disposal or Alarm Clock (3 ft)	80	Intrusive
Vacuum Cleaner (3 ft)	70	Intrusive
Normal Conversation or Dishwasher (5 ft)	60	Intrusive/Normal Speech
Light Traffic (100 ft)	50	Normal Speech
Bird Calls (Distant)	40	Quiet
Soft Whisper (5 ft)	30	Quiet
Human Breathing	0	Just Audible

Source: TriServices Community and Environmental Noise Primer

The zone of relatively high construction noise levels typically extends to distances of 400 to 800 ft from the construction site. Overall, locations more than 1,000 feet from construction sites seldom experience significant levels of construction noise. Sensitive receptors are areas more susceptible to be negatively impacted by noise, and include schools, hospitals, daycares, and residential areas. The closest sensitive receptor to both Sites B and F is the housing area, which is located approximately 3,000 ft from Site F and approximately 4,500 ft southeast of Site B.

The sources of significant noise at FAPH include aircraft operations, weapons firing, and explosive detonations. Aircraft operations occur within designated locations on the Installation, which include one Army Airfield (AAF), one drop zone (with one assault strip), and many LZs. There is a designated LZ located south of Campbell Road at Site F, which is sometimes used for helicopter training activities. Essentially, any open field on the Installation has the potential to be used as a LZ for helicopters (Williams, 2010). The AAF is located on the southeast side of Route 301, across from the main gate and is only used for helicopter operations. Daily AAF operations are low, averaging fewer than 10 per day (FAPH, 2009a). Fixed-wing operations are typically conducted at the drop zone, which is located in the northwest corner of the installation.

The discharge of weapons and explosive devices generates additional noise at the Fort. However, most live-fire training activities are conducted on the southeast portion of the Fort, across Route 301. Both Sites B and F are located on the northeastern portion of the Fort, on the opposite side of Route 301. There are two live-fire ranges located on the northeastern side of Route 301. However, both ranges are located at least four miles from Sites B and F. The Fort's noise environment is guided by the FAPH Environmental Noise Management Plan, which

provides information and recommendations for reducing noise impacts for all activities on the Installation.

3.9.2 *Environmental Consequences*

Alternative One

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to the noise environment. Short-term impacts are expected to result from construction activities. However, potential construction-related noise impacts would be minor in context and intensity and temporary, terminating at the end of construction. Construction would occur during daylight hours which would reduce annoyance experienced by receptors. Properly maintained construction vehicles and equipment would also minimize the potential for adverse noise impacts. The site is located far enough away from existing development that construction noise is not expected to create any significant impacts to sensitive receptors, such as the housing area located southwest of the site. Increased truck traffic during construction and the associated noise would have a minor, temporary, adverse impact. However, the impact would be short-term in duration and of limited intensity.

Operational noise impacts associated with the new USAR Center and unit training activities are also expected to be less than significant. An increase in POV and military equipment traffic is expected from the operation of the new USAR Center. Since the FT staff working during the weekdays would be so small, the impact during the week is not expected to produce any significant impact to the existing noise environment. During the one weekend a month that Reservists would train at FAPH and possible week long annual training, a larger amount of POV and military equipment would be expected and would generate a greater amount of noise. However, the overall number of military and civilian personnel regularly working at FAPH during the weekends is expected to be less than the weekdays. Therefore, the reduced number of weekend personnel would likely offset the additional noise generated by USAR traffic.

Classroom training, administrative activities, and maintenance activities occurring at the USAR Center are not expected to generate any significant noise impacts. The weapons simulator at the USAR Center would be an Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000. The EST 2000 is an indoor, computer-generated weapons training system. The simulator provides training scenarios through the use of realistic weapons and video. The simulator uses real weapons that have been modified to include electronic noises instead of live ammunition. The simulator's volume can be manually controlled, however activities could be disruptive to nearby offices or classrooms. The simulator would not produce noise levels that would carry outside of the USAR Center building. The simulator would likely be located in an area that does not share walls with administrative offices or classrooms to avoid interference and sound damping material would be used to minimize the amount of noise leaving the simulator room. Training activities that the USAR unit may conduct, such as land navigation, bridge training activities, and annual weapons training, would take place on existing training areas and ranges at other locations on the Installation, or possibly at other installations. Those activities occurring at FAPH would be

consistent with current use of the training areas and ranges and would not be expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to the noise environment.

Alternative Two

Under Alternative Two, noise impacts would be similar to those anticipated as a result of implementing Alternative One. No significant adverse impacts are expected.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would not result in any noise impacts.

Cumulative Impacts

Construction-related noise generated by the implementation of the Proposed Action would be temporary and minor in context and intensity. Other activities at FAPH that generate noise include aircraft operations, training activities, vehicular and military equipment traffic, weapons discharge, and explosive devices. Construction noise and the other sources of noise attenuate within short distances of the source. While small surges in noise may occur when, for example, an aircraft passes over a construction site; the average noise levels are not anticipated to exceed acceptable thresholds (greater than 65 DNL) for nearby sensitive receptors. The noise may result in a temporary annoyance during the surge but would be less than significant given the short duration.

The USAR Center and training activities associated with the USAR unit are not expected to result in any significant impacts to the noise environment. The addition of the proposed AWG training complex and EOD field training would result in greater levels of noise due to the use of weapons and explosives. The specific noise impacts for each project were addressed separately in project-specific environmental analysis documenting no significant impacts to the noise environment. Due to the small scale of the USAR Center project and the negligible amount of noise expected to result from the operation of the USAR Center and training activities, when combined with other proposed projects at FAPH, cumulative impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. Additionally, anticipated noise generated at either site proposed for USAR construction would not likely reach communities outside Installation boundaries. The Town of Bowling Green would be the closest noise receptor outside of FAPH, but is far enough away from either site that noise generated at the USAR Center would not likely affect the Town or surrounding communities. The small scale of the USAR Center project, when considered with noise generated by development outside of the Installation, would not result in any significant cumulative impact to the noise environment.

3.10 Socioeconomics

3.10.1 Affected Environment

Socioeconomic resources are defined as basic attributes associated with the human environment, primarily population and economic activity. Population encompasses the characteristics magnitude and distribution of people, while economic activity refers to terms of employment distribution, business growth, and individual income.

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the FAPH socioeconomic environment is defined as Fredericksburg City, Virginia, and Caroline, Essex, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties. The ROI covers an area of 1,653 square miles in northeastern Virginia.

FAPH is located in Caroline County, along the I-95 corridor, between two major metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs): the Baltimore-Washington MSA, comprising a population in excess of 2.4 million, and the Richmond-Petersburg MSA, with a population of more than 1.1 million (FAPH, 2007b). The Town of Bowling Green is located south of the Installation and the Town of Port Royal is located north of the Installation. Both towns are small with populations less than 500; however, they provide networks of local businesses that supply the Fort with retail, commercial, and dining establishments.

Caroline County's unemployment rate for the year 2009 averaged 8.2 percent, which is higher than the Commonwealth's rate of 6.7 percent, but lower than the national rate of 9.3 percent (VEC, 2010). The majority of working individuals who reside in Caroline County commute outside of the county for work. FAPH is one of Caroline County's largest employers. Other major employers include the Caroline County School Board, County of Caroline, Highway Service Venture, and Union Bankshares Corporation (VEC, 2010). According to the 2010 FAPH Army Stationing and Installation Plan (ASIP), the Installation had an average daily load of 2,879 personnel as of July 2010. Of that, 565 are FT employees, 384 are Reserve and National Guard personnel, and 1,930 are transient personnel involved in training activities.

EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, ensures fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. FAPH is not located in an area that has a disproportionately high concentration of minority or low income populations. Caroline County's 2008 estimated population was 68.6 percent White and 28.2 percent Black or African American; 0.7 percent American Indian or Alaska Native; 0.8 percent Asian; 0.0 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; and 1.7 percent persons of two or more races. Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin composed 3.9 percent of the total population. Note that persons of Hispanic or Latino origin can be of any race, so they are also included in applicable race categories. The 2008 population estimate for individuals in Caroline County living below poverty level was 9.3 percent, which is lower than the Commonwealth's estimated 10.2 percent (Census, 2010). Population estimates in the other counties within the ROI are similar to Caroline

County. No areas within the ROI have a disproportionately high concentration of minority or low income populations.

The USAR conducted a study to assess the potential socioeconomic impacts of the construction and operation of USAR Centers. The study includes 21 proposed USAR Centers spanning a cross-section of communities and a variety of facility sizes ranging from 73 to 734 Reservists at costs of \$7.5 million to \$26.4 million. The USAR used the Economic Impact Forecast System (EIFS), which employs the Rational Threshold Value (RTV) technique, to conduct the analysis. The study found that all of the proposed projects were well below the RTV thresholds for significance and calculated the size of projects necessary to cross the thresholds. These calculations indicated that projects under \$200 million and 5,000 Reservists would not require individual EIFS analysis. As a conservative measure, the USAR has established \$100 million and 1,000 Reservists as thresholds for any further socioeconomic analyses. This proposed USAR center construction project does not include construction in excess of \$100 million or more than 1,000 new employees (full-time and part-time) (Webster, 2009). As a result, no individual socioeconomic analyses are required for this project.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of Alternative One would not result in any significant socioeconomic or environmental justice impacts. Minor short-term beneficial impacts to the local economy would result from increased sales volume during construction. Operation of the new USAR Center would not result in a significant change in the number of FT personnel at FAPH and would have no significant impact on population, demographics, employment, housing, or demand on community services. However, minor beneficial impacts to the local economy would result from the addition of the FT personnel and during weekend and annual training activities, when Reservists would travel to the area and likely contribute to local sales volumes.

The following LEED components would be incorporated into the project when feasible: Specify materials from regional manufacturers and/or regionally extracted, harvested, or recovered resources to encourage the use of locally manufactured products, support the local economy, and reduce impacts from transportation.

There would be no disproportionate adverse environmental or health effects on low income or minority populations as a result of Alternative One. No environmental justice impacts are anticipated.

Alternative Two

Implementation of Alternative Two would result in impacts similar to those associated with Alternative One. Since the majority of Site B is forested, there may be a slightly greater beneficial impact to local economy as a result of timber sales. No significant impacts to socioeconomics or environmental justice are anticipated.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to FAPH or the community.

Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Proposed Action, when considered with the growth of the surrounding community, is not anticipated to result in any significant cumulative impacts. Since the Proposed Action would have negligible direct impacts on population, demographics, employment, housing, and the demand on community services, no adverse cumulative socioeconomic impacts are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to the local economy would be expected as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action when combined with other proposed FAPH projects and the growth of the surrounding community. The combination of proposed projects would generate employment opportunities and support local business sales within the ROI. Additionally, the County Plan identifies potential commercial development along Route 301 to support growth at FAPH. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would have a cumulative, beneficial effect on development outside of the Installation boundaries.

3.11 Transportation and Circulation

3.11.1 Affected Environment

Access to FAPH is primarily limited to highway travel. Highway access to the Fort is available regionally via I-95, and Routes 1, 2, 17 and 301. Route 301, a four-lane, north-south route that bisects FAPH, provides access to the Installation's main entrance. Level of service (LOS) is a qualitative measure which describes the operational conditions within a traffic stream, generally described in terms of such factors as speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience, and safety. There are six LOS levels (A through F) defined. LOS A represents the best operating conditions, with no congestion. LOS F represents the worst conditions, with heavy congestion. The Virginia Department of Transportation rates the main roads into FAPH as LOS B or better (FAPH, 2007a).

There are several entrance gates located at FAPH. However, only the main gate is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Main Gate is a controlled access, 100 percent identification checkpoint, and would be the point of entry for travel to both Sites B and F. The main gate serves as the primary entry point for the Installation. All visitors to FAPH must enter through the Main Gate. The South Gate, located across Route 301 from the Main Gate, is open during peak hours during the week. This gate eliminates traffic congestion during peak hours. Other entrances along Installation boundaries may be opened for limited periods of time to accommodate unit training and avoid congestion at the Main Gate (FAPH, 2007a).

The primary transportation network within the Installation consists of roads and streets that act as main distribution arteries and provide access to all functional areas. The road network at FAPH consists of approximately 150 miles of roads. These roads range from hard surface to

tank trails. Secondary and tertiary light-duty roadways provide access between and within various functional areas. Wide, clear trails for the use of heavy tactical vehicles are adjacent to some roads. Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit on the Fort is 40 miles per hour, and 25 miles per hour for tactical vehicles. Site F is located approximately 1 mile north of the Main Gate at the corner of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. The site can be accessed via A.P. Hill Drive or Campbell Road. Site B is located approximately 3,000 ft west of Site F, off of Toombs Trail, which is an unpaved roadway that branches off of Campbell Road. The housing area is located on A.P. Hill Drive in between the Main Gate and the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. Travel to either site would require passage of this area, which has a highly-enforced restricted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

No rail access or service is available at FAPH. The closest city to FAPH served by rail transportation, via Amtrak, is Fredericksburg, Virginia, which is 20 miles north of the main entrance of the Installation. The City of Fredericksburg is serviced by Amtrak's Carolinian/Piedmont and Northeast Regional routes (Amtrak, 2010). Ground transportation between Fredericksburg and the Installation (approximately 30 minutes driving time) is available via POV, bus, limousine, taxi or rental car. The City of Richmond is located approximately 35 miles to the south of the Installation and is also served by rail transportation via Amtrak.

No public transit access or bus service is available on FAPH. The Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) provides public bus transportation between and within the City of Fredericksburg, and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. FRED provides regular service to Bowling Green and limited service to the Main Gate of FAPH (FRED, 2010). General aviation services are available to the north of the Fort at Shannon Airport in Fredericksburg, and to the south at Hanover County Municipal Airport. The closest commercial airport is the Richmond International Airport, located approximately 45 miles south of the Fort.

FAPH has one AAF, one drop zone, one assault airstrip and many authorized landing or pick-up zones to support airborne and aviation training for both fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, which includes eight Flight Training Areas for helicopter training and several helicopter-landing pads throughout the Installation. The Army conducts fixed-wing aircraft operations primarily at the drop zone, which is in the northwest portion of the Installation. The U.S. Army Night Vision Laboratory also uses the Installation drop zone and assault airstrip for night-vision research. The 70-acre AAF is on the southeast side of the main gate on Route 301, and the Army uses the AAF only for rotary-wing operations. FAPH does not support private access to the Installation via aircraft. Because there are no permanently assigned aircraft on the installation, military aviation support facilities are limited.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Under Alternative One, no significant adverse impacts to transportation are anticipated. Construction of the USAR Center on Site F would not require the creation of new roads or

extension of existing roads. Short-term increases in traffic would occur on the Installation and along main routes to the Installation during construction due to the movement of materials, equipment, and construction crews. The construction traffic would be minor in context and intensity and temporary in nature, lasting through the end of the construction. Long-term minor impacts would result from the additional FT personnel that would work at the USAR Center during the week and the Reservists that would travel to the Center for weekend and annual training activities. The addition of 12 FT personnel is not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to transportation or circulation at FAPH. The maximum number of Reservists expected to travel to the USAR Center is 185. However, these individuals would be traveling to FAPH one weekend a month during non-peak hours.

Alternative Two

Impacts anticipated under Alternative Two would be similar to those described for Alternative One. Individuals traveling to this site would enter through the Main Gate and proceed on A.P. Hill Drive to the intersection with Campbell Road. The site is approximately 3,000 ft west of the intersection. Due to the remote location of Site B, the extension and expansion of the existing roadway would be necessary in order to provide adequate access to the site. The layout of the site would determine how far the road would need to be extended, however it would likely be a few hundred feet. There is no development past Archer Campsite, which is located southeast of Site B on Campbell Road. Therefore, it is not likely that there would be much traffic, aside from USAR personnel, in that area. These road improvements are not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the existing transportation system at FAPH. They would likely result in a beneficial impact by providing improved access to that area of the Installation.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to traffic or circulation within FAPH or routes into the Installation.

Cumulative Impacts

Activities associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives are not anticipated to contribute to any cumulative impacts to regional transportation. The capacity of existing routes into FAPH is adequate to accommodate both the anticipated future growth in the surrounding communities, development on FAPH, as well as the minor increases associated with the Proposed Action. Additionally, the Fort's updated RPMP will guide future transportation and circulation improvements and development within Installation boundaries.

3.12 Utilities

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) provides electrical service to FAPH via four substations located along the perimeter of the Installation. The electrical system is operated and maintained by REC. The majority of electrical power is provided by the FAPH substation, which is located west of the Headquarters Area of the Fort on State Route 608. There are 411 electrical transformers located on the Fort. Electrical service is available at both Sites B and F, however no transformers are located on either site.

The only potable water supply at FAPH is groundwater from the regional aquifer. Potable water is accessed through a series of wells located throughout FAPH. Production facilities draw water to the surface, disinfect it, and pump it to elevated storage tanks. Production and distribution are managed by a private service contractor, American Water. Water supply and storage at FAPH is adequate to meet current and future demands (FAPH, 2007a).

The Installation's wastewater collection and treatment system is operated and maintained by American Water. There are two sewage treatment plants (STPs) at FAPH, the Wilcox STP and Cooke STP. The majority of the Installation utilizes the Wilcox STP. Wastewater from Sites B and F would be directed to the Wilcox STP. The Wilcox STP has a designed capacity of 530,000 gallons per day and a peak emergency capacity of 1,030,000 gallons per day in extended aeration mode. Additionally the STP has two storage facilities which include two 1.5 million gallon basins (FAPH, 2007a). Discharge from the STP is permitted under two VPDES permits No. VA0032034 and No. VAN020035.

Solid waste accumulated at the Installation has been transported off-post since the Fort's landfill closed in 1992. Installation solid waste is diverted to the King George County landfill (FAPH, 2007a). Construction contractors are responsible for the collection and disposal of construction and demolition debris on projects sites. The USAR Center would be subject to the Fort's Solid Waste Management Plan and would be required to dispose of solid waste in accordance with the Plan. FAPH also operates a recycling program for metals, aluminum cans, paper, plastic, and cardboard.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of Alternative One is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to utilities at the Fort. Construction of the new USAR Center would meet LEED requirements, which would aid the Installation in achieving targets established by the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005 and Army policies.

Implementation of the Proposed Action at Site F is not expected to significantly impact the electrical system at FAPH. Electrical lines are available on site and there is sufficient capacity to

support the USAR Center construction and operation. The power line that bisects the site would be most likely be relocated underground.

Potable water is available at Site F. The USAR Center would be connected to the existing water line along A.P. Hill Drive. Sanitary sewer is also available at the site, along Campbell Road. Portable toilets may temporarily be placed on the site by the construction contractor, but contents would be removed and disposed of offsite by the contractor, and would not impact the FAPH sanitary sewer. Construction and operational activities associated with the Proposed Action are not expected to significantly impact water or wastewater systems at FAPH.

The copper telephone line that runs along A.P. Hill Drive at Site F would not support the USAR Center telephone system, but would be used by the USAR to support the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System. All other phone and data systems would require fiber optic lines. FAPH plans to install a new fiber optic telephone line that would service the site and provide more than enough capacity for the USAR Center. This new fiber optic line is part of the Fort's ongoing communications upgrade and is not part of the USAR's proposed project. Utilization of the new fiber optic line is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the communications system at FAPH.

The project would include a substantial amount of LEED design components specific to energy and water conservation. The following is a representative list of some of the major project design features that would be incorporated into the project when feasible: buildings would be sited to take maximum advantage of solar access, wind conditions, shading, and natural lighting to reduce the size of HVAC systems and the amount of artificial lighting required; would contain auto-dimming interior lighting to conserve energy; where possible, design the site to include landscaping and vegetated islands within parking lots to minimize heat islands and energy use by HVAC equipment; specify Energy Star lighting, appliances, and equipment that reduce the electrical loads on the building; utilize renewable energy technologies to offset the use of non-renewable energy sources, such as solar-powered lights for all external lighting; provide landscaping that includes native or well-adapted plants and does not require potable water for irrigation; install water-efficient plumbing fixtures, appliances, and flow restrictors, which reduce water consumption; and estimate water usage based on building occupancy and analyzed programmatic data, to help identify alternative ways of conserving water.

To reduce the amount of waste that would be generated on the site and requiring disposal, the following LEED design components have been identified: implement a project-specific waste management plan to divert the amount of waste disposed of in landfills and to redirect recyclable materials back to the manufacturing process; design the building to optimize materials use and minimize the amount of construction waste; and install products that can be recycled and that contain recycled materials.

Alternative Two

No significant adverse impacts to utilities are anticipated to result from the implementation of the Proposed Action at Site B. However, due to Site B's remote location, potable water and sewer lines would need to be extended. Water and sewer are available at the Archer Campsite, approximately 800 ft from the southeast corner of the site. Telephone lines are also available at Archer Campsite, but would require upgrade and extension to support the USAR Center's communications system. It is not known whether the area in which Site B is located is part of the Fort's ongoing telephone line upgrade project. Additionally, although electrical lines are located at the southeastern corner of Site B, they would likely need to be upgraded and extended to support USAR construction.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. No impacts are expected as a result of the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

Solid waste generated by USAR Center construction and operation would contribute to the total amount of solid waste generated by the Fort's daily operations and other construction projects. However, this additional solid waste is not anticipated to significantly impact the regional landfills, even when combined with the other FAPH proposed projects and surrounding community growth.

In the past, while hosting the National Boy Scout Jamboree, the Fort's utility infrastructure has supported more than 40,000 scouts and 275,000 additional visitors during the 10-day event (FAPH, 2007a). Therefore, the existing utilities infrastructure at FAPH has proven to be more than adequate to support proposed new development on the Fort. Additionally, the regional utilities are capable of handling the additional capacity necessary for the construction and operation of the USAR Center. Therefore, when considered with other past, present and future projects on and off the Installation, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in any significant cumulative impacts to utilities.

Incorporating elements of sustainable design would further ensure the project does not contribute to significant cumulative impacts to utilities and associated supply resources. Design components intended to reduce energy consumption could contribute to an overall reduction in fossil fuel-based energy obtained from power suppliers. Design features that reduce water usage would minimize the amount of water required for operation of the USAR Center, thus minimizing the cumulative impact resulting from demand for water resources. Additionally, low impact development practices and post-construction stormwater management would minimize impacts to the wastewater collection system.

3.13 Hazardous and Toxic Substances

3.13.1 Affected Environment

FAPH is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Large Quantity Generator (LQG) of hazardous wastes and is a former Transportation, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facility. The Fort's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) identification number is VA2210020416. The Installation cannot store hazardous waste more than 90 days and uses a RCRA-permitted contractor to transport and dispose of the waste offsite. The FAPH Directorate of Public Works' management of hazardous wastes is guided by the Installation Hazardous Waste Management/Waste Minimization Plan. The Hazardous Materials Management Program guides the management of hazardous materials for all Installation, tenant, and contractor activities at the Fort. The Fort also maintains the Hazardous Substance Management database, which tracks all hazardous materials procured, stored, or used on the Installation.

Site F was used by the Fort as a POL storage yard until its closure in 1996. The Fort used the area to park fuel tanker trucks and trailers, ranging in capacity from 1,200 to 5,500 gallons. The tankers also transported fuel to other locations on the Installation and fuel transfer operations were conducted on site. The tankers typically stored either JP-8 fuel, diesel fuel, or Mogas. The site also housed 55 gallon drums of antifreeze, JP-8 fuel, used oil, absorbent pads, lube grease, diesel fuel filters, and methyl alcohol. At the time of its closure the following site inventory was documented: three 5,500 gallon JP-8 fuel tank trailers; four 5,000 gallon JP-8 fuel tank trailers; two 5,000 gallon diesel fuel tank trailers; one 5,000 gallon Mogas fuel tank trailer; one 2,000 gallon diesel fuel tank truck; one 2,000 gallon Mogas fuel tank truck; two 1,200 gallon JP-8 fuel tank trucks; and thirty 55 gallon drums. This inventory was representative of the amount of POL typically stored at the site (Moore, 1996). Two metal storage sheds were also located on the site and were mainly used to store used painting supplies.

The Installation began site closure in the early summer of 1996. Tankers, trailers, and associated equipment were turned in to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) to be redistributed and used at other facilities. The 55 gallon drums were removed from the site by a waste disposal contractor. During site closure, a site inspection identified evidence of minor soil contamination, most likely due to leaking tanks or drums. A total of 43 soil samples and four sediment samples were taken at the site and sent for testing to analyze benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) concentrations. Two additional soil samples were taken for analysis of methanol and ethylene glycol content. Four of the soil samples tested exceeded the Virginia DEQ informal action levels for TPHs. Benzene was not detected in any soil samples, toluene was detected in one soil sample, ethylbenzene was detected in two soil samples, and xylene was detected in five soil samples. The BTEX levels detected did not exceed the EPA's risk based concentration levels and were not considered a concern to the site. Locations of BTEX detections generally coincided with TPH detections. A very low level of TPHs were detected in only one of the sediment samples, which indicated that TPHs were not migrating appreciably from shallow surface soil via surface

water flow on the site. Data indicated that petroleum impacts were limited to shallow soil and that no impact to groundwater was expected (Moore, 1996).

In 1997, Dames and Moore completed soil remediation activities at four localized areas at the former POL storage yard that had contained levels of TPHs that exceeded Virginia DEQ action levels. Contaminated soils were removed from the site and properly disposed. Confirmatory sampling of the excavated sites did not result in any concentrations of TPHs that exceeded Virginia DEQ action levels. Clean backfill material was brought on site and filled in the excavation sites (Moore, 1998). The closure report and soil excavation documentation were sent to the Virginia DEQ for review, however a response was never received.

Additionally, Site F was used for POL training. There are six POL training berms located on the northeastern corner of the site (See Figure 3-1). The historic use of these berms is unknown. There is no record of training activities that used the berms or whether hazardous materials were used during training activities. It is possible that these berms were never used or that water was used in place of hazardous materials.

There is no record or evidence of Site B being used to store, transport, or dispose of any hazardous materials, hazardous waste or toxic substances. Based on a review of historical aerial photographs, the site has been undeveloped forest land since the 1950s.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of Alternative One is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts resulting from hazardous or toxic substances at the Fort. Construction activities may generate hazardous waste. Construction-related waste would be stored and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Operational activities may require the storage, handling, and use of hazardous and toxic substances. For instance, the OMS would use and store hazardous materials commonly associated with vehicle and equipment maintenance activities, such as POLs, coolants, and batteries. When properly used, stored and disposed of, the materials would pose no threat. However, if improper usage, storage or disposal occurs, they could potentially release hazardous substances into the environment. If a spill were to occur, the IDPCP would be implemented and contaminated soil and other waste would be properly disposed. Because these substances would be managed in accordance with applicable regulations and management plans, the potential for an inadvertent release to the environment is minimal.

The historic use of Site F as a POL storage yard and POL training facility is not expected to result in any adverse impacts, since the site was closed and remediation activities were completed. However, if during construction or operation of the USAR Center, if any contamination is discovered, work would cease until the site is evaluated and necessary remedial activities have been completed.

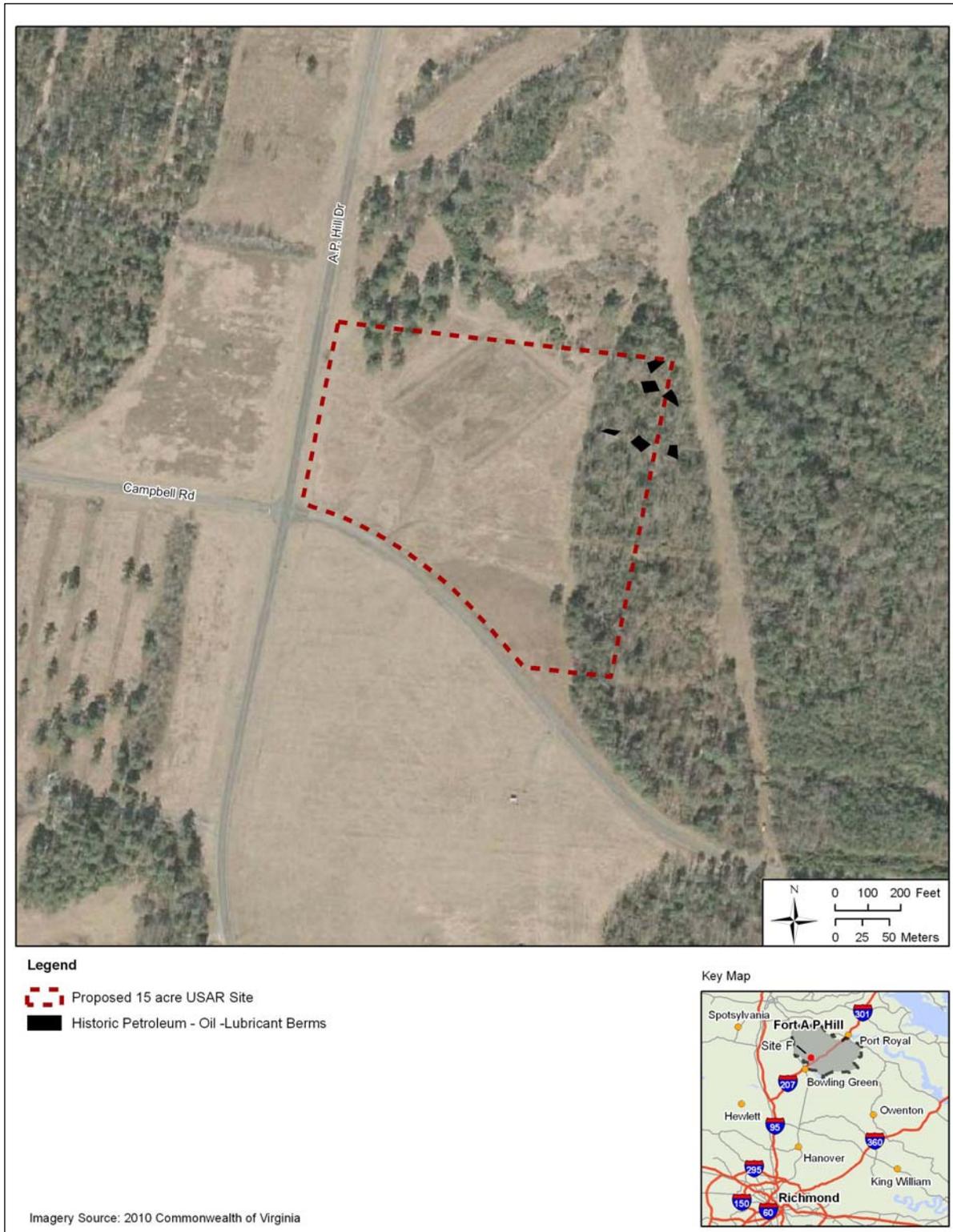


Figure 3-3. POL Training Berms at Alternative One (Site F)

Many LEED components would be incorporated to reduce hazardous and toxic substances and wastes. The following is a representative list of some of the measures that would be included in the project when feasible: install products that are not required to be maintained by toxic materials, which help prevent occupants from exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals; use paints that do not contain lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, and cadmium; use paints with low-to-no volatile emissions; and use admixtures, curing compounds, and sealers that have low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Alternative Two

Implementation of Alternative Two would result in similar operational impacts as those associated with Alternative One. However, the undeveloped nature and historic use of Site B, may suggest a lower potential of previous hazardous materials use or storage at the site. As with Alternative One, if during construction or operational activities, any hazardous or toxic substances are identified on the site, work would cease until the site is evaluated and necessary remedial activities have been completed. No significant adverse impacts related to hazardous or toxic substances are expected to result from the implementation of Alternative Two.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no impacts related to hazardous toxic substances.

Cumulative Impacts

It is anticipated that the contributions of the Proposed Action, even when considered in combination with other past, present or future actions, would not result in a significant adverse cumulative impact to hazardous or toxic resources. The addition of the EOD field training area, AWG training complex, and Infantry Platoon Battle Course would likely result in increased amounts of hazardous materials stored at FAPH and hazardous waste generated. However, all transporting, handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste would be in compliance with FAPH policies, and applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Therefore, the cumulative impact is expected to be less than significant.

3.14 Human Health and Safety

3.14.1 Affected Environment

Health and safety services, including police, fire and rescue protection, can be obtained on FAPH and within surrounding communities throughout Caroline County and the state of Virginia. Caroline County is comprised of two incorporated municipalities: The Towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal.

The FAPH Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division has the primary responsibility of enforcing the rules, regulations and security of the Installation. The FAPH Fire

Department provides fire prevention and protection services, including inspections and tests of fire protection equipment and systems at FAPH.

The Fire Department also provides hazardous materials, first responder, and emergency medical services to the Installation. There are two fire departments located on FAPH. The potential for wildfires to occur at FAPH, especially on the ranges, warranted the development of cooperative agreement between FAPH and the Virginia Department of Forestry for mutual fire protection aid (FAPH, 2007a).

The FAPH Lois E. Wells Health Clinic provides basic medical care to military personnel. The clinic, however, does not offer X-ray services or medical care for military family members. Basic sick call services are offered 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, while clinic services are offered 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Paramedic services are offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Major hospitals located off-site in the area include Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, and Henrico Doctors Hospital, Medical College of Virginia, St. Mary's Hospital and the Richmond Community Hospital in Richmond. Additional facilities and emergency services are located in Richmond and Fredericksburg.

The Caroline County Department of Fire-Rescue and Emergency Management provides fire and medical services to Caroline County residents. They are also available to assist surrounding communities and the FAPH Fire Department if needed. The Caroline County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police Department provide law enforcement protection throughout Caroline County and the state of Virginia, respectively. They are also available to assist FAPH Law Enforcement if needed.

EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, recognizes a growing body of scientific knowledge that demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks. The EO directs federal agencies to make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children.

3.14.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative One

Implementation of Alternative One is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to human health and safety. Construction contractors and USAR Center staff would comply with all applicable safety and occupational health regulations. Workers at all levels would receive training specific to the operation and maintenance specific to their duties and would be knowledgeable of emergency response procedures. Fire and rescue services are adequate to support the additional FT personnel during the week and Reservists during the weekend.

Hazardous materials and waste generated during construction and operation of the USAR Center would be handled, stored, and disposed of as prescribed by federal, state, and local regulations. Hazardous materials and wastes are addressed in detail in Section 3.13, *Hazardous and Toxic Substances*. The USAR would ensure that all personnel are trained on safety and emergency response and equipped with appropriate protective gear. Physical security measures would be incorporated into the design in accordance with the Army's AT/FP requirements, including maximum standoff distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas. Berms, heavy landscaping and bollards would be used to prevent access when standoff distances cannot be maintained. Additionally, secure fencing would be constructed on site in accordance with AT/FP requirements.

Many of the LEED components described in Section 3.13, Hazardous and Toxic Substances, would also be considered measures taken to reduce risks to human health and safety. For example, elimination or a reduction of hazardous chemicals used during construction and within building components would also reduce potential exposure for construction workers and USAR personnel.

There are no residences, schools, or day care centers on or adjacent to the site. During construction, barriers and signs would be used to deter children from playing in the construction area and equipment and vehicles would be secured when not in use. Additionally, children would not use the USAR Center once it is constructed. Construction and operation of the USAR Center is not expected to result in any environmental health risks or safety risks that may disproportionately affect children.

Alternative Two

Impacts associated with Alternative Two would be similar to that of Alternative One. No significant adverse impacts are expected to occur as a result of implementing Alternative Two.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USAR would not construct a new USAR Center at FAPH. No adverse or beneficial impacts to human health and safety are anticipated as a result of the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Proposed Action, in combination with other proposed FAPH projects and surrounding community growth, would not result in any significant cumulative impacts to health and human safety, or any environmental health or safety risks that may disproportionately affect children. No adverse cumulative impacts are anticipated with regard to human health and safety.

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4.0 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This EA is intended to be a concise public document that provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare a FNSI or an EIS. NEPA requires agencies of the Federal Government conduct this type of environmental impact analysis in order to evaluate major federal actions. These include projects financed, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by a federal agency that have the potential to affect human health or the environment. In order to determine whether an impact is considered significant as it relates to NEPA, both the context and intensity of potential impacts are considered in addition to their cumulative contribution to existing local and regional resource conditions and trends.

The context of an impact relates to the setting in which the impact takes place and the anticipated severity of the impact in terms of the type, quality, and sensitivity of the resource involved; the location of the proposed project; the duration of the effect (short- or long-term) and other considerations of context. For example, an increase in traffic on a local roadway connecting two buildings would likely affect traffic just in the local area, and the context of the impact would be the local street system. On the other hand, closure of an interstate highway could have impacts on local, regional, and even national circulation. In this case, the context of the impact would need to be assessed on a local, regional, and national level. Context also takes into account the existing condition of the resource.

The intensity of an impact is related to the magnitude of the change over the existing conditions. Based on the example above, increasing traffic on a local roadway by five trucks a day may be a very low-intensity impact if current trips average 100 trucks per day, but would be a high-intensity impact if current trips averaged one truck per day.

A summary of the potential impacts and measures to minimize adverse impacts is provided in Table 4-1. Adverse impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action at FAPH would be local in context with the exception of air quality and transportation, which although regional in context, would still only constitute a minor adverse impact due to very low levels of anticipated emissions and increased traffic. Likewise, the intensity of potential adverse impacts is anticipated to be less than significant for all resources evaluated. Implementation of the Proposed Action would also have direct, beneficial impacts to the local economy.

Cumulative impact is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Implementing the Proposed Action would result in minor contributions to adverse cumulative impacts. Construction of the USAR Center at FAPH could result in minor erosion; surface and stormwater runoff; and minor impacts to water resources during construction. Additionally, minor impacts from additional groundwater usage; minor contributions to air emissions; and minor

impacts from the generation of solid wastes during construction and operation activities would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. These impacts would combine with impacts associated with ongoing growth and development in the vicinity of FAPH. Given the minor intensity of these impacts, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in a significant adverse cumulative impact, even when taken in conjunction with the other growth on and around FAPH.

Based on the analysis contained herein, it is the conclusion of this EA that neither the implementation of the Proposed Action at either Alternative site, nor the No Action Alternative, would constitute a major federal action with significant impact on human health or the environment. This EA recommends a FNSI should be issued to complete the NEPA documentation process.

Table 4-1. Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts for the Proposed Action

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
Land use		X		There would be no significant impacts to land use at Site B or Site F. Both sites are used for training and construction at either site would result in a loss of a minimal amount of training land at the Fort. Additionally, Site B would require substantial tree removal, resulting in a loss of forest. However, these impacts are anticipated to be minor.
Topography, Geology, and Soils		X		No significant impacts are anticipated at either site. Short-term minor impacts to soils would be expected during construction. The USAR would obtain applicable permits and implement best management practices (BMPs) during construction to minimize the potential for soil erosion and sediment runoff on the site.
Hydrology and Water Resources		X		Implementation of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts to surface water, groundwater, coastal zone, or floodplains. Neither project site is located within a floodplain or contains any surface water features. The USAR would comply with the Fort's IDPCP and site-specific SWPPP to prevent oil products and hazardous substances from reaching waterways. The USAR would obtain applicable permits and implement BMPs during construction and operation to minimize the impact to water resources at the Installation.
Biological Resources and Wetlands		X		No significant impacts to biological resources or wetlands are anticipated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. There are no threatened and endangered (T&E) species or critical habitat known to occur on either project site. There are no wetlands on either site. A population of swamp pink exists in a wetland located 1,150 feet east of Site F. The Proposed Action is not anticipated to have direct impacts to this wetland, however indirect impacts could result from stormwater runoff, especially during construction. Implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would minimize the potential impacts to the wetland and swamp pink population.

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
Cultural Resources		X		No significant impacts to cultural resources are anticipated at either project site. There are no structures on either site. A site-specific Phase I survey was conducted at Site F, which identified an historic farmstead and associated artifacts in the northeastern, wooded portion of the site. However, the site and artifacts were determined to contain insufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No further action was recommended and it was determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources. A site-specific Phase I survey would be necessary at Site B prior to any ground disturbing activities. However, there are no known cultural resources on the site.
Air Quality		X		FAPH is located in an attainment area for all criteria air pollutants. Air emissions from construction activities, and vehicles and equipment associated with the operational activities at the USAR Center are anticipated to result in a less than significant, adverse impact to local and regional air quality. Implementation of BMPs during construction activities would minimize potential adverse impacts to air quality.
Visual Resources		X		The USAR Center would be constructed to conform to the FAPH Installation Design Guide. Neither project site is visible from outside the Installation and would have no impact to visual resources of surrounding communities. Both project sites are undeveloped and the Proposed Action would result in a minor loss of natural habitat, however these impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Noise		X		Minor, short-term adverse impacts are expected to result during construction of the USAR Center. However, neither project site is located in area of sensitive noise receptors. Construction-related noise impacts would be temporary and would cease once construction was complete. Operational noise impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice		X		Minor short and long term beneficial impacts would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. Minor short-term impacts to the local economy would be expected during construction activities. Long-term beneficial impacts to the local economy would result from the addition of new personnel that would relocate to the area. Additionally, during drill weekends and annual training activities, Reservists would travel to the area and contribute to local business sales volumes. No adverse environmental justice impacts are expected to occur.
Transportation and Circulation		X		The transportation infrastructure at and surrounding FAPH is sufficient to support the Proposed Action. Minor short-term impacts to transportation and circulation would result during construction activities as construction vehicles and equipment are brought to and from the project site. However, these impacts are expected to be less than significant and temporary in nature. Long-term, minor impacts to transportation and circulation are expected from the additional full-time personnel that would staff the USAR Center during the week and from Reservists traveling to and from the USAR Center for drill weekend and annual training events. However, these impacts are expected to be less than significant.
Utilities		X		Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the utilities at FAPH. The utilities infrastructure would support construction and operation of the USAR Center. Site B is located in a more remote location and would likely require a greater extension of utility services than Site F. However, impacts from the extension of utilities services are expected to be less than significant. USAR Center operations are not expected to result in any significant impacts to utilities at either site.

Resource Area	Level of Impact			Summary of Potential Impacts and Measures to Minimize Impacts
	Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact	
Hazardous and Toxic Substances		X		Long-term minor adverse impacts related to hazardous materials and waste would be expected as a result of the Proposed Action. There would be an increased use of materials such as POLs, solvents, and paints from maintenance activities. All hazardous materials and waste would be handled in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations and in accordance with the Installation's procedures established in the Hazardous Waste Management Plan, IDPCP, and site-specific SWPPP. Construction-related impacts would be minor and temporary in nature. Operational impacts would be long-term, but minor. No significant impacts are expected to result from construction or operational activities.
Human Health and Safety		X		No significant adverse impacts to human health and safety would be expected. Implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would minimize potential adverse impacts. All personnel would be properly trained and would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety regulations during all construction and operational activities. Impacts to human health and safety are anticipated to be less than significant.

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7.0 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Caroline County Administration
117 Ennis Street
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Caroline County Board of Supervisors
Bowling Green District
205 Travis Street
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Caroline County Board of Supervisors
Port Royal District
P.O. Box 447
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Caroline County Department of Planning
and Community Development
P.O. Box 424
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Caroline County Public Library
Bowling Green Branch
17202 Richmond Turnpike
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Caroline County Public Library
Port Royal Branch
419 King Street
Port Royal, Virginia 22535

Essex County Administration
P.O. Box 1079
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

Essex Public Library
117 N. Church Lane
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

King George County Administration
10459 Courthouse Road, Suite 200
King George, Virginia 22485

King George County Board of Supervisors
Shiloh District
10459 Courthouse Road
King George, Virginia 22485

Middle Peninsula Planning District
Commission
P.O. Box 1079
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
11093 SW Lewis Memorial Drive
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Rappahannock Tribe Cultural Center
5036 Indian Neck Road
Indian Neck, Virginia 23148

Spotsylvania County Administration
P.O. Box 99
Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553

Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 99
Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553

Town of Bowling Green
117 Butler Street
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Town of Port Royal
621 Main Street
Port Royal, Virginia 22535

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1030
Warsaw, Virginia 22572

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

Virginia Council on Indians
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Virginia Department of Environmental
Quality
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Virginia National Defense Industrial
Authority
P.O. Box 798
Richmond, Virginia 23218

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8.0 LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Jason Applegate, Wildlife Biologist, FAPH Environmental Division

Terry Banks, Environmental Chief, FAPH Environmental Division

David Borchardt, NEPA Specialist, ACSIM-ODR Environmental Office

Kristine Brown, NEPA Coordinator, FAPH Environmental Division

Heather Casey, GIS Specialist, FAPH DPW

Laura Dellolio, NEPA Coordinator, 99th RSC Environmental Division

Mike Earl, Range Officer, FAPH Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization
and Security (DPTMS)

Gef Fisher, Environmental Specialist, FAPH Environmental Division

Billy Fortner, Real Property Master Planner, FAPH DPW

LTC Shane Galster, Project Officer, ACSIM-ODR

Jay Green, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Remediation Group

Mike Higgins, Project Manager, Louisville Corps of Engineers

Carla Jones, Air Compliance Specialist, FAPH Environmental Division

Scott Kittle, Deputy Director, FAPH DPTMS

Timothy Southard, Natural Resources Specialist, FAPH Environmental Division

John West, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Compliance Group

Charles Williams, Assistant Aviation Officer, FAPH AAF

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APPENDIX A. RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY

RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY

Project Name: Construction and Operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
Point of Contact: Laura Dellolio, NEPA Program Manager, 99th RSC
Phone/E-mail: (609) 562-7661/laura.dellolio@usar.army.mil
Project Description:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) proposes to construct and operate a USAR Center on government owned property located at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) Training Building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards of organizational vehicle parking. The Training Building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide work bays for maintenance activities and administrative offices. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 Reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, one track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the Reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month. The Proposed Action would provide adequate unit storage and both military equipment and privately owned vehicle parking areas.

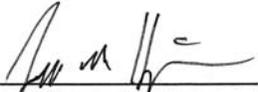
Conformity Determination:

General Conformity under the Clean Air Act, Section 176 has been evaluated according to the requirements of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 93, Subpart B. The requirements of this rule are not applicable to the Proposed Action or the alternatives because:

All activities associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives are in an area designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to be **in attainment** for all criteria pollutants.

Supporting Documentation:

- Attached
- Appear in the NEPA Document
- Other – Not necessary



JEFFREY M. HRZIC
Chief, Environmental Division
99th RSC

28 June 2010
Date

APPENDIX B. COASTAL RESOURCES CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

**Determination of Consistency with
Virginia's Coastal Resources Management Program for
Construction and Operation of a U.S. Army Reserve Center at
Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia**

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, this document provides the Commonwealth of Virginia with the U.S. Army Reserve's consistency determination under CZMA section 307(c)(1) and 15 CFR Part 930, sub-part C, as enforced by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). The Army's Proposed Action described herein would be carried out in a manner consistent with the Virginia CZMP's enforceable policies.

1. Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of a U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Center on government owned land at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. The Army has identified two possible sites at FAPH for the Proposed Action: the preferred site is an approximate 15 acre site located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; the alternative site is an approximate 10 acre site located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Archer Campsite, approximately one-half mile from the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) Training Building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards of organizational vehicle parking. The Training Building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide work bays for maintenance activities and administrative offices. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 Reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, one track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the Reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month. The Proposed Action would provide adequate unit storage and both military equipment and privately owned vehicle parking areas.

2. Assessment of Probable Effects

The planning and design phase of the Proposed Action would not have any effects on coastal zone resources. All applicable permits required for the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Action would be obtained and complied with throughout the duration of the project. A review of permits and/or approvals required under Virginia CZMP enforceable policies will be conducted. The Proposed Action has been evaluated and the probable effects on enforceable policies are as followed:

Fisheries Management: The Proposed Action does not involve the building, dumping, or otherwise trespassing on or over, encroaching on, taking or using any material from the beds of bays, ocean, rivers, streams, or creeks within Virginia. There are no surface waters located on the Army's preferred site or alternative project site. The Proposed Action would have no reasonably foreseeable effects on fish spawning, nursery, or feeding grounds; and therefore has no foreseeable impacts to finfish or shellfish resources and would not affect the promotion of commercial or recreational fisheries. Additionally, no paints containing Tributyltin would be used as part of the Proposed Action.

Subaqueous Lands Management: The Proposed Action does not involve encroachment in, on, or over state-owned submerged lands. Therefore, no reasonably foreseeable effects to subaqueous lands are expected to result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Wetlands Management: There are no wetlands on either project site. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction and operations activities to avoid impacts to wetlands located near either project site. Additionally, all construction and operations activities would conform to the FAPH wetlands management program, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP), and site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and would comply with applicable stormwater or other permits to avoid impacts to nearby wetlands. During the course of the Proposed Action, if an unforeseen impact to wetlands is encountered, applicable federal, state, and local permits would be obtained for the project.

Dunes Management: The Proposed Action does not involve the alteration, destruction, or construction upon any coastal sand dunes. No sand dunes exist on either of the project sites, therefore no effects are expected to result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Non-point Source Pollution Control: The Proposed Action involves the construction of a USAR Center and would require ground disturbance. A site-specific SWPPP and ESCP plan would be developed for the USAR Center and a Virginia Stormwater Management Program permit would be obtained for construction activities. Through implementation of BMPs and compliance with applicable management plans and permits, non-point source pollution would be minimized as a result from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Point Source Pollution Control: The Proposed Action involves the construction of new water and wastewater lines to support the USAR Center. These new lines would connect to the existing water and wastewater lines at FAPH. New service lines would be constructed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. New water and wastewater line construction will comply with American Water construction standards, and applicable federal and state regulations.

Coastal Lands Management: The Proposed Action does not involve any activities within Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) regulated by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Through implementation of BMPs and compliance with applicable management plans,

regulations, and permits, no effects on coastal lands are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Shoreline Sanitation: The Proposed Action would not involve the construction of septic systems or sanitation facilities. Wastewater generated from the Proposed Action would be directed to the existing wastewater system at FAPH. Wastewater would not adversely affect any streams, rivers, or other waters of the Commonwealth.

Air Pollution Control: The Proposed Action would not generate air emissions that exceed *de minimis* threshold values. A Clean Air Act general conformity determination is not required and a Record of Non Applicability (RONA) has been prepared for the Proposed Action. The RONA is included as Appendix A in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas: The Proposed Action does not involve the development or redevelopment of any RPAs. Therefore, no effects to Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas are expected to result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

3. Summary of Findings

Based on the information provided within this document and the analysis provided in the EA for the Proposed Action, it is the Army's determination that the Proposed Action would have no adverse effect on the land and water uses or natural resources within Virginia's coastal zone. This determination is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia CZMP enforceable policies. Pursuant to 15 CFR section 930.41, the Virginia CZMP has 60 days from receipt of this document to concur with or object to the Army's consistency determination, or to request an extension under 15 CFR section 930.41(b). The Virginia CZMP's concurrence will be presumed if a response is received by the Army on or before the end of the 60 days. A written response should be sent to Ms. Laura Dellolio, 99th Regional Support Command, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, 5231 South Scott Plaza, Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640.

APPENDIX C. AGENCY COORDINATION LETTERS AND RESPONSES



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Dear Interested Party:

Subject: Request for Comments on Proposed Action (General Scoping)

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and Alternative Two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately fifteen acres of government-owned land at FAPH, Virginia. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA as required by the NEPA. In addition to meeting the requirements of the NEPA, compliance with other relevant environmental regulations such as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will be accomplished during the NEPA process.

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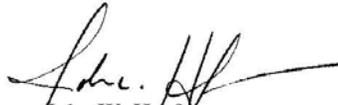
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As part of the early coordination and NEPA scoping process, we are identifying key issues that will need to be addressed as part of this study. Please provide your comments on reasonable alternatives, environmental impacts, or other issues or concerns you may have that are relevant to the proposed action. Once the EA is complete, it will be available on the Fort A.P. Hill website at <http://www.aphill.army.mil>. If NEPA analysis results in a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement will be required, then a Notice of Intent will be prepared.

In order to sufficiently address key project issues while maintaining the project schedule, we are requesting that you provide a written response to this letter within 30 days of receipt. Please send your response to NEPA Coordinator, Fort A.P. Hill, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE, 19952 N. Range Road, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123 or by email at terry.banks1@us.army.mil. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at (804) 633-8223 or at the above referenced email address.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefliger
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

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SEE REPLY BEGINNING
ON PAGE 2.

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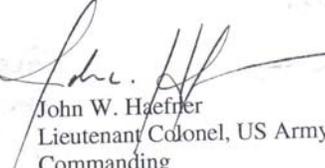
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,


John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures

5/27/2010

FROM THE "ALTERNATIVE TWO SITE MAP" ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER, I DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE WHERE ON THE A.P. HILL LOCATION MAP YOUR PROPOSED FACILITY IS SITED. I AM PASTOR OF ENON BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED ON SUPPLY ROAD IN ESSEX COUNTY, APPROXIMATELY AT YOUR SOUTHWEST BOUNDARY. EXPLOSIONS ON YOUR BASE IN FEBRUARY 2009 DID DAMAGE TO OUR BUILDING. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND CONCUSSIONS OF THAT MAGNITUDE ARE A THING OF THE PAST.

I NOTICE FROM YOUR LETTER THERE IS A CONCERN FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES. IN THE PAST 30 MONTHS BOTH BLACK BEARS AND PEACOCKS ARE NOW APPEARING IN THE AREA WITHIN A 3-MILE RADIUS OF OUR CHURCH

OVER

BUILDING. I SIMPLY SUBMIT THAT CHANGES ON YOUR FACILITY HAVE DISTURBED THEIR HABITAT AND CAUSED THEM TO MOVE. THAT SUGGESTS YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING TO AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF SPECIES. THIS IS NOT A COMPLAINT. SIMPLY AN OBSERVATION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

GUY D. MATTA, JR.
PASTOR, ENON BAPTIST CHURCH
540/775-7719



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Gary Skinner
Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 99
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Dear Mr. Skinner:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

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-2-

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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Hafner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



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HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Anne Richardson, Chief
Rappahannock Tribe Cultural Center
5036 Indian Neck Road
Indian Neck, VA 23148

Dear Ms. Richardson:

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John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



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HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Kevin Byrnes
George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Mr. Byrnes:

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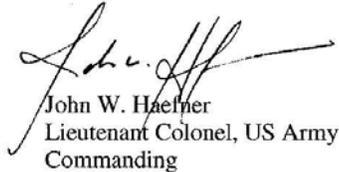
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Stephen Manster
Town Manager, Town of Bowling Green
117 Butler Street
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Mr. Manster:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures

June 22, 2010

Ms. Terry Banks
NEPA Coordinator
Fort A. P. Hill, Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE
19952 North Range Road
Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123

Dear Ms. Banks,

The Town of Bowling Green has received correspondence from Lt. Col. Haefner asking for comments relating to the scoping process for the Environmental Assessment that is being conducted for the construction and operation of a United States Army Reserve Center at Fort A. P. Hill. Town Council discussed this matter at its last meeting, after receiving a presentation of the proposal by Mr. Ken Perrotte of the A. P. Hill staff. The Town of Bowling Green supports this project and welcomes the activity to the area.

The only concern expressed at our Council meeting was by one Town Council member, and this concern centered around the thought that the Environmental Assessment should look at potential situations relating to the storage, containment, use and disposal of petroleum products at the proposed locations for the Reserve Center. The Council member expressed the idea that there needed to be some study given to these matters and possible impact on groundwater and surface water. His feeling is that the proximity of both possible Reserve Center sites to a surface water feature on the Post creates the need to look into these matters through the Environmental Assessment process.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process relating to this important and beneficial project for the Post and for the area. We look forward to being able to review and comment on any and all draft and preliminary material. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and comment.

Sincerely,

David W. Storke
Mayor



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Linda Lumpkin
Essex County Administrator
P.O. Box 1079
Tappahannock, VA 22560

Dear Ms. Lumpkin:

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Sincerely,



John W. Haerner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



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HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Deanna Beacham
Virginia Council on Indians
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Ms. Beacham:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

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Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18438 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Nancy Long
Mayor, Town of Port Royal
621 Main Street
Port Royal, VA 22535

Dear Ms. Long:

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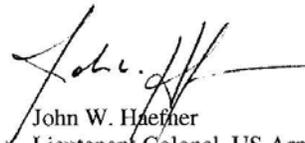
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Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Percy Ashcraft
Caroline County Administrator
117 Ennis Street
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Mr. Ashcraft:

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18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. David Whitlow
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
P.O. Box 1079
Tappahannock, VA 22560

Dear Mr. Whitlow:

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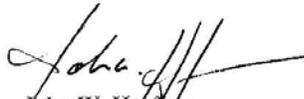
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18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Cedell Brooks, Jr.
King George Board of Supervisors
10459 Courthouse Road
King George, VA 22485

Dear Mr. Brooks:

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18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Robert Popowicz
Caroline Co. Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 447
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Mr. Popowicz:

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As part of the early coordination and NEPA scoping process, we are identifying key issues that will need to be addressed as part of this study. Please provide your comments on reasonable alternatives, environmental impacts, or other issues or concerns you may have that are relevant to the proposed action. Once the EA is completed, it will be available on the Fort A.P. Hill website at <http://www.aphill.army.mil>. If the NEPA analysis results in a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is required, then a Notice of Intent will be prepared.

In order to sufficiently address key project issues while maintaining the project schedule, we are requesting that you provide a written response to this letter within 30 days of receipt. Please send your response to NEPA Coordinator, Fort A.P. Hill, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE, 19952 N. Range Road, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123 or by email at terry.banks1@us.army.mil. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at (804) 633-8223 or at the above referenced email address.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haeffler
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Mike Finchum
Caroline Co. Department of Planning & Community Development
233 West Broadus Street
P.O. Box 424
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Mr. Finchum:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA as required by the NEPA. In addition to meeting the requirements of the NEPA, compliance with other relevant environmental regulations such as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will be accomplished during the NEPA process.

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Sincerely,



John W. Haefler
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Colonel Sandra Thacker
Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
11093 SW Lewis Memorial Drive
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Colonel Thacker:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

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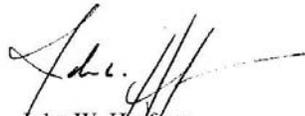
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Hadlner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



Peumansend Creek Regional Jail

11093 S.W. LEWIS MEMORIAL DRIVE ■ P.O. BOX 1460 ■ BOWLING GREEN, VA 22427
PH: 804-633-0043 FAX: 804-633-3170 E-MAIL: pcrj@pcrj.org WEB: www.pcrj.org

City of Alexandria • City of Richmond • Arlington County • Caroline County • Loudoun County • Prince William County

June 22, 2010

Department of the Army
DPW Environmental Division
19952 North Range Road
Fort A.P. Hill, VA 22427-3123

Dear Ms. Banks:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 24, 2010, regarding the Environmental Assessment for the construction and operation of a USAR Center.

My concerns are outlined below:

- As with many other communities, we currently have a large population of deer and snakes, and vegetation damage by these animals. With the expansion activities, I am concerned a greater number of animal life, mainly deer and snakes, will take refuge on the jail property creating more damage.
- Most importantly I am concerned about the sound of training activities during the night. The inmate population is confined to specific places at night and cannot move to other areas to accommodate sounds. I have security concerns when 336 inmates are awakened in the night by activities.

Thank you for allowing an opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Thacker".

Sandra Thacker, Superintendent
Peumansend Creek Regional Jail

cc: All Authority Members

*National Commission on Correctional Health Care Accreditation
American Correctional Association, Jail Industries Accreditation
"America's First Accredited Jail Industry"
American Correctional Association, Adult Local Detention Facilities*



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Joe McCauley
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1030
336 Wilna Rd.
Warsaw, VA 22572

Dear Mr. McCauley:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

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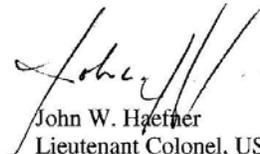
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Ellie Irons
Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Ms. Irons:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

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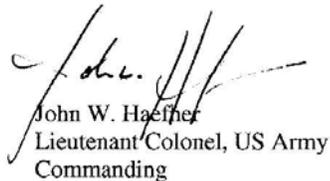
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Sincerely,



John W. Haefler
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

TDD (804) 698-4021

www.deq.virginia.gov

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

June 8, 2010

Mr. Terry Banks
Fort A.P. Hill
Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works, IMNE-APH-PWE
19952 N. Range Road
Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123

RE: Proposed U.S. Army Reserve Center, Request for Scoping Comments for the
Preparation of an Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Banks:

This is in response to the May 24, 2010 letter (received June 1, 2010) from Mr. John W. Haefner, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, announcing the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed activities associated with the construction and operation of a U.S. Army Reserve Center at Fort A.P. Hill, and soliciting comments on the scope of the document.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

According to the letter, the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) proposes to construct and operate a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County. The Department of Army (Army) would construct a 33,170 square-foot training building; a 7,526 square-foot organizational maintenance shop (OMS); a 1,065 square-foot unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards of vehicle parking on a 15-acre site. The training building would provide for a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide for administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment.

Mr. Terry Banks
Proposed U.S. Army Reserve Center at Ft. A.P. Hill

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The roles of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in relation to the project under consideration are as follows. First, DEQ's Office of Environmental Impact Review (OEIR) will coordinate Virginia's review of any environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and comment to the Army on behalf of the Commonwealth. A similar review process will pertain to the Army's submission of a Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) that must be provided pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). If the FCD is included as part of the EA, there can be a single, concurrent review.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, federal activities affecting Virginia's coastal resources or coastal uses must be consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) (see section 307(c)(1) of the Act and the *Federal Consistency Regulations*, 15 CFR Part 930, sub-part C). The Army must provide a consistency determination which involves an analysis of the proposed activities in light of the enforceable policies of the VCP (first enclosure), and a commitment to comply with the enforceable policies. In addition, we invite your attention to the advisory policies of the VCP (second enclosure). The Federal Consistency Determination may be provided as part of the NEPA documentation or independently, depending on your agency's preference; we recommend, in the interests of efficiency for all concerned, that it be provided together with the NEPA document and that 60 days be allowed for review in keeping with the *Federal Consistency Regulations* (see section 930.41(a)). Section 930.39 of the *Federal Consistency Regulations* and Virginia's *Federal Consistency Information Package* at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/eir/federal.html> give content requirements for the consistency determination.

PROJECT SCOPING

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA documents for the proposed project. Therefore, we are sharing your letter with selected state and local Virginia agencies, which are likely to include the following (note: starred (*) agencies administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program):

- Department of Environmental Quality:
 - Office of Environmental Impact Review
 - Northern Regional Office*
 - Air Division*
 - Waste Division
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*
- Department of Conservation and Recreation:
 - Division of Soil and Water Conservation*

Mr. Terry Banks
Proposed U.S. Army Reserve Center at Ft. A.P. Hill

- Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance*
- Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
- Marine Resources Commission*
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Department of Health*
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
- Department of Historic Resources
- George Washington Regional Commission
- Caroline County.

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the EA and FCD, we will require 18 copies of the document when it is published. The submission may include 4 hard copies and 14 CDs (or 4 hard copies and an electronic copy available for download at an Army web or ftp site). The document should include a U.S. Geological Survey topographic map as part of its information. We recommend, as well, that project details unfamiliar to people outside the Army be adequately described.

If you have questions about the environmental review process or the federal consistency review process, please feel free to call me at (804) 698-4325 or John Fisher of this Office at (804) 698-4339.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Ellie L. Irons, Manager
Office of Environmental Impact Review

Attachments

Ec: Davie Hartshorn, DEQ-NRO
Kotur S. Narasimhan, DEQ-Air
Paul Kohler, DEQ-Waste
Amy Ewing, DGIF
Robbie Rhur, DCR
Tony Watkinson, MRC
Barry Matthews, VDH
Todd Groh, VDF
David Spears, DMME
Roger Kirchen, DHR
Keith Tignor, VDACS
Percy Ashcraft, Caroline County
Robert Wilson, George Washington Regional Commission



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

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Attachment 1

Enforceable Regulatory Programs comprising Virginia's Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP)

- a. **Fisheries Management** - The program stresses the conservation and enhancement of finfish and shellfish resources and the promotion of commercial and recreational fisheries to maximize food production and recreational opportunities. This program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission (VMRC); Virginia Code 28.2-200 to 28.2-713 and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF); Virginia Code 29.1-100 to 29.1-570.

The State Tributyltin (TBT) Regulatory Program has been added to the Fisheries Management program. The General Assembly amended the Virginia Pesticide Use and Application Act as it related to the possession, sale, or use of marine antifoulant paints containing TBT. The use of TBT in boat paint constitutes a serious threat to important marine animal species. The TBT program monitors boating activities and boat painting activities to ensure compliance with TBT regulations promulgated pursuant to the amendment. The VMRC, DGIF, and Virginia Department of Agriculture Consumer Services (VDACS) share enforcement responsibilities; Virginia Code 3.1-249.59 to 3.1-249.62.

- b. **Subaqueous Lands Management** - The management program for subaqueous lands establishes conditions for granting or denying permits to use state-owned bottomlands based on considerations of potential effects on marine and fisheries resources, tidal wetlands, adjacent or nearby properties, anticipated public and private benefits, and water quality standards established by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission; Virginia Code 28.2-1200 to 28.2-1213.
- c. **Wetlands Management** - The purpose of the wetlands management program is to preserve wetlands, prevent their despoliation, and accommodate economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation.
- (1) The tidal wetlands program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission; Virginia Code 28.2-1301 through 28.2-1320.
- (2) The Virginia Water Protection Permit program administered by DEQ includes protection of wetlands --both tidal and non-tidal; Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:5 and Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Attachment 1 continued

Page 2

- d. Dunes Management - Dune protection is carried out pursuant to The Coastal Primary Sand Dune Protection Act and is intended to prevent destruction or alteration of primary dunes. This program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission; Virginia Code 28.2-1400 through 28.2-1420.
- e. Non-point Source Pollution Control – (1) Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law requires soil-disturbing projects to be designed to reduce soil erosion and to decrease inputs of chemical nutrients and sediments to the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and other rivers and waters of the Commonwealth. This program is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation; Virginia Code 10.1-560 et seq.
- (2) Coastal Lands Management is a state-local cooperative program administered by the DCR's Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance and 84 localities in Tidewater (see i) Virginia; Virginia Code §10.1-2100 –10.1-2114 and 9 VAC10-20 et seq.
- f. Point Source Pollution Control - The point source program is administered by the State Water Control Board (DEQ) pursuant to Virginia Code 62.1-44.15. Point source pollution control is accomplished through the implementation of:
- (1) the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program established pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act and administered in Virginia as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit program.
- (2) The Virginia Water Protection Permit (VWPP) program administered by DEQ; Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:5 and Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.
- g. Shoreline Sanitation - The purpose of this program is to regulate the installation of septic tanks, set standards concerning soil types suitable for septic tanks, and specify minimum distances that tanks must be placed away from streams, rivers, and other waters of the Commonwealth. This program is administered by the Department of Health (Virginia Code 32.1-164 through 32.1-165).
- h. Air Pollution Control - The program implements the federal Clean Air Act to provide a legally enforceable State Implementation Plan for the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. This program is administered by the State Air Pollution Control Board (Virginia Code 10-1.1300 through §10.1-1320).
- (i) Coastal Lands Management is a state-local cooperative program administered by the DCR's Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance and 84 localities in Tidewater, Virginia established pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act; Virginia Code §10.1-2100 –10.1-2114 and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations; Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC10-20 et seq.

Advisory Policies for Shorefront Access Planning and Protection

- a. Virginia Public Beaches - Approximately 25 miles of public beaches are located in the cities, counties, and towns of Virginia exclusive of public beaches on state and federal land. These public shoreline areas will be maintained to allow public access to recreational resources.
- b. Virginia Outdoors Plan - Planning for coastal access is provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in cooperation with other state and local government agencies. The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), which is published by the Department, identifies recreational facilities in the Commonwealth that provide recreational access. The VOP also serves to identify future needs of the Commonwealth in relation to the provision of recreational opportunities and shoreline access. Prior to initiating any project, consideration should be given to the proximity of the project site to recreational resources identified in the VOP.
- c. Parks, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas - Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Areas are provided for the recreational pleasure of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation by local, state, and federal agencies. The recreational values of these areas should be protected and maintained.
- d. Waterfront Recreational Land Acquisition - It is the policy of the Commonwealth to protect areas, properties, lands, or any estate or interest therein, of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historical interest, or unusual features which may be acquired, preserved, and maintained for the citizens of the Commonwealth.
- e. Waterfront Recreational Facilities - This policy applies to the provision of boat ramps, public landings, and bridges which provide water access to the citizens of the Commonwealth. These facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide points of water access when and where practicable.
- f. Waterfront Historic Properties - The Commonwealth has a long history of settlement and development, and much of that history has involved both shorelines and near-shore areas. The protection and preservation of historic shorefront properties is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Historic Resources. Buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological interest are significant resources for the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is the policy of the Commonwealth and the VCRMP to enhance the protection of buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance from damage or destruction when practicable.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ewing, Amy (DGIF) [mailto:Amy.Ewing@dgif.virginia.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:08 AM

To: Banks, Terry L Ms CIV USA IMCOM

Cc: Fisher, John; Cooper, Jeff (DGIF); Sims, Jerry (DGIF); Kauffman, John (DGIF)

Subject: ESSLog# 30988_Proposed US Army reserve Center_AP Hill_Scoping

We received a request from you for scoping comments for development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed US Army Reserve (USAR) Center to be located on Ft. A.P. Hill in Caroline County, VA. The proposed facility would consist of a 33,170 sq. ft. training building, a 7,526 sq. ft. organizational maintenance shop, a 1,065 sq. ft. storage building, and 8,360 sq yards of vehicle parking on a 15-acre site.

The maps provided did not provide enough detail for us to determine exactly where on Ft. A.P. Hill the two alternative sites, Site F (the Preferred Alternative) and Site B, are located. Based on a search of our records for the entire property, the following listed wildlife and resources under our jurisdiction are known from the area: State Threatened bald eagles nests and the Rappahannock Bald Eagle Concentration Zone, The Rappahannock River and Mill Creek Anadromous Fish Use Areas, and a few great blue heron colonies. We recommend that the EA being prepared for this project address what, if any, impacts upon these resources may result from the development of the alternative sites and what, if any, impact minimization or mitigation measures will be taken to offset such impacts.

We offer the following measures to minimize development impacts upon wildlife and recommend consideration of these measures during development of the EA:

We recommend avoidance and minimization of impacts to undisturbed forest, wetlands, and streams to the fullest extent practicable. Avoidance and minimization of impact may include relocating stream channels as opposed to filling or channelizing as well as using, and incorporating into the development plan, a natural stream channel design and wooded buffers. We recommend maintaining undisturbed wooded buffers of at least 100 feet in width around all on-site wetlands and on both sides of all perennial and intermittent streams. We recommend maintaining wooded lots to the fullest extent possible. We generally do not support proposals to mitigate wetland impacts through the construction of stormwater management ponds, nor do we support the creation of in-stream stormwater management ponds. We are willing to assist in developing a plan that includes open-space, wildlife habitat, and natural stream channels which retain their wooded buffers.

We recommend that the stormwater controls for this project be designed to replicate and maintain the hydrographic condition of the site prior to the change in landscape. This should include, but not be limited to, utilizing bioretention areas, and minimizing the use of curb and gutter in favor of grassed swales. Bioretention areas (also called rain

gardens) and grass swales are components of Low Impact Development (LID). They are designed to capture stormwater runoff as close to the source as possible and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the surrounding soil. They benefit natural resources by filtering pollutants and decreasing downstream runoff volumes.

We recommend that all tree removal and ground clearing adhere to a time of year restriction protective of resident and migratory songbird nesting from March 15 through August 15 of any year.

We recommend adherence to erosion and sediment controls during ground disturbance.

Thank you. Amy

Amy M. Ewing
Environmental Services Biologist
Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
804-367-2211

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources



David A. Johnson
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
(804) 786-7951

June 22, 2010

Terry L. Banks
Chief, Environmental Division
Department of the Army
U.S. Garrison, Fort A.P. Hill
Directorate of Public Works
19952 North Range Road
Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123

Re: Proposed US Army Reserve Center Project,
Fort A.P. Hill, Caroline County, Virginia

Dear Ms. Banks:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the project site is partially located within the Acors Corner Seepage Swamp Conservation Site. Conservation sites are tools for representing key areas of the landscape that warrant further review for possible conservation action because of the natural heritage resources and habitat they support. Conservation sites are polygons built around one or more rare plant, animal, or natural community designed to include the element and, where possible, its associated habitat, and buffer or other adjacent land thought necessary for the element's conservation. Conservation sites are given a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant. Acors Corner Seepage Swamp Conservation Site has been given a biodiversity significance ranking of B5, which represents a site of moderate significance. The natural heritage resources of concern at this site are:

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Natural Heritage • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

Coastal Plain/Piedmont Acidic Seepage Swamp
Swamp pink

Helonias bullata

G37/SNR/NL/NL
G3/S2S3/LT/LE

The Coastal Plain / Piedmont Seepage Bogs occupy oligotrophic spring-heads, seepage slopes, and less frequently small, headwater stream bottoms. Sites are scattered throughout the Coastal Plain (except the maritime zone) and outer Piedmont, typically on lower or toe slopes, where groundwater is forced to the surface by impermeable clay layers. Surficial soils are usually peaty or sandy, very acidic, infertile, and covered by dense mats of *Sphagnum* mosses. The term "bog," as applied to these wetlands, is a technical misnomer, since most of these habitats are not true peatlands and none is an ombrotrophic system. This term, however, is now so widely used in the southeastern United States as a descriptor for open, acidic seepage wetlands that we have adopted it here for consistency (see Weakley and Schafale 1994 for additional discussion). Although early botanical explorers of Virginia frequently reported open boggy habitats, natural examples of these communities have nearly been extirpated by decades of fire exclusion, hydrologic alterations (ditching, draining, and impoundments), or outright destruction. The elimination of fire as an ecological process has allowed many former bogs to become overgrown with shrubs and trees. Good examples remain in military base training ("impact") areas at Quantico Marine Base (Fauquier and Prince William Counties), Fort A.P. Hill (Caroline County), and Fort Pickett (Nottoway County), where habitats have been subject to frequent incendiary burning for at least 50 years. Artificially maintained bog habitats are frequent in powerline clearings.

The vegetation of seepage bogs is usually a mosaic of scattered trees, shrub patches, and graminoid-dominated herbaceous patches. Widely scattered, but nevertheless diagnostic, species of these bogs include red milkweed (*Asclepias rubra*), Rafinesque's seedbox (*Ludwigia hirtella*), large white fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *conspicua*), crossleaf milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*), purple pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *venosa* and ssp. *purpurea*), and large-flowered camas (*Zigadenus glaberrimus*). A large number of state-rare plants and several state-rare odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) are associated with seepage bogs (Fleming et al., 2006).

Swamp-pink inhabits groundwater-influenced, perennially saturated, nutrient-poor headwater wetlands and is sensitive to hydrologic alterations to its habitat. The major direct threat to this species is habitat loss. Indirect threats result from activities that affect the hydrologic regime including such upslope activities as timber harvesting, land clearing and development, and agriculture. Downstream threats to the hydrology of a swamp pink habitat arise from flooding caused by road crossings with culverts that become blocked and beaver activity (VanAlstine, 1994). In Virginia, swamp-pink is currently known from 45 locations, 3 of which are historic.

Please note that this species is currently classified as threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and as endangered by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Due to the legal status of Swamp pink, DCR recommends coordination with USFWS and VDACS to ensure compliance with protected species legislation. To minimize adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem as a result of the proposed activities, DCR recommends the

implementation of and strict adherence to applicable state and local erosion and sediment control/storm water management laws and regulations.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), which has regulatory authority to conserve rare and endangered plant and insect species through the Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act, has established a Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Under this Agreement DCR's Division of Natural Heritage, in consultation with VDACS, represents VDACS in its comments and recommendations regarding the potential impact of reviewed projects or activities on state-listed plant and insect species. Since it has been determined that this project or activity may impact **Swamp pink**, a state-protected plant, VDACS will respond directly to ensure compliance with Virginia's Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act. Further correspondence regarding the potential impacts of this project or activity on state-listed plant and insect species should be directed to VDACS.

Our files do not indicate the presence of any State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please contact DCR for an update on this natural heritage information if a significant amount of time passes before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Shirl Dressler at (804) 367-6913.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-692-0984. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Alli Baird, LA, ASLA
Coastal Zone Locality Liaison

Cc: Keith Tignor, VDACS
Tylan Dean, USFWS

Literature Cited:

VanAlstine, N.E. 1994. Information on Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*). Compiled for Endangered Species Workshop.

Fleming, G.P., P.P. Coulling, K.D. Patterson, and K. Taverna. 2006. The natural communities of Virginia: classification of ecological community groups. Second approximation. Version 2.2. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, Richmond, VA. http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/ncintro.shtml.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Tylan Dean
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

Dear Mr. Dean:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA as required by the NEPA. In addition to meeting the requirements of the NEPA, compliance with other relevant environmental regulations such as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will be accomplished during the NEPA process.

“EXCELLENCE THROUGH SERVICE”



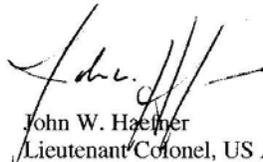
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As part of the early coordination and NEPA scoping process, we are identifying key issues that will need to be addressed as part of this study. Please provide your comments on reasonable alternatives, environmental impacts, or other issues or concerns you may have that are relevant to the proposed action. Once the EA is completed, it will be available on the Fort A.P. Hill website at <http://www.aphill.army.mil>. If the NEPA analysis results in a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is required, then a Notice of Intent will be prepared.

In order to sufficiently address key project issues while maintaining the project schedule, we are requesting that you provide a written response to this letter within 30 days of receipt. Please send your response to NEPA Coordinator, Fort A.P. Hill, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE, 19952 N. Range Road, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123 or by email at terry.banks1@us.army.mil. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at (804) 633-8223 or at the above referenced email address.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Hæfner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. David Dickson
Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority
P.O. Box 798
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Dickson:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. These impacts will be documented in the EA as required by the NEPA. In addition to meeting the requirements of the NEPA, compliance with other relevant environmental regulations such as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will be accomplished during the NEPA process.

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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefter
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Mr. Jeff Sili
Caroline County Board of Supervisors
205 Travis Street
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Mr. Sili:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

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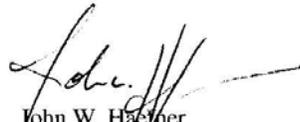
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In order to sufficiently address key project issues while maintaining the project schedule, we are requesting that you provide a written response to this letter within 30 days of receipt. Please send your response to NEPA Coordinator, Fort A.P. Hill, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE, 19952 N. Range Road, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123 or by email at terry.banks1@us.army.mil. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at (804) 633-8223 or at the above referenced email address.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefer
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
16436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Sharon Carter
Caroline County Commissioner of Revenue
17622 Lakewood Road
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Dear Ms. Carter:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

The proposed action includes the construction and operation of a USAR Center and supporting facilities on approximately 15 acres of government-owned land at FAPH. The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot (sf) training building; a 7,526 sf Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS); a 1,065 sf unheated storage building; and 8,630 square yards (sy) of organizational vehicle parking. The training building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit. The OMS would provide administrative offices and work bays for maintenance activities. The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that consists of 12 full-time (FT) personnel, 185 reservists, 109 wheeled vehicles, 159 trailers, 1 track vehicle, and associated weapons and equipment. The FT personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train at the USAR Center one weekend a month.

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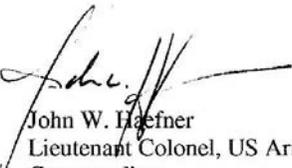
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
18436 FOURTH STREET
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3114

May 24, 2010

Office of the Commander

Ms. Della Mills
Port Royal Town Council
616 Frederick St.
P.O. Box 215
Port Royal, VA 22535

Dear Ms. Mills:

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), Virginia. Two sites on FAPH have been identified as alternatives for the proposed action. Alternative One (Site F), the Army's preferred alternative, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road; and alternative two (Site B) is located off of Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. A regional location map and site maps are enclosed.

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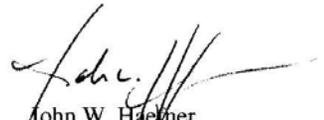
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We look forward to working cooperatively with you to make this important project successful for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John W. Haefner
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT A.P. HILL
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
19952 NORTH RANGE ROAD
FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA 22427-3123

May 20, 2010

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Marc Holma
Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

RE: Proposed U.S. Army Reserve Center
Fort A.P. Hill, Caroline County, Virginia
DHR File No.: 2010-0492

Dear Mr. Holma:

The U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) is planning to construct a new USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill, Caroline County, Virginia. In coordination with the Fort A.P. Hill Cultural Resource Manager, the USAR has completed environmental studies of the proposed project area, including a cultural resource survey of the area of potential effect (APE) for the USAR Center. The cultural resource survey, conducted by Paciulli, Simmons and Associates, Ltd., identified one previously unrecorded archaeological site (44CE0672) within the APE. Site 44CE0672 represents a late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century farmstead that is recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, as the site has been previously disturbed by military activities and lacks sufficient integrity to provide additional information important in history. Enclosed are two copies of the technical report that presents the results of the cultural resource survey.

Please indicate if you concur/nonconcur that the proposed construction and operation of the proposed USAR Center will have no effects on historic properties. Thank you for assisting us in complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact me or Terry Banks at (804) 633-8255.

Sincerely,

John Mullin
Cultural Resource Manager

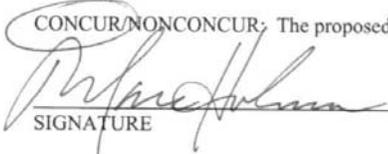
Enclosures

“EXCELLENCE THROUGH SERVICE”



Project: Proposed construction and operation of a U.S. Army Reserve Center at Fort A.P. Hill, Caroline
County, Virginia

CONCUR/NONCONCUR: The proposed undertaking will have no effects to historic properties.


SIGNATURE

VDHR File: 2010-0492

DATE 17 June 10

Concern 44CE0672 not eligible

The Caroline Progress

June 3, 2010

Fort A.P. Hill planning new reserve center

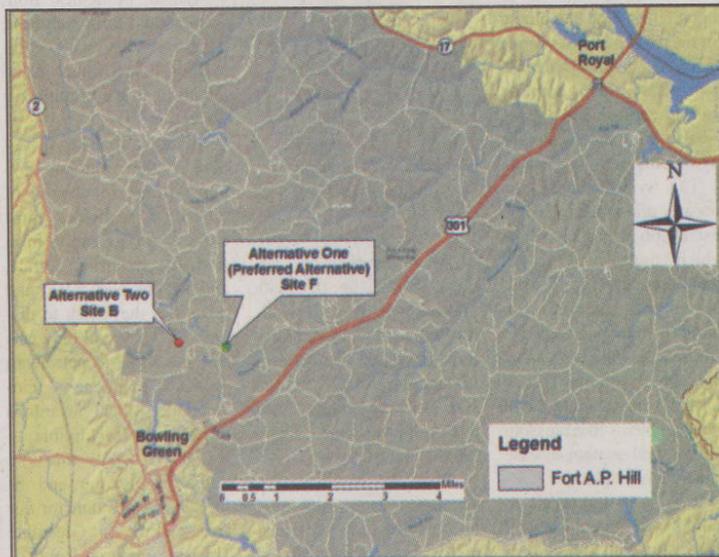
By Ed Simmons, Jr.
cpreporter@lcs.net

Fort A.P. Hill mailed out 84 letters on May 24 to inform Caroline residents they have 30 days to comment on a new 15-acre Army Reserve Center where 185 reservists will train one weekend a month and where 109 vehicles, 159 trailers and one track vehicle will be kept.

With June 24 as the deadline, this is an initial "scoping" process in preparation for an Environmental Assessment that should be out sometime in July. After that's drafted, another 30-day comment period will help decide whether an Environmental Impact Study is called for.

No small arms firing or artillery firing will occur at the proposed site, though the reservists may train at other existing live-fire ranges and schedule use of the facilities like any other visiting unit would, said Public Affairs Specialist Jennifer Erickson. "It will be an administrative and educational training facility," Erickson said. Twelve full time personnel will be stationed there.

"The unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company," said post commander Lt.Col. John Haefner in the letter.



The above map illustrates the two possible sites for a proposed reserve center on Fort A.P. Hill. (US Army image)

Last year, of the approximately 90,000 troops that training at Fort A.P. Hill, about seven percent were reservists, said Erickson.

"We have had bridging companies train here in the past," Erickson said.

Caroline residents who received the letter were those who attended and signed in at the Jan. 7 meeting on the new Explosive Ordinance Disposal School.

Two possible sites are proposed, a preferred one at the intersection of A.P. Hill

Drive and Campbell Road, and the other off Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp.

"Detailed investigations will be undertaken to identify potential environmental impacts," said Haefner, adding that the Endangered Species Act and National Preservation Act will be complied with.

"Once the EA is complete, it will be available on the Fort A.P. Hill website at <http://www.aphill.army.mil>," he said.

Responses can be mailed to NEPA Coordinator, Fort A.P. Hill, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works IMNE-APH-PWE, 19952 N. Range Road, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia 22427-3123 or emailed to terry.banks1@us.army.mil.

The public can also ask for clarification by calling the Environmental Division at 804-633-8223.

Editor Toni Stinson contributed to this article.

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\$15.5 million USAR Center coming to Fort A. P. Hill

PRESS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

DATE: June 2, 2010 Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Jennifer Erickson, (804) 633-8324

jennifer.arickson3@us.army.mil

ARMY PREPARES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR NEW RESERVE CENTER

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. – The U.S. Army Reserve is preparing an environmental assessment for the construction and operation of an estimated \$15.5 million USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill.

The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot training building, a 7,526 square-foot Organizational Maintenance Shop and a 1,065 square-foot unheated storage building. The training and administration building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, vault, weapons simulator (indoor non-live fire simulator which provides realistic training using pneumatics and gaming technology), and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit.

Two sites on Fort A.P. Hill have been identified for the proposed action. The Army's preferred site is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. An alternative is located off Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. Both sites are approximately 2.5 miles interior to the installation.

A brand new unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that would bring 12 full-time personnel and 185 reservists to the installation. The full-time personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train one weekend per month and two weeks in a row annually. The Multi-

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Porsia Smith covers Caroline County government and schools.

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This is a news blog providing extra information, links and documents for the Caroline County community. It serves as supplemental coverage for The Free Lance-Star newspaper. Comments are welcome!

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Role Bridge Company provides personnel and equipment required for the transportation, assembly, disassembly, maintenance and retrieval of U.S. Army bridging systems.

This initiative comes as part of the Grow the Army program which supports the Army's goal to sustain force readiness, match Army force capabilities with mission requirements, and preserve Soldier and family quality of life.

Requests for comments on the proposed action, as part of a general scoping process, were sent out May 24 to regulators, elected officials and others who signed up for the National Environmental Policy Act mailing list. The installation is requesting all responses to those letters in writing no later than June 24, allowing for a 30-day comment period from the date the letters were sent out.

Following the general scoping process, an EA will be made available on the Fort A.P. Hill website for the public to provide comments. The public will have 30 days to comment from the time the EA is posted.

After the comment period has closed and the Army has considered all comments and taken all appropriate actions, a final decision document in the form of Finding of No Significant or Notice of Intent to complete an EIS will be issued upon completion of the 30-day review period.

3 Comments By psmith on June 2nd, 2010 12:22 pm

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3 Responses to "\$15.5 million USAR Center coming to Fort A. P. Hill"

1.  *stonewallpark* says:
June 4, 2010 at 8:11 am

This is great for the county and we are very happy to have this on the hill. Lets get ready for the boys to come to town.

[Report this comment](#)

2.  *Robert* says:
June 5, 2010 at 10:04 am

Can you share the AP Hill website address? (thanks)

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3.  *psmith* says:
June 5, 2010 at 11:23 am

<http://www.aphill.army.mil/sitas/local/>

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