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# SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER COMPLEX AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05 REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AT U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS



**July 2008**

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*prepared for*

**U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens, MA**

*prepared by*

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Mobile District

P.O. Box 2288

Mobile, AL 36628

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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER COMPLEX AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05 REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AT U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (“BRAC Commission”) recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Ayer, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission’s recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission’s recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (*Environmental Assessment: Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex and Implementation of BRAC 05 Realignment Actions at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, Massachusetts*, May 2007) of the proposed action to construct an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA), multi-use classroom, unheated storage building, and a military equipment parking area (MEP) on the 3400 Area of the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens (Fort Devens) and a Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS), Class IX storage building,<sup>2</sup> and a MEP area on the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property that abuts the Fort Devens 3700 Area on Barnum Road in Ayer, MA. On May 21, 2007 a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was issued for this originally proposed action.

Following issuance of the May 2007 FNSI, the Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) reviewed the project and issued a legal opinion stating that construction of the AFRC on the 3400 Area of Fort Devens, located in Shirley, MA, does not comply with the intent of the BRAC Commission’s recommendation to locate the AFRC in Ayer, MA. The OTJAG’s opinion specifically stated that to meet the intent of the BRAC Commission’s recommendation the AFRC complex needs to be constructed on a parcel of land that is either wholly or partially located in the town of Ayer, MA. As a result of the OTJAG’s ruling, the U.S. Army revised the proposed action to locate the AFRC complex on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the adjacent MAARNG property located along the town lines of Ayer and Harvard, MA. In addition, the U.S. Army concluded that it was necessary to reevaluate the expected environmental impacts of the new proposed action.

The USACE, Mobile District, has prepared a Supplemental EA to the original May 2007 EA which identifies, documents, and re-evaluates the environmental effects of the BRAC Commission’s recommended realignment of reserve functions in Ayer, MA based on the OTJAG’s legal opinion. The Supplemental EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); implementing regulations issued by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)<sup>3</sup>; Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR Part 651; and the OTJAG’s legal opinion. The 2006 Base Realignment Closure Manual for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act was used for guidance in preparing the Supplemental EA. The purpose of the Supplemental EA is to inform decision makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the currently proposed action and alternatives.

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<sup>1</sup> Fort Devens is located in portions of four communities; the towns of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Lancaster, MA; however, as a point of reference it is often referred to as being located in the Town of Ayer, MA.

<sup>2</sup> Class IX supplies are repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies, and subassemblies (repairable or non-repairable) required for maintenance support of all equipment.

<sup>3</sup> Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508; and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR Part 651.

## 1.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to implement the BRAC Commission's recommendation in accordance with the OTJAG's legal opinion and as mandated by BRAC law, Public Law 101-510, by constructing new facilities to accommodate the personnel and functions of organizations realigning and relocating to Fort Devens and the MAARNG property.

The BRAC Commission's recommendations for Ayer, MA are:

“Close the Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex, Ayer, MA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA; realign the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA, by relocating the 323d Maintenance Facility, and the Regional Training Site Maintenance to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA; realign Ayer Area 3713 by relocating storage functions to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. Realign the Marine Corps Reserve Center Ayer, MA, by relocating the 1/25th Marines Maintenance Facility, Marine Corps Reserve Electronic Maintenance Section, and Maintenance Company/4th Marine Battalion to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex shall have the capability to accommodate all Reserve units affected by this recommendation, including Army National Guard units from the Ayer Armory and Consolidated [*sic*] Support Maintenance Shop, Ayer, MA, if the state decides to relocate the National Guard units.”

To implement these recommendations, the following new facilities are proposed for construction at the Fort Devens 3700 Area:

***Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) Complex and supporting facilities.*** The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square foot (SF), 1,000-member training facility with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC will be the primary facility for three U.S. Army Reserve units, three U.S. Marine Corps units, and three MAARNG units. Associated support facilities include an approximately 60,250 SF OMS/AMSA; an approximately 1,387 SF unheated storage building; MEP areas; and associated site infrastructure improvements. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, will be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

The approximately 7,300 SF multi-purpose classroom building has been removed from the proposed action described in the Supplemental EA. In addition, two other design measures implementing the proposed action have changed from those described in the Supplemental EA. First, the concrete slab foundation of Building 3713 originally was to be demolished and removed, along with Building 3713, to allow for construction of the AFRC within its footprint. While Building 3713 will be demolished, the design/build contractor will now be given the option of reusing the concrete slab foundation as the foundation for the AFRC. Second, stormwater from the southern portion of the Devens 3700 Area (area immediately surrounding the proposed AFRC building) was originally proposed to be retained on site and reinfiltated via stormwater detention basins. This stormwater will now be conveyed to a previously constructed stormwater detention pond approximately 350 feet southeast of the project site on the southside of Barnum Road.

The following new facilities are proposed for construction at the adjacent MAARNG site:

***Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS).*** The proposed CSMS facility would be an approximately 93,255 SF structure. Additional facilities include an approximately 16,053 SF Class IX storage building; an approximately 4,385 SF unheated storage building; and MEP areas. AT/FP

safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, will be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

The BRAC actions at Fort Devens would not significantly increase the total number of personnel at Fort Devens because all but 4 personnel from the relocating units are associated with units currently based at Fort Devens or the MAARNG.

## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Inclusion of the No Action Alternative is prescribed by the CEQ regulations and serves as the benchmark against which federal actions can be evaluated. No action assumes that the U.S. Army would continue its mission at Fort Devens as it existed in the fall of 2005, with no units relocating from other locations, no new units established, and no new facilities constructed. Because the BRAC Commission's recommendations have the force of law, continuation of the fall 2005 Fort Devens mission is not possible. Although the No Action Alternative is not possible to implement without further Congressional action, it serves as a baseline alternative against which other alternatives can be evaluated. The No Action Alternative is fully described and analyzed in the original May 2007 EA and has not changed under the currently proposed action.

The U.S. Army considered and analyzed one other alternative, the “preferred” alternative. Under the preferred alternative, the facilities would be constructed as described in the proposed action above.

Other alternatives were considered, but not analyzed in the Supplemental EA. These included (1) use of existing facilities at Fort Devens, (2) acquisition of new property; (3) leasing existing space off-post; and (4) new construction in locations other than those identified in the preferred alternative. These other alternatives were considered not feasible for implementing the proposed action and were therefore dismissed from further analysis.

## **3.0 FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS NOT REQUIRED**

The Supplemental EA, which is incorporated by reference into this FNSI, identified and evaluated the potential effects of the alternatives. The Supplemental EA did not identify any resource areas or areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern beyond those identified in the May 2007 EA for the originally proposed action. The 12 resource areas evaluated in the Supplemental EA include: land use, aesthetic and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics (including environmental justice), transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances.

The Supplemental EA determined that implementing the proposed realignment actions would have no significant adverse effects or impacts on any of the environmental or related resource areas at Fort Devens, the adjacent MAARNG property, or on areas surrounding the installation. It has also been determined that the changes to the proposed action described in Section 1.0 of this FNSI would not increase any adverse environmental impacts described in the Supplemental EA.

Removing the multi-purpose classroom building from the design will decrease the amount of post-construction impervious surface on the Devens 3700 area, thereby decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff. It decreases the amount of construction work to be completed, thereby decreasing the amount of air emissions generated during the construction phase of the project.

Reusing Building 3713's concrete slab foundation for the AFRC reduces the amount of construction debris to be disposed of and protects any subsurface soils that may be contaminated from historical vehicle maintenance activities from being disturbed. Leaving the foundation in place would not increase the amount of post-construction stormwater runoff from pre-construction levels since it is already an existing feature on the site.

The total amount of construction for the project will be decreased by conveying stormwater from the southern portion of the Devens 3700 Area (area immediately surrounding the AFRC building) to an existing stormwater pond on the south side of Barnum Road. (Stormwater from the area of AOC 44 and AOC 52 will continue to be conveyed to the stormwater system installed as part of the remedial action for that site as described in the Supplemental EA.) As part of MassDevelopment's Barnum Road Reconstruction Project, a new stormwater drainage system is being constructed along Barnum Road and the AFRC site will tie into a new connection on the south side of the property instead of having to construct stormwater detention ponds on-site. The recently constructed (2006) stormwater detention pond on the south side of Barnum Road was designed to accommodate stormwater runoff from the Devens 3700 Area. If site-grading for the area immediately surrounding the AFRC will not permit all of the stormwater runoff to be discharged at the new connection point, the runoff will be treated on-site for water quality and quantity prior to discharging to an existing storm drainage connection adjacent to the proposed OMS/AMSA. This storm drainage system eventually discharges to Cold Spring Brook; however, no impacts to Cold Spring Brook would be expected as all federal and state stormwater regulations will be complied with.

Comments received during the public comment period were considered in the decision-making process. Comments regarding the location of the Grove Pond drinking water supply wells and the Zone I wellhead protection buffer surrounding those wells resulted in the reconfiguration of the MEP area on the MAARNG property associated with the new CSMS facility. Reconfiguring the layout of the MEP area addressed the commentors' concerns and did not require recharacterizing impacts to any of the 12 resource areas.

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required because implementing the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse impacts. Preparation of a FNSI is therefore appropriate.

#### **4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Interested parties were invited to review and comment on the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI from March 21, 2008 through April 19, 2008. A Notice of Availability was published on March 21, 2008 in the *Ayer Public Spirit*, *Harvard Hillside*, and *Shirley Oracle* newspapers.

During the initial 30-day comment period the U.S. Army received requests from the People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE) and the Ayer Board of Health to extend the comment period by 30 days to allow time for members to adequately review the Supplemental EA and provide comments. The U.S. Army also received a request from the Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman) to extend the comment period. The Town of Ayer requested an extension of 90 days to allow the Town and its various boards and commissions ample opportunity to review and understand the implications of the proposed action on the aquifer for the Grove Pond well fields, which are the primary source of the Town's drinking water. By letters dated April 18, 2008 the U.S. Army granted a 30-day extension of the comment period until May 19, 2008. In its response to the Town of Ayer, the U.S. Army noted that granting an extension beyond 30 days may potentially impact the U.S. Army's ability to issue a design/build construction request for proposal (RFP) and award the contract in a timely manner to meet the overall BRAC 2005 implementation schedule which became law on November 9, 2005. The U.S. Army also offered to meet

with the Town of Ayer, PACE and other interested parties to discuss the proposed action and their concerns about the impacts of the proposed action. A meeting was subsequently held on April 23, 2008 at Fort Devens.

During the extended 60-day public comment period a total of six sets of comments on the Supplemental EA were received from interested parties; two from the Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman), one from the Town of Ayer Department of Public Works, one from PACE, one from the Nashoba Associated Board of Health, and one from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). The majority of the comments dealt with concerns about protecting the groundwater/drinking water supply and constructing facilities on AOC 44 and AOC 52. A summary of the comments received on the Supplemental EA and the U.S. Army's responses to those comments are included in Appendix B of the Supplemental EA.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the Supplemental EA, it has been determined that implementing the proposed action will have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects on the quality of the natural or human environment. Because no significant environmental impacts will result from implementing the proposed action, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared. However, because the U.S. Army needs to obtain a right-of-entry from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to construct the proposed CSMS facilities on the MAARNG property, the U.S. Army, in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), will prepare an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for that portion of the overall project.

Date: 2 JULY 2008

PCBrewer III Executive Officer

*SW*

Steven W. Nott  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Installation Commander  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens

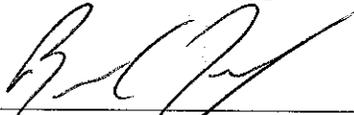
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**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER  
COMPLEX AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05 REALIGNMENT  
ACTIONS AT  
U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS, MA**

*Prepared by:*

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
MOBILE DISTRICT

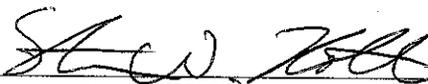


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Byron G. Jorns  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

*Approved by:*

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens



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Steven W. Nott  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Installation Commander  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens

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# **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**LEAD AGENCY:** Department of the Army

**TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex and Implementation of BRAC 05 Realignment Actions at U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens, Massachusetts

**AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS:** Worcester and Middlesex Counties, Massachusetts

**PREPARED BY:** Byron G. Jorns, Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, District Commander

**APPROVED BY:** Steven W. Nott, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens, Commanding

**ABSTRACT:** On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Ayer, Massachusetts. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission's recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

To implement the BRAC Commission's recommendations, the U.S. Army proposed to construct the facilities necessary to support the changes in force structure on the 3400 Area of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens (Fort Devens) and the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property in Ayer, MA. To support this action the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District prepared an environmental assessment (EA) of the project. The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) which was issued by Fort Devens on May 21, 2007. Following issuance of the FNSI, the Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) reviewed the project and issued a legal opinion stating that construction of facilities on the Fort Devens 3400 Area located in Shirley, MA, does not comply with the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation to locate the facilities in Ayer, MA. Subsequently, the U.S. Army revised its Proposed Action to locate the necessary facilities in Ayer, MA on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the adjacent MAARNG property. This Supplemental EA analyzes the environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's revised Proposed Action at Fort Devens and documents those effects that differ from those effects expected to result from the original Proposed Action (construction on the Fort Devens 3400 Area and the MAARNG property).

None of the predicted effects of the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment at Fort Devens. Moreover, mitigation would not be necessary to offset impacts.

Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

**REVIEW PERIOD:** A Notice of Availability (NOA) of this Supplemental EA was published in the Shirley Oracle (Shirley, MA), The Public Spirit (Ayer, MA), and the Harvard Hillside (Harvard, MA) on March 21, 2008. In the NOA, interested parties were invited to review and comment on the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI during the 30 day comment period from March 21, 2008 through April 19, 2008. The Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI, as well as the original May 2007 EA were accessible via the World Wide Web at:

[http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm)

Copies of the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI, as well as the original May 2007, were also made available during the review period at the following local libraries:

Hazen Memorial Library	Ayer Central Library	Harvard Public Library
3 Keady Way	26 E. Main Street	4 Pond Road
Shirley, MA 01464	Ayer, MA 01432	Harvard, MA 01451

Reviewers were invited to submit comments on the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI during the 30-day public comment period via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the U.S. Army's contractor:

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
fax: (401) 331-8956  
e-mail: [shsmith@louisberger.com](mailto:shsmith@louisberger.com)

During the comment period six sets of comments on the Supplemental EA were received. The comments and the U.S. Army's responses to the comments are contained in Appendix B.

NASHOBA PUBLICATIONS AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared **Rebecca Rudeen**, Clerk;

Who being duly sworn, deposes and says that a legal notice advertisement for **The Louis Berger Group, Inc.** did appear in the six Nashoba Publications (Pepperell Free Press, Groton Landmark, Townsend Times, Shirley Oracle, The Public Spirit [Ayer] and Harvard Hillside) on **March 21, 2008.**

*Rebecca A. Rudeen*

Signature

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Middlesex County

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

3rd DAY OF April, 2008

*Judith A. Pigeon*  
Notary Public Signature

May 19, 2011  
Commission Expires



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER  
COMPLEX AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 2005  
REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AT U.S. ARMY GARRISON,  
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500) and 32 CFR 651 Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, in 2007 the U.S. Army conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing the Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission's recommendations for Fort Devens in Ayer, MA. To implement the recommendations, the U.S. Army proposed to construct facilities on the Fort Devens 3400 Area and the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property on Barnum Road in Ayer, MA. The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) which was issued by Fort Devens on May 21, 2007. Following issuance of the FNSI, the Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) issued a legal opinion stating that construction of facilities on the Fort Devens 3400 Area in Shirley, MA did not comply with the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation to locate the facilities in Ayer, MA. Subsequently, the U.S. Army revised its proposed action to construct all of the facilities in Ayer, MA and conducted a Supplemental EA of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing the new proposed action. The facilities included in the new proposed action analyzed in the Supplemental EA include:

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC).** The AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square feet (SF) structure located on the Fort Devens 3700 Area. It will be the primary facility for three U.S. Army Reserve units, three U.S. Marine Corps units, and three MAARNG.
- **Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA).** The OMS/AMSA would be an approximately 60,250 SF facility to accommodate vehicle and equipment maintenance and training requirements. The facility would be located on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and would include an approximately 1,387 SF unheated storage building.
- **Multi-Purpose Classroom Building.** An approximately 7,300 SF building to support reserve forces training functions. This building would be located on the Fort Devens 3700 Area.
- **Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS).** The CSMS would be an approximately 93,255 SF facility located on the MAARNG facility on Barnum Road adjacent to the Fort Devens 3700 area. The CSMS would replace the existing CSMS facility located on the same site. The CSMS would include an approximately 16,053 SF storage building for military equipment repair parts and an approximately 4,385 SF unheated storage building.
- **Military Equipment Parking (MEP) area.** MEP areas associated with the AFRC on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the CSMS facility on the MAARNG property would provide parking and storage for military vehicles, trailers, and equipment from the Army and MAARNG units associated with the proposed action. A small MEP area would be constructed at the Fort Devens 3400 Area in Shirley, MA to accommodate vehicles that are currently located at the Fort Devens 3700 Area that need to be moved to accommodate the proposed action.
- The proposed facilities would include supporting infrastructure, including parking areas, upgraded and/or extended utilities, storm water containment structures, fencing, sidewalks, landscaping, and other improvements. In accordance with requirements specified in 32 CFR Part 651.14 Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI will undergo a 30-day public comment period, from March 21, 2008 through April 19, 2008. During this period the public may submit comments on the proposed action, the Supplemental EA and the Draft FNSI.

The Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI, as well as the original May 2007 EA can be accessed on the World Wide Web at: [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm)  
Printed copies of the Supplemental EA, Draft FNSI, and the original May 2007 EA can also be viewed at the following local libraries:

Hazen Memorial Library  
3 Keady Way  
Shirley, MA 01464  
Ayer Central Library  
26 E. Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432  
Harvard Public Library  
4 Pond Road  
Harvard, MA 01451

Comments should be submitted during the 30-day public comment period via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the U.S.

Army's contractor:

Mr. Spence Smith

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. 295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908 fax: (401) 331-8956 e-mail:  
shsmith@louisberger.com

March 21, 2008

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ES.1 INTRODUCTION

On September 8, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Ayer, MA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission's recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

Following is the BRAC Commission's recommendations for Ayer, MA (BRAC Commission, 2005):

“Close the Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex, Ayer, MA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA; realign the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA, by relocating the 323d Maintenance Facility, and the Regional Training Site Maintenance to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA; realign Ayer Area 3713 by relocating storage functions to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. Realign the Marine Corps Reserve Center Ayer, MA, by relocating the 1/25th Marines Maintenance Facility, Marine Corps Reserve Electronic Maintenance Section, and Maintenance Company/4th Marine Battalion to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex shall have the capability to accommodate all Reserve units affected by this recommendation, including Army National Guard units from the Ayer Armory and Consolidated [*sic*] Support Maintenance Shop, Ayer, MA, if the state decides to relocate the National Guard units.”

To implement this recommendation, the U.S. Army proposed to construct an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA), multi-use classroom, unheated storage building, and a military equipment parking (MEP) area on the 3400 Area of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens (Fort Devens) and a Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS), Class IX storage building,<sup>1</sup> and a MEP area on the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property that abuts the Fort Devens 3700 Area.

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<sup>1</sup> Class IX supplies are repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies, and subassemblies (repairable or non-repairable) required for maintenance support of all equipment.

To support this action the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District prepared an environmental assessment (EA) of the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations issued by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the U.S. Army.<sup>2</sup>

The EA evaluated the expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) which was issued by Fort Devens. Due to acreage constraints, project costs, and potential environmental issues with other sites, only the Proposed Action (preferred alternative) and the no-action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

Following the issuance of the FNSI on May 21, 2007 and subsequent project approval by the U.S. Army, the Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) reviewed the project and issued a legal opinion stating that construction of the AFRC on the 3400 Area of Fort Devens, located in Shirley, MA, does not comply with the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation to locate the AFRC in Ayer, MA (OTJAG, 2007a and 2007b).<sup>3</sup> Based on the original proposed scenario prepared by the 94<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC) and submitted to the Reserve Component Process Action Team (RC PAT), up to The Army Basing Study (TABS), and to the BRAC Commission, as well as Cost of Base Realignment Actions (COBRA) data supporting the recommendation, the OTJAG concluded that the "information indicates the Commission envisioned no result other than construction in Ayer, MA...particularly on the 3700 block." (OTJAG, 2007a). The OTJAG's opinion specifically states that to meet the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation that the AFRC complex needs to be constructed on a parcel of land that is either wholly or partially located in the town of Ayer, MA. As a result of the OTJAG's ruling, the U.S. Army revised the Proposed Action to locate the AFRC complex on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the adjacent MAARNG property located along the town lines of Ayer and Harvard, MA. The U.S. Army concluded that it was necessary to reevaluate the expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action.

This document provides the results of the re-evaluation as a supplement to the original EA prepared for the BRAC 2005 realignment actions at Fort Devens in Ayer, MA. This document provides the current description of the Proposed Action and describes the expected effects the project will have on the environment that differ from those effects expected to result from the original Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative and its expected environmental effects are not included in this document because they have not changed from those included in the original EA (U.S. Army, 2007), and are hereby incorporated by reference.

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<sup>2</sup> CEQ *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*, 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Parts 1500–1508, and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, 32 CFR Part 651.

<sup>3</sup> Fort Devens is located in portions of four communities; the towns of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Lancaster, MA; however, as a point of reference it is often referred to as being located in the town of Ayer, MA.

## **ES.2 BACKGROUND AND SETTING**

Fort Devens is located in north-central Massachusetts, approximately 35 miles northwest of Boston, Massachusetts on the border of Worcester and Middlesex Counties. The entire installation lies within portions of the Towns of Ayer, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley, Massachusetts while the preferred locations for the proposed facilities are located in the Towns of Ayer and Harvard.

## **ES.3 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Fort Devens to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MAARNG units relocating from the local area. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the BRAC Commission's recommendations pertaining to Fort Devens.

**Facilities** - The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square feet (SF) two-story structure and would provide a 1,000-member training facility with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. Associated support facilities include an approximately 60,250 SF OMS/AMSA, an approximately 93,255 SF CSMS, a multi-use classroom building, MEP areas, two unheated storage buildings, and a Class IX storage building.

**Vehicles** - The relocation and realignment of reserve units to the proposed AFRC at Fort Devens would also bring associated unit vehicles, equipment, and materials. This action, however, would not increase the total number of vehicles on post, for all of the vehicles are currently stored at Fort Devens or at the MAARNG property (U.S. Army, 2006b). The total number of vehicles that would be located at the proposed AFRC complex is approximately 789, including 542 wheeled vehicles, 191 trailers, and 56 tracked vehicles.

**Personnel** - The BRAC actions at Fort Devens would not significantly increase the total number of personnel at Fort Devens. All but 4 personnel from the relocating units are associated with units currently based at Fort Devens or the MAARNG. The only unit not located at Fort Devens or the MAARNG that would be relocating to the proposed AFRC is the 4-person Electronics Maintenance Section of the 1/25<sup>th</sup> Marines Maintenance Facility currently located in Worcester, MA.

## **ES.4 REALIGNMENT PROCESS**

The timeline for implementing the action at Fort Devens began in late 2005 with Congressional and Presidential approval of the BRAC law followed by the initiation of this NEPA process and related planning activities at Fort Devens. New BRAC facilities at Fort Devens are programmed through fiscal year 2010 with realignment moves scheduled to occur by 2011. Under the BRAC law, the U.S. Army must initiate all realignments not later than

September 15, 2007, and complete all realignments not later than September 15, 2011.<sup>4</sup> This BRAC EA examines the environmental impact from efforts that will take place within the 6-year BRAC implementation window.

## **ES.5 ALTERNATIVES**

### **No Action Alternative**

Inclusion of the No Action Alternative is prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and serves as the benchmark against which federal actions can be evaluated. No action assumes that the U.S. Army would continue its mission at Fort Devens as it existed in the fall of 2005, with no units relocating from other locations, no new units established, and no new facilities constructed. Because the BRAC Commission's recommendations now have the force of law, continuation of the fall 2005 Fort Devens mission is not possible. Although the No Action Alternative is not possible to implement without further Congressional action, it serves as a baseline alternative against which other alternatives can be evaluated. Because the nature of the No Action Alternative has not changed from what was evaluated in the original EA, the environmental effects of the No Action Alternative would be the same under this Proposed Action as described in the original EA. Therefore, the No Action Alternative is not included in this Supplemental EA, but is hereby included by reference (U.S. Army, 2007).

### **Preferred Alternative**

Under the Preferred Alternative, the proposed facilities would be constructed at the Devens 3700 Area and the adjacent MAARNG property. These sites are the only sites that comply with the BRAC Commission's recommendation. The sites are large enough to support the size of the proposed AFRC, associated facilities, and parking (POV and MEP). They can also meet Anti-Terrorism/Force protection (AT/FP) stand-off buffer requirements. In addition, the sites are previously disturbed and in an industrial land-use area with appropriate baseline infrastructure and access points in-place. The Devens 3700 Area is partly occupied by Building 3713, a large one story brick building on a thick, hardened, concrete slab. This building has not been in use since the mid-1990s and does not meet AT/FP requirements. This building would need to be demolished under the Proposed Action. Another portion of the Devens 3700 Area is currently used as a MEP area by ECS 65 for approximately 100 vehicles. These vehicles would need to be moved to the Devens 3400 Area where ECS 65 is located and a new MEP area constructed for them at that location.

The adjacent MAARNG property is currently owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The MAARNG and the U.S. Army are proposing to establish a "Right of Entry" for the U.S. Army to design and build on

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<sup>4</sup> Section 2904(a), Public Law 101-510, as amended, provides that the Army must "... initiate all closures and realignments no later than two years after the date on which the President transmits a report [by the BRAC Commission] to the Congress ... containing the recommendations for such closures or realignments; and ... complete all such closures and realignments no later than the end of the six year period beginning on the date on which the President transmits the report ..." The President took the specified action on September 15, 2005.

Commonwealth property. Although the U.S. Army does not currently own the MAARNG property, construction of the CSMS on this location meets the intent of the BRAC Commission’s recommendation (OTJAG, 2007a).

There are constraints related to the preferred Devens 3700 Area that will need to be addressed to implement the Proposed Action. The portion of the Devens 3700 Area that is currently being used as a MEP area includes Areas of Contamination (AOC) 44 and 52 and is regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Contamination at the site included petroleum hydrocarbons resulting from motor vehicle gasoline spills, a leaking waste oil storage tank, and spills and leaks from military vehicle maintenance and storage. Remediation activities at the site included the excavation of over 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, asphalt batching of an additional 11,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil (used in creating an asphalt cap on the site), upgrades to the storm water collection system, and groundwater monitoring. The March 1995 Record of Decision (ROD) for the AOCs included a number of Institutional Controls (ICs) that will need to be complied with to implement the Proposed Action. In addition, Building 3713 and the 12 buildings on the MAARNG property that need to be demolished to implement the Proposed Action have asbestos and lead paint that will need to be remediated and properly disposed of.

**ES.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

The Proposed Action would not have any significant adverse impacts on any of the environmental or related resource areas at Fort Devens or to areas surrounding Fort Devens.

A summary of impacts for those resource areas analyzed in this Supplemental EA for the Preferred Alternative are provided in Table ES-1. All other impacts would be the same as described in the original EA.

**Table ES-1. Summary of the Impacts of the Preferred Alternative**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	
<i>Installation Land</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Geology and Soils</b>	
<i>Geologic and Topographic Conditions</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Soils</i>	Negligible to Minor Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Prime Farmland</i>	No effect.
<b>Water Resources</b>	
<i>Surface Water/Wetlands</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Hydrogeology/Groundwater</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Floodplains</i>	No effect.
<i>Coastal Zones</i>	No effect.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative</b>
<b>Biological Resources</b>	
<i>Vegetation</i>	No effect.
<i>Wildlife</i>	No effect.
<i>Sensitive Species</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Wetlands</i>	No effect.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	
<i>Archaeological</i>	No effect.
<i>Historical Architecture</i>	No effect.
<i>Native American Resources</i>	No effect.
<b>Transportation</b>	
<i>Roadways and Traffic</i>	Minor Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Installation Transportation</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Public Transportation</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Utilities</b>	
<i>Potable Water Supply</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Wastewater System</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Storm water System</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Energy Sources</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Hazardous and Toxic Substances</b>	
<i>Site Contamination and Cleanup</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Minor. No Significant Impact.

## **ES.7 MITIGATION RESPONSIBILITY AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

None of the predicted effects of the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts; therefore, mitigation is not needed. However, the U.S. Army may consider the use of best management practices (BMPs) in the construction and operation of the AFRC and associated facilities in addition to those required by law, regulation, U.S. Army policy or permitting requirements. Additional BMPs may include specific measures to reduce potential erosion, storm water runoff, and sediment transport during site preparation and construction activities. The following permits and approvals would be required in implementing the projects identified in this analysis:

- A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and associated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the construction phase of the project will be necessary under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 requirements.
- A NPDES permit and associated SWPPP for AFRC complex operations will be necessary under the CWA Section 402 requirements.

- A new or revised Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan will be required for fuel storage tanks associated with any new emergency generators.
- Because the proposed CSMS site is on Commonwealth of Massachusetts property (i.e. the MAARNG), filing of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be necessary prior to any ground disturbing activities on the MAARNG property.
- A unified development permit from the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) will be needed.
- Approval from MassDevelopment will be needed to connect into the utility services along Barnum Road.

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# 1.0 PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

On September 8, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Ayer, MA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission's recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

The following are the BRAC Commission's recommendations for Ayer, MA (BRAC Commission, 2005):

“Close the Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex, Ayer, MA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA; realign the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA, by relocating the 323d Maintenance Facility, and the Regional Training Site Maintenance to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA; realign Ayer Area 3713 by relocating storage functions to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. Realign the Marine Corps Reserve Center Ayer, MA, by relocating the 1/25th Marines Maintenance Facility, Marine Corps Reserve Electronic Maintenance Section, and Maintenance Company/4th Marine Battalion to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex shall have the capability to accommodate all Reserve units affected by this recommendation, including Army National Guard units from the Ayer Armory and Consolidated [*sic*] Support Maintenance Shop, Ayer, MA, if the state decides to relocate the National Guard units.”

To implement this recommendation, the U.S. Army proposed to construct an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA), multi-use classroom, unheated storage building, and a military equipment parking (MEP) area on the 3400 Area of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens (Fort Devens) and a Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS), Class IX storage building,<sup>5</sup> and MEP area on the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property that abuts the Fort Devens 3700 Area (see Figures 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3).

To support this action the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (*Environmental Assessment - Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex and*

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<sup>5</sup> Class IX supplies are repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies, and subassemblies (repairable or non-repairable) required for maintenance support of all equipment.

**Figure 1-1. Original Proposed Action Site Locations – Fort Devens**

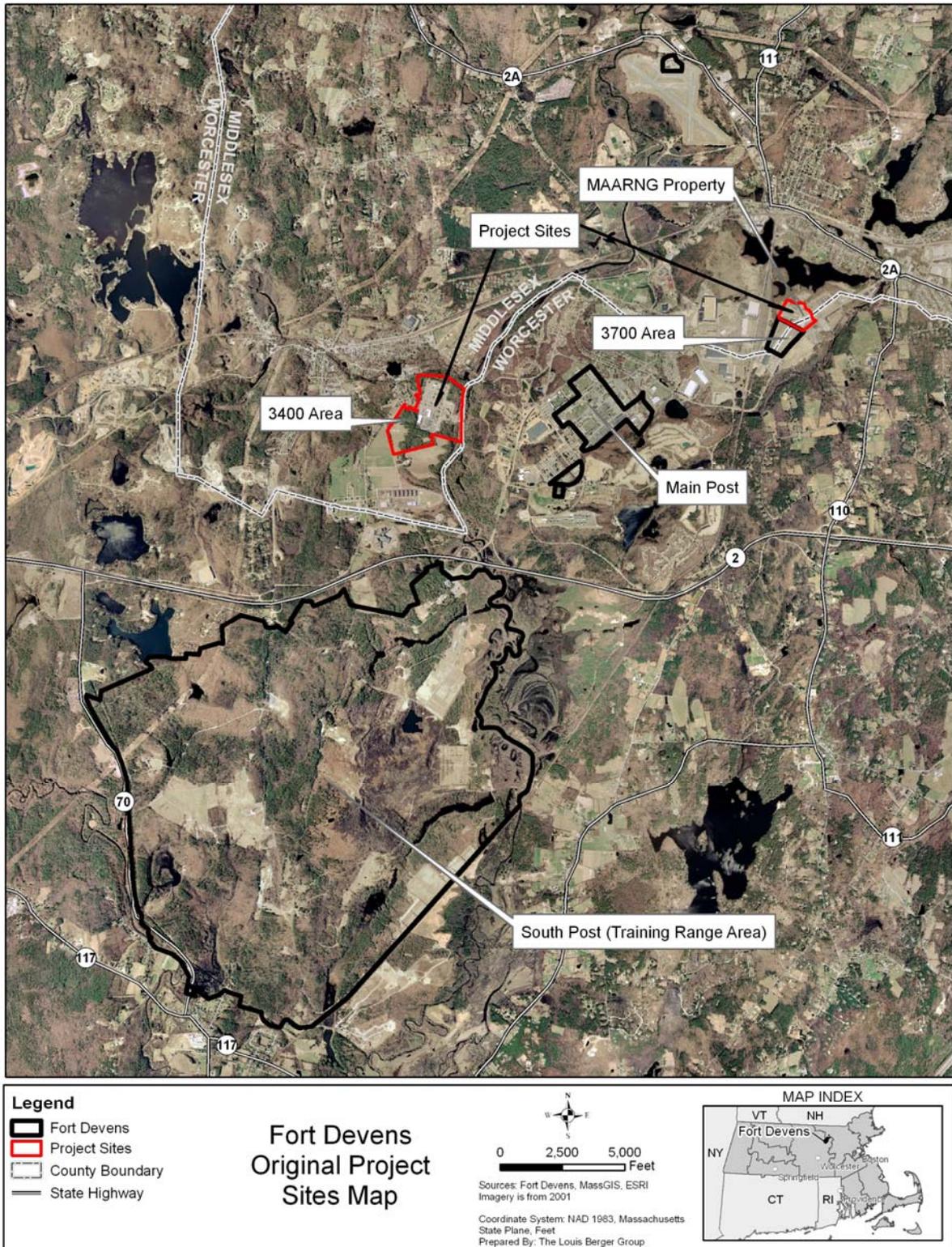


Figure 1-2. Original Proposed Action – Devens 3400 Area

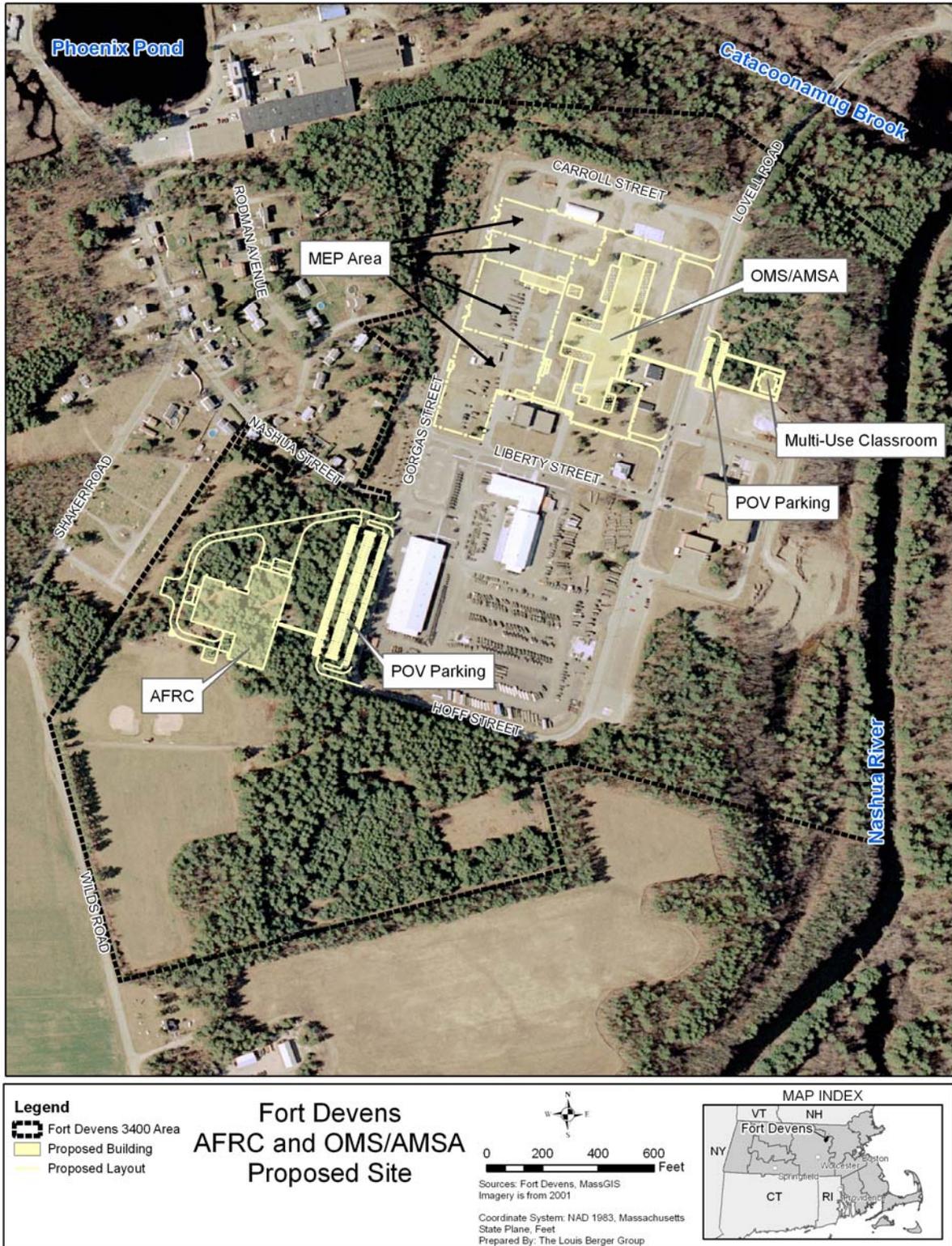
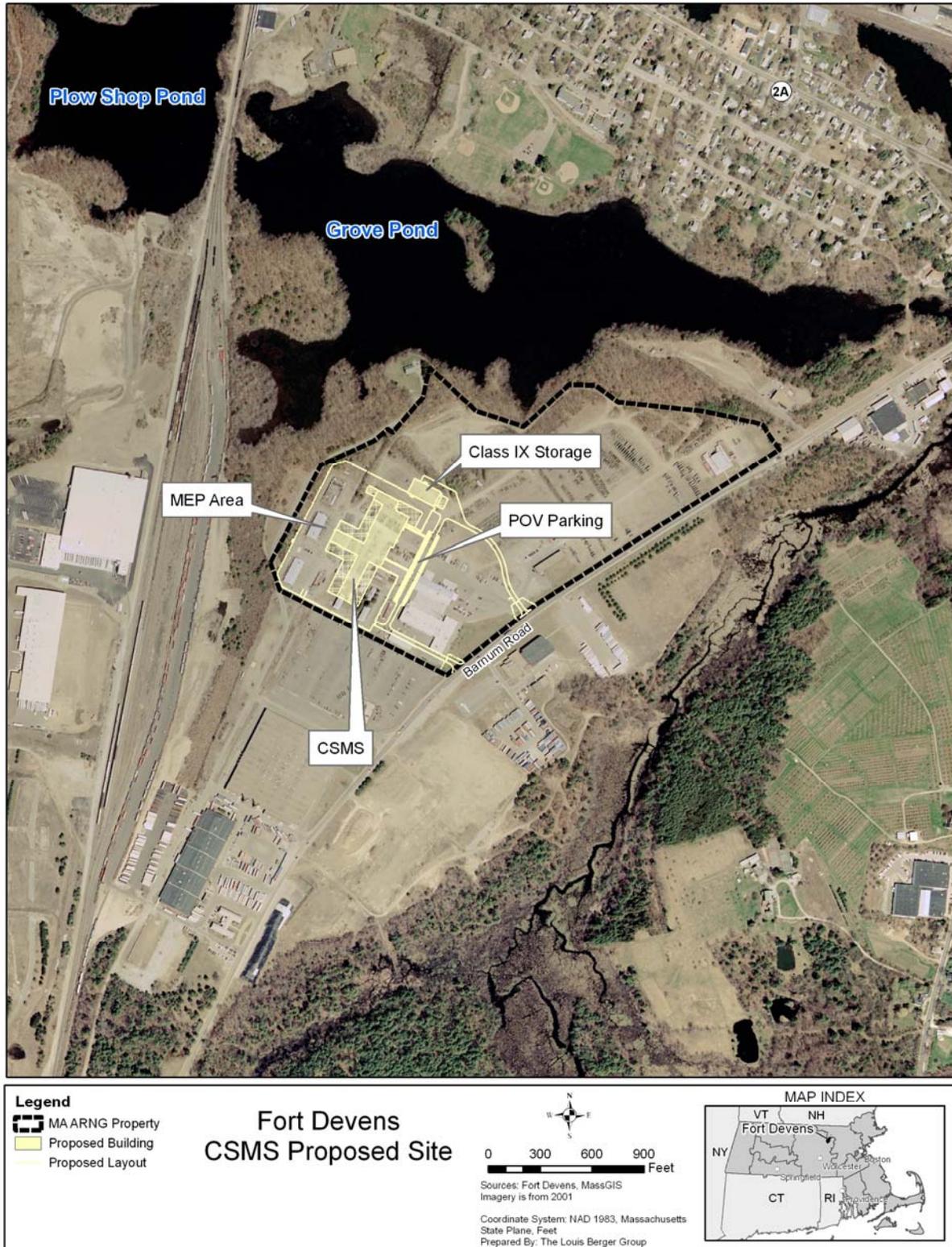


Figure 1-3. Original Proposed Action – MAARNG Property



*Implementation of BRAC 05 Realignment Actions at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, Massachusetts* May 2007) of the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations issued by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the U.S. Army.<sup>6</sup>

The EA evaluated the expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) which was issued by Fort Devens. Due to acreage constraints, project costs, and potential environmental issues with other sites, only the Proposed Action (preferred alternative) and the no-action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

Following the issuance of the FNSI on May 21, 2007 and consequent project approval by the U.S. Army, the Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) reviewed the original project and issued a legal opinion stating that construction of the AFRC on the 3400 Area of Fort Devens, located in Shirley, MA, does not comply with the intent of the BRAC Commission’s recommendation to locate the AFRC in Ayer, MA (OTJAG, 2007a and 2007b).<sup>7</sup> Based on the original proposed scenario prepared by the 94<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC) and submitted to the Reserve Component Process Action Team (RC PAT), up to The Army Basing Study (TABS), and to the BRAC Commission, as well as Cost of Base Realignment Actions (COBRA) data supporting the recommendation, the OTJAG concluded that the “information indicates the Commission envisioned no result other than construction in Ayer, MA...particularly on the 3700 block.” (OTJAG, 2007a). The OTJAG’s opinion specifically states that to meet the intent of the BRAC Commission’s recommendation that the AFRC complex needs to be constructed on a parcel of land that is either wholly or partially located in the town of Ayer, MA. As a result of the OTJAG’s ruling, the U.S. Army revised the Proposed Action to locate the AFRC complex on the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the adjacent MAARNG property located along the town lines of Ayer and Harvard, MA. The U.S. Army concluded that it was necessary to reevaluate the expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action.

This document provides the results of the re-evaluation as a supplement to the original EA prepared for the BRAC 2005 realignment actions at Fort Devens in Ayer, MA. This document provides the current description of the Proposed Action and describes the expected effects the project will have on the environment that differ from those effects expected to result from the original Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative, which provides the baseline condition against which the alternatives are evaluated, and its expected environmental effects are not included in this document because they have not changed from those included in the original EA (U.S. Army, 2007).

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<sup>6</sup> CEQ *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*, 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Parts 1500–1508, and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, 32 CFR Part 651.

<sup>7</sup> Fort Devens is located in portions of four communities; the towns of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Lancaster, MA; however, as a point of reference it is often referred to as being located in the town of Ayer, MA.

## **1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **1.2.1 Purpose of the Proposed Action**

The purpose of, and need for, this Proposed Action remain as described in the original EA. In general, the purpose of the Action is to implement the BRAC Commission's recommendations pertaining to Fort Devens in Massachusetts, and specifically, to provide for a new AFRC complex in Ayer, MA. The AFRC is needed to ensure that adequate training and administrative space is available to support reserve units realigned from area facilities and the addition of MAARNG units.

## **1.3 SCOPE**

The scope of this Supplemental EA remains the same as described in the original EA. The No Action Alternative is not described in this Supplemental EA. Its expected environmental effects have not changed from those included in the original EA and are hereby incorporated by reference (U.S. Army, 2007)

## **1.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT**

The U.S. Army invites public participation in the NEPA process. Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision making. All agencies, organizations, and members of the public having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in that decision making process.

Public participation opportunities with respect to this Supplemental EA and decision making on the Proposed Action are guided by 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 651. Upon completion, the Supplemental EA will be made available to the public for 30 days, along with a draft FNSI. At the end of the 30-day public review period, the U.S. Army will consider any comments submitted by individuals, agencies, or organizations on the Proposed Action, the Supplemental EA, or draft FNSI/NOI. If no significant impacts are expected, the U.S. Army may then execute the FNSI and proceed with implementing the Proposed Action. If it is determined prior to issuance of a final FNSI that implementing the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts, the U.S. Army will publish in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or commit to mitigation actions sufficient to reduce impacts below significance levels.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section describes the U.S Army's revised Preferred Alternative for implementing the BRAC Commission's recommendations for Fort Devens based on the OTJAG's legal opinion as discussed in Section 1.1. The BRAC Commission recommended the realignment of the following agencies/activities with relocation to Ayer, MA (BRAC Commission, 2005):

“Close the Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex, Ayer, MA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA; realign the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA, by relocating the 323d Maintenance Facility, and the Regional Training Site Maintenance to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA; realign Ayer Area 3713 by relocating storage functions to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. Realign the Marine Corps Reserve Center Ayer, MA, by relocating the 1/25th Marines Maintenance Facility, Marine Corps Reserve Electronic Maintenance Section, and Maintenance Company/4th Marine Battalion to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex shall have the capability to accommodate all Reserve units affected by this recommendation, including Army National Guard units from the Ayer Armory and Consolidated [*sic*] Support Maintenance Shop, Ayer, MA, if the state decides to relocate the National Guard units.”

### **2.2 PROPOSED ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSED**

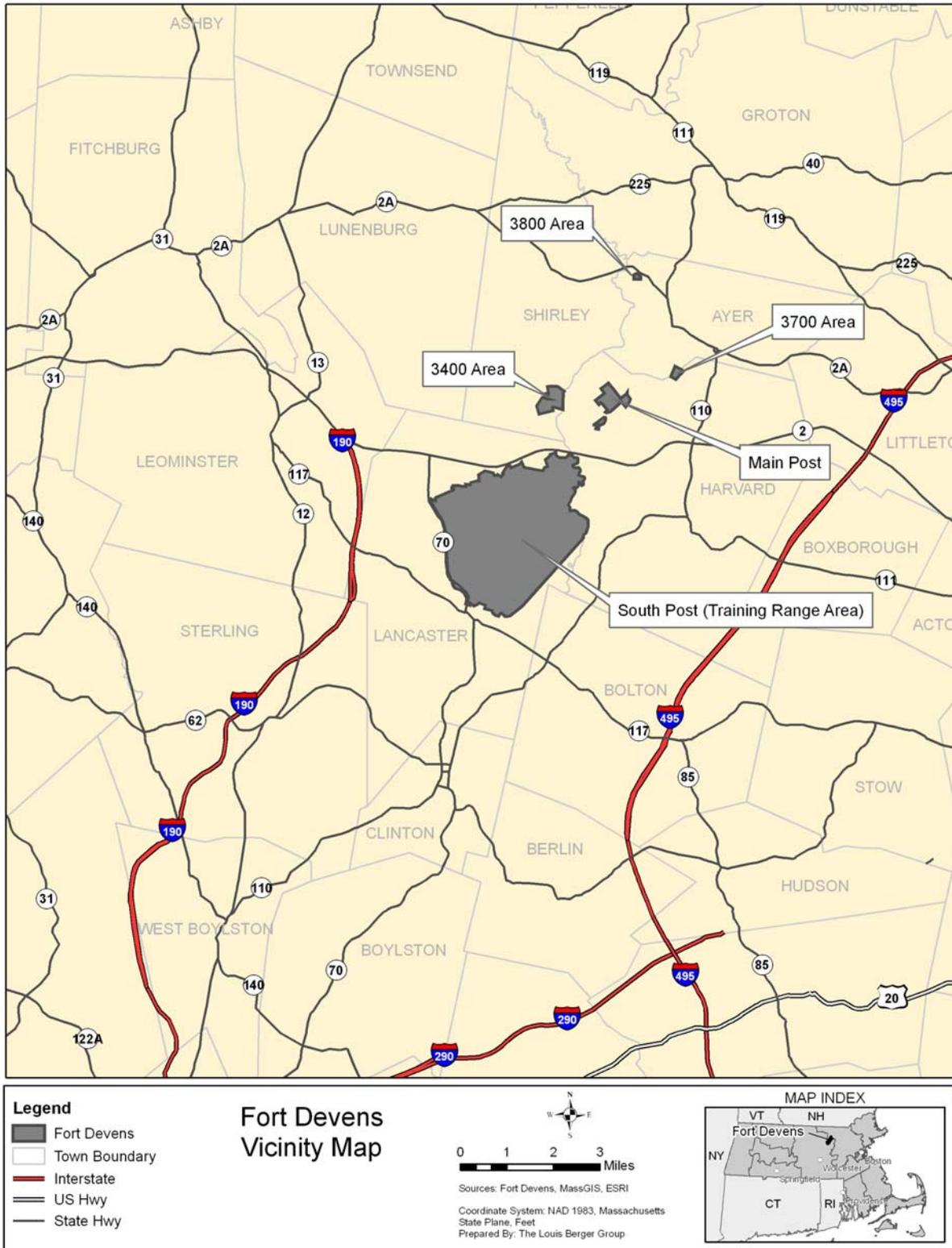
The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Fort Devens in Ayer, MA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MAARNG units relocating from the local area as recommended by the BRAC Commission. Figure 2-1 provides a general area map indicating the location of Fort Devens in the communities of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Lancaster.

The Proposed Action is further detailed below, in the *Facilities* (Section 2.2.1), *Equipment* (Section 2.2.2), and *Personnel* (Section 2.2.3) sub-sections.

#### **2.2.1 Facilities**

The AFRC and associated support facilities are essentially the same as in the original Proposed Action, though due to slight changes in design layout some of the square footages have changed slightly and the single unheated unit storage building will now be 2 smaller buildings. The proposed AFRC would be a two-story structure and would provide a 1,000-member training facility with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. Associated support facilities include an OMS/AMSA, a CSMS, a multi-purpose classroom, an unheated storage building, and a Class IX storage building. The approximate size of the AFRC and the additional support facilities are provided in Table 2-1.

**Figure 2-1. Fort Devens Area Map**



**Table 2-1. AFRC Complex Building Sizes**

<b>Building</b>	<b>Approximate Size (square feet (SF))</b>
Armed Forces Reserve Center	95,681
Multi-use classroom	7,300
OMS/AMSA	60,250
Unheated-unit storage building (U.S. Army Reserve)	1,387
Unheated-unit storage building (MAARNG)	4,385
CSMS	93,255
Class IX storage building	16,053
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278,496</b>

Source: U.S. Army, 2008

In addition, there would be approximately 61,372 square yards (SY) of paved MEP areas and 13,545 SY of paved privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas (U.S. Army, 2006a). The proposed facilities would be constructed at the Devens 3700 Area and the abutting MAARNG property to the north (see Figure 2-2). Supporting improvements proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities include paving, fencing, a covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities infrastructure, and extension of utilities to service the project. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting, and accessibility for disabled persons would also be provided (U.S. Army, 2006a). Approximately 13 existing buildings, trailers, and double-wide mobile homes would be demolished prior to construction of the proposed facilities.

In addition to the construction of the AFRC complex located at the Fort Devens 3700 Area and the MAARNG property, a paved MEP area approximately 5,900 SY in size with lighting would be constructed at the Devens 3400 Area. There are approximately 100 vehicles that belong to Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) 65 currently being stored at the Devens 3700 Area. To implement the Proposed Action, these vehicles need to be permanently moved. Since ECS 65 is located at the Devens 3400 Area and space is available, it was determined that the vehicles should be moved to the Devens 3400 Area and a paved MEP area constructed at that location (see Figure 2-3).

Descriptions of the preferred locations are discussed further under the Preferred Alternative in Section 3.3.4 – *New Construction Alternative Sites*.

**Figure 2-2. Preferred Site for the Proposed Action – Fort Devens 3700 Area/MAARNG Property**

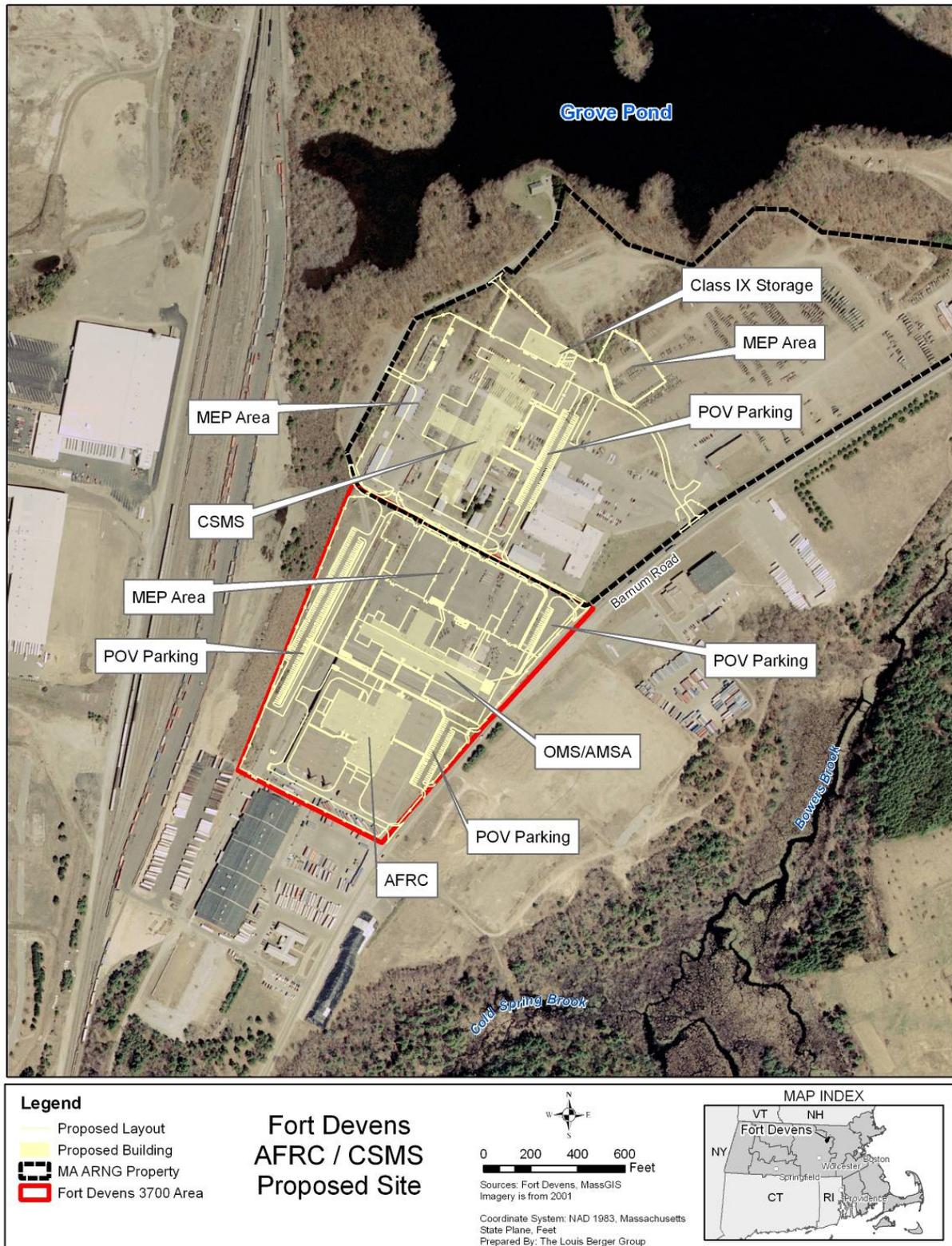
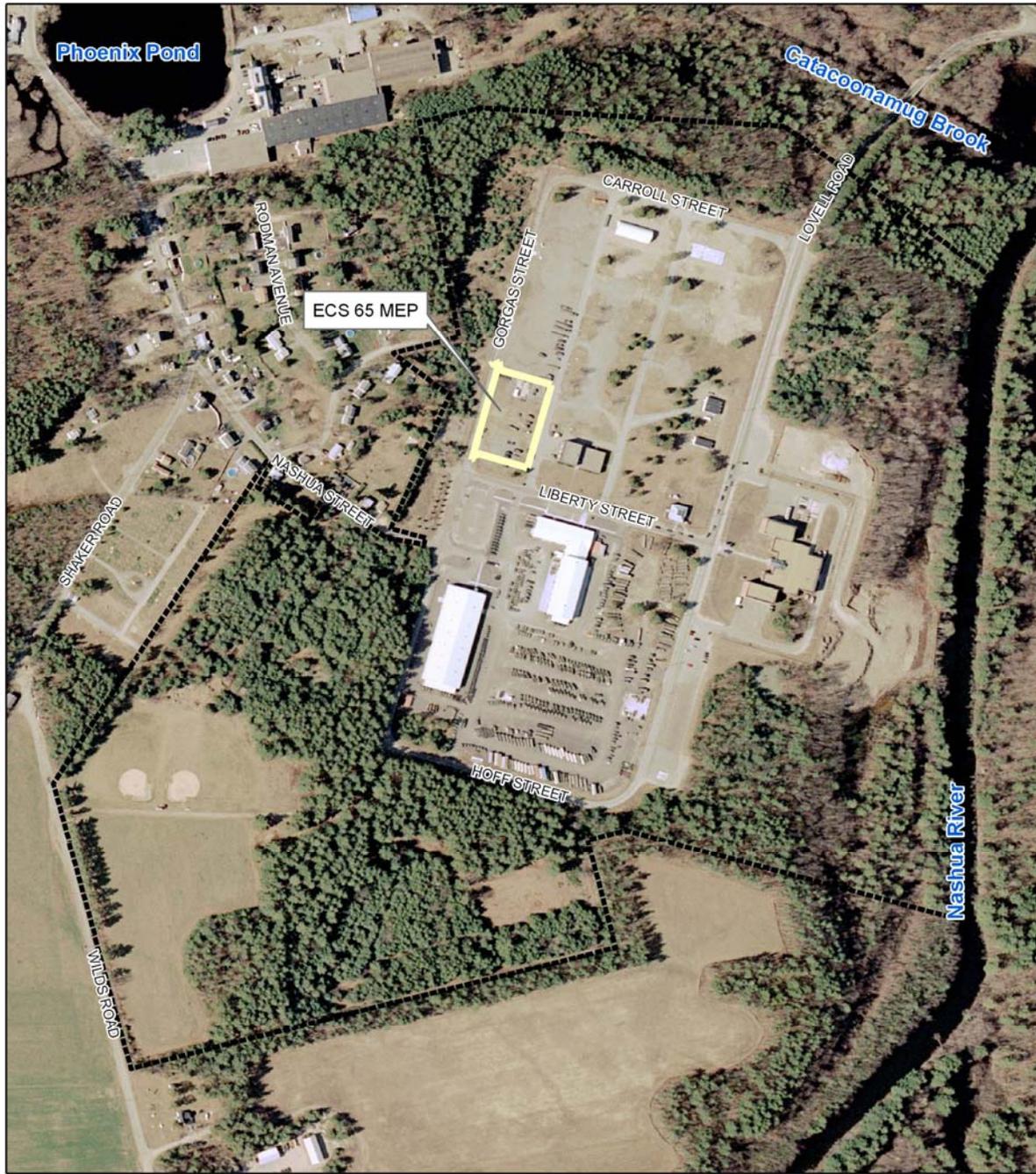
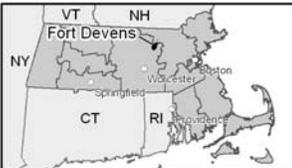


Figure 2-3. ECS 65 MEP – Fort Devens 3400 Area



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Proposed Layout</li> <li><span style="border-top: 1px dashed black; border-bottom: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 2px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fort Devens 3400 Area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fort Devens 3400 Area - ECS 65 MEP Area Proposed Site</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><small>Sources: Fort Devens, MassGIS Imagery is from 2001</small></p> <p><small>Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAP INDEX</b></p> 
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## 2.2.2 Equipment

The relocation and realignment of reserve units to the proposed AFRC at Fort Devens would also bring associated unit vehicles, equipment, and materials. This action, however, would not increase the total number of vehicles on post, for all of the vehicles are currently stored at Fort Devens or at the MAARNG site (U.S. Army, 2006b). The total number of vehicles that would be located at the proposed AFRC complex remains the same as described in the original EA and is approximately 789, including 542 wheeled vehicles, 191 trailers, and 56 tracked vehicles. Although vehicles associated with units currently at Fort Devens and the MAARNG do not represent an increase in the total number of vehicles for these locations, they do factor into the size requirement for the proposed new facilities and MEP areas. Table 2-2 provides a breakdown of the number of vehicles by reserve unit relocating to the AFRC complex.

**Table 2-2. Fort Devens 2005 BRAC Actions: Vehicle Changes**

Action	Organization	From	Total Number: Wheeled Vehicles	Total Number: Trailers	Total Number: Tracked Vehicles	Total Estimated Increase in Vehicles at Fort Devens
On-base	Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex	Fort Devens	≤ 76	0	0	0
On-base	Regional Training Site - Maintenance	Fort Devens	45	39	27	0
On-base	323 <sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company	Fort Devens	43	27	0	0
On-base	1/25 <sup>th</sup> Marines Headquarters	Fort Devens	104	0	0	0
On-base	Maintenance Company/ 4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion	Fort Devens	0	0	0	0
Incoming	1/25 <sup>th</sup> Marines Electronics Maintenance Section	Worcester, MA	0	0	0	0
On-base	Combined Support Maintenance Shop	MAARNG Ayer, MA	171	82	27	0
On-base	110 <sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company	MAARNG Ayer, MA	55	16	2	0
On-base	E Company, 126 <sup>th</sup> BSB	MAARNG Ayer, MA	48	27	0	0
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>

### 2.2.3 Personnel

The number of personnel relocating to the AFRC remains the same as described in the original EA and would not significantly increase the total number of personnel at Fort Devens. All but 4 personnel from the relocating units are associated with units currently based at Fort Devens or the MAARNG. The only unit not located at Fort Devens or the MAARNG that would be relocating to the proposed AFRC is the 4-person Electronics Maintenance Section of the 1/25<sup>th</sup> Marines Maintenance Facility currently located in Worcester, MA. Table 2-3 provides a breakdown of the number of personnel by reserve unit relocating to the AFRC complex (U.S. Army, 2006b).

**Table 2-3. Fort Devens 2005 BRAC Actions: Personnel Changes**

Action	Organization	From	Total Number of Unit Personnel	Total Estimated Increase in Personnel at Fort Devens
On-base	Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex	Fort Devens	16	0
On-base	Regional Training Site – Maintenance	Fort Devens	14	0
On-base	323 <sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company	Fort Devens	168	0
On-base	1/25 <sup>th</sup> Marines Headquarters	Fort Devens	4	0
On-base	Maintenance Company/4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion	Fort Devens	58	0
Incoming	1/25 <sup>th</sup> Marines Electronics Maintenance Section	Worcester, MA	4	+4
On-base	Combined Support Maintenance Shop	MAARNG Ayer, MA	101	0
On-base	110 <sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company	MAARNG Ayer, MA	145	0
On-base	E Company, 126 <sup>th</sup> BSB	MAARNG Ayer, MA	132	0
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>+4</b>

Although personnel associated with units currently at Fort Devens and the MAARNG would not contribute to an increase in total personnel coming to Ayer, MA, they do factor into the size requirement of the new AFRC and associated parking requirements. The potential direct and/or cumulative impacts on the environment from the co-location and slight increase in personnel are considered in this Supplemental EA.

### 2.3 SCHEDULE

Under the BRAC law, the U.S. Army must initiate all realignments not later than September 15, 2007, and complete all realignments not later than September 15, 2011.<sup>8</sup>

Implementation of the Proposed Action would occur over a span of approximately 2 years, as shown in the schedule contained in Table 2-4. Construction of the facilities would be synchronized to meet the needs of units being relocated.

**Table 2-4. Schedule for Fort Devens 2005 BRAC Projects**

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>	<b>Estimated Construction Start</b>	<b>Estimated Construction Completion</b>
CAR 64845	Armed Forces Reserve Center	\$70,543,000	July 2008	July 2010

Source: Jasper, 2008a and U.S. Army, 2008

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<sup>8</sup> Section 2904(a), Public Law 101-510, as amended, provides that the Army must "... initiate all closures and realignments no later than two years after the date on which the President transmits a report [by the BRAC Commission] to the Congress ... containing the recommendations for such closures or realignments; and ... complete all such closures and realignments no later than the end of the six year period beginning on the date on which the President transmits the report ... " The President took the specified action on September 15, 2005.

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Alternatives to the Proposed Action have been examined according to four variables: the means to accommodate realigned units, siting of new construction, schedule and the OTJAG's legal opinion that the Proposed Action must be sited either wholly or partially in the town of Ayer, MA to be consistent with the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation. This section presents the U.S. Army's development of alternatives and addresses alternatives available for the Proposed Action. As stated earlier, the No Action Alternative is not discussed, for it has not changed from what was described in the original EA.

### 3.2 DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

***Means to Accommodate Realigned Units.*** Relocation of units and establishment of new units involves ensuring that the installation has adequate physical accommodations and infrastructure for personnel and their operational requirements. The U.S. Army considers four means of meeting increased space requirements:

- Use of existing facilities
- Modernization or renovation of existing facilities
- Leasing of off-post facilities
- Construction of new facilities

U.S. Army Regulation 210-20, *Master Planning for Army Installations*, establishes U.S. Army policy to maximize the use of existing facilities. The regulation directs that new construction will not be authorized to meet a mission that can be supported by the use of existing underutilized but adequate facilities, provided that the use of such facilities does not degrade operational efficiency. Under this policy, selection and use of facilities to support mission requirements adheres to the foregoing four choices in the order in which they are listed. That is, if there are adequate existing facilities to accommodate requirements, and absent other overriding considerations, further examination of renovation, leasing, or construction alternatives is not required. Similarly, if a combination of use of existing facilities and renovation satisfies the U.S. Army's needs, leasing or new construction need not be addressed. New construction may proceed only when use of existing facilities, renovation, leasing, or a combination of such measures are inadequate to meet mission requirements.

***Siting of New Construction.*** The U.S. Army considers new construction of facilities when use of existing facilities, renovation, or leasing would fail to provide for adequate accommodations of realigned functions. The U.S. Army considers both general and specific siting criteria for construction of new facilities.

General siting criteria include consideration of compatibility between the functions to be performed and the installation land use designation for the site, adequacy of the site for the function required, proximity to related

activities, distance from incompatible activities, availability and capacity of roads, efficient use of property, development density, potential future mission requirements, and special site characteristics, including environmental incompatibilities.

Specific siting criteria include consideration of location of the workforce and efficient, streamlined management of functions. Collocation of similar types of functions, as opposed to dispersion, permits more efficient use of equipment, vehicle, and other assets.

*Schedule.* Alternatives for scheduling of proposed realignment actions are principally affected by three factors: the availability of facilities to house realigned personnel and functions, efforts to minimize potential disruption of mission activities based on the number of personnel involved in the relocation or the amount of work to be performed, and early realization of benefits to be gained by completion of the realignments. In most cases, minor shifts in schedule would not produce different environmental results.

### **3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

#### **3.3.1 Use of Off-Base Leased Space**

The only possible off-base leased space scenario in the Ayer, MA area would be to utilize build-to-suit leased facilities. No appropriate facilities currently exist in the area capable of meeting this requirement (U.S. Army, 2006a). Further, construction outside the installation would be counter-productive to the war-fighting, operational, and security considerations of this overall relocation plan. Any location outside the installation would also not meet the project objective. For these reasons, use of off-base leased space is not feasible and is not further evaluated in this Supplemental EA.

#### **3.3.2 Acquisition of New Property**

According to the OTJAG legal opinion (OTJAG, 2007b) this alternative is permitted under the BRAC Commission's recommendation as long as the property acquired is in the town of Ayer, MA. However, with federal (Fort Devens) and state owned (MAARNG) property available, the purchase of new property would substantially undermine the cost savings realized through the closure and consolidation of multiple U.S. Army Reserve facilities. Therefore, this alternative is not further analyzed in this Supplemental EA.

#### **3.3.3 Existing Fort Devens Facilities**

According to the OTJAG legal opinion, locating the AFRC Complex on any portion of Fort Devens that is not wholly or partially within the town of Ayer, MA would not be consistent with the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation (OTJAG, 2007b). Only the Fort Devens 3800 and 3700 Areas meet the requirement of being wholly or partially located in Ayer, MA. As described in the original EA, due to size restrictions in both available building square footage and land acreage, the Fort Devens 3800 Area is not suitable for the Proposed Action and is not further evaluated in this Supplemental EA.

On the Devens 3700 Area there is a large, 1-story, brick building (building 3713) on a thick, hardened, concrete slab. Though building 3713 is more than large enough to accommodate the size requirements of the AFRC, it does not meet AT/FP standards. For this reason, building 3713 cannot be used and the use of existing facilities at Fort Devens is not further evaluated in this Supplemental EA.

### **3.3.4 New Construction Alternative Sites**

Construction of new facilities at Fort Devens is considered the best option because there are no viable alternative facilities currently available on the installation that could reasonably accommodate the requirements of the realigning units, either singularly or combined. New construction would also facilitate a high level of shared use of facilities by the relocated units if configured and managed properly. While providing adequate and appropriate space for each unit to accomplish its own home station goals and objectives, integrated new construction would also include significant areas that would allow for shared use by all of the newly realigned units. These include a common drill/assembly area, food service areas, physical fitness facility, classroom space, conference areas, and vehicle maintenance and storage areas. New construction would also ensure that AT/FP standards can be met.

#### ***Preferred Alternative – Fort Devens 3700 Area***

This site encompasses the 3700 Area of Fort Devens (approximately 27 acres) and a portion of the adjacent MAARNG property (approximately 30 acres) and is the only site that complies with the BRAC Commission's recommendation (see Figure 2-2). The site is large enough to support the size of the proposed AFRC, associated facilities, and parking (POV and MEP). It can also meet AT/FP stand-off buffer requirements. In addition, the site is previously disturbed and in an industrial land-use area with appropriate baseline infrastructure and access points in-place. As noted above, Building 3713, a large 1-story brick building on a thick, hardened, concrete slab currently occupies part of the Devens 3700 Area. This building has not been in use since the mid-1990s and does not meet AT/FP requirements. This building would need to be demolished and its concrete slab removed under the Proposed Action. Another portion of the Devens 3700 Area is currently used as a MEP area by ECS 65 for approximately 100 vehicles. These vehicles would need to be moved to the Devens 3400 Area where ECS 65 is located and a new MEP area constructed for them at that location.

The adjacent MAARNG property is currently owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The MAARNG and the U.S. Army are proposing to establish a "Right of Entry" for the U.S. Army to design and build on Commonwealth property. Final details of this "Right of Entry" are under discussion. Although the U.S. Army does not currently own the MAARNG property, construction of the CSMS on this location meets the intent of the BRAC Commission's recommendation (OTJAG, 2007a).

Though this is the preferred alternative there are disadvantages to the site that will need to be addressed in order to implement the Proposed Action. The portion of the Devens 3700 Area that is currently being used as a MEP area includes Areas of Contamination (AOC) 44 and 52 and is regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Contamination at the site included petroleum

hydrocarbons resulting from motor vehicle gasoline spills, a leaking waste oil storage tank, and spills and leaks from military vehicle maintenance and storage. Remediation activities at the site included the excavation of over 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, asphalt batching of an additional 11,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil (used in creating an asphalt cap on the site), upgrades to the storm water collection system, and groundwater monitoring. The March 1995 Record of Decision (ROD) for the AOCs included a number of Institutional Controls (ICs) that will need to be complied with to implement the Proposed Action. In addition, Building 3713 and the 12 buildings on the MAARNG property that need to be demolished have asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead based paint (LBP) (Simms, 2008 and U.S. Army, 2006d). These materials will need to be remediated and properly disposed of.

### **3.3.5 Scheduling Alternatives**

The schedule for implementing the Proposed Action must balance facilities construction timeframes and planned arrival dates of realigned units within the 6-year limitation of the BRAC law. Realignment earlier than July 2010 is not feasible in light of the time required to build facilities. Shifting of schedules to accomplish realignment at a later date would unnecessarily delay realization of benefits to be gained. In addition, Congress requires completion by September 15, 2011. Since earlier implementation is not possible, and since delay is avoidable and unnecessary, alternative schedules are not further evaluated in this Supplemental EA.

## 4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the current environmental conditions of the areas that would be affected by the Proposed Action that differ from those previously described in the original EA. This section also describes the potential effects the Proposed Action would have on the environment that differ from those effects expected to result from the originally proposed project.

For this Supplemental EA no resource areas or areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern were identified beyond those identified in the May 2007 EA for the originally proposed action. The 12 resource areas evaluated in this Supplemental EA include: land use, aesthetic and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics (including environmental justice), transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. Environmental resources for which the environmental conditions and effects of the currently Proposed Action are expected to be similar in extent or magnitude to those expected from the originally Proposed Action are not reiterated in this document. These resources include *Aesthetics and Visual Resources*, *Noise*, and *Socioeconomics*. The affected environment and the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action for the aforementioned resource areas are described in the original EA. The effects of the No Action Alternative are also not included in this Supplemental EA because they have not changed from those included in the original EA.

### 4.2 LAND USE

#### 4.2.1 Affected Environment

All general information regarding the *Land Use* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA with the following two additions.

##### 4.2.1.1 *Installation Land*

The Devens 3700 Area is predominately paved and has one large, single story, brick building located on it (Figure 4-1). Prior to the 1995 BRAC Action, this site was used for vehicle maintenance and repair activities. This area includes two AOCs - AOC 44 and AOC 52 that are regulated under CERCLA. Both sites were contaminated as a result of vehicle maintenance activities over a long period of time, and included releases of gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, crankcase fluid, and other automotive fluids. A ROD was signed in March 1995 selecting a cleanup remedy for the site and implementing a number of ICs. The ICs assume the property will remain zoned for commercial/industrial use and prohibit the property from being developed or used for residential purposes (U.S. Army, 1995). Since the mid-1990's, Building 3713 has been largely out of use; however, the capped CERCLA

site is still currently being used as a storage area for approximately 100 military vehicles belonging to the ECS 65 (Figure 4-2).

**Figure 4-1. East Side of Building 3713 and Barnum Road at Devens 3700 Area**



**Figure 4-2. Military Vehicle Storage at Devens 3700 Area**



#### **4.2.1.2 Current and Future Development in the Region of Influence**

The previously vacant MassDevelopment property on the southeast side of Barnum Road directly across the street from the Devens 3700 Area is now being developed as a solar panel manufacturing facility by Evergreen Solar. When completed the approximately 22 acre parcel will house approximately 550,000 SF of manufacturing, warehouse, and administrative spaces and include 362 parking spaces for employees and visitors. The buildings will not exceed 35 feet in height, and approximately 80-90 percent of the site will be covered by impervious surfaces (DEC, 2007 and Harvard, MA, 2007).

#### **4.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### **4.2.2.1 Preferred Alternative**

Under the Preferred Alternative there would be no change to the historic or current land use of the Devens 3700 Area, the adjacent MAARNG property, or the Devens 3400 Area where the ECS 65 MEP area is proposed; therefore, there would be no significant impacts to land use. The MAARNG property is currently used for vehicle maintenance, repair and storage activities; activities that would continue to occur at the proposed CSMS site. The use of the Devens 3700 Area for a training center and vehicle maintenance and repair operations is consistent with historical uses of the site and are consistent with the reuse restrictions designated in the 1995 ROD for AOCs 44 and 52 which stipulate that the property remain zoned for commercial/industrial use. The continued use of these properties for vehicle maintenance and storage activities would also not conflict with the surrounding land use which is light industrial, including a railhead facility, and commercial.

The Fort Devens Master Plan designates a large portion of the Devens 3400 Area for maintenance and supply/storage (U.S. Army, 1999). The ECS 65 MEP area is proposed to be located at the corner of Gorgas and Liberty Streets in an area that is currently being used to store vehicles (see Figure 4-3). Although portions of the area outside of the Devens 3400 Area fence line are open space and residential, the proposed vehicle storage area is consistent with and would not change the current land use of the Devens 3400 Area of light industrial and administrative activities.

### **4.3 AIR QUALITY**

#### **4.3.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding *Air Quality* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA.

#### **4.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### **4.3.2.1 Preferred Alternative**

The *General Conformity Analysis* performed for the originally Proposed Action remains valid for the currently Proposed Action. Under the currently Proposed Action, 12 buildings on the MAARNG property as well as

**Figure 4-3. Fort Devens 3400 Area - View northeast from Gorgas and Liberty Streets**



Building 3713 on the Devens 3700 Area would need to be demolished prior to constructing the new proposed facilities. All of the buildings have ACMs and LBP in them (Simms, 2008 and U.S. Army, 2006d). The removal and disposal of these materials would be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations as stipulated in the Design Analysis RFP (U.S. Army, 2008) and would not impact the local or regional air quality.

#### **4.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

##### **4.4.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding the *Geology and Soils* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA with the following additional information for the Devens 3700 Area.

The Devens 3700 Area is on top of a very productive deep gravel, essentially unconfined aquifer with a saturated thickness exceeding 100 feet in the vicinity the proposed facilities. The area is dominated by 4 soil series; Merrimac-urban land complex, Udorthents, Urban Land Complex, and Hinkley. Merrimac soils are very deep and somewhat excessively drained. Udorthents consist of very deep, somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained soils. These soils are in areas that are excavated or filled, or otherwise disturbed by man. The Urban Land Complex designation indicates soils so altered by urban activity that they are not readily identifiable.

Hinkley soils consist of droughty sand and gravel soils that are excessively to somewhat excessively drained (USDA, 2006 and U.S. Army, 1999).

The Devens 3700 Area was previously contaminated as a result of vehicle maintenance activities over a long period of time, and included releases of gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, crankcase fluid, and other automotive fluids. There was a single larger release of an estimated 20 gallons of gasoline in 1995. A 1,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) was removed in May 1992. Contaminated soil near the UST was removed and shipped off-site for treatment and disposal. A ROD was signed in March 1995 selecting a cleanup remedy for remaining contamination at the site. This remedy included removal of the top 2-feet of topsoil across most of the site, asphalt batching the soil and repaving the site (U.S. Army, 1995). All remediation actions were completed by 1996 and the September 2000 Five Year Review confirmed that remediation and ground water monitoring was complete and that no other follow-up actions were required (U.S. Army, 2005a).

#### **4.4.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### ***4.4.2.1 Preferred Alternative***

Similar to the original EA, there would be no impacts to geologic or topographic conditions, including for the Devens 3700 Area, as all of the proposed facilities would be built on primarily flat, previously disturbed land that would only require minor leveling and grading.

No significant impacts to soils would be expected as a result of implementing the Proposed Action under the preferred alternative. The site of the proposed ECS 65 MEP area at the Devens 3400 Area is unpaved and is currently being used as a vehicle storage area. The soils in this area are not known to be contaminated; however, if visual indications, such as staining, suggest that the surface soils may be contaminated with elevated levels of petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POLs) from vehicle leaks, soil sampling would be conducted to further evaluate the soils and determine what, if any, remedial actions need to be taken. There are no Study Areas (SA) or Areas Requiring Environmental Evaluation (AREE) within the footprint of the proposed ECS 65 MEP area. Those areas in proximity to the site (SA 43S to the west, AREE 61V to the north and AREE 61BB to the east) would not be affected by the Proposed Action. These sites were previously investigated, and remediated as necessary, as part of the 1991 BRAC process for Fort Devens and were issued No Further Action Decision Documents (NFADD) (U.S. Army, 2007 and U.S. Army, 1995). The Devens 3400 Area was also previously the site of a hospital, and there is known to be remnant sub-surface building footings, slabs and utilities (U.S. Army, 2006c). These materials would need to be excavated, removed, and properly disposed of during site preparation and earthworks activities. In addition, some hazardous waste from the operation of the hospital may exist on site. If any hazardous waste from the hospital is found during construction activities it would be removed and disposed of properly. Due to the disturbed nature of the proposed MEP site, the capacity of the soil to produce vegetative biomass (i.e. soil productivity) is minimal, with only scrub grass and weeds currently growing on the site. What little soil productivity does exist would be eliminated within the footprint of the paved MEP area.

For the proposed CSMS site on the MAARNG property, negligible impacts would be expected. The proposed site is predominantly paved with little exposed soils and is currently already being used by the MAARNG for military vehicle storage and maintenance. The 12 buildings on the MAARNG property, as well as Building 3713 located on the Devens 3700 Area, require some abatement and removal of ACM, LBP, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (Simms, 2008 and U.S. Army, 2006d). The materials would be removed and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental and safety regulations to prevent contamination of any surrounding soils.

At the Devens 3700 Area the proposed OMS/AMSA and new MEP area would be located within the footprint of the AOC 44 and 52 site remediation. Due to the condition of the pavement and engineering requirements for the new facilities, the paved cap would be removed and soils possibly excavated. This action is in compliance with the institutional controls of the ROD for the AOCs, which allows excavation to occur that is being “undertaken in connection with construction of building or other structures, utilities, infrastructures or any other construction related purpose where the cover is penetrated and/or temporarily removed and protection from long-term exposure to subsurface soil is not jeopardized.” (U.S. Army, 1995). If the soils are excavated they would be sampled and analyzed for contamination and then reused or treated in accordance with the ROD which has been incorporated as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the AFRC Design Analysis (U.S. Army, 2008).

For all construction activities associated with the Proposed Action soil erosion and sediment production would be minimized as a result of following an approved sediment and erosion control plan. Prior to construction activities, the U.S. Army, the MAARNG, or the construction contractor would submit a NOI under proper National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) procedures, and would prepare a site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) describing specific measures that would be taken during construction.

An approved storm water management plan would also be implemented to prevent the contamination of on-site or nearby soils as a result of vehicle storage and maintenance or other activities on the sites. All areas outside of the building and parking footprints would be re-graded and re-vegetated (as necessary) following construction activities, and soil erosion and sediment control measures would be included in the site plans to minimize long term erosion and sediment production at the sites.

No impacts to Prime Farmland soils would be expected. The Farmland Protection Policy Act does not apply to the proposed sites because the land is previously disturbed, and has already been converted to non-farm, urban use. Therefore, it does not meet the definition of farmland provided for by the Act, and thus is not subject to the Act.

## **4.5 WATER RESOURCES**

### **4.5.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding the *Water Resources* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA. Figures 4-4 and 4-5 show the water resources in the vicinity of the project areas.

Figure 4-4. Water Resources in the Vicinity of the Fort Devens 3700 Area

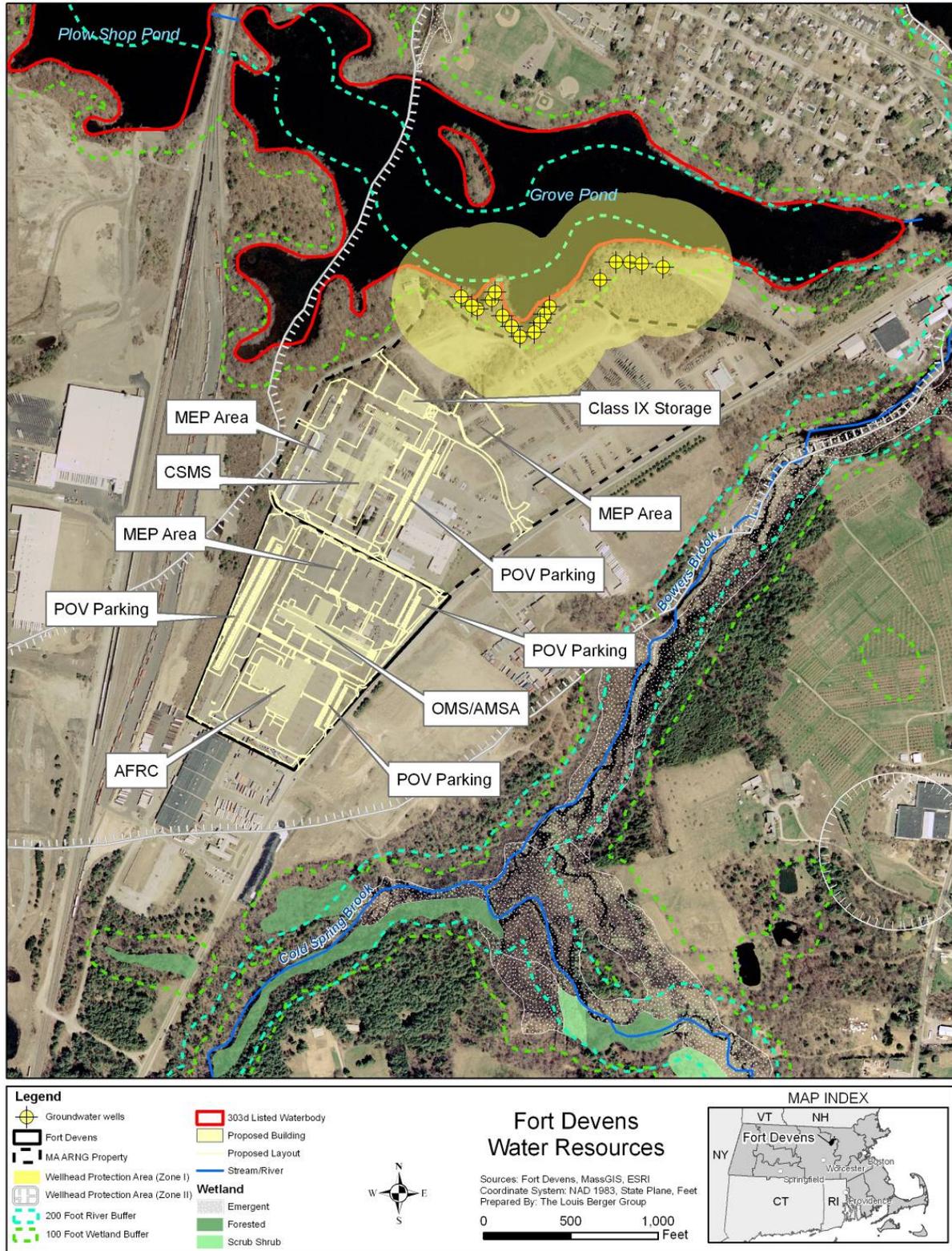


Figure 4-5. Water Resources in the Vicinity of the Devens 3400 Area



## **4.5.2 Environmental Consequences**

### **4.5.2.1 Preferred Alternative**

Impacts on water resources from construction and operation of the AFRC facilities on the Devens 3700 Area, the CSMS on the MAARNG property, and the ECS 65 MEP area on the Devens 3400 Area would be negligible and have no significant effects. Actions associated with the construction and operation of the AFRC and the other facilities would be implemented in compliance with any applicable state laws and regulations set forth in the state Clean Water Act (CWA), the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c131 s40 and 310 CMR 10.00), the Ground Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 6.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (310 CMR 21.00), Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00) and the Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00).

#### **Surface Water/Wetlands**

Impacts to surface waters and wetlands associated with this project are anticipated to be negligible. As stipulated in the RFP for the AFRC Design Analysis the post development storm water runoff will not exceed the pre-development storm water runoff (U.S. Army, 2008). It is likely that the amount of storm water runoff will actually decrease at the CSMS site and the Devens 3700 Area, for the amount of impervious surfaces at these sites will decrease post-construction. The existing CSMS site is approximately 27.4 acres large and consists of approximately 24.8 acres of impervious surface. Post-construction, the amount of impervious surface will be approximately 17.7 acres (Smith, 2008). At the Devens 3700 Area, approximately 20.6 acres of the 26.7 acre site is comprised of impervious surfaces. This will be reduced to 17.2 acres post-construction (Jasper, 2008b). Current plans for the Proposed Action include the construction of storm water detention basins to collect storm water runoff at both the CSMS site and the Devens 3700 Area, with the number and size to be determined during the final engineering and design of the facilities (U.S. Army, 2008).

At the Devens 3700 Area storm water runoff is currently handled through a system that was expanded and rehabilitated as part of the site remediation activities for two spill sites in 1996 (U.S. Army, 2005b). System improvements included the installation of a drainage system to collect surface storm water from the newly paved surfaces, and a detention pond constructed to store accumulated rainfall and minimize flow volumes and velocities at the outfall of the drainage system at Cold Spring Brook. In addition to the detention basins the new construction would also likely tie into this storm water drainage system, which would be improved, as necessary, to meet current applicable state requirements for discharge into Cold Spring Brook.

At the Devens 3400 Area, storm water management structures, conveyances, and other management procedures are already in place. These include 16 storm water drains and a subsurface retention pond, baffles for separation of oily residues, and a gross-particle separator of sediment prior to the eventual discharge of storm water from the retention pond to the Nashua River. Under the Proposed Action the amount of impervious surfaces at the 3400 Area would increase by approximately 1.2 acres since most of the proposed ECS 65 MEP area is currently a

pervious surface that would be paved. The MEP area would tie into the existing storm water system which would be adequate to accommodate the increase in storm water runoff from the newly paved surface.

Storm water runoff from the proposed sites (Devens 3700 Area, CSMS site, and the Devens 3400 Area) would be required to comply with applicable State storm water planning requirements as described under the State Storm Water Management Policy and its authority under the Wetland Protection Act (MA DEP, 2006). Assuming these requirements are met, no additional water quality or quantity impacts on adjacent streams or downstream impacts on impaired (303d listed) water bodies would be anticipated.

During site preparation, earthworks, and construction activities at the construction sites, best management practices (BMPs) for erosion and sedimentation controls would ensure that storm water runoff would not cause or exacerbate erosion. In addition, the OMS/AMSA facility and the CSMS facility as well as the vehicle wash pad will include trench drains that convey flow through oil-water separators prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer system (U.S. Army, 2008), thus minimizing potential impacts on water resources.

For the MEP areas, with the implementation of both storm water controls as necessary under an approved storm water management plan and pollution prevention measures, such as using drip trays, mats, and regularly removing vehicle fluids during long-term storage of vehicles, it is not anticipated that storm water drainage during the operation of the MEP area would impact nearby surface waters.

### **Hydrogeology/Ground water**

Oil and antifreeze spills and leaks from vehicle maintenance and storage operations under the Proposed Action could potentially impact ground water sources at the Devens 3700 and 3400 Areas and the CSMS site. At the 3400 Area this potential impact would be less than what currently exists, because the existing MEP area is unpaved, whereas the proposed MEP area will be paved, making it easier to detect any spills/leaks and preventing any POLs from being absorbed directly into the soil and potentially impacting ground water sources. In addition to being paved sites, potential spills and leaks at the Devens 3700 and 3400 Areas and the CSMS site would be minimized by strict adherence to safety procedures for vehicle maintenance and the operation of equipment. Any construction, demolition, and operation of facilities on the sites would continue to adhere to existing applicable ground water protection protocols as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (1974, with amendments 1986) and described in the state Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00). These measures would ensure that potential effects would likely be negligible.

According to the Final Remedial Action Report for AOCs 44 and 52 (U.S. Army, 2005b), groundwater monitoring is no longer required at the Devens 3700 Area. As part of the Proposed Action nine of the eleven groundwater monitoring wells at this site will be decommissioned in accordance with state regulations. The decommissioning of these wells has been approved by the Fort Devens Base Realignment and Closure Division, the U.S. EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) (Simeone, 2008). Two

monitoring wells (G3M-92-04X and G3M-92-05X), both located within the former Maintenance Yards, will remain, for they are being considered as part of the ongoing Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) in case sampling of groundwater for explosives contamination is needed (see Section 4.10 Hazardous and Toxic Substances) (Simeone, 2008). If it is not possible to keep these wells intact during construction activities, they will be properly decommissioned and then reinstalled upon completion of construction activities (U.S. Army, 2008). Upon determination that these two wells are not needed as part of the MMRP or sampling for explosives contamination is complete, these two wells will be decommissioned in accordance with state regulations (Simeone, 2008).

### **Floodplains**

The proposed project sites are located on previously modified land that is not within a floodplain. Therefore, no impacts on floodplains are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

### **Coastal Zones**

Fort Devens is not within a Coastal Zone Management Area, and therefore coastal management measures do not apply.

## **4.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

### **4.6.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding *Biological Resources* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA. In addition, and similar to the adjacent MAARNG property, the Devens 3700 Area is principally developed and predominantly covered with impervious surfaces. Few trees or grassed areas exist on the site and what does exist is scrub in nature.

### **4.6.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **4.6.2.1 Preferred Alternative**

**Vegetation** – No impacts to vegetation would occur. The Devens 3700 Area and the CSMS site are dominated by impervious surfaces. Construction of the proposed facilities would require the removal of a few scattered trees which are common species and currently provide minimal wildlife habitat value. Once construction is complete, landscaping would mitigate the loss of any trees or small grassed areas on these sites. The proposed ECS 65 MEP area at the Devens 3400 Area is currently used for vehicle storage and provides minimal wildlife habitat value with only some scrub grass for vegetative cover, which would be removed for the construction of the new MEP area.

**Wildlife** – No impacts to wildlife would occur. Diversity of wildlife on the proposed construction sites is limited; and species that utilize the property have adapted to living conditions in urban habitats and are tolerant to human

disturbances. After construction is complete, landscaping may slightly enhance the wildlife value for common birds species adapted to an urban setting at the Devens 3700 Area and the CSMS sites.

**Sensitive Species** – No federal listed threatened or endangered species are known to occur within the boundary of the Fort Devens 3700 or 3400 Areas or the MAARNG property. Previous correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the Devens 3700 and 3400 Areas and the MAARNG property was completed in January 2007 with the USFWS indicating that construction activities at these locations would not adversely impact any federally listed species (see Appendix A).

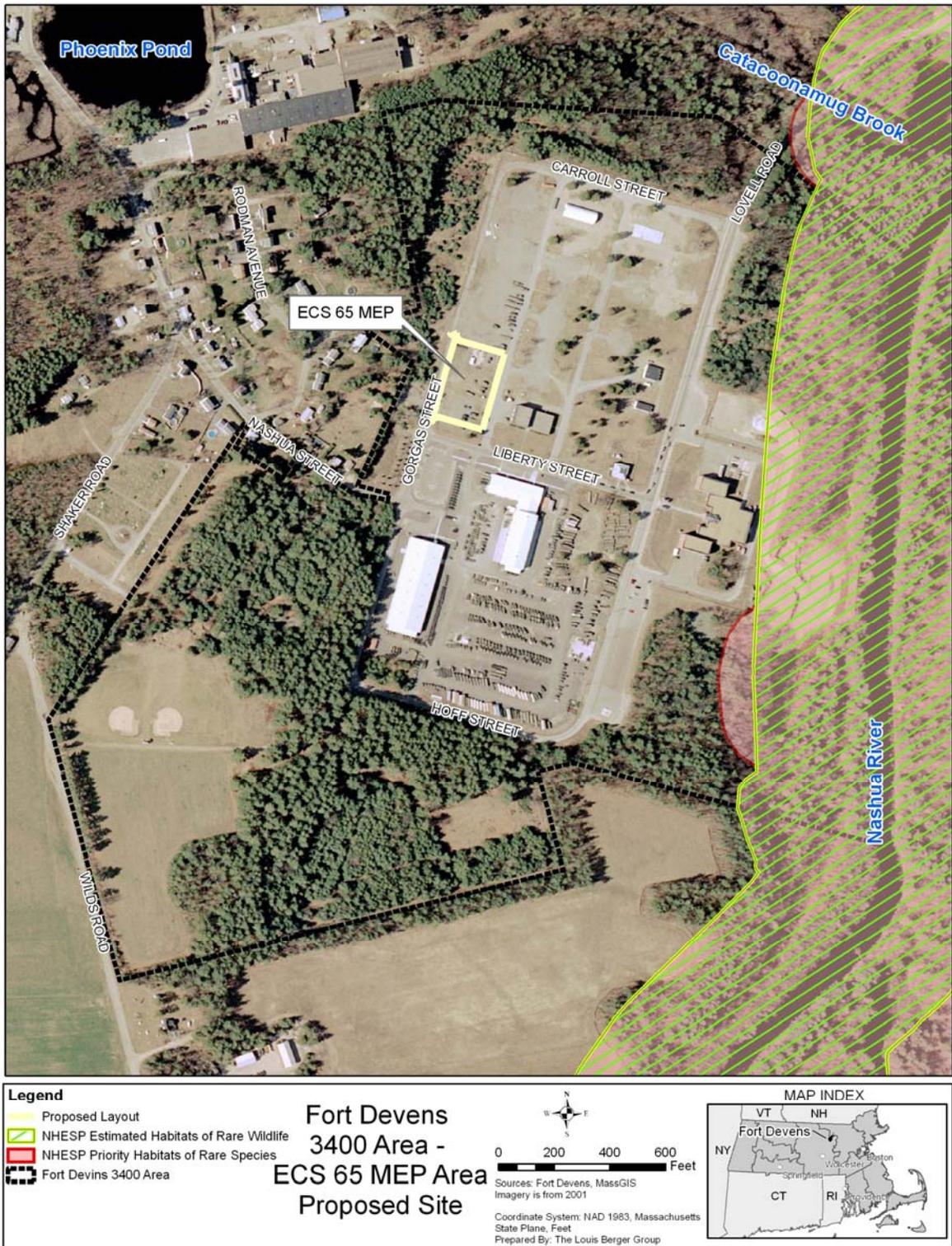
Previous correspondence with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MA DFW) indicated that construction activities at the Devens 3700 Area and MAARNG property would not impact any state protected species or habitat (see Appendix A). Under the original Proposed Action of constructing the AFRC, OMS/AMSA, MEP and multi-use classroom at the Devens 3400 Area the MA DFW indicated by letter dated February 7, 2007 that the preliminary design of the multi-use classroom would encroach slightly upon a broad area of habitat designated as Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species associated with the Nashua River. However, under the current Proposed Action only the ECS 65 MEP area would be constructed at the Devens 3400 Area and it is not located in or adjacent to the Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife or Priority Habitats of Rare Species associated with the Nashua River. Therefore, there would be no impact on the protected habitat or state protected species (Figure 4-6).

**Wetlands** – No adverse effects would be expected. There are no wetlands located within the construction footprint or immediately adjacent to the proposed facilities at either the Devens 3700 or 3400 Areas or the CSMS site, and all of the proposed facilities would be located outside of the state's 100 foot buffer protecting wetlands.

Storm water detention ponds are planned for the Devens 3700 Area and the CSMS site and any storm water conveyed through the existing storm water drainage system that conveys water to the detention pond on the east side of Barnum Road prior to discharge into Cold Spring Brook would be required to comply with applicable State storm water planning requirements. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any wetland vegetation or wildlife associated with Cold Spring Brook would be impacted by the runoff.

At the Devens 3400 Area the existing storm water system would be used and runoff from the site would also be required to comply with applicable State storm water planning requirements. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any wetland vegetation or wildlife associated with the Nashua River would be impacted by the runoff.

Figure 4-6. NHESP Designated Habitats for the Fort Devens 3400 Area



## **4.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **4.7.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding cultural resources discussed in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA. Figures 4-7 and 4-8 show the cultural resources in the vicinity of the project areas.

### **4.7.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***4.7.2.1 Preferred Alternative***

The findings in the original EA that construction activities at the Devens 3400 Area and the CSMS site on the MAARNG property would not have any significant impacts on cultural resources remains the same for the current Proposed Action in this Supplemental EA.

As part of the current Proposed Action at the Devens 3700 Area Building 3713 (Combined Field Maintenance Shop) would be demolished to construct the AFRC and multi-use classroom within its footprint. There are no other buildings located on the Devens 3700 Area. Building 3713 is a large 1-story building on a thick, hardened, concrete slab. It was built in 1942 and has not been in use since the mid-1990's. An Intensive Archaeological Survey of Fort Devens conducted in 1993 by Public Archeological Laboratory, Inc. revealed that no significant archaeological or historic sites exist within the Devens 3700 Area (U.S. Army, 2002). In previous correspondence completed in July 2006 the MA SHPO indicated that demolishing Building 3713 and constructing new facilities on the Devens 3700 Area was "unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources ." (see Appendix A).

Based on the conclusions of previous studies outlined in the original EA and MA SHPO concurrence that there are no eligible historic or archaeological resources in the project areas, the Proposed Action will not have any significant adverse effects on cultural resources.

## **4.8 TRANSPORTATION**

### **4.8.1 Affected Environment**

All general information regarding *Transportation* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA. Figure 4-9 shows the local road network around Fort Devens.

### **4.8.2 Environmental Consequences**

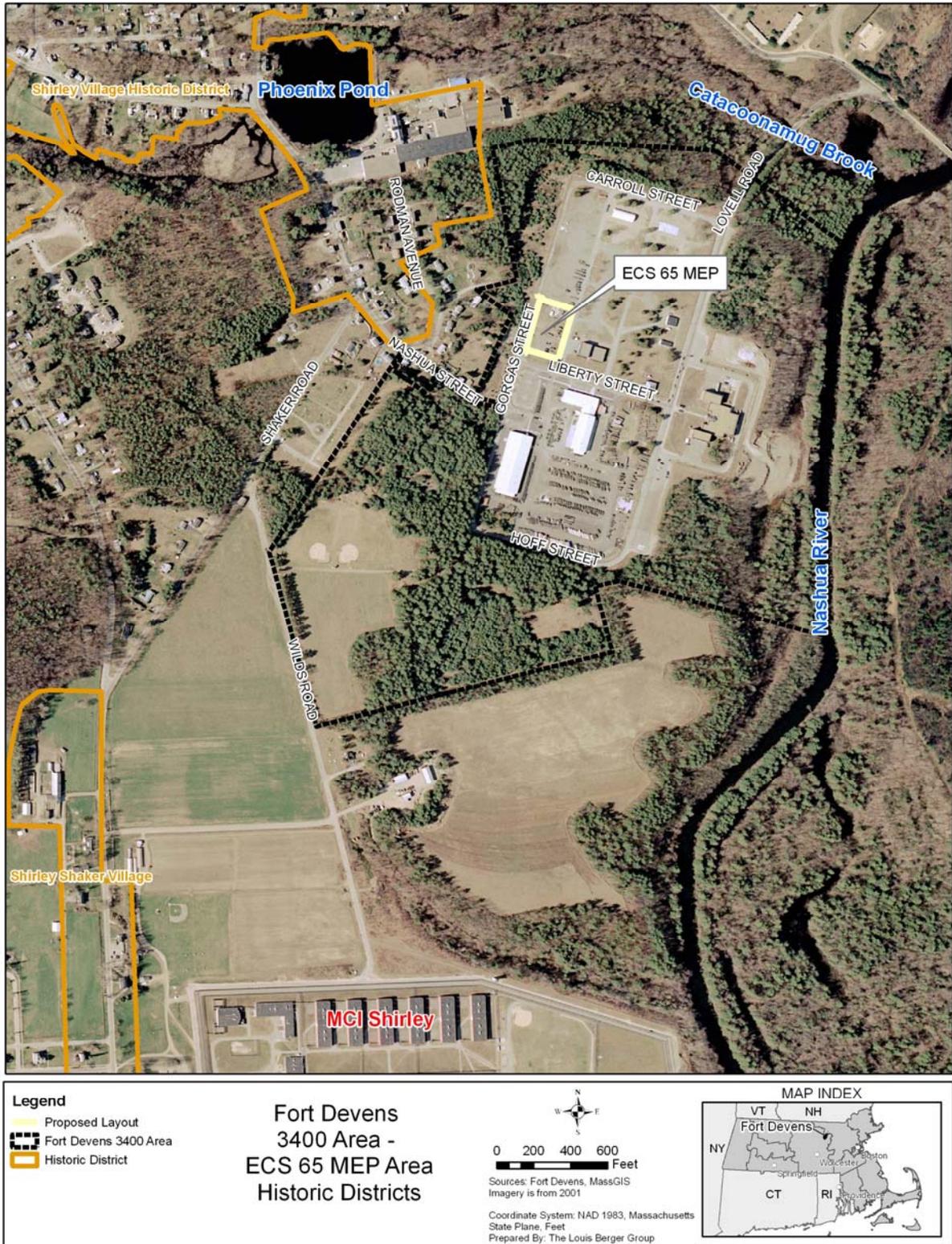
The following criteria have been developed to assess the transportation impacts of the Proposed Action:

Negligible – Current traffic patterns and trends would prevail. There would be virtually no change to traffic operations as a result of the action.

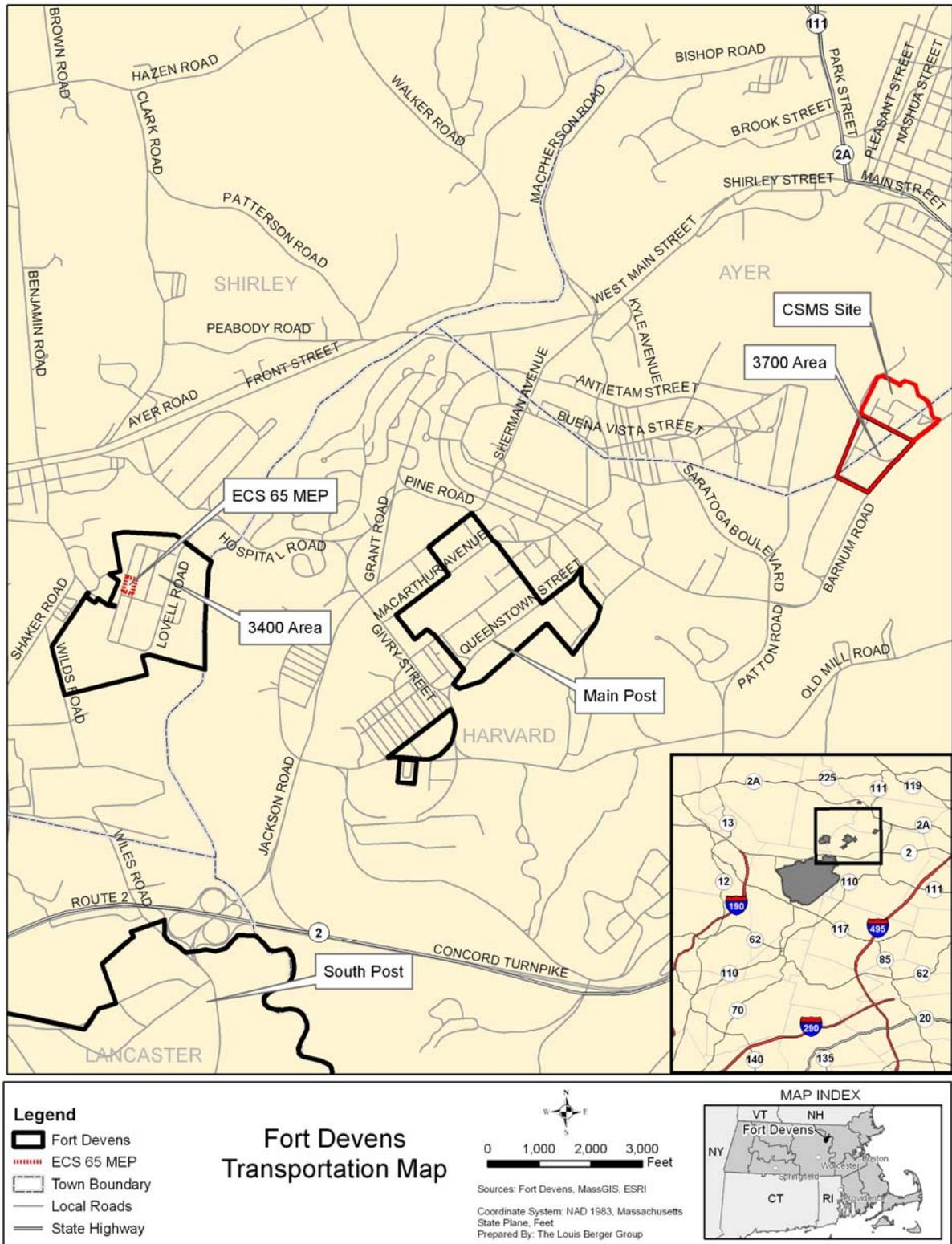
Figure 4-7. Historic Sites in Proximity to the Devens 3700 Area



Figure 4-8. Historic Sites in Proximity to the Devens 3400 Area



**Figure 4-9. Fort Devens Area Transportation Map**



Minor – Short-term alteration of traffic patterns and trends would result from the action. Minor delays and queuing may occur, but intersections and gates affected would not reach capacity.

Moderate – Short- or long term changes to the traffic patterns and trends would result from the action. Affected intersections and gates may reach capacity, but this change would be temporary or managed through improvements.

Major – Traffic patterns would be permanently altered from the action. Intersections and gates would reach capacity and extensive delays would develop.

#### **4.8.2.1 Preferred Alternative**

**Roadways and Traffic** – No significant impacts to area roadways and traffic would be expected under the Preferred Alternative, for approximately 99 percent of the personnel relocating to the new facilities already travel on the local roads with approximately 59 percent of them already accessing the MAARNG property on Barnum Road.

Under the Proposed Action a total of 642 personnel would be relocating to the new AFRC and CSMS facilities along Barnum Road. Of these, 378 already report to the existing CSMS on the MAARNG property while 260 would be relocating from other areas on Fort Devens. The other four personnel would be relocating from their current unit location in Worcester, MA. Therefore, to estimate the impact of the new AFRC complex on the surrounding area, a total of 264 additional personnel are assumed in the calculations. Based on the mix of full-time employees and part-time (weekend) reservists, the following assumptions are made for the analysis:

- Assume that all full-time personnel (47) will be accessing the AFRC on weekdays and all reservists (217) will be accessing the AFRC on weekend days;
- Assume three drill weekends per month and that the reservists accessing the AFRC will be evenly spread between those three drill weekends;
- Therefore, the assumptions model expected increases of 47 personnel on weekdays and 72 on the weekend days.

Estimates of the number of additional trips generated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action were prepared using the procedures established by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) in its Trip Generation Handbook (2nd Edition) and its associated Trip Generation rates (ITE, 2003). The trip generation rates reflect civilian transportation patterns; however, there are similarities to military bases and they are used at a number of military bases to assess potential transportation impacts of proposed projects. Based on a survey of developments with different designated land uses incorporated within the handbook, the trips generated for each land use type were associated with an independent variable (building function, building square footage, number of personnel) and time period of analysis (AM and PM peak on weekdays; peak hour on Saturday and Sunday) through a

regression analysis. The trip rates used in this analysis reflect a higher concentration of trips in the AM and PM peak hours than in civilian transportation patterns and also reflect an assumption that 5 percent of the AFRC personnel carpool to work.

The AM peak hour volumes represent a notional single peak hour that could be, for example, between 7:00-8:00 AM or 7:30-8:30 AM and reflect the conditions at a peak hour in the morning. The PM peak hour volumes reflect a similar situation in the afternoon.

Using the trip generation procedure outlined by the ITE, the trips generated by the Proposed Action were estimated for a typical weekday and a typical drill weekend day. The estimated number of additional trips associated with the Proposed Action is presented in Table 4-1. As the table shows, the establishment of the new AFRC would generate 33 additional incoming trips to the preferred AFRC site during the AM peak hour and generate 32 additional outgoing trips during the PM peak hour on a weekday. On a drill weekend day there would be an estimated 52 additional incoming trips and an estimated 49 additional outgoing trips generated during the AM peak hour and PM peak hour, respectively.

**Table 4-1. Estimated Additional Trips Generated Under the Proposed Action**

Project Description	AM Peak Hour			PM Peak Hour		
	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
<b>Weekday</b>						
Armed Forces Reserve Center	33	4	37	6	32	38
<b>Weekend</b>						
Armed Forces Reserve Center	52	6	58	9	49	58

Based on the relatively minor increases in trips under the Proposed Action, the resulting impacts on traffic would be minor. The AFRC and CSMS facilities will not have a gate guard system in place, and therefore no impacts to gate access times would occur.

The Hospital Road Bridge which provides access to the Devens 3400 Area from Jackson Road via Girvy Street is currently closed for repairs and is not expected to reopen until fall of 2008. This closure would impact construction traffic during the time when the bridge closure and construction activities at the 3400 Area coincide, for all construction traffic would need to access the site via Front Street in Shirley which would create slightly longer travel distances. It is assumed that if the bridge were not closed some construction traffic would still access the 3400 Area via Front Street; therefore, only negligible to minor, short-term adverse impacts would be expected while the bridge is closed during construction of the facilities at the 3400 Area.

**Installation Transportation and Public Transportation** – Negligible impacts would be expected, as the Preferred Alternative would direct traffic to an area of the post with well-developed road access. Some traffic to and from the AFRC site and Main Post would be expected by personnel accessing support functions located on

Main Post. However, the need for such trips would be limited by the expected on-site facilities at the new AFRC, including drill/assembly areas, food service areas, and physical fitness areas.

## **4.9 UTILITIES**

### **4.9.1 Affected Environment**

The general information for *Utilities* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplemental EA.

### **4.9.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***4.9.2.1 Preferred Alternative***

Overall effects on utilities as a result of implementing the Preferred Alternative would be negligible, since existing utility services (water supply, sanitary sewer, natural gas, electrical and communications) are expected to be adequate for current and future usage demands. Some highly localized, temporary disruptions would be expected as utility lines and linkages are adjusted or extended as necessary to suit the specifics of the proposed AFRC complex building footprints and anticipated peak utility demands. An emergency generator would be necessary under the Preferred Alternative to ensure that operations are not disrupted during outages or emergencies. The emergency generator would likely require an above ground storage tank (AST) or UST that could require an updated Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan. Detailed specifications on the emergency generator, including capacity, fuel type(s), estimated annual usage, and AST/UST requirements, have not been finalized. Current utility lines at the 3400 Area are expected to be extended to the new ECS 65 MEP area to support light facilities for the MEP area.

At the AFRC and CSMS sites, the existing storm water conveyances are expected to be adequate to handle the storm water runoff from the sites, for the amount of post-construction impervious surfaces at the sites will be less than currently exists (see Section 4.5 – Water Resources). Despite this, storm water detention basins to collect storm water run-off would still be included in the site plans (U.S. Army, 2008). The exact number and size of the basins will be determined during the final design phase of the project, but they will be designed to handle a 25-year, 24-hour storm (U.S. Army, 2008). At the 3400 Area, storm water management structures, conveyances, and other management procedures are already in place. This includes a subsurface retention pond, baffles for separation of oily residues, and a gross-particle separator of sediment prior to eventual discharge from the retention pond to the Nashua River. The ECS 65 MEP area would tie into the existing storm water system which is adequate to accommodate the slight increase in storm water from the newly paved surface.

Construction NPDES permit(s) and associated SWPPP(s) would be necessary, and it is anticipated that operations NPDES storm water discharge permit(s) would also be required or current permits revised and/or updated. In addition, MassDevelopment owns the utilities along Barnum Road. In order to tie into these services coordination with and approvals from MassDevelopment will need to be obtained.

## **4.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

### **4.10.1 Affected Environment**

All of the general information for *Hazardous and Toxic Substances* described in the original EA remains valid for this Supplement EA. In addition, the following information is provided regarding the Devens 3700 Area.

The Devens 3700 Area was previously in active use as a vehicle maintenance area, and continues to be in current use as a vehicle storage site. The area was known as the Barnum Road Maintenance Yards and was the subject of Installation Restoration Program (IRP) remediation activity that addressed three sites. Site #38 was the Battery Repair site and Former Pit; Site #44 was the Cannibalization Yard; and Site #52 was the TDA (Table of Distribution and Allowances) Maintenance Yard. Site #38 was remediated and reached No Further Action status in September, 1995. The other two sites were investigated as a single Operable Unit under the overall Fort Devens Superfund (CERCLA) action, Site ID# 010096, and managed as Areas of Contamination (AOC) - AOC 44 and AOC 52. Both sites were contaminated as a result of vehicle maintenance activities over a long period of time, and included releases of gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, crankcase fluid, and other automotive fluids. There was a single larger release near the center of the Cannibalization Yard (AOC 44) of an estimated 20 gallons of gasoline in 1985, and a 1,000-gallon UST was removed from this site in May 1992. Contaminated soil near the UST was removed and shipped off-site for treatment and disposal. A ROD was signed in March 1995 selecting a cleanup remedy for the remaining contamination at AOCs 44 and 52. This remedy included removal of the top 2-feet of topsoil across most of the site, asphalt batching the soil and repaving the site, renovating the storm drainage system, and long-term ground water monitoring. All remediation actions were completed by 1996 (U.S. Army, 2005a). Ground water monitoring was discontinued in 2000, after sampling results showed that contaminants were well below applicable standards. A Final Remedial Action Report was issued in September 2005 (U.S. Army, 2005b).

The Devens 3700 Area was also a rifle and machine gun range from 1942 to 1965. While historical documents record only small arms use, smoke grenades were found during a 1995 Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) sampling project within the historical range boundaries, but outside of the current Devens 3700 Area boundary (URS, 2007). During the remediation construction activities in 1995 for AOC 44 and AOC 52 several discoveries of practice rounds were discovered (U.S. Army, 2005b).

### **4.10.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***4.10.2.1 Preferred Alternative***

The analysis in the original EA for *Hazardous and Toxic Substances* remains valid for this Supplemental EA with the following additions for the Devens 3700 Area.

Under the Proposed Action the demolition of Building 3713 will require some abatement and removal of ACM, LBP, and PCBs (Simms, 2008). The removal and disposal of these materials would be conducted in accordance

with all applicable federal, state and local regulations as stipulated in the Design Analysis RFP (U.S. Army, 2008). The AFRC would include an emergency generator and associated AST tank or UST that would likely contain adequate amounts of diesel fuel to ensure that AFRC could continue to function while running the emergency generator. An updated or new SPCC plan would be necessary to address any new fuel storage tanks.

To accommodate the new OMS/AMSA and the MEP area the asphalt cap on AOC 44 and 52 will need to be excavated. Because these excavations would be “undertaken in connection with construction of buildings or other structures, utilities, infrastructures or any other construction related purpose where the cover is penetrated and/or temporarily removed and protection from long-term exposure to subsurface soil is not jeopardized.”, they are not prohibited by the institutional controls in the ROD for AOCs 44 and 52. In compliance with the institutional controls, the soils would need to be sampled and analyzed for contaminants prior to the disposal or reuse of the excavated materials. To ensure that this occurs, the ROD has been made a part of the Design Analysis RFP (U.S. Army, 2008).

As evidence by the UXO training rounds discovered in 1995, there is a low probability of encountering Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) during construction activities at the Devens 3700 Area. Because of this potential all work involving ground breaking activities would be performed in accordance with *EP 75-1-1-2 Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Support during Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) and Construction Activities* and would require MEC standby support as outlined in Chapter 6 (U.S. Army, 2004). Detonation of any identified MEC items would be performed by a yet determined entity independent of the design build contractor.

#### **4.11 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS SUMMARY**

A cumulative impact is defined as “the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertake such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). The section goes on to note: “such impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.” Cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the Preferred Alternative would include any impacts from other on-going actions that would be incremental to the impacts of constructing the proposed AFRC complex and realigning units to Fort Devens.

Three other notable projects are underway or in advanced planning stages at Fort Devens – the transfer of ownership of Parcel “C”, also known as the “Thumb Area”, from the U.S. Army to MassDevelopment and the subsequent commercial development of that land; and the Urban Assault Course and Shoothouse project; and the development of the parcel of land immediately across Barnum Road from the Devens 3700 Area and the MAARNG property.

In June 2006, the 13.5 acre “Thumb Area”, located south of the main Fort Devens post, was transferred to MassDevelopment and will become a part of an overall 88 acre parcel being developed for a complex of manufacturing and support facilities. As part of this action, approximately 75 Marine Corps reserve positions would be relocated to another location on Fort Devens. The Urban Assault Course and associated Shoothouse project is for construction of new training facilities in the South Post training area.

The parcel of land immediately across Barnum Road from the Devens 3700 Area and the MAARNG property is owned by MassDevelopment and is being developed by Evergreen Solar as a solar panel manufacturing plant. When completed the approximately 22 acre parcel will house approximately 550,000 SF of manufacturing, warehouse, and administrative spaces and include 362 parking spaces for employees and visitors. The buildings will not exceed 35 feet in height, and approximately 80-90 percent of the site will be covered by impervious surfaces (DEC, 2007 and Harvard, MA, 2007).

#### **4.11.1 Preferred Alternative**

Neither the transfer and redevelopment of Parcel C or the Shoothouse projects are in proximity to the project areas of the Proposed Action and would be unlikely to cause any cumulative effects of note. Negligible cumulative increases in traffic on area roads could occur as a result of the Parcel C redevelopment, as well as corresponding negligible increases in air emissions as a result of increased commuter and business traffic to the redeveloped parcel. Cumulative economic benefits can be expected in terms of minor increases in area jobs and indirect economic expenditures. The relocation of the existing Marine Corps units from the Thumb Area to Fort Devens facilities would represent a likely improvement in efficiency in terms of inter-service operations and access to Fort Devens facilities, after potential temporary effects on unit operations due to short-term disruptions.

Cumulative effects associated with the Evergreen Solar manufacturing facility would include increases in roadway traffic, air emissions; temporary disruptions during construction; and beneficial economic impacts in terms of increased area expenditures, job opportunities, and tax revenues. Traffic generated by the Evergreen facility will include approximately 180 employee trips (90 per 12 hr shift) seven days per week and approximately 30 truck trips per day (Harvard, MA, 2007). The employees and delivery trucks will be encouraged to use Jackson Road off of Route 2 as a means of minimizing impacts to local roads (DEC, 2007). The manufacturing facility will have a heavy electrical load and incur a 150,000 to 200,000 gallon per day water and wastewater demand. To accommodate this demand, MassDevelopment is planning to invest \$7-10 million in infrastructure upgrades along Barnum Road, including electrical supply lines and sewer lines and pump stations. The facility will have on site pre-treatment of effluent produced prior to discharge into the Devens wastewater collection system (Harvard, MA, 2007). The storm water runoff from the parking lots will be conveyed to an already existing detention pond located to the west of the site that MassDevelopment constructed and that has more than enough capacity to accommodate the new facility (Ostrowski, 2008). Other storm water features include a small detention basin to the east of the building and an infiltration system on the south side of the facility to collect

water from roof drains. No storm water would be discharged to Cold Spring Brook and the facility would not tie into the storm water system that is part of the AOC 44 and 52 remediation.

Overall, the Proposed Action when added with the other projects described above, would not result in significant cumulative impacts to area resources. There would be only negligible increases in air emissions due to construction activities and commuter traffic, minor increases in road traffic and minor beneficial economic effects in terms of minor increases in area jobs and indirect economic expenditures.

#### **4.12 MITIGATION SUMMARY**

None of the predicted effects of the Proposed Action would result in significant adverse impacts; therefore, mitigation is not needed. However, the U.S. Army may consider the use of BMPs in the construction and operation of the AFRC and associated facilities in addition to those required by law, regulation, U.S Army policy, or permit requirements. Additional BMPs may include specific measures to reduce potential erosion, storm water runoff, and sediment transport during site preparation and construction activities.

## **5.0 FINDING AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 FINDINGS**

#### **5.1.1 Consequences of the Preferred Alternative**

The Proposed Action would have no significant adverse effects on any of the environmental or related resource areas at Fort Devens, to areas surrounding the post, or at the Preferred Alternative sites.

A summary of impacts for those resource areas analyzed in this Supplemental EA for the Preferred Alternative are provided in Table 5-1. All other impacts would be the same as described in the original EA.

### **5.2 CONCLUSIONS**

None of the predicted effects of implementing the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts. Moreover, mitigation would not be necessary to offset impacts. Therefore, implementing the Proposed Action will not require the preparation of an EIS and the issuance of a FNSI is appropriate.

The following permits would be required in implementing the projects identified in this analysis:

- A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and associated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the construction phase of the project will be necessary under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 requirements.
- A NPDES permit and associated SWPPP for AFRC complex operations will be necessary under the CWA Section 402 requirements.
- A new or revised Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan will be required for fuel storage tanks associated with any new emergency generators.
- Because the proposed CSMS site is on Commonwealth of Massachusetts property (i.e. the MAARNG), filing of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be necessary prior to any ground disturbing activities on the MAARNG property.
- A unified development permit from the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) will be needed.
- Approval from MassDevelopment will be needed to connect into the utility services along Barnum Road.

**Table 5-1. Summary of the Impacts of the Preferred Alternative**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative</b>
<b>Land Use</b>	
<i>Installation Land</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Geology and Soils</b>	
<i>Geologic and Topographic Conditions</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Soils</i>	Negligible to Minor Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Prime Farmland</i>	No effect.
<b>Water Resources</b>	
<i>Surface Water/Wetlands</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Hydrogeology/Groundwater</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Floodplains</i>	No effect.
<i>Coastal Zones</i>	No effect.
<b>Biological Resources</b>	
<i>Vegetation</i>	No effect.
<i>Wildlife</i>	No effect.
<i>Sensitive Species</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Wetlands</i>	No effect.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	
<i>Archaeological</i>	No effect.
<i>Historical Architecture</i>	No effect.
<i>Native American Resources</i>	No effect.
<b>Transportation</b>	
<i>Roadways and Traffic</i>	Minor Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Installation Transportation</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<i>Public Transportation</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Utilities</b>	
<i>Potable Water Supply</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Wastewater System</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Storm water System</i>	No Significant Impact.
<i>Energy Sources</i>	No Significant Impact.
<b>Hazardous and Toxic Substances</b>	
<i>Site Contamination and Cleanup</i>	Negligible Adverse. No Significant Impact.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Minor. No Significant Impact.

## 6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District

Name	Title	Education/Responsibility	Experience
Susan Holtham	BRAC NST Project Manager	B.S. Biology. Responsible for the overall management of the BRAC NEPA document preparation.	30 years

### The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Name	Title	Education/Responsibility	Experience
Jess Commerford, AICP	Senior Vice President	B.G.S. Political Science. M.S. Urban and Regional Planning. Responsible for all sections prepared by Louis Berger staff.	17 years
Carlos Espindola	Senior Transportation Engineer	M.S. Civil Engineering / Transportation. Responsible for Transportation.	10 years
Mike Rasser	GIS Specialist/ Environmental Scientist	B.A. Environmental Studies M.S. Forest Resources and Conservation ABD (PhD) Marine Science. Responsible for GIS analysis and mapping.	5 years
Spence Smith	Project Manager/ Environmental Scientist	B.S. Zoology, M.A. Biology. Responsible for all sections prepared by Louis Berger staff and for overall project management.	11 years

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## **7.0 AGENCIES CONTACTED**

### **Federal Officials and Agencies**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### **State Officials and Agencies**

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Development Finance Agency

### **Local Government Officials and Agencies**

Town of Ayer, MA

Town of Harvard, MA

Town of Shirley, MA

### **Libraries**

Hazen Memorial Library

3 Keady Way

Shirley, MA 01464

Ayer Central Library

26 E. Main Street

Ayer, MA 01432

Harvard Public Library

4 Pond Road

Harvard, MA 01451

### **Media**

*Ayer Public Spirit*, Ayer, MA

*Harvard Hillside*, Harvard, MA

*Shirley Oracle*, Shirley, MA

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- OTJAG. Office of The Judge Advocate General  
\_\_\_\_\_. 2007a. Legal Opinion *DAJA-AL 2007/1551 – Request for Reconsideration of Legal Opinion DAJA-AL 2007/0918*. 29 August 2007.  
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Simeone, R., 2008. Personal communication between Robert Simeone, Devens Base Realignment and Closure Division, and Spence Smith, The Louis Berger Group Inc. 25 February 2008.

Simms, G., 2008. Personal communication between Gerald Simms, USACE Louisville District, and Spence Smith, The Louis Berger Group Inc. 22 February 2008.

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## 9.0 ACRONYMS

1/25 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, 25 <sup>th</sup> Marines
ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
AFRC	Armed Forces Reserve Center
AMSA	Area Maintenance Support Activity
AOC	Area of Contamination
AREE	Area Requiring Environmental Evaluation
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
AT/FP	Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection
BMP	Best Management Practice(s)
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as SuperFund)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COBRA	Cost of Base Realignment Actions
CSMS	Combined Support Maintenance Shop
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECS	Equipment Concentration Site
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act

FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic and Radiation Waste
IC	Institutional Controls
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
LBP	Lead Based Paint
MAARNG	Massachusetts Army National Guard
MA DFW	Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife
MA SHPO	Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MassDevelopment	Massachusetts Development Finance Agency
MA WPA	Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern
MEP	Military Equipment Parking
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFADD	No Further Action Decision Document
NHESP	Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OMS	Organizational Maintenance Shop

OTJAG	Office of The Judge Advocate General
PACE	People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
POL	petroleum, oils, and lubricants
POV	Privately-Owned Vehicle
RC PAT	Reserve Component Process Action Team
RFP	Request for Proposal
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
RRC	Regional Readiness Command
SA	Study Area
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
Sec.	Section
SF	Square Feet
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures
SY	Square Yard(s)
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TABS	The Army Basing Study
TDA	Table of Distribution and Allowances
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance

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# APPENDIX A— FEDERAL AND STATE COORDINATION LETTERS

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## The Louis Berger Group Inc.

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

December 21, 2006

Michael J. Bartlett  
Supervisor  
New England Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
70 Commercial Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Interagency Coordination for the U.S. Army Devens RFTA Realignment Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

By correspondence dated July 5, 2006 (Enclosure 1) your office was previously consulted regarding the Proposed Actions for the Devens RFTA 3700 Area and the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) site in Ayer, MA. By return correspondence dated August 14, 2006, your office determined that the project was unlikely to affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Due to concerns about the ability to implement the project on schedule at the 3700 Area and construction site cost considerations, the U.S. Army has revised the Proposed Action to now construct the proposed AFRC complex at the Devens RFTA 3400 Area in Shirley, MA, with the same proposed Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at the MAARNG site. The revised Proposed Action is described below, and shown on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MAARNG units relocating from the local area.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) 2-story structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed for the 3400 Area include a 7,312 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and POV parking area; a 60,049 ft<sup>2</sup> Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/ Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA); a 6,411 ft<sup>2</sup> unheated unit storage building; and a Military Equipment Parking (MEP) area. In addition, a 92,990 ft<sup>2</sup> CSMS; a 16,053 ft<sup>2</sup> Class IX storage building; a MEP area; and a POV parking area would be constructed on the southern portion of the MAARNG property in Ayer, MA. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land.



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities infrastructure, and the extension of utilities to service the facility buildings. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

In accordance with NEPA and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) an evaluation of the potential impacts associated with implementing this proposed action is required. Construction activities will be conducted in accordance with local practices and standards, and based upon your previous correspondence and information we currently have for the Devens RFTA 3400 Area it is anticipated that the revised project will not impact any state or federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. We seek confirmation from the USFWS that no additional or formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is required for the revised BRAC-related action at Devens RFTA in Shirley and Ayer, MA.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

Edward Cherian  
Project Manager

Enclosures

**Enclosure 1**

**Previous correspondence between The Louis Berger Group Inc. and the USFWS regarding Army  
BRAC-related actions at Devens RFTA**



July 5, 2006

Martin Miller  
Chief, Threatened and Endangered Species Division  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

**RE: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) for the Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Mr. Miller:

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

The following presents the BRAC-related projects planned as part of the realignment actions and their proposed locations at the Devens RFTA (Enclosures 1 and 2).

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MA Army National Guard (MA ARNG) units relocating from the local area. The proposed AFRC complex would encompass approximately 60 acres and would be located within the 3700 Area of the Devens RFTA and a portion of the adjacent MA ARNG property. The final boundary within the MA ARNG parcel has not yet been determined, and will be finalized based on further refinement of unit needs.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 131,260 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed include a 7,300 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and barracks, a 154,289 ft<sup>2</sup> vehicle maintenance shop, a 5,217 ft<sup>2</sup> unit storage building, and a military equipment parking (MEP) area for the parking and storage of approximately 789 military vehicles and associated equipment. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land in an industrial area.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities infrastructure, and extension of utilities to service the project. Accessibility for disabled persons would be provided. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

We are initiating this consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in order to evaluate the potential effects (both beneficial and adverse) associated with implementing this proposed action. The affected areas where the construction of the AFRC complex will occur are shown in Enclosures 1 and 2, and we request that you send us a current listing of federally threatened or endangered species that may occur in the project area.

Construction activities will be conducted in accordance with local practices and standards, and based upon information we currently have it is anticipated that the project will not impact any state or federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species or any wetlands. We seek confirmation from the USFWS that no additional or formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is required for the proposed BRAC-related action at Devens RFTA in Ayer, MA.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

Edward Cherian  
Senior Environmental Planner  
**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**  
Manchester, NH

Enclosures



# United States Department of the Interior

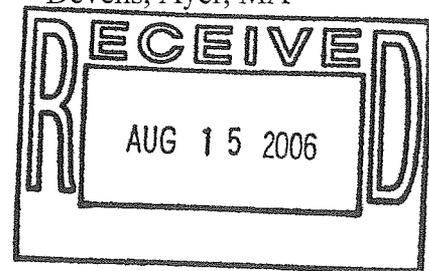


FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

August 14, 2006

Reference:	<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Emergency bridge replacement	Loudon, NH
	Bridge replacement	Salem, NH
	EA, armed forces reserve center	Devens, Ayer, MA

James Robinson  
Edward Cherian  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
1001 Elm St., Suite 203  
Manchester, NH 03101



Dear Messrs. Robinson and Cherian:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

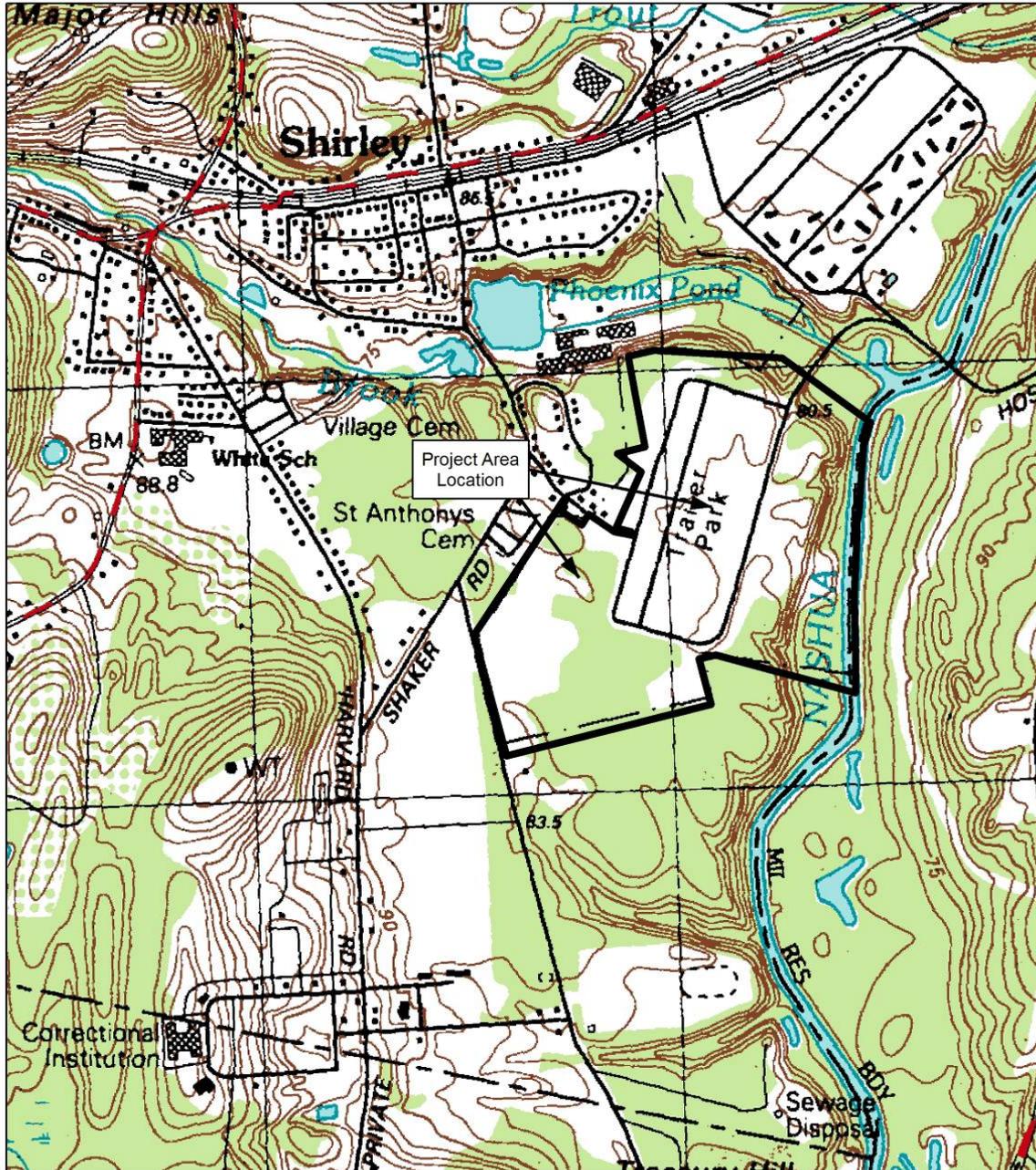
Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Amaral  
Endangered Species Specialist  
New England Field Office

Enclosure 2

Project Location for BRAC Proposed Action Alternative—  
USGS 1:24,000 Scale Topographic Quadrangles

Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA



**Legend**  
[Thick black outline] Devens RFTA- 3400 Area

0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

W N E S

**Devens RFTA Preferred Alternative AFRC and OMS/AMSA Site (Shirley Quadrangle)**

Sources: Devens RFTA  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group

**MAP INDEX**

**QUAD INDEX**

MAARNG Property - Ayer, MA

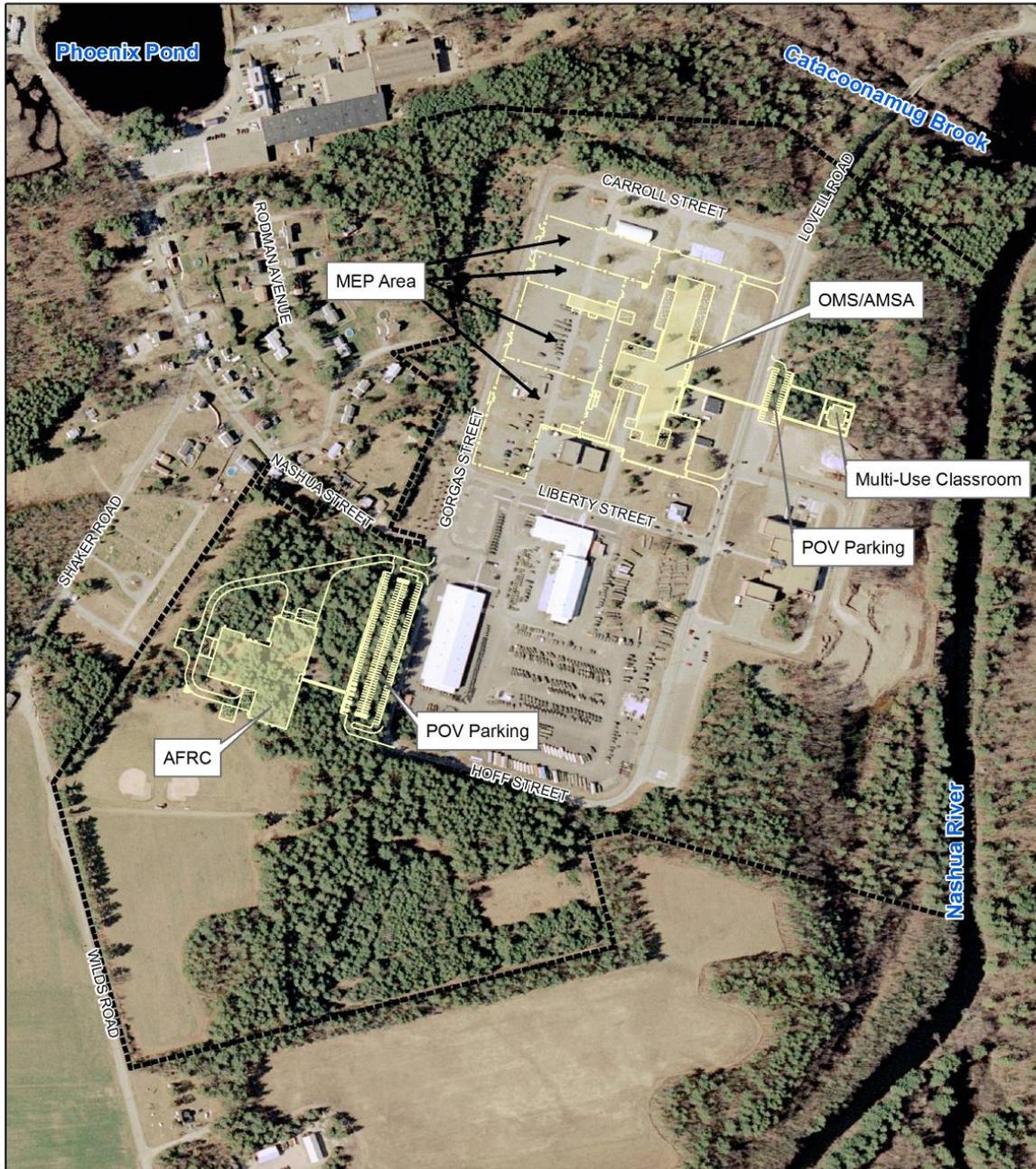


<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> CSMS Site</p> <p> MA-ARNG Property</p> <p>0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet</p>	<p>Devens RFTA Preferred Alternative CSMS Site (Ayer Quadrangle)</p> <p>Sources: Devens RFTA Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</p>	<p>MAP INDEX</p>	<p>QUAD INDEX</p>
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# Enclosure 3

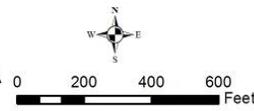
## Proposed Site for the AFRC Complex

### Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA

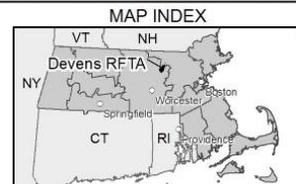


- Legend**
- Devens RFTA- 3400 Area
  - Proposed Building
  - Proposed Layout

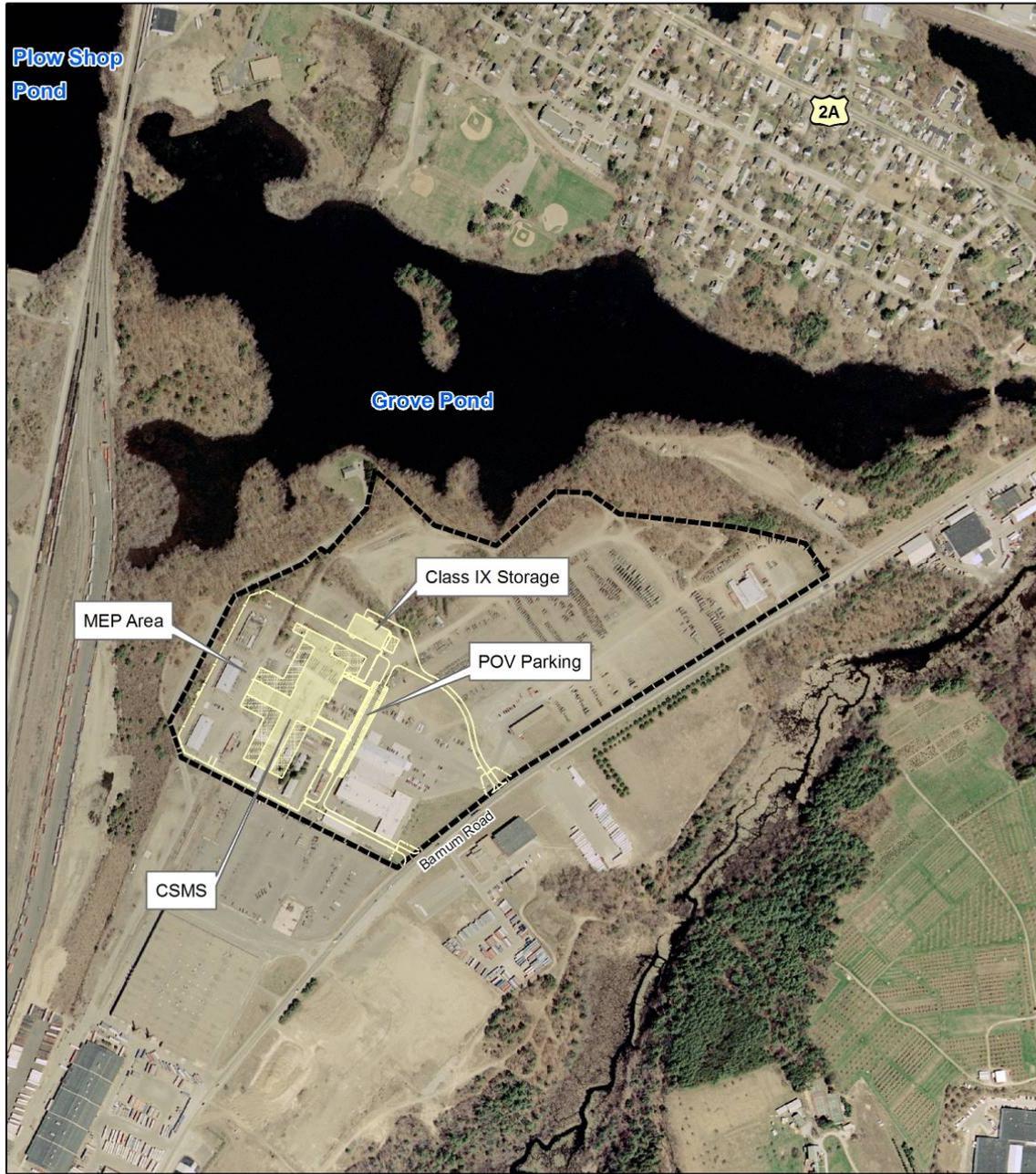
### Devens RFTA AFRC and OMS/AMSA Proposed Site

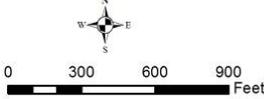
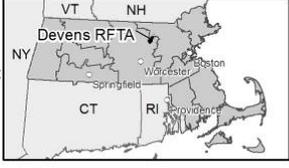


Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS  
Imagery is from 2001  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts  
State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group



# MAARNG Property – Ayer, MA



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> MAARNG Property</li> <li> Proposed Building</li> <li> Proposed Layout</li> </ul>	<p><b>Devens RFTA CSMS Proposed Site</b></p>	 <p>0 300 600 900 Feet</p> <p>Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS Imagery is from 2001</p> <p>Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet</p> <p>Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</p>	<p><b>MAP INDEX</b></p> 
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



January 22, 2007

Mr. Edward Cherian  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
1001 Elm Street, Suite 203  
Manchester, NH 03101

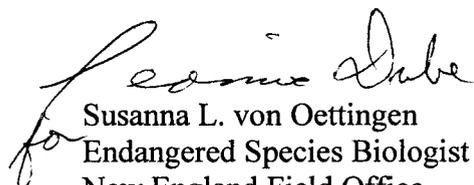
Dear Mr. Cherian:

This letter responds to your December 21, 2006 letter requesting confirmation that there are no federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species present within the project area for the proposed construction of the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Center complex at Fort Devens Reserve Forces Training Area in Shirley and Ayer, Massachusetts. Our comments are provided in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1533).

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area, with the exception of occasional transient bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required. Should project plans change, or additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Thank you for your cooperation and please contact me at 603-223-2541, extension 22, if we can be of further assistance.

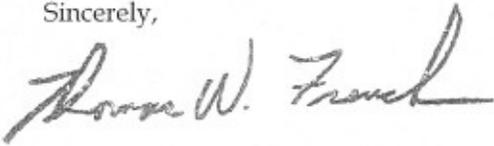
Sincerely yours,

  
Susanna L. von Oettingen  
Endangered Species Biologist  
New England Field Office



Please do not hesitate to contact Kristin E. Black, Endangered Species Review Biologist, at (508) 389-6367 with any questions or comments ([kristin.e.black@state.ma.us](mailto:kristin.e.black@state.ma.us)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. French". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director





December 21, 2006

Dr. Thomas French, Assistant Director  
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
North Drive, Route 135  
Westborough, MA 01581

**RE: Interagency Coordination for the U.S. Army Devens RFTA Realignment Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Dr. French:

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

By correspondence dated July 5, 2006 (Enclosure 1) your office was previously consulted regarding the Proposed Actions for the Devens RFTA 3700 Area and the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) site in Ayer, MA. By return correspondence dated July 27, 2006, your office determined that the project was unlikely to affect any state-listed rare plants or animals or exemplary natural communities.

Due to concerns about the ability to implement the project on schedule at the 3700 Area and construction site cost considerations, the U.S. Army has revised the Proposed Action to now construct the proposed AFRC complex at the Devens RFTA 3400 Area in Shirley, MA, with the same proposed Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at the MAARNG site. The revised Proposed Action is described below, and shown on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MAARNG units relocating from the local area.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) 2-story structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed for the 3400 Area include a 7,312 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and POV parking area; a 60,049 ft<sup>2</sup> Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/ Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA); a 6,411 ft<sup>2</sup> unheated unit storage building; and a Military Equipment Parking (MEP) area. In addition, a 92,990 ft<sup>2</sup> CSMS; a 16,053 ft<sup>2</sup> Class IX storage building; a MEP area; and a POV parking area would be constructed on the southern portion of the MAARNG property in Ayer, MA. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

infrastructure, and the extension of utilities to service the facility buildings. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

In accordance with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) an evaluation of the potential impacts associated with implementing this proposed action is required. We request that your office send us a current listing of state rare, threatened, or endangered species that may occur in the revised project area, and we seek confirmation that the revised BRAC-related action at Devens RFTA in Shirley and Ayer, MA would not adversely impact any of the trust resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

Edward Cherian  
Project Manager

Enclosures

**Enclosure 1**

**Previous correspondence between The Louis Berger Group Inc. and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife regarding Army BRAC-related actions at Devens RFTA**

## MESA Information Request Form

Please complete this form to request site-specific information from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program  
(Please submit only one project per request form).

**Please include a check for \$50.00 made out to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund.\***

### **Requestor Information**

Name: Edward Cherian

Affiliation: The Louis Berger Group, Inc (on behalf of the Department of the Army)

Address: 1001 Elm Street, Suite 203

City: Manchester

State: NH

Zip Code: 03101

Daytime Phone: 603-440-3127

Ext.

### **Project Information**

Project or Site Name: Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex - Army BRAC 2005

Location: 3700 Area of Devens RFTA  
Barnum Road Ayer, MA

USGS Quad: Ayer Quadrangle

Name of Landowner or Project Proponent: U.S. Army

Acreage of the Property: Approximately 60 acres

Description of Proposed Project and Current Site Conditions: (If necessary attach additional sheet) See Attached.

- Will this project be reviewed as a Notice of Intent by the local Conservation Commission?
- Will this project be undergoing MEPA review for reasons other than rare species?
- Have you enclosed the required copy of a USGS topographic map in the scale 1:24,000 or 1:25,000 (not copy reduced) with the site location clearly marked and centered on the copy page? (Copies of Natural Heritage Atlas pages are not accepted)

Please **mail** this completed form and topographic map to:

Regulatory Review  
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
North Drive, Rte. 135  
Westborough, MA 01581

Questions regarding this form should be directed to (508) 792-7270 ext. 154

**Persons requesting information will receive a written response within 30 days of receipt of all information required. Please do not ask for an expedited review.** \*If you are requesting information for habitat management or conservation purposes and you are a non-profit conservation group, government agency or working with a government agency please fill out a Data Release Form.



## The Louis Berger Group Inc.

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

July 5, 2006

Dr. Thomas French, Assistant Director  
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
North Drive, Route 135  
Westborough, MA 01581

**RE: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) for the Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Dr. French:

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

The following presents the BRAC-related projects planned as part of the realignment actions and their proposed locations at the Devens RFTA (Enclosures 1 and 2).

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MA Army National Guard (MA ARNG) units relocating from the local area. The proposed AFRC complex would encompass approximately 60 acres and would be located within the 3700 Area of the Devens RFTA and a portion of the adjacent MA ARNG property. The final boundary within the MA ARNG parcel has not yet been determined, and will be finalized based on further refinement of unit needs. The MA ARNG and the U.S. Army are proposing to establish a "Right of Entry" for the U.S. Army to design and build on Commonwealth property. Final details of this "Right of Entry" are under discussion.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 131,260 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed include a 7,300 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and barracks, a 154,289 ft<sup>2</sup> vehicle maintenance shop, a 5,217 ft<sup>2</sup> unit storage building, and a military equipment parking (MEP) area for the parking and storage of approximately 789 military vehicles and associated equipment. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land in an industrial area.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities infrastructure, and extension of utilities to service the project. Accessibility for disabled persons would be provided. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 [www.louisberger.com](http://www.louisberger.com)

We are initiating this consultation in accordance with NEPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act in order to evaluate the potential effects (both beneficial and adverse) associated with implementing this proposed action. The affected areas where the construction of the AFRC complex will occur are shown in Enclosures 1 and 2, and we request that your office send us a current listing of state rare, threatened, or endangered species that may occur in the project area.

Construction activities will be conducted in accordance with local practices and standards, and based upon information we currently have it is anticipated that the project will not impact any state or federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species or any wetlands. We seek confirmation from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife that this BRAC-related action at Devens RFTA does not adversely impact any of the trust resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

Edward Cherian  
Senior Environmental Planner  
**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**  
Manchester, NH

Enclosures



**MassWildlife**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

July 27, 2006

Edwrad Cherian  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
1001 Elm Street, Suite 203  
Manchester, NH 03101

Re: Armed Forces reserve Center Complex  
Ayer, MA  
**NHESP Tracking Number: 06-20169**

Dear Mr. Cherian,

Thank you for contacting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP") of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for information regarding state-protected rare species in the vicinity of the site identified above.

At this time we are not aware of any state-listed rare plants or animals or exemplary natural communities in the vicinity of this site.

This evaluation is based on the most recent information available in the NHESP database, which is constantly being expanded and updated through ongoing research and inventory. Should your site plans change, or new rare species information become available, this evaluation may be reconsidered. Please note that this determination addresses only the matter of **rare** wildlife habitat and does not pertain to other wildlife habitat issues that may be pertinent to the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this review please call Rebecca Skowron, Endangered Species Review Assistant, at ext. 148.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

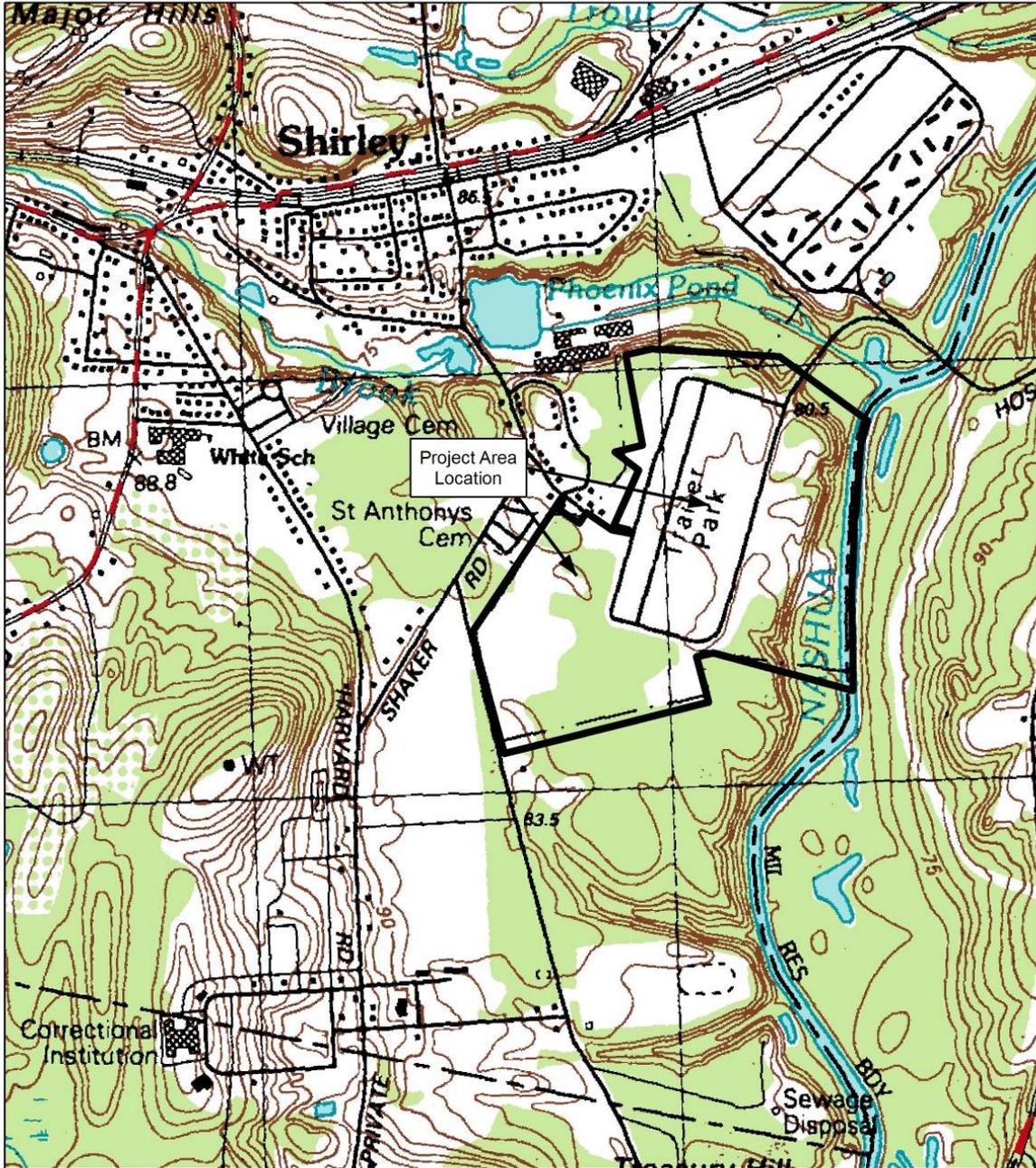
Field Headquarters, North Drive, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 792-7270 Fax (508) 792-7275

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Enclosure 2

Project Location for BRAC Proposed Action Alternative—  
USGS 1:24,000 Scale Topographic Quadrangles

Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA



**Legend**  
[Thick black outline] Devens RFTA- 3400 Area

0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

W E  
N S

**Devens RFTA Preferred Alternative AFRC and OMS/AMSA Site (Shirley Quadrangle)**

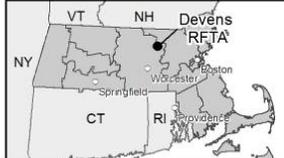
Sources: Devens RFTA  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts  
State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group

**MAP INDEX**

**QUAD INDEX**

MAARNG Property – Ayer, MA

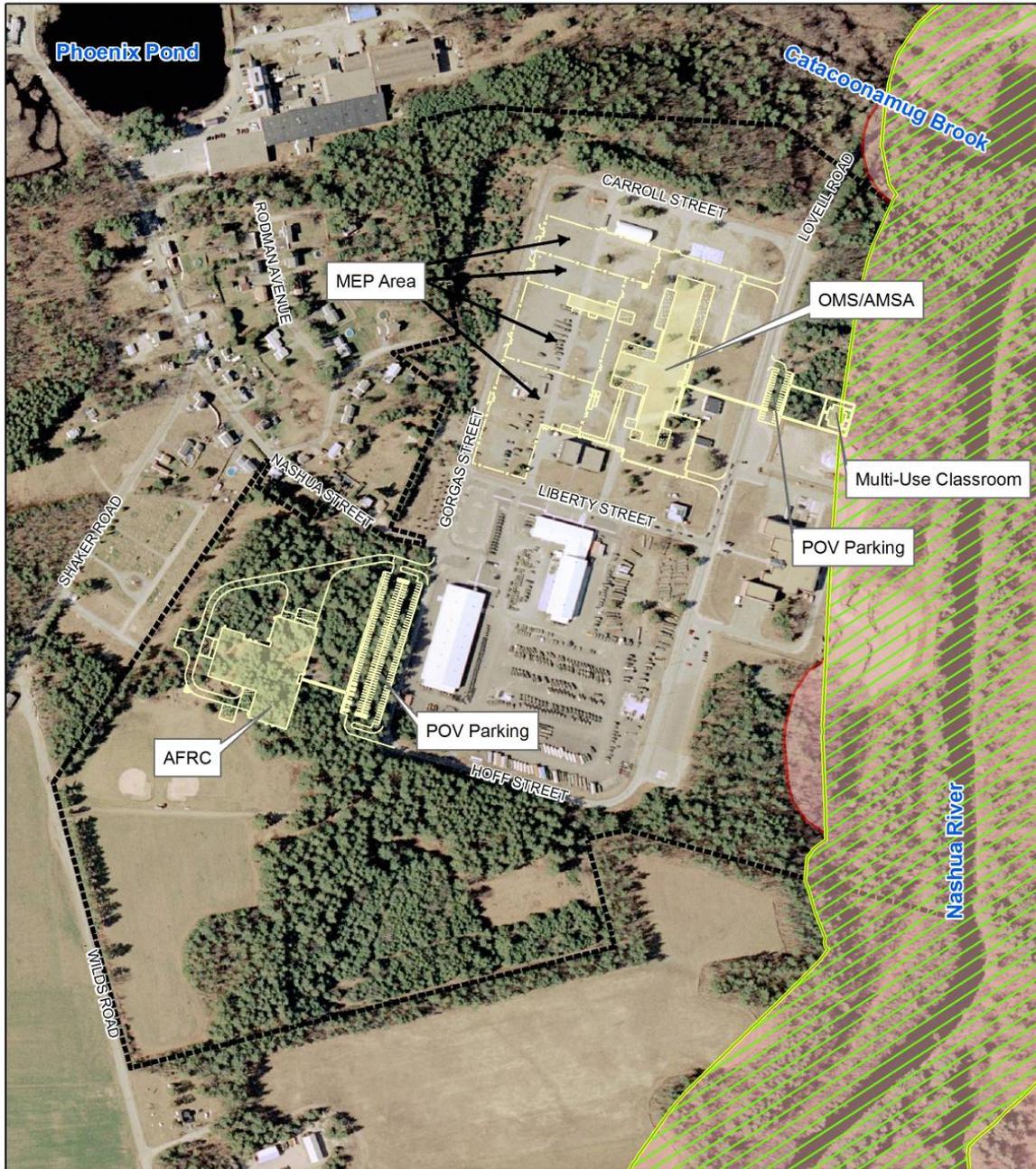


<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p><span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; vertical-align: middle;"></span> CSMS Site</p> <p><span style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; vertical-align: middle;"></span> MA-ARNG Property</p> <p>0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet</p> 	<p>Devens RFTA Preferred Alternative CSMS Site (Ayer Quadrangle)</p> <p><small>Sources: Devens RFTA Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</small></p>	<p>MAP INDEX</p> 	<p>QUAD INDEX</p> 
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Enclosure 3

Proposed Site for the AFRC Complex

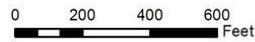
Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA



Legend

-  NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  Devens RFTA- 3400 Area
-  Proposed Building
-  Proposed Layout

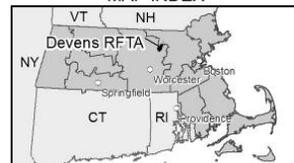
Devens RFTA  
AFRC and  
OMS/AMSA  
Proposed Site



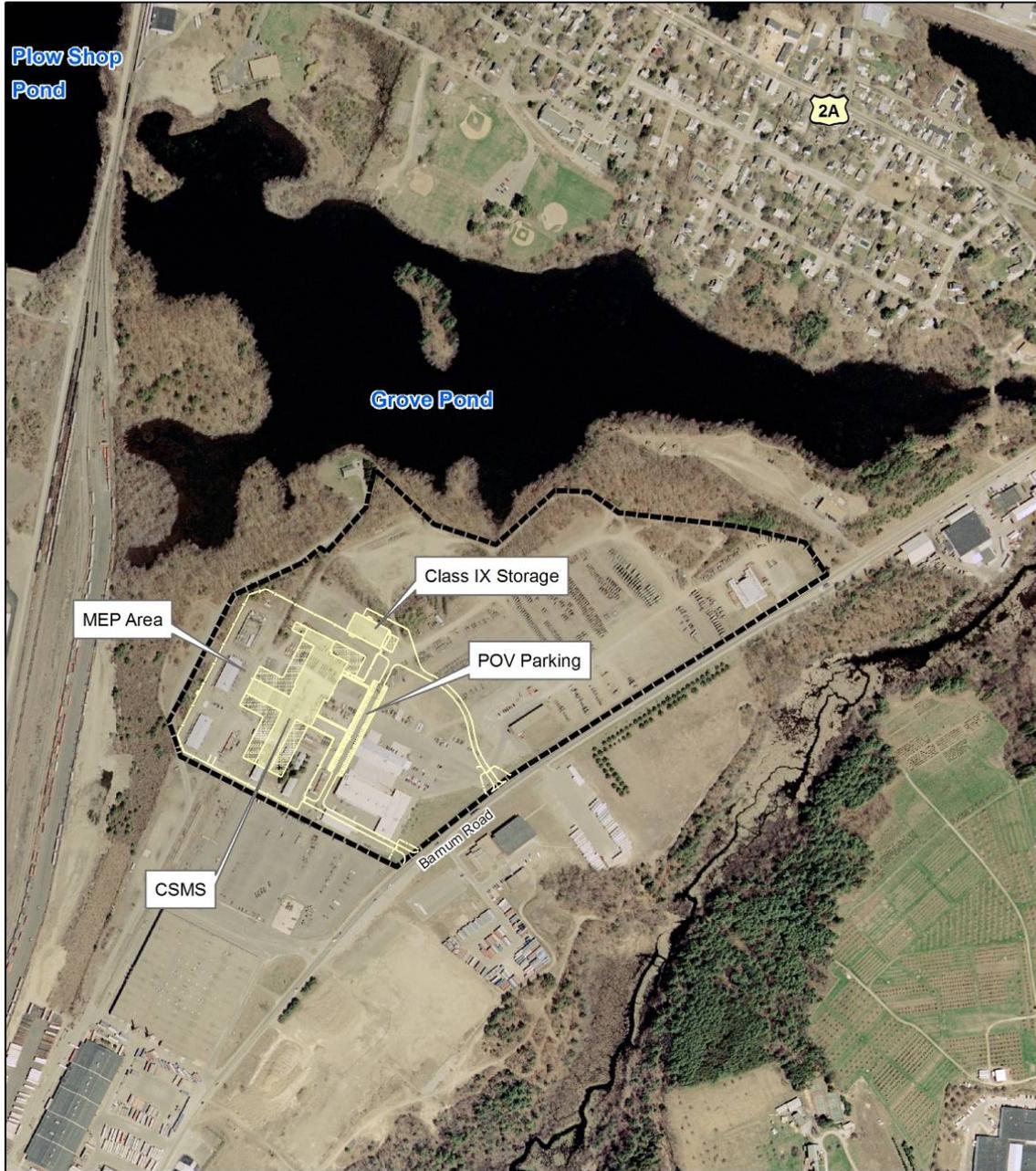
Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS  
Imagery is from 2001

Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts  
State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group

MAP INDEX

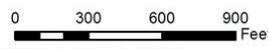


# MAARNG Property – Ayer, MA



- Legend**
-  MAARNG Property
  -  Proposed Building
  -  Proposed Layout

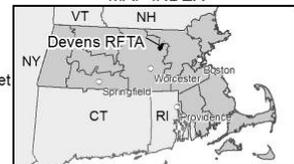
Devens RFTA  
CSMS  
Proposed Site



Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS  
Imagery is from 2001

Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts  
State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group

**MAP INDEX**





**MassWildlife**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

January 31, 2007

Edward Cherian  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
1001 Elm Street, Suite 203  
Manchester, NH 03101

Re: Armed Forces reserve Center Complex  
Ayer, MA  
NHESP Tracking Number: 06-20169

Dear Mr. Cherian,

Thank you for contacting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP") of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for information regarding state-protected rare species in the vicinity of the site identified above.

At this time we are not aware of any state-listed rare plants or animals or exemplary natural communities in the vicinity of this site.

This evaluation is based on the most recent information available in the NHESP database, which is constantly being expanded and updated through ongoing research and inventory. Should your site plans change, or new rare species information become available, this evaluation may be reconsidered. Please note that this determination addresses only the matter of **rare** wildlife habitat and does not pertain to other wildlife habitat issues that may be pertinent to the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this review please call Rebecca Skowron, Endangered Species Review Assistant, at (508) 389-6343.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, North Drive, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 389-6300 Fax (508) 389-7891

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MassWildlife

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

February 7, 2007

Edward Cherian  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
1001 Elm Street, Suite 203  
Manchester, NH 03101

Re: Armed Forces reserve Center Complex Preferred Alternative Site  
Shirley, MA  
NHESP Tracking Number: 07-21399

Dear Mr. Cherian,

Thank you for contacting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP") of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for information regarding state-listed rare species in the vicinity of the above referenced site. Based on a review of the information provided, it appears that a small portion of the proposed project (the multi-use classroom), is located within *Priority Habitat 31* (PH 31) and *Estimated Habitat 818* (EH 818) as indicated in the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas* (12<sup>th</sup> Edition). Our database indicates that the following state-listed rare species have been found in the vicinity of the site:

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Taxonomic Group</u>	<u>State Status</u>
<i>Stylurus scudderii</i>	Zebra Clubtail	Dragonfly	Endangered
<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>	A Clubtail Dragonfly	Dragonfly	Threatened
<i>Eleocharis ovata</i>	Ovate Spike-sedge	Plant	Endangered
<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Triangle Floater	Mussel	Special Concern

The species listed above are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) (M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). State-listed wildlife are also protected under the state's Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and its implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00). Fact sheets for most state-listed rare species can be found on our website ([www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org)).

Please note that projects and activities located within Priority and/or Estimated Habitat must be reviewed by the NHESP for compliance with the state-listed rare species protection provisions of MESA (321 CMR 10.00) and/or the WPA (310 CMR 10.00). If the project site is within Estimated Habitat and a Notice of Intent (NOI) is required, then a copy of the NOI must be submitted to the NHESP so that it is received at the same time as the local conservation commission. If the proposed project is located within Priority Habitat and is not exempt from review (see 321 CMR 10.14), then project plans, a fee, and other required materials must be sent to NHESP Environmental Review to determine whether a probable "take" under the MA Endangered Species Act would occur (321 CMR 10.18). Please note that all proposed and anticipated development must be disclosed, as MESA does not allow project segmentation (321 CMR 10.16). For a MESA filing checklist and additional information please see our website: [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org) ("Regulatory Review" tab). On a case by case basis, field surveys and habitat assessments may be required as part of the MESA review process in order to locate rare species on the project site, and to determine their patterns of distribution and habitat use.

A streamlined joint MESA/WPA review process is now available. When filing a Notice of Intent (NOI), the applicant may now file concurrently under the MESA on the same NOI form and qualify for a 30-day streamlined

[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, North Drive, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 389-6300 Fax (508) 389-7891

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joint review. For a copy of the revised NOI form, please visit the MA Department of Environmental Protection's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/wpaform3.doc>.

We recommend that rare species habitat concerns be addressed during the project design phase prior to submission of a formal MESA filing, as avoidance and minimization of impacts to rare species and their habitats is likely to expedite endangered species regulatory review.

**MA Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c. 131A)**

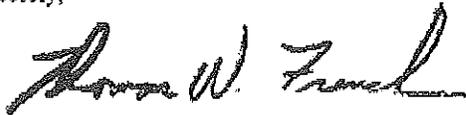
If NHESP determines that the proposed project would "take" a rare species, then it may be possible to redesign the project to avoid a "take." If such revisions are not possible, the applicant should note that projects resulting in the "take" of state-protected wildlife may only be permitted if they meet the performance standards for a "Conservation and Management Permit" under MESA (321 CMR 10.23). Please note that projects resulting in a "take" may require submission of an Environmental Notification Form, pursuant to the MA Environmental Policy Act regulations (301 CMR 11.00).

**Wetlands Protection Act**

If the NHESP determines that the proposed project will adversely affect the actual Resource Area habitat of state-protected wildlife, then the proposed project may not be permitted (310 CMR 10.37, 10.58(4)(b) & 10.59). In such a case, the project proponent may request a consultation with the NHESP to discuss potential project design modifications that would avoid adverse effects to rare wildlife habitat.

This evaluation is based on the most recent information available in the Natural Heritage database, which is constantly being expanded and updated through ongoing research and inventory. Should your site plans change, or new rare species information become available, this evaluation may be reconsidered. If you have any questions regarding this review please call Rebecca Skowron, Endangered Species Review Assistant, at (508) 389-6343.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. French, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

December 21, 2006

Ms. Brona Simon  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3314

**RE: Interagency Coordination for the U.S. Army Devens RFTA Realignment Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Ms. Simon

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group, Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer and Shirley, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

By correspondence dated July 5, 2006 (Enclosure 1) your office was previously consulted regarding the Proposed Actions for the Devens RFTA 3700 Area and the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) site in Ayer, MA. By return correspondence dated July 18, 2006, your office determined that the project was unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

Due to concerns about the ability to implement the project on schedule at the 3700 Area and construction site cost considerations, the U.S. Army has revised the Proposed Action to now construct the proposed AFRC complex at the Devens RFTA 3400 Area in Shirley, MA, with the same proposed Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at the MAARNG site. The revised Proposed Action is described below, and shown on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MAARNG units relocating from the local area.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 95,681 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) 2-story structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed for the 3400 Area include a 7,312 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and POV parking area; a 60,049 ft<sup>2</sup> Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/ Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA); a 6,411 ft<sup>2</sup> unheated unit storage building; and a Military Equipment Parking (MEP) area. In addition, a 92,990 ft<sup>2</sup> CSMS; a 16,053 ft<sup>2</sup> Class IX storage building; a MEP area; and a POV parking area would be constructed on the southern portion of the MAARNG property in Ayer, MA. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

infrastructure, and the extension of utilities to service the facility buildings. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

The proposed facilities at the Devens RFTA 3400 Area and the MAARNG site will be replacing current facilities and reflect no changes to the current land use or functions. Most of the proposed facilities would occur in areas that are already in use for identical activities (training, military vehicle maintenance and storage) and are already paved or disturbed (see site photographs at Enclosure 4). The 3400 Area has been previously evaluated and investigated for cultural resources and possible significance, most recently documented in PAL Report No. 1344, produced under contract with the U.S. Army, in June 2002. The report covered a number of areas within the 3400 Area, including the "Boundary Area" proposed for the new AFRC. This area was evaluated and it was confirmed that it "has been extensively disturbed through military use/modification" including a large terraced area, a wide ditch, remnant parking lot, and general soil lumpiness. The report concluded that "because of the high degree of belowground disturbances and lack of potentially important archaeological resources in testable areas, no further investigations are recommended for Parcel 3 within the 3400 Block Area, within the existing fence line." According to Devens RFTA personnel, your office reviewed this report and concurred with its conclusions. Based on the conclusions of these previous projects, the Army believes that the proposed action is unlikely to affect historic or archaeological resources of significance.

In accordance with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), an evaluation of the potential impacts associated with implementing this action is required. We are requesting your further input concerning this action and request your concurrence with the above finding.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have questions concerning this proposed action, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

Edward Cherian  
Project Manager

Enclosures

**Enclosure 1**

**Previous correspondence between The Louis Berger Group Inc. and the MA SHPO regarding Army  
BRAC-related actions at Devens RFTA**

JUL 10 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

July 5, 2006

#20778

Brona Simon  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3314

**RE: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) for the Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Ms. Simon:

On behalf of the Department of the Army (DA), The Louis Berger Group Inc. is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) in Ayer, MA. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ("BRAC Commission") recommended that certain realignment actions occur at Devens RFTA. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to provide the necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure at Devens RFTA.

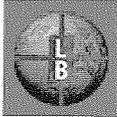
The EA will analyze and document potential environmental effects associated with the U.S. Army's proposed realignment actions at Devens RFTA. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651).

The following presents the BRAC-related projects planned as part of the realignment actions and their proposed locations at the Devens RFTA (Enclosures 1 and 2).

- **Armed Forces Reserve Center.** The Proposed Action is to construct a new AFRC and associated support facilities at Devens RFTA to support U.S. Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve units, and MA Army National Guard (MA ARNG) units relocating from the local area. The proposed AFRC complex would encompass approximately 60 acres and would be located within the 3700 Area of the Devens RFTA and a portion of the adjacent MA ARNG property. The final boundary within the MA ARNG parcel has not yet been determined, and will be finalized based on further refinement of unit needs. The MA ARNG and the U.S. Army are proposing to establish a "Right of Entry" for the U.S. Army to design and build on Commonwealth property. Final details of this "Right of Entry" are under discussion.

The proposed AFRC would be an approximately 131,260 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>) structure with administrative areas, classrooms, library, learning center, supply rooms, assembly hall, dining area, and an arms vault. The AFRC complex would also include privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking areas. Additional facilities proposed include a 7,300 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use classroom and barracks, a 154,289 ft<sup>2</sup> vehicle maintenance shop, a 5,217 ft<sup>2</sup> unit storage building, and a military equipment parking (MEP) area for the parking and storage of approximately 789 military vehicles and associated equipment. All of the facilities would be located on previously disturbed land in an industrial area.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the AFRC and associated facilities, including paving, fencing, covered wash rack with an oil/water separator, site improvements, utilities infrastructure, and extension of utilities to service the project. Accessibility for disabled persons would be provided. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) safety and security measures, including minimum stand-off distance from roads, parking areas and vehicle unloading areas, would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.



**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**

1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA  
Tel: (603) 644 - 5200 Fax: (603) 644 - 5220 www.louisberger.com

Building 3713 is located on the project site within the 3700 area of the Devens RFTA and would need to be demolished under the proposed action. There are no other buildings located in the 3700 area. Building 3713 is a large one story brick warehouse on a thick hardened concrete slab (Enclosure 3). It was built in 1942 and has not been in use since the mid-1990s. An Intensive Archaeological Survey of Fort Devens conducted in 1993 by Public Archeological Laboratory, Inc. revealed no significant archaeological or historic sites within the current 3700 area of Devens RFTA.

As mentioned above, the proposed action will also encompass part of the current MA ARNG facility adjacent to the 3700 area; the final boundary has yet to be determined. To accommodate the proposed action some of the MA ARNG Armory and Combined Support Maintenance Shop buildings will need to be demolished. Evaluated under MHC#33663 and by letter dated December 2, 2003 (Enclosure 4), your office found that the buildings belonging to these units as well as "sheds on concrete slabs, and railroad ramp remnant..." do not meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, evaluated under MHC#RC33663 and by letter dated January 8, 2004 (Enclosure 4), your office concurred with the finding made by the Public Archeological Laboratory, Inc. in December 2003 that no significant archaeological properties are located within the Devens MA ARNG facility, and that no further archaeological survey is warranted. Based on the conclusions of these previous projects, it is believed that the proposed action will not have significant effects on cultural resources. In accordance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), an evaluation of the potential impacts associated with implementing this action is required. We are requesting your further input concerning this action with regard to any cultural resource concerns.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide any comments to me within 30 days at the address listed above or fax your response to my attention at 603-644-5220. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-440-3127.

Sincerely,

Edward Cherian  
Senior Environmental Planner  
**The Louis Berger Group Inc.**  
Manchester, NH

After review of MHC files and the materials you submitted, it has been determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

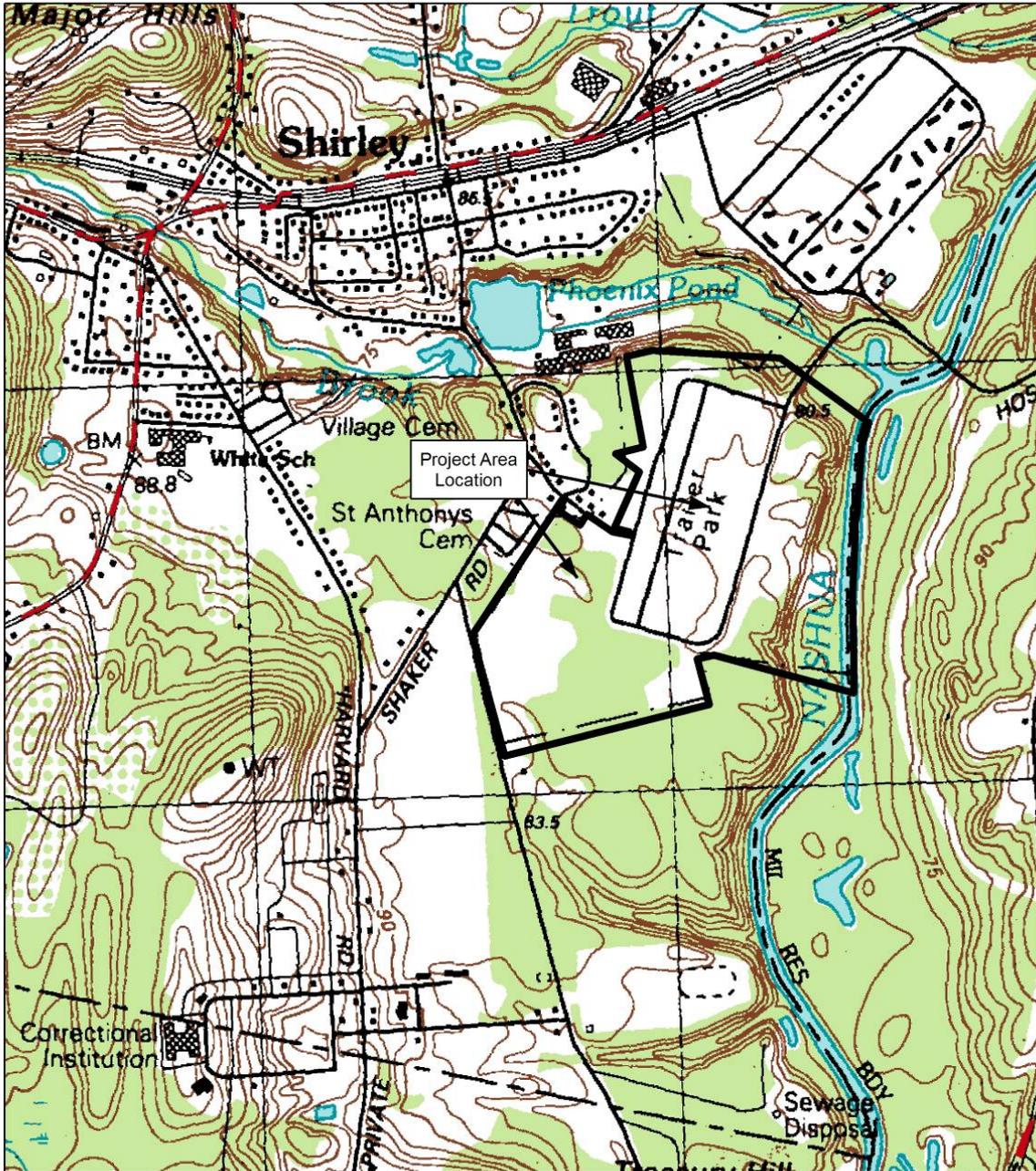
Brona Simon      7/18/06  
Date

Brona Simon  
State Archaeologist  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

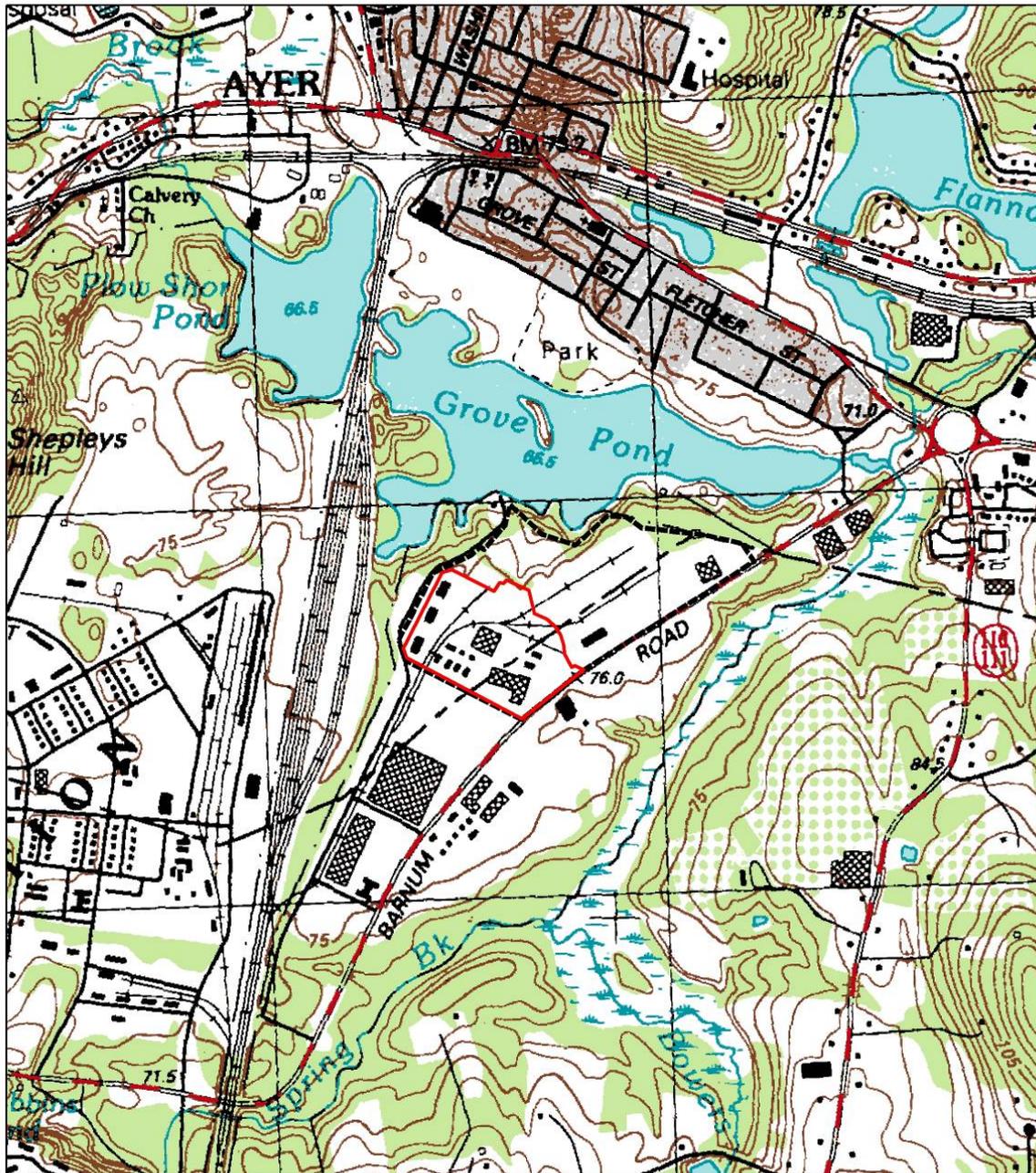
Enclosure 2  
 Project Location for BRAC Proposed Action Alternative—  
 USGS 1:24,000 Scale Topographic Quadrangles

Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p><span style="border: 2px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Devens RFTA- 3400 Area</p> <p>0    500    1,000    1,500        Feet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">         W    N    E    S     </p>	<p><b>Devens RFTA          Preferred Alternative          AFRC and OMS/AMSA Site          (Shirley Quadrangle)</b></p> <p><small>Sources: Devens RFTA          Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts          State Plane, Feet          Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</small></p>	<p><b>MAP INDEX</b></p>	<p><b>QUAD INDEX</b></p>
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MAARNG Property – Ayer, MA



**Legend**

-  CSMS Site
-  MA-ARNG Property

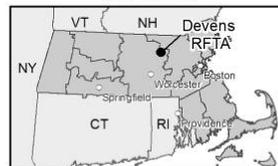
0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



**Devens RFTA  
Preferred Alternative  
CSMS Site  
(Ayer Quadrangle)**

Sources: Devens RFTA  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts  
State Plane, Feet  
Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group

**MAP INDEX**



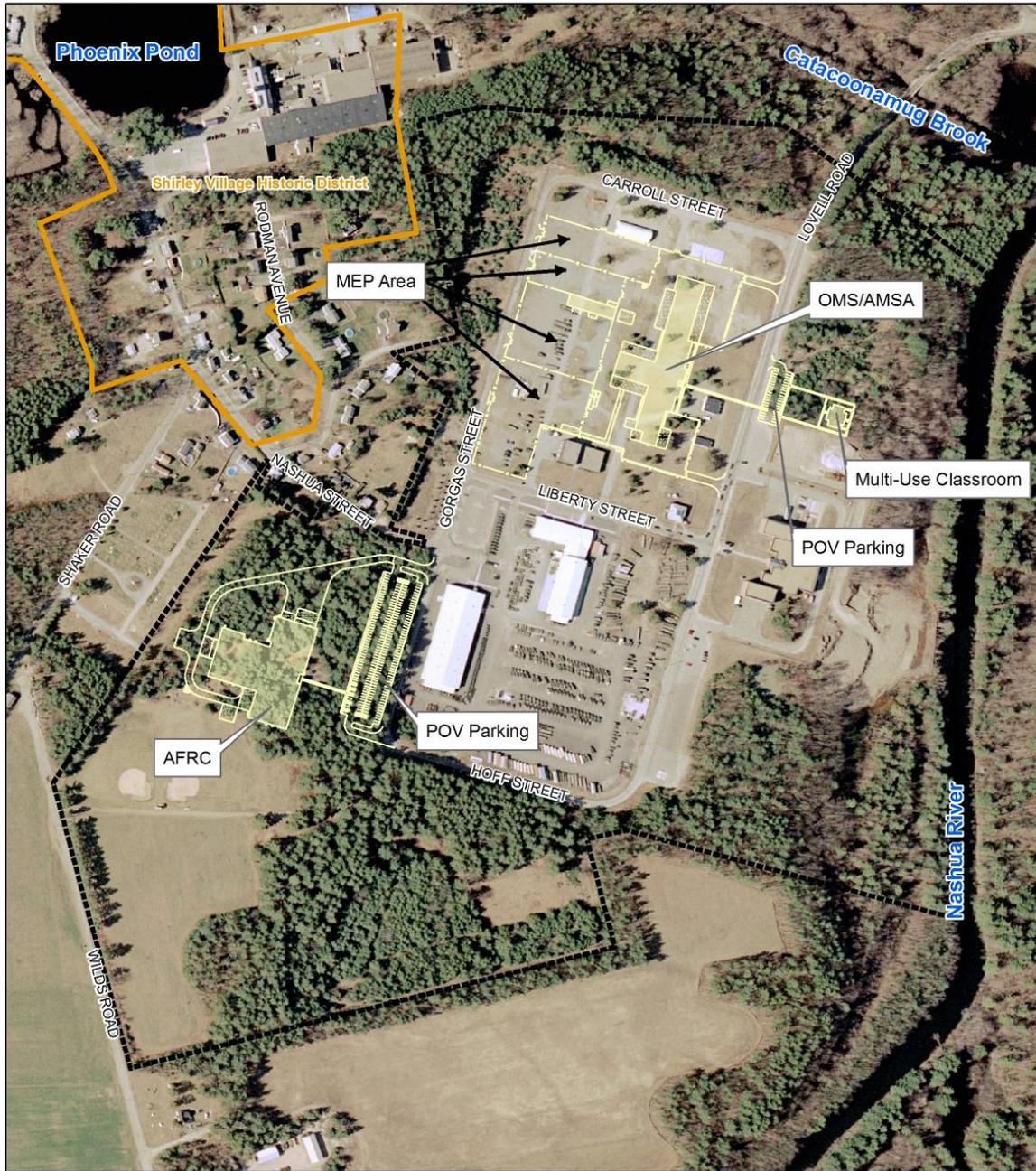
**QUAD INDEX**



Enclosure 3

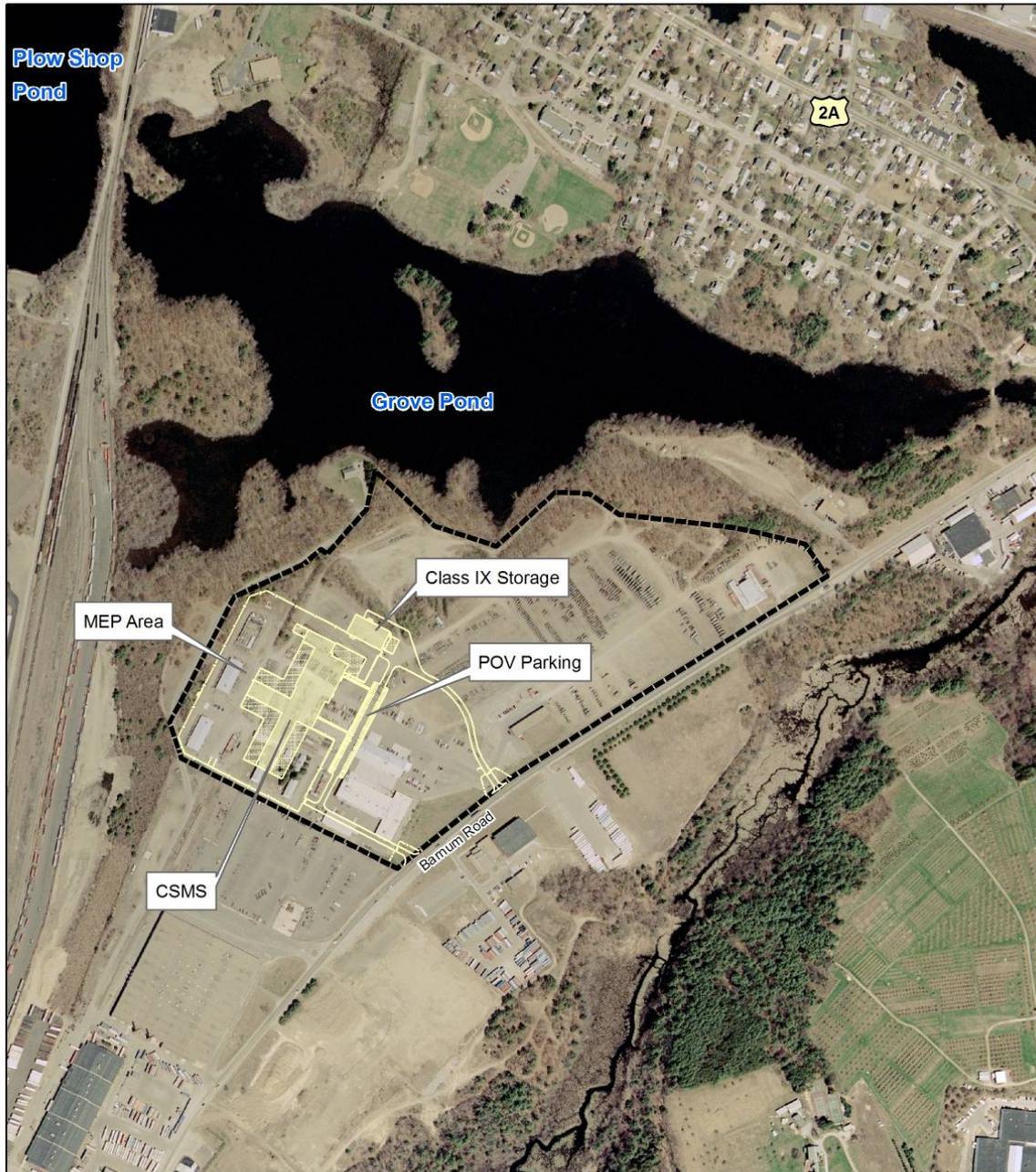
Proposed Site for the AFRC Complex

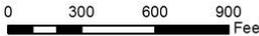
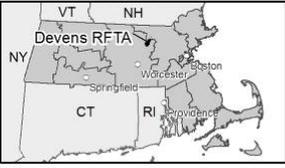
Devens RFTA 3400 Area – Shirley, MA



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Devens RFTA- 3400 Area</li> <li> Historic District</li> <li> Proposed Building</li> <li> Proposed Layout</li> </ul>	<p><b>Devens RFTA AFRC and OMS/AMSA Proposed Site</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAP INDEX</b></p>
<p>Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS Imagery is from 2001</p> <p>Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts State Plane, Feet Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group</p>			

MAARNG Property – Ayer, MA



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> MAARNG Property</li> <li> Proposed Building</li> <li> Proposed Layout</li> </ul>	<p>Devens RFTA CSMS Proposed Site</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">                     Sources: Devens RFTA, MassGIS                  Imagery is from 2001                  Coordinate System: NAD 1983, Massachusetts                  State Plane, Feet                  Prepared By: The Louis Berger Group             </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAP INDEX</b></p> 
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## Enclosure 4

### Site Photographs



**Photo 1: MAARNG property – looking north-northeast from Devens RFTA 3700 area onto MAARNG property (proposed CSMS site).**



**Photo 2: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view north from ballfields adjacent to Wilds Rd towards proposed AFRC site**



**Photo 3: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – looking south from proposed AFRC site toward Shaker Village – Shirley, MA**



**Photo 4: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view south-southeast along Wilds Rd to MCI Shirley**



**Photo 5: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view east from Nashua St. to existing maintenance facility**



**Photo 6: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view northeast from Nashua St. towards proposed site for MEP area and OMS/AMSA site (trees would remain)**



**Photo 7: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view northeast from corner of Gorgas and Liberty Streets towards proposed MEP Area and OMS/AMSA**



**Photo 8: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view west from proposed multi-use classroom towards proposed site for OMS/AMSA**



**Photo 9: Devens RFTA 3400 Area – view east from Lovell Rd to proposed multi-use classroom site.**

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## **APPENDIX B — COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RESPONSES**

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## **Introduction**

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Supplemental EA was published in the Shirley Oracle (Shirley, MA), The Public Spirit (Ayer, MA), and the Harvard Hillside (Harvard, MA) on March 21, 2008 initiating a 30-day public comment period from March 21, 2008 to April 19, 2008. During the comment period the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI were made available via the World Wide Web and copies were placed in main libraries in Shirley, Ayer, and Harvard, MA for public review during the announced comment period.

During the initial 30-day comment period the U.S. Army received requests from the People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE) and the Ayer Board of Health to extend the comment period by 30 days to allow time for members to adequately review the Supplemental EA and provide comments. The U.S. Army also received a request from the Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman) to extend the comment period. The Town of Ayer requested an extension of 90 days to allow the Town and its various boards and commissions ample opportunity to review and understand the implications of the proposed action on the aquifer for the Grove Pond well fields, which are the primary source of the Town's drinking water. By letters dated April 18, 2008 the U.S. Army granted a 30-day extension of the comment period until May 19, 2008. In its response to the Town of Ayer, the U.S. Army noted that granting an extension beyond 30 days may potentially impact the U.S. Army's ability to issue a design/build construction request for proposal (RFP) in a timely manner and to meet the overall BRAC 2005 implementation schedule which became law on November 9, 2005. The U.S. Army also offered to meet with the Town of Ayer, PACE and other stakeholders to discuss the Proposed Action and their concerns about the impacts of the proposed project. A meeting was subsequently held on April 23, 2008 at Fort Devens.

A total of six sets of comments on the Supplemental EA were received from interested parties; two from the Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman), one from the Town of Ayer Department of Public Works, one from PACE, one from the Nashoba Associated Board of Health, and one from the MADEP. Comments on the Supplemental EA and the U.S. Army's responses to those comments are provided in this Appendix. Following each comment letter, comments are summarized and the U.S. Army's responses are provided. Where revisions to the Supplemental EA text were made as a result of the comment, the revised text is also provided. Added text is underlined and deleted text is indicated by strikethrough (~~strike through~~).

No other comments from private entities, or local, state or Federal agencies were received.

# Board of Selectmen

MEETING TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. • UPPER TOWN HALL • 1 MAIN STREET • AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432



Tel. (978) 772-8220  
Fax. (978) 772-3017

Town Administrator  
(978) 772-8210

April 3, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

**RE: Request to Extend Comment Period – February 2008 Supplemental EA  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center, Devens (Ayer), MA**

Dear Mr. Smith:

On April 1 the Ayer Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to request a 90-day extension to the comment period on the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The current deadline of April 19 does not afford the Town, and its various boards and commissions, ample opportunity to review and understand the implications of this proposed development that is located within the aquifer for the Grove Pond well fields (a primary source of the Town's drinking water). The Town looks forward to commenting upon the document after sufficient time for review.

Please contact the Board through Mr. Shaun Suhoski, the Town Administrator, at 978-772-8210 with any questions, comments and/or your response to this request.

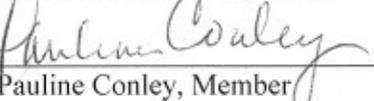
Sincerely,

**AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary J. Luca, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn L. McCreary, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank F. Maxant, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Clerk  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pauline Conley, Member

cc: Harvard Board of Selectmen (via email)  
Devens Committee (via email)  
Mr. Richard Montuori, MassDevelopment (via email)  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment (via email)  
Ms. Laurie Nehring, PACE (via email)  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ms. Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms. Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Michael Madigan, Ayer DPW Director (via email)  
Ayer Board of Health (via email)  
Ayer Conservation Commission (via email)



ECR, Inc.  
PO Box 966  
Acton, MA 01720  
(978) 500-3199  
info@ecr-consulting.com

April 1, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Request to Extend Comment Period  
February 2008 Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Devens, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE), Engineering & Consulting Resources, Inc. (ECR) is requesting an extension of the comment period on the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

It is our understanding that the comment period ends on April 19, 2008. We request a 30-day extension of the comment period to allow time for PACE members and ECR to adequately review the document and provide comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document. Please feel free to contact me at (978) 500-3199 if you have any questions or comments regarding this request.

Sincerely,  
Engineering & Consulting Resources, Inc.

Richard E. Doherty, P.E., L.S.P.  
President

cc: Ms. Laurie Nehring, PACE  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ayer Board of Selectmen  
Ms. Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms. Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment

TOWN OF AYER  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

TOWN HALL - 1 MAIN STREET - AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 - (978) 772-8213



April 3, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Request to Extend Comment Period  
February 2008 Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Devens, Massachusetts

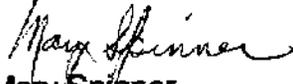
Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of the Ayer Board of Health, I am requesting an extension of the comment period on the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

It is our understanding that the comment period ends on April 19, 2008. As the governing agency for the Aquifer Protection District in Ayer, Massachusetts, we request a 30 day extension of the comment period to allow time for the Ayer Board of Health members and its Health Agent to adequately review the document and provide comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document. Please feel free to contact me at (978) 772-8213 if you have any questions or comments regarding this request.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Spinner  
Chair, Ayer Board of Health

Cc: Ms. Laurie Nehring, PACE  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ayer Board of Selectmen  
Ms. Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms. Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS  
31 QUEBEC STREET  
DEVENS MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

April 18, 2008

Mr. Shaun A. Suhoski  
Town Administrator  
Ayer Town Hall  
1 Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432

Re: Request to Extend Comment Period for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Suhoski:

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens received the Ayer Board of Selectmen's letter, dated April 3, 2008, requesting a 90-day extension to the comment period for the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment. Upon consideration, the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens is granting the Town of Ayer an extension of 30 days to review and comment on the document. Granting an extension beyond 30 days may potentially impact the Army's ability to issue a design/build construction Request for Proposal in a timely manner and to meet the overall Base Realignment and Closure's 2005 implementation schedule, which became law on November 9, 2005. Comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment should be submitted by May 19, 2008 via mail, FAX or electronic mail to the Army's contractor, Mr. Spence Smith, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., 295 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 by FAX @401-331-8956 or by e-mail to [shsmith@louisberger.com](mailto:shsmith@louisberger.com).

The Army appreciates the Town of Ayer's interest and concerns regarding this project and looks forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. W. Nott", is positioned above the typed name.

Steven W. Nott  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS  
31 QUEBEC STREET  
DEVENS MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

April 18, 2008

Richard Doherty, President  
Engineering Consulting Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 966  
Acton, MA 01720

RE: Request to Extend Comment Period for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Doherty:

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens received your letter, dated April 1, 2008, on-behalf of PACE requesting a 30-day extension to the comment period for the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment. The Army is granting PACE's request for additional time and extending their comment period until May 19, 2008. Comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment should be submitted via mail, FAX or electronic mail to the Army's contractor, Mr. Spence Smith, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., 295 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 by FAX @401-331-8956 or by e-mail to [shsmith@louisberger.com](mailto:shsmith@louisberger.com).

The Army appreciates PACE's interest and concerns regarding this project and looks forward to receiving their comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Nott".

Steven W. Nott  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY GARRISON FORT DEVENS  
31 QUEBEC STREET  
DEVENS MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

April 18, 2008

Ms. Mary Spinner  
Ayer Board of Health  
Ayer Town Hall  
1 Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432

RE: Request to Extend Comment Period for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Spinner:

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens received the Ayer Board Health's letter, dated April 3, 2008, requesting a 30-day extension to the comment period for the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment. The Army is granting your request for additional time and extending your comment period until May 19, 2008. Comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment should be submitted via mail, FAX or electronic mail to the Army's contractor, Mr. Spence Smith, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., 295 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 by FAX @401-331-8956 or by e-mail to [shsmith@louisberger.com](mailto:shsmith@louisberger.com).

The Army appreciates your interest and concerns regarding this project and looks forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Nott".

Steven W. Nott  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

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# Board of Selectmen

MEETING TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. • UPPER TOWN HALL • 1 MAIN STREET • AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432



Tel. (978) 772-8220  
Fax. (978) 772-3017

Town Administrator  
(978) 772-8210

March 26, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

**RE: Public Comment – Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Draft FNSI for the Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex (BRAC 05) at the U.S. Army Garrison, Ayer (Fort Devens), MA**

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated March 19, 2008 concerning the above project. I note that the public comment period concerning the draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment runs through April 19, 2008. Please consider this correspondence as an initial response and comment from the office of the Town Administrator concerning the DFNSI and EA only and not as a commentary on the overall merits of the project.

In addition, the Town's various permitting boards may require additional information and time to respond to the voluminous materials, and I therefore reserve any and all rights to further comment by additional municipal entities.

## Background

The EA indicates that the proposed \$70 million project would include construction of at least three major facilities, with ancillary structures, totaling nearly 280,000 square feet on approximately 57 acres of land off of Barnum Road in Ayer (Devens Regional Enterprise Zone). There would be approximately 789 military vehicles stored on site and approximately 642 personnel working at the facility. The plan also includes a 1,000 person training facility.

The assessment indicates that a "negligible adverse" impact may be associated with the project with respect to both surface and groundwater quality, and that a "minor adverse" impact may be associated with increased traffic.

## Water Resources

The location of the project site is immediately proximate to the Town of Ayer's Grove Pond Wells which serve as the Town's primary municipal water source. Portions of the site fall within the Zone I buffer zone for the wells and the entirety of the projected development falls within the Zone II aquifer for this water supply.

In addition, it is my understanding that the site may also fall within the protected aquifer zone for a public water supply that serves the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone under the control of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency.

Mr. Spence Smith – The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
Re: Armed Forces Reserve Center – Ayer (Fort Devens), MA  
March 26, 2008 – Page Two

To ensure protection of these vital natural resources, I would suggest the following:

- Any development of the site should be required to fully comply with applicable local, state and federal standards associated with the aquifer, wellhead protection zones, recharge areas and associated wetlands.
- In addition to the permits identified in Section 5-1 of the Findings and Conclusions, the project should be required to comply with any applicable bylaws in the Town of Ayer concerning the aquifer and wetlands.
- The Town of Ayer has entered into a written agreement with the Massachusetts National Guard concerning allowed activities within the wellhead protection area. A similar written agreement with the Dept. of Army is strongly recommended to ensure adequate protection of the Town's drinking water supply.

#### Roadways and Traffic

The EA indicates that the proposed use would generate up to 58 additional daily vehicular trips during weekends, and 38 additional daily trips during the work week. I did not note any consideration of the impact of a 1,000-person training facility upon the trip calculations. If this training facility is activated, wouldn't there be substantially more daily vehicle trips?

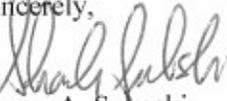
#### Summary

Construction of nearly 280,000 square feet of buildings, and paving acres of land, will invariably have resulting impacts on the surrounding environment. Due to the proximity of several drinking water wells to the site, any development plans should receive the courtesy of local review before the FNSI is approved.

Lastly, whereas the Environmental Assessment is a fairly lengthy document to download, or to read online, I hereby request that you provide three hard copies of the EA, draft FNSI, and any associated documents to the Town at your earliest convenience so that I may distribute same to our local permitting authorities. You may forward the materials to my attention at the address above.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some preliminary comments.

Sincerely,

  
Shaun A. Suhoski  
Town Administrator

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Planning Board  
Conservation Commission  
Board of Health  
DPW Superintendent

*Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman),  
Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Administrator  
Letter dated March 26, 2008*

---

**Comment #1:** The commenter notes that the project site is immediately proximate to the Town of Ayer's Grove Pond Wells, that a portion of the project site falls within the Zone I buffer for these wells, and that the entire project falls within the Zone II aquifer associated with these water supply wells.

The commenter suggests that to protect the Town of Ayer's water supply any development of the project site should (1) be required to fully comply with applicable local, state and federal standards associated with the aquifer, wellhead protection zones, recharge areas and associated wetlands; (2) the project should be required to comply with any applicable bylaws in the Town of Ayer concerning aquifer and wetlands; and (3) similar to an agreement with the Massachusetts National Guard concerning activities allowed within the wellhead protection areas, the Department of the Army should enter into a similar agreement with the Town of Ayer.

**Response to Comment:** As indicated in *Section 4.5 – Water Resources* of the Supplemental EA, all actions associated with the construction and operation of the AFRC and its associated facilities will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations protecting both surface and drinking water supplies, including the Clean Water Act, the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c 131 s40 and 310 CMR 10), Ground Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 6.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (310 CMR 21.00), Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00) and the Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00).

The project site has been reconfigured to avoid all Zone I wellhead protection buffer zones. The Zone I buffers around the Grove Pond wells depicted in *Figure 4-4 Water Resources in the Vicinity of the Fort Devens 3700 Area* in both the original and Supplemental EAs were obtained from MassGIS, the state GIS data clearing house, and depict a 250 foot buffer which is appropriate for tubular wells. This is the buffer that the U.S. Army used in designing the layout of facilities for the MAARNG property in order to avoid of the Zone I wellhead protection area. As noted in the MADEP's comments as well as at the April 23, 2008 meeting between the U.S. Army and interested stakeholders, including the Town of Ayer, MADEP and others, the U.S. Army recognizes that the MassGIS data used for determining the layout of the MAARNG facilities is outdated. Accordingly, the latest well locations were obtained from the Town of Ayer and MassDevelopment. Based on the latest locations and a 400 foot buffer (appropriate for the gravel packed wells that replaced the tubular wells), the U.S. Army reconfigured the design layout of the MEP area on the MAARNG property to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area. Figure 4-4 in the Supplemental EA has been updated with the latest well locations and buffers. In addition, Figures 2-2 and 4-7 have also been updated to depict the latest design layout.

The MOU between the town of Ayer and the MAARNG is for activities occurring in the Zone I wellhead protection area. The Zone I protection area is only located on the MAARNG property, not the federal (U.S.

Army) property. As noted above, the project design avoids the Zone I protection area; thus an MOU for this project is not needed.

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**Comment #2:** The commenter indicated that under the transportation section of the Supplemental EA they did not note any consideration of a 1,000-person training facility on trip calculations, and questioned whether the number of new vehicle trips would be higher than the indicated 38 additional daily trips during the work week and 58 additional trips during the weekends.

**Response to Comment:** The additional vehicle trips as reported in *Section 4.8 – Transportation* are not total daily vehicle trips, but are instead the number of vehicle trips made during the peak a.m. and p.m. commuting hours when traffic impacts would be the greatest. In addition, of the 642 personnel relocating to the proposed training facilities, 59 percent (378) are currently assigned to the existing CSMS on the MAARNG property and are currently using Barnum Road to report to work. The vehicle trips these personnel are making along Barnum Road are considered part of the existing baseline traffic conditions and will not change as a result of implementing the Proposed Action; therefore, they were not included in the calculations determining the number of new vehicle trips resulting from the Proposed Action.

---

**Comment #3:** The commenter suggested that the Town of Ayer be provided the opportunity to review the proposed development plans prior to the FNSI being signed.

**Response to Comment:** This project is a design/build contract which provides specific requirements for the project (e.g., avoid of Zone I wellhead protection area, number of oil-water separators etc) and a conceptual design layout. However, the *final* design plans are the responsibility of the selected contractor and will not be completed/available prior to signing of the FNSI.

That being said, the U.S. Army met with the Town of Ayer, PACE, MADEP, MassDevelopment, the DEC and other interested parties at Fort Devens on April 23, 2008 to review the project and the existing development plans and to hear and address the local concerns about the project. In addition, the U.S. Army will provide design documents to the DEC and MassDevelopment for review and comment. The Town of Ayer can coordinate with either of those two agencies if they desire to be a part of that process.

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**Comment #4:** The commenter requested three additional copies of the Supplemental EA/FNSI for review during the public comment period.

**Response to Comment:** Three CDs containing electronic versions of the Supplemental EA/FNSI were sent to the Town of Ayer on March 28, 2008.

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**Nashoba Associated Boards of Health**  
**Environmental Health Service**  
30 Central Avenue, Ayer, Ma. 01432

April 15, 2008

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mobile District  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628

RE: Supplemental Environmental Assessment – Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex and Implementation of BRAC 05  
Realignment Action at U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens Massachusetts.

To whom it may concern:

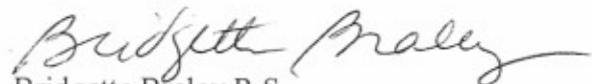
Bridgette Braley R.S of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health has reviewed the above referenced document and has the following concerns:

1. The proposed facility will require a large area of the property to be paved. These areas should be treated with concern in respect to snow removal due to the close proximity of the Town of Ayer's aquifer. The Board of Health recommends using a sodium free and environmentally safe product.
2. What measures will be taken to ensure that any vehicle maintenance conducted within Ayer's aquifer protection district will not negatively impact the Town of Ayer's aquifer?

Please send a written response to me at the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health at the above referenced address.

Please contact me at Nashoba office if you have any questions regarding this matter 978-772-3335 ex:3015

Respectfully,

  
Bridgette Braley R.S  
Health Agent  
Town of Ayer

Cc  
File  
Boh

**(978) 772-3335 (800) 427-9762 FAX (978) 772-4947**

**Comment #1:** The commenter noted that due to the proximity of the project to the Town of Ayer's water supply aquifer the Board of Health recommends using a sodium free and environmentally safe product for snow removal activities.

**Response to Comment:** The existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MAARNG and the Town of Ayer stipulates that "no road salt and/or deicing materials will be maintained in the Zone I; road salt and/or deicing materials stored near the Zone I will be contained in a manner such that contaminants will not be allowed to reach the groundwater."

Currently, no road salt is used at the project site during snow removal operations and will not be used in the future. In addition, no stockpiling of snow currently occurs at the project site and will not occur in the future.

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**Comment #2:** The commenter asks what measures will be taken to ensure that any vehicle maintenance conducted within the Town of Ayer's aquifer protection district will not negatively impact the Town's aquifer.

**Response to Comment:** As indicated in *Section 4.5 – Water Resources* of the Supplemental EA, all actions associated with the construction and operation of the AFRC and its associated facilities, including vehicle maintenance shops, will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations protecting both surface and drinking water supplies, including the Clean Water Act, the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c 131 s40 and 310 CMR 10), Ground Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 6.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (310 CMR 21.00), Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00) and the Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00).

A CSMS currently exists on the MAARNG property and the new CSMS will be performing the same type and level of vehicle maintenance and other functions, so there will be no new impacts to this site that don't already exist. Vehicle maintenance will only be performed inside the appropriate shops (i.e., OMS/AMSA and the CSMS) which will be modern, state-of-art facilities. These shops, as well as the vehicle wash pad, will include trench drains that convey flow through oil-water separators prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer system, preventing spills and/or leaks from entering the ground water. Discharges to the sewer system will meet any regulatory requirements necessary in order for the wastewater to be received by the Devens Wastewater Treatment Facility. In addition, paving all MEP areas and employing BMPs such as using drip trays and mats will prevent leaks from vehicles being stored in the MEP areas from seeping into the soils and potentially leaching into the ground water.

The U.S. Army and MAARNG have standard operating procedures for the proper handling of hazardous and flammable materials and performing vehicle maintenance, as well as for the immediate containment of any spills. All U.S. Army Reserve and MAARNG operators and maintenance personnel are properly trained in these procedures ensuring compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. Additionally, all units and facilities are provided with the appropriate spill kit materials to immediately respond to and contain any spills.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Central Regional Office, 627 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES  
Secretary

LAURIE BURT  
Commissioner

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

April 22, 2008

RE: Supplemental Environmental Assessment - Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center,  
February 2008, Devens, MA

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Federal Facilities Section has reviewed the above document for the construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) at Devens, Massachusetts, in the DRFTA 3700 and Barnum Road area of Ayer and Harvard MA. The following are our comments:

1. Public Water Supply Well Head Protection Zones: The Town of Ayer has public groundwater supply wells on the northern section of the 3700 property. These wells fall under Zone 1 aquifer and wellhead protection regulations 310 CMR 22.21. The entire site is located within a Zone II aquifer protection area for Ayer's Grove Pond well fields, a primary source of the Town's drinking water. Portions of the ARFC are within the Zone I buffer. In addition, MassDevelopment has operational wells in the same vicinity.

The database for the Grove Pond well site indicates (12) 8" wells. The original 2.5" tubular wells were replaced in 1989 with 8" gravel wells. Tubular wells can only suction lift from relatively shallow depths (i.e. 28 ft), making the contributing area more limited than larger diameter gravel pack wells. The approved pumping rate for these wells is 700 gpm, 1 MGD, which is appropriate for a 400 ft Zone I. While it is not discussed in the Water Resources section of this Supplemental EA, MassDevelopment and the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) have been holding a 400' buffer around each of these wells. MassDEP will not approve a reduction in Zone I protection. A 400 ft wellhead protection zone is the appropriate protection measure for developing the ARFC.

2. MEPA: On Pages 13 and 61 it states the AFRC will be in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). However, Page 91 a MESA Information Request Form for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, does not demarcate a box that asks "Will this project be undergoing MEPA review for reasons other than rare species?" Please either check this box or provide explanation. Please note that MEPA process precedes the Commonwealth's ability to move forward on actions such as access agreement (with MAARNG) or state permitting (such as Air Quality). Additional time may be needed considering application and notice must be submitted to the Environmental Monitor and then require a 20-day public comment period followed by an agency review period of 10 days.

3. AOC 44 & 52 ROD requirements: The Supplemental EA states the paved cap will be removed and soils excavated. Is this in compliance with the institutional controls of the ROD (AOC 44-52, Mar 1995) since excavation is part of constructing the AFRC? The soils must be sampled and analyzed for COCs and treated in accordance with the ROD. You may want to refer to the Devens Soil Management Plan for acceptable disposal options for disposal of appropriate soils from the excavate.

4. Stormwater: As stated in Section ES-7 a NPDES permit and associated stormwater planning and guidelines (CWA Section 402) will be followed for operations and construction of the AFRC complex. Stormwater will be conveyed to existing detention ponds. Stormwater should not be directly discharged to Cold Spring Brook and not exceed predevelopment runoff conditions.

5. Air Quality permitting. This supplemental EA addresses potential cumulative effects from nearby manufacturing facilities (Evergreen Solar) that could increase air emissions. Please elaborate on necessary mitigation of potential air quality concerns. A helpful reference is Massachusetts Air Regulations <http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/>. Noise, dust, and smoke issues should be managed through the municipal offices for the surrounding towns.

Significant additions have been made to improve this EA and attend to earlier comments and recommendations for regulatory environmental compliance. If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below or call (508) 849-4051. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian Duval  
Regional Planner – Development Coordinator  
MA Dept of Environmental Protection  
627 Main Street, 1st Floor  
Worcester, MA 01608

W:Devens/fn correspondence/ AFRC Suppl. EA Feb 2008\_042208  
CC: Devens Mailing List

**Comment #1:** The commenter notes that the Town of Ayer and MassDevelopment have water supply wells located in the Grove Pond well fields which fall under Zone I aquifer and wellhead protection regulations (310 CMR 22.21) and that the entire project area also falls within the Zone II aquifer protection area for this well field. The commenter also notes that the original 2.5 inch tubular wells were replaced in 1989 with 8 inch gravel pack wells, which require a 400 foot buffer in accordance with the state wellhead protection regulations, and that portions of the AFRC are within the Zone I buffer. The commenter also noted that the MADEP will not approve a reduction in Zone I protection.

**Response to Comment:** The Zone I buffers around the Grove Pond wells depicted in *Figure 4-4 Water Resources in the Vicinity of the Fort Devens 3700 Area* in both the original and Supplemental EAs were obtained from MassGIS, the state GIS data clearing house, and depict a 250 foot buffer which is appropriate for tubular wells. This is the buffer that the U.S. Army used in designing the layout of facilities for the MAARNG property to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area. As noted in the MADEP's comments as well as at the April 23, 2008 meeting between the U.S. Army and interested stakeholders, including MADEP, the Town of Ayer and others, the U.S. Army recognizes that the MassGIS data used for determining the layout of the MAARNG facilities as depicted in Figure 4-4 is outdated. Accordingly, the latest well locations were obtained from MassDevelopment and the Town of Ayer. Based on the latest locations and a 400 foot buffer, the U.S. Army reconfigured the design layout of the MEP area on the MAARNG property to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area, and Figure 4-4 has been updated in the Supplemental EA. In addition, Figures 2-2 and 4-7 have also been updated to depict the latest design layout.

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**Comment #2:** The commenter indicates that the MESA Information Request Form included in Appendix A does not indicate that the Proposed Action will be undergoing MEPA review, and requests an explanation for this when the Supplemental EA indicates that a MEPA review of the project will occur.

**Response to Comment:** Construction by a federal agency on federal property (i.e., Fort Devens 3700 Area) is not subject to MEPA review. At the time when the original MESA Information Request Form was mailed to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (July 5, 2006), it had not yet been determined if the portion of the Proposed Action that was being constructed on the MAARNG property was subject to MEPA review. Therefore, the box demarcating "Will this project be undergoing MEPA review for reasons other than rare species?" was not checked. Appendix A provides the original correspondence with regulatory agencies. Since the box indicating the need for MEPA review was not checked in the original correspondence, it is not appropriate to now check it, even though it has since been determined by federal and state personnel that the portion of the

project being constructed on the MAARNG property is subject to MEPA review. The U.S. Army is aware of the MEPA regulations and review schedule and has had discussions with the MEPA office about this project. The overall design/build contract schedule is taking into account the fact that a MEPA determination is needed prior to being able to sign a right-of-entry with the state for construction on the MAARNG property.

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**Comment #3:** The commenter questions whether or not removing the paved cap on AOC 44 & 52 and excavating the soils is in compliance with the institutional controls provided for in the ROD for AOC 44 & 52. The commenter also stated that the soils must be sampled and analyzed for COCs (chemicals of concern) and treated in accordance with the ROD.

**Response to Comment:** Regarding AOCs 44 and 52, the U.S. Army will comply fully with the ROD and the institutional controls stipulated in it, under which construction projects such as the AFRC and its associated facilities are allowed. As noted in *Section 4.4 – Geology and Soils* of the Supplemental EA “This action is in compliance with the institutional controls of the ROD for the AOCs, which allows excavation to occur that is being ‘undertaken in connection with construction of building or other structures, utilities, infrastructures or any other construction related purpose where the cover is penetrated and/or temporarily removed and protection from long-term exposure to subsurface soil is not jeopardized.’” If the soils are excavated they will be sampled and analyzed for contamination and then reused or treated in accordance with the ROD which has been incorporated as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the AFRC Design Analysis.”

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**Comment #4:** The commenter notes that the Supplemental EA indicated a NPDES permit and associated stormwater planning and guidelines will be followed for operations and construction of the AFRC complex. The commenter also notes that stormwater should not be directly discharged to Cold Spring Brook and stormwater should not exceed predevelopment runoff conditions.

**Response to Comment:** Comment noted. As indicated in the Supplemental EA, the project will decrease the amount of impervious surface at the Devens 3700 Area and the MAARNG property, and as stipulated in the RFP for the AFRC Design Analysis, the post development stormwater runoff will not exceed the predevelopment stormwater runoff.

The Water Resources analysis in Section 4.5.2.1 on page 4-9 of the Supplemental EA has been revised to reflect the recalculated pre- and post- construction amount of impervious areas for the MAARNG property. These areas were recalculated based on the reconfiguration of the MEP area to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area and reclassifying the gravel/dirt portions of the existing MEP area from a pervious surface to an impervious surface. This reclassification was made due to the severely compacted nature of the gravel/dirt.

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“The existing CSMS site is approximately ~~29.4~~27.4 acres large and ~~is covered by~~ consists of approximately ~~14.1~~12.8 acres of impervious surface. Post-construction, the amount of impervious surface will be approximately ~~13.3~~17.7 acres (Smith, 2008).”

As part of the remedial action for AOCs 44 and 52, a stormwater collection system was installed and included an oil-water separator and detention basin prior to discharging stormwater into Cold Spring Brook. The new MEP area to be constructed on AOCs 44 and 52 will continue to use this existing stormwater system including the oil-water separator and detention basin, so that stormwater is not discharged directly to Cold Spring Brook. As indicated in the Supplemental EA, this stormwater system will be improved, if necessary, to accommodate stormwater runoff from the MEP area and to meet current applicable state stormwater requirements.

Stormwater on the MAARNG property will be retained and infiltrated on site, while stormwater from the southern portion of the Devens 3700 Area (i.e., the AFRC building area) will be collected and conveyed to the MassDevelopment stormwater detention pond across the street (approximately 350 feet to the southeast of the project site), which was designed to accommodate runoff from the Devens 3700 Area.

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**Comment #5:** The commenter notes that the Supplemental EA addresses potential cumulative effects from nearby manufacturing facilities that could increase air emissions and would like further elaboration on mitigation measures of potential air quality concerns. The commenter also notes that noise, dust, and smoke issues should be managed through the municipal offices for the surrounding towns.

**Response to Comment:** As summarized in *Section 4.12 – Mitigation Summary* of the Supplemental EA, this project does not require any mitigation measures to offset impacts, including air quality. The total contribution to cumulative air quality impacts of this project is negligible and will be primarily from construction activities and commuter traffic, which only involves the addition of four new commuters from outside the Devens area. As indicated in the original May 2007 EA, the SIP’s daily target level for NOx is 226.36 tons per day and for VOC it is 86.7 tons per day. The overall contribution of this project towards those daily limits is 0.05 tons per day (0.02 percent) and 0.01 tons per day (0.01 percent) respectively, well below the 10 percent level of the available SIP indicating regional significance.

The DEC is the local permitting authority for noise, dust and smoke issues. 974 CMR 4.00 incorporates the DEC’s industrial performance standards and will be complied with by the U.S. Army for this project.

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# Board of Selectmen

MEETING TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. • UPPER TOWN HALL • 1 MAIN STREET • AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432



Tel. (978) 772-8220  
Fax. (978) 772-3017

Town Administrator  
(978) 772-8210

May 6, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: February 2008 Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Devens, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Ayer Board of Selectmen appreciates the extension of the comment period on the above project to May 18. The Board tenders this letter to comment upon the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Our comments are as follows:

- Because the project includes Areas of Contamination (AOCs) 44 & 52, construction in that area must meet the requirements of the institutional controls described in the March 1995 Record of Decision (ROD). Construction will result in disturbance of the 2-foot cap and/or paved surface intended to prevent long-term human exposure to underlying soils. We request verification that the cap and/or pavement will be maintained throughout the working life of the Armed Forces Reserve Center, including documentation of requirements for long-term, post-construction inspection and maintenance of the paved and capped areas.
- The project is located within a Zone II aquifer protection area, and portions lie within the Zone I protection area. State and local requirements applicable to these protected areas should be strictly followed, including, if necessary, the requirement for obtaining a Special Permit under the Town of Ayer's Aquifer Protection By-Law. Further, the Board strongly encourages the project comply with the most stringent of environmental and development requirements under federal EPA, state DEP, Town of Ayer or Devens Regional Enterprise Zone regulations applicable to the site.
- The ROD includes a requirement for the development of a Sampling and Analysis Plan for management of excavated soils when excavation is to be conducted more than 2 feet below grade. We request confirmation that such a plan will be prepared, and we request that the plan include appropriate contingencies for properly remediating any significant areas of petroleum-impacted soil that may be encountered during construction. We also request that the plan include analysis of potentially-impacted soils for chlorinated solvents which were previously detected at low concentrations in groundwater, although a source was not identified.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was detected at 2.6 ppb (below the drinking water standard of 5 ppb) in well G3M-93-10X in September 1993. It appears from the language in Section 3.2 of the September 2005 *Final Remedial Action Report* for AOCs 44 & 52 that follow-up sampling for PCE in groundwater was not conducted.

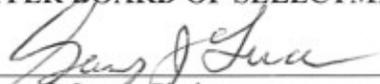
Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
May 6, 2008  
Page Two

- Because the project will result in changes to this previously-impacted and environmentally-sensitive area, we request that semi-annual groundwater monitoring of a limited number of on-site and down-gradient wells be resumed for a two-year period during and after construction, and that two to three of the nine monitoring wells that are expected to be destroyed during construction be replaced to allow future monitoring to take place in on-site areas.
- Please consider reconfiguration of the design so that the vehicle maintenance areas are as far as possible from the drinking water wells. Specifically, could the AFRC training area building be moved closer to the wells so that the vehicle maintenance buildings could be moved further from the wells?
- As the project proceeds, we request the Town of Ayer and PACE be informed of changes to the project, and be permitted to attend and participate in Design Review meetings and construction progress meetings.
- Lastly, the Board of Selectmen hereby advise that the Town reserves its right to offer additional comment up to May 18 through the Dept. of Public Works, Town Administrator, or other local authority, which are to be incorporated herein.

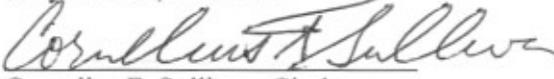
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. Please feel free to contact Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Administrator, at 978-772-8210 with any questions.

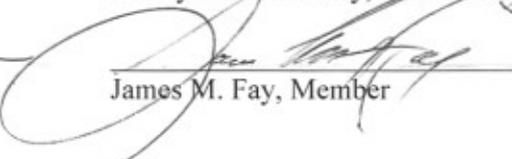
Sincerely,

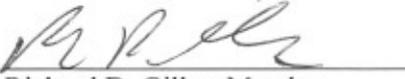
**AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary J. Luca, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn L. McCreary, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Fay, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard D. Gilles, Member

- cc: Mr. Michael Madigan, P.E., Supt. of Public Works  
Mr. Richard Linde, Ayer Water Dept. Foreman  
Ayer Board of Health  
Ayer Conservation Commission  
Ms. Laurie Nehring, PACE  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ms. Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms. Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment



ECR, Inc.  
PO Box 966  
Acton, MA 01720  
(978) 500-3199  
info@ecr-consulting.com

May 6, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: February 2008 Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Devens, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE), Engineering & Consulting Resources, Inc. (ECR) prepared this letter to provide comments on the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Assessment prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Our comments are as follows:

- Because the project includes Areas of Contamination (AOCs) 44 & 52, construction in that area must meet the requirements of the institutional controls described in the March 1995 Record of Decision (ROD). Construction will result in disturbance of the 2-foot cap and/or paved surface intended to prevent long-term human exposure to underlying soils. We request verification that the cap and/or pavement will be maintained throughout the working life of the Armed Forces Reserve Center, including documentation of requirements for long-term, post-construction inspection and maintenance of the paved and capped areas.
- The project is located within a Zone II aquifer protection area, and portions lie within the 4-foot Zone I area. State and local requirements applicable to these protected areas should be strictly followed, including, if necessary, the requirement for obtaining a Special Permit under the Town of Ayer's Aquifer Protection By-Law.
- The ROD includes a requirement for the development of a Sampling and Analysis Plan for management of excavated soils when excavation is to be conducted more than 2 feet below grade. We request confirmation that such a plan will be prepared, and we request that the plan include appropriate contingencies for properly remediating any significant areas of petroleum-impacted soil that may be encountered during construction. We also request that the plan include analysis of potentially-impacted soils for chlorinated solvents

which were previously detected at low concentrations in groundwater, although a source was not identified.<sup>1</sup>

- Because the project will result in changes to this previously-impacted and environmentally-sensitive area, we request that semi-annual groundwater monitoring of a limited number of on-site and down-gradient wells be resumed for a two-year period during and after construction, and that two to three of the nine monitoring wells that are expected to be destroyed during construction be replaced to allow future monitoring to take place in on-site areas.
- Please consider reconfiguration of the design so that the vehicle maintenance areas are as far as possible from the drinking water wells. Specifically, could the AFRC training area building be moved closer to the wells so that the vehicle maintenance buildings could be moved further from the wells?
- As the project proceeds, we request that both PACE and the Town of Ayer be informed of changes to the project, and be permitted to attend and participate in Design Review meetings and construction progress meetings.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document. Please feel free to contact me at (978) 500-3199 if you have any questions or comments regarding these comments.

Sincerely,  
Engineering & Consulting Resources, Inc.



Richard E. Doherty, P.E., L.S.P.  
President

cc: Ms. Laurie Nehring, PACE  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ayer Board of Selectmen  
Ms. Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms. Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment

<sup>1</sup> Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was detected at 2.6 ppb (below the drinking water standard of 5 ppb) in well G3M-93-10X in September 1993. It appears from the language in Section 3.2 of the September 2005 *Final Remedial Action Report* for AOCs 44 & 52 that follow-up sampling for PCE in groundwater was not conducted.

*Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman),  
Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Administrator  
Letter dated May 06, 2008*

*People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE),  
Richard E. Doherty, ECR Inc. (on behalf of PACE)  
Letter dated May6, 2008*

**(Note: these two letters made the same comments; therefore their comments and responses to them are combined below.)**

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**Comment #1:** The commenters request verification that the cap and/or pavement over AOCs 44 and 52 will be maintained throughout the working life of the AFRC, including documentation of requirements for long-term, post-construction inspection and maintenance of the paved and capped areas.

**Response to Comment:** While this comment/request is beyond the scope of NEPA and the Supplemental EA, the U.S. Army will fulfill its inspection and documentation obligations in accordance with the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for Fort Devens and will use the Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to keep the community informed of the project status.

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**Comment #2:** The commenters note the project is located within a Zone II aquifer protection area and that portions lie within the Zone I protection area and states that all state and local requirements applicable to these protected areas should be strictly followed, including, if necessary, the requirement for obtaining a Special Permit under the Town of Ayer's Aquifer Protection by-law. The commenters also encourage the project to comply with the most stringent of environmental and development requirements under the USEPA, MADEP, Town of Ayer or DEC regulations applicable to the site.

**Response to Comment:** As indicated in *Section 4.5 – Water Resources* of the Supplemental EA, all actions associated with the construction and operation of the AFRC and its associated facilities will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations protecting both surface and drinking water supplies, including the Clean Water Act, the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c 131 s40 and 310 CMR 10), Ground Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 6.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (310 CMR 21.00), Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00) and the Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00).

Upon learning that the MassGIS data (250 foot Zone I wellhead protection buffer for tubular wells) used for determining the layout of the MAARNG facilities as depicted in Figure 4-4 in the Supplemental EA was outdated (the wells have been replaced with gravel packed wells that require a 400 foot buffer), the U.S. Army obtained from MassDevelopment and the Town of Ayer the current wellhead locations and reconfigured the design layout of the MEP area on the MAARNG property to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area. Figure 4-4, has been updated in the Supplemental EA to reflect the latest design layout, wellhead locations, and 400 foot protection

buffers. Because the design layout now avoids the Zone I protection area a Special Permit under the Town of Ayer's Aquifer Protection By-Law is not required.

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**Comment #3:** The commenters request confirmation that a Sampling and Analysis Plan for management of excavated soils more than 2 feet below grade within AOCs 44 and 52, as required by the ROD, will be prepared. The commenters also request that the plan include appropriate contingencies for properly remediating any significant areas of petroleum-impacted soil that may be encountered during construction and that it includes analysis of potentially-impacted soils for chlorinated solvents which were previously detected at low concentrations in the groundwater, although a source was not identified.

**Response to Comment:** As stated in *Section 4.4 – Geology and Soils* of the Supplemental EA, the ROD and all of its institutional controls is being incorporated into the Request for Proposal for the AFRC Design Analysis, making it a requirement for the selected contractor to prepare a Sampling and Analysis Plan in accordance with the ROD. For those areas where chlorinated solvents are a contaminant of concern (COC), the U.S. Army will comply with any regulatory requirements for the monitoring and sampling of this COC.

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**Comment #4:** The commenters request that semi-annual groundwater monitoring of a limited number of onsite and down-gradient wells be resumed for a two-year period during and after construction and that two to three of the nine monitoring wells that are expected to be destroyed during construction be replaced to allow future monitoring to take place in on-site areas.

**Response to Comment:** In compliance with the ROD for AOCs 44 and 52, and as indicated in the September 2005 *Final Remedial Action Report: Areas of Contamination 44 & 52*, the U.S. Army has completed all of the required groundwater monitoring for this site. If there are future regulatory measures that require additional groundwater monitoring for this project site, the U.S. Army and the MAARNG will comply with those requirements.

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**Comment #5:** The commenters request that consideration be given to reconfiguring the design layout so that vehicle maintenance areas are placed as far as possible from the drinking water wells, specifically could the AFRC training building be moved closer to the wells so that the vehicle maintenance buildings could be moved further from the wells.

**Response to Comment:** Given design restrictions such as AT/FP stand off distances and the delineation between federal (Devens 3700 Area) and state (MAARNG) property, as well as the need to comply with the OTJAG's

ruling and the 2005 BRAC law, the AFRC training building must be constructed on the Devens 3700 Area (federal property) and can not swap locations with the CSMS located on the MAARNG's property.

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**Comment #6:** The commenters request that both the Town of Ayer and PACE be informed of changes to the project, and be permitted to attend and participate in design review meetings and construction progress meetings.

**Response to Comment:** The U.S. Army will provide design documents to the DEC and MassDevelopment for review and comment. Requests for the Town of Ayer and PACE to participate in the design review process should be made to one of those two agencies. The U.S. Army will use the Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to keep the community informed of the project status.

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# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Michael J. Madigan, P.E., Superintendent  
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25 BROOK STREET  
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May 15, 2008

Mr. Spence Smith  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  
295 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: February 2008 Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Construction of Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Devens, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Ayer Board of Selectmen has requested that the Ayer Department of Public Works (DPW) review the above-referenced supplemental Environmental Assessment and to submit comments if any. Following review of the document by the DPW Superintendent and the Water Department Foreman, the following comments are submitted:

1. Chemical Storage/Usage

- What chemicals are being stored and/or used on-site?
- All storage of chemicals should be above ground and properly spill contained.

2. Stormwater Control

- Interior floor drains should drain to a separate double-walled holding tank.
- All surface run-off should pass through oil/water separators.

3. Monitoring Wells

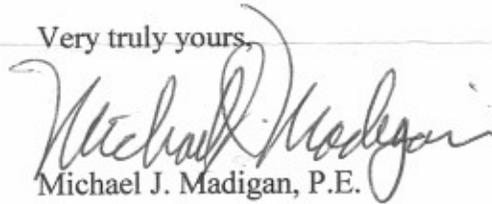
- There should be a sufficient number of additional operational monitoring wells installed as close to the final constructed facilities so as to assure the earliest detection of any potential chemical spills. Sampling should be conducted at least on a semi-annually basis and analyzed for contaminants, as determined/required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the protection of both the Town of Ayer's groundwater wells (Zone II) and the Devens' groundwater wells (ZONE I and II) should be entered into with the Army National Guard. The most stringent criteria of either Ayer's or Devens' Aquifer Protection By-Law should govern activities at the proposed Armed Forces Reserve Center on Barnum Road.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact the DPW/Superintendent.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Madigan, P.E.  
Superintendent  
Ayer Department of Public Works



Rick Linde  
Water Department Foreman

Cc: Ayer Board of Selectmen  
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator  
Ayer Board of Health  
Ayer Conservation Committee  
Ms Laurie Nehring, PACE  
Mr. Robert Simeone, BRAC  
Ms Lynne Welsh, MADEP  
Ms Ginny Lombardo, USEPA  
Mr. Ronald Ostrowski, MassDevelopment

*Ayer Department of Public Works  
Michael Madigan, P.E., Superintendent  
Rick Linde, Water Department Foreman  
Letter dated May15, 2008*

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**Comment #1:** The commenters request to know what chemicals are being stored and/or used on site and state that all storage of chemicals should be above ground and properly spill contained.

**Response to Comment:** Chemicals used on site and wastes produced are those that are typical of a large-scale vehicle maintenance site including antifreeze, asbestos brake shoes, oil and fuel filters, and waste oil. Implementing the proposed action will not change the type of materials used or wastes presently produced at the project site.

There is only one AST on the project site, it is a fuel tank located on the MAARNG property, and it has proper secondary containment. No new ASTs or USTs are planned for this project. The U.S. Army and MAARNG have standard operating procedures for the proper handling of hazardous and flammable materials and performing vehicle maintenance, as well as for the immediate containment of any spills, and all U.S. Army Reserve and MAARNG operators and maintenance personnel are properly trained in these procedures. These procedures and training ensure that all hazardous materials and wastes are stored and handled in accordance with federal and state regulations. Additionally, all units and facilities are provided with the appropriate spill kit materials to immediately respond to and contain any spills.

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**Comment #2:** The commenters note that all interior floor drains should drain to a separate double-walled holding tank and that all surface runoff should pass through oil-water separators.

**Response to Comment:** As indicated in the Supplemental EA, all floor drains and runoff from the vehicle washrack will pass through oil-water separators prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer system. Discharge to the sanitary sewer will meet all regulatory requirements in order to be received by the Devens Wastewater Treatment Facility. For all surface water runoff, the U.S. Army will comply with all MADEP requirements and install oil/water separators where required.

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**Comment #3:** The commenters state that there should be a sufficient number of additional operational monitoring wells installed to assure the earliest detection of any potential chemical spills, and that sampling should be conducted at least on a semi-annually basis and analyzed for contaminants as determined/required by the MADEP.

**Response to Comment:** In compliance with the ROD for AOCs 44 and 52 and as indicated in the September 2005 *Final Remedial Action Report: Areas of Contamination 44 & 52*, the U.S. Army has completed all of the required groundwater monitoring for this site. If there are future regulatory measures that require additional groundwater monitoring for this project site, the U.S. Army and the MAARNG will comply with those requirements.

The U.S. Army and MAARNG have standard operating procedures for the proper handling of hazardous and flammable materials and performing vehicle maintenance, as well as for the immediate containment of any spills. All U.S. Army Reserve and MAARNG operators and maintenance personnel are properly trained in these procedures ensuring compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. Additionally, all units and facilities are provided with the appropriate spill kit materials to immediately respond to and contain any spills.

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**Comment #4:** The commenters state that the MAARNG should enter into an MOU for the protection of the Town of Ayer's and the Devens Zone I and II wellhead protection buffers, and they state that the most stringent of either Ayer's or Devens' aquifer protection by-law should govern activities at the proposed site.

**Response to Comment:** The layout of facilities on the MAARNG property has been redesigned to avoid the 400 foot Zone I wellhead protection area and Figure 4-4 in the Supplemental EA has been updated to reflect this change. The MAARNG and the Town of Ayer already have an MOU governing the activities that can and cannot take place within the Zone I wellhead protection areas and the MAARNG will continue to abide by that MOU.

As indicated in *Section 4.5 – Water Resources* of the Supplemental EA, all actions associated with the construction and operation of the AFRC and its associated facilities will be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations protecting both surface and drinking water supplies, including the Clean Water Act, the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c 131 s40 and 310 CMR 10), Ground Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 6.00), the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (310 CMR 21.00), Drinking Water Quality Regulations (310 CMR 22.00) and the Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00).

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Reusing Building 3713's concrete slab foundation for the AFRC reduces the amount of construction debris to be disposed of and protects any subsurface soils that may be contaminated from historical vehicle maintenance activities from being disturbed. Leaving the foundation in place would not increase the amount of post-construction stormwater runoff from pre-construction levels since it is already an existing feature on the site.

The total amount of construction for the project will be decreased by conveying stormwater from the southern portion of the Devens 3700 Area (area immediately surrounding the AFRC building) to an existing stormwater pond on the south side of Barnum Road. (Stormwater from the area of AOC 44 and AOC 52 will continue to be conveyed to the stormwater system installed as part of the remedial action for that site as described in the Supplemental EA.) As part of MassDevelopment's Barnum Road Reconstruction Project, a new stormwater drainage system is being constructed along Barnum Road and the AFRC site will tie into a new connection on the south side of the property instead of having to construct stormwater detention ponds on-site. The recently constructed (2006) stormwater detention pond on the south side of Barnum Road was designed to accommodate stormwater runoff from the Devens 3700 Area. If site-grading for the area immediately surrounding the AFRC will not permit all of the stormwater runoff to be discharged at the new connection point, the runoff will be treated on-site for water quality and quantity prior to discharging to an existing storm drainage connection adjacent to the proposed OMS/AMSA. This storm drainage system eventually discharges to Cold Spring Brook; however, no impacts to Cold Spring Brook would be expected as all federal and state stormwater regulations will be complied with.

Comments received during the public comment period were considered in the decision-making process. Comments regarding the location of the Grove Pond drinking water supply wells and the Zone I wellhead protection buffer surrounding those wells resulted in the reconfiguration of the MEP area on the MAARNG property associated with the new CSMS facility. Reconfiguring the layout of the MEP area addressed the commentors' concerns and did not require recharacterizing impacts to any of the 12 resource areas.

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required because implementing the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse impacts. Preparation of a FNSI is therefore appropriate.

#### 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Interested parties were invited to review and comment on the Supplemental EA and Draft FNSI from March 21, 2008 through April 19, 2008. A Notice of Availability was published on March 21, 2008 in the *Ayer Public Spirit*, *Harvard Hillside*, and *Shirley Oracle* newspapers.

During the initial 30-day comment period the U.S. Army received requests from the People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE) and the Ayer Board of Health to extend the comment period by 30 days to allow time for members to adequately review the Supplemental EA and provide comments. The U.S. Army also received a request from the Town of Ayer (Board of Selectman) to extend the comment period. The Town of Ayer requested an extension of 90 days to allow the Town and its various boards and commissions ample opportunity to review and understand the implications of the proposed action on the aquifer for the Grove Pond well fields, which are the primary source of the Town's drinking water. By letters dated April 18, 2008 the U.S. Army granted a 30-day extension of the comment period until May 19, 2008. In its response to the Town of Ayer, the U.S. Army noted that granting an extension beyond 30 days may potentially impact the U.S. Army's ability to issue a design/build construction request for proposal (RFP) and award the contract in a timely manner to meet the overall BRAC 2005 implementation schedule which became law on November 9, 2005. The U.S. Army also offered to meet