

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC05 REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AT
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1400-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the U.S. Department of Army Regulation 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule), as well as policy and guidance provided by the 2005 Army Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) NEPA Manual, the U.S. Army Reserve 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of BRAC realignment actions.

Purpose and Need. On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended certain realignment actions in Bristol, Pennsylvania. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005 and were forwarded to Congress, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

The BRAC Commission has recommended the closure of the Philadelphia Memorial United States Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and relocation of Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve units to a new AFRC with an OMS in Bristol, Pennsylvania, on the site of the existing Bristol Veterans Memorial AFRC.

Description of the Proposed Action. To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes construction of a new 600-member AFRC, OMS, and unheated storage building on the site of the existing Bristol Veterans Memorial AFRC in Bristol, Pennsylvania. The Proposed Action also includes relocation of Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve units currently stationed at the Philadelphia Memorial United States AFRC and OMS in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the new facilities in Bristol, Pennsylvania. The new AFRC would provide administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for eight Army Reserve units and three Marine Corps Reserve units. The OMS would provide work bays and maintenance administrative support. The Proposed Action would also provide unit maintenance training, unit storage, and parking space for military and privately-owned vehicles. The new facilities would be located on the existing Bristol Veterans Memorial AFRC footprint resulting in the requirement for demolition of existing facilities and a temporary lease. Units currently stationed at the Bristol facility would be temporarily stationed in Norristown, Pennsylvania, during construction. The Army estimates that construction would begin in May 2008, and would be completed in February 2010.

The existing Bristol AFRC serves approximately 270 personnel. Under the Proposed Action, up to 370 additional Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve personnel would be supported by the Bristol facility. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 20 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be 351 members per weekend, and there would be parking for 281 privately-owned vehicles (taking into account those who

would carpool or use public transportation). Activities at the AFRC would be training-related, with no weapons firing. Activities at the OMS would be limited to operator-level maintenance, such as checking and topping-off fluids in military vehicles.

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

Alternatives Considered. Potential site locations for the AFRC and OMS were screened for inclusion in this EA. The screening criteria consisted of operational constraints, safety constraints, geographic constraints, and existing facility and mission constraints. Reuse of existing facilities was not carried forward, because there are no existing facilities available that could adequately house or support the mission of the proposed AFRC and OMS. Based on the selection criteria, two alternatives, the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative, were developed for evaluation in the EA.

The Preferred Alternative. Due to the size and configuration of the Bristol site, Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) guidance dictates the preferred general facility layout. To achieve the appropriate AT/FP setbacks, the AFRC would be built on the larger, southern portion of the site, and the OMS and military equipment parking would be placed in the northern or front section along Ford Road.

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

Factors Considered in Determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not Required. No significant environmental impacts were identified in the EA. Impacts were analyzed for land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. Likewise, the Proposed Action, when combined with the two reasonably foreseeable future construction and maintenance projects that were identified near the Bristol property, would not result in significant cumulative effects.

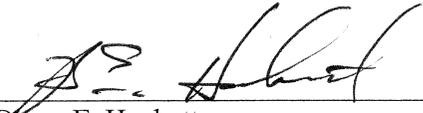
Public Comment. Interested parties were invited to review and comment on the EA and Draft FNSI from April 7, 2008 through May 7, 2008, and a Notice of Availability was published on April 7, 2008 in the *Bucks County Courier Times* newspaper.

The EA and Draft FNSI were made available during the public comment period on the World Wide Web at http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm, and were also available for review during the public comment period at the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library at 680 Radcliffe Street in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

No comments were received on the EA or Draft FNSI during the public comment period.

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

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