

HOLSTON EA  
FNSI

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
REALIGNMENT OF  
KINGSPORT ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER,  
KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE  
TO THE  
HOLSTON ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT,  
KINGSPORT, HAWKINS COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
BRAC 2005**

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission, in response to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended, recommended the establishment of the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) at the Holston Army Ammunition Plant (HSAAP), Kingsport, Hawkins County, Tennessee. Establishment of the AFRC will involve realigning units from the existing AFRC near Kingsport, which is over 40 years old and has surpassed its capacity. The realignment will involve Headquarters Troop, 2/278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennessee Army National Guard (TNARNG) as well as three U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) units.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S. Code Section 4321 et seq., as amended, and Army Regulations 200-2 (*Environmental Effects of Army Actions*), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), which addresses the proposed construction and operation of the AFRC at the HSAAP.

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to construct and operate a new 500-member AFRC at the HSAAP to accommodate the units realigned from the existing AFRC. A new 64,067 square foot (SF) building; 19,958 SF Vehicle Maintenance Shop; parking areas; and 1,570 SF of Organization Storage Unit will be constructed. The new facility will provide administrative, assembly, educational, storage, and physical fitness training facilities to accommodate the TNARNG and three USAR units. The new AFRC is proposed to be constructed on a 30-acre site (known as Site A) that will be leased from the HSAAP. However, at the present time, the construction and operation of the proposed AFRC would encompass only 15 acres, including required security set-backs. The remaining 15 acres would be leased to provide opportunity for future expansion, if the need arises.

#### **Alternatives Considered**

Two alternative sites were evaluated during the preparation of the EA, Alternative Site B and Alternative Site D. Both of these sites generally met the site selection criteria, including a minimum of 15 acres and location visible to U.S. Highway 11W. Although Alternative Site B is located adjacent to Site A (the preferred alternative site), it would require extensive earthwork to level the area and require the removal of 15 acres of woodlands. While Alternative Site D has been previously disturbed, it would not afford any potential for future expansion and would be adjacent to residential areas, which would increase the potential for noise and social effects. This site would also require access through either the Main Gate Road at HSAAP or through a private Venture Park Road, either of which would increase traffic congestion during peak times.

One other site (Alternative Site C) was considered but eliminated from further analyses in part because it would encompass a portion of a closed landfill, which limits the type of construction that can occur on top of the landfill. In addition, the safety explosive arc of a proposed "Suspect Truck Yard" encroaches into this site.

The No Action Alternative has also been carried forward throughout the EA to serve as a baseline for comparison to the other alternatives. No other alternatives, including scheduling, off-installation leasing, and renovations of other buildings the HSAAP, were considered viable.

#### **Factors Considered In Determining That No Environmental Impact Statement is Required**

Implementation of the Proposed Action at the preferred site would result in minor, permanent effects to vegetation, wildlife, soils, aesthetics, and land use. The Proposed Action would cause the permanent conversion of 15 acres of disturbed grassland (horse pasture) to hard surfaces and buildings and remove this land from further biological productivity and other uses. Because the proposed location has been disturbed by past agricultural use, and, thus, provides limited wildlife habitat, the loss of 15 acres would be insignificant.

Construction would cause temporary and insignificant increases to noise, air emissions, and soil erosion/sedimentation. Ambient conditions would return upon completion of construction activities. No violations of the region's air standards or the installation's stormwater permit would be expected. Emissions expected to be generated during construction are well below the *de minimis* thresholds for ozone and other pollutants that affect ozone. Best management practices would be implemented to ensure stormwater during and after construction is controlled and downstream sedimentation is either eliminated or is negligible.

No impacts would occur to cultural resources, protected species, prime farmland soils, water quality and supply or other public utilities. Socioeconomic resources would incur beneficial, but insignificant, long-term impacts during the construction activities; however, since the AFRC would only be relocating less than 2 miles from its current location and no increase or decrease in unit strength is associated with the realignment, no other socioeconomic effects would occur. Temporary increases of vehicle traffic would also be expected during the construction period. A traffic signal would need to be installed at the intersection of U.S. Highway 11W and Englewood Avenue to allow safe access to the new AFRC. While traffic patterns would be insignificantly affected by this light, no permanent increases to traffic volumes would be expected.

The cumulative effects of the proposed construction and operation of the AFRC at Alternative Site A and other planned or reasonably foreseeable projects at or near the HSAAP would also be considered insignificant. No other plans for expansion at HSAAP are currently being developed.

#### **Public Comment**

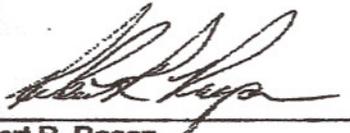
Interested parties were invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI for a period of 30 days beginning on 30 August 2007. A Notice of Availability was published in the *Kingsport Times News*. Copies of the EA were made available for review at the following public libraries and on the internet at [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm).

Kingsport Public Library  
400 Broad Street  
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660

Mount Carmel Public Library  
100 Main Street East  
Mount Carmel, Tennessee 37645

### Conclusions

Based on information gathered and presented in the EA, it has been determined that the Proposed Action would have no significant direct, indirect or cumulative adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

  
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Robert R. Ragan  
Commander's Representative  
Holston Army Ammunition Plant

  
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Date