

**FINAL  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF AN  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05 RECOMMENDATIONS AT  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT**

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 Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*; Final Rule), as well as policy and guidance provided by the *Base Realignment and Closure Manual for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act*, the U.S. Army 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 Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended certain realignment actions in the vicinity of White River Junction, Windsor County, Vermont. 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 made the following recommendations concerning White River Junction, Windsor County, Vermont:

*“Close Chester Memorial Army Reserve Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop, Chester, VT and Berlin Army Reserve Center, Berlin, VT and relocate all units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an Organizational Maintenance Facility in the vicinity of White River Junction, VT if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC and OMS shall have the capability to accommodate units from the following facilities: Vermont Army National Guard Armories in Ludlow, North Springfield and Windsor, VT, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.”*

**Description of the Proposed Action.** To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) training building, Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS), unheated storage building, and an open vehicle storage facility. Future site improvements are expected to require approximately 14 acres. The U.S. Army would acquire new land for construction of these facilities. The new AFRC would serve about 300 personnel on a rotating basis, mostly on weekends. The facility would employ approximately 10 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 104 members per weekend.

**Alternatives Considered.** Seven potential site locations for the AFRC and OMS were screened for inclusion in this EA. Based on the screening criteria, three alternatives were evaluated in this EA.

*Alternative 1.* Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities at a site east of U.S. Route 5 (Hartland Road), approximately 2 miles south of White River Junction, Windsor County, Vermont.

*Alternative 2.* Alternative 2 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities at a site east of U.S. Route 5 South (Hartland Road), off Drew Road, approximately 1.5 miles south of White River Junction, Windsor County, Vermont.

*The No Action Alternative.* CEQ regulations require analysis of the No Action Alternative in an EA, for it serves as the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives will be evaluated. Accordingly, the No Action Alternative is evaluated in this EA.

The U.S. Army has selected Alternative 1 as the Preferred Alternative.

**Factors Considered in Determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not Required.** No significant environmental impacts were identified in the EA (attached). Impacts were analyzed for land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. In support of this EA, the U.S. Army conducted a Phase I cultural resource survey and a wetlands delineation at the Preferred Alternative site to ensure impacts to these resources would not be significant.

Vermont Class III wetlands occur in two areas on and near the Preferred Alternative site. A section of a utility right-of-way from the proposed groundwater well to the Preferred Alternative site would pass through the one wetland about 35 feet wide and 60 feet long. Impacts to this wetland are temporary, and considered not significant. Site-specific construction techniques to ensure impacts are minimized to the extent practicable and would not be significant are included in the EA. The second wetland occurs on the Preferred Alternative site near the AFRC footprint. This wetland has been avoided under the proposed site plan. There will be no permanent fill in Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. and no net loss of wetlands will occur from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Implementation of the proposed realignment actions would not have any significant adverse effects or impacts to any of the resource areas at White River Junction or on areas surrounding the property. Potential impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative are expected to be minor. These impacts would occur in the following areas: aesthetics and visual resources, water resources, biological resources, and cumulative effects. The U.S. Army has identified site-specific construction techniques that would be implemented to minimize unavoidable impacts in association with the proposed construction activities at the Preferred Alternative Site. The site-specific construction techniques are identified in Chapter 4.15 of the EA and include requirements for pre-construction planning; wetlands construction; spoil pile placement and control; sediment and erosion control; trench dewatering; and revegetation.

**Public Comment.** The EA and Draft FNSI were available for review and comment from July 1 through August 22, 2009. Persons wishing to comment could obtain a copy of the EA by calling Ms. Laura Dell'Olio at (609) 562-7661 or emailing her at [laura.dellolio@usar.army.mil](mailto:laura.dellolio@usar.army.mil). A copy of the EA and Draft FNSI were also available at the Hartford Library, 1587 Maple Street, in Hartford, Vermont and on the BRAC website at [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm). No comments were received.

**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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