

***Finding of No Significant Impact  
for the Implementation of Base Realignment  
and Closure 2005 Realignment Actions at  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama***

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Parts 1500–1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 42 of the United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 *et seq.*) and 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*), the U.S. Army Reserve conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations to construct and operate an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

***PROPOSED ACTION***

With respect to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the BRAC Commission recommended in relevant part:

Close the Finnell United States Army Reserve Center and the Area Maintenance Support Activity, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the Vicksburg United States Army Reserve Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and relocate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center and Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC and AMSA shall have the capability to accommodate 31<sup>st</sup> Chemical Brigade from the Northport Alabama Army National Guard Readiness Center, and units from the Fort Powell-Shamblin Alabama Army National Guard Readiness Center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

To meet the BRAC directive, the Army proposes to acquire approximately 12 acres or less in Tuscaloosa. After acquiring the property, the Army would construct an AFRC having approximately 85,000 square feet of space. The primary facilities of the new AFRC would consist of a training building, AMSA, an unheated storage building, and parking area for military vehicles. The facilities would be adequate to accommodate 300 personnel.

***ALTERNATIVES***

The proposed action and Preferred Alternative is to construct the AFRC on an undeveloped 10-acre site in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, referred to as the Englewood Village Site. The site is accessible from Alabama State Highway 69. The site is basically level, and most utilities are already installed.

Review of other potential sites for construction of the AFRC at Tuscaloosa produced one parcel that is satisfactory in terms of size, availability, compatibility of use, topography, and convenience. This site would consist of 12 acres of a larger 31-acre parcel. The Jack Warner Parkway alternate site is an undeveloped wooded property on the Jack Warner Parkway, across from a completed portion of the Tuscaloosa Eastern Bypass.

CEQ regulations require inclusion of the No Action Alternative. The BRAC recommendations have the force of law and will be implemented so long as the Army finds a suitable site at which to implement the proposed action. The No Action Alternative would only be viable in the event that the Army is unable to acquire suitable land to support the proposed action. Therefore, consistent with CEQ requirements, the No Action Alternative is evaluated in the EA.

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES***

The environmental and socioeconomic consequences of implementation of the three alternatives are summarized below.

### ***Englewood Village Alternative***

No adverse effects from implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be expected on the following resource areas: land use, geology/topography, prime farmland, floodplains, coastal zone management, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, sensitive species, cultural resources, population, housing, schools, quality of life, environmental justice and utilities. Some beneficial effects on utilities could be expected from LEED Silver design requirements. Short-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be expected on the noise environment, soils, the protection of children and landfills. Short-term minor beneficial adverse effects from implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be expected on economic development. Short- and/or long-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be expected on air quality, surface water, groundwater and transportation. Long-term minor beneficial could also be expected on surface water. Long-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be expected on aesthetics and visual resources, and hazardous materials. None of the adverse effects associated with implementing the Englewood Village alternative would be significant.

### ***Jack Warner Parkway Alternative***

No adverse effects from implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be expected on the following resource areas: land use, geology/topography, prime farmland, floodplains, coastal zone management, sensitive species, population, housing, schools, quality of life, environmental justice and utilities. Some beneficial effects on utilities could be expected from LEED Silver design requirements. Short-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be expected on the noise environment, soils, the protection of children and landfills. Short-term minor beneficial and adverse effects from implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be expected on economic development. Short- and/or long-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be expected on air quality, surface water, groundwater and transportation. Long-term minor beneficial could also be expected on surface water. Long-term minor adverse effects from implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be expected aesthetics and visual resources, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands and hazardous materials.

No effects on cultural resources would be expected if archeological sites are avoided. If the archeological sites cannot be avoided long term minor adverse effects would be expected.

None of the adverse effects associated with implementing the Jack Warner Parkway alternative would be significant.

Minor adverse cumulative effects on air quality, the noise environment, vegetation, wildlife, and landfills would be expected. None of these adverse cumulative effects would be significant. Minor beneficial effects on economic development would be expected and no adverse effects on utilities would be expected; however, beneficial effects could be reasonably anticipated. No cumulative effects on vegetation and wildlife would be expected at the Englewood Village site.

### ***No Action Alternative***

No adverse effects on any resource area would be expected from implementing the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not construct an AFRC on either the Englewood Village site or Jack Warner Parkway site.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are expected on the Englewood Village site. Mitigation measures on wetlands at the Jack Warner Parkway site would be expected and if archaeological site 1TU1050 proves to be eligible for the National Register and avoidance is not feasible a Phase III archaeological data recovery would be expected.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were available for public review and comment for 30 days from the publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in *The Tuscaloosa News*. The NOA was published on May 25, 2009 and the public comment period ended on June 23, 2009. Copies of the Final EA and Draft FNSI were available by contacting the U.S. Army Reserve 81<sup>st</sup> Regional Support Command. The EA was also available at the Main Library in Tuscaloosa, AL, and on the BRAC Division web site ([http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm)).

No public comments were received during the comment period.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

On the basis of the analyses performed in the EA, construction of an AFRC and associated facilities on the Englewood Village site would result in minor impacts on aesthetics, air quality, noise, soils, surface water and groundwater, protection of children, transportation, landfill space and hazardous materials.

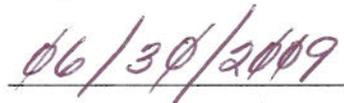
Construction of an AFRC and associated facilities on the Jack Warner Parkway site would be expected to have impacts on wetlands and possibly cultural resources. The extent of impacts to wetlands and cultural resources would be dependant upon the site layout of the proposed AFRC. It is possible for cultural resources to be avoided and if so no effects would be expected. Wetlands will be impacted regardless of the site layout; however, positioning the proposed AFRC on the southern portion of the parcel would reduce the degree of impacts to wetlands. Minor impacts would also be expected on aesthetics, air quality, noise, soils, surface water and groundwater, vegetation, wildlife, protection of children, transportation, landfill space and hazardous materials.

Implementing the proposed action at one of these sites would not be expected to have any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects on the quality of the natural or human environment.

An Environmental Impact Statement does not need to be prepared, and issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact would be appropriate.



GREGORY B. SMITH  
Colonel, US Army  
Regional Engineer



Date

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