

**Mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact
Construction and Operation of an Armed Forces Reserve Center Complex
at Moffett Field, California**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et seq.) and US Army regulations (32 CFR Part 651), the Army conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of the construction and operation of an Armed Forces Reserve Center AFRC complex at Moffett Field, California.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to implement the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendation pertaining to Moffett Field, and to support the mission requirements of current and future tenants with long-term planning actions for optimum use of the resources at the project site.

The need for the proposed action is to improve the nation's ability to respond rapidly to challenges of the 21st century. The Army is legally bound to defend the United States and its territories, to support national policies and objectives, and to defeat nations responsible for aggression that endangers the peace and security of the United States. To carry out these tasks, the Army must adapt to changing world conditions and must improve its capabilities to respond to a variety of circumstances across the full spectrum of military operations.

Proposed Action

Under the BRAC Commission's recommendations, the Army Reserve proposes to demolish a total of 346,976 square feet that includes all the housing units and other existing facilities located on the 30-acre project site and to construct a total of 270,000 square feet of facilities that would include an AFRC, a center for the Southwest Regional Readiness Sustainment Command, an organizational maintenance shop, two storage buildings, and a fitness center.

Approximately 413 full-time employees would staff the facilities at the project site. The facilities would support a total of 1,500 Soldiers for weekend classroom and administrative training, of which up to 735 would train on a peak training weekend. Demolition and construction activities would take approximately 30 months.

To protect environmental resources present at the project site, measures that the Army would undertake as part of the proposed action address worker protection, vapor intrusion control, dust control, protection of cultural resources, pollution prevention, protection of steelhead trout, burrowing owl and other migratory birds, noise protection, tree protection, traffic control, monitoring wells, and wastewater collection. Additional mitigation measures were identified to reduce adverse impacts for indoor noise and indoor air quality.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the no action alternative was analyzed in the EA. Inclusion of the no action alternative is prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. The no action alternative serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives can be evaluated. Under the no action alternative, the Army would not implement the proposed action; no

activities to support unit realignment would be conducted at Moffett Field. The no action alternative does not fulfill the BRAC congressional mandate.

Factors Considered in Determining that No Environmental Impact Statement is Required

In the EA, which is incorporated by reference into this finding of no significant impact (FNSI), the potential effects of the proposed action, and the no action alternative on the following 12 resource areas were examined: 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.

Implementing the proposed action would result in minor adverse effects. They would have no effect on land use, cultural resources, or environmental justice. The adverse effects on air quality, aesthetics, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances would not be significant. No adverse effects are expected under the no action alternative.

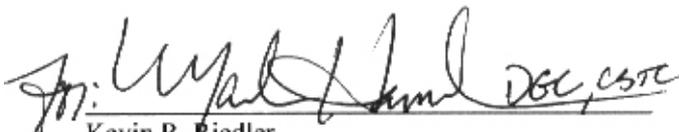
Cumulative effects from implementing the proposed action would produce short-term and long-term minor adverse effects. These would result from concurrent construction activities and from future developments taking place in the area near the project site.

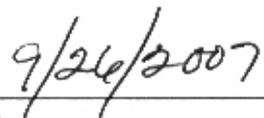
Conclusion

Based on the findings in the EA, which is incorporated by reference, implementing the proposed action would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the resources listed above, so an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. This EA supports the issuance of a FNSI.

Public Comment

The EA and draft FNSI were made available for review and comment for 30 days, from July 13, 2007, through August 12, 2007. Comments on the EA were received from the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, California Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Region), the City of Mountain View, Center for Public Environmental Oversight, and Bob Moss, a member of the Moffett Field restoration advisory board. The text of the EA was revised in response to these comments.


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Date