

Finding of No Significant Impact

Camp Withycombe, Oregon

Implementation of BRAC Actions

Introduction

The Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations pertaining to Camp Withycombe. The ORARNG prepared the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR Part 651).

1. Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the ORARNG's Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action consists of:

- The construction and operation of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) Complex at Camp Withycombe;
- Demolition of 14 buildings, relocation of 2 buildings, and the establishment of a Historic Area south of the AFRC Complex;
- Upgrades/modifications to the post roadway and utility infrastructure in and around the proposed AFRC Complex site; and
- Relocation of ORARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) units from existing facilities to Camp Withycombe.

The primary components of the AFRC Complex will be the AFRC building, compound area, and privately-owned vehicle (POV) parking area. The AFRC building will be a multi-story structure of permanent masonry and steel construction, approximately 260,000 square feet (sf) in total area, which would include an assembly hall, classrooms, learning centers, administrative offices, storage rooms, break room, physical fitness room, kitchen, latrines, and shower facilities. The compound area will include a 227,000-sf government-owned vehicle parking area, 26,000-sf unheated storage and vehicle maintenance shop, 400-sf flammable materials storage shed, and 300-sf controlled waste storage shed. The POV parking area within the AFRC Complex will be approximately 297,000 sf in total area.

Demolition of the 14 buildings includes ten buildings located in the construction footprint of the AFRC Complex and 4 within the proposed Historic Area. Three of the ten buildings in the AFRC footprint are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two other buildings located in the construction footprint of the AFRC, one of which is NRHP-eligible, will be relocated to an established Historic Area south of the AFRC Complex.

The utility system upgrades consist of upgrading or replacing the current utility system to accommodate the day-to-day operation of the proposed AFRC Complex, and to meet the utility demand from the increase of unit relocations. Utility upgrade includes upgrade or replacement of the electrical, storm drainage, sanitary sewer, potable water, lighting, and communication systems.

Roadway infrastructure modification includes the relocation of the main entrance gate, construction of a commercial entrance gate, and construction of new roads within the post to service the AFRC Complex and connecting areas to accommodate the increase in traffic. These modifications will minimize congestion.

Unit relocations include the relocation of approximately 322 military personnel and 2 civilian employees assigned to ORARNG units from Lake Oswego, Maison, and Jackson Armories, and approximately 420 military personnel and 9 civilian employees assigned to USAR units from Sears Hall and Sharff Hall Reserve Centers to the new AFRC Complex.

Most of the ORARNG and USAR military personnel are Mobilization-Day (M-Day) Soldiers. Weekend drills are typically conducted during one weekend a month, except during emergencies, which may require personnel to be on post for longer periods of time. The weekend drills will be staggered so that all personnel would not be on post during the same weekend.

In addition to the ORARNG and USAR units being relocated from other locations, the new AFRC Complex will also accommodate approximately 579 military personnel and 14 civilian employees assigned to ORARNG units that are currently drilling and/or working at Camp Withycombe. These units currently occupy several facilities scattered throughout the post, and the Clackamas armory. As such, the new AFRC Complex will accommodate an approximate total of 1,321 military personnel and 25 civilian employees. The AFRC Complex will be operated by the ORARNG and USAR units being relocated, and the existing workforce at Camp Withycombe.

Alternative Considered. In addition to the Proposed Action, the ORARNG analyzed the “No Action” alternative. Under the “No Action” alternative, the ORARNG would not take any action to comply with the BRAC Commission’s recommendations pertaining to Camp Withycombe. Because the ORARNG is required to comply with the BRAC Commission’s recommendations pertaining to Camp Withycombe, the “No Action” alternative is not a reasonable alternative.

However, it is analyzed in detail in the EA to meet the requirements of NEPA and to serve as a benchmark for the evaluation of potential effects of the proposed federal action.

2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, the ORARNG has determined that the known and potential adverse impacts of the Proposed Action on land use, air quality, safety, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, culture resources, environmental justice, infrastructure, traffic and transportation, and hazardous and toxic materials will not be significant. The Proposed Action will not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations near the project site, or result in adverse health or safety risks to children.

Mitigation. Based on the findings of this EA, the ORARNG has concluded that the wetlands impacts from the Proposed Action would be minor. The maximum amount of wetlands that could be impacted by the Proposed Action is approximately 1.27 acres. Exact wetlands impacts would be determined during the design and permitting phases of the project. The ORARNG will ensure that minor wetlands impacts will be mitigated. The ORARNG would obtain a wetland removal-fill permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and/or the Oregon Department of State Lands prior to the initiation of construction. Wetlands mitigation options being considered would consist of purchasing credits from a wetland mitigation bank and, if required by regulatory agencies, on-site restoration/enhancement of the forested wetland on the western side of S.E. Industrial Way.

The Proposed Action would have a significant adverse impact on cultural resources at Camp Withycombe, but these impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of the 19 Aug 08 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into among the ORARNG, National Guard Bureau (NGB), Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and Clackamas County Historic Review Board. The ORARNG's proposal involves the demolition of three NRHP-eligible buildings (Buildings 6305, 6308, and 6310) and relocation of one NRHP-eligible building (Building 6525). The significant adverse effects on these historic properties would be mitigated with the completion of the stipulations of the 19 Aug 08 MOA. Under the terms of the MOA, the ORARNG would create a Historic Area at Camp Withycombe that would be accessible to the public. The ORARNG would relocate the Quonset hut (Building 6220) and horse barn (Building 6525) to the new Historic Area. The ORARNG would also relocate the Oregon Military Museum and the contents of Building 6230 to the existing NRHP-eligible Clackamas armory (Building 6101) which is located in the area designated to be the Historic Area. The Clackamas armory would house the Oregon Military Museum after the new AFRC Complex is constructed.

Finally, as stipulated in the MOA, the ORARNG would conduct 35-millimeter black and white or digital photo documentation of all the NRHP-eligible buildings and structures before they are moved, demolished or altered.

3. Regulations

The Proposed Action will not violate NEPA, the CEQ Regulations, 32 CFR 651, or any other Federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

4. Commitment to Implementation

The NGB and ORARNG affirm their commitment to implement this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The ORARNG and the NGB's Environmental Programs, Training, and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this EA.

5. Public Review and Comment

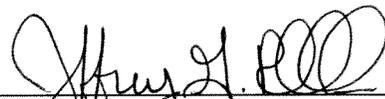
The Final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were made available for public comment for a period of 30 days at locations listed in the public notice. No comments were received. For further information, contact the ORARNG Environmental Office, Oregon Military Department, 1776 Milita Way SE, Salem, OR 97309-5047, Ph: (503) 584-3164 or e-mail: kris.c.mitchell@us.army.mil.

6. Final Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ Regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

21 November 2008

Date



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