

## Finding of No Significant Impact

### Construct Skills Training Facility Davison Army Airfield U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

#### Proposed Action Title: Construct Skills Training Facility

**Description of Proposed Action:** The U.S. Army is planning to develop a new Skills Training Facility (STF) at the Davison Army Airfield (DAAF) on Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The proposed action is the construction of a New Skills Training Facility that replaces existing facilities at Fort Belvoir that are dilapidated and no longer meet current training needs, including:

- Construction of two new training buildings that include unit training and planning areas, staff billeting, classrooms, an on-site medical clinic, gymnasium and fitness center, offices, storage rooms and equipment maintenance spaces and associated parking; total planned building and pavement footprint encompasses 176,000 square feet, or approximately four acres of the ten acre project site along Santjer Drive at the DAAF.
- Installation of utility services to the buildings from existing adjacent utilities serving site. Natural gas mains will be extended approximately 2,600 feet up to the development site from within the core service area of the DAAF following existing road alignments. Approximately 1,300 feet of sanitary sewer along Santjer Drive will be replaced as part of this project to improve wet-weather flow capability.

This development effort is programmed to occur between 2014 and 2016, with occupancy of the new facilities by 2017 (subject to funding). The proposed development is designed to support existing training that occurs on the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir and is not designed to support additional personnel or new training regimens on the installation. Current personnel loading varies depending on training needs but includes up to 190 instructors and students assigned to the facility.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluated the proposed action compared with the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative will not meet the needs of the U.S. Army to provide consolidated team training spaces. Alternative locations for siting the proposed STF at Fort Belvoir were considered during development of the EA; however development of these sites was constrained by lack of available infrastructure and environmental impact concerns. Based on these limitations these sites were dismissed from further consideration.

**Environmental Consequences:** The EA identified and evaluated potential impacts of the Proposed Action to: Air Quality; Coastal Resources; Land Use; Park and Recreation Facilities; Wildlife; Floodplains; Hazardous Materials; Solid and Hazardous Wastes; Historical and Cultural Resources; Natural Resources; Noise; Socioeconomics; Wetlands and Water Quality, and Transportation and Traffic. No significant impacts to any of these program areas were noted that would require further NEPA analysis at this time. There is a potential for minor impacts to land and water resources during development of the site, primarily related to typical construction phase disruption.

#### Water Quality

Minor short term impacts are expected to occur during the construction phase due to a minor increase in sediment runoff from the site. Construction phase impacts will be managed by utilizing appropriate erosion and sediment controls during land disturbing activity. No long term

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impacts are expected as stormwater management will be provided for the site in accordance with Fort Belvoir's MS4 permit, Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations and Federal requirements. Low Impact Development techniques such as pervious paving, rain gardens and bioswales will be utilized to achieve stormwater quantity and quality requirements.

**Natural Resources**

Minor short term impacts are expected to occur during the construction phase as ten acres of existing forest will be removed for development of the site. Long term impacts will be mitigated through the Fort Belvoir Tree Removal and Protection Policy by a combination of tree replacement and stream mitigation projects. Redevelopment plans will include a vegetated buffer along the site boundary with the Forest and Wildlife Corridor.

The proposed STF development is located near an area frequented by the State-listed threatened wood turtle; however, preconstruction surveys will be conducted to identify and remove any individuals found within the project site.

**Summary of Environmental Impacts:** The proposed action would not generate significant impacts to human health, the environment, cultural, natural or socio-economic resources.

**Notice of Availability:** The Environmental Assessment was available for public review at the Kingstowne Public Library; Lorton Public Library; Sherwood Regional Library; Fort Belvoir Van Noy Library; the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Fort Belvoir, VA and the Fort Belvoir website: <https://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocs.asp>.

Newspaper notices of the availability of the EA were published in the *Mount Vernon Voice*, the *Gazette*, the *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*, and the *Springfield Connection* newspapers.

**Response to Comments:** Comments from federal, state, and local agencies were received during the public review period and addressed by Fort Belvoir. For more information, contact the Fort Belvoir Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resource Division at 703-806-0022.

**Conclusion:** Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations; Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1500-1508 regarding procedural implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; and most specifically Title 32 CFR 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; as Installation Commander of U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, the U.S. Army hereby concludes that the Proposed Action would not have a significant effect on the environment and issues this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). An environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

*For*   
Michelle D. Mitchell  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Garrison Commander

Date: 15 August 2014