

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action: The purpose and need for the proposed action remains the same as described in the 1997 Environmental Assessment and the 2002 Supplemental Environmental Assessment: to comply with a US Army Training and Doctrine Command memorandum dated 1 November 1996, directing Installations to support the “Winning the Infrastructure War” initiative via implementation of the Infrastructure Footprint Reduction Program (IFRP). Fort Benning identifies unused or under-utilized structures deemed unaffordable due to age or design, by listing the structures in the Facility Reduction Program and slating them for demolition and disposal in an off-Post facility. The intent of the program is to enable the Army to achieve cost-avoidance of the excessive expense incurred from maintaining outdated buildings. The only alternative considered is Revised Alternative III; “Implement the 2007 Facility Reduction Program.” Revised Alternative III is based on the preferred alternative from the 2002 Supplemental Environmental Assessment, Alternative III, which identified unaffordable structures slated for demolition and disposal of generated debris off-Post; the primary difference is the use of an updated Facility Reduction Program list to determine which structures will be demolished. This Supplemental Environmental Assessment II (SEA II) was prepared to identify changes that have occurred to some of the Valued Environmental Components (VEC) and assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of Revised Alternative III.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the IFRP on Fort Benning were completed in 1997, based on the best available information attainable at the time. The EA analyzed the “No Action/Status Quo” alternative plus two action alternatives; one (Alternative II) involving the construction and utilization of an on-Post facility for the disposal of demolition wastes and one (Alternative III) involving the transport of demolition wastes to an off-Post commercial facility. Alternative III, “Demolish and dispose of debris off-Post” was selected as the preferred alternative as a result of the EA and FNSI because it offered the most flexibility in disposal methods for wastes generated by demolition. Additionally, the document presented a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the environmental consequences of both actions and their potential impacts to natural and human environments. No comments on this EA and FNSI were received from the public and it was determined that, with proper mitigation and monitoring efforts, neither of the proposed alternatives would result in potentially significant environmental impacts.

A Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) was prepared in 2002 to address two amendments to the original EA and FNSI. In the interim, some buildings originally identified as proposed for demolition had been deleted from the program list and other buildings not previously identified for demolition had been added to the list; the list was revised to reflect these changes, as appropriate. A proposal to reutilize the buildings on the list for firefighter training was also evaluated. The demolition of buildings on the Facility Reduction Program list or their reutilization for firefighter training were determined to result in minor adverse effects due to soil disturbance, fugitive dust, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), that were temporary in nature or readily mitigated.

Anticipated Environmental Effects: Implementation of Revised Alternative III is anticipated to have no adverse effects on wetlands, environmental justice, pesticides and

herbicides, land use, unexploded ordnance, radiological substances, aesthetics, lighting, protection of children, transportation, public health/safety, pollution prevention, sustainable design and development, and wildlife other than species of conservation concern. Temporary minor adverse effects are anticipated for noise and air quality due to vehicle use during demolition. Minor positive effects are anticipated for utilities, due to cost-avoidance in old or out-dated structures.

Potential adverse effects to wildlife species of conservation concern, in the form of nesting/roosting habitat disturbance due to structure demolition, would be avoided by adherence to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and following management strategies prescribed in the Installation's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. Each structure would be inspected by Fort Benning Conservation Branch personnel prior to demolition; if affected species are present, demolition would be delayed until the reproductive season has lapsed.

Temporary minor adverse effects are anticipated to soils and vegetation due to ground disturbance, but permanent impacts would be avoided by adherence to Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plan; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit; and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures requirements and by conducting daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and reports if needed. Additional mitigation would include rehabilitation of the site.

Temporary minor adverse effects are anticipated to water quality due to stormwater containing displaced sediments, with permanent impacts avoided by following the same measures described previously in soils, above. Additional preventative measures would include adherence to Best Management Practices such as placement of silt fencing and/or straw-bale barriers between the demolition site and the path of storm-water drainage to prevent migration of contaminants into surface waters of the Installation.

Minor adverse effects are anticipated for cultural resources, due to disturbance of eligible historical structures, to be minimized or mitigated by adherence to the Historical Properties Component (HPC) of Fort Benning's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP), which implemented Army Alternative Procedures (AAP) as of 21 March 2006. Unavoidable adverse impacts to historic structures would be mitigated with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) documentation prepared by Fort Benning and submitted to the SHPO prior to the demolition of identified structures. Other potential mitigation includes re-use, relocation, or real estate transfer of structures.

Minor adverse effects are anticipated from solid waste and hazardous waste due to loss of capacity in disposal facilities, which would be mitigated by payment of fees to a commercial operator. Solid waste would be further mitigated by diversion of at least 50% of construction/demolition debris from landfills for re-use.

Conclusions and Recommendations: When considering the information in the previous EA and SEA, revised Alternative III; "Implement the 2007 Facility Reduction Program" is the recommended course of action because it meets the purpose and need for the action while resulting in no significant adverse effects to the environment, when all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations are complied with. All potential adverse environmental

effects would be subject to the appropriate permitting and monitoring. Based upon the findings and conclusions of the SEA II, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate and the preparation of an EIS is not required.