

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
FOR THE
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT II
INFRASTRUCTURE FOOTPRINT REDUCTION PROGRAM
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA**

1. Proposed Action:

To “Implement the 2007 Facility Reduction Program.” This action is proposed in order 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.

2. Description:

The purpose of this Supplemental Environmental Assessment II (SEA II) is to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of Revised Alternative III; the identification of unused or under-utilized structures, demolition of structures so identified, and transport of resultant debris off-Post. This proposed action would enable the Army to achieve cost-avoidance of the excessive expense incurred from maintaining outdated buildings, deemed unaffordable due to age or design, by listing the structures in the Directorate of Public Works Facility Reduction Program and slating them for demolition and disposal in an off-Post facility. The ground underlying the structures would be re-used for construction of a new facility or undergo vegetative rehabilitation. Revised Alternative III is based on the preferred alternative from the 2002 SEA, Alternative III, which identified unaffordable structures slated for demolition and disposal of generated debris off-Post; the primary difference is use of an updated Facility Reduction Program list to determine which structures will be demolished.

3. Alternatives Considered:

Revised Alternative III: “Implement the 2007 Facility Reduction Program.”

4. Anticipated Environmental Effects:

Implementation of Revised Alternative III is anticipated to have no adverse effects on wetlands, cultural resources (archaeological), environmental justice, pesticides and herbicides, land use, unexploded ordnance, radiological substances, aesthetics, protection of children, transportation, public health/safety, sustainable design and development, and wildlife other than species of conservation concern.

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 procedures outlined in the Fort Benning Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

Minor adverse effects are anticipated for cultural resources (historic), due to disturbance of historically eligible structures; appropriate action would be implemented under Army Alternative Procedures to minimize or mitigate adverse effects to this valued environmental component.

Temporary minor adverse effects are anticipated for: noise and air quality, due to vehicle use during demolition; soils and vegetation, due to ground disturbance; and water quality, due to stormwater containing displaced sediments.

Minor adverse effects would be anticipated for solid waste/pollution prevention, due to use of landfill capacity; and hazardous or toxic materials or waste, due to disposal facility capacity occupied by LBP or ACM generated during demolition.

Mitigation measures would be sufficient to offset adverse effects to these valued environmental components.

Minor positive effects are anticipated for socioeconomic, due to construction jobs and waste disposal fees, and for utilities, due to cost-avoidance in old or out-dated structures.

5. Mitigation Measures:

Adverse effects to wildlife species of conservation concern would be avoided by inspecting each structure prior to demolition; if protected species are present, demolition would be delayed until the reproductive season has lapsed.

Adverse effects to cultural resources, due to disturbance of historically eligible structures, would be mitigated by implementing Army Alternative Procedures to identify and implement the appropriate action. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) documentation would be required and will be prepared by Fort Benning and submitted to the SHPO prior to the demolition of eligible structures. Additional mitigation would entail possible relocation, re-use, or real estate transfer of affected buildings.

Minor adverse effects to soils, due to ground disturbance, would be minimized by adherence to Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plan; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit; and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures; and other regulatory requirements, including possible daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and reports. Additional mitigation would include rehabilitation of the site.

Minor adverse effects to water quality, due to stormwater containing displaced sediments, would be minimized by adherence to Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plan; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit; and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures requirements. Additional mitigation would include 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 and possible daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and reports.

Minor adverse effects from solid waste/pollution prevention and hazardous or toxic materials or waste, due to space occupied in disposal facilities, would be mitigated by payment of fees to a commercial operator.

6. Conclusion:

This Supplemental Environmental Assessment was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 32 CFR 651, and applicable Federal and State environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders. It has been concluded that the alternative does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the environment when considered in the context of individual and cumulative impacts; therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Depending on the results of contracting processes, Fort Benning chooses to implement Revised Alternative III as meeting the purpose and needs of the proposed action and minimizing environmental impacts via mitigation and/or monitoring.

7. Public Availability:

a. The SEA II and Draft FNSI for the proposed action were available for a public review period of 30 days starting from the first day of publication in *The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* (April 2 to May 2, 2008), in accordance with part 1501.4 (e)(1) of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Army NEPA Regulations (32 CFR 651). These documents are available at the Columbus Public Library, the South Lumpkin Library and the Sayers Memorial Library, and at the Installation website, <https://www.benning.army.mil/EMD/program/legal/index.htm>; the previous documents are available at Fort Benning Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Division.

b. Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received from the public or agencies regarding this proposed "Revised Alternative III".

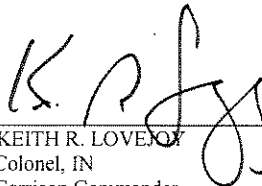
8. Requests

Requests for additional information may be made by contacting Mr. John E. Brown, NEPA Program Manager, Fort Benning Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Division, Attention: IMSE-BEN-PWE-P, Meloy Hall, Building 6, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

15 MAY 08

Date



KEITH R. LOVEJOY
Colonel, IN
Garrison Commander