

# **Draft Finding of No Significant Impact:**

## **Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

### **Construction and Operation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team and 159<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Complexes at Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

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Fort Campbell has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (January 2006) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with construction of complexes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and 159<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) and associated community services facilities in the Clarksville Base portion of Fort Campbell. In preparation of the EA, it was determined that no action alternatives other than the proposed action would satisfy the purpose and need of the proposed action without substantially greater costs and/or environmental impacts. Accordingly, only the proposed action and no action alternative were evaluated. The attached EA was prepared pursuant to 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651 and U.S. Council on Environmental Quality regulations (Title 40, U.S. Code, Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **Description of the Proposed Action**

The proposed action involves land clearing and construction of permanent operational, barracks, and community services facilities to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT and the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB. The two troop complexes would be adjacent and constructed on an approximate 325-acre parcel on the southeast portion of Clarksville Base. Implementation of the proposed action would result in demolition of 32 aboveground storage buildings. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2006, and the new facilities should be completed and ready for occupancy by December 2008. The specific components of the Proposed Action are described in the attached EA, which also is incorporated by reference.

## **No Action Alternative**

The no action alternative would not satisfy the need for the proposed action, but was considered in the analysis to provide a baseline for comparison of impacts of the proposed action. Under the no action alternative, Fort Campbell would not construct facilities to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT and the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB and their day-to-day activities. Troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT would occupy existing facilities and structures, continuing to use modular facilities that are not designed for, and are not adequate for, permanent stationing of combat troops. If no action occurs, serious space conflicts would also arise, as facilities currently used by the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB would have to accommodate twice the number of troops that they were designed for upon the return of deployed troops of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Ultimately, these conditions would have a significant adverse effect on the ability of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB, and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to achieve their assigned missions.

# Environmental Consequences

No significant negative environmental or socioeconomic consequences were identified in the EA as a result of the proposed action, including construction and day-to-day operation of the facilities. Site selection minimized and avoided impacts to the extent practicable. Table 1 summarizes project design features that will be implemented during project construction to further reduce environmental impacts.

**TABLE 1**  
Project Design Features to be Implemented with the Proposed Action  
*2<sup>nd</sup> BCT/159<sup>th</sup> CAB EA*

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
Air Quality	Use of sprinkling/irrigation, vegetative cover, and mulching as dust abatement measures during construction.
Noise	Minimizing exposure to other personnel on Fort Campbell. Workers will be required to wear appropriate hearing protection.
Soils	Use of sediment barriers (silt fence or straw bales), temporary detention basins, grade stabilization with seed and mulch, and geotextile slope stabilization to minimize impacts to soils.
Surface Water	Use of sediment barriers (silt fence or straw bales), temporary detention basins, grade stabilization with seed and mulch, and geotextile slope stabilization to minimize erosion and transport of sediments to surface waters. Use of work area containment and oil/water separators to prevent transport of POLs from motor pool areas to surface waters.
Wetlands	BMPs implemented during construction would minimize impacts to offsite wetlands
Stormwater	Use of silt fencing, guttering and other flow control measures, detention and infiltration areas, and oil/water separators to prevent onsite and downstream impacts from stormwater.
Historic Resources	Preservation of wooded strip between Clarksville base buildings and new construction.
Transportation	Use of clearly indicated detours and traffic control signalers to keep traffic moving during periods of heavy construction-related traffic or temporary road closures.
Hazardous/Toxic Materials	Use of site inspections prior to demolition and appropriate removal and disposal techniques should hazardous/toxic materials be discovered.

Implementation of the preferred alternative would result in temporary negative impacts to air quality, water quality, and traffic as a result of construction. There also would be generation of construction-related noise during demolition and subsequent construction activities. All of these impacts would be less than significant and would cease at the end of construction. In addition, there would also be minor displacement, both temporary and permanent, of wildlife from the project area, but this impact would be temporary as animals would acclimate to the areas into which they relocate or would return to areas adjacent to the construction sites. Migratory birds would be displaced from the project area, but ample suitable habitat remains on Fort Campbell and in the region. One bird

breeding season may be lost as a result of construction in the normal nesting area, but this loss would not threaten local populations and would be less than significant.

There would be permanent negative impacts to land use, geology and soils, and vegetation, resulting from construction activities, but these impacts would be localized and would be less than significant. A small isolated wetland would be eliminated, but this loss would be less than significant relative to the wetlands remaining in undeveloped portions of the installation and the region.

There would be a loss of approximately 325 acres of hunting area, but there would be ample hunting areas remaining on Fort Campbell and in the surrounding area to accommodate the hunting demand. Four athletic fields and a fitness center would be constructed to provide recreational opportunities for the personnel assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT and the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB.

There would be a minor short-term positive impact to the local economy resulting from construction-related jobs and construction-related purchases of supplies and materials. There would be a long-term improvement in traffic in the cantonment area, as the 159<sup>th</sup> CAB would no longer be forced to travel the length of the cantonment area to reach its assigned heliport. There would be a long-term improvement in traffic in the cantonment area upon the return of the deployed units of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. These units would return to the cantonment area, but the troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT and 159<sup>th</sup> CAB would no longer be stationed in the cantonment area, resulting in a net reduction in traffic volume.

There would be impacts to the Clarksville Base historic district resulting from the demolition of 32 storage units associated with the Clarksville Base mission; however, these units are not substantial contributors to the Cold War Era significance of the historic district. Fort Campbell is in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine appropriate mitigation for these impacts. Mitigation measures that require access to structures to be demolished would be implemented prior to project implementation and all mitigation would be implemented. Implementation of mitigation would reduce impacts to cultural resources less than significant.

There would be no appreciable impacts on other resource areas. There would be no significant cumulative or indirect impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed action.

The proposed action would be implemented entirely within the Tennessee portion of Fort Campbell. Contractors would be required to comply with the Fort Campbell Policy for Storm Water Erosion and Sediment Control at Construction Projects to minimize impacts from soil erosion and impacts to water quality. All appropriate Best Management Practices for general construction would be followed. Fort Campbell would file a Notice of Intent for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Construction Permit with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prior to implementing the project.

Post-construction stormwater controls designed to minimize or eliminate the long-term effects of increased runoff from the increased impervious surface area resulting from the proposed construction are designed into the project.

Appropriate worker protection measures would be implemented to address potential exposure and proper handling and disposal of lead-based paint, asbestos containing material, or any other potentially hazardous materials that could be encountered during demolition activities.

A general conformity analysis for air quality must be conducted prior to implementation of the proposed action. This analysis must result in a Record of Non-Applicability for the proposed action or it will not be implemented.

An Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit must be obtained from the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control to authorize impacts to the isolated wetland in the project area. This permit must be obtained in advance of land clearing activities that would impact the wetland and all conditions of the permit must be followed.

Fort Campbell is developing mitigation measures in consultation with the SHPO to be implemented to offset impacts to the Clarksville Base historic district. These measures, as appropriate, must be implemented prior to any demolition for site preparation.

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, I find that implementation of the proposed action, in conjunction with the implementation of mitigation measures, would have no significant impact on the human or natural environment. Therefore, a mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact is issued for the proposed action and no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

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LARRY D. RUGGLEY  
COL, SF  
Commander USAG

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