

HOW THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS ORGANIZED

The FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT briefly describes the Proposed Action and alternatives. Direct and indirect impacts are summarized and compared, and cumulative inputs are briefly described. The conclusions from the analysis are also stated

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION discusses the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, the regulatory background surrounding this project, and the scope of this Environmental Assessment.

SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES discusses the proposed action and alternatives addressed in this environmental assessment.

SECTION 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT describes the existing environment within the region of influence.

SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES provides a comparison of environmental consequences associated with the proposed action alternatives. Mitigation measures are also addressed in this section.

SECTION 5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS includes the analysis of the action in the context of its anticipated contributions to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities in the region.

SECTION 6 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS provides a summary of anticipated environmental impacts.

SECTION 7 LIST OF PREPARERS

SECTION 8 REFERENCES provides bibliographical information for sources cited in the text of this Environmental Assessment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Real Property Master Plan Electronic Proving Ground Fort Huachuca, Arizona



November 2002

Directorate of Installation Support
US Army Garrison, Fort Huachuca, Arizona

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Real Property Master Plan Electronic Proving Ground Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Prepared by:

Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Directorate of Installation Support
US Army Garrison, Fort Huachuca

JOHN A. RUBLE
Director, Installation Support

Reviewed and Approved by:

JEROME F. PAYNE
Colonel, Infantry
Commander, Electronic Proving Ground

Approved by:

LAWRENCE J. PORTOUW
Colonel, Military Intelligence
Commander, US Army Garrison

November 2002

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Real Property Master Plan for the Electronic Proving Ground
Fort Huachuca, Arizona

LEAD AGENCY: Department of the Army

TITLE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Real Property Master Plan for the Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, Arizona

AFFECTED JURISDICTION: Cochise County, Arizona

PREPARED BY: Directorate of Installation Support, US Army Garrison, Fort Huachuca

REVIEWED and APPROVED BY: Commander, Electronic Proving Ground, Fort Huachuca, AZ

APPROVED BY: Commander, US Army Garrison, Fort Huachuca, AZ

ABSTRACT: An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated November 2002, has been prepared to support the decision-making process of the US Army Garrison and US Army White Sands Missile Range-Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) on the proposed collocation, construction, and upgrade of four EPG facilities, and demolition of the four facilities that are being replaced through this action. This EA analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed action (PA): construction and operation of four new EPG facilities, adjacent to the current EPG Headquarters, to replace older, inadequate facilities on Fort Huachuca. The facilities include: the Tracked and Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Facility (Motor Pool), Test/Evaluation Facility, Logistics Facility, and the Meteorological Facility. The collocation and upgrade of the four EPG facilities will improve safety, water conservation, and efficiency in communications and energy, and demolish existing deteriorating facilities. No new personnel are required as a result of this Proposed Action to accomplish the EPG mission. The estimated total cost for the construction is \$7 million. Facilities. Three alternatives were considered and evaluated in the EA: the PA, Alternative A-Phased Development, and Alternative B-No Action. Alternative A includes the same proposed project area as discussed in the PA; however, the collocation will occur in phases based on EPG mission priorities. Under the Alternative B - No Action, the EPG facilities will remain at their current location throughout the installation, with facilities on the northwest, east, and southwest parts of the cantonment area, the West Range and the East Range. No new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities would occur. The EA documents that no significant impacts associated with the PA are anticipated. Only minor impacts to air quality, noise, transportation, water resources, and biological resources would occur as a result of the PA or Alternative A, and the majority of the impacts are limited to on-post resources. The EA concludes that implementation of either the proposed action or Alternative 1 would not significantly impact archaeological, cultural and historic resources, noise, climate and air quality, soil, safety, waste management, socioeconomics, transportation, or energy at Fort Huachuca or the region of interest. Implementing the action would not significantly affect the region's hydrology and water or ecological resources, and would slightly reduce pumping compared with the use of the current facilities.

REVIEW COMMENT DEADLINE: Public comments must be received within 30 days from the publishing date of this document. Public comments may be provided to: Commander, USAIC&FH, ATTN: ATZS-ISB (Kent), Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-6000. Comments may also be faxed to (520) 533-3043.

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

Real Property Master Plan for Electronic Proving Ground

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

January 2003

Title of the Proposed Action: Real Property Master Plan for Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Introduction: An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated November 2002, has been prepared to support the decision-making process of the US Army Garrison and US Army White Sands Missile Range-Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) on the proposed collocation, construction, and upgrade of four EPG facilities to provide for updated energy efficient infrastructure and be consistent with the US Army Facility Reduction Plan. This EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, as amended), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and AR 200-2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions (USA 1988). The EA is incorporated by reference in this FNSI.

Description of the Proposed Action (PA): Under the PA, four major EPG facilities, including the Tracked and Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Facility (Motor Pool), Test/Evaluation Facility, Logistics Facility, and Meteorological Facility, will be constructed in the area adjacent to the current EPG Headquarters. The collocation and upgrade of the four EPG facilities will improve safety, water conservation, and efficiency in communications and energy, and demolish existing deteriorating facilities. No new personnel are required as a result of this Proposed Action to accomplish the EPG mission.

To accommodate the proposed EPG facility layout design, several site modifications will be necessary to provide access and allow for existing activities on the site to continue. These modifications include: relocating 2,400 feet of an existing tank trail to the north and west side of the proposed Motor Pool Facility; constructing 6,600 feet of paved access roadway along Monitor Site Road; installing a concrete box culvert on the site under the new paved road; and constructing a paved parking area on the southwest side of the EPG Headquarters building.

Alternatives Considered: Three alternatives were considered and evaluated in the EA: the PA, Alternative A—Phased Development, and Alternative B—No Action. Alternative A includes the same proposed project area as discussed in the PA; however, the collocation will occur in phases based on EPG mission priorities. The initial phase of development will include construction of the Motor Pool Facility; relocation of the existing tank trail; construction of the paved road and culvert; and paving a parking area southwest of the EPG Headquarters building. The initial construction will allow for current activities to continue and provide access to the site. The remaining EPG facilities will be phased in over time as needed. Under the Alternative B - No Action, the EPG facilities will remain at their current location throughout the installation, with facilities on the northwest, east, and southwest parts of the cantonment area, the West Range and the East Range. No new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities would occur.

Anticipated Environmental Effects: The EA documents that no significant impacts associated with the PA are anticipated. Only minor impacts to air quality, noise, transportation, water

resources, and biological resources would occur as a result of the PA or Alternative A, and the majority of the impacts are limited to on-post resources.

Impacts to local air quality resulting from construction activities were found to be temporary and not significant. Noise levels would increase in the project area from temporary construction activity, and from a slight increase in traffic levels. The construction areas are not near human residential areas and the associated noise will not interfere with on-going military training activities. After construction of the new facilities, traffic may increase slightly along access roads. However, the increase will be small and will not raise ambient noise to or above significant levels. No significant noise impact is anticipated as a result of construction activity or increase in vehicular traffic associated with the PA.

Due to conservation and reuse efforts, the installation's annual water withdrawal from the local aquifer is anticipated to decline. The proposed EPG facilities support this reduction trend by incorporating water conservation technologies and allowing abandonment of old inefficient water distribution infrastructure. The new facilities will use water saving features (i.e. waterless urinals, low flow faucets and toilets, etc.) to the maximum extent possible. The existing EPG structures being proposed for collocation (relocation) will have their associated water systems capped to decrease water consumption and leakage. In addition, EPG will educate its workforce on water conservation.

Impacts to biological resources will not be significant. Vegetation will be lost on up to 62 acres during the proposed construction activities, but no significant impact to existing wildlife (including federally-listed threatened and endangered species) is anticipated. To limit the size of the impact area, vegetation removal will be limited to roadways and building sites as much as possible. Disturbed areas outside of the permanent facility footprints will be revegetated with native species, where appropriate.

Impacts to socioeconomic resources will not be significant. No new personnel are required as a result of the Proposed Action to accomplish the EPG mission. Any temporary employment increase resulting from construction of the proposed EPG facilities or demolition of existing EPG facilities is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the local or regional economy.

Findings: Based on the findings of the EA, it is the conclusion of this analysis that neither the PA nor any of the alternatives constitute a major federal action with significant impact on the human environment, and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the PA should be issued to complete the documentation. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Public Comments: The Army invites interested or affected parties to review and comment on the FNSI within 30 days of publication by writing to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, ATTN: ATZS-ISB (Kent), Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-6000 or faxed to (520) 533-3043. To obtain a copy of the EA, contact (520) 533-3120 and leave a name and address, or write to: U.S. Army Garrison, ATTN: ATZS-ISB (EPGEA), Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-6000. Copies of the EA may also be reviewed on line at: <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/DIS/DISHOME.HTM#ENRD>

Approval authority:

LAWRENCE J. PORTOUW
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison

Date
