

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ASYMMETRIC WARFARE GROUP COMPOUND AND MOTOR POOL SITE**

#### **FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND**

**1.0 Name of Action:** Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Development of Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) Compound and Motor Pool Site.

**2.0 Description of the Proposed Action:** The Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) proposes to expand its administrative and operational complex on Fort George G. Meade in northwest Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The Proposed Action is to reconfigure existing and future planned AWG personnel in new facilities in order to allow for additional training, administrative, and operational space requirements at Fort Meade. The proposed expansion would occur on two sites:

- An approximately 50-acre site, known as the AWG Compound, that would contain an administrative/operational complex and a future, planned indoor firing range. This site includes an approximately 4-acre parcel containing Building 2286 (IAP World Services Building), which would be contiguous with but outside of the secure portion of the AWG Compound.
- An approximately 2-acre site, known as the Motor Pool Site, that would house a vehicle maintenance facility.

**3.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action:** Five alternatives were originally considered for the AWG facility in addition to the No Action Alternative. Four alternatives were eliminated from further, detailed consideration because they did not meet the screening criteria established by the AWG. The Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative were evaluated in an Environmental Assessment.

The Proposed Action includes the construction and operation of the AWG Compound (military complex providing administrative, operational, and storage areas to serve the AWG) and the Motor Pool Site (a vehicle maintenance facility). The AWG Compound is proposed for an approximately 46-acre parcel of land on Fort Meade, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland with an associated structure on an additional, adjacent 4-acre parcel.

The Motor Pool site includes the construction of a new vehicle maintenance facility on a 2-acre parcel that is completely paved. A 6,400-square foot vehicle maintenance building, oil/water separator, vehicle wash rack, and a parking area for 40 military vehicles are proposed for the site.

The No Action Alternative is the continuation of existing conditions without implementation of the Proposed Action.

If the No-Action alternative were to be selected, no new administrative or operational facilities would be constructed. Selection of the No-Action alternative would not fully address the critical AWG mission needs and space requirements for planned and needed operational personnel at Fort Meade.

**4.0 Anticipated Environmental Impacts:** Anticipated long-term effects of the Proposed Action include minor effects on air quality, traffic, and groundwater. Air quality impacts would be minor and would result from day to day operations of the facility. Traffic would increase slightly due to the expected, phased addition of new employees at the facility; however, the installation and surrounding main roadways have the capacity to accommodate the increases in traffic. Minor changes in groundwater would result from the addition of impervious surface; however, use of stormwater management facilities would result in minor impacts.

Short-term minor effects on air quality, traffic, utilities, vegetation, soils, and control of hazardous substances are also expected. Air quality impacts may result from construction of the facility, but would be minimal. Increased construction traffic associated with development of the AWG Compound and Motor Pool sites would lead to temporary disruptions in traffic patterns, but these would be short term impacts. Utility service may be temporarily affected during disconnection to demolished buildings and by the added connections to new buildings, but would also be temporary. Up to 5,000 square feet of forest may be removed for construction of the new facility buildings and up to 64,500 square feet of forest would be selectively cut to provide a 30 foot clear zone for the perimeter fence (80% Sycamore/Oak/Cherry and 20% Loblolly Pine). However, this impact would be completely mitigated through reforestation or afforestation elsewhere on the base, and there would be no net long-term reduction in forest land. Soils would be affected by grading activities, posing a risk for erosion; however, erosion caused by construction activities would be mitigated through erosion and sediment controls. There is a potential for release of hazardous substances such as asbestos and lead-based paint during renovation or demolition of buildings; however, OSHA requirements would be followed, providing for worker safety and minimizing the release of hazardous materials.

**5.0 Findings:** Implementing the proposed action addressed in this Environmental Assessment would not be expected to significantly alter baseline environmental or socioeconomic conditions. Based on the analysis of potential impacts, the development of the proposed AWG Compound and Motor Pool Site would not constitute a significant Federal action that would affect the quality of the human or natural environment as defined within Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. An Environmental Impact Statement is, therefore, not required for this project and has not been prepared.

**Notice of Availability:** Copies of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) are available for public review and comment online at <http://www.fortmeade-ems.org/> under the NEPA program area and at the <Anne Arundel> West County Area Library, or may be obtained at the Fort Meade Environmental Division Office, 239 Ross Road, Fort Meade, MD 20755.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of this notice to the above address. The proposed action will not be implemented before this date. For more information, contact Mr. Michael Butler at (301) 677-9648.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Commanding