

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

INTEGRATED CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, UPDATED DECEMBER 2006 ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

1.0 Name of Action: Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Updated Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP).

2.0 Description of the Proposed Action: Fort Meade proposes to implement an updated ICRMP to provide an integrated and comprehensive method for managing cultural resources on the installation. The updated ICRMP defines roles and responsibilities for cultural resource management within the installation and provides a basis for addressing all applicable legal requirements and best management practices consistent with achievement of the needs, goals, and objectives of the installation's military mission.

3.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action: Preparation of and full implementation of the ICRMP is an Army regulatory requirement (Army Regulation 200-4, *Cultural Resources Management*). Other alternatives, such as partial implementation of the ICRMP, were considered but were excluded from further study because they would not comply with AR 200-4, and thus would not meet the purpose and need for the proposed action. The Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative were evaluated in an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Proposed Action includes the implementation of the updated ICRMP.

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, the updated ICRMP would not be implemented and Fort Meade would not be in compliance with Army regulatory requirement AR 200-4 to formally prepare an updated management plan every 5 years (the existing Fort Meade ICRMP was prepared in 2001).

4.0 Anticipated Environmental Impacts: Based upon the analyses contained in the EA, any known and potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical, natural, and cultural environment are expected to be of a beneficial nature. Implementation of the updated installation ICRMP is expected to result in the efficient management of cultural resources at the installation. The ICRMP establishes procedures and long-range goals for managing cultural resources on installation lands in compliance with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and installation guidelines. The cultural resource management, in coordination with other elements of the installation, will serve to preclude significant impacts that may result from cultural resources management actions. Therefore, cultural, natural, and human resources under the management of Fort Meade will receive more consideration and protection than previously

afforded. Implementation of the proposed action would, therefore, not result in significant environmental effects.

5.0 Findings: Implementing the proposed action addressed in the EA would not be expected to significantly alter baseline environmental or socioeconomic conditions. Based on the analysis of potential impacts, the implementation of the updated ICRMP 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 action and will not be prepared.

Notice of Availability: Copies of the EA and this 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, Maryland, 20755.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability of the EA and FNSI 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