

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/ FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE (FONPA)

Environmental Assessment Addressing Replacement of the Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Bullis, Texas

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Air Force (USAF) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts from replacing the tactical equipment maintenance facility (TEMF) and undertaking connected actions at Joint Base San Antonio-Bullis (JBSA-BUL), Texas (i.e., the Proposed Action). The attached EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500–1508); and the USAF regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR § 989, as amended).

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide JBSA-BUL with a modern, adequately sized, and properly equipped TEMF that meets the tactical equipment maintenance and storage requirements of JBSA-BUL and complies with all applicable Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC). The Proposed Action is needed because the existing TEMF at JBSA-BUL is outdated and undersized and lacks standard shop components and sufficient functional space. These deficiencies do not allow for efficient and appropriate tactical equipment maintenance and storage or for compliance with applicable UFC. As a result, personnel work in substandard conditions that scarcely meet customer needs; present safety concerns; and impair productivity, morale, and mission training.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: Under the Proposed Action, the USAF would replace the existing TEMF at JBSA-BUL. The proposed TEMF would be constructed to the southeast of the intersection of Camp Bullis Road and Wilderness Trail on an open field. It would include the main TEMF building with a 35-ton overhead crane, concrete hardstand for parking tactical equipment, privately owned vehicle parking, three storage buildings, and supporting infrastructure. The Proposed Action includes the following connected actions: constructing and operating a four-bay vehicle wash facility; making improvements to Camp Bullis Road, Wilderness Trail, and New Lewis Valley Road; replacing the low water crossing on Camp Bullis Road with a culvert system; and demolishing the existing TEMF.

Seven alternatives to the Proposed Action were evaluated against selection standards. The evaluation determined that none of the seven alternatives were practicable or met the selection standards; therefore, none of the seven alternatives were analyzed in detail in the EA. The only practicable alternative is the Proposed Action.

CEQ regulations recommend consideration of the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative serves as a baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action and other potential action alternatives can be evaluated. Under the No Action Alternative, tactical equipment maintenance and storage at JBSA-BUL would continue to be performed at the existing TEMF, which is outdated and undersized and lacks standard shop components and

sufficient functional space. The connected actions associated with the proposed TEMF would also not occur. The proposed vehicle wash facility would not be constructed, and no road improvements would transpire. The low water crossing on Camp Bullis Road would not be replaced.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The analysis of environmental impacts focused on the following environmental resources: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geological resources, hazardous materials and wastes, noise, safety, and water resources. A cumulative impacts assessment was also conducted. Details of the environmental consequences are provided in the EA. The analysis in the EA for each of the environmental resource areas listed above identified negligible to minor adverse impacts under the Proposed Action; environmental impacts would not be significant.

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL FLOODPLAIN INVOLVEMENT: As required by Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*, the USAF hereby provides notice of the potential for floodplain impacts.

Approximately 250 feet of Camp Bullis Road within the project area is within the 100-year floodplain of Salado Creek, and the proposed improvements to Camp Bullis Road, including replacing the low water crossing with a culvert system, would occur within the 100-year floodplain. The direct impacts from construction within the 100-year floodplain are unavoidable, and there is no practicable alternative to improve Camp Bullis Road or cross Salado Creek without encroaching on the 100-year floodplain. No habitable structures would be constructed within the 100-year floodplain.

CONCLUSION: Based on the description of the Proposed Action as set forth in the EA, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and were coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. The attached EA and this FONSI/FONPA will be made available to the public for a 30-day review period. Agencies have been coordinated with throughout the EA development process, and their comments are being incorporated into the analysis of potential environmental impacts performed as part of the EA as appropriate.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE: Based on the information and analysis presented in the EA, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NEPA, the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA, USAF regulations for implementing NEPA set forth in 32 CFR 989 (*Environmental Impact Analysis Process*), as amended, and based on review of the public and agency comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period, I conclude that the environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Action at JBSA-BUL, Texas, is not significant, that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary, and that a FONSI/FONPA is appropriate. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*, and the authority delegated by Secretary of the Air Force Order 791.1, and taking the above information into account, I find that there is no better practicable

alternative to this action, and the Proposed Action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the floodplain environments.

APPROVED:

[Unsigned for Draft]

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Attachment: *Environmental Assessment Addressing Replacement of the Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Bullis, Texas*