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Proposed Realignment of Fort Devens, Mass.

Scope of Work

The Department of the Army proposes a realignment at Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts. This Scope of Work covers tasks related to providing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement consistent with DA Pamphlet AR 200-1 and HQDA Ltr 210-76-3. As a contractor with the New York District Corps of Engineers you will be required to conduct the work as outlined in the sections below.

Scope

Functional topics to be researched in this project will include all areas required by the CEQ and Department of Army environmental guidelines. The contractor will perform an in-depth analysis for the socio-economic, and ecological impacts. An historical/archaeological survey will be conducted to the extent required by the proposed action and will be consistent with AR 200-1. An analysis of the impacts to the Fort Devens Natural Resource Management Program will also be conducted. Other functional areas will be addressed as the degree to which they are impacted by the possible realignments, becomes apparent.

In addition to the analysis of impacts, the contractor will summarize the technical description of the alternative realignments, discuss the costs and savings, and describe the rationale for the alternatives. In preparing the DEIS the contractor will incorporate data provided by the N.Y. District, Fort Devens, and coordinate with CERL, regarding its computer-aided Environmental Impact Analysis for Mission Change, Operations and Maintenance and Training Activities. If available within required time frames, the consultant will be provided an analysis of the impacts for the various realignment alternatives.

The offices of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Office of State Planning will be contacted and given full opportunity to provide input into the environmental impact statement. The A/R selected by this district is instructed to work closely with the state and review data and reports which have been developed assessing the impacts associated with the reduction in strength of Fort Devens and incorporating these findings in the environmental impact statement.

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TECHNICAL APPROACH

General

The body of the environmental statement will contain nine separate sections, each of which will be of sufficient length and detail to adequately identify and develop the required information in a language and jargon that is clear and can be understood by non-specialists that would use the information for making decisions or form opinions on the merits of the proposed action. The statement will also include an appendix which will contain sufficient backup material to clarify all items outlined in the text of the statement. The sections to be covered are:

1. Project Description\*

The project is described in sufficient detail to provide information about the proposed action the reviewer of the report. This section will include:

- Purpose of the action.
- Description of the action at the gaining and losing installations and an analysis of the specific impacts for each of the alternatives.
- Alternatives listed: Still under development.

2. Environmental Setting Without the Project

Description will be made of:

- The area, ecological setting.
- The present level of economic development
- Existing land and water uses
- Cultural, Archaeological-Historical significance
- Population trends\*\*
- What the future environmental setting would be without the base.

3. Relationships of Proposed Action to Land Use Plans

Attempts would be made here, to discuss:

How the proposed project or action conforms or conflicts with the objectives and specific terms of existing or proposed Federal,

- \* To provide accurate description of the environmental setting, site visits will be made by contractor specialists.

\*\* In discussing population aspects, considerations would be given to using the rate of growth in the region contained in the projections compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce and the economic research service of the Department of Agriculture called "OBERS," wherever applicable.

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State, and local land use plans, policies, and controls, if any, for the areas affected.

If conflicts or inconsistencies exist, the statement would address itself to, the extent of reconciliation and the reasons for proceeding with the project notwithstanding the absence of full reconciliation.

4. Probable Impact of the Proposed Action on the Environment

Environmental consequences of the proposed action would be summarized in this section. This would include:

Positive and negative effects - including both beneficial and detrimental aspects of the environmental changes due to the proposed action, including impacts on man's health, welfare, and surroundings.

Direct and indirect consequences - to include primary effects such as impacts on man's health and welfare; and secondary effects such as possible changes in population patterns and growth that may have an effect on the resource base, including land use, water and public utilities.

5. Any Probable Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided

Those probable adverse effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented will be summarized under this section.

6. Alternatives to Proposed Action

This section will describe the various reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, their environmental impact, and their ability to accomplish objectives of the possible realignment.

7. The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

This section will contain a brief discussion of the extent to which the proposed action involves short-term versus long-term environmental gains and losses. Long-term and short-term is not referred to within the context of a time period, but rather within the view that each generation is a trustee of the environment for succeeding generations. Also under this section discussions would include:

Trade-offs between short-term environmental gains at the expense of long-term losses.

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Trade-offs between long-term environmental gains at the expense of short-term losses.

Extent to which proposed action forecloses future options.

8. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

This section identifies irrevocable effects on resources that would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented. Special attention would be given to resources commitments such as:

Labor  
Materials  
Natural  
Cultural

9. Considerations That Offset the Adverse Environmental Effects

Benefits of proposed action  
Benefits of alternatives

Socio-Economic

The socio-economic assessment will include analyses of the following factors for baseline conditions:

The analyses will include all items listed for Fort Devens but for the other concerned installations only these items as appropriate.

Regional Setting - geographic distribution of influence.

Housing - both on base and off base, and types.

Population - influence on growth, characteristics, military dependent characteristics, residence pattern.

Schools - on base and off base, level of PL 81-874 funds, distribution of military dependent children among school districts, current expansion programs possibly influenced by Army activities, private and higher education.

Land use and zoning - adjacent uses, current influence upon land use planning and zoning, influence upon current policy.

Economic Impact - direct employment, secondary employment, procurements, regional contractors, regional output, business and industrial sectors.

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Secondary growth - income and employment multiplier impacts and related influence.

Transportation - influence upon road networks; traffic patterns; air, rail, and motor freight; passenger transportation; transportation planning.

Planning - influence upon local and regional planning, planned or ongoing projects influenced by the base.

Employment and unemployment - growth, distribution, current levels.

Taxes - employee contribution and influence upon state and local tax revenues.

Commercial Sectors - influence upon regional retail sales, bank deposits, services, and related activities.

Community Participation - influence upon local social organization such as religious and civic organizations.

Other Federal Government Activities - influence upon military retirees, other government programs and activities.

The assessment of impacts will include the following types of information;

Economic impacts

Direct and indirect income impacts  
direct and indirect employment impacts  
Impacts upon regional output  
Impacts upon regional procurement activity  
Impact upon regional economic sectors  
Income and employment multiplier impacts

Employment and unemployment

Employment opportunity impacts  
Impact upon unemployment  
Impact upon Federal and other employment programs

Housing

Impact upon Federal Homeowners Assistance Program  
Impact upon vacancies  
Impact upon housing supply on base or off base

Population

Impact upon population gains or losses  
Geographic distribution of population impacts  
Impact upon military dependents  
Impact upon contractor personnel

Schools

Impact upon PL 81-874 school aid funds  
Impact upon state and other aid funds

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- Impact of enrollment gains or losses
- Facility planning
- Programs
- Staffs
- Distribution of impact between school districts
- Impact upon private schools
- Impact upon higher education programs and enrollments

Land use and zoning

- Impact upon regional land uses
- Impact upon land use and zoning policies

Transportation

- Impact upon traffic patterns
- Road networks and capacity
- Air, rail, and motor freight
- Passenger transportation
- Transportation planning

Community and regional planning

- Capital improvements planning
- Urban renewal and other community projects

Secondary economic impacts

- Retail sales
- Service trades
- Bank deposits
- Taxes

Community service

- Loss or gain of services provided to the community by the Base
- Impact upon capital outlays by community in direct support of Base
- Law enforcement
- Fire protection
- Utility services
- Other services

Community participation

- Impact upon local leadership position
- Religious organizations
- Civic organizations
- Other organizations and community character such as cultural, fraternal, professional, and recreational.

Other Federal activities

- Local Federal government programs and activities.

Environmental and Ecological Assessment

Beyond the social and economic aspects of an environmental statement is the requirement for a review of possible effects to the physical and the biological

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environments. As reported previously, Fort Devens has a Natural Resource Management Program; and to the extent that the training missions and national security considerations are maintained has protected, enhanced, and monitored the physical and biological resources of the facility.

Impact of the proposed realignment activities on the biological environment will be evaluated. The specifics of the construction and operation or de-commissioning and the resulting changes in baseline biological environment prepared as proposed above. All significant changes, both harmful and beneficial, resulting from the actions will be predicted and quantified to the extent possible. The criteria, bases, and assumptions used in judging an impact to be significant will be clearly stated. Finally, recommendations will be made to mitigate, where possible, any significant detrimental environmental impacts.

#### Historical/Archeological

The consultant will research sites on the Federal Register as well as seek additional sites which could be nominated for the Register. A 106 study will be prepared for each site to determine the stated alternatives.

Also a reconnaissance archeological study will be made for the installation search with only limited field work if determined necessary.

#### DELIVERABLES

The primary product a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted to the New York District. The submittal will consist of one reproducible original and 40 copies. The contractor will also submit a coordination list of Federal, State, local agencies, private groups and interested parties, to whom the draft will be circulated.

Upon review by the Army, the contractor may be required to make corrective changes in the draft statement.

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