

Final
Environmental Assessment

Addressing

Beddown of the 610th Security Forces
Squadron
Regional Training Center at Fort
Wolters, Texas

December, 2011

Prepared for:

*Department of the Air Force
Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
Lackland AFB, Texas*

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1.0 NAME OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) intends to request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to license 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters Training Center to the 10th Air Force (AF). The agreement states the 610th SFS, 10th AF will become a tenant unit at Fort Wolters in Texas.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed by the Commanders of the 10th AF and TXARNG. The lease of land is an innovative approach to build facilities by leveraging other Department of Defense (DOD) customer's needs for training resources and creating incentives for them to construct joint-use facilities.

The proposed location for the Beddown was selected due to the centralized setting to the training location for the 610th Security Forces (SFS) thus improving training efficiencies and effectiveness. The long-term aspect of this Proposed Action would establish a dedicated training center for the 610th SFS to base ground combat readiness training operations which would allow for the programming, acquisition, and/or construction of required classrooms, billets, training facilities needed for the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) mission; while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG site. The Proposed Action would provide a mutually supportive end-state that improves mission quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in a fashion that is beneficial to the training missions. Additionally, the Proposed Action would significantly reduce the expense of man-hours, logistics, equipment, and fiscal resources.

Two other alternatives were also evaluated to provide a baseline for comparison with the proposed action. The first alternative considered did not meet the underlying purpose and need and was eliminated altogether. The second alternative considered was the no-action alternative. Under the no-action alternative, the Combat readiness training will continue as it is now, resulting in the 610th SFS not bedding down the ECS TCC training site at Fort Wolters, necessitating additional site selection within the region and resultant delay in establishing proficiency training and certification for Security Forces personnel.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The environmental assessment (EA) provides an analysis of the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and the no-action alternative. Nine resource categories received thorough evaluation to identify potential environmental consequences. As summarized below, each of the impact categories assessed during the EA process resulted in either a "minor" or "negligible" impact classification.

Air Quality: Emissions during the construction and infrastructure improvement periods would be temporary in nature and would conclude when the construction activities were complete. In general, fugitive dust and combustive emissions would produce localized, short-term, elevated air pollution, which would not result in long-term impacts on the air quality.

Water Resources: The Proposed Action would create ground disturbance at the site, which may increase erosion potential and runoff during significant precipitation events. Potential impacts

Finding of No Significant Impact Fort Wolters

during construction will be minimized through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) such as silt fence, stabilized construction entrance(s), grading practices and temporary seeding of stockpiles. BMPs that could potentially be implemented following construction include storm water control measures, including retention and infiltration to minimize soil erosion and runoff.

Geology and Soils: Under the Proposed Action, no significant impacts on geological resources or soils would be expected. The proposed construction activities would occur on previously disturbed land, and use of BMPs during these activities would minimize any potential soil erosion and sedimentation. Due to the disturbed nature of the proposed site, it is anticipated that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in a significant impact on soil erosion and sedimentation.

Biological Resources: Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on wetlands, floodplains, rare species or their habitat. No federally or state-listed threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the project area, nor is there potential habitat within close proximity of the proposed project. No wetlands are located within the proposed project area.

Cultural Resources: No significant impacts on cultural resources would be expected as a result of the proposed action. The site has been significantly disturbed and previous surveys have not produced evidence of historical significance.

Hazardous Materials and Waste: The proposed action is not expected to generate hazardous waste or solid waste that negatively impacts human health or the environment. Waste handling during construction will be conducted in accordance with current Fort Wolters practices. No significant impacts would be anticipated from the operation and maintenance of the proposed facilities.

Safety and Occupation Health: Construction activities conducted under the Proposed Action would result in effects on contractor safety; however, these effects are expected to be less than significant due to implementation of effective health and safety programs. No effects are anticipated on military personnel or the public. All work areas would be fenced and posted with appropriate signs as necessary to reduce risks to installation personnel and the public.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice: There would be positive impacts expected on socioeconomics and no impacts to environmental justice. The number of workers required for construction activities would not exceed the supply of the local industry and these activities would result in indirect beneficial impacts from the increase in payroll tax revenues, purchase of construction materials, and purchases of goods and services in the local area. The Proposed Action would not negatively impact minority populations or children as construction activities would be conducted within proposed site at Fort Wolters and as approximately only 30 cadre and administrative staff would be assigned fulltime work at the proposed facilities; Air Force Reserve personnel would only come in for training periods and are housed on base in dormitories for those time periods.

Infrastructure: The Proposed Action would result in minor impacts on electrical, natural gas, heating and cooling, water supply, sanitary sewer, wastewater, storm water, and communications systems. The demand for electrical power, natural gas, water, telephone and data transmission and the generation of wastewater and solid waste could increase during operation of the proposed Beddown facility.

Finding of No Significant Impact Fort Wolters

Noise: There may be negligible temporary increase in noise levels at Fort Wolters during the construction phase. Since the field training site is located in proximity to several existing ranges, noise from operations should not appreciably increase. There are no projected noise impacts to sensitive receptors outside of the training facility boundary. Implementation of the proposed action should have no significant impacts to the noise environment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, which was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act Council on Environmental Quality regulations, Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process, as promulgated in Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 989, and after review of the potential impacts, I conclude that implementation of the proposed action or the no-action alternative would result in no significant impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment. For these reasons, a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



MICHAEL F. ROTHERMEL, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 610th Security Forces Squadron



DATE

Final Environmental Assessment

Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas

Prepared for:

**Department of the Air Force
Air Force Center for Engineering
And the Environment**

Lackland AFB, Texas

December, 2011

Executive Summary

Introduction

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) proposes to beddown the 610th Security Force Squadron (610th SFS), construct mission support facilities and infrastructure, and operate an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification (ECS TCC) training site at Fort Wolters, Mineral Wells, Texas (TX). For over a decade the 610th SFS has operated as an external customer to the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) and other training providers at training sites geographically separated by hundreds of miles at significant expense of man-hours, logistics, equipment, and fiscal resources.

Approximately 30 cadre (cadre are the key group of officers and enlisted personnel necessary to establish and train a new military unit) and administrative staff would be assigned to Fort Wolters as part of the beddown. The beddown would include the construction of 10 minor projects or facilities in three phases over the next 10+ years. Facilities would include: student, cadre, laundry, faculty, and classroom modular buildings; a dining facility; student dormitories, classrooms, and planning facilities; an administrative/command and control facility; a warehouse; weapons cleaning facility; and associated vehicle and equipment parking areas. In five to ten years after construction begins, there could be up to 300 students receiving proficiency training at the proposed facilities. Construction of a dedicated training center for the 610th SFS will improve mission quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the 610th SFS training missions while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG site. The partnership with the TXARNG has been determined to be the fiscally responsible approach as determined by Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE).

This report provides an environmental assessment (EA) of potential environmental impacts resulting from implementing the proposed action.

This Environmental Assessment addressing the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, TX only addresses the increase in field training from the proposed action. The Modified Record Firing (MRF) range at Fort Wolters addressed in the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX would be the field training site for proposed action of this EA. As such the summary of the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX is provided in Section 4 to address the increase in field training from the proposed action.

The above mentioned MRF range at Fort Wolters, TX has already been constructed and is in on-going use. As stated the field training of the proposed action would take place on the already constructed MRF range at Fort Wolters. Additionally, the field training of the proposed action would be incorporated into the already on-going field training at Fort Wolters.

Section 3 covers the environmental consequences of the facilities construction at the proposed 10.27 acre site. Section 4 covers the environmental consequences of field training at the MRF range. Section 5 of this EA includes the cumulative effects and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources as a result of the increase of field training and the facilities construction of the proposed action.

Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative

The Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) intends to request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to license 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters Training Center to the 10th AF. The agreement states the 610th SFS, 10th AF will become a tenant unit at Fort Wolters in Texas.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed by the Commanders of the 10th AF and TXARNG. The lease of land is an innovative approach to build facilities by leveraging other Department of Defense (DOD) customer's needs for training resources and creating incentives for them to construct joint-use facilities.

The proposed location for the beddown was selected due to the centralized setting to the training location for the 610th SFS thus improving training efficiencies and effectiveness. The long-term aspect of this Proposed Action would establish a dedicated training center for the 610th SFS to base ground combat readiness training operations which would allow for the programming, acquisition, and/or construction of required classrooms, billets, training facilities needed for the AFRC mission; while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG site. The Proposed Action would provide a mutually supportive end-state that improves mission quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in a fashion that is beneficial to the training missions. Additionally, the Proposed Action would significantly reduce the expense of man-hours, logistics, equipment, and fiscal resources.

The no-action alternative would maintain the environmental status quo, however the Combat readiness training will continue as it is now, resulting in the 610th SFS not bedding down the ECS TCC training site at Fort Wolters, necessitating additional site selection within the region and resultant delay in establishing proficiency training and certification for Security Forces personnel.

Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts

Ten resource areas were analyzed in the EA to assess potential environmental impacts:

- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste
- Safety and Occupational Health
- Socioeconomics
- Infrastructure
- Noise

One resource category, air installation compatible use zone would not be impacted by the proposed action and does not require a detailed analysis. No part of the proposed action employs or influences airspace operations or air traffic management. Therefore, air installation compatible use zone was eliminated from further analysis. Table ES-1 provides a summary of the impacts that would be expected for the proposed action on the ten resources that were evaluated.

Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Air quality			X	Negligible short term increased emissions would result from construction activities; long term operations are not expected to change the attainment status of the base.	Construction and operations activities would not occur. Air quality would not change.
Water resources			X	Off Site Soil erosion would be minimal due to the flat nature of the site. Potential runoff during construction will be mitigated by utilizing BMP's such as silt fence, grading practices and site re-vegetation/stabilization. Low impact development may be used/considered to mitigate potential impacts. There will be negligible long-term effect due to increased impervious surface.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered. Soil erosion that currently occurs at the site due to storm water runoff would continue.

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Geology and soils			X	No significant impacts on geology and soils are expected as a result of the proposed action. The site has been disturbed and is underlain by bedrock composed of Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks. The majority of the Site is composed of Bonti fine sandy loam and Bonti stony fine sandy loam. Both soil types are well drained, and have slow infiltration rates. BMP erosion controls will be utilized as discussed in above water resources.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered. Soils and geology would not be impacted and erosion that currently occurs at the site due to storm water runoff would continue.
Biological resources			X	Proposed action poses no risk of impact to habitat of/for threatened and endangered species and poses no risk of impact to threatened or endangered species themselves. No threaten or endangered species are present within proposed development area.	Under the no-action alternative, construction activities would not be initiated and the existing trees would not be removed. Any threatened and endangered species would not be threatened.
Cultural resources			X	No significant impacts on cultural resources are expected as a result of the proposed action. The site has been disturbed and a previous detailed survey indicated no evidence of historical resources on the site.	Cultural and historical resources would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.
Hazardous materials and solid waste			X	The proposed action is expected to generate small amounts of hazardous and solid wastes. These would have a negligible impact on human health and the environment. Waste handling will be performed using current Fort Wolters practices.	Hazardous material and solid waste would not be generated or stored on site as a result of the no-action alternative.

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Safety and occupational health			X	The construction activities and subsequent training, maintenance, and operations associated with the proposed action are standard activities that occur at Fort Wolters. There are no specific aspects of the construction, operations, or maintenance that would create a unique or extraordinary health and safety issue. Existing health and safety procedures would be followed at the new facility.	Under the no-action alternative, construction and subsequent training, maintenance, and operations associated with the proposed action would not occur. Safety and occupational health would not change.
Socioeconomics			X	There are no disproportionately high or adverse human health effects or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. Appropriate measures would be taken to ensure the construction area is not accessible to children.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered from its current state. This alternative would not impact minority or low-income populations or the safety of children.
Infrastructure		X		There may be one or more infrastructure mitigation measures needed regarding implementation of the proposed action.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the current infrastructure would not be affected.
Noise			X	There may be negligible temporary increase in noise levels at Fort Wolters during the construction phase. Since the field training site is located in proximity to several existing ranges, noise from operations should not appreciably increase. There are no projected noise impacts to sensitive receptors outside of the training facility boundary. Implementation of the proposed action should have no significant impacts to the noise environment.	Under the no-action alternative would result in no changes to the existing noise conditions at Fort Wolters and surrounding areas.

Definitions of Categories:

- **Negligible:** Impact at the lowest levels of detection; barely measurable with no perceptible consequences.
- **Minor:** Impact is measurable or perceptible, with little loss of resource integrity and changes are small, localized, and of little consequence.
- **Major:** Impacts would be substantial, highly noticeable, and permanent.

Mitigation Measures

Evaluation of each of the impact categories examined during this EA process resulted in either a “minor” or “negligible” impact classification. There may be one or more mitigation measures needed regarding implementation of the proposed action.

Conclusion

Based upon the findings of this EA, the implementation of the proposed action would not have a significant adverse direct, cumulative, or secondary impact on the quality of the environment, either human or natural, in the area of potential effect for this action. The proposed action would use the indicated land for the beddown.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Section 1 - Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action	1-1
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Location.....	1-2
1.3 The Environmental Review Process.....	1-7
Section 2 - Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives	2-1
2.1 Alternative Identification Process.....	2-1
2.2 Proposed Action.....	2-2
2.3 Alternatives.....	2-2
2.3.1 Alternative Considered but Eliminated from Further Consideration.....	2-2
2.3.2 Alternative A – Selected Location for Proposed Action.....	2-3
2.3.3 Alternative B – No Action.....	2-3
2.4 Evaluation of Alternatives	2-3
Section 3 - Description of the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	3-1
3.1 Analysis Approach.....	3-2
3.1.1 Resource Analysis.....	3-3
3.1.2 Resource Eliminated from Further Analysis.....	3-3
3.2 Air Quality	3-4
3.2.1 Affected Environment.....	3-4
3.2.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-5
3.3 Water Resources	3-5
3.3.1 Affected Environment.....	3-5
3.3.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-6
3.4 Geology and Soils.....	3-7
3.4.1 Affected Environment.....	3-7
3.4.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-8
3.5 Biological Resources	3-9
3.5.1 Affected Environment.....	3-9

Table of Contents
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

3.5.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-12
3.6	Cultural Resources.....	3-13
3.6.1	Affected Environment.....	3-14
3.6.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-14
3.7	Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste.....	3-14
3.7.1	Affected Environment.....	3-15
3.7.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-17
3.8	Safety and Occupational Health.....	3-18
3.8.1	Affected Environment.....	3-18
3.8.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-19
3.9	Socioeconomics.....	3-20
3.9.1	Affected Environment.....	3-20
3.9.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-23
3.10	Infrastructure.....	3-24
3.10.1	Affected Environment.....	3-24
3.10.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-25
Section 4 - Summary of Completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, Texas.....4-1		
4.1	Background.....	4-1
4.2	Introduction.....	4-2
4.3	Scope of the Document.....	4-2
4.4	Operations.....	4-3
4.5	Site Description.....	4-3
4.6	Environmental Consequences.....	4-3
4.6.1	Land Use.....	4-3
4.6.2	Noise.....	4-4
4.6.3	Geology and Soils.....	4-5
4.6.4	Water Resources.....	4-5
4.6.5	Biological Resources.....	4-5
4.6.6	Infrastructure.....	4-6
4.6.7	Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes.....	4-6
4.6.8	Cultural Resources.....	4-6
4.7	Cumulative Effects.....	4-7

Section 5 - Cumulative Effects and Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources5-1

5.1 Cumulative Effects 5-1

5.2 Scope of Cumulative Effects Analysis 5-1

5.3 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions 5-1

5.4 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources..... 5-5

Section 6 - References.....6-1

Section 7 - Persons and Agencies Contacted.....7-1

Section 8 - List of Preparers and Contributors8-1

Appendices

Appendix A – Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Correspondence (IICEP)

Appendix B – Summary of Completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters - Figures

Tables

Table 1-1 Other Major Environmental Statutes, Regulations, and Executive Orders
Applicable to Federal Projects 1-7

Table 2-1 Summary of Impacts 2-7

Table 3-1 Resources Considered in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process 3-3

Table 3-2 Rare Plant Species on Fort Wolters..... 3-10

Table 3-3 Rare Animal Species on Fort Wolters..... 3-11

Table 3-4 Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Status for Palo Pinto and Parker Counties,
Texas and the United States 3-22

Table 3-5 Children Status for Palo Pinto and Parker Counties, Texas and the United
States..... 3-23

Figures

Figure 1-1	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	1-2
Figure 1-2	Proposed Site of Facilities: Location Map	1-3
Figure 1-3	Proposed Site of Facilities: Overview Map.....	1-4
Figure 1-4	Proposed Site of Field Training: Overview Map	1-5
Figure 1-5	Proposed Site of Field Training: Location Map.....	1-6
Figure 2-1	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	2-4
Figure 2-2	Proposed Site of Facilities: Location Map	2-5
Figure 2-3	Proposed Site of Field Training: Location Map.....	2-6
Figure 3-1	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	3-1
Figure 3-2	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	3-2
Figure 3-3	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	3-7
Figure 3-4	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	3-9
Figure 3-5	Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo.....	3-12
Figure 3-6	Proposed Site of Facilities: Building Labeled with Hazardous Materials Sign.....	3-16
Figure 5-1	Proposed Site of Field Training: Surrounding Area Map	5-5

Acronyms

AAFES	Army and Air Force Exchange Service
ACC	Air Combat Command
AF	Air Force
AFB	Air Force Base
AFCEE	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFOSH	Air Force Office of Safety and Health
AFPD	Air Force Policy Directive
AFRC	Armed Forces Reserve Center
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
ARNG	Army National Guard
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
AS	accumulation sites
AST	aboveground storage tank
BMP	Best Management Practices
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
BX	Base Exchange
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
CES/CEV	Civil Engineer Squadron, Environmental Flight
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMW	City of Mineral Wells
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
DoD	Department of Defense
DRMO	Defense Reutilization Marketing Office
DTC	Developmental Test Command
EA	environmental assessment
EBS	environmental baseline survey
ECS TCC	Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification Center
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
ELC	Environmental Literacy Council
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
ESOH	Environmental Safety and Occupational Health
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY	fiscal year
HAP	hazardous air pollutants
HEMTT	heavy equipment mobile transport truck
HET	heavy equipment trailer

Table of Contents
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning
HWMP	hazardous waste management plan
IAP	initial accumulation points
ICRMP	integrated cultural resource management plan
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
INRMP	integrated natural resource management plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MFH	military family housing
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MR	munitions rule
MRF	Modified Record Fire
MSA	metropolitan statistical area
msl	mean sea level
MSW	municipal solid waste
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAS/JRB	Naval Station/Joint Reserve Base
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFRAP	no further remedial action planned
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
No.	number
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O ₃	ozone
ODC	ozone depleting compounds
OTIE	Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns
PME	precision measurement equipment
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricant
POV	privately owned vehicle
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
QD	quantity distance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	region of influence
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SDZ	Surface Danger Zone
sf	square feet
SFS	Security Force Squadron
SIP	state implementation plan
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan

Table of Contents
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

TC	training circular
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TC	technical order
TNRCC	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TX	Texas
TXARNG	Texas Army National Guard
TXMF	Texas Military Forces
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAEC	U.S. Army Environmental Center
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USCF	US Census Fact Finder
USCQF	US Census Quick Facts
USDL	U.S. Department of Labor
UST	underground storage tank
UTES	Unit Training Equipment Site
VOC	volatile organic compound
%	percent

Section 1 -

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

The 610th Security Force Squadron (610th SFS), 610 Regional Support Group (610 RGS), 10th Air Force (10th AF), is an Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) unit stationed on Naval Station/Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), Fort Worth, Texas since 1996.

The 610th SFS is tasked by AFRC to conduct ground combat skills and other readiness related training courses for Air Force Reserve personnel. The annual student throughput is roughly 1500-2000 students for the various courses conducted, and utilizes 18-20 weeks of each calendar year.

For over a decade the 610th SFS has operated as an external customer to the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) and other training area providers, through the space available/pay-per-use of various training sites geographically separated by hundreds of miles, and at significant expense of man-hours, logistics, equipment, and fiscal resources. The 610th SFS had been successful in accomplishing the training mission through this nomadic flexibility, and has sustained a close working relationship with the TXARNG, but that approach contains inherent inefficiencies and operating expenses not directly related to the conduct of training.

The proprietary, long-term aspect of this partnership to establish a dedicated training center for the 610th SFS to base ground combat readiness training operations will allow for the programming, acquisition, and/or construction of required classrooms, billets, training facilities needed for the AFRC mission; while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG site. A 30-year memorandum of agreement in conjunction with a real-property license for 10.27 acres of the TXARNG, Fort Wolters training site in Mineral Wells, Texas provides a mutually supportive end-state that improves mission quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in a fashion that is beneficial to the training missions. Fort Wolters encompasses nearly 4,000 acres with sufficient maneuver area and small arms ranges to absorb the current AFRC ground combat and readiness training courses conducted by the 610th SFS. After a decade of nomadic operations at numerous training locations, the partnership with the TXARNG has been determined to be the fiscally responsible approach as determined by Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE).

This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the AFCEE recommendations concerning Fort Wolters according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulation of 1978, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 989, titled "the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)." 32 CFR Part 989 addresses the implementation of NEPA and directs the Air Force (AF) officials to consider the environmental consequences of any proposal as part of the decision-making process.

1.2 Location

The Site for the Proposed Action is approximately 10.27 acres in size and is located in the southeast area of the western portion of the horseshoe shaped Fort Wolters, along the east property line, north of the cantonment area (Figures 1-2 and 1-3). The Site is located in Parker County approximately 52 miles west of Fort Worth, Texas (Figures 1-3 and 1-4). The geographic coordinates for the site are latitude 32° 50` 15.68`` N and longitude 98° 02` 15.17`` W.

The site is “7” shaped, is mostly cut grass with oak trees, and is wooded along the eastern boundary. The boundaries of the site are: building 630, a small unnumbered building, and vacant land, adjacent to ranges within Fort Wolters to the north; Wagner Road, a former ammunition supply point (National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency), a vehicle storage parking and maintenance area, and building 650 (Range Control Offices) to the south; Heintzelman Road, a vehicle storage parking and maintenance area, and building 650 (Range Control Offices), adjacent to the Unit Training Equipment Site 2 (UTES 2) to the west; and a 1,000 yard range and the Lake Mineral Wells State Park border to the east. The 1,000 yard range has not been used since early 2008 and is now State Park land. In the general area, Fort Wolters ranges are to the north, a multi-use industrial park to the south and west, and Lake Mineral Wells State Park is to the east.

The previously mentioned MRF range at Fort Wolters, TX has already been constructed and is in on-going use. As stated, the field training of the proposed action would take place on the already constructed MRF range at Fort Wolters. Additionally, the field training of the proposed action would be incorporated into the already on-going field training at Fort Wolters.

Fort Wolters includes seven training areas with associated support training facilities (Figure 1-4). The proposed action site is contained within Training Area II (Figure 1-5). Fort Wolters training facilities are used for light and, occasionally, heavy maneuver training, land navigation training, combat engineering skills, drop zones, weapons qualification and other combat readiness training. These training sites have been in operation since the 1980s.

Figure 1-1
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



Figure 1-2
Proposed Site of Facilities: Location Map



Figure 1-3
Proposed Site of Facilities: Overview Map

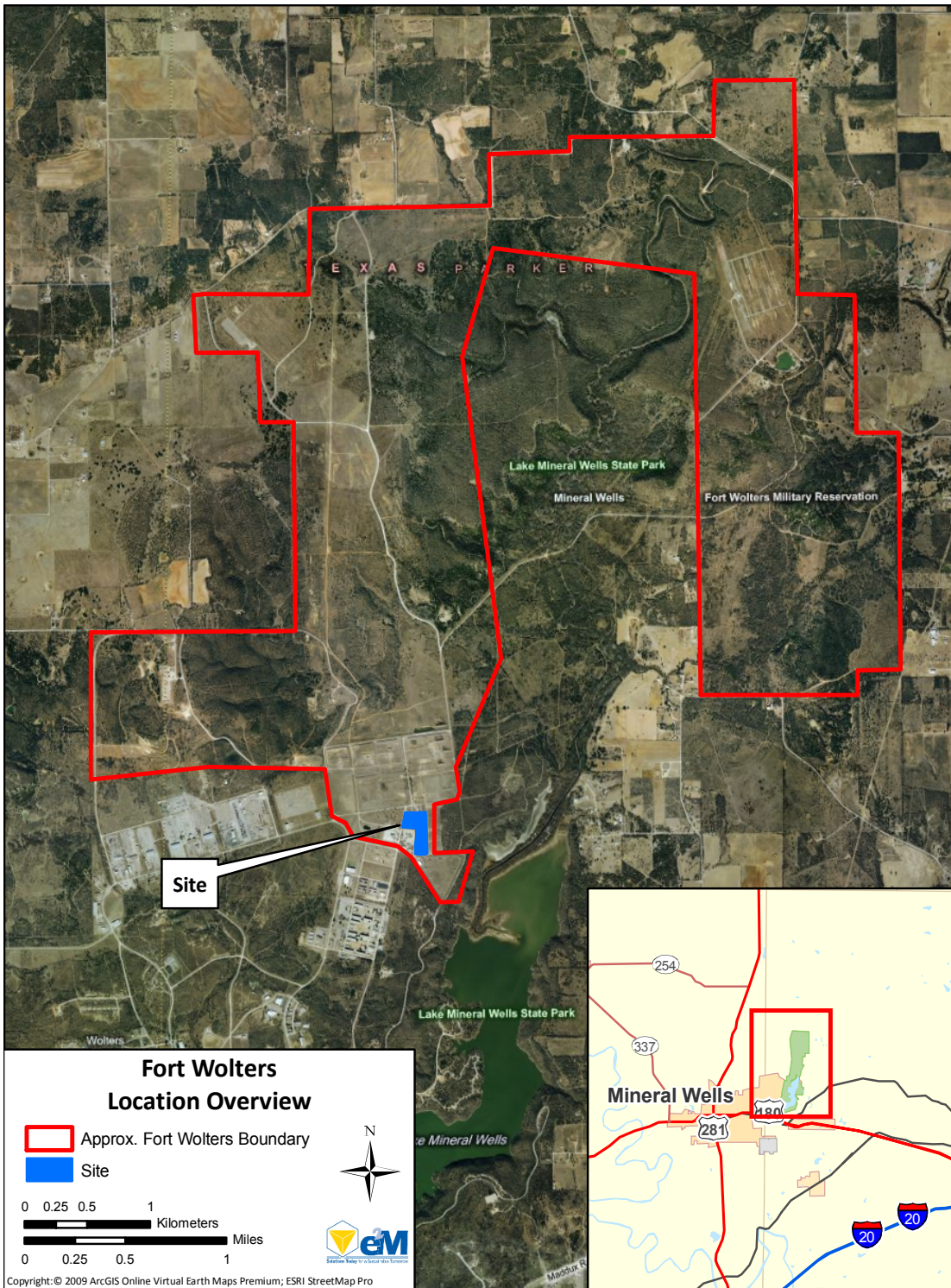


Figure 1-4
Proposed Site of Field Training: Overview Map

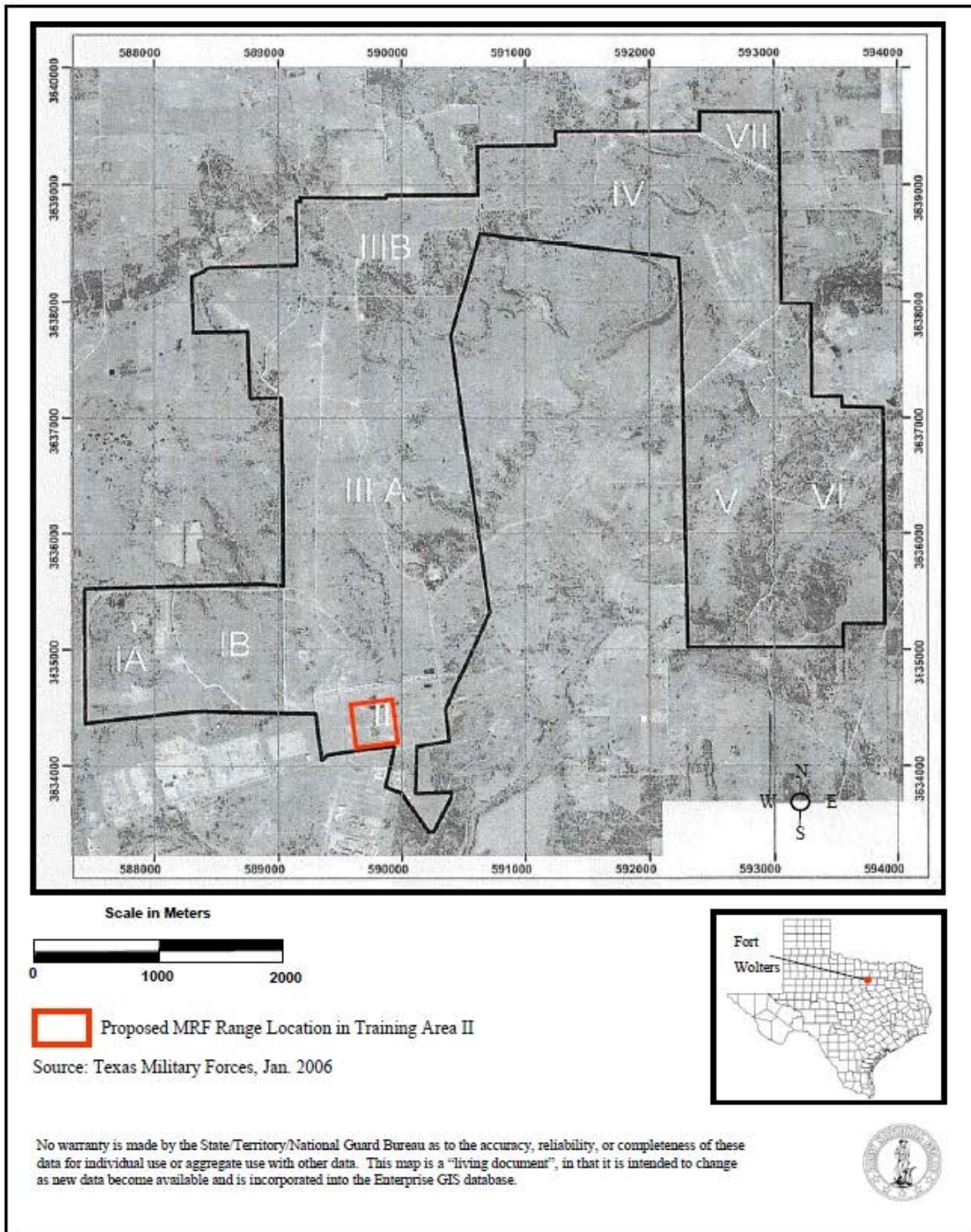
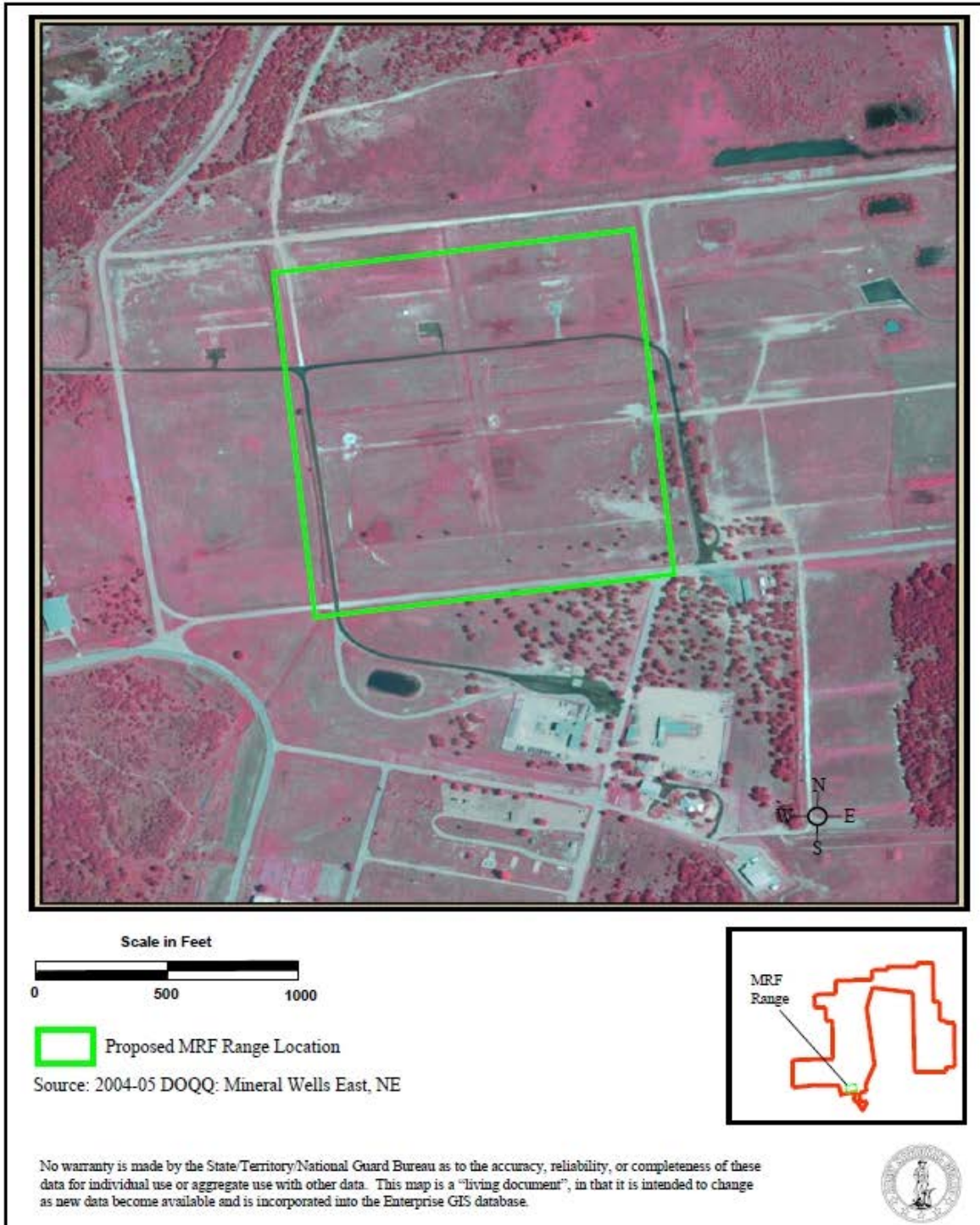


Figure 1-5
Proposed Site of Field Training: Location Map



1.3 The Environmental Review Process

Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises (OTIE) initiated early public and agency involvement in the environmental analysis of the implementation of the proposed actions for Fort Wolters. OTIE distributed Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) letters to solicit agency input on the proposal. Appendix A includes copies of the coordination letters sent by OTIE. OTIE published an advertisement in the Mineral Wells Index and Weatherford Democrat newspapers announcing the availability of the draft EA for a 30-day public review. Copies of the draft EA were available to the public at the Mineral Wells Public Library and the Weatherford Public Library. The draft EA was also available on the World Wide Web at www.301fw.afrc.af.mil. In accordance with NEPA guidelines, public and agency comments were reviewed and incorporated into the final EA, and the AF did consider the comments in their decision-making process. The letters are included in Appendix A.

NEPA is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. NEPA procedures must ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken (CEQ 1978a). Resources used to contribute to this EA are listed in Table 1-1.

In accordance with 32 CFR 989.22 (Environmental Impact Analysis Process, Mitigation), Fort Wolters must indicate if any mitigation measures would be needed to implement the proposed action or whether the no-action alternative would be selected as the preferred alternative under this EA. There may be at least one or more mitigation measures needed to implement the proposed action and this is the preferred alternative under this EA.

**Table 1-1
Other Major Environmental Statutes, Regulations, and Executive Orders
Applicable to Federal Projects**

Environmental Resource	Statutes
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 (PL 95-95), as amended in 1977 and 1990 (PL 95-604) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Subchapter C Air Programs (40 CFR 52-99)
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) of 1972 (PL 92-500) and Amendments • Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (PL 95-217) • EPA, Subchapter D-Water Programs (40 CFR 100-145) • Water Quality Act of 1987 (PL 100-4) • EPA, Subchapter N-Effluent Guidelines and Standards (40 CFR 401-471) • Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1972 (PL 95-923) and Amendments of 1986 (PL 99-339) • EPA, National Drinking Water Regulations and Underground Injection Control Program (40 CFR 141-149)
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 • Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (PL 85-654)

Section 1
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

Environmental Resource	Statutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sikes Act of 1960 (PL 86-97) and Amendment of 1986 (PL 99-561) and 1997 (PL 105-85 Title XXIX) Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL93-205) and Amendments of 1988 (PL 100-478) • Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (PL 96-366) • Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (PL 101-233)
Wetlands and Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 401 and 404 of the FWPCA of 1972 (PL 92-500) • EPA, Subchapter D-Water Programs 40 CFR 100-149 (105 ref) Floodplain Management – 1977 (Executive Order [EO] 11990); Emergency Wetland Resources Act of 1986 (PL 99-645) • North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (PL 101-233)
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470 et seq.)(PL 89-865) and Amendments of 1980 (PL 96-515) and 1992 (102-575) • Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment – 1971(EO 11593) • Indian Sacred Sites-1966 (EO 13007) • American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 (PL 94-341) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 (PL 96-95) • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 (PL 101-601)
Solid/Hazardous Materials and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (PL 94-5800), as Amended by PL 100-582 • EPA, Subchapter I-Solid Wastes (40 CFR 240-280) • Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (42 USC 9601)(PL 96-510) • Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (PL 94-496) • EPA, Subchapter R-TSCA (40-CFR 702-799) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Control Act (40 CFR 162-180) • Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (40 CFR 300-399)
Environmental Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (EO 12898) • Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (EO 13045)

Section 2 - Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

This section describes the proposed action and various other alternatives taken into consideration by the 610th SFS, 10th AF to conduct field and classroom combat skills training to Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) personnel at a central training location and to enhance the training activities, capabilities, and capacity of the Patriot Defender and Combat Skills Orientation courses.

This Environmental Assessment addressing the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, TX only addresses the increase in field training from the proposed action. The Modified Record Firing (MRF) range at Fort Wolters addressed in the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX would be the field training site for proposed action of this EA. As such the summary of the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX is provided in Section 4 to address the increase in field training from the proposed action.

The above mentioned MRF range at Fort Wolters, TX has already been constructed and is in on-going use. As stated the field training of the proposed action would take place on the already constructed MRF range at Fort Wolters. Additionally, the field training of the proposed action would be incorporated into the already on-going field training at Fort Wolters.

2.1 Alternative Identification Process

As established by the purpose and need in the previous section, a central training location would allow for the programming, acquisition, and/or construction of required classrooms, billets, training facilities needed for the AFRC mission; while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG site. Additionally, such action has been determined to be the fiscally responsible approach for the 610th SFS and TXARNG purpose and mission. Three alternatives were considered: Alternative A, which includes the beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas; Alternative B, which is the no action alternative; and an eliminated Alternative of the Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), Fort Worth, Texas. These alternatives are discussed further in Section 2.3

The site to fulfill the purpose and need is required to have sufficient area for maneuvers, training and to construct of new support facilities. The required facilities are listed below:

- 10 Modular Buildings to satisfy initial Student/Cadre Lodging, Faculty Building, Classroom and Laundry
- Two 12,800 square feet Dining Facility and
- Two 30,150 square feet Student Dorm/Classroom/Planning area
- 10,854 square feet Administrative/Command and Control building

- 3,600 square feet Warehouse
- 120 square feet Weapons Cleaning Area
- 61,740 square feet Vehicle Parking

2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would license 10.27 acres at the Fort Wolters Training Center to the 10th AF; of which the 610th SFS, 10th AF will become a tenant unit at Fort Wolters in Texas. The 610th SFS would beddown the 10.27 acres to operate an Expeditionary Combat Support Training Certification Center (ECS TCC). Field training operations would be conducted at the existing Modified Record Firing (MRF) Range.

The Area Development Plan consists of a three Phase approach to establish and maximize Air Force presence on the leased 10.27 acres.

- Phase 1 consists of 10 modular buildings to satisfy initial student/cadre lodging, faculty building, classroom and laundry.
- Phase 2 consists of construction of a 12,800 square feet dining facility and 2 – 30,150 square feet student dorm/classroom/planning area.
- Phase 3 consists of a 10,854 square feet administrative/command and control building, 3,600 square feet warehouse, 120 square feet weapons cleaning area and 61,740 square feet vehicle parking.

2.3 Alternatives

Three reasonable alternatives that are practical or feasible from a technical, economic, and commonsensical standpoint were considered to carry out the purpose and need as defined previously. One alternative that was considered did not meet the underlying need and purpose and was eliminated altogether; this alternative is discussed in section 2.3.1. The remaining two alternatives: Alternative A, which is the beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas; and Alternative B, which is the No Action alternative are discussed in sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 respectively.

2.3.1

Alternative Considered but Eliminated from Further Consideration

The Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), Fort Worth, Texas was evaluated as a possible location to meet the purpose and need. However, it was ultimately eliminated as an alternative because the purpose and need could not be met due to safety and logistic concerns.

A majority of the field training would have to be conducted at Fort Wolters and the average training day on site is 10 hours, which does not include breakfast/dinner. Therefore this alternative would require a commute from NAS JRB Fort Worth, adding two hours each day for the actual commute and two hours for breakfast/dinner at NAS JRB Fort Worth for a total of a 14+ hour training day each day. In addition to the

delayed training day, the following are specific safety and logistic concerns for which this alternative was eliminated from further consideration:

- There are no urban operations training facilities located on NAS JRB Fort Worth.
- Difficult to safely maneuver/drive MRAP vehicles on NAS JRB Fort Worth with student drivers.
- Next to impossible to control student safety during training on an active Air Field base.
- The Counter Improvised Explosives Device lanes (pre-deployment training requirement) and classroom are located at Fort Wolters.
- Unable to use pyrotechnic training devices on NAS JRB Fort Worth to provide realism to training.
- In short, the NAS JRB is not suited, designed, or capable to host large class infantry type training of which the 610th SFS requires.

2.3.2 Alternative A – Selected Location for Proposed Action

Alternative A is the beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas; on above mentioned 10.27 acre site. This option was selected for the proposed action as discussed in Section 2.2. The selected location is shown in figure 2-2.

- Site meets size needs for operations and facilities (field and classroom combat skills training).
- Centrally located to all training activities and to the 610th SFS.
- Responsible location in regards to fiscal and efficiency.
- Supports the establishment of a dedicated training center.
- Supports enhancement of the capabilities and capacity of the TXARNG.

2.3.3 Alternative B – No Action

Section 1502.14(d) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an EA to analyze the no-action alternative. Analysis of the no-action alternative provides a benchmark for decision makers to compare the magnitude of the environmental effects of the proposed action. Under the no-action alternative, the Combat readiness training will continue as it is now, resulting in the 610th SFS not bedding down the ECS TCC training site at Fort Wolters, necessitating additional site selection within the region and resultant delay in establishing proficiency training and certification for Security Forces personnel.

2.4 Evaluation of Alternatives

This EA examines the potential environmental impacts from the construction of the new facilities at the Fort Wolters site as discussed under the proposed action (Section 2.2). Under the no-action alternative, the project area would remain unimproved; therefore, there would be no impacts to the environment at Fort Wolters.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation 1502.14, ten resource areas were analyzed to assess potential environmental impacts and are summarized in Table 2-1. One resource category, air installation compatible use zone would not be impacted by the proposed action and does not require a detailed analysis (CEQ 1978b).

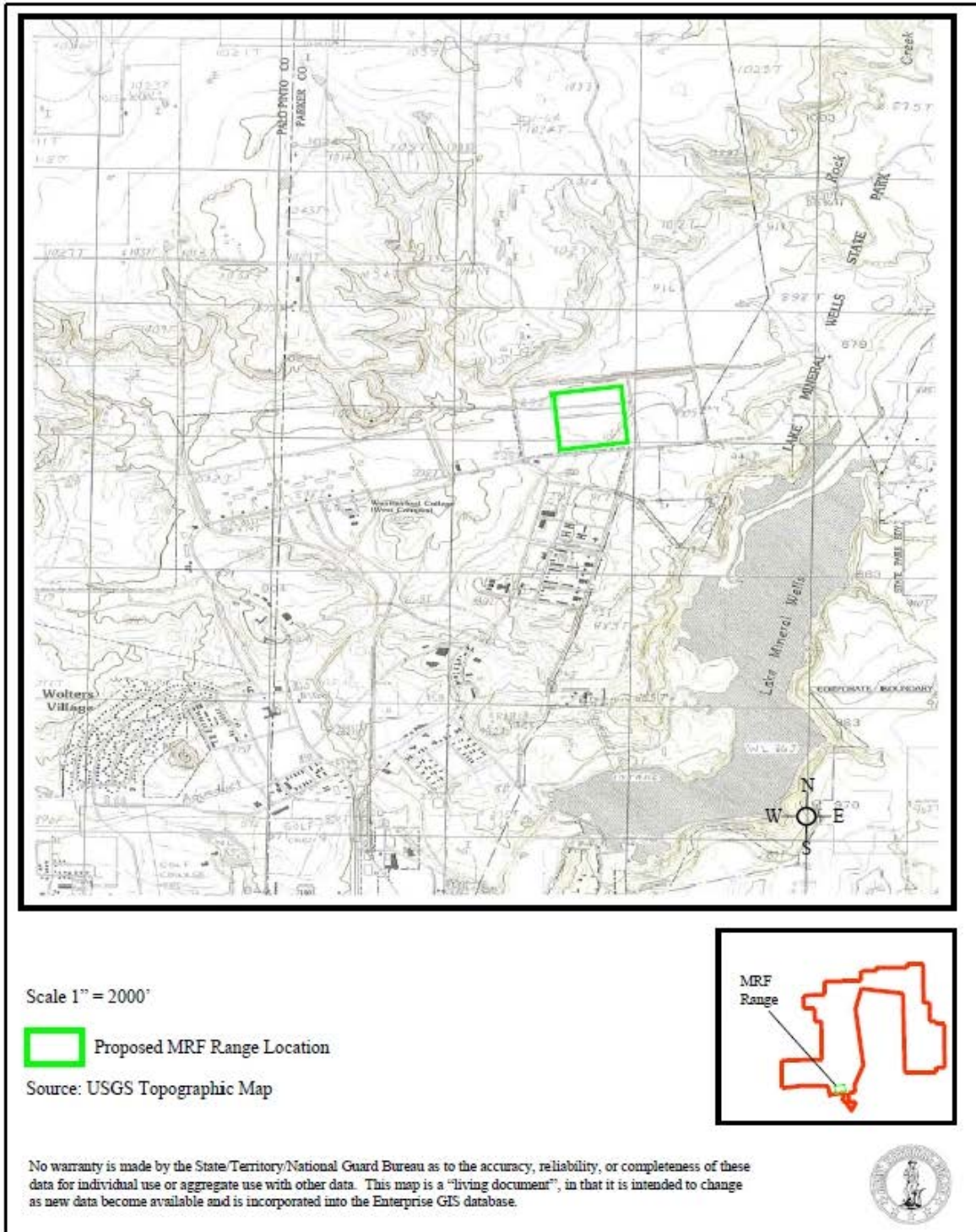
Figure 2-1
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



Figure 2-2
Proposed Site of Facilities: Location Map



Figure 2-3
Proposed Site of Field Training: Location Map



**Table 2-1
Summary of Impacts**

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Air quality			X	Negligible short term increased emissions would result from construction activities; long term operations are not expected to change the attainment status of the base.	Construction and operations activities would not occur. Air quality would not change.
Water resources			X	Off Site Soil erosion would be minimal due to the flat nature of the site. Potential runoff during construction will be mitigated by utilizing BMP's such as silt fence, grading practices and site re-vegetation/stabilization. Low impact development may be used/considered to mitigate potential impacts. There will be negligible long-term effect due to increased impervious surface.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered. Soil erosion that currently occurs at the site due to storm water runoff would continue.
Geology and soils			X	No significant impacts on geology and soils are expected as a result of the proposed action. The site has been disturbed and is underlain by bedrock composed of Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks. The majority of the Site is composed of Bonti fine sandy loam and Bonti stony fine sandy loam. Both soil types are well drained, and have slow infiltration rates. BMP erosion controls will be utilized as discussed in above water resources.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered. Soils and geology would not be impacted and erosion that currently occurs at the site due to storm water runoff would continue.

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Biological resources			X	Proposed action poses no risk of impact to habitat of/for threatened and endangered species and poses no risk of impact to threatened or endangered species themselves. No threaten or endangered species are present within proposed development area.	Under the no-action alternative, construction activities would not be initiated and the existing trees would not be removed. Any threatened and endangered species would not be threatened.
Cultural resources			X	No significant impacts on cultural resources are expected as a result of the proposed action. The site has been disturbed and a previous detailed survey indicated no evidence of historical resources on the site.	Cultural and historical resources would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.
Hazardous materials and solid waste			X	The proposed action is expected to generate small amounts of hazardous and solid wastes. These would have a negligible impact on human health and the environment. Waste handling will be performed using current Fort Wolters practices.	Hazardous material and solid waste would not be generated or stored on site as a result of the no-action alternative.
Safety and occupational health			X	The construction activities and subsequent training, maintenance, and operations associated with the proposed action are standard activities that occur at Fort Wolters. There are no specific aspects of the construction, operations, or maintenance that would create a unique or extraordinary health and safety issue. Existing health and safety procedures would be followed at the new facility.	Under the no-action alternative, construction and subsequent training, maintenance, and operations associated with the proposed action would not occur. Safety and occupational health would not change.

Impact Category	Major	Minor	Negligible	Anticipated Effects	
				Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Socioeconomics			X	There are no disproportionately high or adverse human health effects or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. Appropriate measures would be taken to ensure the construction area is not accessible to children.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be altered from its current state. This alternative would not impact minority or low-income populations or the safety of children.
Infrastructure		X		There may be one or more infrastructure mitigation measures needed regarding implementation of the proposed action.	Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the current infrastructure would not be affected.
Noise			X	There may be negligible temporary increase in noise levels at Fort Wolters during the construction phase. Since the field training site is located in proximity to several existing ranges, noise from operations should not appreciably increase. There are no projected noise impacts to sensitive receptors outside of the training facility boundary. Implementation of the proposed action should have no significant impacts to the noise environment.	Under the no-action alternative would result in no changes to the existing noise conditions at Fort Wolters and surrounding areas.

Definitions of Categories:

- **Negligible:** Impact at the lowest levels of detection; barely measurable with no perceptible consequences.
- **Minor:** Impact is measurable or perceptible, with little loss of resource integrity and changes are small, localized, and of little consequence.
- **Major:** Impacts would be substantial, highly noticeable, and permanent.

Section 3 - Description of the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The proposed site consists of 10.27 acres of undeveloped land. The site is located in Parker County approximately 52 miles west of Fort Worth, Texas. The site is located in the southeast area of the western portion of the horseshoe shaped Fort Wolters, along the east property line, north of the cantonment area. Historical aerial photos dating back to 1948 indicate that the proposed site was never developed, only having undeveloped roads, unidentified piles of material, and a few unidentified structure that are no longer present (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009). Historical topographic maps dating back to 1891 indicate no prior land uses or development (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

Figure 3-1
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



Figure 3-2
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



3.1 Analysis Approach

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires focused analysis of the areas and resources potentially affected by an action or alternative. It also indicates that an environmental assessment should consider, but not analyze in detail, those areas or resources not potentially affected by the proposal. Therefore, an environmental assessment (EA) should not be encyclopedic; rather, it should try to be succinct. This EA focuses on those resources that would be affected by the proposed construction and operations activities that would occur at Fort Wolters to implement the proposed action.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) for NEPA also require an EA to discuss impacts in proportion to their significance and present only enough discussion of other non-significant issues to show why more study is not warranted. The analysis approach in this EA considers the current conditions of the affected environment and compares those to conditions that might occur should either the proposed action or the no-action alternative be implemented.

3.1.1 Resource Analysis

Evaluation and analysis of the potential impacts at Fort Wolters reveal the beddown of the 610th SFS, 10th AF at Fort Wolters; with the corresponding training activities define the affected environment. Approximately 30 cadre and administrative staff would be assigned to the base as part of the proposed action; construction and operation on the site will be consistent with previous project descriptions.

The housing and training activities conducted on the site would be consistent with the activities currently conducted at Fort Wolters. For purposes of this assessment, the following resources were evaluated: air quality, water resources, safety and occupational health, hazardous materials and solid waste, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, socioeconomics, infrastructure, and noise. Table 3-1 presents the results of the resource evaluation.

**Table 3-1
Resources Considered in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process**

Resources	Potentially Affected by		Analyzed in EA	
	Construction	Operations	Yes	No
Air Installation Compatible Use Zone				X
Air Quality	X		X	
Water Resources	X	X	X	
Safety and Occupational Health	X		X	
Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste	X	X	X	
Biological resources	X		X	
Cultural Resources			X	
Geology and Soils	X		X	
Socioeconomics	X		X	
Infrastructure	X	X	X	
Noise	X	X	X	

3.1.2 Resource Eliminated from Further Analysis

Due to the nature of the proposed action, air installation compatible use zone/land use resource would not be affected by the construction and/or operations of the proposed action. This resource was eliminated from further analysis and not included in the EA for the following reason.

- Air installation compatible use zone would not be affected by the proposed action. No part of the proposed action employs or influences airspace operations or air traffic management. All elements of the action would occur on the ground and would not conflict with overlying airspace activities. Therefore, air installation compatible use zone was eliminated from further analysis.

3.2 Air Quality

Air quality in a given location is described by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere. The Clean Air Act (CAA) and its subsequent amendments established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: ozone (O₃) (the precursors of which are volatile organic compounds [VOCs]), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀), and lead (Pb). These standards represent the maximum allowable atmospheric concentrations that may occur while ensuring protection of public health and welfare, with a reasonable margin of safety. The state of Texas has adopted these standards.

Based on measured ambient criteria pollutant data, the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designates all areas of the U.S. as having air quality better than (attainment) or worse than the NAAQS (non-attainment). An area that is currently in attainment but was formerly a non-attainment area is termed a maintenance area. An area is often designated as unclassified when there is insufficient ambient criteria pollutant data for EPA to form a basis for attainment status. Unclassified areas are typically rural or remote, with few sources of air pollution. The CAA requires each state to develop a state implementation plan (SIP), which is its primary mechanism for ensuring that the NAAQS are achieved and maintained within the state. According to plans outlined in the SIP, designated state and local agencies implement regulations to control sources of criteria pollutants.

The CAA provides that federal action in non-attainment and maintenance areas do not hinder future attainment within the NAAQS and conform to the applicable SIP. There are no specific requirements for federal actions in unclassified or attainment areas. However, all federal actions must comply with state and local regulations.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Fort Wolters is located within an attainment area and there are no known local-air quality issues. Therefore, a formal conformity determination is not required. There are no existing air-quality-related permits or issues present on Fort Wolters. Prescribed fires have occurred on Fort Wolters sporadically since the 1970s and have followed and will continue to follow federal, state, and local regulations for prescribed fires, primarily Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 30. Sensitive receptors include a municipal airport 4 miles (6.4 km) south and a private airstrip 3 miles (4.8 km) east, as well as several private homes and ranches surrounding Fort Wolters. In addition, there is a minimum security prison south of and adjacent to the main cantonment area (INRMP 2009).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed action does not involve the addition of any high output sources of air emissions. Air pollution from construction activities would be localized and temporary in nature. Emissions from construction equipment and fugitive dust would be the primary contributors. Fugitive dust will be minimized through dust suppression measures. Construction of the new facilities on the proposed site would consist of 10 Modular Buildings to satisfy initial Student/Cadre Lodging, Faculty Building, Classroom and Laundry; a 12,800 square feet Dining Facility; two 30,150 square feet Student Dorm/Classroom/Planning area; a 10,854 square feet Administrative/Command and Control building; a 3,600 square feet Warehouse; a 120 square feet Weapons Cleaning Area; and a 61,740 square feet Vehicle Parking.

A point source emissions study for construction activities is not available since construction details have not been finalized.

In summary, the elements of the proposed action that could affect air quality are construction and operations. The effects of construction are expected to be short term and localized. Although fugitive dust could create negligible short-term effects on this resource, these effects will be minimized through dust suppression measures. Construction equipment is expected to create negligible short-term emissions, and the operation of the facility is expected to have negligible long-term effects on air quality. Overall these effects on emissions are considered negligible.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed at the site, and proposed operations would not be implemented. The site would remain undeveloped and, consequently, the no-action alternative would not affect the air quality of the site or surrounding area.

3.3 Water Resources

Fort Wolters site is located over the extreme western boundary of the Trinity Aquifer system. The aquifer consists of the Antlers, Paluxy, and Twin Mountains Formations. The Antlers is a coalescence of the Paluxy and Twin Mountains. The Trinity Group aquifer ranges in thickness from 100 feet in the outcrop area to about 1,200 feet near the downdip limit of fresh to slightly saline water. Artesian storage coefficients range from 0.0001 to 0.00025 and specific yields range from 15 to 25 percent in the outcrop (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

3.3.1 Affected Environment

There are no surface water features on the Site. Fort Wolters is within the Brazos River Drainage Basin (ARNG 2008). Rock Creek drains from the north to the south in the northeast portion of Fort Wolters and enters Lake Mineral Wells which is located east of the Site. This lake serves as the main detention area of Fort Wolters. A dam is located along Lake Mineral Wells southwestern portion, where Rock Creek exits the lake and flows to the south approximately five miles before joining the Brazos River. There are a

few other minor creeks that run through Fort Wolters, but each drains into Rock Creek (USACE 2002).

Any release of a hazardous material into the storm drain system is covered under the TCEQ General Stormwater Permit. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would need to be obtained for the site, which is in compliance with the TCEQ General Stormwater Permit. Construction projects over 5 contiguous acres are required to have a SWPPP in place and obtain a stormwater permit.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed action would result in construction and ground-disturbing activities over approximately 10.27 acres on Fort Wolters. These activities could result in negligible short-term effects on water resources. Disturbed soil could be exposed to stormwater runoff during construction, resulting in the potential for the runoff to carry sediments or contaminants into the nearby stormwater system. The potential for impact to these resources, however, is minimal because of the type of soil and relatively level grade of the site.

Since this project would disturb over 5 acres of soil, a site-specific SWPPP and stormwater permit will be required. Compliance with the permit would require the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed to minimize potential impacts associated with increased runoff. BMPs can be divided into two categories: structural and nonstructural BMPs. Structural BMPs include silt fences, sedimentation ponds, erosion control blankets, and temporary or permanent seeding while non-structural BMPs include picking up trash and debris, sweeping up nearby sidewalks and streets, maintaining equipment, and training site staff on erosion and sediment control practices (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

The proposed action is not expected to alter flooding conditions. The site would be designed with appropriate grading and leveling to prevent flooding from occurring on and off site. Construction activities would increase runoff that may require making improvements to the storm water infrastructure to further reduce the potential for increased storm water runoff. Runoff mitigation measures may be employed to reduce runoff volumes and quality to pre-development levels. Since the site is not located within any jurisdictional wetlands or the 100-year floodplain, no effect on these resources is expected.

Negligible long-term effects are expected on surface water during operations. The project would involve the construction and use of approximately 61,740 square feet parking lot. Long-term negligible effects on surface water quality due to the increased presence of petroleum hydrocarbons in the runoff water are expected with the use of the parking lot. Operation of the proposed maintenance facilities are not expected to have long-term effects on this resource. Any spills of hazardous materials would be handled utilizing the site specific obtained SWPPP and would not be released to the stormwater system or the environment.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, the project area would remain unimproved; therefore, no impacts on the water resources would be expected.

3.4 Geology and Soils

Fort Wolters is within the Pennsylvanian age Strawn Group consisting of Shale, Sandstone, and Limestone (ARNG 2008). It is located in the Osage Plains section of the Central Lowland province. Rocks of this section range from Cretaceous to Recent. The oldest strata are exposed in the western part of Palo Pinto County. Younger bedrock units are exposed in sequence toward the east. Alluvium and terrace deposits overlap the bedrock along streams and rivers (USACE 2002).

Figure 3-3
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



3.4.1 Affected Environment

Fort Wolters is underlain by bedrock composed of Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks. Also, present in the eastern portion of Fort Wolters are Comanchean series rocks of the Cretaceous System. These rocks are divided into three major divisions, the Trinity, the Fredericksburg, and the Washita Group. The Cretaceous System forms a southeastward-thickening wedge extending across the area into a structural feature known as the East Texas basin. Regional dip is east and southeast at rates of approximately 15 to 40 feet/mile (USACE 2002).

Along the contacts between geologic formations, a mixing of sediments by erosion has occurred. It is most evident where the formations have widely different characteristics (USACE 2002).

In the area between formations of the Fredericksburg and Trinity Groups, strongly calcareous materials of the higher lying Fredericksburg Group have moved downslope so as to cover the noncalcareous Trinity Group. Further movement downslope has mixed these sediments into material that differs from that in the original formations. In these areas of mixed parent materials, unlike soils occur in close association. Small areas of calcareous soils with grass cover occur in intricate patterns with acid soils and oak forest cover (USACE 2002).

The majority of the Site is composed of Bonti fine sandy loam and Bonti stony fine sandy loam; both soil types are well drained. The soil layers generally consist of fine sandy loam or stony fine sandy loam from 0-9 inches below ground surface, clay from 9-31 inches below ground surface, and bedrock at approximately 30-40 inches below ground surface (EDR 2009a).

The topography of the Site is generally flat. Elevations at the Site range from approximately 920 feet above mean sea level in the north to 930 feet above mean sea level in the south (EDR 2009c). The immediate surrounding area slopes down to the northwest.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed action would result in construction and ground-disturbing activities over approximately 10.27 acres on Fort Wolters. These activities could result in negligible short-term effects on geology and soil resources. Disturbed soil could be exposed to stormwater runoff during construction, resulting in the potential for the runoff to erode the site. The potential for impact to these resources, however, is minimal because of the type of soil and relatively level grade of the site. Since this project would disturb over 5 acres of soil, a site-specific SWPPP and stormwater permit will be required. Site erosion would be covered and controlled under this permit as compliance with the permit would require the use of BMPs developed to minimize potential impacts associated with increased runoff and corresponding erosion. BMPs can be divided into two categories: structural and nonstructural BMPs. Structural BMPs include silt fences, sedimentation ponds, erosion control blankets, and temporary or permanent seeding while non-structural BMPs include picking up trash and debris, sweeping up nearby sidewalks and streets, maintaining equipment, and training site staff on erosion and sediment control practices (EPA 2007).

The proposed action is not expected to alter the soils or geology. The site would be designed with appropriate grading and leveling to prevent erosion from occurring on and off site. Construction activities would increase runoff, increasing erosion; measures to mitigate this fall under the water resources BMPs and are discussed there. Any spills of hazardous materials would be handled utilizing the site specific obtained SWPPP and would not be released to the soils or the environment.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, the project area would remain unimproved; therefore, no impacts on the geology and soil resources would be expected.

3.5 Biological Resources

Biological resources include living, native or naturalized plant and animal species, and the habitats within which they occur. Resources analyzed for this report include vegetation, sensitive habitat, and special status species identified in the Fort Wolters Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) (INRMP 2009). The current INRMP, dated April 2009, has been fully coordinated with and signed by the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Southwest Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This analysis addresses each category separately and examines the impacts from implementing the proposed action and no-action alternative.

Figure 3-4
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



3.5.1 Affected Environment

Vegetation

Vegetation includes all existing upland terrestrial plant communities with the exception of wetlands or special-status species. Wetlands were discussed in Section 3.3. The affected environment for vegetation includes those areas subject to ground disturbance activities. The proposed action would occur on an undeveloped portion of the base where buildings do not exist on the land, but do exist adjacent to the site. The site vegetation is

that of the plant communities present at Fort Wolters which are suited to grow in the site conditions. The plant communities present at Fort Wolters are classified as: Post Oak-Blackjack Oak Woodland; Ashe Juniper-Oak Woodland/Savannah; Little Bluestem-Indiangrass Grassland; and Sugar hackberry - Elm Riparian Woodland (INRMP 2009).

Sensitive Habitats

The Fort Wolters INRMP and literature reviews indicate that endangered or threatened habitats do not exist on the site of the proposed action (INRMP 2009). While migratory birds are not endangered or threatened habitats, as such, they are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Destruction of these birds or their habitat is prohibited under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Special Status Species

Special-Status species are defined as those plant and animal species listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed as such by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Research conducted in support of this EA indicates there are no known federally listed species present at Fort Wolters, but there are at least 11 state listed plants and 30 animal species documented at Fort Wolters. (INRMP 2009).

**Table 3-2
Rare Plant Species on Fort Wolters**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank
<i>Senecio quaylei</i>	Quayle's ragwort	S1	G1
<i>Mimosa aculeaticarpa var biuncifera</i>	Mimosa	S1	G4
<i>Chamaesyce missurica</i>	Prairie sandmat	S1	G5
<i>Lespedeza violacea</i>	Violet lespedeza	S1	G5
<i>Pediomelum reverchonii</i>	Rock scurfpea	S2	G3
<i>Erigeron strigosus var strigosus</i>	Prairie fleabane	S2	G5
<i>Calylophus serrulatus</i>	Halfshrub sundrop	S3	G3
<i>Yucca pallida</i>	Pale yucca	S3	G3
<i>Escobaria missouriensis</i>	Missouri foxtail cactus	S3	G5
<i>Opuntia engelmannii var lindheimeri</i>	Texas pricklypear	S3	G5
<i>Pediomelum digitatum</i>	Palmleaf Indian breadroot	S3	G5

Plant Species of Concern at Fort Wolters. Status indicates state or global conservation status as identified by NatureServe (G1/S1= critically imperiled, G2/S2= imperiled, G3/S3=vulnerable, G4/S4= apparently secure, G5/S5= secure. G=global, S=state).

**Table 3-3
Rare Animal Species on Fort Wolters**

Scientific Name	Common	State Rank	Global Rank
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain lion	S2	G5
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas horned lizard	S4, threatened	G4G5
<i>Toxolasma parvus</i>	Lilliput	S3	G5
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed cuckoo	S4, PIF	G5
<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	Rufous-crowned sparrow	S4	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	LeConte's sparrow	S3	G4, BCC, PIF
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper sparrow	S3, PIF	G5, BCC
<i>Anas americana</i>	American widgeon	S3, PIF	G5, GBCC
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	S3	G5, GBCC
<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	Black-chinned hummingbird	S5	G5, PIF
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser scaup	S3	G5, GBCC
<i>Aythya americana</i>	Redhead	S3, PIF	G5, GBCC
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Canvasback	S4, PIF	G5, GBCC
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland sandpiper	S3	G5, BCC
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Lark sparrow	S4, PIF	G5, PIF
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier	S2, PIF	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern bobwhite	S4	G5, GBCC
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little blue heron	S5	G5, BCC
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	S4, PIF	G4, BCC, PIF
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great crested flycatcher	S4, PIF	G5
<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Painted bunting	S4	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	White pelican	S2	G3
<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	Ladder-backed woodpecker	S5, PIF	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern towhee	S2, PIF	G5
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted towhee	S4, PIF	G5
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied sapsucker	PIF	G5
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel	S4, PIF	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field sparrow	S5	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Scissor-tailed flycatcher	S3	G5, BCC, PIF
<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Harris' sparrow	S4	G5, BCC, PIF

Animal Species of Concern at Fort Wolters. Status indicates state or global conservation status as identified by NatureServe (G1/S1= critically imperiled, G2/S2= imperiled, G3/S3=vulnerable, G4/S4= apparently secure, G5/S5= secure. G=global, S=state). “BCC” indicates Birds of Conservation Concern and “GBCC” indicates Game Birds of Conservation Concern as identified by USFWS. “PIF” indicates species identified as at risk by Partners in Flight, either globally or regionally.

Figure 3-5
Proposed Site of Facilities: Area Photo



3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

As there are no known federally listed plant or animal species present on Fort Wolters, implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant impacts to endangered or threatened species. Care would be taken to protect rare plant and animal species. Activities leading to direct or indirect losses of the state's fish and wildlife resources and habitat are strongly discouraged. Losses should be minimized using correct site planning and construction. Natural buffers contiguous to wetlands and aquatic systems should remain undisturbed to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors. To recompense resource and habitat loss it is recommended that native plant and forage species that are beneficial to fish and wildlife be used in, if any, mitigation and landscape plans.

The site vegetation is that of the plant communities present at Fort Wolters such as: Post Oak-Blackjack Oak Woodland; Ashe Juniper-Oak Woodland/Savannah; Little Bluestem-Indiangrass Grassland; and Sugar hackberry - Elm Riparian Woodland; which are suited to grow in the site conditions (INRMP 2009). Clearing and grubbing of these plant communities on the site are not subject to development restrictions. There are no jurisdictional wetlands on or near the proposed site. The site currently contains

approximately 125 maturing trees. An analysis of the three proposed phases shows that following the implementation of the preferred alternative 40 of these trees would remain.

Negligible short-term and long-term effects on biological resources would occur in the purposed site area as a result of the proposed action. Construction-related activities would result in long-term negligible impacts to the vegetation communities. Wildlife species associated with the site vegetation would be lost. The impact of this action would be minimal due to the minimal habitat on the site; low vegetation and wildlife present on the site; already developed areas in close proximity to the site; and because of the abundant nature of the vegetation in other areas of the base.

Short-term negligible impacts to wildlife could result from construction activities. Potential impacts to wildlife from construction noise would be temporary and limited to the vicinity of the construction site. Individual animals may be affected for a short time by noise disturbances. Reactions may vary but could include leaving the immediate vicinity or coming out of hibernation. This impact would be minimal because of the pre-disturbed nature of the site and the low number of wildlife currently in the region. Short-term impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the U.S. are not expected because none exist on the proposed construction site. However, negligible long-term impacts to waters of the U.S. are expected as a result of increased traffic and parking. These negligible long-term impacts are discussed in Section 3.3.2.

As previously discussed, the proposed area consists of previously disturbed area. This location is not known to support threatened or endangered species or other species of concern. Since the Texas horned lizard has not been identified on the site, implementation of the proposed action would not be expected to impact this species. The Fort Wolters natural resource manager will be consulted for positive identification if a Texas horned lizard is potentially observed. Identification of a Texas horned lizard on the proposed site during construction would require the services of a state-certified biologist to relocate the lizard.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no change to current site conditions and no construction would occur. There would be no change in the level of impacts to vegetation. Wetland and waters of the U.S. would not be impacted because parking lots would not be constructed. No impact to threatened, endangered, or special-status species would occur since new construction would not occur.

3.6 Cultural Resources

The AF is mandated by federal law to manage and protect cultural resources. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 requires that federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, which are locations, features, and objects eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Cultural resources are historic properties as defined by the NHPA, cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), archaeological resources as defined by the Archaeological Resources

Protection Act (ARPA), sacred sites as defined in EO 13007 to which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR 79.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Cultural resources are evaluated by archaeologists and historians to determine if they meet one or more criteria in 36 CFR 60.4 and, as such, are eligible for nomination to the NRHP. The Fort Wolters Texas Army National Guard Building Survey and Assessment inventories significant sites at Fort Wolters.

According to a University of Texas 1999 intensive archaeological survey previously performed of Fort Wolters and the 2003 Fort Wolters Texas Army National Guard Building Survey and Assessment, with a 2007 follow up; the proposed Fort Wolters 610th SFS Beddown development, will not impact any known archaeological or historic resources (U of TX 1999). In addition, there are no sites currently eligible for the NRHP, and there is no indication of any future eligibility of any other site presently on or within the area of the purposed beddown (THC Letter 2007 and 2011, see Appendix A).

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

Regulations for assessing the effects to cultural resources are covered by 36 CFR Part 800 of the NHPA. An action results in adverse effects to a cultural resource when it alters the resource characteristics that qualify it for inclusion in the register. In the case of the proposed action, potential effects to cultural resources could result from ground disturbing activities associated with construction.

Under the proposed action, construction of facilities and infrastructure upgrades would occur. A University of Texas 1999 intensive archaeological survey previously performed of Fort Wolters and the 2003 Fort Wolters Texas Army National Guard Building Survey and Assessment, with a 2007 follow up (Ft. Wolters BSA 2007). Additionally the Texas Historical Commission confirmed in a letter to OTIE, that no evidence of historic or archaeological resources was identified on purposed beddown site, and no archaeological resources have been recorded on or near the site (THC Letter 2011). The proposed facilities would be constructed on a predisturbed site, and the probability of finding a significant archeological site or Native American sacred area is extremely unlikely. Should implementation of the proposed action reveal any such evidence, all activities would cease pending a proper investigation.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, new facilities would not be constructed and the site would not be regraded or disturbed. Therefore, there would be no impact to NRHP-eligible or NRHP-listed resources.

3.7 Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

The primary objective of the waste management program is to support the base mission while protecting public health and the environment. This plan implements Air Force Instructive (AFI) 32-7042, Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance and Air Force Policy

Directive (AFPD) 32-70, Environmental Quality. The waste management program at Fort Wolters includes management of all wastes generated on Fort Wolters. Fort Wolters does not generate radioactive waste and does not have tenant and associate units. The Fort Wolters waste manager manages this program, as approved by the Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) Leadership Council (formerly the Environmental Protection Committee). Individual operational units are responsible for conducting their activities in accordance with the hazardous waste management plan (HWMP).

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Hazardous Materials

After generation, hazardous wastes are managed on site until a contractor retrieves hazardous wastes. The hazardous wastes could be stored for up to 90 days until the contractor retrieves it, the disposal location(s) of the hazardous wastes is determined by and the obligation of the contractor.

There are no Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites located on the proposed site. Since groundwater flow is toward the southeast near the proposed site, areas to the north and west are of greatest concern for the potential of migrating contaminants. There are no active ERP sites located near the proposed site. Additionally, there are no hazardous materials or petroleum products were observed on the Site, or are known to have been generated, stored, or disposed of at the Site (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

There is no hazardous waste shipped to Fort Wolters for disposal.

Figure 3-6
Proposed Site of Facilities: Building Labeled with Hazardous Materials Sign



Solid Waste

The municipal solid waste (MSW) on base is generated from various sources, including MFH, non-appropriated fund activities, administrative offices, commercial areas, and operational squadrons.

There are no on-base disposal facilities for municipal solid waste (MSW); additionally there is no recycling and no scrape metal collection. All solid waste goes to landfill.

Fuel Storage Tanks

No storage tanks were observed on the Site. Bulk petroleum storage at Fort Wolters includes diesel fuel and waste oil, both stored at UTES 2, located crossgradient to downgradient and approximately 250 -750 feet west of the Site (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

No above ground storage tanks (ASTs) were observed on the Site. A 500-gallon steel propane AST was observed adjacent to the north of the Site. Two ASTs are located at UTES 2: a 14,000-gallon diesel AST, and a 1,000-gallon waste oil AST. The 14,000-gallon diesel AST is steel, appears to be in good condition, and is surrounded by a fence and secondary containment. No leaks or spills were observed. This AST is located

crossgradient to downgradient and approximately 250 feet west of the Site. The 1,000 gallon waste oil AST was only observed from a distance, but appeared to be steel and in good condition. It is located crossgradient to downgradient and approximately 750 feet west of the Site (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

No underground storage tanks (USTs) or evidence of USTs was observed on the Site. Two USTs were removed from UTES 2 in 1991: an 8,000-gallon diesel fuel UST, and a 6,000-gallon gasoline UST. The USTs were leaking at the piping connection to the dispenser. The USTs were removed and 24 drums of soil were excavated and disposed of. The Texas Water Commission authorized removal of the excavated soil on June 9, 1992 and they received a closure letter from Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in 1997. There are currently no USTs at UTES 2 (Ft. Wolters EBS 2009).

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Hazardous Materials

There are short-and long-term negligible adverse impacts anticipated because of the increase of petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POLs) and other materials generated on base as a result of operations. Short-term effects would be due to an increased risk of fuel spills during construction from the extra construction and worker vehicles. Long-term effects would be due to an increased number of privately owned vehicles (POVs) as well as major equipment that will be relocating to Fort Wolters. Additionally, there will be an increase in waste material generated from the daily operations of the proposed action.

Long-term operations would involve the same type of activities that currently are conducted at Fort Wolters. Hazardous waste generated during operation will be incorporated into Fort Wolters waste streams and would be covered under current Fort Wolters disposal permits. The waste disposal status of Fort Wolters may change as a result of the proposed action.

Fort Wolters' refrigerant ODC is contracted out and managed by the contractor. The contractor changes at irregular intervals, as the contract is re-bid on an irregular basis.

Solid Waste

There are short-and long-term negligible adverse impacts anticipated because of construction of the new facilities. Short-term effects would be due to increased solid waste generated from construction debris. Long-term effects would be due to increased solid waste generated from daily operation activities at the 10 modular buildings, dining facility, the two student dorm/classroom/planning areas, the administrative/command and control building, the warehouse, and the weapons cleaning area.

Fuel Storage Tanks

There would be no impacts to the environment because it is not anticipated that any fuel storage tanks would be installed as part of the proposed action.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no impact on the environment because of hazardous materials or solid waste since construction of the new facilities would not occur.

3.8 Safety and Occupational Health

A safe environment is one in which there is no, or an optimally reduced, potential for death, serious bodily injury or illness, or property damage. Human health and safety addresses workers' health and safety during demolition and construction activities, as well as public health and safety during and following demolition and construction activities.

Demolition and construction site safety requires adherence to regulatory requirements imposed for the benefit of employees. It includes implementation of engineering and administrative practices that aim to reduce risks of illness, injury, death, and property damage. The health and safety of onsite military and civilian workers are safeguarded by numerous DOD and military-branch specific regulations designed to comply with standards issued by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), USEPA, and state occupational safety and health agencies. These standards specify health and safety requirements, the amount and type of training required for workers, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), administrative controls, engineering controls, and permissible exposure limits for workplace stressors.

Health and safety hazards can often be identified and reduced or eliminated. Necessary elements for an accident-prone situation or environment include the presence of the hazard itself together with the exposed (and possibly susceptible) population. The degree of exposure depends primarily on the proximity of the hazard to the population. Hazards include transportation, maintenance and repair activities, and the creation of noisy environments or a potential fire hazard. The proper operation, maintenance, and repair of vehicles and equipment carry important safety implications. Any facility or human-use area with potential explosive or other rapid oxidation process creates unsafe environments due to noise or fire hazards for nearby populations.

3.8.1 Affected Environment

Contractor Safety

All contractors performing demolition and construction activities are responsible for following the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) regulations and are required to conduct demolition and construction activities in a manner that does not increase risk to workers or the public.

OSHA programs address the health and safety of people at work. OSHA regulations cover potential exposure to a wide range of chemical, physical, biological, and ergonomic stressors. The regulations are designed to control these hazards by eliminating exposure to the hazards via administrative or engineering controls, substitution, or use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Occupational health and safety is the responsibility of each employer, as applicable. Employer responsibilities are to review potentially hazardous

workplace conditions; monitor exposure to workplace chemical (e.g., asbestos, lead, hazardous substances), physical (e.g., noise propagation, falls), and biological (e.g., infectious waste, wildlife, poisonous plants) agents, and ergonomic stressors; recommend and evaluate controls (e.g., prevention, administrative, engineering, PPE) to ensure exposure to personnel is eliminated or adequately controlled; and ensure a medical surveillance program is in place to perform occupational health physicals for those workers subject to the use of respiratory protection, engaged in hazardous waste work, asbestos, lead, or other work requiring medical monitoring.

Military Personnel Safety

Each branch of the military has its own policies and regulations that act to protect its workers, despite their work location. AFI 91-301, Air Force Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Protection, and Health (AFOSH) Program, which implements AFPD 91-3, Occupational Safety and Health, governs the recognition, evaluation, control, and protection of Air Force personnel from occupational health and safety hazards. The purpose of the AFOSH Program is to minimize the loss of USAF resources and to protect USAF personnel from occupational deaths, injuries, or illnesses by managing risks.

Public Safety

Fort Wolters does not have its own emergency services department. Emergency services are contracted out to the City of Mineral Wells. There are no emergency hospitals or clinics on Fort Wolters. A number of other hospitals and clinics, which are devoted to the public, are off-installation in the City of Mineral Wells area. These facilities include the Palo Pinto General Hospital, Campbell Health System, Faith Community Hospital, and Lake Granbury Medical Center (City Data 2011). The Fire and Rescue Emergency Services Division for the City of Mineral Wells responds to all Fire and EMS calls within City limits and in Palo Pinto County and certain areas in the surrounding counties. The Fire and EMS Services provides basic and advanced life support services from four M.I.C.U.s housed at two fire stations within the city, provides fire suppression and rescue services, responds to emergency medical calls, and provides fire prevention programs. (CMW Fire 2011). The City of Mineral Wells also has an approximately 50-person police force available to provide law enforcement services (City Data 2011).

Fort Wolters has a mutual aid agreement in place between the City of Mineral Wells and the City of Weatherford.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

Ground operations and maintenance activities on Fort Wolters would continue to be conducted using the same processes and procedures as under current operations. All actions would be accomplished by technically qualified personnel and would be conducted in accordance with applicable Air Force safety requirements, approved technical data, and AFOSH standards.

Day-to-day operations and maintenance activities conducted at Fort Wolters are performed in accordance with applicable Air Force safety regulations, published Air

Force Technical Orders (TOs), and standards prescribed by Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH) requirements. Specific safety requirements and responses to events that may occur on the training range are detailed in published range operating procedures.

Fort Wolters maintains mutual aid agreements with local fire departments in the surrounding area.

No unique construction practices or materials are required to construct the facilities of the proposed action. During construction, standard industrial safety standards and best BMPs would be followed. No unusual ground safety risks would be expected from these activities.

Less-than-significant adverse impacts on contractor safety are anticipated. Compliance with health and safety programs would minimize impacts. No adverse impacts on military personnel or the public are anticipated. All work areas would be fenced and appropriate signs posted to reduce risks to installation personnel and the public.

No Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no impact on Safety and Occupational Health, since construction of the new facilities would not occur and proposed operations would not take place.

3.9 Socioeconomics

This section is a discussion of the socioeconomic conditions of the region of influence (ROI) including: economic development, demographics, housing, quality of life, environmental justice, and protection of children. The ROI for the proposed action is the City of Mineral Wells and Fort Wolters, located in Palo Pinto and Parker counties, TX.

The primary source for data obtained for this section was the U.S. Census Bureau's (USCB) website. The most current data that were available for the City of Mineral Wells was from 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Data for Palo Pinto and Parker counties were available for 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

Economic Development

In 2009, the unemployment rate in the City of Mineral Wells was 4.6 percent. The civilian labor force was 6,995 people, with the majority of people in non-farm employment. There are 1,417 people in the educational services, and health care and social assistance; 974 people employed by the government; and 221 people in the transportation and warehousing, and utilities employment category. The remaining population is employed by various other categories (USCFF Mineral Wells 2009). In 2009, the per capita personal income for Palo Pinto County was \$20,946, and the median household income was \$39,300 (USCFF Palo Pinto 2009). In 2009, the per capita

personal income for Parker County was \$ 26,143, and the median household income was \$ 70,476 (USCFF Parker 2009).

Demographics

The 2009 population estimate for Palo Pinto County was 27,451. This is a 1.0 percent increase from the 2000 Census (USCFF Palo Pinto 2009). The 2009 population estimate for Parker County was 108,324. This is a 1.2 percent increase from the 2000 Census (USCFF Parker 2009).

Housing

On Base

There are no on base housing units.

Off Base

According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, there are 6,386 housing units in the City of Mineral Wells, with 5,707 being occupied and 679 vacant. The number of homes that are owner-occupied is 3,541, and the number that are renter-occupied is 2,166 (USCFF Mineral Wells 2009).

Quality of Life

Law Enforcement

On base law enforcement consists of basic security.

Fire Protection Services

On base fire protection services consists of smoke alarms on site. Fire services are provided by the cities of Weatherford and Mineral Wells.

Medical Services

There are no on base medical services.

Schools

There are no on base schools.

There are approximately five elementary/middle schools and two high schools located in the City of Mineral Wells area (City Data 2011).

Family Support Services

There are no on base family support services.

Shops and Services

There is a variety of well-known department stores, shopping centers, restaurants, and other shops within the City of Mineral Wells area.

There are no on base Shops and Services.

Recreation

Lake Mineral Wells State Park, located east of Mineral Wells in Parker County, consists of 3282.5 acres, encompassing Lake Mineral Wells. Lake Mineral Wells State Park is located along Rock Creek, a large tributary of the Brazos River. This area was an early home to several Native American tribes including the Comanche. Activities include camping; lake swimming; fishing; boating; rock climbing; mountain biking; equestrian camping, horseback riding; and hiking. Texas wildlife is abundant for viewing and fishing (TPWD 2011).

There is no on base recreation.

Environmental Justice

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued EO 12898 mandating that EPA establish an Office of Environmental Justice. In April 1998, EPA defined environmental justice as fair treatment, meaning that “no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.” According to the EPA definition, deliberate discrimination need not be involved. Any siting that disadvantages protected groups more than proportionately is in violation of EPA’s rule (ELC 2006).

With the exception of the Hispanic or Latino ethnic groups, the ROI has a lower or similar percentage of minorities represented compared with Texas and the United States. The Hispanic or Latino groups are higher than the national percentage but are significantly lower when compared to the State of Texas. In 2009, 14.2 percent of the residents of Palo Pinto County reported living below the poverty level and 9.9 percent of the residents of Parker County reported living below the poverty level. These percentages are similar to the United States and slightly lower than the percentages for the State of Texas (USCFE Texas 2009). Table 3-5 summarizes these data.

**Table 3-4
Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Status for Palo Pinto and Parker Counties, Texas and the United States**

	Palo Pinto County	Parker County	Texas	United States
White	86.6%	91.4%	71.8%	74.5%
Black or African American	3.1%	2.2%	11.5%	12.4%
Native American and Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Asian	0.6%	0.5%	3.4%	4.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	16.6%	9.7%	35.9%	15.1%
Persons Living in Poverty	14.2%	9.9%	16.8%	13.5%

Source: USCFE Texas 2009, USCQF Parker 2010, USCQF Parker 2010

Protection of Children

On April 21, 1997, President Clinton issued EO 13045 mandating that each federal agency shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks. “Environmental health risks and safety risks” mean risks to health or safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink or use for recreation, the soil we live on, and the products we use or are exposed to). Children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks because children’s neurological, immunological, digestive, and other bodily systems are still developing; children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults; children’s size and weight may diminish their protection from standard safety features; and children’s behavior patterns may make them more susceptible to accidents because they are less able to protect themselves (NEPA 1997).

In 2009, the number of children less than 5 years old and less than 18 years old in the ROI was slightly higher than population percentages in the United States, but lower than population percentages in the State of Texas (USCQF Texas 2010). These data are summarized in Table 3-6.

Table 3-5
Children Status for Palo Pinto and Parker Counties, Texas and the United States

	Palo Pinto County	Parker County	Texas	United States
Population	27,567	108,324	24,782,302	307,006,550
Persons under 5 years old	7.6%	6.2	8.4	6.9%
Persons under 18 years old	25.4%	25.6%	27.8%	24.3%

Source: USCQF Texas 2010, USCQF Parker 2010, USCQF Parker 2010

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

Economic Development

The proposed action would result in a temporary, negligible increase in jobs and spending in the area during construction of the proposed facilities. Negligible long-term economic development could possibly result from additional personnel relocating from other areas.

Demographics

There are no long-term impacts expected on demographics in the ROI. Approximately only 30 cadre and administrative staff would be assigned fulltime work at the proposed facilities; Air Force Reserve personnel would only come in for training periods and are housed on base in dormitories for those time periods.

Housing

There are no long-term impacts expected on housing in the ROI. Approximately 30 cadre and administrative staff would be assigned fulltime work at the proposed facilities.

Dormitories would be included as part of the proposed action for the Air Force Reserve personnel reporting to Fort Wolters for training periods.

Quality of Life

There are no long-term impacts expected on the quality of life. No impacts are expected in the Mineral Wells schools, since only an approximate 30 cadre and administrative staff would be assigned fulltime work at the proposed facilities.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is not an issue as a result of the proposed action, as there would be no disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations.

Protection of Children

The proposed action would have no effects on children. Children do not live on base and correspondingly there is no daycare center near the purposed site.

Appropriate measures would be taken to secure the construction area and prevent entry by unauthorized personnel.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no impact to the socioeconomic conditions of the ROI because there would be no additional personnel or trainees.

3.10 Infrastructure

The proposed action is consistent with current infrastructure utilization. The non-military areas west of the proposed action site are commercial and light industrial. The non-military areas to the south have a satellite campus for Weatherford College and a pre-parole prison facility. Implementation of the proposed action would not result in a significant impact on road utilization or public resources in Mineral Wells or the surrounding areas. Coordination with the zoning body of Mineral Wells would prevent the encroachment of incompatible land usage. No current or future incompatible land uses were identified.

3.10.1 Affected Environment

Water Supply and Distribution System

The water supply for Fort Wolters is provided by the City of Mineral Wells Water Department, which relies on water from Palo Pinto Lake. The most significant limitation to the water supply system is the region's susceptibility to drought. Fort Wolters is subject to drought contingency requirements, as issued by the City of Mineral Wells.

The water supply is distributed along Heintzelman Road with 16" pipe and to Fort Wolters Head Quarters with 12" pipe; it is distributed with 4" pipe from the meters to the buildings. There are no post-treatment facilities located on base (Miller 2011).

Sanitary Sewer System

The sanitary sewage collection system on Fort Wolters ties directly into the main treatment facility sewage line. The sewer system is a gravity flow system, of which the City of Mineral Wells collection system accepts the inflow from Fort Wolters through 6" pipe. No septic tanks are currently located on the base (Miller 2011).

Stormwater Collection System

The stormwater collection system on Fort Wolters consists of open collection ditches. The direction of flow is generally South to Southwest across the base (Miller 2011).

Heating and Cooling Systems

Fort Wolters uses individual heating and cooling units (HVAC) for their facilities. (Miller 2011).

Electrical Distribution System

Electrical power for Fort Wolters is supplied solely by contract with Reliant Energy (ONCOR). There are no on-base power plants, no backup generators and no substations on base. The distribution system is single phase 7.2v and three phase 7.2/12.5Kv, all radial feeds, with approximately 5 percent of the primary and secondary lines underground. The remainders of the lines are overhead. (Miller 2011).

Natural Gas Distribution System

Natural gas for Fort Wolters is supplied by the Texas Gas Service. Shutoff valves are located at the meter and at each facility (Miller 2011).

Liquid Fuels

The major liquid fuel utilized at Fort Wolters is diesel, which is supplied via trucks. Fuel is held in storage tanks at the UTES and LP tanks on the 1200 block. The storage tanks are surrounded with containment dikes (Miller 2011).

Communications

Fort Wolters' communications are supplied by AT&T. There is a copper T1 service at the gate, 3 pair Fiber from point of debarkation to the HA and the UTES; one pair is currently utilized (Miller 2011).

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

There is no existing water, sewerage, electric, or any other lines on, under, or near the site. All utilities would have to be run to the site.

The proposed action would result in long-term minor impacts on water, wastewater, natural gas, electricity, liquid fuels, and communications since the usage for each of these utilities would increase with the additional full-time staff and Air Force Reserve personnel training and new facilities.

There may be one or more infrastructure mitigation measures needed regarding implementation of the proposed action. Engineering studies may need to be undertaken to determine adequacy of existing water and sewer lines.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no impact and no possible mitigation measures needed to the existing infrastructure because additional utilities would not be necessary if the proposed action would not occur.

Section 4 -

Summary of Completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, Texas

This Environmental Assessment addressing the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, TX only addresses the increase in field training from the proposed action. The Modified Record Firing (MRF) range at Fort Wolters addressed in the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX would be the field training site for proposed action of this EA. As such this summary of the already completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters, TX is provided to address the increase in field training from the proposed action.

The above mentioned MRF range at Fort Wolters, TX has already been constructed and is in on-going use. As stated the field training of the proposed action would take place on the already constructed MRF range at Fort Wolters. Additionally, the field training of the proposed action would be incorporated into the already on-going field training at Fort Wolters.

This section (section 4) covers the environmental consequences of field training at the MRF range. Additionally, section 5 of this EA includes the cumulative effects and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources as a result of the increase of field training from the proposed action.

4.1 Background

The Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) conducted an EA in 2007 (Ft. Wolters FR EA 2007) in compliance with NEPA to construct a new Modified Record Fire (MRF) Range located at the Fort Wolters Army National Guard training site, Mineral Wells, Texas to meet the increased demands for necessary training and qualification activities. The weapons proposed for use at the new range were the M16 and M4. The purpose of the proposed action, construction of the MRF range, was to meet the necessary weapons qualifications and training activities with the M16 and M4 weapons in compliance with Training Circular (TC) 25-8, Training Ranges and the NGB Pamphlet (PAM) 415-12, Army National Guard Facilities Allowances.

There was no alternative location for this range on Fort Wolters that was large enough to meet the Range Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) requirements that account for possible ricochets. The EA was accepted and the preferred site was selected for construction of the new MRF range at Fort Wolters. Field training has been conducted on the site post completion of the site and is still being conducted presently and for the foreseeable future.

The site covered in the above mentioned EA, is the same site the field training from the proposed action of this EA will be conducted on. The following is an abridged

summation of the above mentioned EA, focusing on consequences of the proposed and thereafter executed action (Ft. Wolters FR EA 2007).

4.2 Introduction

Fort Wolters includes seven training areas with associated support training facilities (Appendix B, Figure 1). The proposed action site is contained within Training Area II (Appendix B, Figure 2). The TXARNG has recently been converted from an Armored Division to an Infantry Division. Currently, Fort Wolters is mostly utilized by reserve units from branches of the Department of Defense. The primary TXMF users currently are the 136th Air Guard with various TXARNG engineering battalions, aviation units, combat support battalions and armored battalions. Non-military users include the Texas State Rifle Association, Boy Scouts of America, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Young Marines and various state and local law enforcement groups.

The projected primary users of the Fort Wolters training site from the TXMF over the next five years include the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry Division stationed near Fort Wolters. The proposed action is required to facilitate weapons qualification and training activities at Fort Wolters, specifically for M-16 series and M-4 Zero, Sustainment, Qualification, Night Qualification, and NBC Qualification.

This need is consistent with the projected increase in infantry training at Fort Wolters within the next 5 to 10 years. Range Surface Danger Zones (SDZs) are exclusion areas established by the safety office to protect the area defined from the possibility of ricochets and the actual maximum carry distance of specific weapon(s) projectiles. The SDZ is larger than the actual range footprint and must not extend beyond the property boundary of the training site. Due to the size and shape of Ft. Wolters' property boundary, the proposed range site is the only suitable location on Fort Wolters to fit the SDZ requirement (Appendix B, Figure 3).

4.3 Scope of the Document

This document analyzes potential environmental impacts that would potentially result should the TXARNG implement the proposed action at Fort Wolters. Data presented in this document are based on secondary or tertiary sources. In accordance with CEQ regulations (§ 1500.4 and 1501.7) issues to be addressed or important issues relating to the proposed action, as identified through the scoping process, are as follows:

- Land Use
- Noise
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Infrastructure
- Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes
- Cultural Resources

4.4 Operations

Range operation would follow standards set by the TXARNG and would be consistent with Army Small Arms Training Range Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual for the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) under the Advanced Range Design Program, U.S. Army Developmental Test Center (DTC) Project No. 9-CO-160-000-504.

Proposed operations would include two-day training assembly two or three times per month per unit using the range. Additional use during the week would occur by local units or other authorized users. Range personnel would utilize adequate PHP to limit exposure and ensure compliance with federal health and safety regulations.

4.5 Site Description

Fort Wolters is a 3,989-acre TXARNG training site located in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties, Texas (Attachment A, Figure 1). The site is located approximately 32 miles west of Fort Worth and approximately 3 miles northeast of the city of Mineral Wells. The site is a U-shaped tract that wraps around Lake Mineral Wells State Park.

Fort Wolters has been a military training site since World War II. During the Vietnam War era the Fort Wolters was a primary training site for helicopters pilots. A Nike missile facility was also located at Fort Wolters. This site has been decommissioned. A portion of Fort Wolters was donated to the Texas Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1980 for incorporation in Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Fort Wolters is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and licensed to the TXMF for use as a training site. Fort Wolters plays an integral role in training TXMF soldiers from the TXARNG and in aerial drop training for the Texas Air National Guard. The site contains approximately 80 acres of improved grounds and buildings, 150 acres of range infrastructure and 3,759 acres of unimproved grounds. There are seven training areas located within Fort Wolters boundaries (Appendix B, Figure 1). Fort Wolters training facilities are used for light and, occasionally, heavy maneuver training, land navigation training, combat engineering skills, drop zones, weapons qualification and other combat readiness training. These training sites have been in operation since the 1980s. The preferred action site would be located within Training Area II (Appendix B, Figure 2).

The proposed MRF range footprint will overlap an existing M-16 and M-60 firing range. TXARNG will continue utilization of these two ranges.

4.6 Environmental Consequences

4.6.1 Land Use

Fort Wolters is located on the Palo Pinto/ Parker County Border. The project impacts to land use would be limited to a small portion of the base area. It would not induce or promote other land-disturbing activities Parker County is contiguous to and part of the Dallas/ Fort Worth metroplex. The land use around Fort Wolters is primarily farming and

ranching. As previously stated, Fort Wolters borders the northern portion of Lake Mineral Wells State Park. The preferred action site is approximately 0.28 mile west of the boundary of the state park. To the west of the preferred action site, there are light industrial businesses including BJ Titan Services and Watkins Metal Fabrication. These sites are in excess of ½-mile of the preferred action site. To the south of the preferred action site, are portions of West Campus of Weatherford College (greater than ¾-miles) and a pre-parole prison facility (greater than ¾-miles).

Fort Wolters has been a military training site since World War II. The current training sites have been in operation since the 1980s. No changes are planned for utilization of the existing range facilities. No current or future incompatible land use conditions were identified. Commercial/industrial growth patterns in the immediate vicinity of the proposed action site would not likely change. Coordination with the City Zoning Body for Mineral Wells would ensure compatible land uses within noise zones off-installation.

4.6.2 Noise

Implementation of the proposed action would affect the noise environment during construction of the MRF range and during training operations. As a result of construction activities associated with the proposed action the noise environment at the proposed action site would be temporarily increased during daylight hours. The USEPA estimates for typical noise levels associated with outdoor construction activities range from 78 to 89 dBA (at 50 feet from the source). With multiple items of equipment operating concurrently, noise levels can be relatively higher during daytime periods. The zone of relatively high noise extends to distances of 400 to 800 feet from the source. Noise levels attenuate with distance from the source. Locations greater than 1,000 feet from the construction site seldom experience significant noise levels. Although construction-related noise impacts would be less than significant, implementation of BMPs such as activities occurring during normal weekday business hours, proper maintenance of construction equipment mufflers and notification of adjacent landowners or businesses would further reduce noise impacts. Based on the temporary nature of the proposed construction activity and the noise levels associated with those activities, noise impacts from construction are considered insignificant.

Fort Wolters currently has six small arms firing ranges within Training Area II. In 2003, TXARNG conducted a noise study using 2002 firing range data. Findings of that study are presented in the 2003 TXARNG Environmental Management Plan. Predicted noise level contours for Zones II and III did not extend to any areas off the installation.

Implementation of the proposed action would not increase noise levels in the immediate area of the firing range. Based on data from the previous modeling, the noise contours for the proposed action alternative are anticipated to be contained within the boundary of the Fort Wolters Training Site (Appendix B, Figure 4). In addition, there are no sensitive receptors located adjacent to the installation.

4.6.3 Geology and Soils

Staging of construction activities and implementation of BMPs as detailed within the SWPPP can reduce the potential for soil erosion by wind and / or water. BMPs may include such practices as limitation of work area, silt fencing and vegetative matting. Re-vegetation of the proposed action site should utilize techniques and materials following the guidelines established by the TXANRG Natural Resources Manager and the INRMP for Fort Wolters. Weapons firing at the proposed MRF range will produce spent lead bullets. Lead is generally stable in the environment; however certain environmental conditions will cause lead to breakdown and become mobile. Lead from discharged rounds can leach into groundwater, be carried offsite by storm water or possibly become airborne. A soil pH of less than 6.5 or greater than 8.5 will cause lead to become soluble. Permeable soils allow the soluble lead to migrate to the groundwater (vertical migration). The Bonti and Truce soils are slightly acidic (pH 6.5), while the Thurber soils are neutral (pH 7.0). The pH characteristics of these soils should not contribute to the solubilization of lead. Bonti and Truce soils are very fine and fine sandy loams, respectively, and Thurber soils are clay loams. These soils are well drained, have high runoff rates, low infiltration rates and low to moderate susceptibility to sheet or rill erosion by water. Potential for vertical lead mobilization from discharged bullets would be low. Potential for horizontal migration would be moderate.

There is no history of environmental impacts from discharged lead bullets on other ranges at Fort Wolters and there is no current lead abatement program in practice. Normal range operation and standard management procedures should be sufficient to prevent lead contamination in surface waters. Therefore, no lead contamination of groundwater is anticipated.

4.6.4 Water Resources

Construction activities at the proposed action site have potential to cause temporary water quality impacts. These impacts would be associated with increased silt and sediment flow during rain events. Implementation of BMPs such as silt fences and vegetative matting would reduce the overall water quality impacts. Operations under the proposed action have the potential for water quality impacts from erosion from backstops or exposed soils. Appropriate engineering design and implementation of BMPs for vegetative cover management will reduce the potential impacts.

As discussed in Section 5.5.3, potential for lead migration vertically would be low. However, horizontal migration due to surface drainage runoff after a heavy rain event has the potential for transporting lead fragments from the proposed action site to other areas. Migration of lead by this pathway is dependent upon storm events. Implementation of BMPs for removal and recycling, as well as vegetative cover management would reduce the potential impact.

4.6.5 Biological Resources

Construction activities at the proposed action site would have no significant impacts to state or federally protected species or habitats. Implementation of practices outlined in

the INRMP would reduce and/or prevent impacts from invasive species and pests. Construction activities at the preferred site will not impact wetlands. A wetland delineation of the site was done in accordance with the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (TR Y 87-1). The results are summarized in the attached Wetland Delineation Report dated July 2007.

Upland-cut non-tidal drainage ditches are expressly considered non-jurisdictional features by the USACE. This is spelled out in USACE standard operating procedures and the preamble to 33 CFR 328, which states that features (especially non-tidal ditches which are excavated from uplands and drain only uplands) are not, considered jurisdictional waters. Implementation of practices outlined in the INRMP would reduce and/or prevent impacts from invasive species and pests.

4.6.6 Infrastructure

Within Fort Wolters the proposed action site is adjacent to several existing firing ranges. The proposed action is consistent with current infrastructure utilization. The non-military areas west of the proposed action site are commercial and light industrial. The non-military areas to the south have a satellite campus for Weatherford College and a pre-parole prison facility. Implementation of the proposed action would not result in a significant impact on road utilization or public resources in Mineral Wells or the surrounding areas. Coordination with the zoning body of Mineral Wells would prevent the encroachment of incompatible land usage. No current or future incompatible land uses were identified.

4.6.7 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

The proposed action will not affect the existing use or storage of hazardous or toxic materials/wastes at Fort Wolters. The regulatory status of spent munitions is uncertain. According to the USEPA's Military Munitions Rule (MR; 40 CFR §260-266 and 279), used or fired munitions are solid wastes when they are removed from their landing spot and then either managed off-range (transported off-range for storage, reclamation or disposal) or disposed of on-range (i.e. buried or landfilled).

4.6.8 Cultural Resources

The proposed action will take place on a portion of the Fort Wolters training facility that has been previously disturbed. The TXARNG has an existing Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) and Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) developed specifically for Fort Wolters. Previous cultural resource investigations show no significant cultural or archeological sites in the area for the proposed action. The potential impacts associated with this project have been reviewed pursuant to DOD's October 1999 American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy. This policy mandates coordination between all DOD operations and facilities to promote understanding and dialog. The project has been coordinated with the Comanche Tribe, the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Tonkawa Tribe and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. Each tribe has been solicited for comments twice, by letter April 20, 2007 and by email June 19, 2007, with only one response from the Comanche Nation. The Comanche

Nation expressed a desire to insure that any historical native American sites artifacts or human remains discovered during construction be protected, disclosed and evaluated prior to any additional work in the area. Those conditions will be implemented.

Fort Wolters has been completely surveyed for archaeological and historical properties and an Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) is available. There are 18 structures approaching or over 50 years old have been assessed for historical integrity. Fifty two archeological sites have been documented. No archeological sites or historical properties are located on or immediately adjacent to the preferred action site. A letter response from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has been issued and advises, “No historic properties affected, project may proceed”.

4.7 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts are defined by NEPA as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR § 1508.7). It is projected that Fort Wolters will no longer be used for heavy maneuver training; rather there will be an increase in infantry training. Potential future changes may include additional bivouac sites, expanded drop zone, squad proficiency course, and support facilities for the expert infantry badge and marksmanship training. The changes are not projected to substantially change natural resource management at Fort Wolters. Land uses around Fort Wolters are projected to remain the same. The potential cumulative impacts resultant from implementation of the proposed action and reasonably foreseeable future actions are as follows:

- *Land Use* – Fort Wolters has been a military training facility since World War II. Land uses surrounding Fort Wolters are not projected to substantially change. Land uses within Fort Wolters will change to accommodate training for modern warfare. These changes will not substantially impact natural resource management. Palo Pinto County is a rural area experiencing slow growth. Current trends indicate little change in that trend for the Palo Pinto County area. Parker County is experiencing population growth above national and Texas rates. This growth would, most likely spread from the eastern edge of the County near Dallas/Fort Worth toward the western side of the County. Fort Wolters is located in the westernmost part of Parker County and the area around it would likely be the least affected of the Dallas/Fort Worth growth. Growth and associated cumulative effects typically associated with growth would happen with either the build or no-build alternative and are not project-related or induced. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Noise* – The proposed action will not have a significant impact on the noise environment at Fort Wolters or to the surrounding areas. The past, present and future noise environment at Fort Wolters will remain dominated by weapons noise. Proposed future actions should not significantly increase noise impacts at Fort Wolters or the surrounding areas. No significant cumulative effects are

anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.

- *Geology and Soils* – Implementation of BMPs for design, construction, and erosion control on current and future proposed range sites along with efforts outlined in the INRMP for erosion control will reduce cumulative impacts. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Water Resources* - Implementation of BMPs for design, construction (including the SWPPP), and erosion control on current and future proposed range sites will protect water resources. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Biological Resources* – The habitat at Fort Wolters supports diverse plant and animal communities. Siting and conduct of past, present and future training activity areas should consider direct and cumulative impacts to these resources. Implementation and update of the INRMP including fire management, invasive species and pest management control, wetland and riparian habitat management, vegetation management and endangered, threatened and rare species management would minimize the direct and cumulative impacts of past, present and future actions. Impacts to stream channels, riparian habitats and wetlands should be considered to replace the function and value within the watershed, if possible. No Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdictional waters or wetlands are located in the project area. As such, no significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Infrastructure* – Past, Present and future actions are consistent with the mission and current infrastructure utilization at Fort Wolters. Implementation of the past, present and future actions will not result in significant cumulative impacts on public resources such as roads, educational and recreational facilities, health care, et cetera in Mineral Wells or the surrounding areas. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Hazardous and Toxic Material/Wastes* – Implementation of BMPs for range design, operation and maintenance and continued proper storage and management of fuels, lubricants and other hazardous or toxic materials will avoid and/or minimize the potential impacts. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- *Cultural Resources*- The potential impacts associated with this project have been reviewed Pursuant to DOD's October 1999 American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy. This coordination has revealed no anticipated direct or indirect impacts. There are 18 structures approaching or over 50 years old that have been assessed for historical integrity. Fifty-two archeological sites have been documented. Thirty one of these sites are prehistoric Native American sites, six are pre-Camp Wolters historic homesteads and fifteen are historic military era sites. TXMF is

Section 4
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters
Summary of Completed Modified Record Firing Range EA Fort Wolters

protecting four archeological sites and eight structures recommended for the National Register of Historic Places at Fort Wolters. No archeological sites or historical properties are located on or immediately adjacent to the preferred action site. A letter response from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has been issued and advises, “No historic properties affected, project may proceed”. Based upon a review of Native American comments and historical information, no significant adverse effects, either individual or cumulative, are expected.

Section 5 - Cumulative Effects and Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

5.1 Cumulative Effects

A cumulative effects analysis should consider the potential environmental impacts resulting from “the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions” (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.7). Assessing cumulative effects involves defining the scope of the other actions and their interrelationship with the proposed actions if they overlap in space and time. Cumulative effects are most likely to arise when a proposed action is related to other actions that could occur in the same location or at a similar time. Actions geographically overlapping or close to the proposed action would likely have more potential for a relationship than those farther away. Similarly, actions coinciding in time with the proposed actions would have a higher potential for cumulative effects.

To identify cumulative effects, the analysis needs to address three questions:

- Could affected resource areas of the proposed actions interact with the affected resource areas of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions?
- If one or more of the affected resource areas of the proposed actions and another action could interact, would the proposed actions affect or be affected by impacts of the other action?
- If such a relationship exists, are there any potentially significant impacts not identified when the proposed actions are considered alone?

5.2 Scope of Cumulative Effects Analysis

The scope of the cumulative effects analysis involves both the geographic extent of the effects and the time in which the effects could occur. This cumulative effects analysis includes the site of the proposed action and the surrounding area. Actions not occurring within or near these areas were not considered. The time frame for cumulative effects starts in 2011 when construction activities under the proposed action would start at a point thereafter.

5.3 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

The area surrounding the site of the proposed action has both developed and undeveloped land. The developed land has facilities and infrastructure located on it, whereas the undeveloped land is primarily disturbed land. The activities described here are not all inclusive but do serve to highlight the major influences in the area and to provide perspective on the contribution to any impacts generated by the proposed action. The following discussion describes how the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions might be affected by those resulting from the proposed action at Fort Wolters and whether such relationships would result in potentially significant impacts not identified when the proposed action is considered alone.

Cumulative impacts are defined by NEPA as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR § 1508.7). It is projected that Fort Wolters will no longer be used for heavy maneuver training; rather there will be an increase in infantry training. Potential future changes may include additional bivouac sites, expanded drop zone, squad proficiency course, and support facilities for the expert infantry badge and marksmanship training. The changes are not projected to substantially change natural resource management at Fort Wolters. Land uses around Fort Wolters are projected to remain the same. The potential cumulative impacts resultant from implementation of the proposed action and reasonably foreseeable future actions are as follows:

- Air Quality - – Implementation of BMPs for design, construction, and erosion control on current and future proposed sites will protect air resources. Negligible short term increased emissions would result from construction activities; long term operations are not expected to change the attainment status of the base. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- Water Resources – Implementation of BMPs for design, construction (including the SWPPP), and erosion control on current and future proposed sites will protect water resources. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- Geology and Soils – Implementation of BMPs for design, construction, and erosion control on current and future proposed sites along with efforts outlined in the INRMP for erosion control will reduce cumulative impacts. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- Biological Resources – The habitat at Fort Wolters supports diverse plant and animal communities. Siting and conduct of past, present and future training activity areas should consider direct and cumulative impacts to these resources. Implementation and update of the INRMP including fire management, invasive species and pest management control, wetland and riparian habitat management, vegetation management and endangered, threatened and rare species management would minimize the direct and cumulative impacts of past, present and future actions. Impacts to stream channels, riparian habitats and wetlands should be considered to replace the function and value within the watershed, if possible. No Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdictional waters or wetlands are located in the project area. As such, no significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.

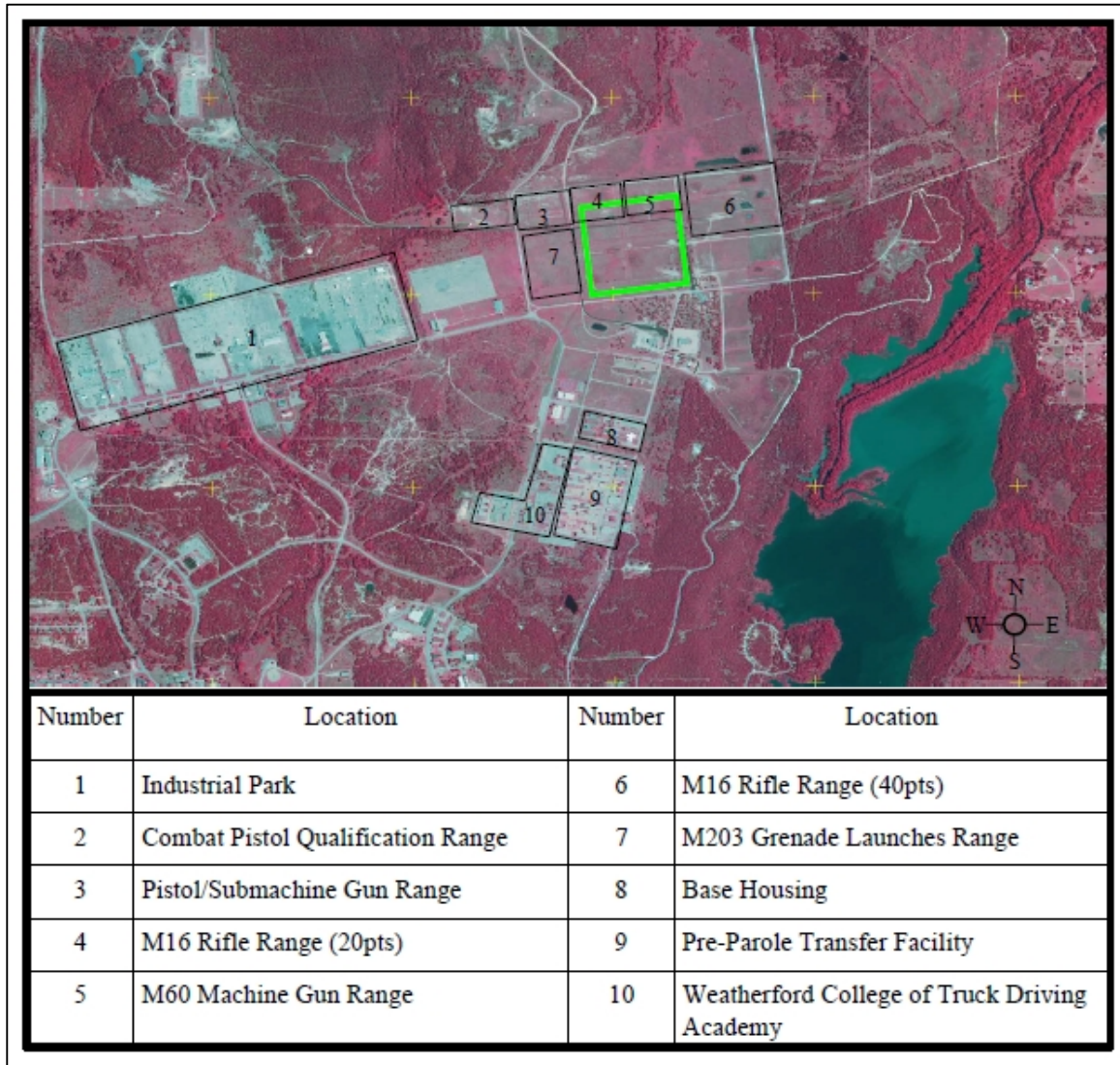
- **Cultural Resources-** The potential impacts associated with this project have been reviewed Pursuant to DOD's October 1999 American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy. This coordination has revealed no anticipated direct or indirect impacts. There are 18 structures approaching or over 50 years old that have been assessed for historical integrity. Fifty-two archeological sites have been documented. Thirty one of these sites are prehistoric Native American sites, six are pre-Camp Wolters historic homesteads and fifteen are historic military era sites. TXMF is protecting four archeological sites and eight structures recommended for the National Register of Historic Places at Fort Wolters. No archeological sites or historical properties are located on or immediately adjacent to the preferred action site. A letter response from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has been issued and concurs that there is no evidence of historic or archaeological resources identified on purposed beddown site, and no archaeological resources have been recorded on or near the site.
- **Hazardous and Toxic Material/Wastes –** Implementation of BMPs for range design, operation and maintenance and continued proper storage and management of fuels, lubricants and other hazardous or toxic materials will avoid and/or minimize the potential impacts. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- **Safety and Occupational Health –** The construction activities and subsequent training, maintenance, and operations associated with the proposed action are standard activities that occur at Fort Wolters. There are no specific aspects of the construction, operations, or maintenance that would create a unique or extraordinary health and safety issue. Existing health and safety procedures would be followed at the new facility. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.
- **Socioeconomics –** Fort Wolters has been a military training facility since World War II. Uses surrounding Fort Wolters are not projected to substantially change. Palo Pinto County is a rural area experiencing slow growth. Current trends indicate little change in that trend for the Palo Pinto County area. Parker County is experiencing population growth above national and Texas rates. This growth would, most likely spread from the eastern edge of the County near Dallas/Fort Worth toward the western side of the County. Fort Wolters is located in the westernmost part of Parker County and the area around it would likely be the least affected of the Dallas/Fort Worth growth. Growth and associated cumulative effects typically associated with growth would happen with either the build or no-build alternative and are not project-related or induced. There are no disproportionately high or adverse human health effects or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. Appropriate measures would be taken to ensure the construction area is not accessible to children. No significant

cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.

- Infrastructure – Past, Present and future actions are consistent with the mission and current infrastructure utilization at Fort Wolters. Implementation of the past, present and future actions will not result in significant cumulative impacts on public resources such as roads, educational and recreational facilities, health care, et cetera in Mineral Wells or the surrounding areas. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.

- Noise – The proposed action will not have a significant impact on the noise environment at Fort Wolters or to the surrounding areas. The past, present and future noise environment at Fort Wolters will remain dominated by weapons noise. Proposed future actions should not significantly increase noise impacts at Fort Wolters or the surrounding areas. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated from implementing the proposed action in association with foreseeable past, present or future actions.

**Figure 5-1
 Proposed Site of Field Training: Surrounding Area Map**



5.4 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that environmental analysis include identification of "...any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented." Irreversible effects result primarily from the use of non-renewable resources and the effects that the uses of these resources have on future generations. Irreversible effects result primarily from the use or destruction of a specific resource (e.g., energy and minerals) that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Irretrievable resource commitments involve the loss in value of an affected resource that cannot be restored as a result of the action (e.g., the disturbance of a cultural site).

Under the proposed action, most resource commitments are neither irreversible nor irretrievable. Most impacts are short term and temporary or long lasting but negligible. The proposed construction at Fort Wolters would require the consumption of fuels as well as building materials, such as concrete, sand, bricks, steel, insulation, wiring, and paint. An undetermined amount of energy would be expended and irreversibly lost during construction and operations of the facilities. The proposed construction site does not have any cultural significance.

Although negligible and minor impacts to resources are expected with the implementation of the proposed action, no significant cumulative or secondary impacts to the quality of the environment, either human or natural, in the area of potential effect for this action have been identified.

The no-action alternative would not be expected to create cumulative or secondary impacts to the quality of the environment, either human or natural, in the area of potential effect.

Section 6 - References

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<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48367.html> 2011.

Section 7 - Persons and Agencies Contacted

Randy H. Varner. Environmental Director. 301 MSG/CEV. NASJRB Fort Worth, TX. 2011.

Terry A. Ferguson, SMSgt, USAF. Chief of Resources. 610th Security Forces Squadron, NAS JRB. Fort Worth, TX. 2011

Joni J. Billings. Natural Resources Manager. State of Texas Military Forces, NGTX-FE. Austin, Texas. 2011.

Bureau of Land Management. Amarillo, TX. 2011.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Texas Ecological Services Field Office. Arlington, TX. 2011

Al Armendariz, Regional Administrator. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI. Dallas, TX. 2011.

Salinas Salvador, Acting State Conservationist .USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS Texas State Office. Temple, TX. 2011.

National Guard Bureau. Arlington, VA. 2011.

The Honorable John Cornyn. U.S. Senate. Washington, DC. 2011.

The Honorable Kay Baily Hutchinson. U.S. Senate. Washington, DC. 2011.

The Honorable Mac Thornberry. U.S. House of Representatives, 13th District. Washington, DC. 2011.

The Honorable Kay Granger. U.S. House of Representatives, 12th District. Washington, DC. 2011.

Robert L. Cook, Executive Director. Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, TX. 2011.

Kathy Boydston. Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, TX. 2011.

Jody Lee, Complex Manager/State Park Police. Texas Parks and Wildlife, Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Budget, Planning and Policy. Austin, TX. 2011.

Tony Walker, Regional Director. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Region IV. Fort Worth, TX. 2011.

Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Texas Historical Commission. Austin, TX. 2011.

Johnna Cantrell, State Coordinator for Preparedness & Operations. Texas Division of Emergency Management, Office of the Assistant Director. Austin, TX. 2011.

Craig Estes. Texas State Senator, District 30. Austin, TX. 2011

Jim Lloyd Keffer. Texas State Representative, District 60. Austin, TX. 2011.

Phil King. Texas State Representative, District 61. Austin, TX. 2011.

George Conley. County Commissioner - Precinct 1. Springtown, TX. 2011.

Joe Brinkley. County Commissioner - Precinct 2. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

John Roth. County Commissioner - Precinct 3. Brock, TX. 2011.

Jim Webster. County Commissioner - Precinct 4. Aledo, TX. 2011.

Shawn Scott. Parker County Fire Marshall/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

George Teague, LEPC Contact. Parker County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Michael Stack, Risk Manager. Parker County CSCD. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Mark Riley, County Judge. Parker County Courthouse. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Beth Ray. County Commissioner - Precinct 1. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Edgar Laney. County Commissioner - Precinct 2. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Mike Pierce. County Commissioner - Precinct 3. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Jeff Fryer. County Commissioner - Precinct 4. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Palo Pinto County Fire Marshall/Emergency Coordinator. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Barry Gill, LEPC Contact. Palo Pinto County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Palo Pinto County CSCD. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Mike A. Smiddy, County Judge. Palo Pinto County Courthouse. Palo Pinto, TX. 2011.

Mineral Wells City Council Members. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Mayor Mike Allen. City of Mineral Wells. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Lance Howerton, Mineral Wells City Manager. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

Weatherford City Council Members. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Mayor Dennis Hooks. City of Weatherford. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Jerry Blaisdell, Weatherford City Manager. Weatherford City Hall. Weatherford, TX. 2011.

Michael Jansky. USEPA Region 6. Dallas, TX. 2011.

Glenda Thorn. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Austin, TX. 2011.

David Riskin, State Parks Natural Resources. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, TX. 2011.

Jeff Williams. Lake Mineral Wells State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mineral Wells, TX. 2011.

F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Director. Texas Historical Commission. Austin, TX. 2011.

Mrs. Augustine Asbury, Assistant Chief. Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town. Wetumka, OK. 2011.

Alonzo Chalepah, Tribal Chairman. Apache Tribe of Oklahoma. Anadarko, OK. 2011.

Jimmy Arterberry, THPO. Comanche Nation. Lawton, OK. 2011.

Don Tofpi, Chairman. Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Carnegie, OK. 2011.

Don Patterson, President & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Tonkawa Tribe. Tonkawa, OK. 2011.

Section 8 - List of Preparers and Contributors

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M.S., Agronomy, University of Wisconsin, 1973
Ph.D., Agronomy/Botany, Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, 1975
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Scott Horzen, *Ecologist, OTIE*
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Jean Mayo, *Marine Biologist, OTIE*
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B.S., Forest Resource Management, University of Tennessee, 2008
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Appendix A

Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Correspondence (ICEP)

IICEP Correspondence

**Draft Environmental Assessment Notice of Availability
Each Agency or Person listed on the IICEP Distribution List received
the below Notice and a copy of the Draft EA**

NOA Draft EA Fort Wolters



MEMORANDUM FOR: <Insert Agency>

FROM: Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises (OTIE)
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

SUBJECT: Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at
Fort Wolters, Texas

Dear <Insert Name>

OTIE has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas. The Air Force proposes to construct mission support facilities and infrastructure to operate an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification Center (ECS TCC) training site on 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters; to provide a mutually supportive end-state that improves mission quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in a fashion that is beneficial to the training missions. The environmental impact analysis process for this proposal is being conducted in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we request your participation by reviewing the Draft EA and solicit your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental concerns you may have. Copies of the Draft EA are available at:

- Mineral Wells Public Library: 2300 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. St, Mineral Wells, TX 76067
- Weatherford Public Library: 1014 Charles Street, Weatherford, TX 76086
- The 301st FW website: www.301fw.afrc.af.mil
- Additionally, interested parties can contact Julie Briden-Garcia at 817-782-6093 or 10af.pa@us.af.mil for a cd of the EA

Please provide written comments on the Draft EA or other information regarding the action at your earliest convenience, but no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter. Appendix A of the Draft EA contains a listing of those Federal, State, and local agencies that have been contacted. If there are any additional agencies you feel should review and comment on the proposed activities, please forward this letter to them.

Please address questions and/or comments on this proposed action to Robert Delgado, at OTIE's above address; within 30 days of receiving this letter.

Robert Delgado
Sr. Project Scientist

**Final Environmental Assessment
Distribution List**

Fort Wolters
Final Environmental Assessment
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Attn: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

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Appendix A
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

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Air Force Final Tribal Mailing List

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Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
Stratford Williams, Vice President & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Appendix A
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

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Jerry Blaisdell, Weatherford City Manager
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Weatherford, TX 76086

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
PO Box 13087 (Mail Stop 203)
Austin, TX 78711
Attn: Glenda Thorn

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
Attn: David Riskin, State Parks Natural Resources

Lake Mineral Wells State Park
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
100 Park Road 71
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Attn: Jeff Williams

Texas Historical Commission
PO Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
Attn: F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Director

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Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Alonzo Chalepah, Tribal Chairman
PO Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005

Comanche Nation
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Comanche Nation Office of Historic Preservation
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Lawton, OK 73502

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Don Tofpi, Chairman
PO Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015

Tonkawa Tribe
Don Patterson, President & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
1 Rush Buffalo Road
Tonkawa, OK 74653

Appendix A
Final Environmental Assessment Fort Wolters

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
Stratford Williams, Vice President & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 729
Anadarko, OK 73005

**Comments Received during
Draft Environmental Assessment
Public Review Period**

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
Buddy Garcia, *Commissioner*
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

October 19, 2011

Mr. Robert Delgado
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, Texas 78224

Re: TCEQ Grant and Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS) #2011-399, City of Fort Wolters, Parker County – Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas

Dear Mr. Delgado:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers following comments:

A review of the project for General Conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code § 101.30 indicates that the proposed action is located in the City of Fort Wolters, Parker County, which is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, General Conformity does not apply.

Although any demolition, construction, rehabilitation or repair project will produce dust and particulate emissions, these actions should pose no significant impact upon air quality standards. Any minimal dust and particulate emissions should be easily controlled by the construction contractors using standard dust mitigation techniques.

We do not anticipate significant long term environmental impacts from this project as long as construction and waste disposal activities associated with it are completed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal environmental permits and regulations. We recommend that the applicant take necessary steps to insure that best management practices are utilized to control runoff from construction sites to prevent detrimental impact to surface and ground water.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Janie Roman at (512)239-0604 or Janie.roman@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Hanison".

Jim Hanison, Director
Intergovernmental Relations Division

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

October 28, 2011

Robert Delgado
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, Texas 78224

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment addressing Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron, Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas.

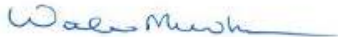
Dear Mr. Delgado:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

Our staff, led by William McWhorter, has completed a review of the above referenced submission. Regarding this report's findings, outlined under **Cultural Resources, Section 4.6.8.**, page 4-7, for the Preferred Action Site, the THC concurs with the findings of **NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED.**

Thank you for your cooperation in the federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of our nation. If you have any questions concerning this review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact William McWhorter at 512/463-5833

Sincerely,



for: Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Office



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501-7602

October 18, 2011

Mr. Robert Delgado
Sr. Project Scientist
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

Dear Mr. Delgado:

We have reviewed the information pertaining to the construction of mission support facilities and infrastructure to operate an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification Center (ECS TCC) training site on 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters, Texas.

This project should have no significant adverse impact on the environment or natural resources in the area. We do not require any permits, easements, or approvals for an activity such as this.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposed projects.

Sincerely,

For 
SALVADOR SALINAS
State Conservationist

Jeremy Albright

From: Sean_Edwards@fws.gov
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Jeremy Albright
Cc: sean_edwards@fws.gov
Subject: RE: Fort Wolters TX Draft Environmental Assessment

Categories: High Priority

Mr. Albright,

Due to the time-sensitivity of your request for review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, and because there would be no significant environmental impacts resulting from the proposed actions, I have elected to respond by e-mail.

We have reviewed your letter and accompanying EA for the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas. The project involves the proposed construction of mission support facilities and infrastructure to operate an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification Center training site on 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters, Parker County, Texas. All activities, during both construction and future operation, would take place within previously disturbed areas adjacent to existing facilities.

The EA concludes that the project would have no significant impacts to federally listed threatened or endangered species, waterbodies, migratory birds, or any other protected resources. After reviewing the EA and our information about the project area, we acknowledge that this conclusion that the project would result in no significant environmental impacts is sound and well supported. For these reasons, **we have no comments** or recommendations to offer.

Please contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Kind Regards,

Sean Patrick Edwards
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Suite 140
Arlington, Texas 76006
817-277-1100
sean_edwards@fws.gov

**Comments Received
From Notice of DOPAA**



Post Office Box 460
Mineral Wells, Texas 76068

Telephone: (940) 328-7703 FAX: (940) 328-7704
citymanager@mineralwellstx.gov

January 7, 2011

Mr. Robert Delgado
Senior Project Scientist
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises (OTIE)
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio TX 78224

Re: Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center
Fort Wolters, Texas

Dear Mr. Delgado:

I am in receipt of a notice provided by your organization with respect to a proposed expansion at the Fort Wolters, Texas Training Center. As to the Scope of Work which is suggested, the City would like to make mention of the following issues:

- On projects such as this, stormwater drainage and potential pollution associated with runoff from improved areas is of concern. This is especially true given the fact that this area is in the immediate watershed of Lake Mineral Wells which abuts the Fort Wolters Training Center. The City of Mineral Wells would be interested in reviewing whatever plans are being made with respect to providing adequate drainage improvements, as well as actions contemplated to control any pollution which could ultimately impact Lake Mineral Wells.
- Fort Wolters has recently undergone improvements relating to an expansion of the drop zone area. This has resulted in increased flight and drop operations. Is it anticipated that this expansion will result in additional flight and drop operations, as well? This could be of some concern not only to the City, but also Lake Mineral Wells State Park.
- I have spoken with Jody Lee, Manager of Lake Mineral Wells State Park, which is immediately adjacent to the Fort Wolters Training Center. He has not received the notice provided to the City of Mineral Wells and I have given him a copy of the notice. He indicated that notification may

have been sent directly to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices in Austin, but he is yet to see any information regarding the proposed project. Mr. Lee is obviously interested in obtaining more information concerning the project and the potential impacts it may pose to the operation of Lake Mineral Wells State Park.

- Water and sanitary sewer infrastructure to the project site is likely inadequate to provide fire protection and meet all existing code requirements. As such, offsite improvements to be accomplished at the expense of the developer will likely be required prior to connection to the City system.

Mr. Delgado, we would appreciate additional information regarding those issues noted above. We have had a good relationship with the Fort Wolters Training Center over the years and have not experienced significant negative impacts relating to its operation. We do, however, wish to continue this good working relationship and wish to insure that adjoining properties are not adversely impacted by any future expansion at the Fort Wolters Training Center. Your attention to the matters identified above would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely


Lance Howerton
City Manager

cc: Jody Lee, Manager Lake Mineral Wells State Park

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Executive Director



JODY C. LEE

State Parks Division
Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway
Complex Manager/State Park Police

100 Park Road 71
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067

940.328.1957 Office
940.325.8536 Fax

jody.lee@tpwd.state.tx.us

1-24-11

Mr. Robert Delgado
Senior Project Scientist
Onieda Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Dr., Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

Re: Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center Fort
Wolters, TX

Dear Mr. Delgado:

Mr. Lance Howerton with the City of Mineral Wells forwarded your notification of the new Beddown expansion at Fort Wolters Training Facility. The Texas Park & Wildlife Department is also an adjacent property owner.

After reviewing the Location Overview, it appears that the construction site will be directly adjacent to Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway boundary. It looks like a sizeable project that could impact the area considerably. We do have a few concerns:

- Are there any plans to mitigate possible runoff/pollution/noise during construction?
- There has been a recent expansion of the unit's aircraft support capabilities. Will this further increase air traffic at the facility?
- Will the new facility be constructed directly along the property line of the State Park?

We are a large, heavily used State Park with well over 100,000 visitors annually. We have campgrounds, trails, water bodies and facilities located relatively close to the proposed site.

TPWD has an excellent relationship with the Texas National Guard. We look forward to assisting in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Jody Lee

Texas Parks & Wildlife
Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway
Complex Manager/State Park Police
100 Park Road 71
Mineral Wells, TX 76067
940/328-1957

cc: Lance Howerton, City Manager, Mineral Wells TX

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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January 28, 2011

Robert Delgado
Sr. Project Scientist
OTIE
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, Texas 78224

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Newly proposed training site and facilities for the 610th Security Forces Squadron at historic Fort Wolters, Palo Pinto County, Texas (AF/COE-FW)

Dear Mr. Delgado:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed federal undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission

The review staff, led by Debra L. Beene, has completed its review. Since your letter does not indicate whether or not OTIE or the U.S.A.F. has determined to this point in the preparation of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) if historic or potentially historic structures at Fort Wolters may be affected by your proposed actions; please note that our office will need to be consulted. If historic or potentially historic structures are impacted, please include in your follow-up correspondence the structures' building numbers, the age of the structures, their location on a map of the project area, the possible adverse effect and your eligibility determinations.

Several historical firing ranges and early camp structures as well as prehistoric camps have been recorded adjacent to the project area. Therefore, we recommend that a professional archeologist conduct a survey prior to any ground disturbance.

You can obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at www.rpanet.org or <http://www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org>. Please note that other professional archeologists meeting the qualifying standards may be used; see these standards at http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm. Please check the THC's web page for survey procedures at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/rulesregs/rrother.shtml> and follow the CTA's report guidelines http://www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&Itemid=55.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your assistance in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Debra L. Beene, Archeologist, at 512/463-5865 or William A. McWhorter, Architectural Historian at 512/463-5833.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer





OTIE
MAR 07 2011
RECEIVED

RECEIVED
MAR 01 2011

1033 N. Mayfair Road
Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53226
414.257.4200

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 1, 2011

Debra I. Beene, Archeologist III, Archeology Division
Texas Historical Commission
108 West 16th Street
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX, 78711

SUBJECT: Fort Wolters 610th SFS Beddown Parker County Texas

Dear Ms. Beene:

As we've previously discussed, The United States Air Force (Air Force) is proposing to Beddown the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, TX. The project would include constructing mission support facilities, infrastructure; and operating an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification (ECS TCC) training site on 10.27 acres at Fort Wolters.

Specifics of the action include a three phase process of constructing mission support facilities on the site with all three phases to be completed within 10 years. Phase 1 consists of constructing 10 Modular Buildings to satisfy initial Student/Cadre Lodging, Faculty Building, Classroom and Laundry. Phase 2 consists of constructing a 12,800 square feet Dining Facility and 2 – 30,150 square feet Student Dorm/Classroom/Planning area. Phase 3 consists of constructing a 10,854 square feet Administrative/Command and Control building, 3,600 square feet Warehouse, 120 square feet Weapons Cleaning Area and 61,740 square feet Vehicle Parking.

On January 28, 2011, your office provided a response to our project memo sent in December of 2010 (attached). Over the past several weeks, we have discussed several outstanding items with respect to potential cultural impacts caused by the proposed Fort Wolters 610th SFS Beddown. Several of the outstanding issues you had following our first discussion was the validity and applicability of the Fort Wolters Cultural Survey that was completed in 1999 and age/status of the buildings within and adjacent to the proposed project limits.

On February 23, 2011, I provided you with excerpts of the 1999 report (cover sheet, table of contents and maps); later that day you responded to my email stating you had talked to the lead archaeologist of the Fort Wolters 1999 survey and it consisted of an intensive survey and this small area was negative for cultural resources. As far as the existing building issue goes, I have provided a building survey report completed in 2003. The investigation did identify several

buildings within the project area that were potential candidates for listing with the National Register of Historic Places; however, a letter dated 2007 from State Historic Preservation Officer indicated that none of the buildings were eligible for listing and that no additional Section 106 coordination was required (attached). Additionally, I received an email from Chantal McKenzie stating that no additional building surveys are required for the project.

Based on the discussions we've had over the past several weeks and information provided with this letter (1999 intensive archaeological survey, 2003 building assessment and 2007 follow up), we request your concurrence that the proposed Fort Wolters 610th SFS Beddown development, as described above, will not impact any known archaeological or historic resources.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Horzen
Ecologist



Attachments

Original Letter from THC dated January 28, 2011
Building Assessment Report (February 2003)
Building Assessment Report Letter (November 15, 2007)
Email correspondence regarding building assessment

cc: Randy Varner, U.S. Air Force (via email)
Robert Delgado, Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises (via email)
Jeremy Albright, Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises (via email)



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Executive Director

March 7, 2011

Mr. Robert Delgado
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

RE: Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters Air Force Base (AFB), Parker County

Dear Mr. Delgado:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received the request for information regarding the proposed development activity referenced above located at Fort Wolters. TPWD staff has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments for consideration in preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction of mission support facilities and infrastructure as well as the operation of an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification training site. The project would be constructed on a 10.27 acre site on Fort Wolters. Construction of the mission support facilities would occur in three phases over ten years. Phase 1 would consist of constructing ten modular buildings for lodging, faculty, classrooms, and laundry. Phase 2 would consist of constructing a dining facility and two buildings to be used as dorms, classrooms and planning areas. Phase 3 would consist of constructing an administrative/command and control building, warehouse, weapons cleaning area, and vehicle parking area.

Federal Law

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits taking, attempting to take, capturing, killing, selling/purchasing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, their eggs, parts and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. This protection applies

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Mr. Robert Delgado
Page Two
March 7, 2011

to most native bird species, including ground nesting species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Migratory Bird Office can be contacted at (505) 248-7882 for more information on potential impacts to migratory birds.

A record in the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) indicates that a nesting colony of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) has been documented north of Lake Mineral Wells within Lake Mineral Wells State Park, adjacent to the project area. A printout of this record is attached for your reference. Additional waterbird nesting colonies could be present in the surrounding area.

Recommendation: If migratory birds are found nesting on or adjacent to the project area, they must be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MBTA. TPWD recommends excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March through August, to avoid adverse impacts to this group. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends the facility survey the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by construction. Any vegetation (trees, shrubs, and grasses) where occupied nests are located should not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

If active rookeries are present within or near the project area, activities should be scheduled and implemented when the birds are not present, after nesting activities have ceased. TPWD recommends avoiding vegetation removal and other forms of disturbance near colonial waterbird rookeries.

State Law

Parks and Wildlife Code

Section 68.015 of the Parks and Wildlife Code regulates state-listed species. Please note that there is no provision for take (incidental or otherwise) of state-listed species. A copy of *TPWD Guidelines for Protection of State-Listed Species* is attached for your reference. State-listed species may only be handled by persons with a scientific collection permit obtained through TPWD. For more information on this permit, please contact the Wildlife Permits Office at (512) 389-4647.

Mr. Robert Delgado
Page Three
March 7, 2011

Grass, cactus, and scattered brush possibly found in the project area could potentially support the state-listed threatened Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*). An additional indication of suitable habitat for this species would be the presence of its primary food source, the Harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex* sp.). The Texas horned lizard is active during summer and early fall and hibernates in burrows approximately 3 to 6 inches deep from September or October until April or May.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends minimizing impacts to vegetation communities to the extent feasible to minimize adverse impacts to this species. If Texas horned lizards are observed during field surveys, a permitted biological monitor should be present during construction to relocate the lizards to a nearby area with similar habitat that would not be disturbed during construction.

TXNDD Data

No records of rare, threatened, or endangered species have been documented in the TXNDD within 1.5 miles of the project area. However, please note that absence of TXNDD information in an area does not imply that a species is absent from that area. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, the data from the TXNDD do not provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features within your project area. The TXNDD is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. These data are not inclusive and **cannot be used as presence/absence data**. They represent species that could potentially be in your project area. This information cannot be substituted for on-the-ground surveys. The TXNDD is updated continuously. As your project progresses and for future projects please request the most current and accurate information at txndd@tpwd.state.tx.us.

A list of rare, threatened, and endangered species that could potentially occur in Parker County is attached for your reference.

Mr. Robert Delgado
Page Four
March 7, 2011

Recommendation: Please review the attached list, as rare species could be present depending upon habitat availability. If during construction, the project area is found to contain rare species, natural plant communities, or special features, TPWD recommends that precautions be taken to avoid impacts to them. The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for federally listed species. Please include the results of any surveys for rare or protected species in the EA.

Managed Areas

As stated above, Lake Mineral Wells State Park is located adjacent to the project site. A map of this park is attached for your reference. Based on the attached map, the proposed project location is within approximately 1,500 feet of the Cross Timbers Camping Area.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that measures to minimize noise, dust, and other factors that may affect nearby campsites during construction be addressed in the EA.

Vegetation

Records in the TXNDD indicate that an occurrence of the Post oak (*Quercus stellata*) – Blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*) vegetation series occurs in Lake Mineral Wells State Park adjacent to the project area. A printout of this record is attached for your reference. Based on a review of recent aerial photography, the proposed project site is at least partially wooded.

Recommendation: Activities leading to direct or indirect losses of the state's fish and wildlife resources and habitat are strongly discouraged. Losses should be minimized using site planning and construction techniques designed to avoid and preserve existing native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs, wetland and aquatic systems. Natural buffers contiguous to wetlands and aquatic systems should remain undisturbed to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors. Should any losses be determined as unavoidable, it is recommended that native plant and forage species that are beneficial to fish and wildlife endemic to the project area be used in mitigation and landscaping plans.

Mr. Robert Delgado
Page Five
March 7, 2011

I appreciate the opportunity to provide preliminary information on this project and I look forward to reviewing the EA. Please call me at (512) 389-4579 if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julie C. Wicker
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

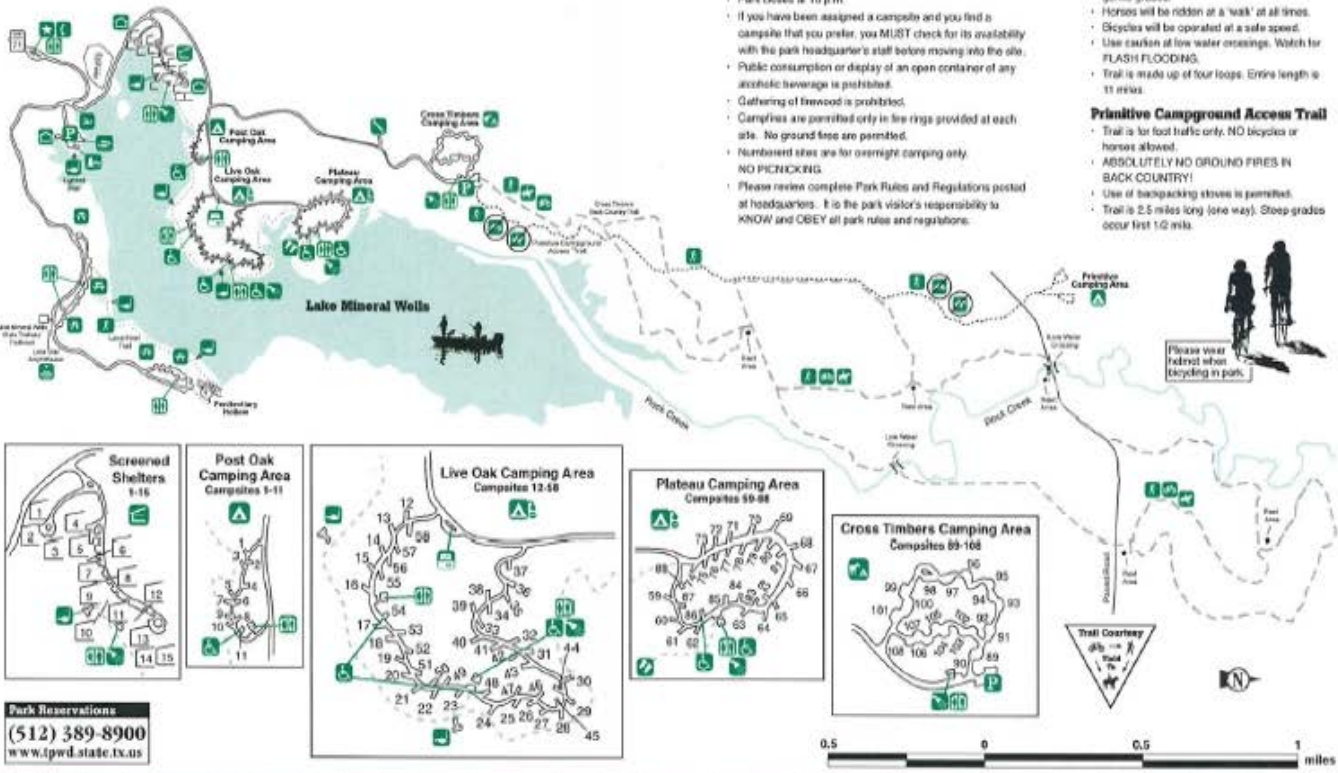
JCW:gg.15734

Attachments (4)



Lake Mineral Wells

State Park and Trailway



Please Note:

- CHECK OUT time is 2 p.m. or renew permit by 9 a.m. (pending site availability).
- Park closes at 10 p.m.
- If you have been assigned a campsite and you find a campsite that you prefer, you **MUST** check for its availability with the park headquarter's staff before moving into the site.
- Public consumption or display of an open container of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- Gathering of firewood is prohibited.
- Campfires are permitted only in fire rings provided at each site. No ground fires are permitted.
- Numbered sites are for overnight camping only. **NO PICNICKING.**
- Please review complete Park Rules and Regulations posted at headquarters. It is the park visitor's responsibility to **KNOW** and **OBEY** all park rules and regulations.

Cross Timbers Back Country Trails

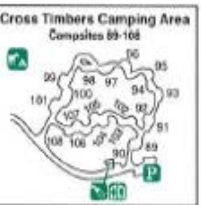
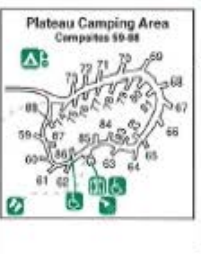
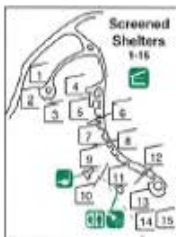
- Multi-use trail for bikers, equestrians and hikers
- Trail is a double track, natural surface trail with gentle grades.
- Horses will be ridden at a 'walk' at all times.
- Bicycles will be operated at a safe speed.
- Use caution at low water crossings. Watch for **FLASH FLOODING.**
- Trail is made up of four loops. Entire length is 11 miles.

Primitive Campground Access Trail

- Trail is for foot traffic only. NO bicycles or horses allowed.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO GROUND FIRES IN BACK COUNTRY!**
- Use of backpacking stoves is permitted.
- Trail is 2.5 miles long (one way). Steep grades occur first 1/2 mile.

Legend:

- Headquarters
- Rest Rooms
- Showers
- Tent Sites
- Water/Electric
- Equestrian Sites
- Dump Station
- Recreation
- Screened Shelters
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Hiking Trail
- Horse Trail
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Pay Phone
- Picnic Area
- Swimming
- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing Pier
- Maintenance
- Concession
- Amphitheater
- Wildlife Viewing Blind



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Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: *Rookery* Occurrence #: 459 Eo Id: 6055

Common Name: TX Protection Status:

Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

Location Information: Latitude: 325050N Longitude: 0980130W

Watershed Code: Watershed Description:

12060201 Middle Brazos-Palo Pinto

County Code: County Name: Mapsheet Code: Mapsheet Name: State:
TXPARK Parker 32098-G1 Mineral Wells East TX

Directions:

NORTH OF LAKE MINERAL WELLS, LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK

Survey Information:

First Observation: 1987 Survey Date: Last Observation: 1990

Eo Type: EO Rank: EO Rank Date:

Observed Area (acres):

Comments:

General Description:

Comments: COLONY NUMBER 554-059

Protection Comments:

Management Comments:

Data:

EO Data: NESTING COLONY OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON

Site:

LAKE MINERAL WELLS WOODLAND

Managed Area:

Managed Area Name: Managed Area Type:
LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK SPWPK

Reference:

Element Occurrence Record

Full Citation:

Martin, Catrina. 1991. Texas Colonial Waterbird Census Summary - 1990. Compiled for Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. and Texas Colonial Waterbird Society. 13 March 1991.

TEXAS COLONIAL WATERBIRD SOCIETY AND TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. 1986-1989. TEXAS COLONIAL WATERBIRD CENSUS SUMMARY. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Specimen:

Element Occurrence Record

<u>Scientific Name:</u> <i>Quercus stellata-quercus marilandica series</i>	<u>Occurrence #:</u> 4	<u>Eo Id:</u> 4266
<u>Common Name:</u> Post Oak-blackjack Oak Series	<u>TX Protection Status:</u>	
<u>Global Rank:</u> G4	<u>State Rank:</u> S4	

Location Information: Latitude: 325021N Longitude: 0980206W

<u>Watershed Code:</u> 12060201	<u>Watershed Description:</u> Middle Brazos-Palo Pinto
------------------------------------	---

<u>County Code:</u>	<u>County Name:</u>	<u>Mapsheet Code:</u>	<u>Mapsheet Name:</u>	<u>State:</u>
TXPARK	Parker	32098-G1	Mineral Wells East	TX

Directions:
UPLANDS ON WEST SIDE OF LAKE MINERAL WELLS, NORTH OF EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA, LAKE MINERAL WELLS SP

Survey Information:

<u>First Observation:</u> 1985-12-04	<u>Survey Date:</u> 1989-11-16	<u>Last Observation:</u> 1989-11-16
<u>Eo Type:</u>	<u>EO Rank:</u> BC - Good or fair estimated viability	<u>EO Rank Date:</u> 1989-11-16
<u>Observed Area (acres):</u>		

Comments:

General Description: OPEN WOODLAND, POST OAK, PLATEAU LIVE OAK, CEDAR ELM IN OVERSTORY; UNDERSTORY DENSE; GROUND COVER MOSTLY LITTLE BLUESTEM

Comments:

Protection Comments:

Management Comments:

Data:

EO Data: DESCRIPTION AND PLANT LIST IN DLI REPORT, SITE 1

Site:

LAKE MINERAL WELLS WOODLAND

Managed Area:

<u>Managed Area Name:</u> LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK	<u>Managed Area Type:</u> SPWPK
--	------------------------------------

Element Occurrence Record

Reference:

Full Citation:

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. 1990. LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK. SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES.

DIAMOND, D. D. 1985. FIELD TRIP TO LAKE MINERAL WELLS AND LITTLE BEAR RANCH OF DECEMBER 4, 1985.

Specimen:

**Code Key for Printouts from
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD)**

This information is for your assistance only; due to continuing data updates, vulnerability of private land to trespass and of species to disturbance or collection, **please refer all requesters to our office to obtain the most current information available.** Also, please note, identification of a species in a given area does not necessarily mean the species currently exists at the point or area indicated.

LEGAL STATUS AND CONSERVATION RANKS

FEDERAL STATUS (as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service)

LE	Listed Endangered
LT	Listed Threatened
PE	Proposed to be listed Endangered
PT	Proposed to be listed Threatened
PDL	Proposed to be Delisted (Note: Listing status retained while proposed)
SAE, SAT	Listed Endangered on basis of Similarity of Appearance. Listed Threatened on basis of Similarity of Appearance
DL	Delisted Endangered/Threatened
C	Candidate. USFWS has substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list as threatened or endangered. Data are being gathered on habitat needs and/or critical habitat designations.
C*	C, but lacking known occurrences
C**	C, but lacking known occurrences, except in captivity/cultivation
XE	Essential Experimental Population
XN	Non-essential Experimental Population
Blank	Species is not federally listed

TX PROTECTION (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

E	Listed Endangered
T	Listed Threatened
Blank	Species not state-listed

GLOBAL RANK (as determined by NatureServe)

G1	Critically imperiled globally, extremely rare, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
G2	Imperiled globally, very rare, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
G3	Very rare and local throughout range or found locally in restricted range, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
G4	Apparently secure globally
G5	Demonstrably secure globally
GH	Of historical occurrence through its range
GU	Possibly in peril range-wide, but status uncertain
G#G#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
GX	Apparently extinct throughout range
Q	Rank qualifier denoting taxonomic assignment is questionable
#?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank
C	In captivity or cultivation only
G#T#	"G" refers to species rank; "T" refers to variety or subspecies rank

STATE (SUBNATIONAL) RANK (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

S1	Critically imperiled in state, extremely rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
S2	Imperiled in state, very rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
S3	Rare or uncommon in state, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
S4	Apparently secure in State
S5	Demonstrably secure in State
S#S#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
SH	Of historical occurrence in state and may be rediscovered
SU	Unrankable – due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information
SX	Apparently extirpated from State
SNR	Unranked – State status not yet assessed
SNA	Not applicable – species id not a suitable target for conservation activities
?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank in State

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RECORD

Element Occurrence Record (EOR) Spatial and tabular record of an area of land and/or water in which a species, natural community, or other significant feature of natural diversity is, or was, present and associated information; may be a single contiguous area or may be comprised of discrete patches or subpopulations

Occurrence # Unique number assigned to each occurrence of each element when added to the NDD

LOCATION INFORMATION

Watershed Code Eight digit numerical code determined by US Geological Survey (USGS)

Watershed Name of watershed as determined by USGS

Quadrangle Name of USGS topographical map

Directions Directions to geographic location where occurrence was observed, as described by observer or in source

SURVEY INFORMATION

First/Last Observation Date a particular occurrence was first/last observed; refers only to species occurrence as noted in source and does not imply the first/last date the species was present

Survey Date If conducted, date of survey

EO Type State rank qualifiers:

M	Migrant – species occurring regularly on migration at staging areas, or concentration along particular corridors; status refers to the transient population in the State		
B	Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the breeding population in State		
N	Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the non-breeding population in State		
EO Rank	A Excellent	AI	Excellent, Introduced
	B Good	BI	Good, Introduced
	C Marginal	CI	Marginal, Introduced
	D Poor	DI	Poor, Introduced
	E Extant/Present	EI	Extant, Introduced
	H Historical/No Field Information	HI	Historical, Introduced
	X Destroyed/Extirpated	XI	Destroyed, Introduced
	O Obscure	OI	Obscure, Introduced

EO Rank Date Latest date EO rank was determined or revised

Observed Area Acres, unless indicated otherwise

COMMENTS

Description General physical description of area and habitat where occurrence is located, including associated species, soils, geology, and surrounding land use

Comments Comments concerning the quality or condition of the element occurrence at time of survey

Protection Comments Observer comments concerning legal protection of the occurrence

Management Comments Observer comments concerning management recommendations appropriate for occurrence conservation

DATA

EO Data Biological data; may include number of individuals, vigor, flowering/fruitletting data, nest success, behaviors observed, or unusual characteristic, etc.

SITE

Site Name Title given to site by surveyor

MANAGED AREA INFORMATION

Managed Area Name Place name or (on EOR printout) name of area when the EO is located within or partially within an area identified for conservation, such as State or Federal lands, nature preserves, parks, etc.

Alias Additional names the property is known by

Acres Total acreage of property, including non-contiguous tracts

Manager Contact name, address, and telephone number for area or nearest area land steward

Please use one of the following citations to credit the source for the printout information:

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts].

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Element occurrence printouts for [scientific name] *records # [occurrence number(s)]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts]. *Use of record #'s is optional.

PARKER COUNTY

BIRDS

	Federal Status	State Status
<p>American Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i></p> <p>year-round resident and local breeder in west Texas, nests in tall cliff eyries; also, migrant across state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.</p>	DL	T
<p>Arctic Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i></p> <p>migrant throughout state from subspecies' far northern breeding range, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.</p>	DL	
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></p> <p>found primarily near rivers and large lakes; nests in tall trees or on cliffs near water; communally roosts, especially in winter; hunts live prey, scavenges, and pirates food from other birds</p>	DL	T
<p>Golden-cheeked Warbler <i>Dendroica chrysoparia</i></p> <p>juniper-oak woodlands; dependent on Ashe juniper (also known as cedar) for long fine bark strips, only available from mature trees, used in nest construction; nests are placed in various trees other than Ashe juniper; only a few mature junipers or nearby cedar brakes can provide the necessary nest material; forage for insects in broad-leaved trees and shrubs; nesting late March-early summer</p>	LE	E
<p>Interior Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i></p> <p>subspecies is listed only when inland (more than 50 miles from a coastline); nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams, rivers; also know to nest on man-made structures (inland beaches, wastewater treatment plants, gravel mines, etc); eats small fish and crustaceans, when breeding forages within a few hundred feet of colony</p>	LE	E
<p>Mountain Plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i></p> <p>breeding: nests on high plains or shortgrass prairie, on ground in shallow depression; nonbreeding: shortgrass plains and bare, dirt (plowed) fields; primarily insectivorous</p>	PT	
<p>Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i></p> <p>both subspecies migrate across the state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada to winter along coast and farther south; subspecies (F. p. anatum) is also a resident breeder in west Texas; the two subspecies' listing statuses differ, F.p. tundrius is no longer listed in Texas; but because the subspecies are not easily distinguishable at a distance, reference is generally made only to the species level; see subspecies for habitat.</p>	DL	T
<p>Western Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i></p> <p>open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roosts in abandoned burrows</p>		
<p>Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i></p>	LE	E

PARKER COUNTY

BIRDS

Federal Status State Status

potential migrant via plains throughout most of state to coast; winters in coastal marshes of Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties

FISHES

Federal Status State Status

Sharpnose shiner *Notropis oxyrhynchus* C
endemic to Brazos River drainage; also, apparently introduced into adjacent Colorado River drainage; large turbid river, with bottom a combination of sand, gravel, and clay-mud

Shalleye shiner *Notropis buccula* C
endemic to upper Brazos River system and its tributaries (Clear Fork and Bosque); apparently introduced into adjacent Colorado River drainage; medium to large prairie streams with sandy substrate and turbid to clear warm water; presumably eats small aquatic invertebrates

MAMMALS

Federal Status State Status

Gray wolf *Canis lupus* LE E
extirpated; formerly known throughout the western two-thirds of the state in forests, brushlands, or grasslands

Plains spotted skunk *Spilogale putorius interrupta*
catholic; open fields, prairies, croplands, fence rows, farmyards, forest edges, and woodlands; prefers wooded, brushy areas and tallgrass prairie

Red wolf *Canis rufus* LE E
extirpated; formerly known throughout eastern half of Texas in brushy and forested areas, as well as coastal prairies

MOLLUSKS

Federal Status State Status

Texas fawnsfoot *Truncilla macrodon* T
little known; possibly rivers and larger streams, and intolerant of impoundment; flowing rice irrigation canals, possibly sand, gravel, and perhaps sandy-mud bottoms in moderate flows; Brazos and Colorado River basins

REPTILES

Federal Status State Status

Brazos water snake *Nerodia harteri* T
upper Brazos River drainage; in shallow water with rocky bottom and on rocky portions of banks

Texas garter snake *Thamnophis sirtalis annectens*
wet or moist microhabitats are conducive to the species occurrence, but is not necessarily restricted to them; hibernates underground or in or under surface cover; breeds March-August

Texas horned lizard *Phrynosoma cornutum* T

PARKER COUNTY

REPTILES

Federal Status State Status

open, arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent burrows, or hides under rock when inactive; breeds March-September

**Timber/Canebrake
rattlesnake**

Crotalus horridus

T

swamps, floodplains, upland pine and deciduous woodlands, riparian zones, abandoned farmland; limestone bluffs, sandy soil or black clay; prefers dense ground cover, i.e. grapevines or palmetto

PLANTS

Federal Status State Status

Comanche Peak prairie-clover *Dalea reverchonii*

Texas endemic; shallow, calcareous clay to sandy clay soils over limestone in grasslands or openings in post oak woodlands, often among sparse vegetation in barren, exposed sites, most known sites are underlain by Goodland Limestone, most known sites are on roadway right-of-ways; flowering April-June, one account for October

Glen Rose yucca

Yucca necopina

Texas endemic; grasslands on sandy soils and limestone outcrops; flowering April-June

**Notes for
County Lists of Texas' Special Species**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) county lists **include**:

Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Vascular Plants identified as being of conservation concern by TPWD within Texas. These special species lists are comprised of species, subspecies, and varieties that are federally listed; proposed to be federally listed; have federal candidate status; are state listed; or carry a global conservation status indicating a species is critically imperiled, very rare, vulnerable to extirpation, or uncommon.

The TPWD county lists **do not include**:

Natural Plant Communities such as Little Bluestem-Indiangrass Series (native prairie remnant), Water Oak-Willow Oak Series (bottomland hardwood community), Saltgrass-Cordgrass Series (salt or brackish marsh), Sphagnum-Beakrush Series (see page bog).

Other Significant Features such as bird rookeries, migratory songbird fallout areas, comprehensive migratory bird information, bat roosts, bat caves, invertebrate caves, and prairie dog towns.

These lists are not all inclusive for all rare species distributions. The lists were compiled, developed, and are updated based on field guides, staff expertise, scientific publications, and the TPWD Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) (formerly the Biological and Conservation Data System) occurrence data. Historic ranges for some state extirpated species, full historic distributions for some extant species, accidentals and irregularly appearing species, and portions of migratory routes for particular species are not necessarily included. Species that appear on county lists do not all share the same probability of occurrence within a county. Some species are migrants or wintering residents only. Additionally, a few species may be historic or considered extirpated within a county.

TPWD includes the Federal listing status for your convenience and makes every attempt to keep the information current and correct. However, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the responsible authority for Federal listing status. The TPWD lists do not substitute for contact with the FWS and federally listed species county ranges may vary from the FWS county level species lists because of the inexact nature of range map development and use.

Status Key:

LE, LT -	Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened
PE, PT -	Federally Proposed Endangered/Threatened
SAE, SAT -	Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened by Similarity of Appearance
C -	Federal Candidate for Listing; formerly Category 1 Candidate
DL, PDL -	Federally Delisted/Proposed for Delisting
NL -	Not Federally Listed
E, T -	State Listed Endangered/Threatened
NT -	Not tracked or no longer tracked by the State
"blank" -	Rare, but with no regulatory listing status

This information is specifically for your assistance only; due to continuing data updates, **please do not redistribute the lists**, instead refer all requesters to the web site at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/rjs/endangered_species/ or to our office for the most current information available. For questions regarding county lists, please call (512) 389-4571.

Please use the following citation to credit the source for this county level information:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division, Diversity and Habitat Assessment Programs. County Lists of Texas' Special Species. [county name(s) and revised date(s)].

Protection of State-Listed Species
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Guidelines

Protection of State-Listed Species

State law prohibits any take (incidental or otherwise) of state-listed species. State-listed species may only be handled by persons possessing a **Scientific Collecting Permit** or a **Letter of Authorization** issued to relocate a species.

- **Section 68.002 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code** states that species of fish or wildlife indigenous to Texas are endangered if listed on the United States List of Endangered Native Fish and Wildlife or the list of fish or wildlife threatened with statewide extinction as filed by the director of Texas Park and Wildlife Department. Species listed as Endangered or Threatened by the Endangered Species Act are protected by both Federal and State Law. The State of Texas also lists and protects additional species considered to be threatened with extinction within Texas.
- **Animals** - Laws and regulations pertaining to state-listed endangered or threatened animal species are contained in Chapters 67 and 68 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code and Sections 65.171 - 65.176 of Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). State-listed animals may be found at 31 TAC §65.175 & 176.
- **Plants** - Laws and regulations pertaining to endangered or threatened plant species are contained in Chapter 88 of the TPW Code and Sections 69.01 - 69.9 of the TAC. State-listed plants may be found at 31 TAC §69.8(a) & (b).

Prohibitions on Take of State Listed Species

Section 68.015 of the TPW Code states that no person may capture, trap, take, or kill, or attempt to capture, trap, take, or kill, endangered fish or wildlife.

Section 65.171 of the Texas Administrative Code states that except as otherwise provided in this subchapter or **Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapters 67 or 68**, no person may take, possess, propagate, transport, export, sell or offer for sale, or ship any species of fish or wildlife listed by the department as endangered or threatened.

"Take" is defined in **Section 1.101(5) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code** as:

"Take," except as otherwise provided by this code, means collect, hook, hunt, net, shoot, or snare, by any means or device, and includes an attempt to take or to pursue in order to take.

Penalties

The penalties for take of state-listed species (TPW Code, Chapter 67 or 68) are:

- 1ST Offense = Class C Misdemeanor:
\$25-\$500 fine
- One or more prior convictions = Class B Misdemeanor
\$200-\$2,000 fine and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Two or more prior convictions = Class A Misdemeanor
\$500-\$4,000 fine and/or up to 1 year in jail.

Restitution values apply and vary by species. Specific values and a list of species may be obtained from the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program.

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501-7602

January 10, 2011

Mr. Robert Delgado
Sr. Project Scientist
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises
14400 Northbrook Drive, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

Dear Mr. Delgado:

We have reviewed the information pertaining to developing the Beddown of the 610th Security Forces Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Wolters, Texas, which would include constructing mission support facilities and infrastructure and operating an Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification (ECS TCC) training site on 10.27 acres on the site.

This project should have no significant adverse impact on the environment or natural resources in the area. We do not require any permits, easements, or approvals for an activity such as this.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposed projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Salvador Salinas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SALVADOR SALINAS
Acting State Conservationist

Appendix B

Summary of Completed Modified Record Firing Range EA for Fort Wolters - Figures

Figure 1: Training Areas at Fort Wolters

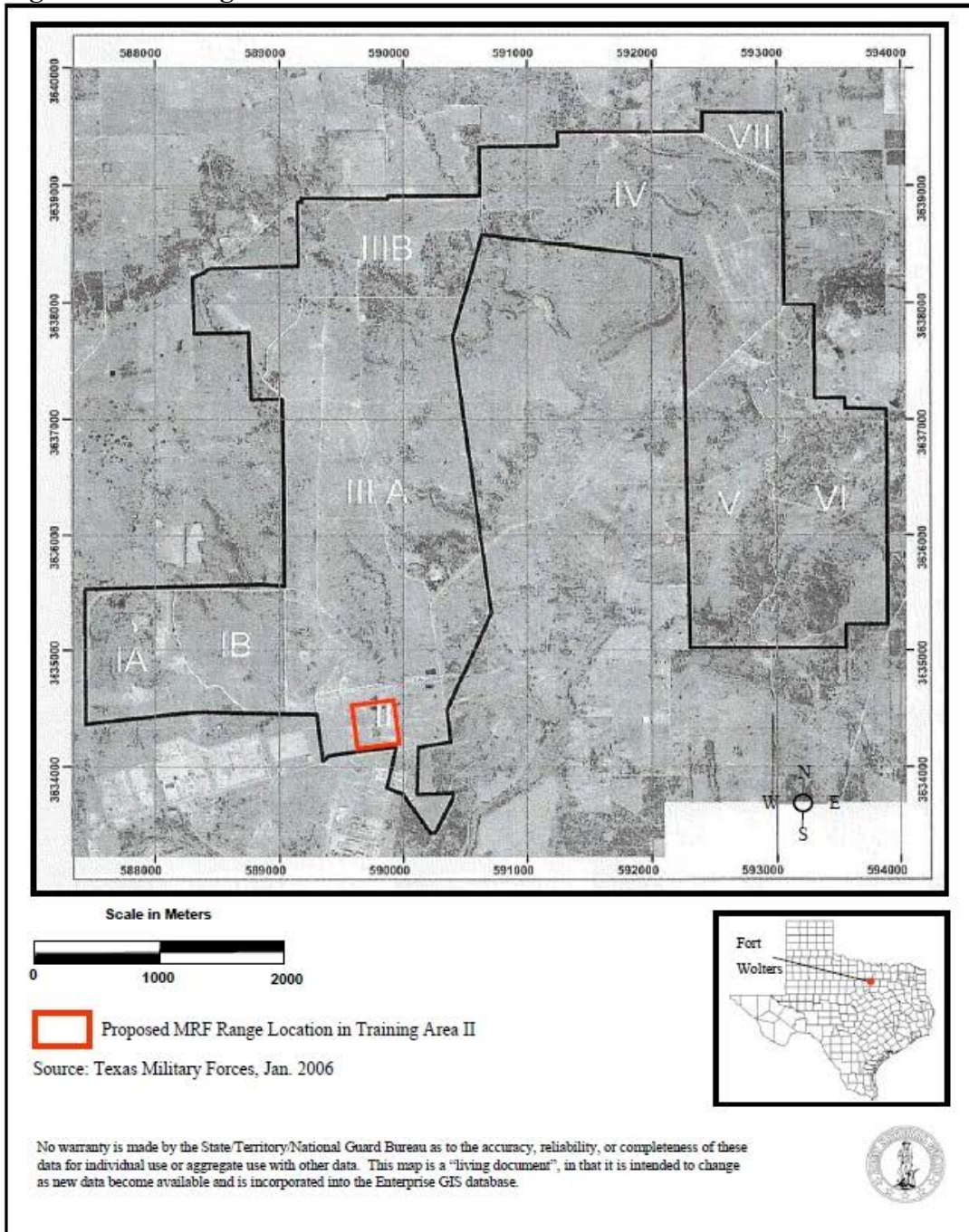


Figure 2: Proposed MRF Range Location

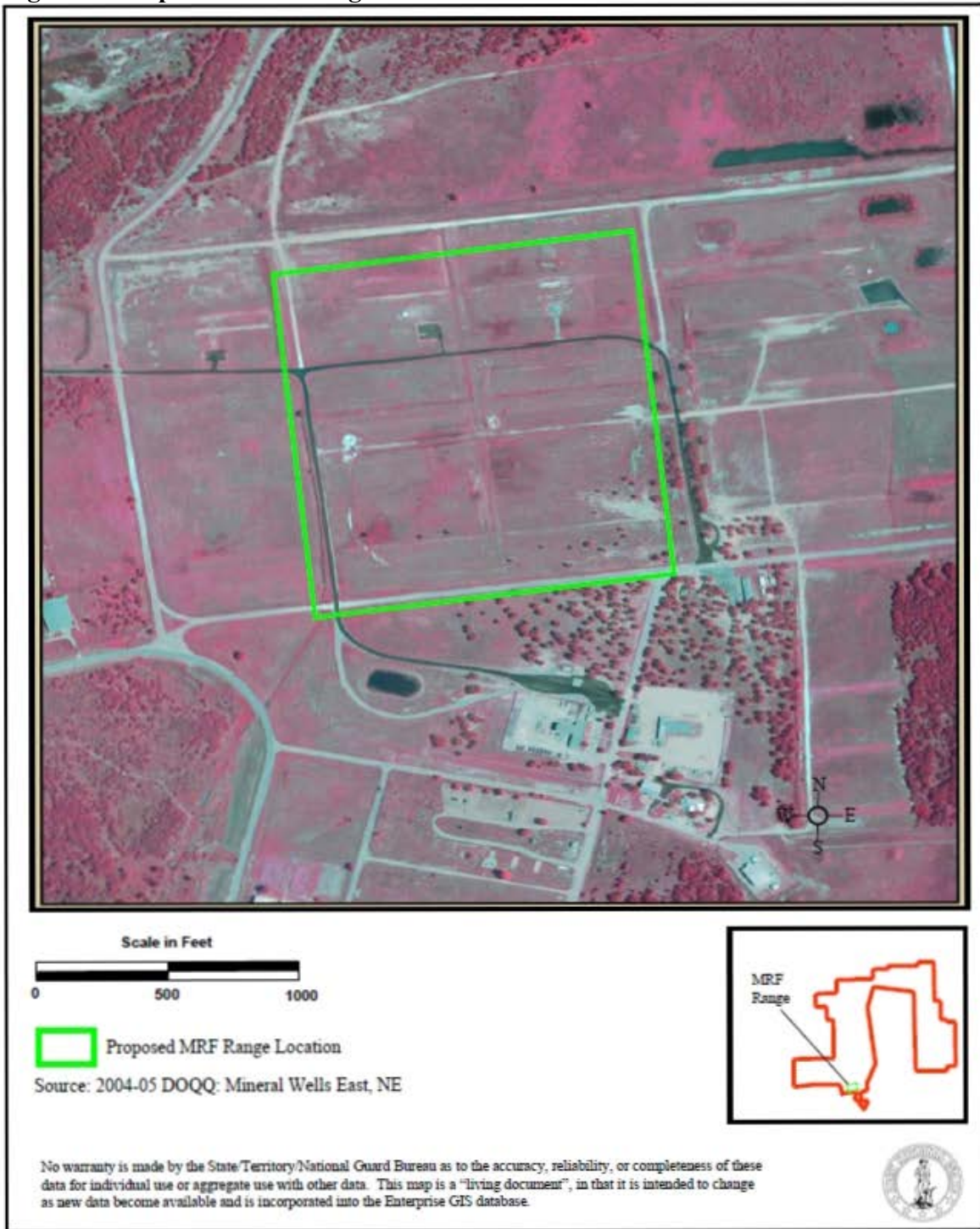


Figure 3: Surface Danger Zone for Proposed MRF Range

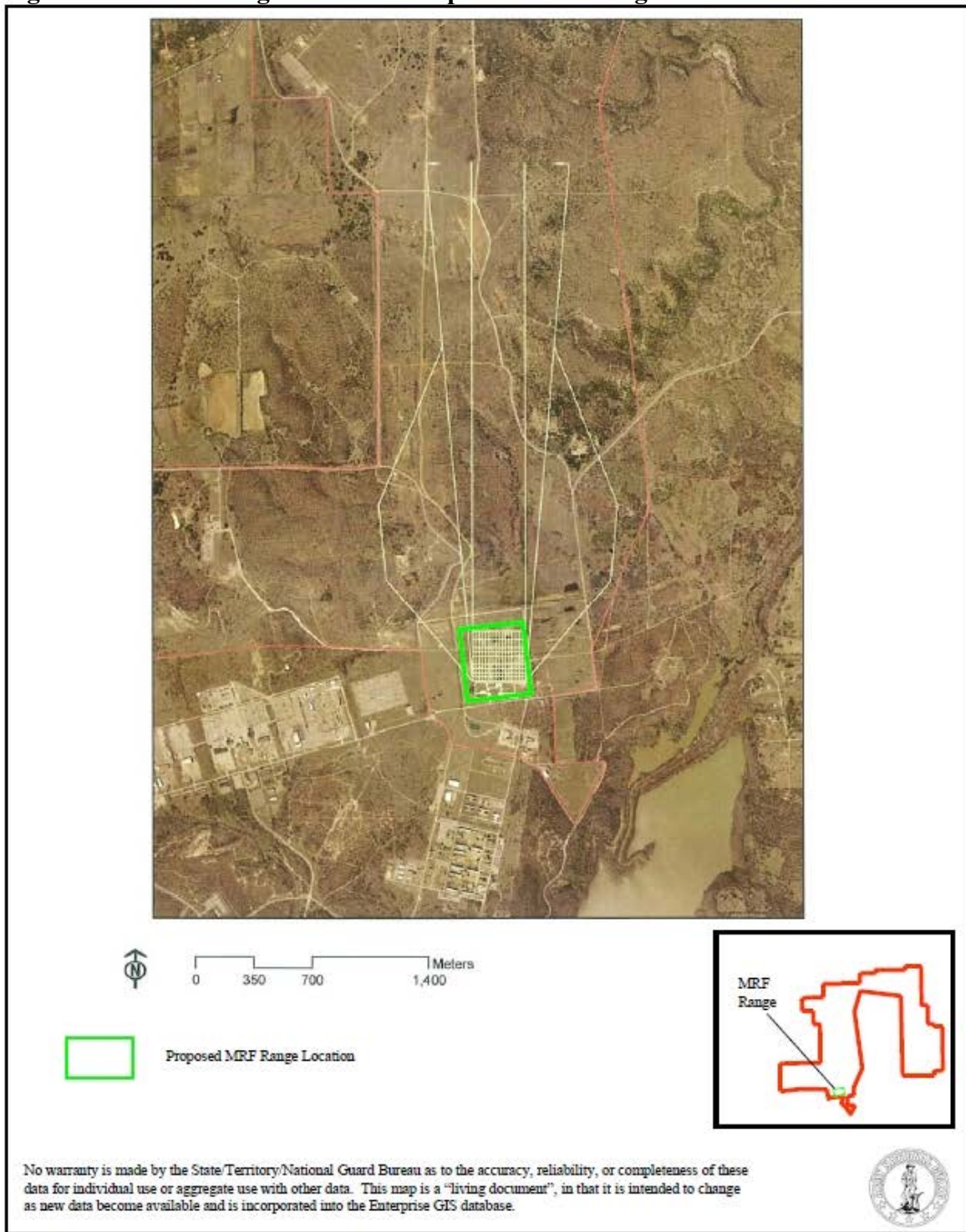


Figure 4: Small Arms Noise Contours

