



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ILS MIDDLE MARKER
DECLARATION OF EXCESS REAL PROPERTY
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE
LOUISIANA

PREPARED BY
2 CES/CEAO
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE
JUNE 2010

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE JUN 2010	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2010 to 00-00-2010			
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Environmental Assessment ILS Middle Marker Declaration of Excess Real Property Barksdale Air Force Base Louisiana		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER			
		5b. GRANT NUMBER			
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
		5e. TASK NUMBER			
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) 2 Civil Engineer Squadron (CES/CEV),Barksdale AFB,LA,71110		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER			
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)			
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 30	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION.....	5
CHAPTER 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION	6
CHAPTER 3: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	7
CHAPTER 4: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.....	24
CHAPTER 5: CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES.....	27
CHAPTER 6: LIST OF PERSONS AND REFERENCES CONSULTED.....	28

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. ILS Middle Marker Building.....	5
2. Location of the Proposed Action.....	6
3. Location of Barksdale Air Force Base.....	8
4. Land Use on Barksdale Air Force Base.....	11
5. Location of Water Resources on Barksdale Air Force Base.....	14
6. Location of all ERP sites on Barksdale Air Force Base.....	17
7. Barksdale Historic District.....	20
8. Location of Archaeological Sites Discovered During Phase I and II Studies.....	21
9. Barksdale Air Force Base Noise Contours.....	22

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Land Use Categories.....	10
2. National and Louisiana Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	12

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential impacts on environmental and human resources from the proposed action . This EA conforms to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) implementing NEPA. Section 1.1 of the EA describes the purpose and need for the proposed action.

1.1 Purpose and Need For the Proposed Action

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) Middle Marker has not been used for years. It has fallen into disrepair and no longer serves any function as a navigational aid for the base. It should be declared excess real property. Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-9004, *Disposal of Real Property*, requires that the Air Force dispose of all excess property that does not support the Air Force mission. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA, Public Law 102-426, 42 United States Code [USC] 9260) requires U. S. agencies to identify real property that can be reused. The purpose of this EA is to document the environmental impacts of declaring the ILS as excess property. A view of the building on the property can be found in Figure 1.



Figure 1 ILS Middle Marker Building

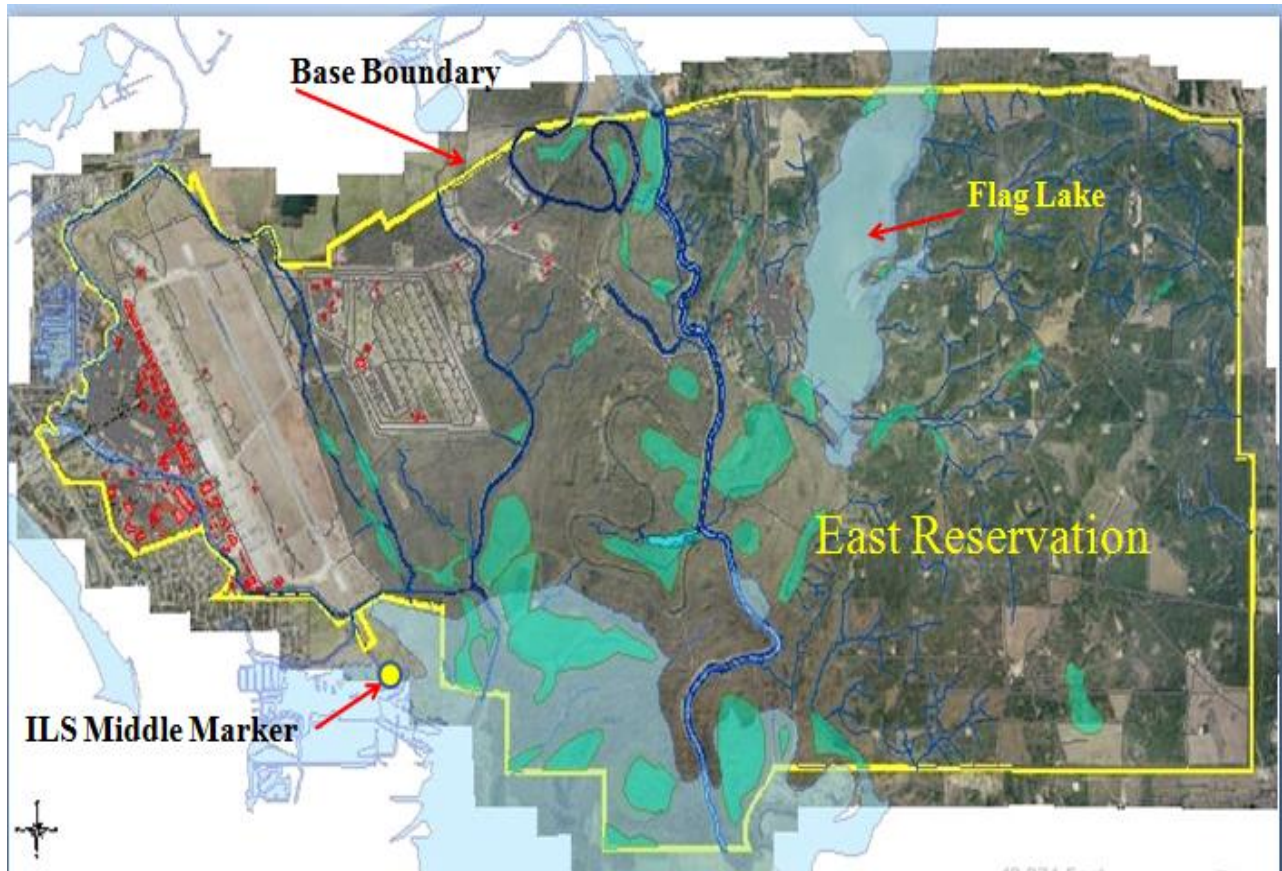


Figure 2 Location of the Proposed Action

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

Chapter 2.0 describes the proposed action in detail as well as alternatives to the proposed action.

2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action will declare this area as excess real property.

On 7 May 2006, David Sanders of 2 CES/CEV and Mr. Richard Parent of 2 CES/CERR conducted a visual site inspection of the property. On 9 May 2006, David Sanders and Lt Tran Tho of 2 MDOS/SGOAB conducted a Lead Based Paint (LBP) evaluation of the facility.

2.2 Alternative Action

There is no alternative action for this declaration of excess real property.

2.3 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would be to not declare it excess real property and to leave it in an abandoned and unmaintained condition.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

Chapter 3.0 succinctly describes the relevant resources of the areas that would be affected by the proposed action if it was implemented. This chapter describes the baseline conditions against which the decision-maker and the affected public can compare the effects of all proposed actions.

3.2 Barksdale AFB Location, History and Current Mission of Installation

Location

BAFB is located in the northwest portion of Louisiana within the Shreveport-Bossier City metropolitan area. This metropolitan area is one of the largest in Louisiana, with a population exceeding 352,000. The Shreveport area extends into southwest Arkansas, northwest Louisiana and northeast Texas. BAFB, occupying 21,802 acres, is bounded by Louisiana Highway 71 on the west and U.S. Highway I-20 on the north (Figure 3). Areas surrounding the base are zoned for both residential and commercial use.

History

BAFB is named in honor of Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale, Air Corps, U.S. Army, who lost his life in 1926 while flight testing an observation-type airplane, near McCook, Ohio. BAFB, originally Barksdale Field, was dedicated in 1933 and marked the culmination of 5 years of effort by the local citizenry to attract the U.S. Army Air Corps to the site. During the 1930s, BAFB operated as a training facility for pursuit and fighter crews, however, this operation was phased out in the 1940s in favor of training for bomber crews. BAFB became part of Strategic Air Command in 1946. In the 1950s, BAFB was the home of the first USAF all-jet strategic bombing, refueling and reconnaissance aircraft, including the B-52 Stratofortress and the KC-135 Stratotankers. Throughout the 1980s and until 1994, BAFB operated the KC-10 aerial refueler. With the 1992 reorganization of the major USAF commands, BAFB joined Air Combat Command (ACC). Barksdale became a part of the new Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) in August, 2009.

Current Mission

Barksdale AFB is the home of the Eighth Air Force Headquarters and the 2d Bomb Wing, the largest bomber unit in AFGSC.

The Eighth Air Force Headquarters is responsible for the direct deployment of more than 250 bomber, fighter and transport aircraft. In addition to 11 active-duty locations, the Eighth Air Force oversees 27 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units in 16 states, as well as 10 mobile Air Combat Command units in six states.

The 2d Bomb Wing is the host unit at BAFB, and has operated here since 1 April 1963. As the largest bomb wing in AFGSC, the wing controls 48 B-52H Stratofortress Bombers assigned to three squadrons. The 20th Bomb Squadron and 96th Bomb Squadron train combat aircrews, maintain combat readiness to support ground commanders in worldwide theater contingency operations and support the Air Force's deterrent role by standing ready to strike specified targets. The 11th Bomb Squadron conducts academic, simulator and flight training for all initial, qualification, re-qualification and instructor upgrade of B-52 aircrews.

The wing maintains a state of constant readiness to conduct strategic bombardment operations on a global scale and continues to reflect the heritage of its motto "Liberty We Defend."

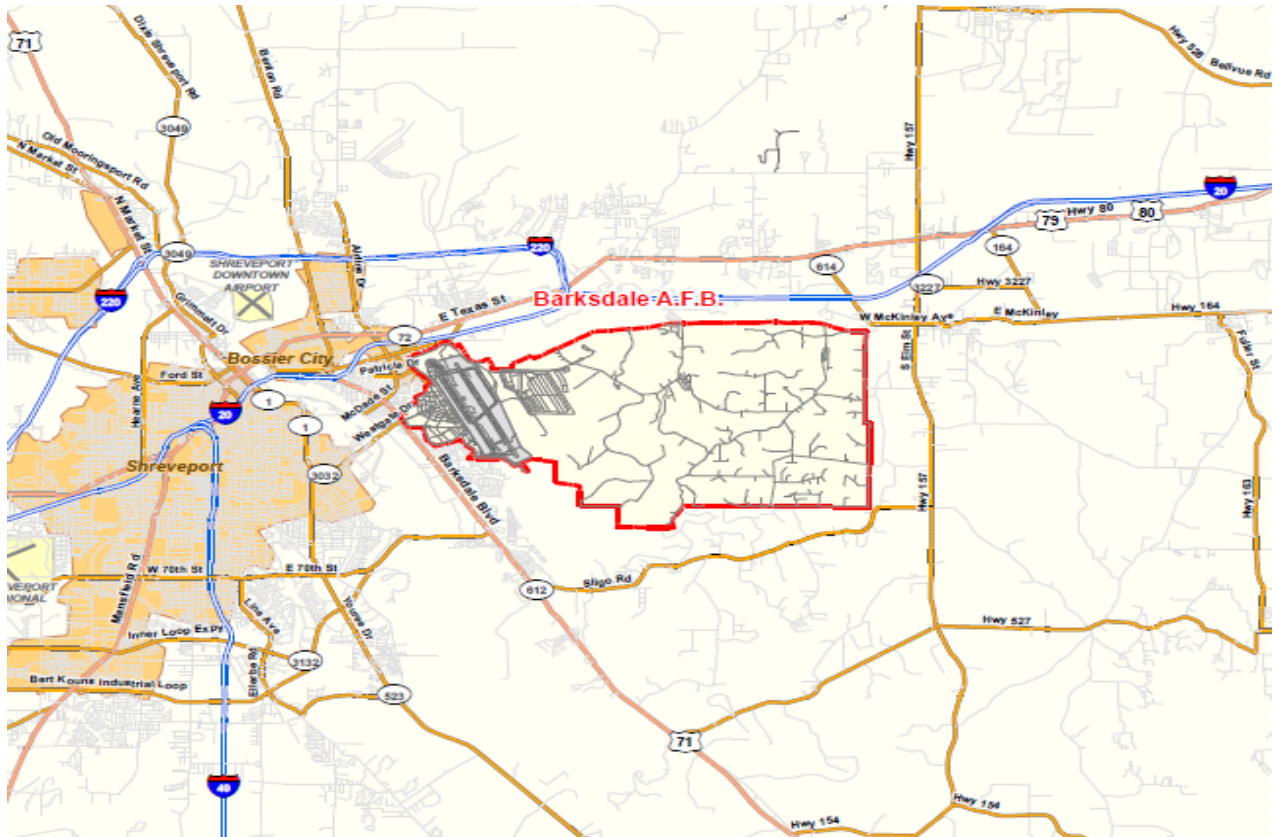


Figure 3 Location of Barksdale Air Force Base

3.3 Description of Area

The area covered by this EA is a parcel of land situated in Bossier Parish, State of Louisiana, being an annex of BAFB lying within the North West Quadrant of Section 12, Township 17 North, and Range 13 West (Longitude 93 ° 40' 50.75"W, Latitude 32 ° 29' 36.34"N). The entire property amounts to 3.24 acres consisting of 0.13 acres owned (Tract A-114) by the USAF and easements (Tracts A-114E-1, A-114E-2, A114E-3, A114E-4, and A114E-5) totaling approximately 2.82 acres. 2.28 acres of the easements (Tracts A-114E-1 and A-114E-5) contain reversionary clauses.

3.3.1 Physical Resource Issues

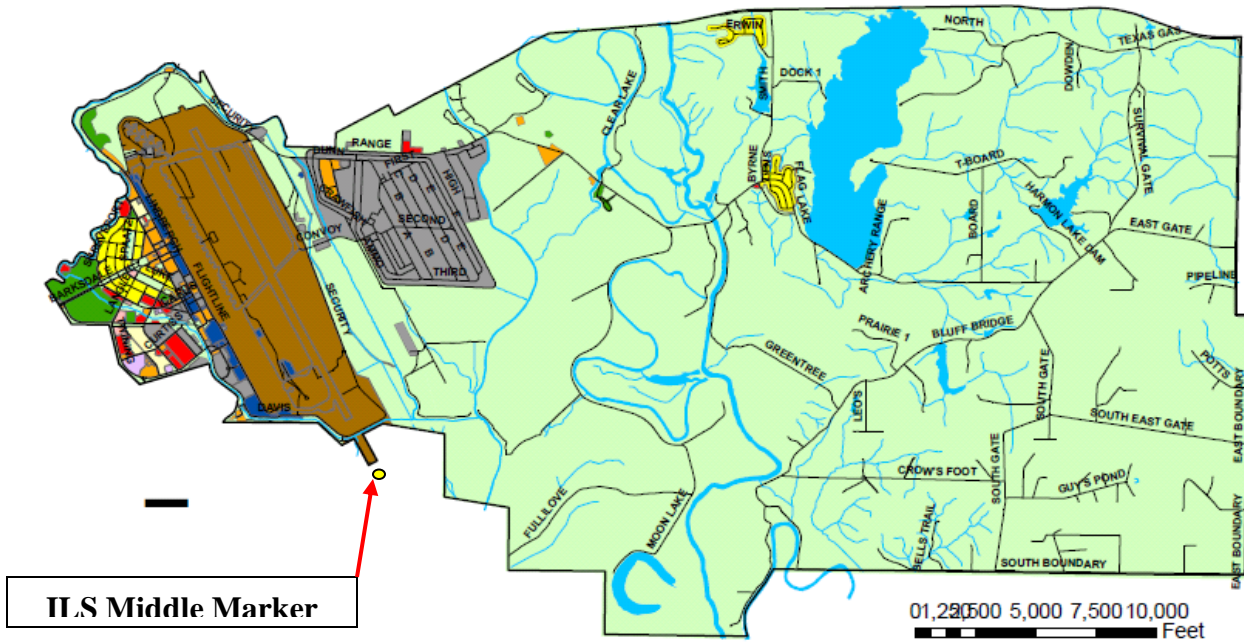
Land Use

BAFB covers an area of 21,802 acres. Primary land use is divided into three distinct areas: (1) the Main Cantonment area (west of the runway), (2) Barksdale East (East Side industrial area) and (3) the East Reservation. Land use is divided into 12 categories. AFI 32-7062 establishes and defines these categories and the principal uses allowed in each particular category. After review of historical aerial photographs and internal documentation, previous land use of subject area appears to be open space/agriculture from the early 1930's until the building was constructed in 1959. The building was abandoned in 2000 and has fallen into disrepair. The building is located adjacent to private property used for agriculture and grazing.

A summary of base land use categories is shown in Table 1. A map of land use is shown in Figure 4.

CATEGORY	ACRES	PERCENT	USES
Airfield	1,365	6.4	Runway, taxiway, apron
Aircraft O&M	82	0.4	Aircraft maintenance, AGE, operations, crew readiness
Industrial	1,018	4.7	Base supply, vehicle maintenance, CE, fuel storage, POL operations
Administrative	49	0.2	Education, wing/group HQ, 8AF HQ, civilian personnel, squadron admin operations
Community (Commercial)	56	0.2	Commissary, AAFES, open mess, gymnasium, theater, bowling center, hobby shops, youth center
Community (Services)	23	0.1	Post office, library, chapel, education center,
Medical	15	0.1	Hospital, dental clinic, area clinics
Housing, Accompanied	239	1.1	MFH units
Housing, Unaccompanied	54	0.2	VOQ, VAQ, BAQ, dormitories, transient facilities
Outdoor Recreation	157	0.7	Softball fields, tennis courts, football field, parks/picnic areas, FamCamp, pools, golf course
Open Space	9,612	44.1	Conservation areas, forest, safety clearance/security areas, utility easements
Water	9,133	41.8	Ponds, lakes, streams, forest wetlands
Total	21,802	100	BAFB Total Area

Table 1 Land Use Categories



ILS Middle Marker

0 1,250 5,000 7,500 10,000 Feet

Legend

Land Use	
	Installation Area
	Roads
	Water
	Housing (Unaccompanied)
	Industrial
	Medical
	Open Space
	Outdoor Recreation
	Water
	Administrative
	Aircraft O_M
	Airfield
	Community (Commercial)
	Community (Service)
	Housing (Accompanied)

10 Sep 08

Figure 4 Land Use on Barksdale Air Force Base

Air Quality

The affected air quality for the proposed action alternative and other alternatives will be similar due to BAFB's location in Northwest Louisiana Region. The region is in full attainment for all criteria pollutants except ozone under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Air quality in a given location is described by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere. NAAQS are established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for criteria pollutants including ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter equal to or less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}). NAAQS represent the maximum levels of background pollution considered acceptable, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health and welfare. The NAAQS are depicted in Table 2. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Air Quality Division (AQD), adopted these same NAAQS for implementation of its air quality program.

POLLUTANT	UNIT	AVERAGING TIME	NAAQS
O ₃	mg/m ³	8 hr	0.075
CO	mg/m ³	1 hr 8 hr	40 10
NO ₂	ppb/μg/m ³	AAM ^a	100
SO ₂	mg/m ³	3 hr 24 hr AAM ^a	1300 365 80
PM ₁₀	μg/m ³	24 hr AAM	150 50
PM _{2.5}	μg/m ³	24 AAM	3.5 15

^a - Annual Arithmetic Mean

^b - Arithmetic Mean

Table 2 National and Louisiana Ambient Air Quality Standards

Climate and Hydrology

BAFB is near the western margin of a broad region of the southeastern United States having a humid, subtropical climate. The parish (parish is an area designation similar to county) in which BAFB is located is dominated by warm, moist, maritime tropical air from the Gulf of Mexico. This air is displaced frequently during winter and spring by incursions of continental polar air from Canada, which usually last no longer than 3 to 4 days. These incursions of cold air occur less frequently in

autumn and rarely in summer. Rainfall is evenly scattered throughout the seasons, averaging 46.6 inches annually. The mean daily maximum temperature is 65.8°F.

The majority of water resources at BAFB are located in the eastern half of the base. Major water resources in this area are: Flat River, Red Chute Bayou, Flag Lake, Harmon Lake and Moon Lake. Water resources are depicted in Figure 5. The water resources in the western half of the base are approximately 80 acres and are primarily limited to Mack's Bayou, Cooper's Bayou and storm drainage channels. BAFB is approximately one mile east of the main channel of the Red River, which dominates the surface hydrology of the area. There are no major water bodies close to the proposed action location.

Potential groundwater supplies are available from the sands of Tertiary and Quaternary ages. The Wilcox Group is the major source of fresh ground water in Caddo Parish. It ranges in thickness from less than 1 foot to almost 400 feet. Generally, water from the Wilcox Group is clear, odorless and soft to moderately hard and has a high percentage of sodium. The top of the Red River alluvial aquifer ranges from 10 to 60 feet below the ground surface. Water levels within the alluvial aquifer are responsive to the adjacent surface water bodies. Some recharge occurs from the underlying Wilcox-Carrizo Aquifer, but most of the recharge is derived from the infiltration of precipitation and, to a lesser extent, from local streams. The silt and clay upper member of the alluvium holds groundwater and occasionally acts as the lower confining layer for a limited perched water table. Discharge from the aquifer occurs by natural process into nearby surface water bodies. Regional groundwater flow within the alluvium at BAFB is to the south and west, toward the Red River. The proposed action does not occur in a wellhead protection area.

Solid and Hazardous Waste/Materials

Construction debris, solid wastes and medical wastes are disposed of by contract off base. The base has been assured the local landfill will be able to meet projected growth for the next 10 years. Hazardous Waste (HW) generated by BAFB is stored on base at various satellite accumulation points. It is then transferred to the 90-day Central Accumulation Point (CAP) until it can be disposed. Hazardous Materials (HM) used by base personnel are issued and reissued through a central supply facility called the Hazardous Material Pharmacy (HAZMART). This facility tracks all HM from purchase to disposal. BAFB must comply with all federal, state and local regulations concerning the use, storage and reporting of Hazardous Materials (HM). In accordance with AFI 32-7086, Hazardous Materials Management, users of HM will provide the HAZMART office, 2 LRS/LGRDMH, a list of all HM, a copy of each material's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), an estimate of how much material will be used, amount stored, and location on the facility prior to the start of work.

Prior to beginning any process, that will generate HW, the user will contact the Asset Management Flight (2 CES/CEA) of the proposed action, the duration of the action and the amount of waste, that will be generated. All HW will be handled and stored in strict compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Users will be held fully liable for any negligence that results in a Notice of Violation or other penalty. Proper management of any waste generated, Hazardous or Nonhazardous, will be the responsibility of the user. The base will dispose of HW generated by

the user on BAFB. Any shipment of HW will be documented on a HW Manifest and signed by a CEA representative. The generator's copy of the manifest will be kept at CEA.

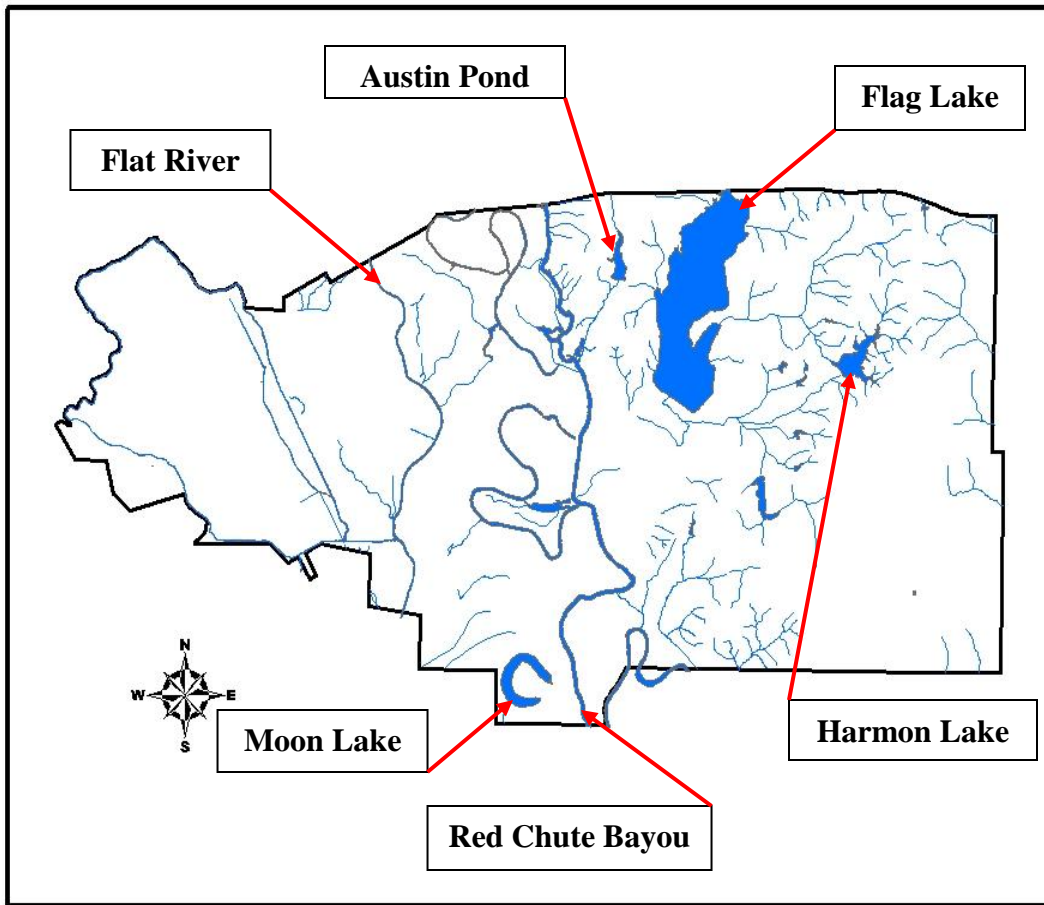


Figure 5 Location of Major Water Resources on Barksdale Air Force Base

Environmental Restoration Program

The Barksdale AFB Environmental Restoration Program is divided into two program categories: the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) category and the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) category. The IRP category includes response actions at sites that are primarily impacted by release of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, petroleum, oil, and lubricants, and other contaminants. The MMRP category concerns munitions response actions that address unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions constituents.

IRP Sites

The IRP began in 1985 with a base wide record search that identified 20 sites for further investigation. Supplemental investigations beginning in 1988 brought the total number of sites to 48, with 12 of these sites being listed as Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) on Barksdale's RCRA Part B permit. IRP sites include closed landfills, fire training areas, bomb ranges, disposal pits, spill areas, storage tanks, wastewater treatment plants, and radiological waste burial sites. The current status of the sites follows:

- 30 sites have been closed under the IRP;
- 3 sites have been recommended for closure with no further action required;
- 10 former range areas are currently in Remedial Investigation;
- 1 site had a Removal action for buried waste recently completed; and
- 4 sites require semiannual groundwater monitoring.

MMRP Sites

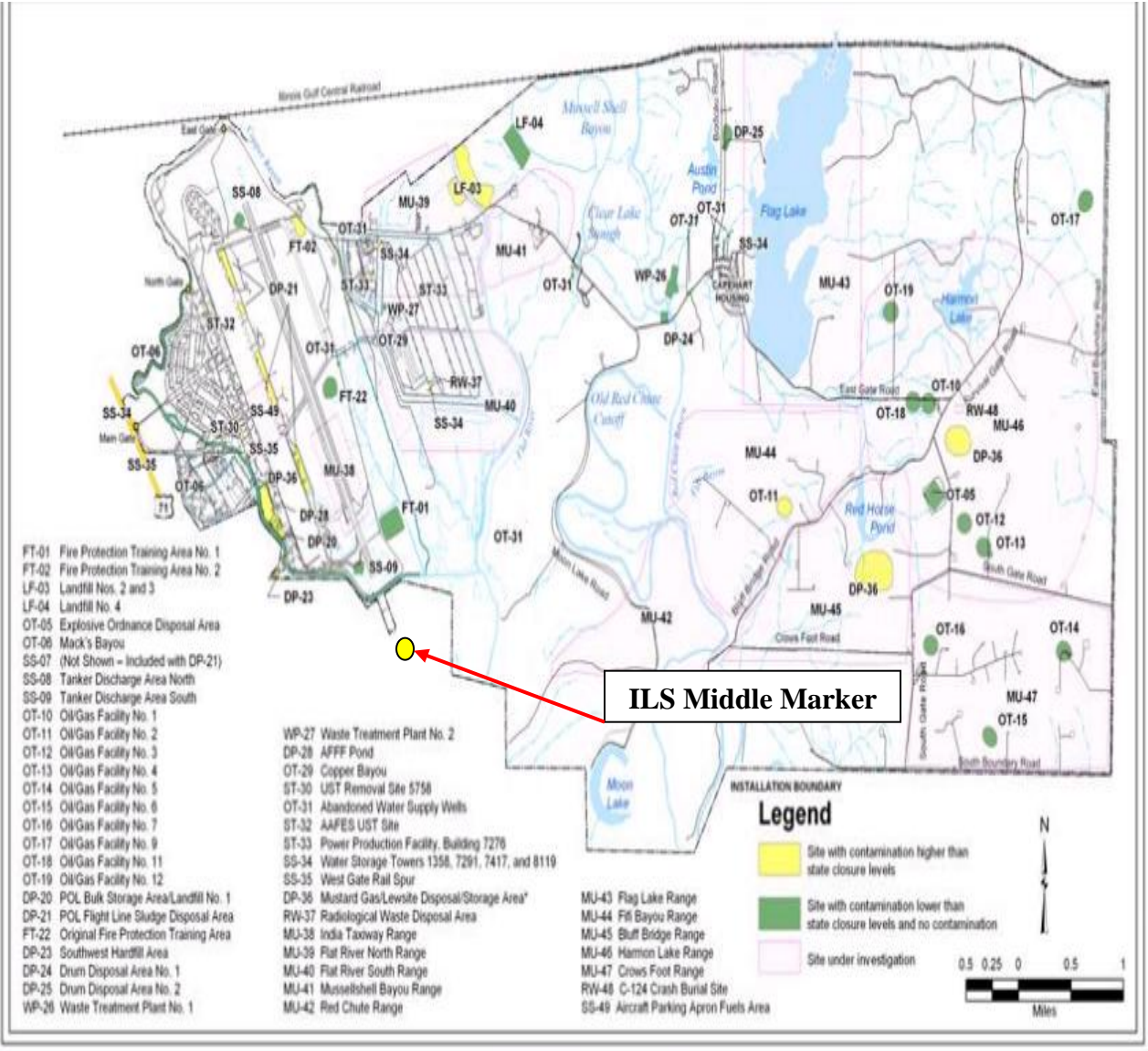
The MMRP was initiated at Barksdale with a Preliminary Assessment in 2001 that identified eight areas for further investigation. A subsequent Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE), Phase I in 2007 identified four additional areas for investigation. The CSE Phase II investigation began in 2008 and included site investigations and surface UXO removal at 10 former pistol/rifle ranges and two former bomb ranges that dated back to 1940s usage. Plans for the 12 MMRP sites include a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study beginning sometime in 2010.

Locations of all ERP sites on Barksdale AFB can be found in Figure 6. The ILS Middle Marker is not located near any ERP sites.

Topography, Geology and Soils

BAFB is located in the western Gulf Coast Plain in northwestern Louisiana. The area consist of flat to rolling plains in the eastern portion giving way to flat alluvial plains in the west. The base ranges from 115-ft mean sea level (msl) along the Red River floodplain to 336-ft msl in the northeast uplands. Natural drainage is generally westward and well developed. The land adjacent to the proposed action is 170-ft msl.

BAFB lies within three physiographic regions: Tertiary uplands, Pleistocene terraces and Red River alluvial plains. Each region is characterized by soils formed in a different age or type of parent material. The Tertiary uplands on the eastern side of the base are sedimentary deposits consisting of material ranging in texture from sand to clay. These are old deposits laid down in former extensions of the Gulf of Mexico. The Pleistocene terrace uplands are alluvial surfaces that were deposited as a Red River fluvial plain during the Pleistocene Epoch. The Red River alluvium, which lies along the western side of the base, consists primarily of water-laid sediments transported by the Red River. These sediments are dominantly materials derived from erosion of the older Permian red beds, resulting in their characteristic red colors. The proposed action occurs in the alluvial plains with a slight to moderate erosion hazard. The region of influence is not subject to earthquakes or earthslides.



ERP SITE LOCATION MAP AT BARKSDALE AFB
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, LOUISIANA

Figure 6 Location of all ERP sites on Barksdale Air Force Base

3.3.2 Biological Resource Issues

Biological resources include native plants and animals in the region on and around BAFB. Presently, BAFB comprises 21,802 acres of natural vegetation, 17,301 acres of which is dominated by forested communities. Bottomland hardwoods make up approximately 7,600 acres of these forested areas. Additionally, approximately 2,400 acres of wetlands have been restored as seasonal wetlands in an effort to recreate the natural water level and flow. The extent and variety of BAFB wetlands contribute significantly to wetland functions and values of Louisiana's freshwater wetlands. The Vicksburg District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdictional authority over BAFB wetlands. The two primary non-wetland waters of the U.S. located on base are Mack's Bayou and Cooper's Bayou. Mack's Bayou is the primary drainage feature of the cantonment area and is fed by Cooper's Bayou east of the flightline. Generally, the 100-year flood plain follows drainage ways with elevations less than 160 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL).

BAFB falls within the Lower Mississippi Riverine Forest province. The primary plant communities for this region include the oak-gum-cypress bottomlands, in which most wetlands occur, and the pine-oak-hickory-maple forest, which dominates the uplands. Seven plants listed on the state rare list and ten uncommon "watch list" plants have been located on the base.

Mammalian fauna found in this ecological subregion include white-tailed deer, bobcat, gray fox, raccoon, cottontail rabbit, swamp rabbit, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, striped skunk and many small rodents and shrews. Foxes are living on the base golf course near the proposed and alternative action areas. These critters are sometimes seen on the course and in nearby housing areas but almost never go near the main entrance because of traffic flow. Game bird populations here include turkey, bobwhite quail, waterfowl and mourning dove. Ibis, cormorants, herons, egrets and kingfishers are common in flooded areas. Common songbirds of this area include red-eyed vireo, northern cardinal, tufted titmouse, wood thrush, summer tanager, blue-gray gnatcatcher, hooded warbler and Carolina wren. Herpetofauna include the alligator, box turtle, cottonmouth, common garter snake and copperhead.

There are no federally listed threatened, endangered or candidate species considered year-round residents on BAFB by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, no state listed threatened or endangered species have been identified on base. However, there are several species listed as rare or "of concern" by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program. One federally listed species, the threatened American Bald Eagle, has been observed as a winter resident in the trees surrounding Flag Lake. No nesting bald eagles have been documented at BAFB. Trees around the lakeshore are protected from cutting to provide future nesting sites. There is potential for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker to exist on base, as potential habitat exists on base and known colonies of this species have been identified in the areas surrounding the base. Species of concern identified as occurring on BAFB by The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana include the Bachman's sparrow and the Cooper's hawk.

Neither threatened nor endangered species are located in the proposed action areas. There are also no rare or uncommon plants on the site.

3.3.3 Cultural Resource Issues

The Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for BAFB provides guidelines and procedures that will enable the base, an ACC installation, to meet its legal responsibilities for the identification, evaluation and treatment of historic properties under its jurisdiction.

By definition, cultural resources that have been evaluated and identified as eligible for inclusion in or formally listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are considered to be "historic properties." These historic properties may be archeological sites (both prehistoric and historic), buildings, structures, objects and districts. Resources of potential NRHP eligibility are those resources for which the NRHP evaluation process has not yet been undertaken or has not yet been completed. Such resources must be treated as eligible for the NRHP until a final determination has been made.

Historic District

BAFB's history and significance was recognized when the state of Louisiana created a National Historic District in 1992 (Figure 7). The district is unique for its properties as well as its planning. BAFB's plan is based on a Beaux-arts radial pattern developed by landscape engineer Captain Norfleet G. Bone and his assistant, Mr. Hugh K. Harris, landscape architect. Plant materials native to the area, such as live oaks, were used in the landscape design. The structures of the historic district were built between 1930 and 1941 in the French Colonial Revival Style and are characterized by terra-cotta and stucco walls, tripped and gabled red tile roofs, French windows and wrought iron rails. In addition to being architecturally significant, many of the houses in the district have been home to distinguished military families. Some of the more distinctive commercial properties are also historically significant.

The historic district encompasses many different building types with varying maintenance issues associated with age and use. These problems are compounded by the unique maintenance and repair procedures that must be followed to retain the historic qualities of these properties. The proposed action area is not located within the boundaries of the Historic District.

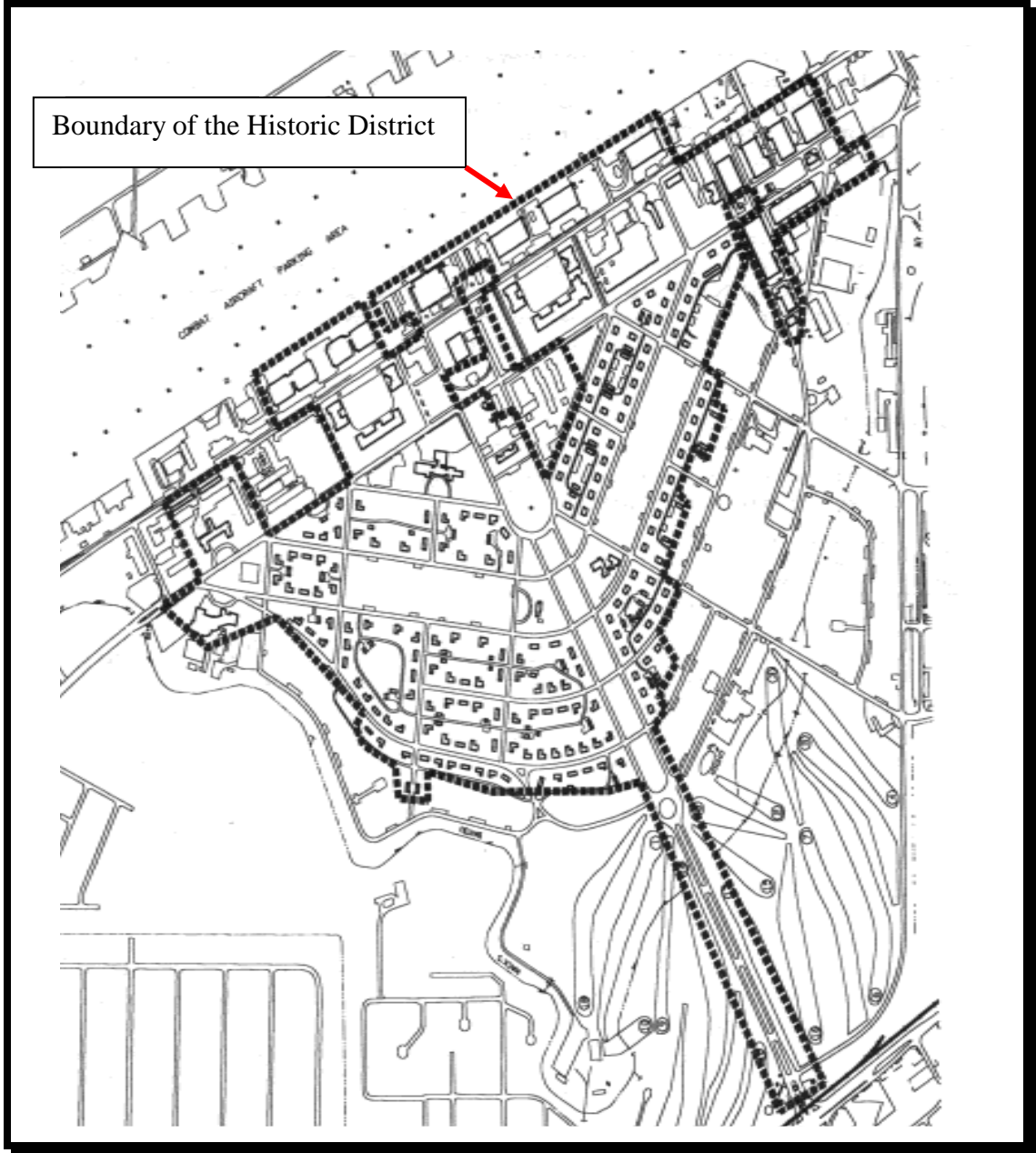


Figure 7 – Barksdale Historic District

Archaeological Sites

From July 1995 through April 2009, four Phase I and three Phase II archaeological surveys were conducted over an area of approximately 16,705 acres. Phase I surveys are initial reconnaissance studies to determine if anything significant may be present. Phase II surveys go into further detailed studies and make a final determination on the eligibility of sites for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These surveys found a total of 120 sites, of which, 18 could be potentially eligible for nomination to the NHRP. Of these 18 sites, three are prehistoric (before the arrival of the Europeans), 13 are historic and two are both prehistoric and historic. The 18 sites have been studied under Phase II investigation in FY99-08. Two prehistoric sites are quite large and could be remnants of Indian villages (Caddo Tribe). Consultation with the Caddo Indian Tribe has been initiated on the prehistoric sites. Of the remaining 18 sites, 1 is now considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP (a prehistoric site). Two other sites (with prehistoric components) are currently undergoing study and could be eligible for NRHP nomination. The locations of all 120 sites are shown in Figure 8. The proposed action site is not located near any known archaeological sites.

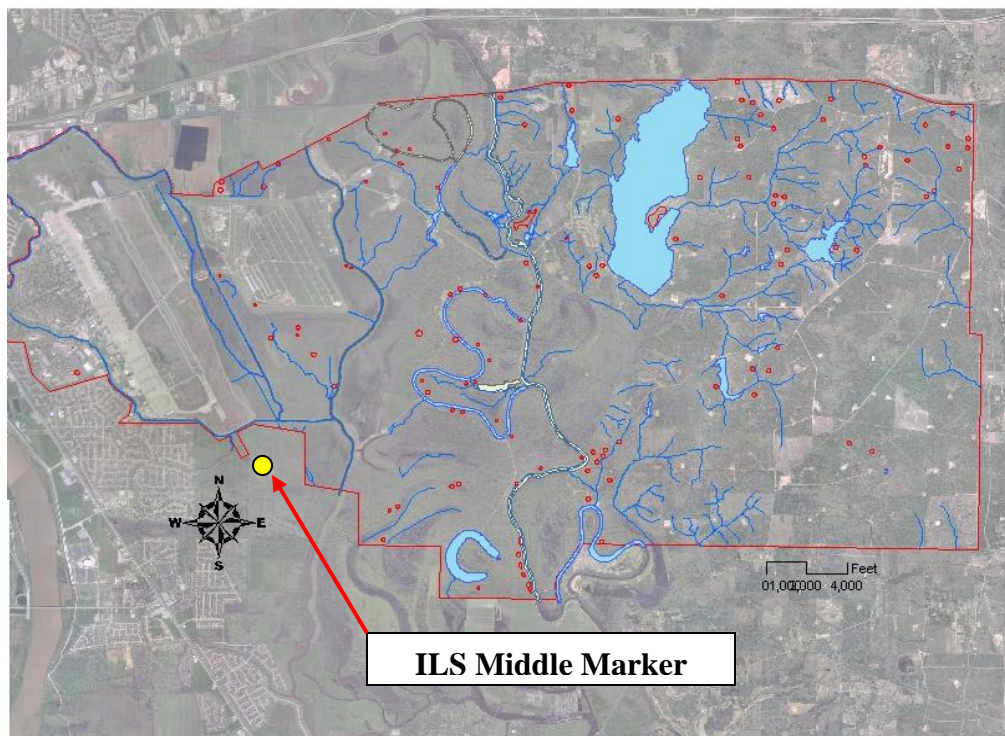


Figure 8 Location of Archaeological Sites Discovered During Phase I and II Studies

3.3.4 Noise Issues

The purpose of the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program is to promote compatible land development in areas subject to aircraft noise and accident potential. Air Force AICUZ land use guidelines reflect land use recommendations for clear zones, accident potential zones I and II and four noise zones. This is depicted in Figure 9. These guidelines have been established on the basis of studies prepared and sponsored by several federal agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Force and state and local agencies. The guidelines recommend land uses that are compatible with airfield operations while allowing maximum beneficial use of adjacent properties. The Air Force has no desire to recommend land use regulations that render property economically useless. It does, however, have an obligation to the inhabitants in the BAFB environs and to the citizens of the United States to point out ways to protect the people in adjacent areas as well as the public investment in the installation itself. The Air Force system for describing the noise environment is the Day-Night Average A-Weighted Sound Level (DNL). The average DNL occurring in the proposed action site is 80 decibels and above (dB).

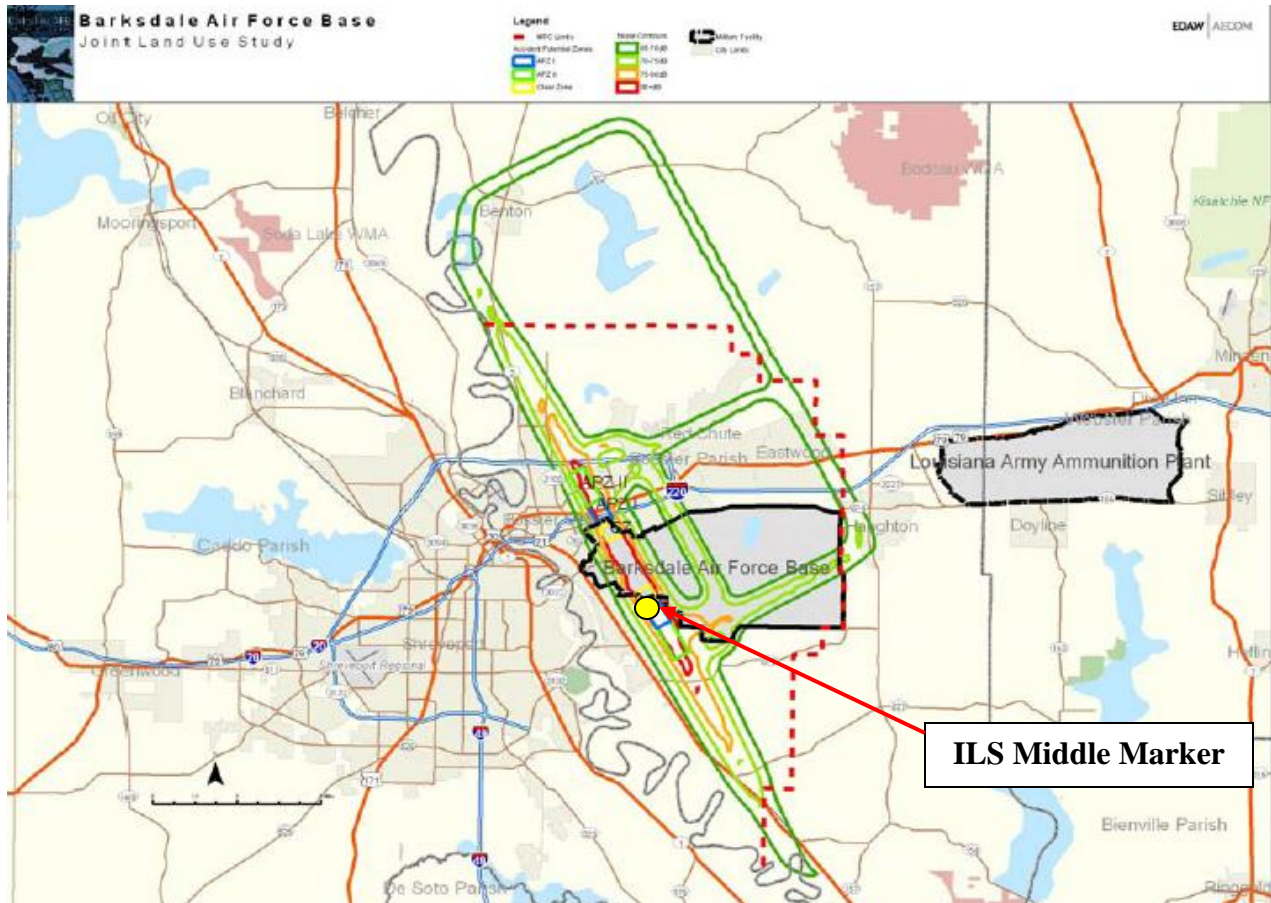


Figure 9 Barksdale Air Force Base Noise Contours
Values are in decibels (dB)

3.3.5 Socioeconomic Issues

The base-related population living in the Shreveport-Bossier City area consists of nearly 8,000 military personnel (active and reserve) and family members (with over 5,000 living off base) and 1,800 civilian employees. There are also over 15,320 base-related family members living on and off base. In addition, up to 60,000 retirees and their family members live within a 100-mile radius and use base services, including the hospital, base exchange, golf course and commissary, each year.

BAFB interaction with the community has been significant since its inception in 1933. Government spending in the local area for construction and build-up of the base was the primary contributor to the Shreveport-Bossier City economy through the Great Depression.

BAFB continues to be a major factor in the growth of Shreveport and Bossier City with a total economic impact of approximately \$584 million, with approximately \$336 million going to annual payroll and over \$154 million going to total annual expenditures. In addition, estimated annual dollar value of jobs created is over 94 million.

3.3.6 Transportation

The efficiency of Barksdale AFB's internal transportation system, including road access on and off base is good. The majority of the roads are in the western side of the base. All streets are grouped into three classifications: arterial streets, collector streets and local streets. Four arterial streets provide access to all points in the western side of Barksdale AFB. All streets in the east side of the base are classified as local streets with the exception of Range Road, which is classified as a collector street.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Section 4.0 evaluates the environmental impact of implementing the proposed, alternative, and no-action alternatives.

4.1 Proposed Action

4.1.1

The proposed action would result in the declaration of the ILS Middle Marker as being excess real property.

4.1.2 Land Use

The existing land use is Agriculture. The proposed action will not adversely affect land use.

4.1.3 Air Quality

Implementation of the proposed action on BAFB would only generate short-term air emissions if there are demolition activities. All emissions associated with the proposed project would be temporary and as such are not regulated in areas currently in attainment with NAAQS (Northwest Region). Particulate air emissions as a result of the proposed action would be temporary and negligible; therefore, impacts to air quality would not be significant. In compliance with 40 CFR Part 93, the proposed action must be evaluated to address the potential need for preparation of an air quality conformity analysis. A conformity analysis is required if a federally proposed action is to take place in an existing nonattainment area and the increase in air emissions exceeds the rate outlined in 40 CFR 93.153, applicability, paragraph (b)(1). BAFB is located in an attainment area and the proposed action would result in no estimated increases in long-term emission factors on base. As a result, determination of conformity to the State or Federal Implementation Plans is not required.

4.1.4 Climate and Hydrology

Undertaking the proposed actions is not expected to significantly impact surface and groundwater resources of the region. Demolition activities, if any, may introduce suspended solids in drainage run off. Storm water management will be provided to minimize suspended solids by constructing temporary diversion terraces, installing silt fencing and only removing vegetation necessary for construction activities. The proposed action is not near groundwater drinking water wells. Additional vegetation and landscaping will also reduce adjacent water contamination. No water detention will be required.

4.1.5 Solid and Hazardous Waste/Materials

No significant impact due to hazardous waste or materials is expected in conjunction with the proposed action.

4.1.6 Topography, Geology, and Soils

The proposed action would have insignificant effect on topography and soils. There would be some removal of existing grasses if demolition would occur. Erosion control precaution will be implemented and surface drainage patterns will not be altered. The effects of this action will be minimal.

4.1.7 Biological Resources

The proposed action will not affect biological resources. There are no listed threatened or endangered species or plants in the area of the proposed action.

4.1.8 Cultural Resources

The proposed action will not affect any cultural resources associated with the base. The area has not been surveyed for any possible archaeological resources.

4.1.9 Noise

Increased noise levels due to demolition activities are expected. This activity will be short-lived, and effects should be minimal and transitory. The proposed action site has a noise level of 80 dB (decibels) and above.

4.1.10 Transportation

Since the proposed action site is located in an off-road isolated area, no affect on transportation is anticipated.

4.2 No-Action Alternative

4.2.1 General

Under the no-action alternative, the building would remain in it's current location, and the property would remain abandoned and unused.

4.2.2 Land Use

Land use at the existing site would remain the same.

4.2.3 Air Quality

The no-action alternative would generate no particulate matter emissions due to any demolition. Air quality would remain the same.

4.2.4 Climate and Hydrology

The no-action alternative would not be expected to impact surface or groundwater resources of the region.

4.2.5 Solid and Hazardous Waste/Materials

No impact due to hazardous waste or materials is expected in conjunction with the no-action alternative.

4.2.6 Topography, Geology, and Soils

Geological and soil resources are not expected to be adversely affected by the no-action alternative.

4.2.7 Biological Resources

Environmental impacts to biological resources are not expected from the no-action alternative. There should be no adverse affects to animal species or wetlands.

4.2.8 Cultural Resources

The no-action alternative would have no impact on historic or archaeological resources.

4.2.9 Noise

The no-action alternative would not affect the noise level in the area.

4.2.10 Transportation

The no-action alternative would not impact transportation.

5.0 Cumulative Effects and Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

5.1 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts on environmental resources result from incremental effects of proposed actions, when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the area. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively substantial, actions undertaken over a period of time by various agencies or individuals. Informed decision-making is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future. During the timeframe of the proposed action, no specific projects from the past or reasonably foreseeable future are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site.

Past and Present Actions

Barksdale AFB is an active military installation that undergoes continuous change in mission and in training requirements.

Future Proposed Actions

The property would be declared excess and made available for usage by other Federal agencies. The General Services Agency (GSA) will be the primary steward for disposition.

5.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

NEPA CEQ regulations require environmental analyses to identify "...any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposed action should be implemented" (40CFR Section 1502.16).

Material Resources: No material resources would be consumed by declaring the area to be excess real property.

Energy Resources: No energy resources are expected to be consumed by declaring the area to be excess real property.

Biological Habitat: The proposed action would result in no loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Human Resources: The proposed action would result in a beneficial asset because the Air Force can take the property off its real property inventory and legal and maintenance issues would no longer consume resources.

6.0 LIST OF PERSONS AND REFERENCES CONSULTED

PERSONS:

Mr. Richard Parent, Barksdale AFB, 2 CES/CEAO
Mr. Jim Flentge, Barksdale AFB, 2 OSS/OSAA
Mr. Bob Cote, Barksdale AFB, 2 CES/CEAN
Mr. Alan Cox of American Electric Power/ (AEP) SWEPCO

REFERENCES:

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4. Barksdale Air Force Base, *Management Action Plan*, 2003
5. Barksdale Air Force Base, *Environmental Data Management and Decision Support Report*, 1995
6. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *Soil Survey of Barksdale Air Force Base (Forested Part)*, 1992
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9. AFI 32-7061: The Environmental Impact Analysis Process, 1 August 1997
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11. Barksdale Air Force Base, *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan*, December 2006
Barksdale Air Force Base
12. *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan*, 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2008
13. The Nature Conservancy Louisiana Field Office, *Threatened and Endangered Species-Natural Areas Survey*, April 1997
14. ILS Middle Marker, PCB certification, 3 January 2007
15. Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) Site Visit Checklist, August 2006
16. ILS Middle Marker, EBS Report, December 2006
17. Letter from American Electric Power (AEP) concerning PCBs, 7 September 2006
18. ILS Middle Marker, Certification of EBS, 3 January 2007
19. AFI 32-9004: Disposal of Real Property, 21 July 1994

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

INTRODUCTION

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will declare the ILS Middle Marker as excess real property.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

There is no alternative to the proposed action.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Implementing the proposed action would have the following anticipated impacts:

Land Use. The existing land use is Agriculture. The proposed action will not change land use.

Air Quality. Implementation of the proposed actions on BAFB would generate short-term air emissions associated with clearing and construction activities. All emissions associated with the proposed project would be temporary and as such are not regulated in areas currently in attainment with NAAQS (Northwest Region). Particulate air emissions as a result of the proposed actions would be temporary and negligible; therefore, impacts to air quality would not be significant. Determination of conformity to the State or Federal Implementation Plans is not required.

Climate and Hydrology. Undertaking the proposed actions is not expected to impact surface and groundwater resources of the region. The proposed action is not near any groundwater drinking water wells.

Solid and Hazardous Waste/Materials. No significant impact due to hazardous waste or materials is expected in conjunction with the proposed actions. No hazardous waste is generated by any proposed action, and solid waste would be minimal as a result of clearing activities.

Biological Resources. The proposed actions will not affect biological resources. No threatened or endangered species will be harmed or removed. There will be no impact to hunting, fishing or other biological resources.

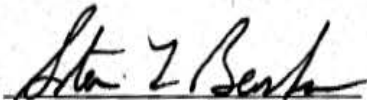
Cultural Resources. The proposed action is not sited within the boundaries of the Barksdale Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are no known archaeological sites within the construction activity zone.

Topography, Geology and Soils. None of the proposed actions would have an effect on topography and soils. By clearing the land there would be some removal of soils and slight topographic changes would occur. This action would be minimal, and after landscaping is completed, soil stabilization would occur.

Noise. Only construction activity will increase noise levels. This activity will be short-lived, and effects are minimal and transitory.

Transportation. The action would not impact transportation.

FONSI/FONPA: On the basis of the findings of this Environmental Assessment conducted in accordance with the requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and Air Force Instruction 32-7061 as promulgated in 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 989, and after careful review of the potential impacts of the proposed action and no-action alternative, I find that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment from the implementation of the proposed action or no-action alternative described in the EA. Therefore, I find there is no requirement to develop an Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, pursuant to Executive Order 11988, the authority delegated in SAFO 791.1, and taking the above information into account, I find that there is no practicable alternative to this action and that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the environment.



STEVEN L. BASHAM
Colonel, USAF
2 BW/CC

19 JUL 2010

Date