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*FINAL REPORT*

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
&  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**PROPOSED NEW U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER  
OLDE EIGHT ROAD  
BOSTON HEIGHTS, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**



*Prepared For:*

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**AUGUST 2002**

# **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **PROPOSED NEW U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER OLDE EIGHT ROAD BOSTON HEIGHTS, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

**AUGUST 2002**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C 4321 et seq.) and Army Regulation 200-2 (Environmental Effects of Army Actions), the U.S. Army Reserve, 88th Regional Support Command (RSC), performed an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and human health effects associated with the proposed land acquisition, and construction and operation of a new U.S. Army Reserve Center in Boston Heights, Summit County, Ohio.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action consists of the acquisition of approximately 22 acres of undeveloped land in the Village of Boston Heights, and the construction and operation of a new Army Reserve Center on this Site. The Army Reserve Center would consist of a 99,000-square foot administrative and training building, a combined 11,000-square foot Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) and Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA), a 27,000-square foot unheated storage building, privately-owned vehicle (POV) and military equipment parking (MEP) areas, an indoor vehicle/equipment wash platform, a designated medical deployment (DEPMED) training area, and other associated site improvements.

The proposed Army Reserve Center is required to house ten Army Reserve units. The combined strength of these units is 1,079 soldiers. This Army Reserve Center would provide necessary administrative, training, and storage areas required to achieve proficiency in required training tasks for these Army Reserve units. Special attention would be focused on providing training areas for tactical equipment.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Alternatives to the proposed action that were considered included: continue operations at the existing five facilities (i.e., No Action alternative); integrate the assigned units into another existing facility in the Cleveland area; or acquire different tracts of land in the Cleveland area for construction of the proposed Army Reserve Center.

The No Action alternative would result in no new facilities being constructed. This alternative would adversely impact future operations of the Army Reserve units in the Cleveland area, as the existing facilities are substandard, overcrowded, old, and very expensive to maintain/lease. The Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve (OCAR) has determined that the No Action alternative is not viable for the following reasons: the leases are too costly; the existing facilities do not meet the training needs of the units; and the facilities do not meet security standards.

As an alternative to the proposed action, five existing facilities in the Cleveland area were evaluated as potential locations for joint use potential. Based on mission requirements, operational considerations, and the locations of these five facilities, it was determined that these existing facilities are not compatible for integration with the assigned Army Reserve units. As such, this alternative is not viable and was not considered further.

As a third type of alternative, a total of five tracts of land were evaluated as potential building sites for the new Army Reserve Center. The attached EA describes each of the five tracts that were evaluated. During site evaluation, four of the five building sites were eliminated from further consideration due to one or more of the following reasons: purchase price was too expensive; poor site access; remote location; potential wetland issues; and the additional cost associated with installation of new utilities. The remaining site was selected as the proposed building site.

## **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The attached EA describes the environmental characteristics that may possibly be affected by the proposed action, and determines the significance of the impact to each of the characteristics. The EA concluded that the proposed construction of the Cleveland Area Army Reserve Center in Boston Heights, Ohio, would not have a significant adverse impact, either direct or cumulative, on the natural or human environment in the area of potential effect for this action. The proposed action would provide an integrated training facility for assigned Army Reserve units that would allow these units to train as collective entities, which would in turn facilitate team dynamics and unit cohesion that is mandated by current U.S. Army Reserve Command tiered readiness standards. The function of the Army Reserve Center would be primarily administrative and training/educational.

## **NEPA CONSIDERATIONS**

Based upon the analysis of potential impacts, which are documented in the attached EA, it has been determined that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action affecting the quality of human health or the environment. Because there would be no significant impact resulting from the implementation of the proposed action, the next higher level of environmental impact investigation under NEPA for this action, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is not required.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

A copy of the EA for the proposed action was made available for review at the Summit County Public Library - Nordonia Hills Branch, located at 9458 Olde Eight Road in Northfield, Ohio, and on the internet at [www.usarc.army.mil/88thrcsc/](http://www.usarc.army.mil/88thrcsc/). Public comment was invited for a period of thirty days after publication of a Notice of 30-Day Period for Public Comment in two local newspapers, the Akron Beacon Journal and the Cleveland Plain Dealer, on July 3, 2002. During the public comment period, which ended on August 2, 2002, comments were received from the Mayor of the Village of Boston Heights, the Village Engineer, three members of the Village Council, and 13 private citizens. Appendix H of the EA presents a response-to-comments table for the public comments that were received. Appendix H also provides copies of the letters and e-mail messages that were received.

Overall, public comments were related to five areas of concern: 1) the lack of revenue that the Center would provide to the local community; 2) adverse impacts caused by increased traffic on Olde Eight Road and the improvement of State Route 8 to the east; 3) the use of the land for an Army Reserve Center versus an office complex and associated impacts to nearby residences; 4) the loss of vegetation and animal habitat at the Site; and 5) the need for public involvement during the design phase. The concerns raised by the public do not warrant reconsideration of the FNSI determination. However, these comments do raise important issues that should be addressed during the design phase of the project.

During the comment period, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency responded in writing and stated that the document was given a cursory review, and that it was determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment. Written comments from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency were not received during the 30-day comment period.

## SIGNATURES

Approved by:

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