

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
COMBAT SURVIVOR/EVADER LOCATOR (CSEL) SYSTEM
VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 - 1508), Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 6050.1, DoD Regulation 5000.2, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, which implements these regulations through the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), and other applicable federal and local regulations, NAVSTAR Global Positioning System Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (HQ/AFMC) has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the Combat Survivor/Evader Locator System (CSEL). The no action alternative was also considered. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the evaluation.

Proposed Action and Alternatives: The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the CSEL Program assessed the potential environmental impacts related to the developmental testing, operational assessment and operational testing, production, deployment, operations, maintenance, and disposal of the CSEL system. The CSEL system is designed to provide global over-the-horizon data communications, line-of-sight voice communications, and precise Global Position System (GPS) positioning capabilities for DoD personnel when they are confronted with survival and/or evasion scenarios in peacetime and conflict situations. The CSEL system is composed of three components: user equipment (a hand-held radio), over-the-horizon relay (existing DoD satellites), and ground systems.

Developmental testing of the CSEL hardware and infrastructure system will be conducted at various existing DoD facilities whose ongoing missions include the testing and analysis of electronic equipment and systems. This includes both laboratory based testing and field testing by DoD and governmental contractor personnel. The operational assessment and operational testing program for the CSEL system includes deployment of DoD personnel at various existing DoD facilities as part of routine or annual training exercises. The majority of the CSEL system will be located at existing DoD facilities that can accommodate the additional mission requirements of the CSEL program without upgrades or expansions. The two new components of the program are the CSEL hand-held radio and the transmitting/receiving antennas that will be installed as part of the UHF satellite communication (SATCOM) base stations at four existing naval computer and telecommunications area master stations.

The no action alternative is no testing, production or deployment of the CSEL system. This would result in DoD continuing to rely on existing standard issue survival radios to assist search and rescue forces to locate downed pilots and other isolated personnel.

Anticipated Environmental Effects: The EA evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the CSEL program. The developmental testing of the CSEL system will occur at existing DoD facilities permitted for these types of activities and is considered part of the baseline environmental condition at the facilities and does not require additional environmental analysis as part of the CSEL program. The operational assessment and operational testing program for the CSEL system will occur as part of the existing mission at various DoD and government contractor facilities permitted for these types of activities, and is considered part of the baseline environmental condition of the facilities and does not require additional environmental analysis as part of the CSEL program.

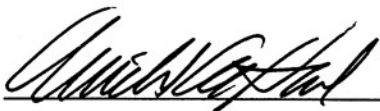
The production of the CSEL hand-held radios and support equipment will not result in any significant environmental impact as the production of the system components will take place at existing contractor facilities designed and permitted for the fabrication of electronic hardware and the various supporting components. The antennas for the UHF SATCOM base stations will be installed as part of existing communication arrays at the existing stations and are the same type and model of transceivers that are already deployed at the stations for other DoD missions.

The EA determined that the CSEL program would have no impact on air and water quality or biological and cultural resources. The EA assessed the potential environmental impacts associated with hazardous materials from the lithium sulfur dioxide battery for the CSEL hand-held radio and electromagnetic radiation hazards from the transceivers to be installed at the UHF SATCOM Base Stations. The EA determined that the impacts from these two areas are not significant.

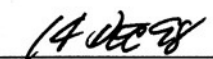
Mitigation: No significant impacts were identified that would require mitigation.

Conclusion: Following a review of the attached EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference, it is concluded that the CSEL Program will not result in significant environmental impacts, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This document, and the supporting EA, fulfill the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and AFI 32-7061.

Approved:



MICHAEL A. HAMEL
Brigadier General, USAF
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Chairperson, Environmental Protection Committee



Date