
1.0
PURPOSE AND NEED

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9, and the applicable service environmental regulations, which implement these laws and regulations, direct DoD officials to consider environmental consequences when authorizing and approving federal actions. In March 2002, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) published the *Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Validation of Operational Concept (VOC) Environmental Assessment (EA)*, which analyzed facilities and operations necessary to validate the GMD operational concept of the Ballistic Missile Defense System Test Bed. Since that time, additional actions required to support the VOC activities have been identified. Accordingly, this supplemental EA examines the potential for impacts to the environment, for planning purposes, as a result of additional GMD VOC activities.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Within the DoD, MDA is responsible for developing and testing the Ballistic Missile Defense System. There are three segments of this system currently under development: Boost Phase Defense, Midcourse Defense, and Terminal Defense. An element of the Midcourse Defense Segment is the GMD, formerly known as the National Missile Defense (NMD). The operational concept of a GMD is that it could effectively protect all 50 states from a limited ballistic missile attack. The GMD Joint Program Office, within MDA, is responsible for the GMD, which is designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles during the midcourse (ballistic) phase of their flight, before their reentry into the earth's atmosphere.

MDA completed the NMD Deployment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in July 2000 to support a future deployment decision. The NMD Deployment EIS evaluated site preparation activities encompassing an area of 243 hectares (600 acres) consisting of site layout, clearing of vegetation, initial earthwork related to site and road grading, and preparation for facility construction activities at Fort Greely. MDA issued a Record of Decision for initial site preparation activities based on analysis in the NMD Deployment EIS that identified disturbance to approximately 54 hectares (134 acres) within the area analyzed in the EIS.

Specific actions included installing and developing two water wells and site preparation work for test bed buildings, the main access road up to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline crossing, and a single missile field. These initial site preparation activities were considered not to be of sufficient magnitude to limit any later selection of the alternatives analyzed in the NMD Deployment EIS. This decision did not include construction and operation of a GMD VOC test site at Fort Greely. Following reviews directed by the current Bush Administration, MDA re-focused the GMD from near-term deployment to an effort that would provide operationally realistic testing.

The GMD Extended Test Range (ETR) EIS is currently being prepared and analyzes potential activities associated with the construction, operation, and test activities associated with the

proposed GMD ETR. Under this Proposed Action, additional test facilities, infrastructure, and communications links would be constructed and operated for the purpose of providing more realistic GMD flight testing in the North Pacific Region. Existing range facilities would be enhanced, and additional launch and support sites would be established to support more robust missile flight tests. Fort Greely is not a facility being evaluated as a part of the GMD ETR Proposed Action.

The GMD VOC EA analyzed potential activities associated with validating the GMD operational concept necessary to test the interoperability of the GMD components in a realistic environment. A total area of 162 hectares (400 acres), including the previously mentioned 54 hectares (134 acres), was determined to be needed for the VOC EA activities. The activities evaluated included construction techniques, operational procedures, installation, checkout, assembly, and maintenance. These activities would produce significantly enhanced realistic Battle Management Command, Control, and Communications (BMC3) tests conducted from existing facilities. They would also provide vital validation of the operational concept through distributed integrated ground tests using GMD components located in operationally representative locations and environments.

The Preferred Alternative analyzed in the GMD VOC EA included construction and operation of six Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI) silos and supporting facilities at Fort Greely; In-Flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminals (IDTs) and Defense Satellite Communication System (DSCS) earth terminals at Fort Greely and Eareckson Air Station, Alaska; and a Missile Transfer Facility at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska. The Preferred Alternative also included use of the existing COBRA DANE Radar, with upgraded hardware and software, at Eareckson Air Station; the Early Warning Radar to be upgraded at Beale AFB, California; and communications among all facilities analyzed. Clear Air Force Station, Alaska was considered as an alternative location to Fort Greely for GBI silos, associated BMC3, and support facilities. Several locations were also considered for Battle Management, Command and Control (BMC2) Nodes. These locations included Peterson AFB, Shriever AFB, and Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado, the Boeing Facilities in California and Alabama, Beale AFB, and Eareckson Air Station. A BMC2 Node would also be located at the selected GBI VOC test site. The GMD VOC EA Finding of No Significant Impact was issued in April 2002 and MDA decided to construct and operate GMD VOC test components at the preferred locations, including a GBI VOC test site at Fort Greely, Alaska.

The GMD VOC EA described Fort Greely with an area of 267,519 hectares (661,051 acres), consisting of the Main Post, two large training areas, and three outlying sites. As of 1 October 2002, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) became the Senior Mission Command for Fort Greely, which was reconfigured to support the proposed missile defense activities. The current Fort Greely is approximately 2,914 hectares (7,200 acres). The Donnelly Training Areas East and West remain under U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) control.

MDA is in the preliminary stages of considering the feasibility and value of a checkout flight from the GBI VOC test site. There is no present intent to test fire interceptor missiles from Fort Greely. Any potential future decision to test fire at Fort Greely would only occur after a thorough environmental and safety analysis was performed. However, in the event of a missile attack on the United States, the test bed at Fort Greely could potentially be used for ballistic missile defense.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide security enhancements to ensure adequate force protection, land security, and air safety measures for Fort Greely, and to support supplemental activities that will validate the operational concept of GMD. The security enhancements at Fort Greely are needed to comply with Army Regulation 325-13, which states that “commanders will ensure that [antiterrorism] specific security procedural and physical measures are employed to protect personnel, information, and material resources from terrorist threats.” The air safety enhancements are needed to provide better airspace control for military and civilian aircraft, as well as improved safety during landings and takeoffs of aircraft delivering or removing GBIs. The activities at Allen Army Airfield are also needed to improve mission safety and security, since interceptors would not have to be transported for long distances (from Eielson AFB) over public roads. These proposed actions are consistent with the current mission of Fort Greely.

1.4 DECISION(S) TO BE MADE

The decisions to be made are whether to proceed with the supplemental activities to validate the operational concept as well as the additional security fencing activities around the cantonment area, the southern boundary area, and Allen Army Airfield. This analysis also supports decisions concerning the airfield modifications and air control improvements (adding Class D airspace, reactivation of the control tower or the construction of a new control tower, and installation and use of an airport surveillance radar [ASR]) at Allen Army Airfield on Fort Greely.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This analysis is tiered from the *Ballistic Missile Defense Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, 1994), which evaluated NMD, now GMD, programmatic activities, such as research and development, testing, production, and the general operational concept. One of two actions will be taken based on the results of this supplemental EA. Either a Finding of No Significant Impact will be attached to the Final GMD VOC Supplemental EA, or a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS will be published.

This supplemental EA will incorporate by reference much of the analysis in the GMD VOC EA and the NMD Deployment EIS. Proposed activities at Fort Greely not addressed in those documents will be analyzed in detail herein. The analysis portion of this supplemental EA will identify those environmental resource areas that would clearly not be affected, and the analysis will focus on environmental resource areas that could potentially be affected by the proposed additional activities.

Additional activities have been determined necessary for Eareckson Air Station and Beale AFB. For Eareckson Air Station these actions include modifications to an existing building to accommodate an IDT administration and storage facility, installation of temporary vans to provide satellite links until the permanent DSCS facilities are operational, minor realignments of the fiber optic cable routes along existing rights-of-way and previously disturbed areas, and

installation of a cable run from the COBRA DANE facility to Building 618 and 600, and other buildings as necessary. All excavations would be monitored by an archaeologist in accordance with the 8 August 2002 concurrence letter from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). These additional activities are within the scope of analysis of the GMD VOC EA and have no additional environmental effects; therefore, they will not be analyzed in this supplemental EA.

At Beale AFB, trenching and installation of fiber optic cable would occur from the base boundary along J Street (named South Beale Road off base) approximately 3.7 kilometers (2.3 miles). This new segment would connect to an existing fiber optic conduit at Gavin Mandery Road on base. The fiber optic cable would be installed in the existing right-of-way along the east shoulder of the road. There are no new environmental impacts identified with these activities and no new environmental analysis would be necessary. Therefore, the activities were determined to be categorically excluded by the U.S. Air Force through their environmental impact analysis process because no wetlands would be directly or indirectly affected by the actions. Therefore, they will not be analyzed in this supplemental EA. Off-base of Beale AFB, additional trenching and installation of fiber optic cable would occur from an existing communication line along Ostrum Road to Beale AFB, approximately 6.7 kilometers (4.2 miles). This cable would be installed in the right-of-way along the road shoulder and connect to the cable previously mentioned on South Beale Road. There are no new environmental impacts identified with these activities. No additional analysis is required in this document.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be a cooperating agency because of their regulatory authority in reactivating the control tower and adding Class D to controlled airspace at Allen Army Airfield, located at Fort Greely. The Federal Communications Commission may also be a cooperating agency in the future because of their involvement in aviation communication and frequency issues.

If the Proposed Action is approved, construction of the additional security measures analyzed in this supplemental EA would begin in Spring 2003, and upgrades at Allen Army Airfield would begin no earlier than Spring 2004. The additional activities proposed at Fort Greely include the following:

- Construction of security fences around three areas: the cantonment area, the southern boundary area, and the Allen Army Airfield
- Extension of the Allen Army Airfield south-north runway (18/36) and the addition of turnarounds and approach lighting at each end
- Improvements to the east-west runway (9/27) to upgrade the runway surface, add turnarounds to each end, and add lateral lighting systems
- Designation of a hotspot at the north end of the 18/36 runway and the northeast end of the northeast-southwest runway (6/24)
- Provisions for deicing activities at the turnarounds at each end of the 18/36 and 9/27 runways

- Modifications to activities at Allen Army Airfield to include adding Class D to the existing Class E controlled airspace, reactivation of the control tower or construction of a new control tower, and installation and use of an ASR-11 or similar type airport surveillance radar

1.6 RELATED DOCUMENTATION

The following documents have analyzed actions similar to those activities proposed for this supplemental EA or provide information on the existing environment described in chapter 3.0.

Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, 1994. *Ballistic Missile Defense Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*.

Department of Defense, 2000. *National Missile Defense Deployment Environmental Impact Statement*, July.

U.S. Air Force, 2002. *Edwards Air Force Base Digital Airport Surveillance Radar Environmental Assessment Final*, June.

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, 2002. *Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Validation of Operational Concept (VOC) Environmental Assessment*, March.

Contact the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, SMDC-EN-V, PO Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801 for information on obtaining documents incorporated by reference.

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