

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)**  
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**  
**Proposed 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters Readiness Center**  
**Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

**Introduction**

The Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential effects from the construction and operation of a Readiness Center at Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321-4370e.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651).

**1. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives**

**Proposed Action** - The Proposed Action is to construct a new Readiness Center in Fiscal Year 2015 to support routine operations, and mobilization of some or all of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters (35ID HQ) and its subordinate units which are currently stationed across the four-state area of Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. The new Readiness Center shall provide adequate space to support in excess of 270 soldiers for regularly scheduled weekend drills, in addition to year-round Annual Training (AT) and planning seminars with the ability to support the entire Division Headquarters strength of 731 soldiers that would meet at the proposed facility multiple times per year. More detailed information concerning the Proposed Action may be found in the site-specific EA (separate document).

**Alternatives Considered** – The KSARNG screened alternatives to the Proposed Action using the following criteria:

1. The alternative must provide the 35ID HQ with a modernized facility capable of supporting the Division's mission objectives.
2. The alternative must satisfy the Unified Facilities Criteria for Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings (UFC 4-010-01), including the ability to achieve antiterrorism/force protection requirements.
3. The site must be suitable for construction without significant impacts to the environment or other construction constraints that would unreasonably restrict development or result in exorbitant construction costs.
4. Implementation of the Proposed Action must not result in adverse impacts to the existing Fort Leavenworth operations.

Multiple alternatives were initially considered by the KSARNG early in the project planning phases. In general, two alternative concepts were evaluated: develop the proposed 35ID HQ Readiness Center on the site of the current KSARNG site at Fort Leavenworth, or find a suitable off-site location for the proposed development. Two on-site alternatives were evaluated for the location of the main 35ID HQ Readiness Center. The first site, referred to as the Northern Site, was located north of the Greenleif Hall Parking lot in an existing wooded site and was eliminated from further consideration due to potential adverse environmental impacts and excessive construction costs associated with site clearing and grading. The second on-site alternative was selected as the Proposed Action because it best meets the screening criteria outlined above, and meets the project purpose and need. Four off-site alternatives were evaluated in the

Lansing and Leavenworth, Kansas areas. Each of them was found to be not feasible and not supportable due to their locations and cost of purchase. Consequently, two alternatives were considered in detail by the KSARNG in this EA:

1. Preferred Action Alternative (Proposed Action) – The Preferred Action Alternative would expand the 35<sup>th</sup> ID HQ as described above.
2. No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would maintain the status-quo at the site and the KSARNG would not develop a new Readiness Center for the 35ID HQ. This alternative would not address the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. However, inclusion of the No Action Alternative serves as a benchmark for evaluation of the potential effects of the Preferred Action Alternative.

## **2. Environmental Analysis**

The potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action are fully described in the EA. The EA identifies the environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action, and determines the significance of the impacts, if any, to each of these resources. Based on the EA's analysis, the KSARNG determined that the known and potential adverse impacts from the Proposed Impacts on land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, socioeconomics, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would not be significant. The Proposed Action would also have no significant adverse effects on cultural resources or Environmental Justice considerations.

## **3. Mitigation**

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. The KSARNG will implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and applicable KSARNG construction guidelines for new facilities. Additionally, the KSARNG will obtain all necessary permits and construction site approvals prior to implementation of this action.

## **4. Regulations**

The Proposed Action will not violate NEPA, the CEQ Regulations, 32 CFR 651, or any other Federal, state or local environmental regulations.

## **5. Commitment to Implementation**

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and KSARNG affirm their commitment to implement this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The KSARNG and the NGB's Environmental Programs, Training, and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this EA.

## **6. Public Review and Comment**

The final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (DFNSI) will be available for public review and comment for 30 days following publication of the draft public notice. Review locations will be listed in the public notice. Copies may be obtained by mail, and written

comments may be submitted to the Adjutant General's Dept, DOFE-E, 2800 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66611-1287, (785) 274-1176.

### **7. Finding of No Significant Impact**

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. Per 32 CFR Part 651, the Final EA and DFNSI will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Once any public comments have been addressed and if a determination is made that the proposed action will have no significant impact, the FNSI will be signed and the action will be implemented. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

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