

**Final Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield
Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site,
Fort Stewart, Georgia**

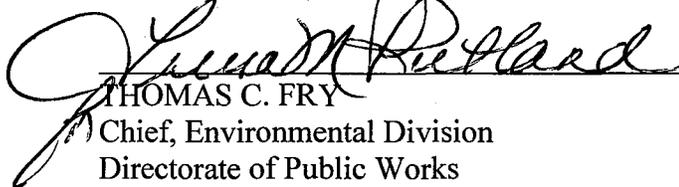


Environmental Division,
U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Stewart, Georgia

March 2012

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT for
FOOTPRINT ALTERATIONS AT THE WRIGHT ARMY AIRFIELD
GRAY EAGLE UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM PROJECT SITE,
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

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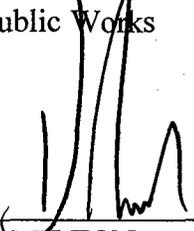
Date: 20 Mar 12

Reviewed by:


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Date: 22 Mar 2012

Approval:


KEVIN W. MILTON
Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Date: 26 Mar 12

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) AND
FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE (FNPA)**

1.0 BACKGROUND

In July 2010, the Army published the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation, Fort Stewart, Georgia* (the “EIS”). The EIS analyzed a number of different sites on Fort Stewart for the construction and operation of ten ranges and two Garrison support facilities the Army had scheduled to be built on Fort Stewart between Fiscal Years (FYs) 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the final sites selected for these projects.

A site for a new small cantonment area for the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to be built on Fort Stewart in FY13 was one of the two Garrison support projects analyzed in the EIS. The site selected to support the Gray Eagle mission was an undeveloped site immediately north of Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) which provided access to existing runways and airfield infrastructure. This Environmental Assessment (EA) ties off the analysis already completed in the EIS to address those actions that will be accomplished in the first of two phases of construction.

After the WAAF site was selected, the Army designed a site specific plan for the placement of the standard facilities required to support the Gray Eagle UAS platform. This EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the final layout of facilities and infrastructure included in the FY11 funded first phase of construction. This includes the construction of the aircraft hangar, the construction of an access road, the relocation of the existing tank trail, and the construction of potable water and sanitary sewerage systems that connect to nearby utility infrastructure.

A second phase of construction to complete the build out is scheduled for FY13. This second phase will include the construction of a company operations facility, the construction of a tactical equipment maintenance facility, and the construction of an access control point along the access road. Because the final design and alignment of these facilities has not been decided, these actions are not analyzed as part of this EA but are generally discussed where needed throughout this EA in relation to the anticipated cumulative impacts.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Under considerations in this EA is the final layout of facilities and infrastructure to be built in the Gray Eagle UAS cantonment area north of Wright Army Airfield. Also, to better accommodate the facilities and infrastructure needed to support the Gray Eagle UAS platform, overall footprint for the cantonment area has expanded somewhat beyond the boundaries of the areas previously analyzed in the EIS,

Proposed Action (Preferred)- The proposed action increases the area for the Gray Eagle cantonment area footprint and provides for the construction of the aircraft hangar, the construction of an access road from Fort Stewart Road 47 opposite the Harmon Street Gate, the rerouting of an existing tank trail to accommodate the construction of these facilities, and running potable water and sanitary sewage lines needed to service the site. These actions are discussed in more detail in Section 2.2 and are depicted in Figure 2-1 of the EA.

No Action/Status Quo- The no action alternative limits construction to the more limited footprint analyzed in the EIS. It would not incorporate the necessary site specific design features developed after the site was selected that takes into consideration site specific conditions. This would not fulfill the intent or desire of the army to provide adequate facilities from which to retain, operate, and maintain the Gray Eagle UAS Platform, but provides a baseline from which the proposed action can more thoughtfully be measured and analyzed.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Implementing the proposed action will have a de minimus impact on wetlands, water quality, wildlife, species of concern, and cultural resources. Those impacts are analyzed and discussed in this EA. No other environmental or socioeconomic resources will be affected.

In accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Permit authorizing Fort Stewart to conduct certain activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System. A copy of the permit is included in Appendix B of the Final EA.

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts are expected to any of these resources. Floodplains will be impacted by the proposed action; however there is no practicable alternative and the project will be designed to minimize harm to and within floodplains.

4.0 MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS

The construction contractor is responsible for ensuring construction is conducted in full compliance with the Permit, including the following conditions.

No more than a maximum total of 1.83 acres of wetlands shall be impacted by the proposed project. The area of impact and the wetlands impacted shall be limited to the areas shown in the Permit (see map entitled Wetland Impacts).

If the project will impact wetlands in a manner not authorized by the Permit, the Contracting Officer (KO) or their representative must submit a request in writing to the Fort Stewart Environmental Office to conduct this work. The request shall include a description of the additional impacts with maps and the reasons why the changes are required. The additional work will be prohibited until written approval is received by the KO from the Fort Stewart Environmental Division. Such approval will likely require Permit revision by the USACE.

The KO or their representative must provide the Fort Stewart Environmental Office with a copy of the construction schedule at least four weeks prior to construction. The KO or their representative must provide the Environmental Office with modifications to the schedule as they occur.

At least three weeks prior to commencement of construction, the limits of the impacted areas will be clearly flagged and staked by the Fort Stewart Environmental Office.

At least two weeks prior to commencement of construction, the KO or their representative and the construction contractor shall meet with the Environmental Office representative on site. The KO or their representative and construction contractor shall be shown the locations of all wetlands and streams where impacts are authorized by the Permit and where impacts shall be avoided.

Any time during the construction period both the Environmental Office and USACE staff must be provided access to the site to conduct Permit inspections as necessary. The Environmental Office will notify the KO or their representative prior to commencement of these inspections. The KO or their representative will be notified of any corrective actions that may be necessary.

If during construction, historic or archaeological artifacts, including possible human remains are found during construction work in the immediate area shall stop and the Environmental Office must be notified immediately.

The construction contractor shall ensure that:

- no oils, grease, or other materials or pollutants enter wetlands or stream from the construction site;

- all work shall be accomplished in compliance with water quality standards;

- all fill material comes from sources that are uncontaminated and free of cultural resources;

- no unauthorized stockpiling of material or staging areas are located within wetlands;

- staging and equipment maintenance areas are located at least 200 feet from wetlands or streambanks; and,

- the Erosion, Sedimentation, & Pollution Control (ES&PC) plan shall be implemented as approved by the Fort Stewart Environmental Office and construction must be conducted in accordance with the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.

No later than three days after completion of construction, the KO or their representative must notify the Environmental Office that construction is complete. Within two weeks after notification, the Environmental Office will conduct a final inspection of the site to ensure Permit

compliance. The Environmental Office will provide the inspection results to KO or their representative, including the need, if any, for corrective actions.

During the planning stages of this project in 2008, the preferred hangar location was modified to avoid SWMU 13 and its associated monitoring wells. In preparation of this EA an assessment of the "Calendar Year 2010 CAP Progress Report" (Arcadis 2011) was taken to ensure that there was no overlap of the facility layout with SWMU 13 and that the construction activities will not impact the SWMU 13 boundary and/or groundwater. The Installation will avoid SWMU 13 (and its monitoring wells) during any ongoing/planned facilities construction, and during any equipment and material staging.

Fort Stewart will continue to manage existing sources of hazardous waste in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Management Plan and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act, and will continue to implement all Federal, state, and local laws, statutes, and regulations governing hazardous material, toxic substances, and hazardous wastes, including Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 and AR 420-49. In addition, Fort Stewart will continue to implement all Fort Stewart safety programs, including construction safety.

5.0 FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (*Floodplain Management*), in order for the Army to construct in a floodplain, it must find that there are no practicable alternatives to doing so and that all practicable measures have been taken to minimize harm to the floodplain. The practicability of a given alternative or measure is evaluated by considering such pertinent factors as operational impact and environmental impact in light of the overall project purpose.

The EA discussed the proposed action and no action alternatives, and specifically analyzes their impacts to floodplains. The proposed action and the no action alternatives will affect floodplains from construction. Recent analysis in a modeling study conducted in 2011 shows that the no action alternative will impact floodplains; however, the no action alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. The modeling study was conducted after the EIS and ROD were signed in 2010. This modeling shows that there are areas which would be inundated during the 25-year and 100-year rain events due to a stacking effect from development. The 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year flood zone did not take into account the development that occurred since the data was compiled in 2003 and 2004.

There is no practicable alternative to conducting FY11 UAS construction operations within the predicted 100-year storm floodplain shown in the 2011 modeling study. There is not enough available non-floodplain land surrounding WAAF's runways to locate the UAS at WAAF. The facilities would have to be located much further away from the airfield and this is not practicable because the Grey Eagle UAS needs direct access to a runway. Additional details may be found in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 of the Final EA.

Fort Stewart is comprised of approximately 120,000 acres of floodplain. Because floodplains are linked to adjacent streams and rivers, the Installation will require engineers and contractors to design and construct so that runoff from rain events will not adversely impact (a) existing

streams, (b) upstream systems, and (c) downstream systems. This will help to maintain stormwater flow at the same levels during pre- and post-construction periods, which will contribute to the preservation of water storage and conveyance, and the filtering of pollutants from runoff.

The Installation will also require full compliance with the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, and will mandate full utilization of Timber Harvest Best Management Practices (BMPs), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, site-specific Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plans, and pre- and post-construction BMPs to reduce the potential adverse impacts to water bodies. The Installation also has a resident Natural Resource Conservation Service advisor who will provide technical expertise during preparation of the ESPC plan prior to Fort Stewart approving the final design of land disturbing activities. Periodic monitoring of on-going construction will also occur to ensure adherence to the associated ESPC plan.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Draft EA and Draft FNSI were available for a 30-day public review from January 27-February 25 at the local public libraries in Hinesville and Savannah and at the Post Library on Fort Stewart. Fort Stewart also published Notices of Availability of the Draft EA and Draft FNSI in the *Coastal Courier* and *The Frontline* and mailed electronic copies of the document to the regulatory community and joint land use partners with whom it consults. Comments were received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, to which Fort Stewart responded via formal email. Each agency indicated concurrence with these responses, which are available for review in Appendix E.

7.0 COMMITMENTS

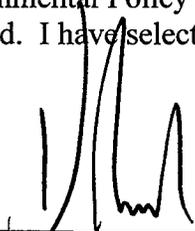
As part of the decision to implement the proposed action, the Army has adopted the environmental mitigation measures presented below. These measures are all practical means to avoid or minimize potentially negative environmental impacts that may arise from the implementation of the proposed action. These measures will reduce the severity and extent of potential impacts of this decision.

Resource Area	Impact/Situation	Mitigation and Monitoring Commitment
Wetlands	Wetland Mitigation	Per Section 404 permitting, compensatory mitigation credits will be obtained for both temporary and permanent impacts to all wetland habitations that will be affected by construction activities.
Wetlands	Wetland Monitoring	Conduct monitoring during and after construction to remain compliant with Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits.

Water Quality	Floodplain Mitigation	Engineers and contractors must design and construct the facility so that runoff from rain events will not adversely impact existing streams, upstream systems, and downstream systems.
Water Quality	Stormwater Control	Construction permitting under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System will be obtained.

8.0 CONCLUSION

This EA is tiered off the 2010 *Fort Stewart Environmental Impact Statement for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation*, which originally analyzed the WAAF UAS project site, with a ROD indicating that construction will occur at this location. Based on the analysis performed in this EA, implementation of the proposed action will not have a significant environmental impact, within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have selected implementation of the proposed action.



 KEVIN W. MILTON
 Colonel, US Army
 Commanding

Date: 26 MAR 12

Acronym List

BA	Biological Assessment
BMP	Best Management Plan
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COF	Company Operations Facility
CWA	Clean Water Act
DA	Department of the Army
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISA	Energy Independence Security Act
ESPC	Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFS	Frosted Flatwoods Salamander
FNPA	Finding of No Practicable Alternative
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
HAAF	Hunter Army Airfield
HMU	Habitat Management Unit
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LEED-NC	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-New Construction
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MGD	Million Gallons Per Day
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCW	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
ROD	Record of Decision
SBV	Stream Buffer Variance
SWP3	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TEMF	Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
WAAF	Wright Army Airfield

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In July 2010, the Army published the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation, Fort Stewart, Georgia* (the “EIS”). The EIS analyzed a number of different sites on Fort Stewart for the construction and operation of ten ranges and two Garrison support facilities the Army had scheduled to be built on Fort Stewart between Fiscal Years (FYs) 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the final sites selected for these projects.

A site for a new small cantonment area for the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to be bed down on Fort Stewart in FY13 was one of the two Garrison support projects analyzed in the EIS. The site selected to support the Gray Eagle mission was an undeveloped site immediately north of Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) which provided access to existing runways and airfield infrastructure. This Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers off the analysis already completed in the EIS to address those actions that will be accomplished in the first of two phases of construction.

After the WAAF site was selected, the Army designed a site specific plan for the placement of the standard facilities required to support the Gray Eagle UAS platform. This EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the final layout of facilities and infrastructure included in the FY11 funded first phase of construction. This includes the construction of the aircraft hangar, the construction of an access road, the relocation of the existing tank trail, and the construction of potable water and sanitary sewerage systems that connect to nearby utility infrastructure.

A second phase of construction to complete the build out is scheduled for FY13. This second phase will include the construction of a company operations facility (COF), a tactical equipment maintenance facility (TEMF), and an access control point along the access road. Because the final design and alignment of these facilities has not been decided, these actions are not analyzed as part of this EA but are generally discussed where needed throughout this EA in relation to the anticipated cumulative impacts.

1.2 LOCATION

Fort Stewart covers approximately 280,000 acres of land in rural coastal southeast Georgia. It is the largest Army installation in area east of the Mississippi River. Fort Stewart is home to the 3rd Infantry Division. Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) is located on the east side of Fort Stewart’s main cantonment area, south of Highway 144 and immediately east of Fort Stewart Road 47. WAAF is a joint civilian and military use airfield and is more commonly known in the local area as the MidCoast Regional Airport. Figure 1-1 provides the general location of Fort Stewart and the location of WAAF within the Fort Stewart Boundary.

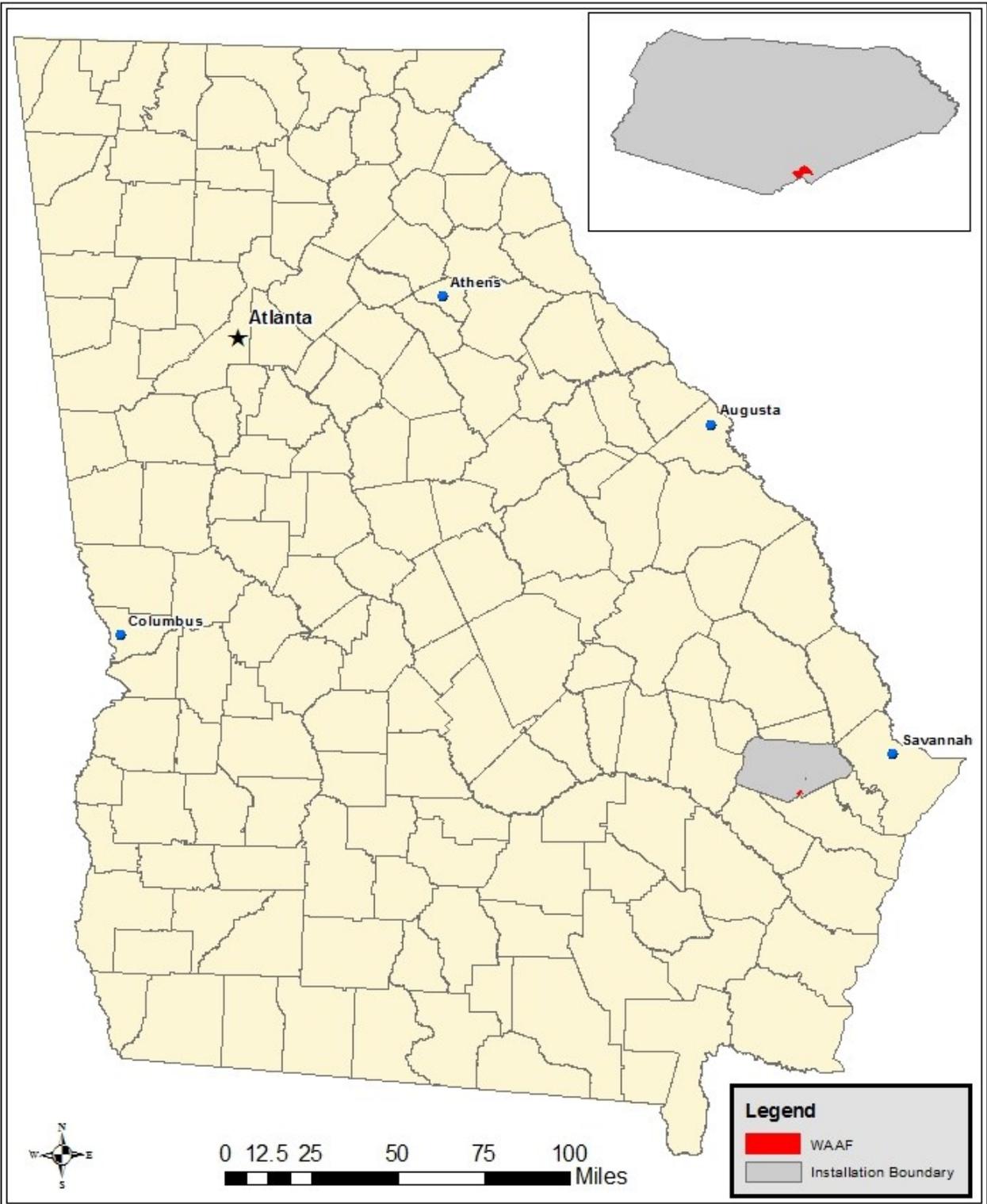


Figure 1-1: Location of Fort Stewart and Wright Army Airfield

1.3 GRAY EAGLE UAS

The mission of the Gray Eagle UAS is to provide real-time response capability to conduct long-dwell, persistent stare, extended range reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, communications relay, and attack missions (Department of the Army 2011). One aviation maintenance company consists of 128 personnel, 12 Gray Eagle UAS, and supporting equipment, such as ground control stations, ground data terminals, tactical automatic landing systems, portable ground control stations, and portable ground data terminals.

Fort Stewart was selected to receive the Gray Eagle UAS because it fulfilled the stationing action screening criteria, which included an existing Combat Aviation Brigade, heavy troop concentrations to facilitate maneuver training, an operating runway with a length of at least 5,000 feet and slope less than or equal to 1.5 degrees, access to restricted airspace, and space available for facilities (e.g. barracks, aircraft hangars with controlled access, company headquarters, and motor pool).

Further information regarding the Gray Eagle UAS is available in the EIS, which can be found at http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN_Downloads.asp.

1.4 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is needed to support FY11 funded phase one construction of the Gray Eagle UAS cantonment area. The proposed layout of the hangar and supporting infrastructure complies with the most up to date and current engineering and operation standards set forth by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of the Army (DA). The original UAS footprint analyzed in the EIS predated current design standards and a large less dense footprint was needed to also meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Gold” criteria. Specifically, these standards and criteria require a larger footprint to accommodate low impact development, a safety clear zone setback, and utility and road configurations in order for the UAS hangar to be constructed at this location. These specifications were not readily apparent for the UAS hangar during preparation of the EIS.

1.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were distributed and available for a 30-day public review from January 27-February 25, 2012 at the local libraries in Hinesville and Savannah and at the Post Library on Fort Stewart. Fort Stewart also published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EA and Draft FNSI in the *Coastal Courier* and *The Frontline* and mailed electronic copies of the document to the regulatory community and joint land use partners with whom it consults.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The environmental impacts of the proposed action alternative and the no action alternative are analyzed in the EA. Chapter 2 provides a description of each of the alternatives. Figure 2-1 shows the difference between each alternative.

2.2 PROPOSED ACTION (PREFERRED)

The Army proposes to implement the final layout of facilities and infrastructure for the FY11 portion of the WAAF Gray Eagle UAS project. The FY11 funded first phase of construction includes the construction of the aircraft hangar, the construction of an access road, the relocation of the existing tank trail, and the construction of potable water and sanitary sewerage systems that connect to nearby utility infrastructure.

The tank trail will be relocated to bypass the entire access road and cantonment area. Consistent with the existing tank trail, the relocated portion will be 28 feet wide with a two-foot shoulder on either side. The access road will connect from Harmon Avenue to the entrance of the UAS aircraft hangar and is in the same general area as its layout was portrayed in the EIS. The access road will be 26 feet wide with a 5 foot shoulder on both sides of the road.

The aircraft hangar will be a two-story 130,000 square-foot building. It will have maintenance bays, workshops, offices, break room, bathrooms with showers and locker areas, and storage space on the first floor. The second floor will have briefing and training rooms, offices, and bathrooms. The administrative components of the facility will be located on the southwestern side of the facility and the maintenance bays and workshops will be in the northern and southeastern sections of the facility. The roof of the administration components will be sloped to accommodate three large groups of solar panels. One group will heat water for the facility and the other two will generate electricity. In addition, the facility will utilize radiant heating and skylights in the maintenance bays.

Utilities for the aircraft hangar will also be obtained from connecting into the existing housing area lines, located along Harmon Avenue, and an existing WAAF potable water main. Supporting infrastructure will include privately owned vehicle parking, a hangar access apron for UAS taxiway access, a washrack with an oil/water separator, and elevated water tanks and pump house for emergency fire suppression.

The existing taxiway's concrete will be removed and replaced, with an expansion of its shoulder to 25 feet and the installation of two culverts to prevent stormwater overflow of the airfield. In addition, the elevated runway lighting fixture and base will be replaced with a new base, transformer and semi-flush light fixture.

The proposed action will require the removal of all trees, bushes, and other vegetative growth and grubbing and grading the footprint until level. Site disturbance will total approximately 60 acres. The design also consists of erosion and sedimentation control measures and low impact

development techniques for site disturbance. These Best Management Practices (BMPs) include, but are not limited to, dry detention ponds, outlet control structures, vegetated outflow channels, bioretention areas, dust control measures, silt fencing, temporary stabilization with mulch (as work proceeds), and permanent seeding.



Figure 2-1: Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives



Figure 2-2: Proposed Action Utility Tie-In Location



Figure 2-3: Proposed Action Road Work Design

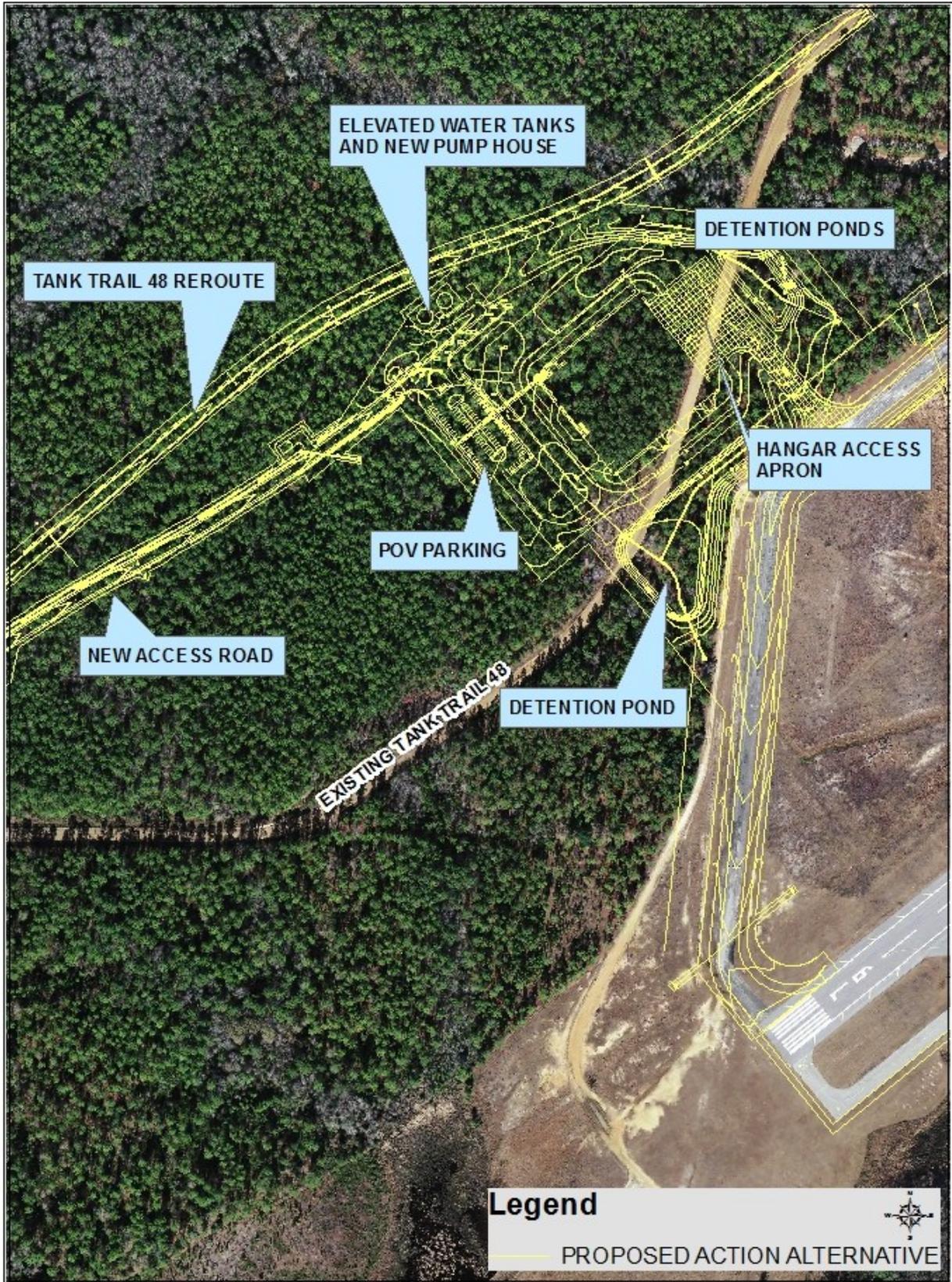


Figure 2-4: Proposed Action Aircraft Hangar Layout



Figure 2-5: Proposed Action Taxiway Work and Potable Water Main Route

2.3 NO ACTION

The original site layout shows the intended locations of the FY11 and FY13 portions of the UAS project, as indicated in Figure 2-6. This configuration does not meet Army standard design requirements for a UAS aircraft hangar and supporting infrastructure. As such, the no action alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the action but is carried forward as a baseline to compare anticipated environmental impacts of the proposed action.

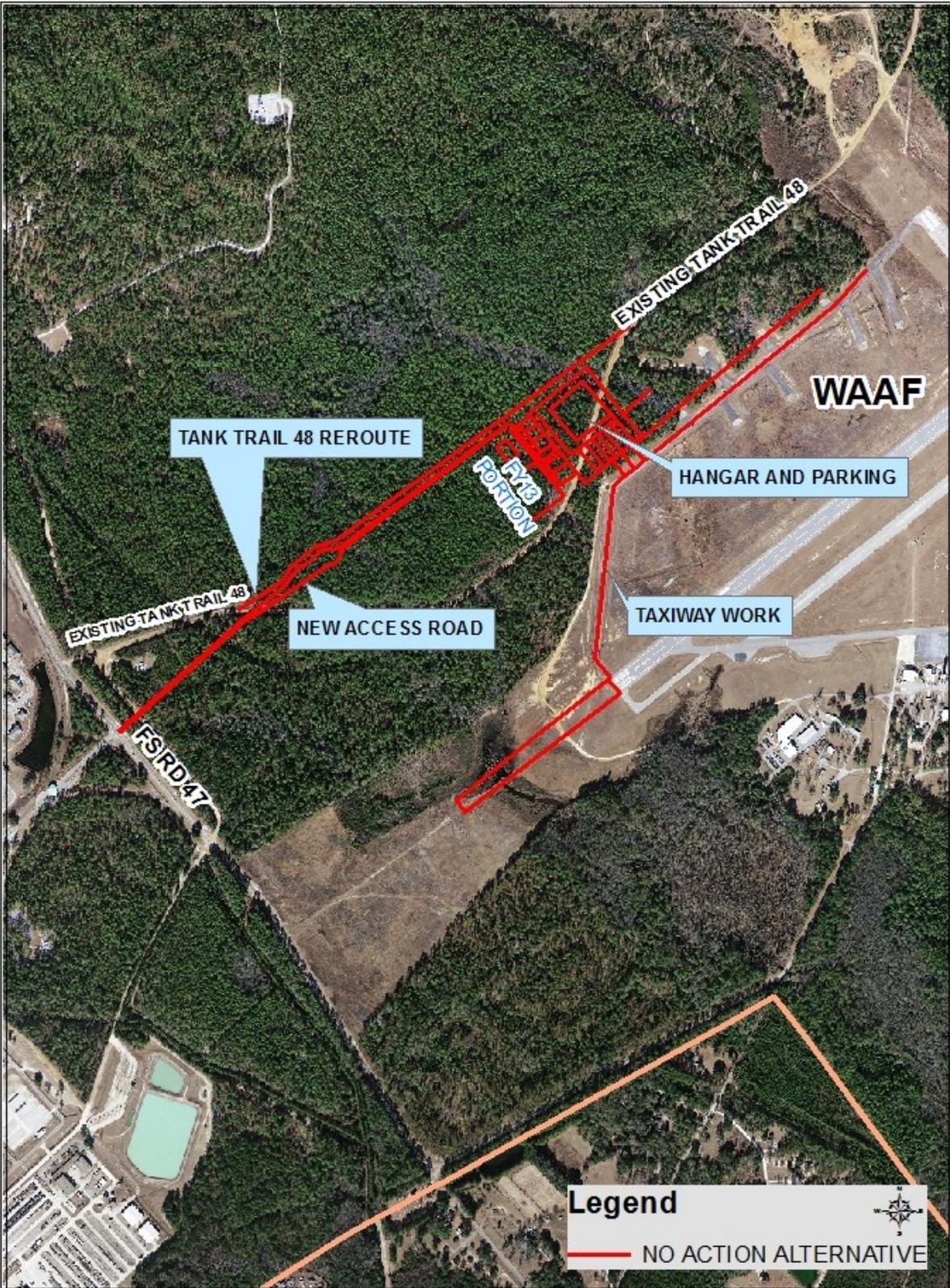


Figure 2-6: No Action Alternative Layout

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Army is tiering their EIS to focus on the actual issues associated with the WAAF Gray Eagle UAS project that are ripe for decision. This subsequent EA only summarizes the issues discussed in the EIS and concentrates on the issues specific to the footprint changes of the FY11 portion of the selected siting alternative for Gray Eagle UAS facilities at WAAF. The EIS is available at the following web address: http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN_Downloads.asp.

Chapter 3 of the EA documents the Army's analysis of potential environmental impacts from the proposed action and no action alternatives. The EA specifically analyzed impacts on the following resources; wetlands, water quality, wildlife, species of concern, and cultural resources¹. The chapter is organized by individual resources and each resource includes a separate section for 'Affected Environment' and 'Environmental Consequences'. The Affected Environment describes the resource as it currently exists as well as applicable laws and regulations regarding the protection of the resource. The Environmental Consequences describes the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and no action alternatives. Adverse impacts are described as direct, indirect, or cumulative, as defined below.

Direct impacts "... are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place".

Indirect impacts "are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable."

Cumulative impacts are "...the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions". (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508)

Cumulative impacts may result when impacts from an alternative are added to the impact of other actions. In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance, an analysis of cumulative effects must focus on "truly meaningful effects" examples of which include: habitat loss or fragmentation; diminished flood control capacity or other reductions in wetland values; degradation of sensitive ecosystems such as old growth forest; barriers to wildlife migration; or, fragmentation of historic districts (President's, CEQ 1997).

The cumulative impact analysis provided in each of the resource sections, includes the past, present, and future actions within the vicinity of Wright Army Airfield (WAAF). Past actions include substantial construction and operational aspects that occurred since the development of the airfield in 1942. Features that were in operation during the early years of the airfield included a fuel area, underground fuel storage tanks, two vehicle washracks, oxidation pond,

¹ See Appendix A for discussion of resources dismissed from further analysis.

grease rack, oil house, paint locker, flammable storage area, sewer and spray irrigation fields, hangars, gas storage, aviation fuel storage, and aircraft fueling system. Figure 3-1 shows a 1947 aerial view of the airfield, indicating that these operational features occurred in the cantonment area of WAAF which is south of the proposed action and no action locations.

Present actions include continuous and ongoing maintenance activities and operations within the airfield. With the exception of Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF), located in Savannah, Georgia, WAAF is the only Army airfield serving Fort Stewart capable of accommodating fixed wing aircraft.

In 2003, the Army implemented a Joint Use Development Project with the City of Hinesville and the Liberty County Development Authority, for the purpose of extending Runway 6L and rehabilitating and enhancing WAAF, to include construction of civilian airport facilities on a portion of WAAF. From this 2003 decision, the civilian airport facilities are the only project that has been implemented. Future projects include the FY13 portions of the WAAF UAS facilities, extending Runway 6L, removing trees, bushes, and other vegetative growth for line of sight for the existing air traffic control tower, and runway refurbishment of deteriorating pavement. A COF, TEMF, and an access control point along the access road will be built in FY13 for the UAS operations at WAAF; however, it is still in the planning process.

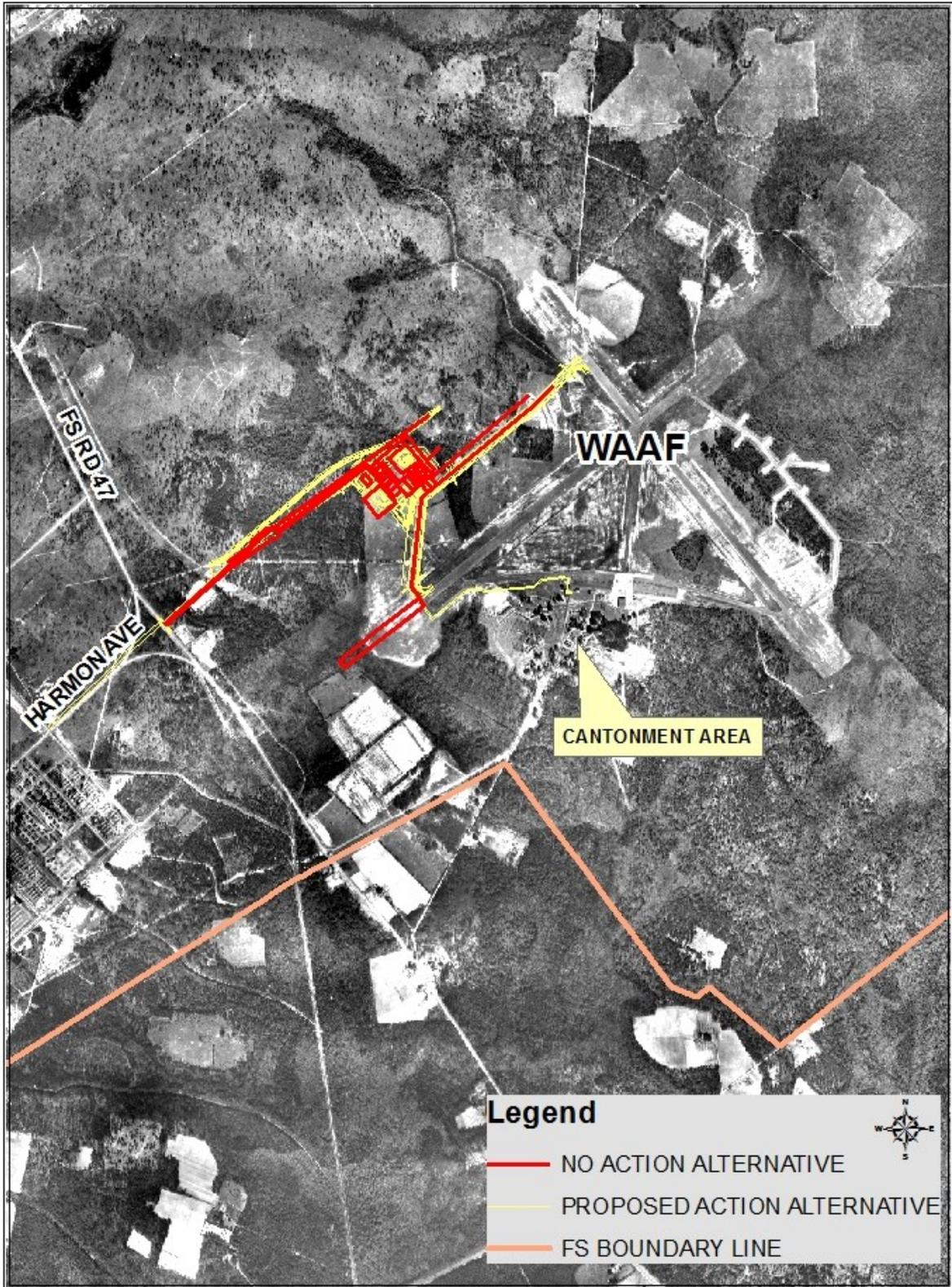


Figure 3-1: 1947 Aerial Photo of WAAF Operational Footprint

3.2 WETLANDS

3.2.1 Introduction

The EA's analysis of wetlands incorporates the US Army Corps of Engineers definition of wetlands which is, "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions." (40 CFR 230.3)

3.2.2 Affected Environment

Wetlands benefit the environment by providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality, decreasing flooding, and reducing the power of storms. Based on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory Maps, Fort Stewart contains approximately 90,000 acres of wetlands. All of these wetlands are designated as freshwater and include vegetative species such as pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), bald cypress (*T. distichum*), black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), swamp tupelo (*N. aquatic*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), redbay (*Persea borbonia*), and fetterbush lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*).

Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) is located in an area of Fort Stewart that contains an abundance of wetlands. While the largest wetland area located in the vicinity of WAAF is Goshen Swamp, located east and southeast of the airfield property, there are also several smaller wetlands located throughout the area. Therefore, during the planning stages of the UAS project, a wetland delineation was performed within the area of potential effect to determine the extent of wetlands that would be impacted by the UAS project.

3.2.3 Environmental Consequences

At the time the EIS was published, the results of the delineation indicated that 1.66 acres of wetlands would be impacted by the original UAS facility layout, which includes both the FY11 and FY13 phases of the project. Extensive further delineation was performed after this to anticipate possible footprint changes and other facilities. As a result of the required footprint changes, the modified configuration of the FY11 portion will impact 1.83 acres of wetlands. Impacts to wetlands as a result of either alternative would not be considered significant or potentially significant because neither alternative will result in a substantial decrease in the environmental benefit of WAAF wetland systems. A map of the wetland areas within the no action and proposed action alternatives is included in Figure 3-2. Specific locations of wetland impacts associated with the proposed action are shown in Figure 3-3. This figure was the outcome of a process of aggressive coordination with the site designers to reduce wetlands impacts as much as possible while still meeting the operational needs of the facility. In accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Permit authorizing Fort Stewart to conduct certain activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System. A copy of the permit is included in Appendix B. All conditions of the permit must be followed. In addition, the Environmental Office will be monitoring the progress of construction to ensure the conditions of the permit are

being met.

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts to wetlands will occur from the proposed action, no action, and other actions outlined in Section 3.1. Wetlands were or will be impacted from most of these projects. The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division works with site designers to avoid wetlands for every project; however it is not always possible to avoid wetlands and meet the operations needs of the airfield. A substantial decrease in the environmental benefit of WAAF wetland systems is not anticipated from these projects because monitoring will be conducted during and after construction to ensure compliance with Section 404 permits.

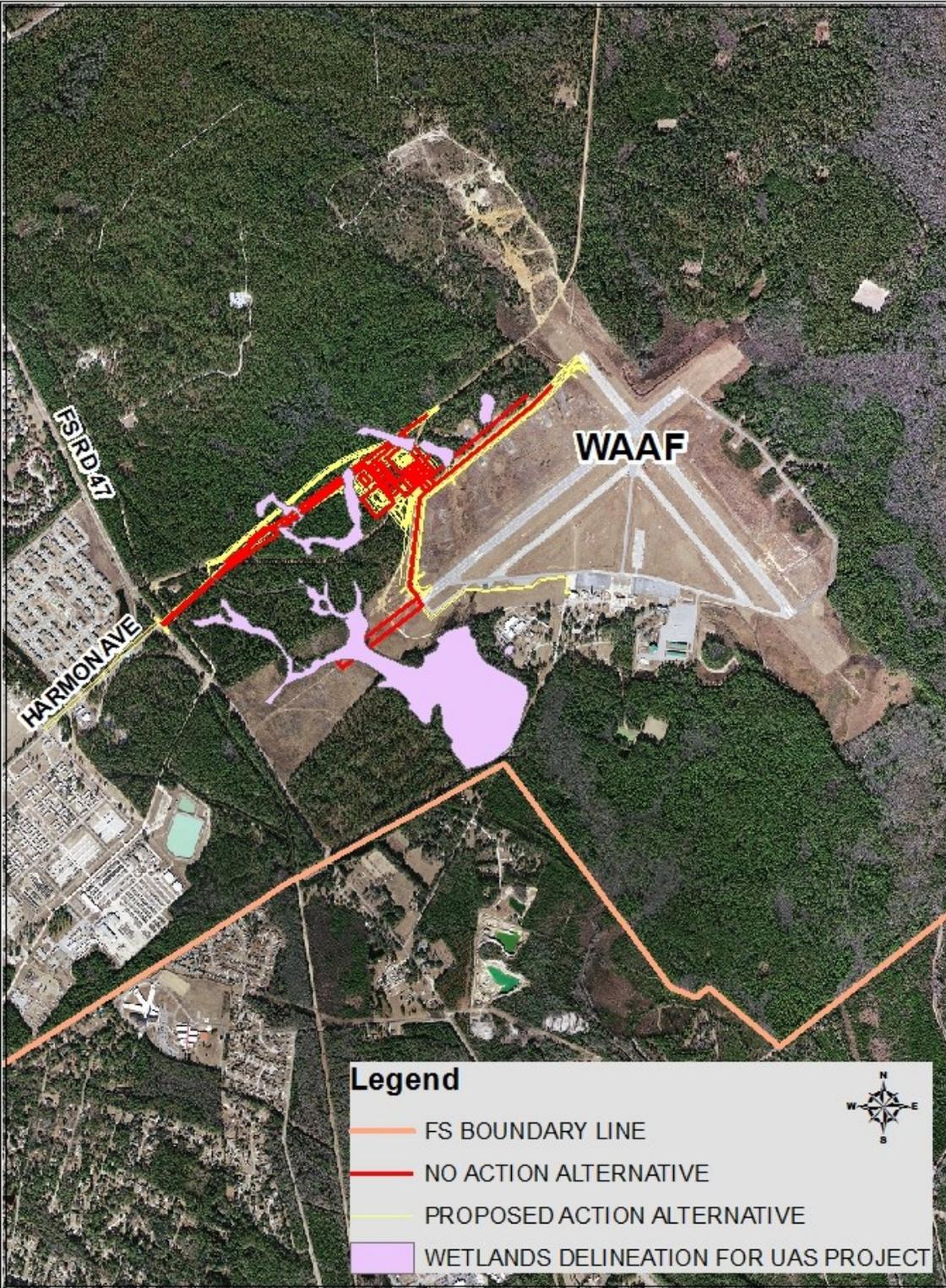


Figure 3-2: Wetland Delineation

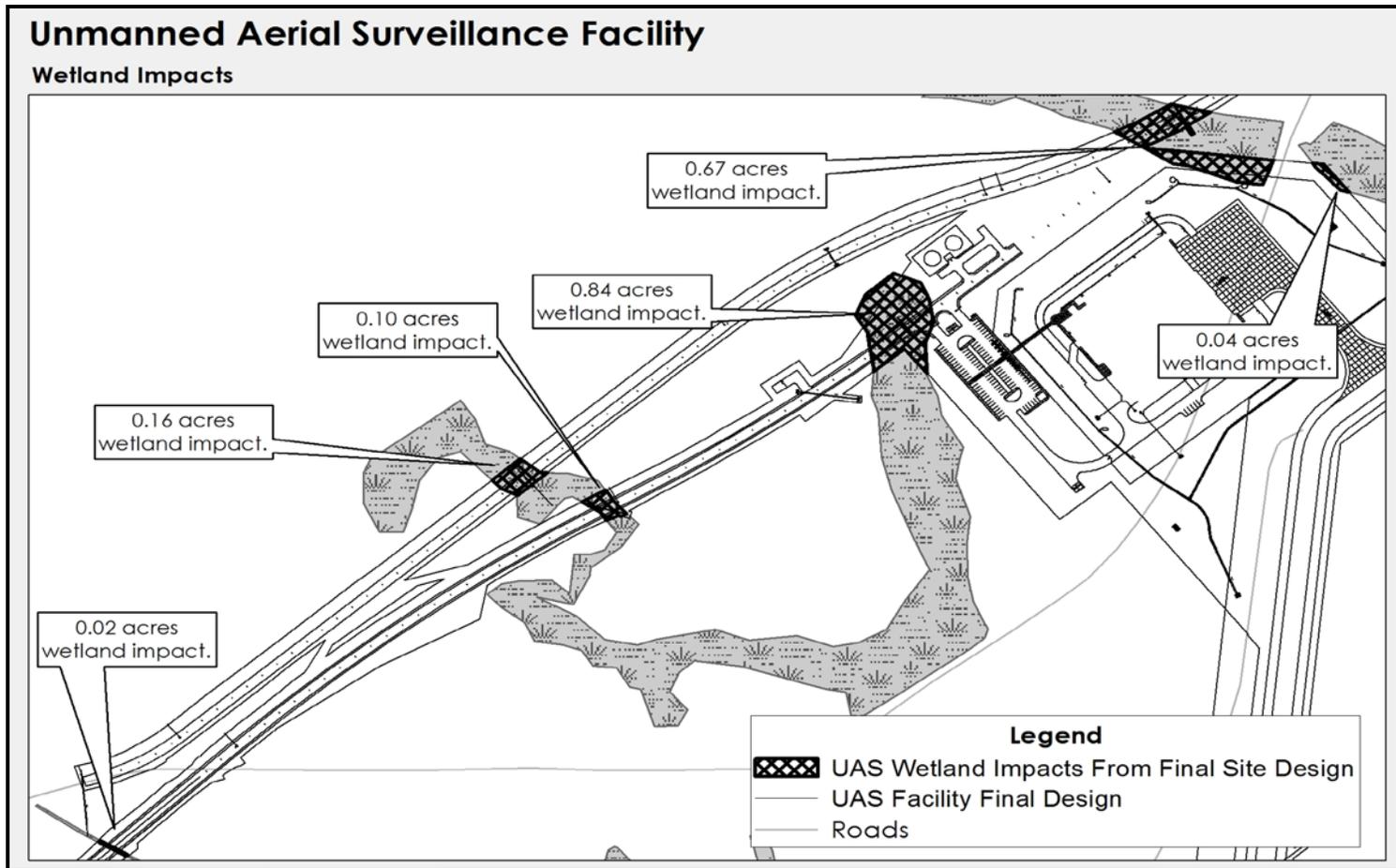


Figure 3-3: Final FY11 UAS Project Site Footprint with Wetland Impacts Shown.

3.3 WATER QUALITY

3.3.1 Introduction

The EA's analysis of water quality focuses on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of surface waters. Physical characteristics include turbidity, pH, temperature, and total suspended and dissolved solids. Chemical characteristics include dissolved oxygen, nitrate, orthophosphates, and pesticides while aquatic life forms are used to measure biological characteristics.

In addition, this analysis includes impacts to floodplains. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines floodplains as areas subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

There are two primary water courses that flow through or are adjacent to Fort Stewart. The Canoochee River drains approximately 900 square miles of southeastern Georgia and bisects Fort Stewart before discharging into the Ogeechee River in the southeastern corner of the military reservation. The Ogeechee River forms the eastern boundary of the Installation and is a major coastal plain river that drains over 4,400 square miles of the Georgia Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. There are numerous smaller creeks and streams throughout the Installation including Canoochee Creek, Taylors Creek, Savage Creek, Maulden Branch, and Clyde Creek. There are approximately 1,500 acres of ponds, reservoirs, and borrow pits on Fort Stewart.

Surface water quality is generally good at Fort Stewart, with the exception of elevated nutrient levels immediately below the Fort Stewart water treatment plant and some isolated sedimentation problems. The water quality of Fort Stewart's rivers and ponds is routinely monitored for water quality parameters.

The Evans Army Airfield area drains in a southwestward direction and connects east of Holbrook Pond with what is commonly known as Big Swamp, which starts at State Highway 144 and connects to Goshen Swamp. These two swamps are the headwaters of Peacock Creek. This drainage runs east of WAAF. WAAF drainage discharges into Peacock Creek, which then drains off-post. Peacock Creek is a State 303(d) listed impaired water body for dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform. In addition, there is a stormwater retention pond in the southwest portion of WAAF, three detention basins in the southeast portion of WAAF, and a lagoon for the wastewater treatment-land application system. During rain-events at WAAF, the pond and basins drain into the Peacock Creek system. The lagoon retains wastewater until it can be treated and applied.

The two surface water bodies located within the area of potential effect are Goshen Swamp and Peacock Creek. Goshen swamp is a bottomland hardwood wetland drainage feature extending southeast of Runway 6L. This wetland area (a tributary to Peacock Creek) is typical of relatively flat, forested drainage features found throughout the region. The hydrology of this system is

primarily charged by runoff from adjacent upland areas. This area remains inundated within the lower elevation portions and highly saturated within higher elevation portions for relatively long durations of time throughout periods of high rainfall. Rainfall recorded for Fort Stewart from 1985-2009 averaged 50.43 inches; however, from 2010-2011 there has been a deficit in annual rainfall of 10 and 13 inches, respectively. Although rainfall data has been collected at certain sites at WAAF, it is not an accurate representation of the rainfall for the area, and has been compromised due to malfunctioning equipment and hindrances from wildlife.

Floodplains, the low-lying lands subject to inundation from floodwaters, serve various functions, including water storage and conveyance, filtration of nutrients and other pollutants from run-off, erosion control, groundwater recharge, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation. Floodplains provide numerous beneficial environmental functions such as flood abatement, stream flow mediation, filtering, and water quality transformation.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal service agencies to avoid construction or management practices that will adversely affect floodplains, unless it is found that (a) there is no practicable alternative, and (b) the proposed action has been designed to minimize harm to or within the floodplain. There must be a finding of no practicable alternative to constructing in the floodplain and verification that all practical measures were taken to minimize harm to the floodplain.

At the time the EIS was published, the WAAF UAS facilities footprint was not expected to impact floodplains. However, this 2008 FEMA data was based on data accumulated during 2003 and 2004 and did not take future development into account. A stormwater modeling study was performed in 2011 to confirm the 2008 floodplains data. The final report of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems BMP Compliance & Floodplain Modeling Study will be available in 2012. This modeling shows that there are areas which would be inundated during the 25-year and 100-year rain events due to a stacking effect from development.

3.3.3 Environmental Consequences

Footprint alterations of the Gray Eagle UAS project will not result in significant or potentially significant impacts because existing regulatory and other requirements will be complied with during construction, operations, and maintenance. These requirements include complying with the Clean Water Act (CWA), Water Quality Act, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, site-specific Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control (ESPC) Plan BMPs, Fort Stewart Stormwater Management Plan, an activity specific stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWP3), and Executive Order 11988. In addition, equipment cleanout will occur in designated areas (sink basins or washracks which discharge to sanitary or industrial wastewater treatment plants), waste materials will be properly disposed of, and hazardous materials will be managed in accordance with applicable Fort Stewart regulations and management plans. The Installation also has a resident Natural Resource Conservation Service advisor who will provide technical expertise during preparation of the ESPC plan prior to Fort Stewart approving the final design of land disturbing activities.

There are no erosion and sedimentation issues within the proposed footprint for the Gray Eagle UAS portion, other than normal conditions for dirt trails and roads and sandy soils. Any erosion and sedimentation related to construction must be addressed as required under the GA EPD NPDES Permitting and Installation Stormwater Policy requirements for construction, and pre/post new development and redevelopment.

As mentioned above, the footprint for the Gray Eagle UAS project at WAAF will impact floodplains. Figures 3-4 through Figure 3-6 illustrate the anticipated inundations of floodwaters. The floodplain for a 25-year storm will grow by 2015, which indicates an increase in the chance for flooding at WAAF. The proposed action must be designed to minimize harm to or within the floodplain. Figure 3-4 shows the 100-year and 25-year floodplain modeling around WAAF. WAAF is the optimal place for the Gray Eagle UAS because it has at least 5,000 linear ft of runway for the UAS to take off and land, and a clear zone of 500 feet. However, there is not enough available non-floodplain land surrounding the WAAF runways to locate the UAS at WAAF. To avoid the floodplains the facilities would have to be located much further away from the airfield and this is not practicable because the UAS need direct access to a runway.

Floodway encroachment, including structures, fill placement, etc., is prohibited unless certification with supporting technical data is provided by a registered professional engineer demonstrating the encroachment will not result in any increase in flood elevations upstream or downstream. The floodplain BMPs outlined in the erosion and sedimentation plan incorporate BMPs recommended in the modeling report and should be considered for the proposed action.

Specifically, the contractors are required to implement the Fort Stewart/HAAF Stormwater Management Policy for New Development and Redevelopment. In addition, construction must be in accordance with the standards and criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, including the application of accepted flood-proofing/flood protection measures, such as elevate structures were practicable. In addition, State of Georgia requirements must be met, such as elevating the structure to or above the 100-year floodplain level, adequately anchoring the facility to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral structural movement during flooding, and ensuring electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and other services are designed to prevent flood waters from entering and/or accumulating with these systems. Construction contractors must review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Technical Guidance for Implementation of EISA-Section 438 (USEPA 2009) and select from a series of floodplain specific BMPs.

A Stormwater Permitting Construction Notice of Intent (NOI) and \$80 per acre fee for the State must be submitted to the Fort Stewart Environmental Office. Also, a Georgia Stream Buffer Variance is required when new construction, including infrastructure improvements, requires the crossing of a stream or if trees and/or vegetation are removed within a 25-foot buffer of the stream. Application for an SBV must include an approved ESPC plan that is completely independent and separate from either the NOI submittal for coverage under the NPDES General Permit to Discharge Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities or CWA Section 404 permit processes. A linear wetland or stream feature on the site, identified by surveyors as a 'Relatively Permanent Water' was assessed by Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division and determined to be an ephemeral stream; therefore it does

not require a Stream Buffer. At this time, an SBV will not be required for any of the FY11 portion of this project.

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts to water quality will occur from the proposed action, no action, and other actions outlined in Section 3.1. Some of these projects will be built in floodplains and surface water bodies will be impacted; however, the water quality in surface water bodies within and surrounding WAAF will not have a cumulative impact because the above-mentioned regulatory and other requirements will be complied with during construction, operation, and maintenance. In addition, floodplains will be avoided where possible; however, if there is no practicable alternative, then the projects will be designed to minimize harm to or within the floodplains by complying with floodplain BMPs, Fort Stewart/HAAF Stormwater Management Policy for New Development and Redevelopment, standards and criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, State of Georgia requirements, and USEPA Technical Guidance for Implementation of EISA-Section 438.

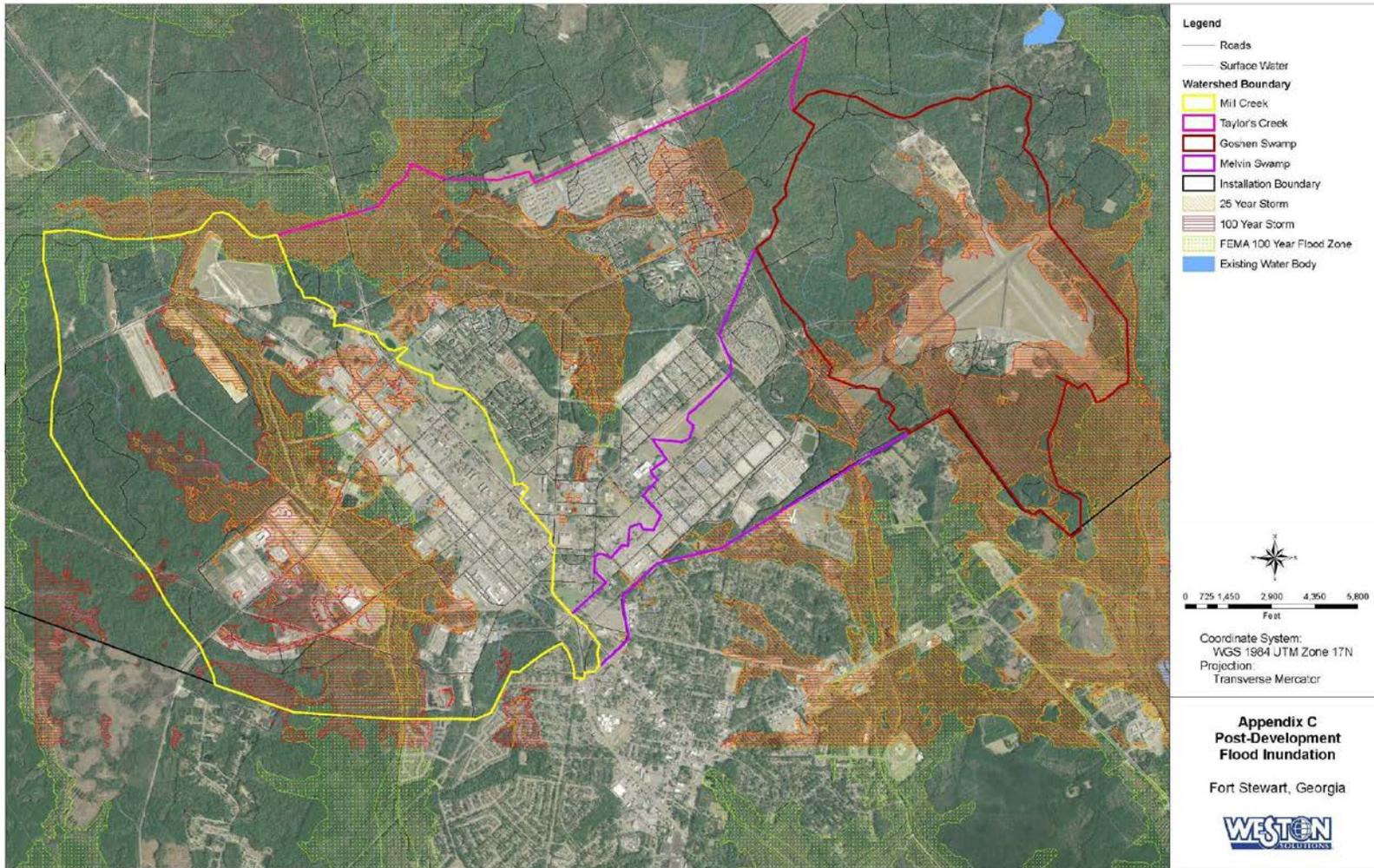


Figure 3-4: Fort Stewart Floodplain Modeling FEMA Overlay

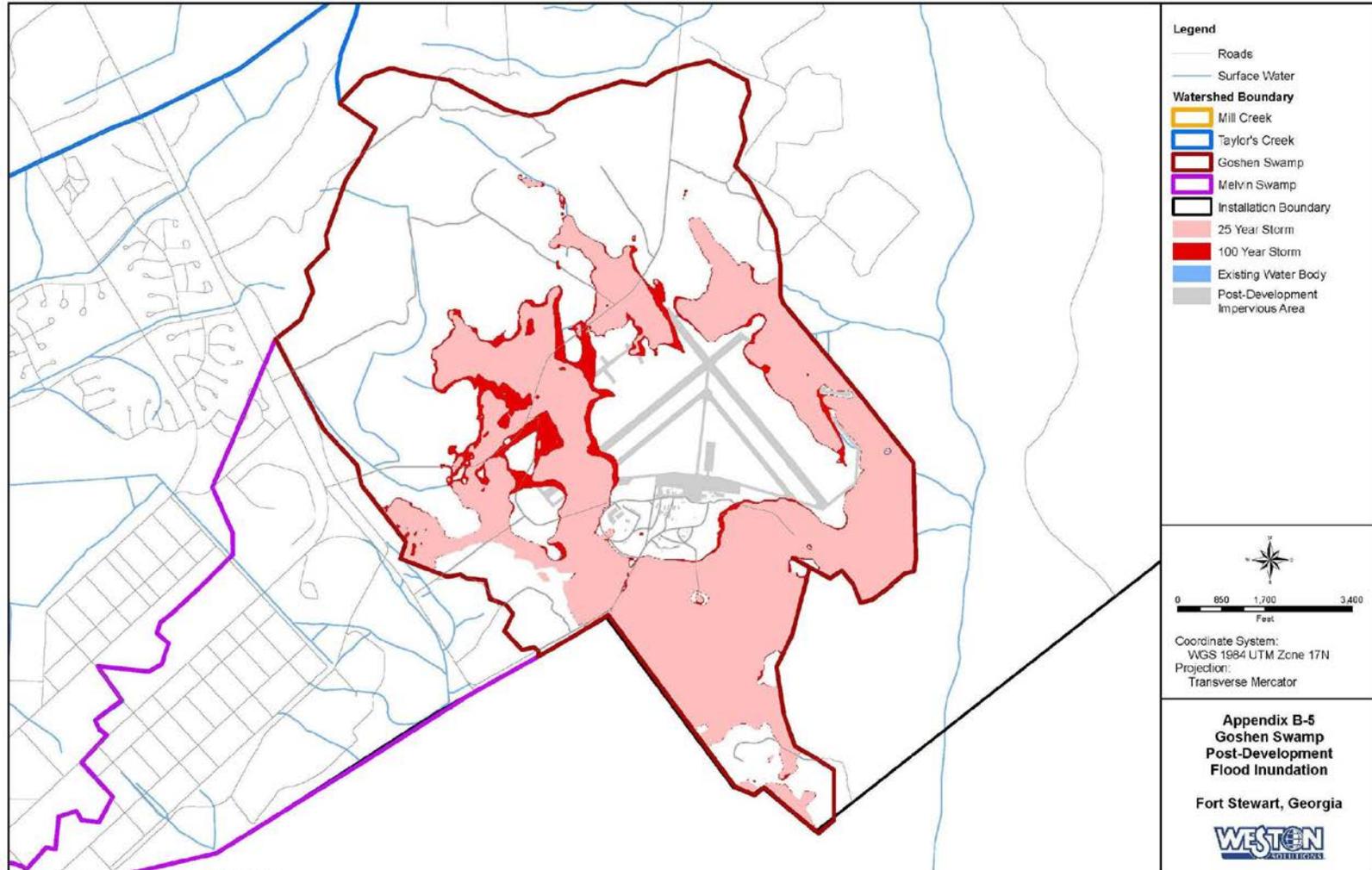


Figure 3-5: 2011 WAAF Floodplain Modeling Post Development

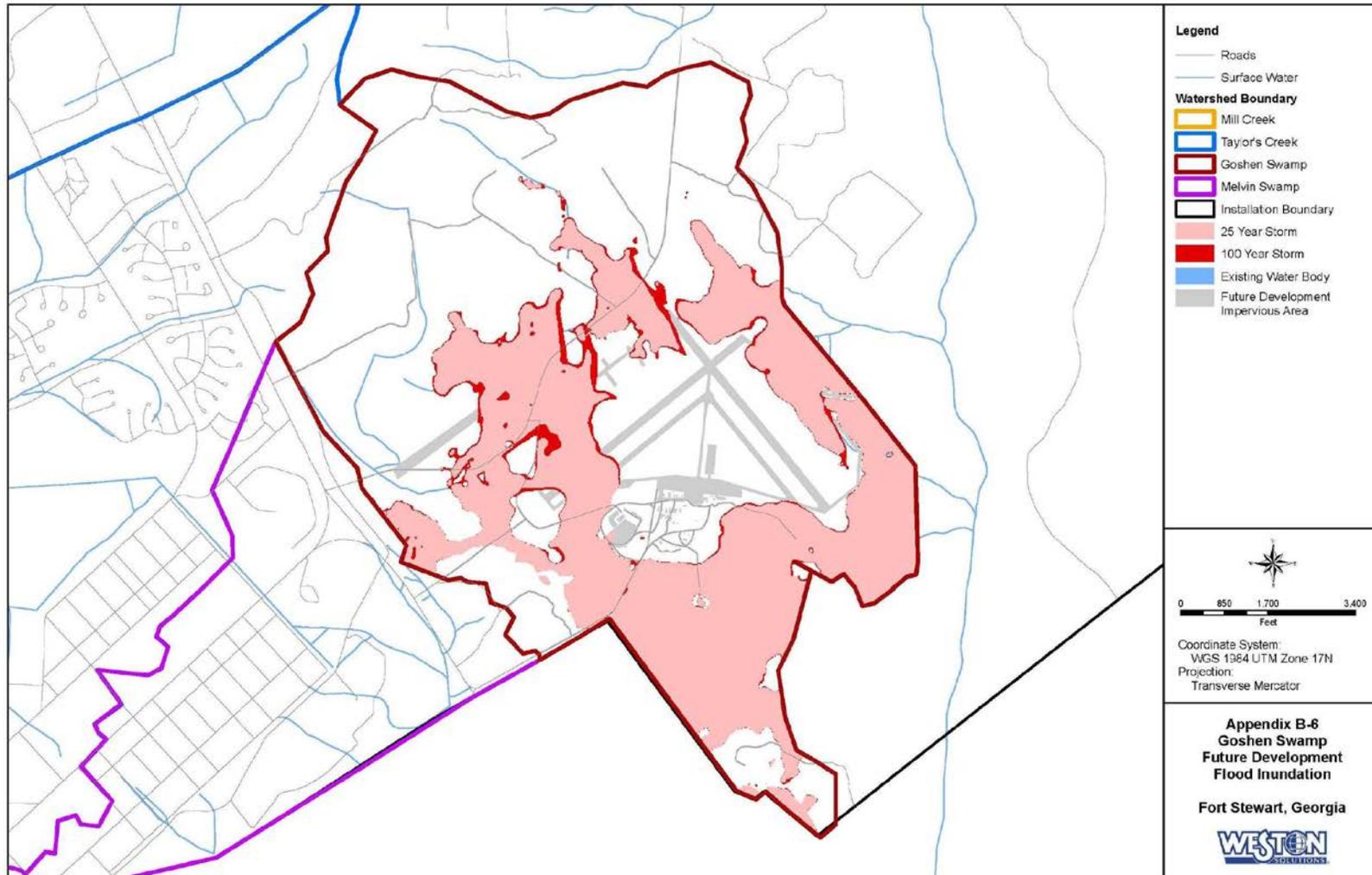


Figure 3-6: 2015 WAAF Floodplain Modeling

3.4 WILDLIFE

3.4.1 Introduction

The EA's analysis of wildlife includes common wildlife that would be expected to occur in the proposed action area. Management of wildlife and its habitat is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Fort Stewart Integrated Resource Management Plan (INRMP), which is incorporated herein by reference. Unless otherwise indicated, the information in this section is from that document.

3.4.2 Affected Environment

Wildlife management activities have been in progress on Fort Stewart since the early 1950s. There are 46 species of mammals, 57 species of reptiles, 241 species of birds, 38 species of amphibians, and 64 species of fish that have been reported on Fort Stewart. In addition to a diverse assemblage of forest songbirds, game birds such as wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) occur on the Installation (Fort Stewart 2005a). Also, approximately 170 species of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) could occur on Fort Stewart, either seasonally or year round.

Wildlife in the affected environment may include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), fox (*Vulpes* and *Urocyon* spp.), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), rabbit (*Sylvilagus* spp.), squirrel (*Sciurus* spp.), and smaller mammals. Many of the 170 species of birds protected under the MBTA are expected to occur at least temporarily in the areas potentially affected by the proposed action alternative. This project will not occur within the vicinity of essential fish habitat designated by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council or National Marine Fisheries Service per their November 14, 2011 letter found in Appendix E.

3.4.3 Environmental Consequences

A modification to the Biological Assessment (BA) that accompanied the EIS was submitted to the USFWS. Once concurrence is received from the USFWS and NEPA documentation is complete, merchantable timber can be harvested. Up to 45 days is needed to complete merchantable timber removal. The timber harvest contractor must adhere to all Timber Harvest BMPs, while the construction contractor must remove the remaining harvest-related debris, stumps, logging slash, and non-merchantable timber.

Construction would temporarily displace some wildlife in the immediate vicinity of the modified footprint of the FY11 portion of the project. In addition, displacement will occur in areas with soil disturbance, removal of trees, bushes, and other vegetative growth, and incidental human activity. Standard timber harvest and construction BMPs would minimize erosion and sedimentation, limiting the potential for off-site effects and degradation of surrounding habitat. Wildlife may also flush from the area while it is in operation, but would likely return once operations cease. No impacts are predicted from routine maintenance activities. Noise and activity during construction, operation, and maintenance would result in disturbance to wildlife primarily within the area of potential effect, but habitat fragmentation and edge effects would extend into adjacent habitat. Increased activity within already disturbed areas would not

significantly affect wildlife given the ongoing activity to which they are already exposed. Impacts to wildlife as a result of either alternative would not be considered significant or potentially significant because Fort Stewart will comply with the provisions of the activity-specific ESPC plan and SWP3, BMPs, MBTA, will continue to educate Soldiers and civilians, use solid waste disposal practices that limit access by wildlife, and continue recommendations outlined in the management plans and the INRMP.

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts to wildlife will occur from the proposed action, no action, and the actions outlined in Section 3.1. All of these projects, except the runway refurbishment, impacted or will impact wildlife due to displacement, habitat removal and noise. Wildlife will relocate to appropriate surrounding habitat when their habitat is removed. Although the noise increase will impact wildlife, it will not be significant given the noise they are already exposed to near the airfield. No significant or potentially significant cumulative impact is expected from all of these actions because personnel will comply with the activity-specific ESPC plan, SWP3, INRMP, BMPs, MBTA and recommendations outlined in the management plans.

3.5 SPECIES OF CONCERN

3.5.1 Introduction

The EA's analysis of species of concern focuses on seven species listed or proposed for listing by the Endangered Species Act. The six Federally-listed species are red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), eastern indigo snake, frosted flatwoods salamander (FFS), wood stork, and shortnose sturgeon. The gopher tortoise is a Candidate Species for the state listed species of concern. Further discussion of the above species can be found in the modification to the BA located in Appendix C and in the EIS at http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN_Downloads.asp.

3.5.2 Affected Environment

Shortnose sturgeon occur in or near the confluence of the Ogeechee and Canoochee Rivers, approximately 16.3 miles east of the area of potential effect; therefore, they are not in the affected environment. Also, no sightings of wood storks, eastern indigo snakes, or gopher tortoises and no nests and burrows have been located within the action area. FFS Habitat Management Unit (HMU) is within the proposed action area, but the area is not within FFS ponds or associated primary or secondary buffers for FFS; therefore, it is not carried forward for further review. RCW will be impacted by the proposed action.

3.5.3 Environmental Consequences

The 2010 BA stated that construction will remove 33.7 acres of existing RCW HMU as identified in Fort Stewart's INRMP; however, because of the relatively small acreage required for the project and its proximity to existing military infrastructure, the proposed action was determined to may affect, but unlikely to adversely affect RCWs. The Biological Opinion, issued by the USFWS, concurred with these findings. The EIS determined the original action would result in minor adverse affects to RCWs, with no effect to the other species of concern.

The footprint alterations discussed in this EA impacts an additional 28.9 acres, consisting of 2.1 acres of lowland hardwood and 26.8 acres of RCW HMU. The new road bed and required right of way will displace 6.9 acres of the RCW HMU from clear-cutting, grubbing, grading, and future maintenance. The remaining 19.2 acres of RCW HMU will become unmanageable for RCW HMU because it will be inside the controlled area (Figure 3-7). This alteration will not impact any RCW forage partitions and Fort Stewart still expects to achieve 350 potential breeding groups (the recovery benchmark) in the breeding season of 2013. In addition, neither alternative will hinder Fort Stewart's ability to achieve 350 potential breeding groups in 2013. The proposed alterations are not expected to affect the other species of concerns. USFWS coordination is in Appendix C.

Impacts to species of concern as a result of either alternative would not be considered significant or potentially significant because Fort Stewart will comply with the provisions of the activity-specific ESPC plan and SWP3, including BMPs, Endangered Species Act, continue to educate Soldiers and civilians, use solid waste disposal practices that limit access by wildlife, continue recommendations outlined in the management plans and the INRMP, and survey and monitor sensitive species habitat.

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts to species of concern will occur from the proposed action, no action, and the actions outlined in Section 3.1. For the FY13 portion of the UAS project, the consultation with the USFWS may need to be modified once a final footprint/layout is determined. Consultation with the USFWS has already been conducted for the runway extension, line of sight work, and FY11 UAS projects and no significant impact is expected; therefore, there will not be a significant or potentially significant cumulative impact from all of these actions because the activity-specific ESPC plan and SWP3, Endangered Species Act, and INRMP will be complied with and personnel will continue to survey and monitor habitat for sensitive species.

Figure 1. Project design modification and RCW HMU impacted, Ft. Stewart, GA.

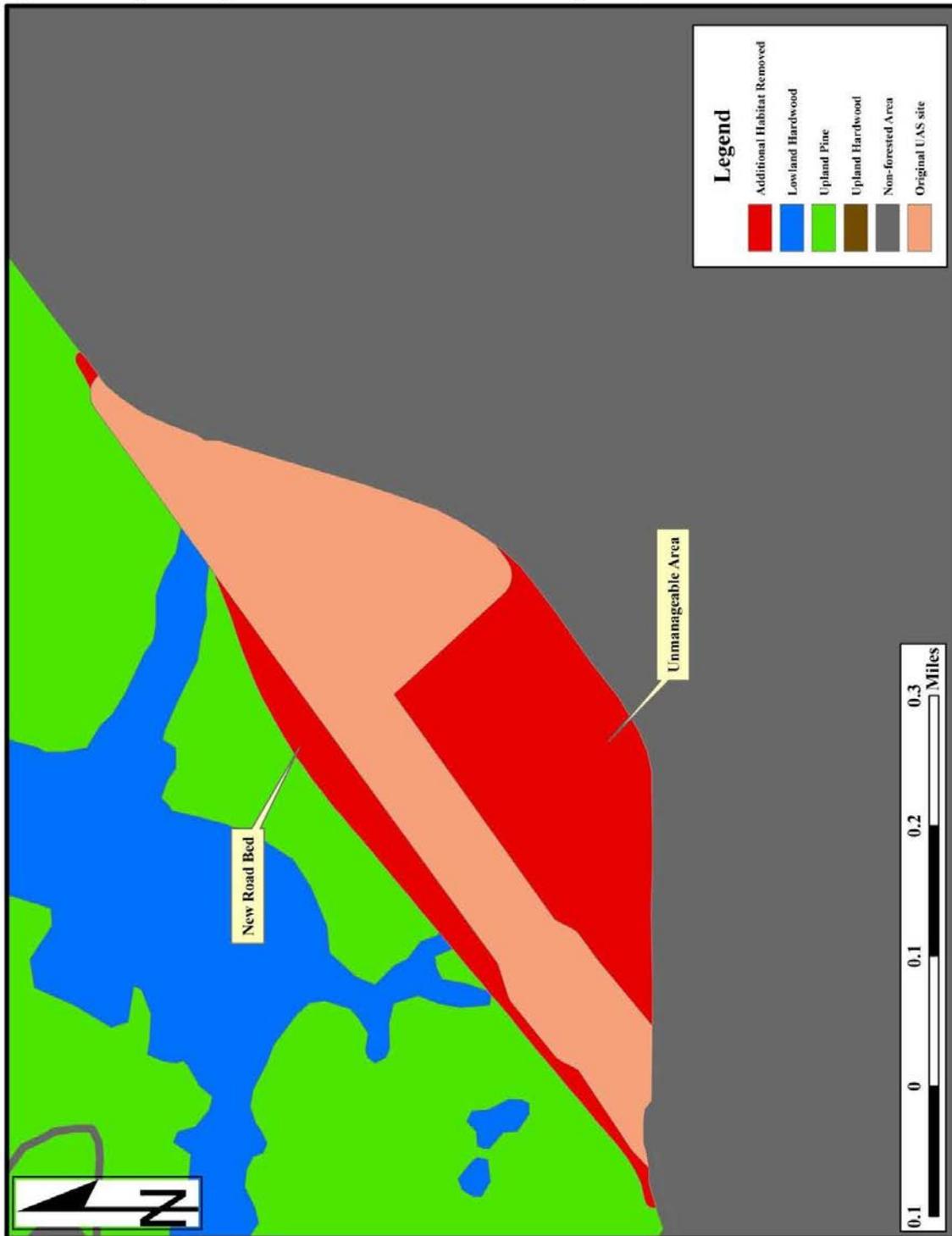


Figure 3-7: RCW HMU Impacted

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.6.1 Introduction

Fort Stewart consulted with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Native American Tribes with whom Fort Stewart consults on this overall action in the EIS. A copy of the consultation effort is in Appendix D. Additional consultation will occur with the SHPO for the footprint alteration and this consultation effort is also in Appendix D. The attachments to the consultation letters contain sensitive information on archaeological sites and are neither in this EA nor distributed to the public in accordance with Section 9 of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act and Section 304 of the National Preservation Act.

3.6.2 Affected Environment

Cultural resources consist of prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. The affected environment includes any cultural resources eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) identified within the proposed footprint.

3.6.3 Environmental Consequences

The area of potential effect for the original footprint and the footprint alterations were surveyed for cultural resources (Morehead et al. 2008). Seven sites were identified within the original proposed footprint. All seven sites were determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. No additional sites have been identified within the proposed footprint.

No significant or potentially significant adverse impacts to cultural resource management will occur since none of the sites are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the recommendations outlined in the management plans and the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan will continue. If the project uncovers artifacts or human remains, all work must cease and the Installation Military Police and the Fort Stewart/HAAF Cultural Resource Management office (767-2010 or 315-6027) must be notified and the Standard Operating Procedure regarding Accidental Discovery of Archeological Deposits and / or Human Remains followed (Appendix D).

No significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts to cultural resources will occur from the proposed action, no action, and the actions outlined in Section 3.1. If artifacts are uncovered, the appropriate authorities will be contacted, and the Standard Operating Procedure regarding Accidental Discovery of Archeological Deposits and / or Human Remains followed. In addition, no sites within the footprints of these projects are eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP; therefore, there is no cumulative impact to cultural resources.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

This EA analyzed the potential impacts of proposed footprint alterations of the FY11 WAAF Gray Eagle UAS area of potential effect at Fort Stewart, Georgia and is tiered off the 2010 *Fort Stewart Environmental Impact Statement for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation*, which analyzed the original footprint for this project. Following an analysis and comparison of impacts of the proposed action and no action alternatives, it was determined that neither will result in significant impacts, and the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact and Finding of No Practicable Alternative are appropriate. The Army will therefore proceed with the preparation of both for this action

5.0 REFERENCES AND PERSONS / LITERATURE CONSULTED

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APPENDIX A

Resources Dismissed from Further Analysis

Twenty environmental and socioeconomic resources were analyzed for potential impacts from the proposed action (i.e., construction, operations, and maintenance). Due to its limited scope and footprint, the proposed action would potentially affect only a small portion of Fort Stewart and its resources. Preliminary analysis by the Fort Stewart Environmental Division program managers determined that some of the Installation's resources have the potential to be affected by this action and require detailed analysis in the EA. These resources are wetlands, water quality, wildlife, species of concern, and cultural resource management. Resources not impacted are discussed below.

Air Quality. Under the provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and its amendments, the mechanisms for establishing the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program were enacted, whereby Congress established land classification schemes (zones) for those areas of the country (like Fort Stewart) having air quality better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Fort Stewart is in an air quality district that is in attainment for criteria pollutant emissions and PSD, with the proposed action creating only minor, temporary adverse effects. Although Fort Stewart is a major source of air emissions (per Title V of the CAA and its amendments) the proposed action will result in no amendments to the Installation's Title V permit and only minor and temporary amounts of dust generation during timber harvesting, construction, and operation. Standard installation of dust-minimizing and other air quality protection measures will further minimize this potential. In addition, no regulatory thresholds would be exceeded under air quality; therefore, this resource is not carried forward for further analysis.

In terms of global warming, scientists have concluded that human activities are changing the composition of the atmosphere, and that increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases will change the planet's climate. There is uncertainty as to how much it will change, and at what rate it will change. This project removes trees, which would otherwise absorb carbon dioxide. This is not a significant cumulative impact when taken in context of the global situation and the Army's efforts. Although timber harvest will occur, landscaping will be conducted where possible after construction is complete, further minimizing impacts to global warming.

It is also important to place these carbon emissions in the context of the federal government's overall plan to reduce carbon emissions. Executive Order 13423 sets as a goal for all federal agencies the improvement of energy efficiency and the "reduc[tion] of greenhouse gas emissions of the agency, through reduction of energy intensity by (i) 3 percent annually through the end of fiscal year 2015, or (ii) 30 percent by the end of fiscal year 2015, relative to the baseline to the agency's energy use in fiscal year 2003." The U.S. Army Energy Strategy for Installations (U.S. Army Energy Strategy for Installations, 8 July 2005, available at <http://army-energy.hqda.pentagon.mil/docs/strategy.pdf>) also contains strategies to reduce energy waste and improve efficiency. Taking these policies into account, this action does not represent a net incrementally addition to the global climate change problem.

Groundwater. The groundwater resources of coastal Georgia are recognized as some of the most productive in North America. The Upper Floridan aquifer provides most of the fresh water for cities and communities throughout southeastern Georgia. The upper boundary of the Floridan aquifer lies between 300 and 450 feet below the surface in the vicinity of Fort Stewart.

As early as 1940, the US Geologic Survey determined that extensive water withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer were causing water levels in the aquifer to decline. Long-term pumping from the Upper Floridan aquifer in the coastal regions of Georgia, adjacent northeastern Florida, and southeastern South Carolina has lowered ground water levels, resulting in increases in salinity of the aquifer due to saltwater intrusion into the Upper Floridan aquifer.

There are two additional aquifers that supersede the Upper Floridan aquifer in the vicinity of Fort Stewart. The surficial aquifer is closest to the soil surface and is intricately connected to surface waters on Fort Stewart. Deep percolation through the soil directly recharges the surficial aquifer, and this interconnectedness with surface water renders the surficial aquifer susceptible to contamination from surface or shallow subsurface pollution. The Miocene aquifer separates the surficial system from the Upper Floridan and is hydraulically connected to the surficial aquifer. There are no water wells located within the area of potential effect.

Fort Stewart's primary water source has been the Upper Floridan Aquifer, averaging 2.107 million gallons per day (MGD) usage cumulatively from 6 municipal groundwater wells on a community drinking water system servicing the cantonment area and 13 wells associated with 12 non-community drinking water systems located throughout the non-cantonment area. The permit will need to be modified to include the 2 wells at WAAF to the community drinking water system, totaling 8 wells on the system. Each of these wells is approximately 500-foot deep. Fort Stewart is permitted for an average daily groundwater withdrawal of 4.2 MGD annual average and a maximum withdrawal of 5.2 MGD monthly average. In addition, Fort Stewart has a new well that taps into the Lower Floridan Aquifer that went on-line with a monthly and annual average of 0.768 MGD.

Fort Stewart has initiated a number of water conservation measures since the early/mid 1980s with construction of a closed-loop central vehicle wash facility, lining of the Installation's golf course pond for stormwater capture and reuse, major upgrade to its Central Energy Plant chilled water and steam pipe distribution system to replace and repair leaking systems, leak detection surveys, waterless urinals, low flow plumbing fixtures included in all new construction, to the most recent initiative to partner with the City of Hinesville as a reuse water customer to supply irrigation water to the golf course and industrial water to the Central Energy Plant. With the implementation of the reuse water system, Fort Stewart is projecting over 860,000 gallons per day of Upper Floridan Aquifer source conservation.

The proposed action will connect into existing water lines at WAAF and lines from the housing development on Harmon Avenue.

Hazardous and Toxic Materials and/or Wastes. The primary industrial wastes generated at Fort Stewart are those associated with vehicle and aircraft maintenance. The waste stream includes used lubricating oil, hydraulic fluid, degreasing solvent, scrap metal, wire, and waste asbestos. Other wastes generated on the Installation include waste acid, lead-based paint, waste paint, paint sludge, polychlorinated biphenyls in transformer oil, plastics, pesticides, herbicides, sanitary wastes, and construction debris. Any hazardous wastes generated by Army activities at Fort Stewart are taken to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division's State permitted 90-day Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility for disposal. There would be no new waste

streams or materials associated with the proposed action and there are no Environmental Restoration, Army or active Army Environmental Database-Restoration sites in the vicinity of the action alternative site. Therefore, this resource does not require further analysis in the EA.

Solid Waste - Landfills. Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield has five active landfills: four of which (South Central Sanitary Landfill, Non-Putrescible Landfill, Inert Concrete Landfill, and Inert Yard Waste Landfill) are located in the northwest corner of the Fort Stewart cantonment area. The fifth landfill, an inert rubble landfill is located at HAAF. The Fort Stewart Landfill only accepts construction and demolition (C&D) waste and other non-Putrescible waste from military units or in-house resources, such as the Directorate of Public Works. The landfill does not accept C&D waste from contractors working on the Installation.

Solid Waste - Recycling. Recycling reduces disposal cost, conserves natural resources, and minimizes environmental problems associated with land disposal. The Fort Stewart/HAAF Policy Memorandum # 8, Command Recycling Policy, dated 12 February 2007, governs the Installation's Qualified Recycling Program. Under this policy, all military and civilian personnel, to include contractors, assigned to, living and/or working on Fort Stewart/HAAF are required to actively participate in the recycling program (2007b). All C&D projects must support the mandated 50% diversion rate. All construction, demolition, and renovation activities must have a written C&D Waste Management Plan that specifically outlines the activities the contractors will take to salvage or recycle as much of the materials as possible. This plan must be approved by the Installation in advance of any construction or demolition actions in order to ensure adherence to the Installation's Command Recycling Policy.

Socioeconomics. Socioeconomics focuses on the general features of the local economy that could be affected by the proposed action alternative. Local construction expenditures have the potential for minor beneficial impact to the local communities. This construction project could be accommodated by the existing workforce, and few new jobs would be created. In addition, it is probable that the majority of the construction materials will be purchased outside the local region and transported on-site. Because few jobs would be created or affected through implementation of this proposed action and any impact would be slightly beneficial, this resource has been eliminated from further discussion.

Environmental Justice. Environmental justice compliance is prescribed by Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*, issued in 1994. This policy directive to federal agencies outlines appropriate and necessary steps to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects of federal projects on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. Since the proposal would not disproportionately impact low-income or minority populations, environmental justice is not analyzed further.

Provision for the Handicapped. American Disabilities Act requires access be provided for the handicapped in all facilities constructed.

Protection of Children. Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks* requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental

health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and pose a disproportionate environmental health or safety risk to children. Environmental health and safety risks are those, which are attributable to products or substances a child is likely to come into contact with or to ingest. This Executive Order focuses primarily on the noise environment around schools, which is not an issue with regards to implementation of either alternative.

Public Health and Safety. During the timber harvest, prescribed industrial safety standards would be followed. No specific aspects of the proposed action would create any unique or extraordinary safety issues; therefore public health and safety was not discussed further in this EA.

Land Use and Recreations. All construction, operation and maintenance of this road will occur within an existing training area. No recreation assets are present in this area; therefore, implementation of the proposed action would not affect land use or recreation.

Transportation. Implementation of the proposed action is not expected to adversely affect transportation resources in the training areas. The Installation contains well-established highways, roads, and parking networks and would not increase or decrease traffic in the area of the either alternative.

Utilities. In January 2008, the DA established the LEED Implementation Guide and required its use by all DA Installations. Previously, the Army implemented its sustainable design tool criteria through the Sustainable Project Rating Tool to encourage the actualization of Green Building, Sustainable Design, and Energy Efficiency in its projects, to include provision and maintenance of utility systems on Post. The DA also determined that all vertical construction projects with climate controlled facilities must achieve the Silver level of LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC). This requirement applies worldwide to all construction on permanent Army Installations regardless of the funding source; therefore, it is a required part of the proposed action. This project is projected to achieve the Gold level of LEED-NC.

Executive Order 13101, Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, dated 14 September 1998, also provides guidance for purchasing supplies and materials for operations and contracts, in addition to requiring the use of recoverable and renewable energy implemented to the maximum practical extent. Consideration is given to a wide range of measures including optimization of building position and orientation to reduce energy consumption to heat and cool buildings.

Utilities at Fort Stewart include electrical power, natural gas, potable water supply systems, and wastewater systems. Wastewater, water, electrical, and natural gas lines will be connected to lines from the Harmon Avenue housing development. The additional load is not anticipated to have an adverse impact to the current wastewater treatment plant. In addition, a septic tank will be installed. The Georgia Department of Human Resources Division guidelines must be followed when the septic tank is installed.

Two wastewater underground storage tanks (USTs) will be installed for emergency purposes only. Because these tanks are used for emergency storage only, they are not regulated USTs as

they are deferred under 40 CFR 280.10 (b)(6) and because they should be empty most of the time, they will not violate Fort Stewart's UST moratorium (as it only applies to tanks containing regulated substances).

APPENDIX B

Wetlands Consultation



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

A.G. 'SPUD' WOODWARD
DIRECTOR

December 28, 2011

Commander, USACE Savannah District
Attn: Donald Hendrix
100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640

RE: Consistency Certification of JPN #SAS-2009-01007, Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility,
Fort Stewart, Liberty County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Hendrix:

Staff of the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP) has reviewed the above referenced joint public notice pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act of 1899 for consistency with the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP). The project proposes to impact 1.83 acres of freshwater wetlands to facilitate the construction of a concrete apron and connecting runway, paved road with culverts, reroute an unpaved tank road with culverts, connecting roads and building in connection with an Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) facility. No jurisdictional saltmarsh or tidal waterbottoms will be impacted.

A Revocable License is not required for this project and the Program concurs with the applicant's consistency certification. This ensures that the proposed project has been designed to comply with the applicable enforceable policies of the GCMP and that all applicable state permissions have been obtained prior to issuance of this federal permit. Please feel free to contact Kelie Moore or me if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A.G. "Spud" Woodward
Director

SW/km

cc: Fort Stewart Director of Public Works
Department of the Army
Headquarters, 3D Infantry Division
1587 Frank Cochran Drive, Ste 101
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314-4928

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

PERMITTEE: Fort Stewart Director Public Works

PERMIT NUMBER: SAS-2009-01007

ISSUING OFFICE: Savannah District
US Army Corps of Engineers
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate District or Division office of the US Army Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To impact 1.83 acres of wetlands associated with the construction of a concrete apron and connecting runway; a paved access road with culverts; a rerouted unpaved tank road with culverts; connecting roads; and buildings to facilitate the construction of an Unmanned Aerial Systems Complex.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located off Fort Stewart 47, adjacent to the northwest side of Wright Army Airfield (Latitude 31.8835, Longitude -81.5733), near Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia.

PERMIT CONDITIONS:

General Conditions.

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized by this Individual Permit ends on March 31, 2017. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, you must submit a request for your permit extension at least one month prior to the above date.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

- 2 -

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.

5. If a conditioned Water Quality Certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with conditions specified in the certification as Special Conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.

6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

7. The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States because of any such removal or alteration.

Special Conditions

1. All dredged or borrowed material used as fill on this project will be from clean, uncontaminated sources and free from cultural resources.

2. That no construction activity or stockpiling will occur in waters of the United States, including wetland areas, outside of the areas authorized for filling under this permit.

3. Prior to the commencement of construction activities for this project, the limits of the proposed fill areas in jurisdictional waters shall be clearly flagged and staked by you and/or your contractors. All construction personnel shall be shown the location(s) of all wetland and/or stream areas outside of the construction area to prevent encroachment from heavy equipment into these areas.

- 3 -

4. Borrow site or sites for stockpiling fill dirt shall be prohibited within 200 feet of streambanks, 50 feet of wetlands and open waters or elsewhere runoff from the site would increase sedimentation in waters of the United States unless specifically authorized by this permit. Normal grading activities such as cutting and filling within 200 feet of streams or 50 feet of wetlands/open waters are authorized.

5. Construction debris, liquid concrete, old riprap, old support materials, or other litter shall not be placed in streams or in areas where migration into streams and/or wetlands could reasonably be expected.

6. Staging areas and equipment maintenance areas will be located at least 200 feet from streambanks to minimize the potential for wash water, petroleum products, or other contaminants from construction equipment entering the streams.

7. The permittee shall ensure that the project's master drainage plan is designed and implemented to avoid inadvertent drainage of wetlands and inadvertent water diversion resulting in a reduction of hydrology in wetlands. The permittee shall also ensure that secondary road ditches and/or small after-project drainage ditches do not inadvertently impact wetlands or waters of the US.

8. The permittee shall minimize bank erosion and sedimentation in construction areas by utilizing BMPs for stream corridors, installing and maintaining significant erosion and sediment control measures, and providing daily reviews of construction and stream protection methods. Check dams and riprap placed in streams and wetlands as erosion control measures are considered a fill and not authorized under this permit unless they were specifically authorized by this permit.

9. All work conducted under this permit shall be located, outlined, designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the minimal requirements as contained in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. Utilization of plans and specifications as contained in "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control, (Latest Edition)," published by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission or their equivalent will aid in achieving compliance with the aforementioned minimal requirements.

10. You shall obtain and comply with all appropriate Federal, state, and local authorizations required for this type of activity. A stream buffer variance may be required. Variances are issued by the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), as defined in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. It is our understanding that you may obtain information concerning variances at the Georgia EPD's web site at www.gaepd.org or by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 675-6240.

- 4 -

11. If you or your contractors discover any federally listed threatened or endangered species and/or their habitat while accomplishing the activities authorized by this permit, you must immediately STOP work in the area and notify the issuing office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the species and/or habitat warrant further consultation with the USFWS.

12. Prior to the commencement of construction activities for this activity, the permittee shall insure that this project complies with all applicable rules, requirements, and/or regulations of the FEMA and/or the Georgia Floodplain Management Office with regard to construction activities in designated floodplains and/or floodways prior to commencement of work activity, to include revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program maps if required.

13. Prior to the commencement of any work in jurisdictional waters of the United States for this activity, you will deduct 5.49 acres from the Fort Stewart Pond 4 Wetland Mitigation Bank, based on the maximum 3:1 acre ratio for use of that bank. You must provide this office with documentation of this debit before any work may commence. The notice should reference the USACE file number assigned to this project.

14. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

2. Limits of this Authorization.

a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local authorizations required by law.

b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed federal projects.

- 5 -

3. **Limits of Federal Liability.** In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
- c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
- d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
- e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

4. **Reliance on Applicant's Data.** The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.

5. **Reevaluation of Permit Decision.** This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
- c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision. Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7, or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order, which requires you to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate.
- d. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

- 6 -

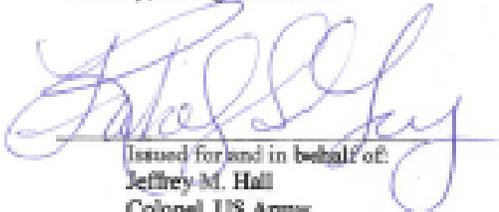
6. Extensions. General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the US Army Corps of Engineers will normally consider a request for an extension of time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.


(PERMITTEE)

1 Mar 12
(DATE)

This permit becomes effective when the federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.


Issued for and in behalf of:
Jeffrey M. Hall
Colonel, US Army
Commanding

2 Mar 12
(DATE)

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFEREE)

(DATE)

Regulatory Division

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAS-2009-01007

PERMIT FILE NUMBER: SAS-2009-01007

PERMITTEE ADDRESS: Fort Stewart Director Public Works, Department of the Army
Headquarters, 3D Infantry Division, 1587 Frank Cochran Drive, Suite 101, Fort Stewart, Georgia
31314-4928

LOCATION OF WORK: The project site is located off Fort Stewart 47, adjacent to the
northwest side of Wright Army Airfield (Latitude 31.8835, Longitude -81.5733), near Hinesville,
Liberty County, Georgia.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To construct a concrete apron and connecting runway; a paved
access road with culverts; a rerouted unpaved tank road with culverts; connecting roads; and
buildings to facilitate the construction of an Unmanned Aerial Systems Complex.

ACRES AND/OR LINEAR FEET OF WATERS OF THE US IMPACTED: 1.83 acres

DATE WORK IN WATERS OF US COMPLETED:

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION REQUIRED: deduct 5.49 acres from the Fort Stewart on-
post wetland mitigation bank.

DATE MITIGATION COMPLETED OR PURCHASED (include name of bank):

Within 30 days of completion of the activity authorized by this permit, sign this certification and
return it to the following address:

Commander
US Army Engineer District, Savannah
Attention: Regulatory Division
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to compliance inspection by an US Army
Corps of Engineers' representative. If you fail to comply with the permit conditions, it may be
subject to suspension, modification or revocation.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit as well as any required mitigation (if applicable) has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit.

Signature of Permittee

Date

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000
Mark Williams, Commissioner
F. Allen Barnes, Director
Environmental Protection Division
(404) 656-4713

December 28, 2011

Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works
Attn: Mr. Thomas Fry
Environmental Division Chief
1550 Frank Cochran Dr., Bldg. 1137
Fort Stewart, GA 31314

Re: Water Quality Certification
Joint Public Notice SAS-2009-01007
Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works, Unmanned
Aerial Surveillance (UAS) Facility
Ogeechee River Basin
Liberty County

Dear Mr. Thomas Fry:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Georgia issues this certification to the Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works, an applicant for a federal permit or license to conduct an activity in, on or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia.

The State of Georgia certifies that there is no applicable provision of Section 301; no limitation under Section 302; no standard under Section 306; and no standard under Section 307, for the applicant's activity. The State of Georgia certifies that the applicant's activity will comply with all applicable provisions of Section 303.

This certification is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The applicant must notify Georgia EPD of any modifications to the proposed activity including, but not limited to, modifications to the construction or operation of any facility.
2. No oils, grease, materials or other pollutants will be discharged from the construction activities that reach public waters.
3. All work performed during construction will be done in a manner so as not to violate applicable water quality standards.

Page 2
JPN SAS-2008-01007
Liberty County

This certification does not relieve the applicant of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other laws or regulations of other federal, state or local authorities.

It is your responsibility to submit this certification to the appropriate federal agency.

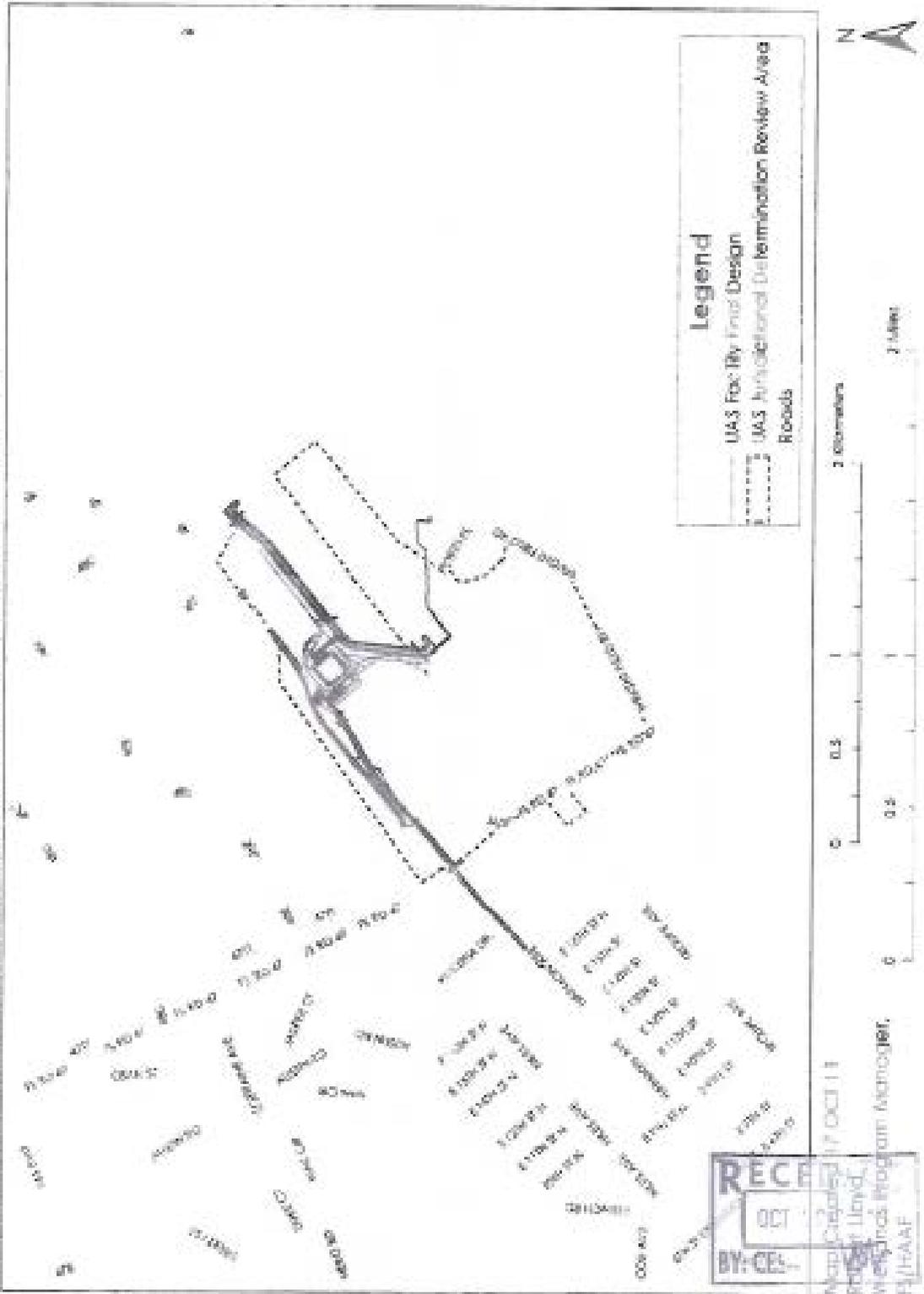
Sincerely,


F. Allen Barnes
Director

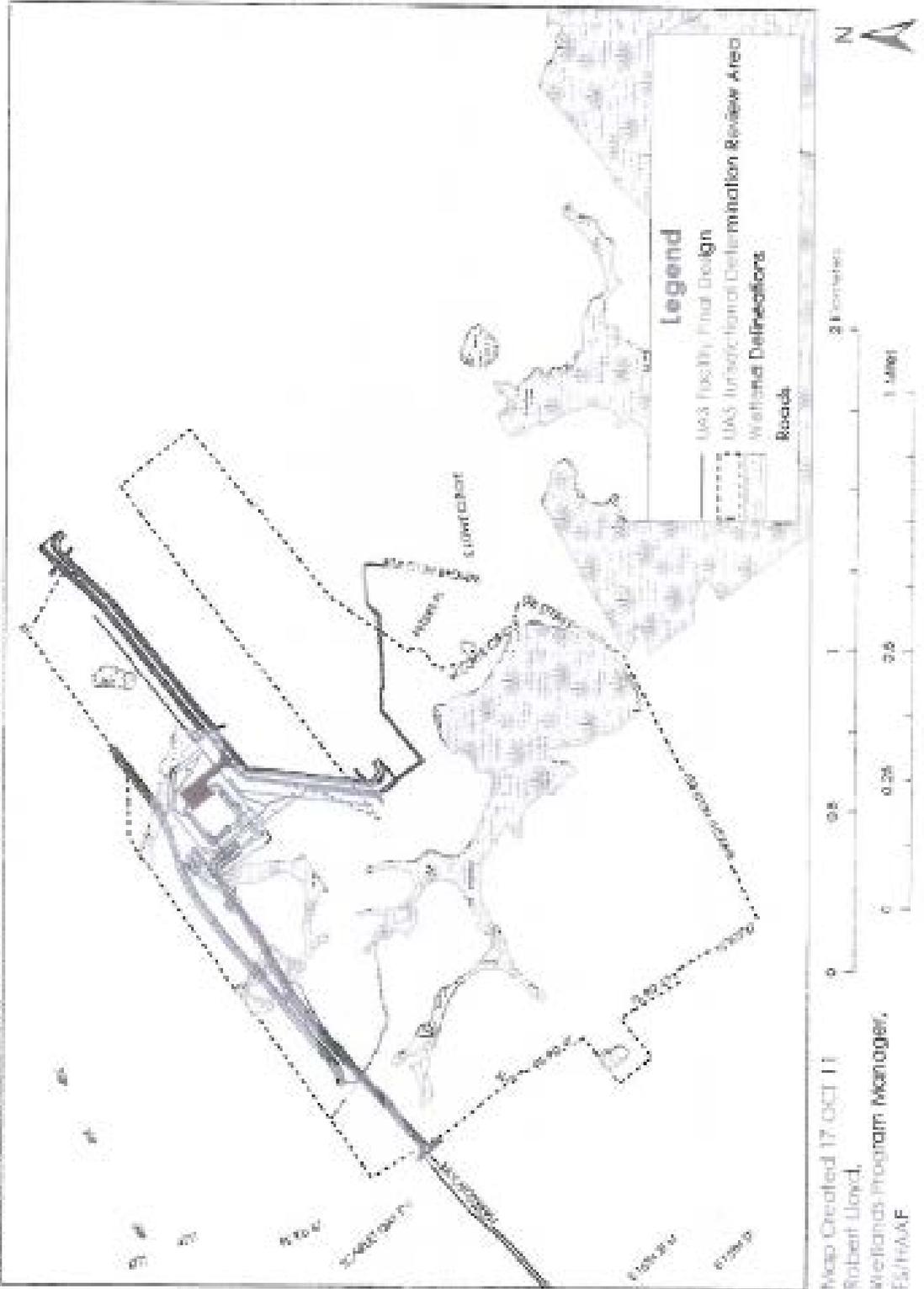
cc: Mr. Robert Lloyd, Ft. Stewart
Ms. Kimberly Garvey, USACE
Mr. Mark Padgett, USACE
Mr. Bob Lord, USIEPA
Mr. Bill Wilcott, USFWS
Ms. Jaclyn Daly, NMFS
Ms. Kelle Moore, CRD

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Project Vicinity With Jurisdictional Determination Review Area And Final Site Design

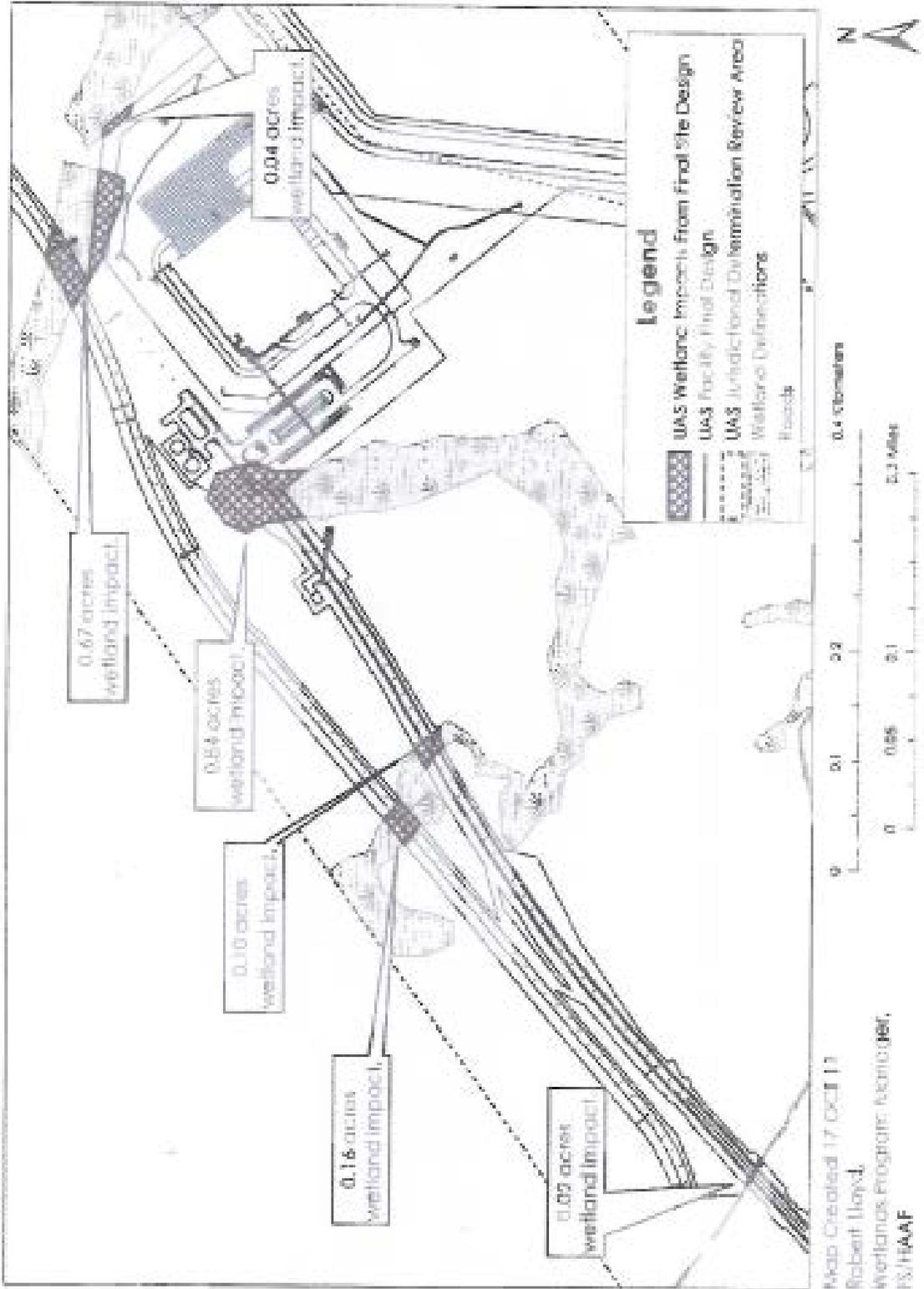


Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility Jurisdictional Determination Review Area And Final Site Design



Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Wetland Impacts



Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Wetland Impact Area 1 Elevational Cross-Section

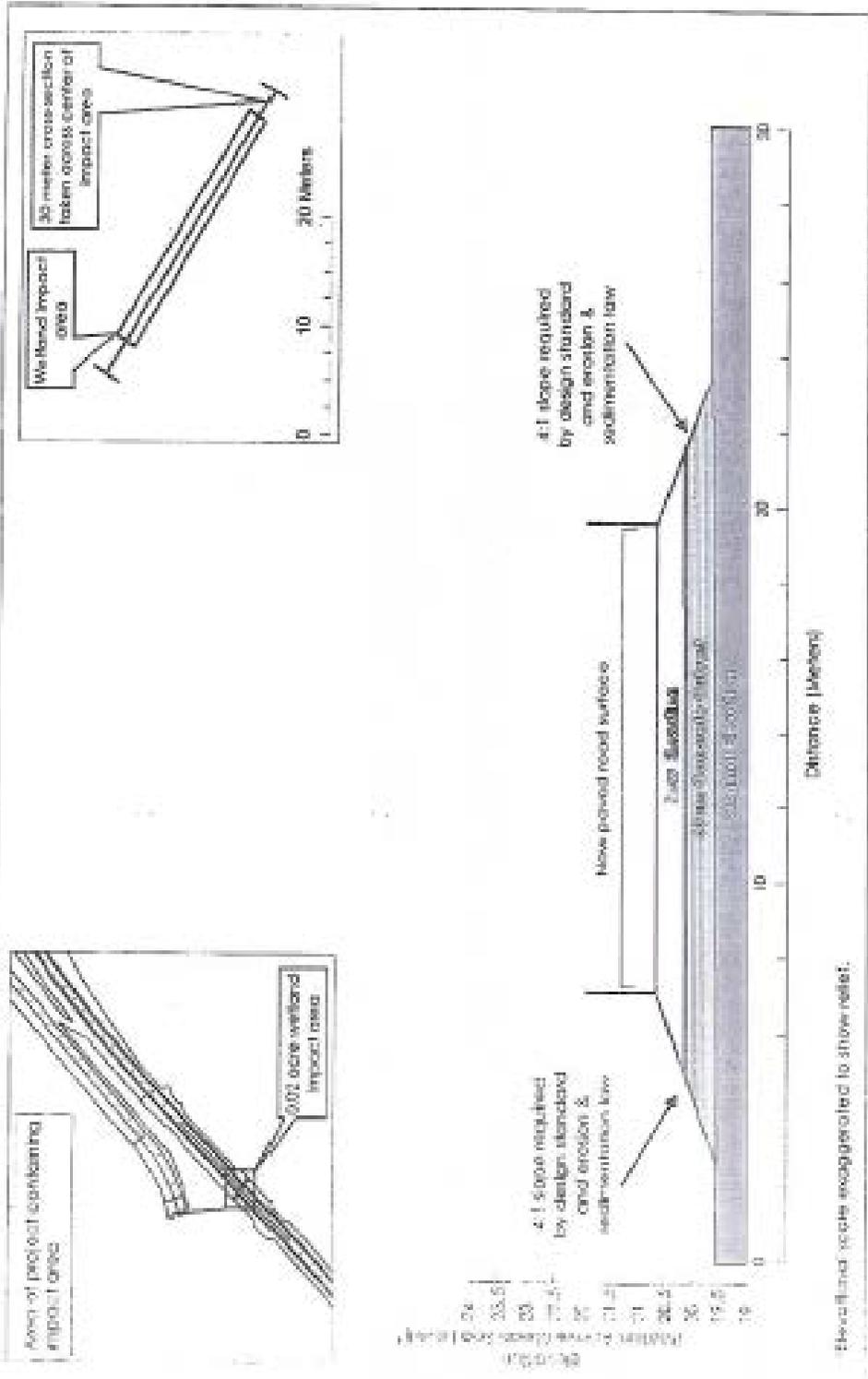


Diagram Created 17 SEP 11
 Robert Lloyd,
 Wetland Program Manager,
 S/HAAF

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Wetland Impact Area 2 Elevational Cross-Section

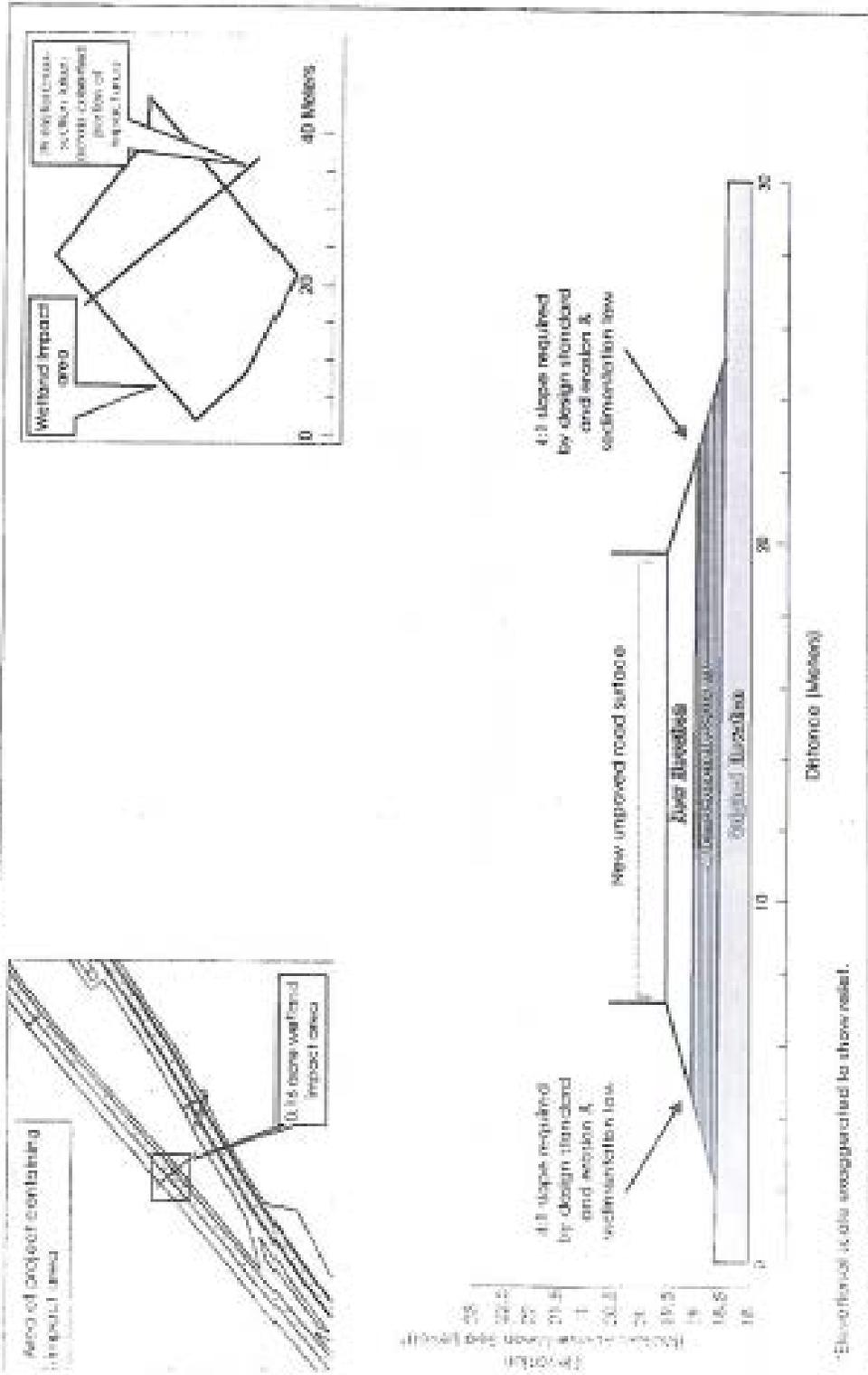
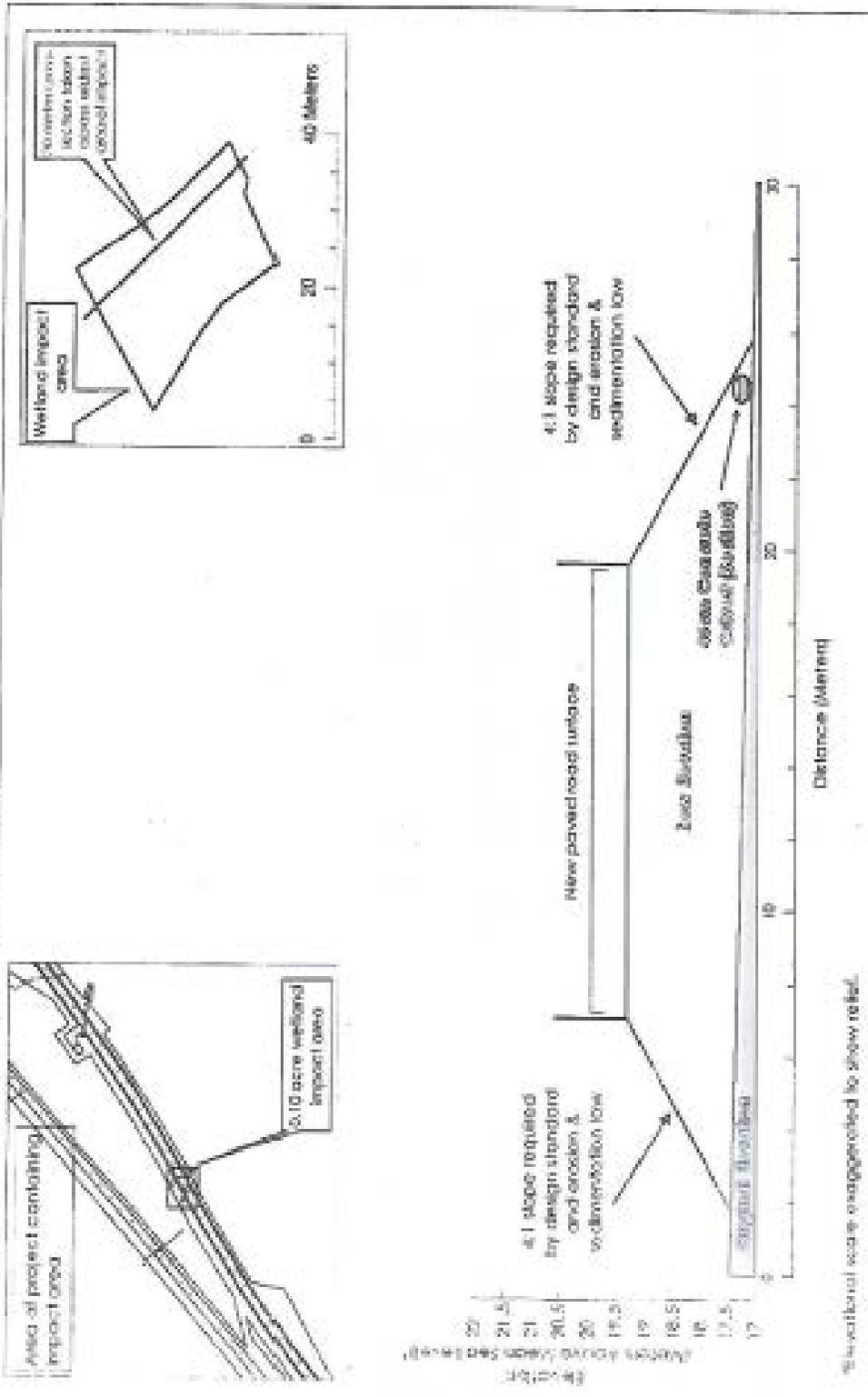


Diagram Created 17 SEP 11
 Robert Lloyd,
 Wetlands Program Manager,
 S/OHAAF

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Wetland Impact Area 3 Elevational Cross-Section



Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility

Wetland Impact Area 4 Elevational Cross-Section

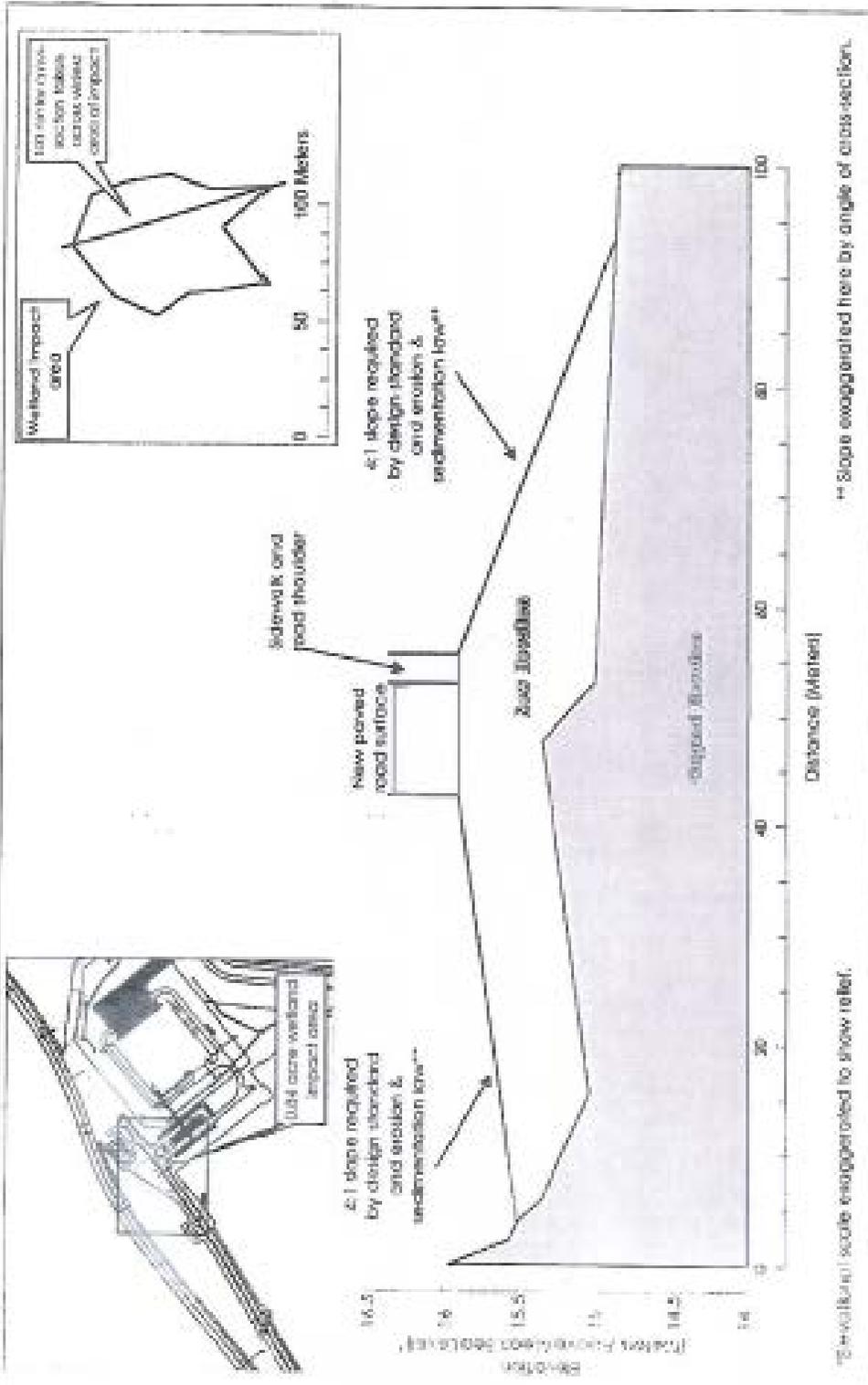


Diagram Created 19 SEP 11
 Robert Lloyd,
 Wetlands Program Manager,
 S/H&AF

Inmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility Wetland Impact Area & Elevation Cross-Section

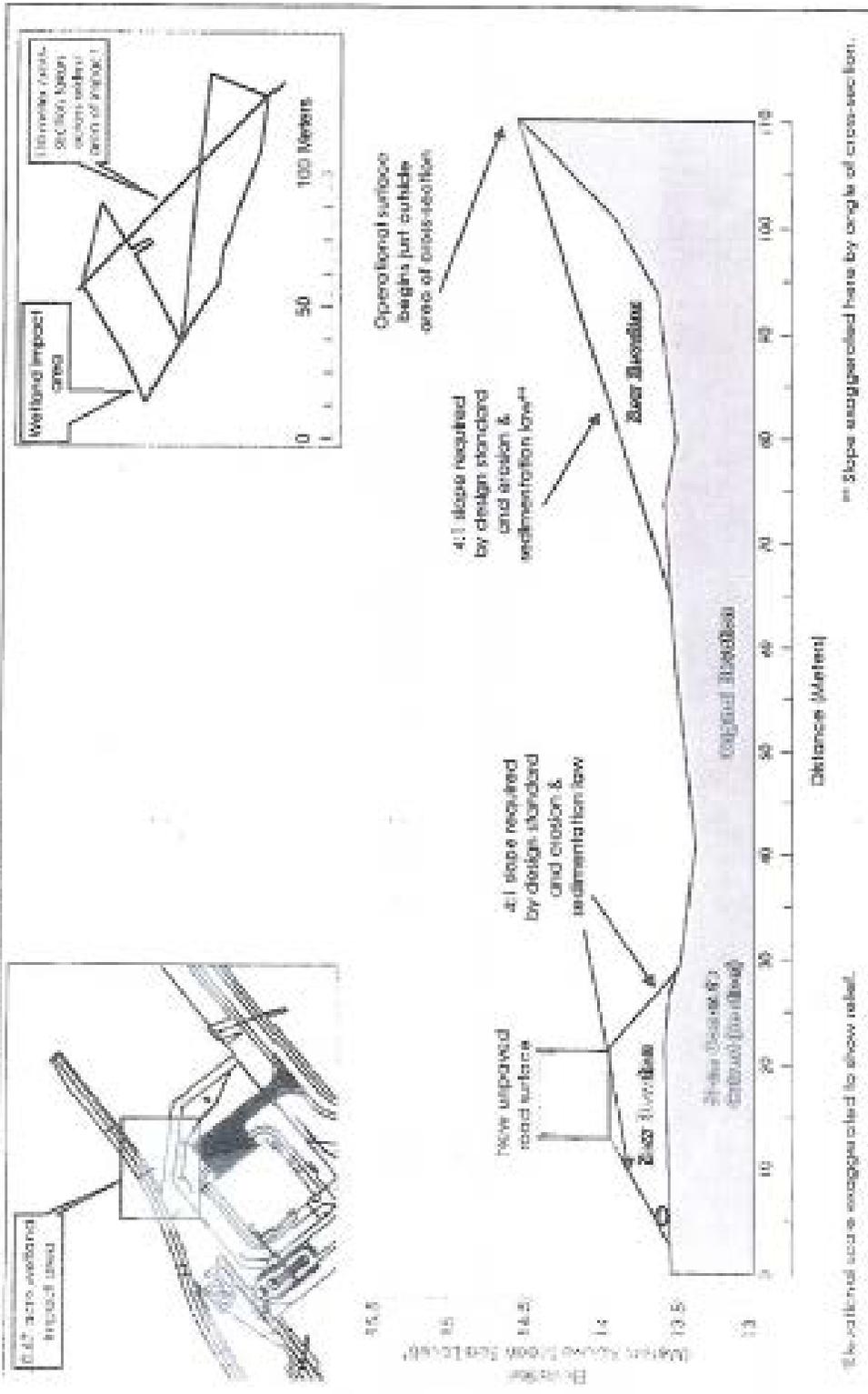


Diagram Created 26 SEP 11
Robert Lloyd,
Wetlands Program Manager,
COTI/USF

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Facility Welland Impact Area & Elevation Cross-Section

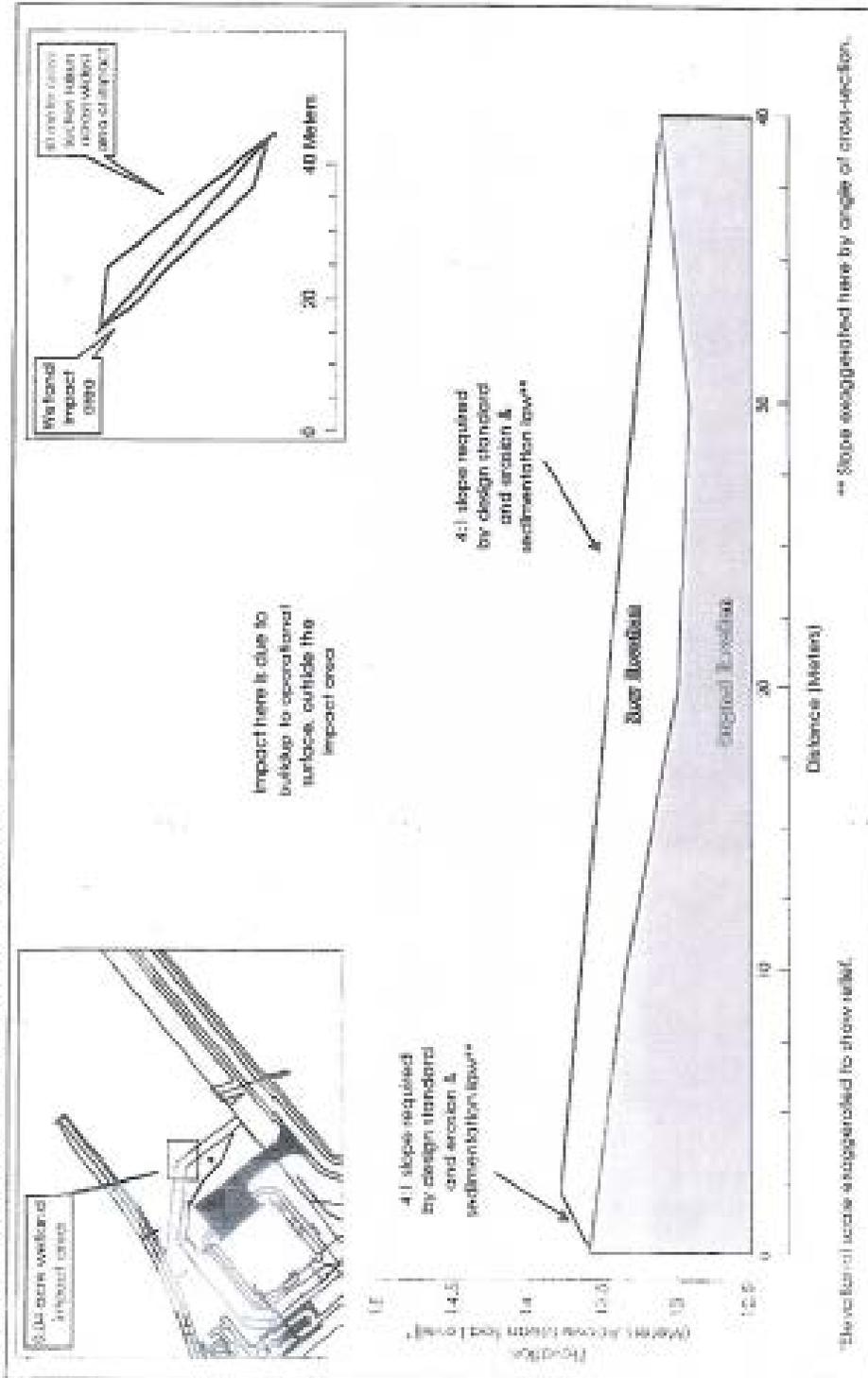
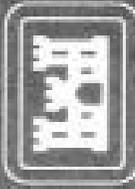


Diagram Created 26 SEP 11
Robert Lloyd,
Welland's Program Manager,
FS/HAAF



This notice of authorization must be conspicuously displayed at the site of work.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

20 12

A permit to Construct an UAS facility at Wright Army Airfield, Hinesville, Liberty County

has been issued to Fort Stewart on 02 Mar 20 12

Address of Permittee Fort Stewart, DPW, Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314

Permit Number

SAS-2009-01007

Mark J. Padgett District Commander For Jeffery M. Hall

Colonel, US Army (Proprietor: CECW-0)

ENG FORM 4336 - Jul 81 (25 CFR 220-336) EDITION OF JUL 70 MAY BE USED (2-0) U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2007 - 649581 - 04336

APPENDIX C

Biological Assessment and USFWS Coordination



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, FORT STEWART / HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
1587 FRANK COCHRAN DRIVE
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA 31314

Directorate of Public Works

OCT 20 2011

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Georgia Ecological Field Services Field Office
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Reference FWS Log No: 2010-0137, Biological Opinion (BO) on the Proposed Construction of 12 New Ranges and an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) on Fort Stewart (FS), Georgia. The UAS will result in the re-routing of road FS48 which was not included in our original Biological Assessment (BA). This modification will provide controlled access to the UAS while keeping FS48 open for military training and vehicle access (Figure 1). The action will require an additional 28.9 acres consisting of 2.1 acres of lowland hardwood and 26.8 acres of red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Habitat Management Unit (HMU). The new road bed and required right-of-way (ROW) will displace 6.9 acres of the RCW HMU and will consist of clear-cutting, grubbing, grading, and future maintenance for the road bed and road ROW. The remaining 19.2 acres of RCW HMU will become unmanageable for RCW HMU as it will be inside of the controlled area. This modification will not impact any RCW forage partitions and FS still expects to achieve 350 potential breeding groups (the recovery benchmark) in the breeding season of 2013.

Our original conclusion of the effect of the action on the RCW and other species remains unchanged, i.e., the proposed action may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect the RCW, frosted flatwoods salamander, wood stork, or eastern indigo snake. The proposed action will not affect the shortnose sturgeon. No critical habitat will be adversely modified by this action. The original conclusion regarding critical habitat also remains unchanged. If additional information is needed, please contact Mr. Tim Beaty, DPW, Environmental Division, Fish and Wildlife Branch, at telephone (912) 767-7261. Your continued cooperation and assistance are appreciated.

Sincerely,

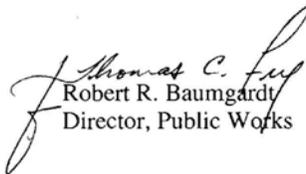
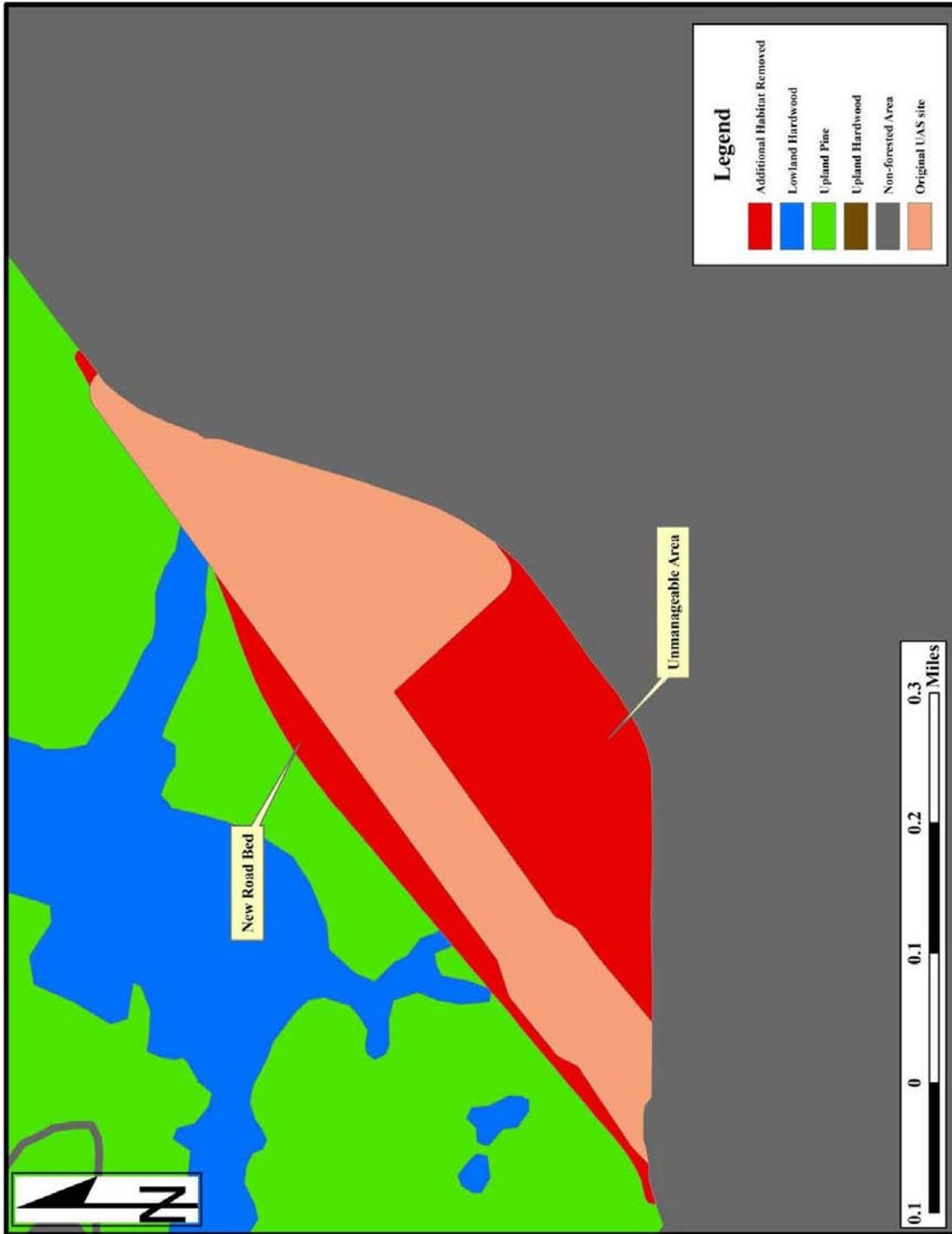

Robert R. Baumgardt
Director, Public Works

Figure 1. Project design modification and RCW HMU impacted, Ft. Stewart, GA.



From: [Hart, Gary C Mr CIV USA](mailto:Hart_Gary_C_Mr_CIV_USA)
To: [Katrina VTB US USA](mailto:Katrina_VTB_US_USA)
Subject: FW: Unmanned Aerial System (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Friday, March 02, 2012 8:14:24 AM
Attachments: [opnsol.pdf](#)
[pic18288.gif](#)
[acthrnk.pdf](#)
[DA_HOOI_UAS_L.pdf](#)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Katrina,

Please see below in reference to the Biological Assessment Modification for the UAS Facility at WAAF.

Gary C. Hart
Wildlife Biologist
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Fort Stewart, GA 31314
Desk: 912-767-6665 | Mobile: 912-704-3746 | FAX: 912-767-9433
gary.hart@us.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert_Brooks@fws.gov [mailto:Robert_Brooks@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 7:44 PM
To: Hart, Gary C Mr CIV USA
Subject: Re: Unmanned Aerial System (UNCLASSIFIED)

We concur with your determination that the October 20, 2011 modification will not alter our original Biological Opinion - FWS Log No. 2010-0137. If you have any other questions, please let me know. Thanks.

Robert Brooks
USFWS, Georgia Ecological Services
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE
Townsend, GA 31331
(912) 832-8739, x107
FAX: (912) 832-8744

"Hart, Gary C Mr
CIV USA"
<gary.hart@us.army.mil>
02/29/2012 02:44 PM

To
<Robert_Brooks@fws.gov>
cc
"Beaty, Tim CIV USA FORSCOM"
<tim.beaty@us.army.mil>, "Carfile,
Lawrence D CIV USA FORSCOM"
<lawrence.carfile@us.army.mil>
Subject
Unmanned Aerial System
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Robert,

Per our conversation on the 29th of February 2012 concerning the Biological Assessment Modification of the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) sent on October 20, 2011:

No concurrence letter is necessary for this modification and construction can continue for the UAS facility at Wright Army Airfield, Fort Stewart GA. This modification does not significantly impact the Biological Opinion (FWS Log No: 2010-0137). Please provide concurrence with this email for administrative purposes.

Thank you,

Gary C. Hart
Wildlife Biologist
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Fort Stewart, GA 31314
Desk: 912-767-6665 | Mobile: 912-704-3746 | FAX: 912-767-9433
gary.hart@us.army.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO
(See attached file: BA_MOD_UAS 1.pdf)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

APPENDIX D

Cultural Resource Management Documentation

SOP for ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND/OR HUMAN REMAINS

Prior to approval of Individual Job Orders and other land disturbing activities, archaeological surveys are routinely conducted to identify areas of archaeological concern. If archaeological materials are encountered during your authorized work, you may have encountered a previously unrecorded archaeological site. In most cases, these archaeological sites are previously recorded and taken into consideration as part of the review process. However, there is potential for inadvertent damage to previously unrecorded archaeological sites that require further investigation.

Do the right thing when you discover archaeological artifacts or human remains on a job site – inform the authorities and cooperate with the Installation on getting the issue resolved. Cultural Resource personnel are on staff here to support your mission and resolve the discovery in a timely manner. The process consists of three simple steps: STOP, CONTACT, and COORDINATE.

SHOULD YOU DISCOVER ARTIFACTS (arrowheads, pottery, glass, brick, etc...):

1. **STOP** work in the immediate vicinity of the suspected artifacts (at least 30 feet).
2. **CONTACT** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) office immediately, Fort Stewart at 767-0992/1402/3359/2010 and HAAF at 315-6027.
3. **COORDINATE** with CRM prior to resuming work at the location where the artifact was found, although work can be continued in another location at least thirty feet from the initial discovery. If additional artifacts are discovered, return to step 1.

SHOULD YOU DISCOVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE HUMAN REMAINS (bones, headstone fragments, etc...):

1. **STOP** work immediately and protect the potential human burial from additional disturbance.
2. **CONTACT** Installation Police immediately, Fort Stewart at 767-2965/4895 and HAAF at 315-6133/6134, then **CONTACT** the Cultural Resource Management office, Fort Stewart at 767-0992/1402/3359/2010 and HAAF at 315-6027. Wait for on-scene investigators to arrive to make an initial assessment.
3. **COORDINATE** with on-scene investigators (CRM and Installation Police) prior to resuming work at that particular location where the incident occurred.

REMEMBER...STOP!...CONTACT!...COORDINATE!

And most importantly...failure to report damage to archeological sites or human burials may result in violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). Violations of ARPA may result in civil and/or criminal penalties up to \$100,000 and up to one year in jail for the 1st offense. Furthermore, unauthorized collection of artifacts from federal land is also an ARPA violation.



REPLY TO:
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, FORT STEWART HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
1587 FRANK COCHRAN DRIVE
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA 31314

Office of the Director

DEC 21 2009

Dr. David Crass
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
254 Washington Street SW
Ground Level
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Dr. Crass,

The purpose of this letter is to consult with your office regarding the *Fort Stewart Range and Garrison Development Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* and the proposed actions outlined within the document. The EIS identifies 15 projects that are proposed for Fiscal Year 2011 through 2014 (referred to as Projects A through O in the attached assessment of effects). The proposed actions include a variety of cantonment area construction projects and range construction projects. In order to take into account the effects to historic properties, the installation has analyzed the potential effects to cultural resources for the preferred course of action (COA) for each of the proposed actions.

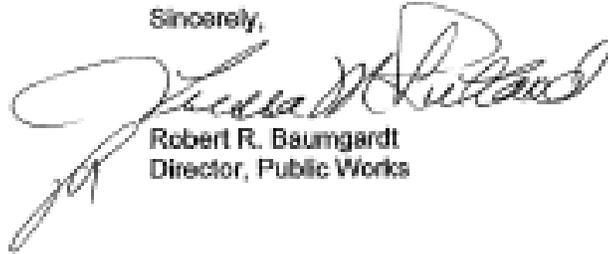
In addition to the consideration of cultural resources under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), an EIS, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act, is currently in draft and will be forwarded to your office for review with an anticipated submittal date of February 2010. Cultural resource impact evaluations have been included as part of the EIS and include known and predicted impacts to cultural resources. Furthermore, the EIS outlining the impacts to cultural resources provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed actions and their effects to cultural resources.

The purpose of this letter is to provide your office with additional detail regarding the potential impacts to cultural resources, which are otherwise excluded from an EIS's public format due to sensitivity of site location. Comments received from your office and the public will be considered before any decision is made to implement the proposed actions under this review. Areas of specific concern to your office will be addressed and your input will assist us in preparing this environmental document. As such, the findings discussed within the enclosure have been outlined within the forthcoming *Fort Stewart Range and Garrison Development EIS* and it is requested that you review the enclosed summary of effects to cultural resources, maps, and description of work proposed. Per 36 CFR 800, the installation requests that you furnish this office with your comments within 30 days of receiving this letter. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Brian Greer, M.A. Consulting Archaeologist, and this

- 2 -

directorates at telephone (912) 767-0992/2010. Email correspondence can be directed to brian.green@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Baumgardt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Robert R. Baumgardt
Director, Public Works

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, FORT STEWART / HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
1987 FRANK COCHRAN DRIVE
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA 31314

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Directorate

Dr. David Crass
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
254 Washington Street SW
Ground Level
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Dr. Crass,

The purpose of this letter is to continue consultation with your office regarding the *Fort Stewart Range and Garrison Environmental Impact Statement's* analysis of the FY11 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and the proposed actions outlined within the document (Reference: Fort Stewart: Range & Garrison Development, 15 Projects, 2011-2014; Liberty County, Georgia; HP-091222-001).

Per your office's letter dated January 20, 2010, the Historic Preservation Division concurred with the Installation's findings and recommendations regarding archaeological resources and historic structures within the proposed FY11 UAS. The Army now proposes to implement design alterations to the FY11 UAS. Specifically, the FY11 portion includes construction of a hanger, access road, and rerouting a segment of Tank Trail 48. Figure 1 shows the No Action Alternative as was shown in the EIS and Figure 2 shows the Proposed Action Alternative for the new design and construction.

No additional archaeological resources will be affected by this change in design. The viewsheds of two additional buildings (7725 and 7742) will be impacted by the Proposed Action Alternative. Building 7725 was built in 1968 and was determined ineligible by the 2002 Fort Stewart building survey under Criteria Consideration G. Building 7742 was built in 2001 and is also ineligible.

The Army is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed modifications. The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact will be mailed to your office for review. Cultural resource impact evaluations will be included as part of the EA, which will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed action's impact on cultural resources. Please note, this letter includes information regarding cultural resources that is excluded from the EA due to sensitivity of site location.

- 2 -

Per 36 CFR 800, the Army requests your comments within 30 days of receiving this letter. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Mr. Brian Greer, DPW, Environmental Prevention & Compliance Branch, Cultural Resource Program Manager, at (912) 767-0992. Email correspondence may be directed to brian.greer@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Baumgard
Director, Public Works

Enclosures



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

February 10, 2012

Robert R. Baumgardt
Director, Public Works
Department of the Army
Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield
1587 Frank Cochran Drive
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314
Attn: Brian Greer, brian.greer@us.army.mil

RE: Ft. Stewart: Range & Garrison Development, 15 Projects, 2011-2014
Liberty County, Georgia
HP-091222-001

Dear Mr. Baumgardt:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the additional information provided regarding the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the U.S. Department of the Army and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Thank for you providing the additional information concerning minor changes to the FY11 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In our opinion, the modifications to the project, specifically the construction of a hanger, access road and rerouting a segment of Tank Trail 48, will not change the previous effect finding. HPD agrees that the project as proposed will have no effect to archaeological or architectural properties that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Please refer to project number HP-091222-001 in any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (404) 651-6624 or via email at Elizabeth.shirk@dnr.state.ga.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Shirk".

Elizabeth (Betsy) Shirk
Environmental Review Coordinator

APPENDIX E

Other Regulatory Coordination

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
(727) 824-5317; FAX (727) 824-5300
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

November 14, 2011

(Sent via Electronic email)

Colonel Jeffrey H. Hall
District Engineer, Savannah District
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 889
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

Dear Colonel Hall:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the projects described in the public notice(s) listed below.

Based on the information in the public notice(s), the proposed project(s) would *NOT* occur in the vicinity of essential fish habitat (EFH) designated by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council or NMFS. Present staffing levels preclude further analysis of the proposed activities and no further action is planned. This position is neither supportive of nor in opposition to authorization of the proposed work.

<u>NOTICE NO.</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>NOTICE DATE</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
2009-01007	Fort Stewart Director Public Works	November 2, 2011	December 2, 2011

Please note these comments do not satisfy your consultation responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If the activity "may effect" listed species or critical habitat that are under the purview of NMFS, consultation should be initiated with our Protected Resources Division at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Pace Wilber (for)

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Nathan Deal
Governor

Debbie Diugolenski Alford
Director

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Katrina Epps
DPW-Environmental Div.
Dept. of the Army

FROM: Barbara Jackson *BJ*
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 2/24/2012

APPLICANT: Dept. of the Army

PROJECT: Draft EA/Draft FONSI: Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site, Fort Stewart, Georgia

STATE ID: GA120127008

The applicant/sponsor coordinated directly with DNR's Environmental Protection Division and DNR's Historic Preservation Division, two of our state reviewers for this type project.

The applicant/sponsor is advised that DNR's Wildlife Resources Division was included in this review but did not comment within the review period. Should they submit comments within the next two weeks, we will forward to you.

/bj
cc: Amber Franks

Form NCC
Oct. 2008

From: [Larry Gissentanna](#)
To: [Katie Eppes, CTR US USA](#)
Cc: [Heliz Mueller](#); [Franks, Amber E CIV USA](#)
Subject: RE: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for WAAF Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:57:57 AM

Ms Epps,

Your Response to Comments (RTC), R1 thru R5 are acceptable.

Thanks,

Larry O. Gissentanna
DoD and Federal Agency, Project Manager
NEPA Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/ Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960
Office: 404-562-8248
gissentanna.larry@epa.gov

From: "Epps, Katrina CTR US USA" <katrina.epps@us.army.mil>
To: Larry Gissentanna,RA/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Franks, Amber E CIV USA" <amber.franks@us.army.mil>, Heliz Mueller,RA/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/24/2012 09:44 AM
Subject: RE: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for WAAF Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Mr. Gissentanna,

Thank you for the comments you provided on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield, Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site, Fort Stewart, Georgia, dated February 16, 2012. We have addressed each comment.

(C1) During any demolition activity, consider recycling all recyclable material, such as concrete and reinforcement bars from the roadway.

(R1) Fort Stewart appreciates the consideration to recycle all material possible. As addressed in the 2010 Environmental Impact Statement from which this EA is tiered, Fort Stewart has a mandatory recycling policy which can be accessed at <http://www.stewart.army.mil/dow/recycle.asp>. Mandatory recycling is required of our Soldiers and Civilian workforce. Recycling is also required of construction contractors conducting work within the Installation. Fort Stewart requires contractors to arrange for turn-in of recyclable/salvageable materials to the Installation's Environmental Waste Management Section. Specific items recycled during demolition and construction activities include cardboard and scrap metal. In areas where large amounts of scrap metal or cardboard will be

generated, our Environmental Office also provides a collection bin/container to the contractor at no cost to deposit these materials.

Fort Stewart recycles metal reinforcement bars (considered scrap metal). On a case by case basis, Fort Stewart will conduct concrete crushing operations for crushed concrete to be reutilized at new project sites.

(C2) Any planned construction should address any potential impacts to streams and waterways. This proposal will disturb an approximately 60 acres. Best Management Practices (BMPs) should include implementable measures to prevent erosion and sediment runoff from the various project sites both during and after construction. A local land disturbance and state construction stormwater permit(s) may also be required during construction.

(R2) Using a phased approach, the construction contractor for this project, with assistance from the Installation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative, prepared three Notice of Intent (NOI) packets containing Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Plans (E&SPCP) that were sent to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in August 2011. The construction contractor will be required to implement and maintain the BMPs presented on the E&SPCP. Regular E&S control inspections of the construction site will be conducted by Installation stormwater experts and the NRCS, who provides E&S control technical oversight of construction occurring on Fort Stewart.

Specific BMPs that will be used both during and after construction to protect an unnamed tributary to Peacock Creek (Initial receiving waters) and Peacock Creek (final receiving waters) involve the establishment of three bioretention ponds, two dry detention ponds, and installing vegetative measures for temporary and permanent site stabilization. Mulching will also be used to provide temporary stabilization of disturbed areas as work proceeds, along with dust control measures. Silt fence, culverts with stone outlet protection, and stone check dams are BMPs that will also be installed. All BMPs have been designed to meet standards outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, the GA Stormwater Management Manual/Coastal Stormwater Supplement, the Energy Independence Security Act-Section 438, applicable Executive Orders, Low Impact Development techniques, and local policies for stormwater runoff control.

Wetland areas are identified on the E&SPCP and disturbance within these areas are prohibited until the necessary Clean Water Act Section 404 permit is acquired (anticipated any day now).

(C3) Keep the local community informed and involved throughout the project process; by having community meetings and updating the community through local media (radio, local paper and TV).

(R3) The Army understands the importance of community involvement and has made the Draft EA available for a 30-day public review period, broadcasting its review availability in local libraries. As related future facilities are proposed in this area of Wright Army Airfield, the Army will keep the local community informed of those potential plans and its associated environmental analysis. Fort Stewart will also seek additional ways to inform the public.

(C4) EPA concurs with the U.S. Army's Preferred Proposed Action.

(R4) The Installation appreciates your concurrence of the U.S. Army's

Preferred Proposed Action.

(CS) Please forward a hard copy of your Final Environmental Assessment to:

Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
Attn: Mr Larry O. Gissentanna, NEPA Program Office
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

(RS) Fort Stewart will provide a hard copy of the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to you.

Katie Epps
NEPA Specialist
Engineering and Environment, Inc.
Environmental Division
Fort Stewart, Georgia

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Gissentanna [<mailto:LarryGissentanna.Larry@epamail.epa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Epps, Katrina CTR US USA
Cc: Franks, Amber E CTV USA; Heinz Mueller
Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for WAAF Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

Ms Katrina S. Epps,

I am in receipt of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield, Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Under this Proposed Action, EPA understands that Fort Stewart would construct, operate, and maintain a new two-story 130,000 square-foot building. This building will have maintenance bays, workshops, offices, break room, bathrooms with showers and locker areas, and storage space on the first floor. The second floor will have briefing and training rooms, offices, and bathrooms. The administrative components of the facility will be located on the southwestern side of the facility and the maintenance bays and workshops will be in the northern and southeastern sections of the facility. The roof of the administration components will be sloped to accommodate three large groups of solar panels. One group will heat water for the facility and the other two will generate electricity. In addition, the facility will utilize radiant heating and skylights in the maintenance bays. EPA also understands that this facility design will include Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards, or better, with a view toward enhanced sustainability and energy efficiency. This proposed plan also involves the relocating existing tank trail to bypass the proposed site.

Based upon our review, it appears that most of the major issues, e.g., noise, wetlands, and water/air quality, energy and environmental justice have been addressed in this EA or the previous EIS dated July 2010. As Fort Stewart moves forward in the approval process, consider the following; Any planned construction should address any potential impacts to streams and waterways. This proposal will disturb an approximately 60 acres. Best Management Practices (BMPs) should include implementable

measures to prevent erosion and sediment runoff from the various project sites both during and after construction. During any demolition activity, consider recycling all recyclable material, such as concrete and reinforcement bars from the roadway. A local land disturbance and state construction stormwater permit(s) may also be required during construction.

Keep the local community informed and involved throughout the project process; by having community meetings and updating the community through local media (radio, local paper and TV).

EPA concurs with the U.S. Army's Preferred Proposed Action.

Please forward a hard copy of your Final Environmental Assessment to:

Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
Attn: Mr Larry O. Gissentanna, NEPA Program Office
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Thank you again, for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me via the information below,

Larry O. Gissentanna
DoD and Federal Agency, Project Manager
NEPA Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/ Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960
Office: 404-562-8248
gissentanna.larry@epa.gov

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

From: [Amy Potter](mailto:Amy.Potter)
To: Katra.Kabrina.CTR.US.ASA
Cc: Conantson, Alexander.L.CTR.US.ASA; Franklin, Amber.R.CTR.US.ASA
Subject: RE: EA for WAAF UAS (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:12:34 PM

Ms. Epps:

Thank you for your quick response. Your response satisfactorily addresses our comment.

Amy M. Potter
Unit Coordinator
Department of Defense Facilities Unit
Land Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Phone: 404-657-8604
Fax: 404-651-9425
e-mail: amy_potter@dnr.state.ga.us

>>> "Epps, Katrina CTR US USA" <kabrina.epps@us.army.mil> 3/13/2012 12:43 PM >>>
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Ms. Potter,

Thank you for your review and comment provided on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield, Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site, Fort Stewart, Georgia, dated February 24, 2012.

We have addressed your comment as follows:

(C1) The proposed location for the Wright Army Airfield Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site is adjacent to the former Fire Training Area [Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU 13)]. Investigations at SWMU 13 have indicated that soils and groundwater at the SWMU are contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-VOCs. The EA does not discuss whether there will be potential impacts to SWMU 13 from the proposed construction activities. While the bulk of the construction activities appears to be some distance from the contamination, from the map in the EA, it appears that the footprint of some utility lines for the project is near soil and groundwater contamination at SWMU 13. Due to the distance of the contamination from the construction activities, it is unlikely that exposure will occur. However, Fort Stewart should avoid construction and any equipment or material staging over the delineated boundary of SWMU 13 or any area where monitoring wells exist. However, if contaminated soils and/or groundwater are encountered, Fort Stewart should take appropriate measures to ensure that construction workers are not exposed to contaminants, and that soils and/or groundwater are properly contained, managed, and disposed of.

(R1) During the planning stages of this project in 2008, the preferred hangar location was modified to avoid SWMU 13 and its associated monitoring wells. In preparation of this EA an assessment of the "Calendar Year 2010

CAP Progress Report" (Arcadis 2011) was taken to ensure that there was no overlap of the facility layout with SWMU 13 and that the construction activities will not impact the SWMU 13 boundary and/or groundwater. Future NEPA analysis associated with the Unmanned Aerial Systems action will include this information.

While the EA does not specifically reference SWMU 13, the 2010 Environmental Impact Statement from which this EA is tiered, discusses the management of hazardous and toxic materials and waste at Fort Stewart, and can be accessed at http://www.stewart-army.mil/dsw/EN_Downloads.asp. Fort Stewart will continue to manage existing sources of hazardous waste in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Management Plan and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act, and will continue to implement all Federal, state, and local laws, statutes, and regulations governing hazardous material, toxic substances, and hazardous wastes, including Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 and AR 420-49. In addition, Fort Stewart will continue to implement all Fort Stewart safety programs, including construction safety.

The Installation will avoid SWMU 13 (and its monitoring wells) during any ongoing/planned facilities construction, and during any equipment and material staging.

Katrina S. Epps
NEPA Specialist
Engineering and Environment, Inc.
DPW, Environmental Division
Fort Stewart, Georgia

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Potter [<mailto:Amy.Potter@dnr.state.ga.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:45 PM
To: Epps, Katrina CTR US USA
Cc: Franks, Amber E CIV USA
Subject: EA for WAAF UAS

Hi Ms. Epps:

Please find our attached comments on the above referenced comments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the document. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Amy M. Potter
Unit Coordinator
Department of Defense Facilities Unit
Land Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Phone: 404-657-8604
Fax: 404-651-9425
e-mail: amy_potter@dnr.state.ga.us

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

A.G. 'SPUD' WOODWARD
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2012

Mrs. Katrina S. Epps
Fort Stuart Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division
1587 Frank Cochran Drive
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314

RE: Consistency Determination for DEA & DFONSI for Footprint Alterations at WAAF
Gray Eagle UAS Project Site, Fort Stewart, Liberty County, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Epps:

Staff of the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP) has reviewed the above referenced Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Draft Findings of No Significant Impact (DFONSI) for footprint alterations at the Wright army airfield (WAAF) Gray eagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) at Fort Stewart. The Gray Eagle UAS was analyzed as one of the two Garrison support projects in a July 2010 Environmental Impact Statement. Current design standards now require a larger footprint to incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 'gold' criteria.

The Program concurs with your consistency determination. This determination ensures that the proposed project has been designed to comply to the maximum extent practicable with the applicable enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Management Program.

Please feel free to contact Kelie Moore or me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A.G. "Spud" Woodward
Director

SW/km

Cc: Ms. Amber E. Franks, Army via e-mail

APPENDIX F

Media Notices

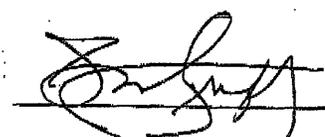
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTIES OF LIBERTY AND LONG

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public, *S. Marshall Griffin*, who after being duly sworn stated under oath that he is the Publisher of the **COASTAL COURIER**, the official Legal Organ of Liberty and Long Counties, a newspaper published in the city of Hinesville, and who further states under oath that the advertisement attached hereto and made a part of this affidavit appeared in the **COASTAL COURIER** on the following date(s):

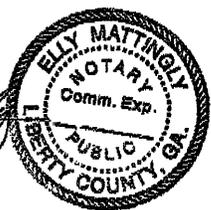
Jan. 25, 2012


S. Marshall Griffin
PUBLISHER

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This *29* day of *Feb.* 2012


Notary Public



December 01, 2015
Commission expires

Errors - The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion.

COASTAL COURIER Fax: 91235686329 Feb 29 2012 15:37 P.02

828

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield (WAAF) Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Project Site, Fort Stewart, Georgia. In July 2010, the Army published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation, Fort Stewart, Georgia (the "EIS"). The EIS analyzed a number of different sites on Fort Stewart for the construction and operation of new ranges and two Garrison support facilities the Army had scheduled to be built on Fort Stewart between Fiscal Years (FY) 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the final sites selected for these projects.

A site for a new small ordnance area for the Gray Eagle UAS to be built down on Fort Stewart in FY11 was one of the two Garrison support projects analyzed in the EIS. This EA ties off the analysis already completed in the EIS to address those actions that will be accomplished in the FY11 funded first phase of construction. The original UAS footprint analyzed in the EIS predated current design standards and a large less dense footprint was needed to also meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design "Gold" criteria. Specifically, these standards and criteria require a larger footprint to accommodate low impact development, a safety clear zone setback, and utility and road configurations in order for the UAS hangar to be constructed at this location.

The EA addresses the potential impacts to environmental and socioeconomic resources and resulted in a Draft FNI, indicating no significant adverse impacts from the proposed action. It will be available for public review on/around January 27, 2012-February 23, 2012 at the public and Post Library listed below; comments must be received no later than February 23, 2012.

117 George F. Hays Library, Building 411, 216 Lindquist Rd., Fort Stewart, GA
Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fri. Closed
Sat.-Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Liberty County Public Library, 230 Memorial Drive, Hiramville, GA
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sun. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mail Branch Library, 7 Mail Annex, Savannah, GA
Mon. and Wed. 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Tues, Thurs, and Sat. 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fri. and Sun. closed

Southwest Chatham Branch Library, 14097 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA
Mon. closed
Tues. and Thurs. 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Wed, Fri.-Sun. 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Mail all comments to the following address:
Chief, Environmental Division (Mr. Thomas C. Fry)
Directorate of Public Works
1530 Frank Cochran Drive, Bldg. 1187
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4827

33168
(Am.20)

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Sign up for basketball trip

San Antonio-based Verizon Prepaid is a city in Florida to watch Florida Hawks program. Philadelphia 76ers on the court. The team is 20 per person which includes seats in the 100 section, transportation, and snacks. Trip program includes drinks, refreshments, and 2012-2013 calendar or 2012-2013 30/30 t-shirt.

Dining Facility changes noted

Quarters Building 802, Legion Building 307, Spartan Building 3023, and Nagsong Building 3022 will be open for breakfast, lunch and snacks until 10:15 PM. With the exception of Quarters will be open for breakfast, lunch and snacks until 10:15 PM. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be open for breakfast, lunch and snacks until 10:15 PM.

- Weekday meal hours:** Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 7 a.m.; Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Dinner, 5 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday meal hours:** Breakfast, 8 to 9:30 a.m.; Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Dinner, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
- Weekend and holiday meal hours:** Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dinner, 5 to 8:30 p.m.
- Quarters:** The Hunter Army Airfield Commissariat Dining Facility Building 110 hours are:
- Weekday meal hours:** Breakfast, 7:45 to 9:30 a.m.; Lunch, 11:45 to 1:15 p.m.; Dinner, 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Holiday meal hours:** Breakfast, 8:30 to 7 a.m. and 8 to 2:30 a.m.; Lunch, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Dinner, 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Weekend and holiday meal hours:** Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dinner, 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Installation tax center now open

The Post Support Building 3021 and Hunter Building 1111 for the Center are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first tax center will be located in the center of the 10:000 and 10:001. Appointments will be made for the more complicated returns. For more information please call 212-797-1040 or 212-333-8875.

Learn home buying basics

Come to the Hunter Army Airfield Education Workshop, 2 a.m., Feb. 2 at Hunter Army Airfield Army Community Services Building 1288 and Feb. 17 at Post Support Army Community Services Building 81. Army Community Service and Housing Service Office will lead the event in which participants will learn to compare the benefits of your housing, creating the SEC card credit, and the mortgage application process. Certificates will be issued for the Georgia Home Loan program which can provide down payment assistance up to \$2,000 to \$1,000. Call 800 or 212-333-8875 for more info.

Del ED activities reunion in Savannah

The history of the 3rd Infantry Division and related units in years and in perspective will hold their 25th annual reunion by 3rd and 4th Regt. Savannah Defense Band, 11 Jan 1988 N. Savannah, GA. More details in 212-333-2888. Room rates are \$114 per night plus tax.

For additional program information, contact Third Division, savannahdel@afsa.com or 361-851-3321.

The quality of the 3rd Infantry Division is being showcased in the Del Ed. The unit and related units in years, perspectives, or special interest, to join the Reunion Contact Army Bureau 802-333-7377 or del@afsa.com.

Stewart

Security Managers Course offered

In accordance with FROTHM Supplement 1 to 325A, referring Designated Unit Security Managers, established authority to implement against a CSOM members. The 3rd Infantry Division 3021 Branch conducted a 40 hour Security Managers Course to prepare individuals as a CSOM. The next course is scheduled for Feb. 6, 10 at the Post Support Education Center, Building 105, room 302.

Classes are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Click on the 3021 address at del@afsa.com or del@afsa.com to register. If you cannot access the link, please contact del@afsa.com or del@afsa.com for assistance.

Outline nights underway at Thru or Run

Thru or Run International is a fitness program that is now being offered in the Hunter Area 5 to 8 p.m. every Wednesday night at the recreation center on the main side of 10th Street, Bldg. 402. More fitness activities are being held from Italian, Latin, German to American cuisine. The cost is \$2.50 (adult), Half Price children, ages 3-10, Free children, ages 6 & under. The next outline night is Jan. 23. For more information, call 212-333-2311.

Give blood

The Committee of Logistics in conjunction with the American Red Cross, is sponsoring a blood drive Friday, 2 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the parking area located outside of the Central Issue Facility Building 2018. To schedule an appointment visit www.redcross.org, and enter 370002 in the "Search by Zip Code" box. You can also schedule an appointment by contacting Cavalier Study at cavalier.study@army.mil or 212-333-2322.

SAAC collecting Class A's

The Staff of the Motor Chapter of the Support Center Hunter Club is collecting old, but serviceable Class A's vehicles until Tuesday. 10 vehicles will be donated to new high school 1000 program. For more information contact Sgt. 1st Class Harold Lawrence, 212-797-3077, or M1C Michael Basso, 433-827-8801. Donations can be given to any SAAC member.

Lunch, learn at Marine Chapel bible study

The devotion of the scriptures and lessons of Biblical teachings and of any understanding of God's relationship with man, and of man's relationship with each other. It would be nearly impossible to estimate the actual importance of the Biblical teaching on man's soul. This study is held each Thursday, 10th 7:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Marine Chapel, 10th Street. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP by phone to attend. Point of contact is Mrs. Teri Bellon, 212-797-3801.

Hunter

Register for Specialty Programs

Seaside Christian County Public School Specialty Application process has begun. This is a great opportunity for Military families seeking education for a specialty program school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Military families with children that attend Seaside Christian County Public Schools can apply for their children to participate in specialty programs. Specialty programs include Seaside Christian County Public School, Seaside Christian School and Windsor Forest High School.

Specialty programs schools offer advanced coursework and programs in performing arts, music, art, music, dance, drama and art.

Specialty application forms are available for students grades K-12th grade. Students have an opportunity to tour the school, obtain information about the schools, sit on the board and participate in the school's 10th 21.

Applications are available through Feb. 2. For more information, call the WAF School Liaison Office at 212-333-8388.

Smoothie bar special at Terrace

Every Thursday afternoon, come to "Thursday Smoothie" at the Terrace Bar located inside of Terrace Fitness Center, Building 302, where you get \$1.50 off any smoothie. Enjoy something refreshing while you exercise.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For Footprint Alterations at the Wright Army Airfield Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System Project Site, Post Support.

In July 2012, the Army published the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operations, Post Support. The EIS analyzed a number of different sites at Post Support for the construction and operation of two ranges and two Garrison support facilities the Army had identified to be built on Post Support facilities. Final EIS (FIS) 11-114, 10 September 2012. The Army published a Draft of Decision (DDO) for the final sites selected for these projects.

Table for a proposed environmental analysis for Gray Eagle UAS is located on Post Support in FIS 11-114 of the two Garrison support facilities analyzed in the EIS. This EIS area of the analysis already completed for the EIS is addressed in these notices that will be accomplished in the FIS 11-114 final phase of construction. The original EIS analysis analyzed in the EIS, a detailed design study and a large-scale design historical was needed to also meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria. Specifically, these standards and criteria require large historical to accommodate late phase development, a utility clear zone analysis, and utility and roadway alignments in order for the UAS range to be constructed at this location.

The EIS addresses the potential impacts to environmental and socioeconomic resources and includes a Draft EIS, including an significant adverse impacts from the proposed action. It will be available for public comment around Jan. 27, 2013. It is the public and Post Support's interest. Comments can be received no later than Feb. 20.

122 George F. Hays Library, Building 411, 114 Lindquist Rd., Post Support
Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fri. closed
Sat. - Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wayne County Public Library, 200 Memorial Drive, Waynesville
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sun. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mail Branch Library, 7 Mail Annex, Newnan
Mon. and Wed. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., and Sat. 2 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fri. and Sun. closed

Newnan Christian Branch Library, 1800 Newnan Street, Newnan
Mon. closed
Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mail all comments to the following address:
Chief, Environmental Division
10th Thomas C. Poy
Division of Public Works
1500 Post Support Center Bldg. 1117
Post Support, 32512 104-4227

Education Matters

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. B. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Date 1/25/12

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