

**Final Environmental Assessment &  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at the  
Infantry Platoon Battle Course,  
Fort Stewart, Georgia**



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

May 23, 2011

**In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT &**

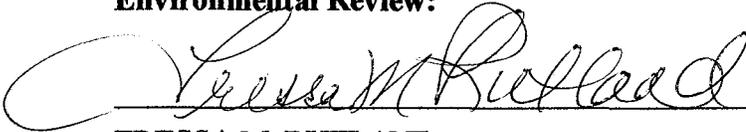
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT for**

**TANK TRAIL 70-B IMPROVEMENTS AT THE**

**INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE,**

**FORT STEWART, GEORGIA**

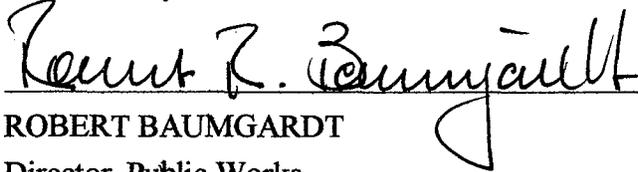
**Environmental Review:**

  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TRESSA M. RUTLAND  
Acting Chief, Environmental Division  
Directorate of Public Works

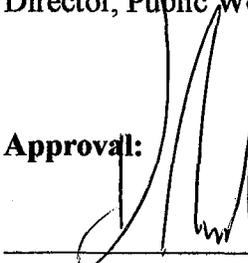
**Reviewed by:**

  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT BAUMGARDT  
Director, Public Works

**Approval:**

  
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Date: 16 JUN 11

KEVIN W. MILTON  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

### 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* (hereafter, Fort Stewart EIS). The Fort Stewart EIS analyzed the construction and operation of 12 training range and Garrison support projects planned for Fort Stewart between FYs 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD), documenting the Army's decision to proceed with its preferred alternative, to construct at the Alternative B locations for each project analyzed.

One project analyzed in the Fort Stewart EIS was the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), a small caliber range that supports infantry platoon live-fire, sub-caliber, and/or laser collective training of infantry platoons (mounted or dismounted) on tactical movement techniques. Following completion of the Fort Stewart EIS, a final design for the IPBC began based on the specific conditions associated the site ultimately selected in the ROD. During this process, the Army realized that existing Tank Trail 70-B was not suitable for consistent access to and throughout the range. Engineering analysis during the design process indicated that improvements to this trail are necessary to accommodate the increase in usage of the tank trail for access to the range by Soldiers in tactical vehicles, as well as for travel through the site for target maintenance

### 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Army proposes to upgrade and improve Tank Trail 70-B to accommodate its increased use by military and maintenance vehicles associated with IPBC training and maintenance. This action includes clear-cutting vegetation on site, grubbing and grading the road surface until level, covering the road surface with gravel, and establishing a two-foot shoulder on each side of the road. Two short segments of the tank trail (Areas A and B) are located outside the IPBC footprint previously analyzed in the EIS

**Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo-** Under this alternative, the IPBC will be constructed but all of Tank Trail 70-B will remain "as is" and not receive any improvements, as shown on Figure 2-1 of the EA. This alternative was analyzed to establish a baseline from which other alternatives could be more thoughtfully analyzed and more informed decisions made.

**Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

Under this alternative, construction of the IPBC and improvements to all of Tank Trail 70-B will occur, including the two segments located outside of the IPBC footprint (Areas A and B), as discussed in Section 1.3 and shown on Figure 1-1 of the EA. This alternative meets the purpose and need of the proposed action.

**3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

Analysis of this proposed action resulted in potential impacts to soils, water quality and resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and safety only, as indicated below. No other environmental or socioeconomic resources were potentially affected.

**Table 1: Summary of Environmental Effects.**

Type and Intensity of Impact		
○ = negligible ◎ = minor adverse ⊙ = moderate adverse ● = meets significant adverse		
Type of Effect	Alternative I (No Action)	Alternative II (Preferred)
<b>Soils</b>		
<b>Direct / Indirect</b>	◎	⊙
<b>Cumulative</b>	○ to ◎	⊙
<b>Water Quality &amp; Resources</b>		
<b>Direct / Indirect</b>	◎	◎
<b>Cumulative</b>	◎	◎ to ⊙
<b>Biological Resources</b>		
<b>Direct / Indirect</b>	○	○
<b>Cumulative</b>	◎	◎
<b>Cultural Resources</b>		
<b>Direct / Indirect</b>	○	○
<b>Cumulative</b>	◎	◎
<b>Safety</b>		
<b>Direct / Indirect</b>	⊙ to ◎	⊙ to ◎
<b>Cumulative</b>	○	○

#### 4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA and Draft FNSI were available for public review April 6-May 5, 2011 at the local public libraries in Hinesville and Savannah and at the Post Library on Fort Stewart. Fort Stewart also published Notices of the Availability of the Draft EA and FNSI in the *Savannah Morning News*, *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 (Appendix E of the EA).

Five comments were received from the regulatory community and are available for review in Appendix D of the Final EA.

- the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR)-Coastal Resources Division concurred with Fort Stewart's determination of no additional impacts to wetlands;
- the GA DNR-Historic Preservation Division concurred with the determination of no effect to historic properties;
- and the Coastal Regional Commission Clearinghouse Review of the Regional Plan for Coastal Georgia concurred with the determination of no additional effect to wetlands, floodplains, or other ecologically sensitive areas.
- The GA DNR-Environmental Protection Division recommended inclusion of the IPBC project's Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Avoidance Plan as an appendix to the Final EA, in addition to measures for ensuring contractor UXO Avoidance Plan awareness. No contract award has occurred, so no UXO Avoidance Plan or contractor awareness statement has been developed; the Plan and statement, when written, will be incorporated as an appendix at that time.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted comments focused on minimizing erosion and sedimentation at the project site and affected wetlands, addressed in the Section 3.1.2, *Soils*, and Section 3.2.2, *Wetlands*, of the Final EA. The EPA recommended the use of well-designed, construction-specific best management practices during the life of the project, as well as in the construction plans for the project. The Installation will ensure appropriate measures are incorporated into these plans, which are reviewed from concept through 100% completion; in addition, the Installation assists with development of the Erosion Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plan, which includes the BMPs utilized at the project site.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSION

This EA tiers off the 2010 *Fort Stewart Environmental Impact Statement for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation*, which originally analyzed the IPBC. Based on the analysis performed in this EA, implementation of the preferred Alternative

(*Alternative II, Tank Trail 70-B Improvements*) 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 Alternative II as the recommended course of action, with the following stipulations:

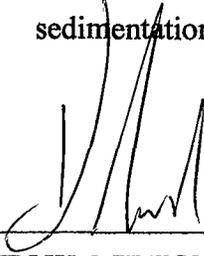
- The footprint for the Tank Trail 70-B improvements contains low-, medium-, and high-risk areas of encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO), according to a walkover survey conducted by the Army. UXO avoidance planning will be a requirement of the construction contractor even though live ordnance found during the walkover survey will be destroyed. The plan may be stand-alone or be included as part of the construction contractor's health and safety plan. However, the plan MUST sufficiently address the potential for encountering UXO and the response actions when encountered. The contractor's UXO plan must be approved by the Installation's Safety Office prior to land disturbance and should be retained as part of the contract administrative record.

All personnel working on site, to include construction contractors, must take a UXO Awareness training/safety briefing. This requirement will be incorporated as part of the UXO Avoidance Plan. The executing agency's Project Management team will be responsible for ensuring the briefing is completed prior to land disturbance. A record of attendance will be furnished by the contractor to the Installation Project Manager (PM) and will become a part of the contract administrative records. The PM should provide a copy to Installation Safety. The contractor will be responsible for ensuring all on-site contract personnel and subcontracted personnel receive the required training. Subsequent to project kickoff, for any new contract and subcontract personnel, the contractor will provide a certification statement attesting UXO training was completed signed by both the contractor and the individual personnel/trainee(s).

Dependent upon the probability analysis, as determined by the site characterization and UXO assessment before land disturbance activities begin, UXO Standby Support may be required. It should be understood that the probability level/characterization may change during the course of construction based on the number, frequency, type of items found. Provisions should be included in the contract to award an option to account for the potential change in conditions to add needed UXO standby support and/or UXO remediation.

Provisions should be included in the contract to award an option to account for the potential change in conditions to add needed UXO standby support and/or UXO remediation.

- The construction contractor must utilize well-designed construction-specific erosion and sedimentation BMPs during the life of the project.



Date: 16 Jun 11

KEVIN W. MILTON  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND 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* (hereafter, Fort Stewart EIS). The Fort Stewart EIS analyzed the construction and operation of 12 training range and Garrison support projects planned for Fort Stewart between FYs 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD), documenting the Army's decision to proceed with its preferred alternative, to construct at the Alternative B locations for each project analyzed. In this EIS, the Army identified the need to build, operate, and maintain a specific set of training ranges to maintain the proficiency of Army Soldiers on a full spectrum of military operations. Among these was the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), a small caliber range that supports infantry platoon live-fire, sub-caliber, and/or laser collective training of infantry platoons (mounted or dismounted) on tactical movement techniques. The Fort Stewart IPBC construction will occur in Training Area C-1, on top of an inactive aerial gunnery range.

Following completion of the Fort Stewart EIS and signature on the ROD, design for the IPBC began. During this process, the Installation realized that existing Tank Trail 70-B was not suitable for consistent access to and throughout the range. Engineering analysis during the design process indicated that improvements to this trail are necessary to accommodate the increase in usage of the road for access to the range by Soldiers in tactical vehicles, as well as for travel through the site for target maintenance (Figure 1-1).

### **1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The EIS did not analyze the tank trail improvements. In addition, two short segment of the tank trail (Areas A and B) are located outside of the IPBC footprint analyzed in the EIS. For these reasons, supplemental NEPA analysis is required. Area A is at the northern edge of the IPBC and consists of 4.2 acres; Area B is at the eastern edge of the IPBC and consists of 6.6 acres (Figure 1-2). The remainder of Tank Trail 70-B is within the existing IPBC footprint and comprises 35 acres of the IPBC's 1,000-acre total. The purpose and need of the improvements is to accommodate increased vehicular traffic flow on the tank trail associated with the use and maintenance of the IPBC. This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the potential impacts of these improvements.

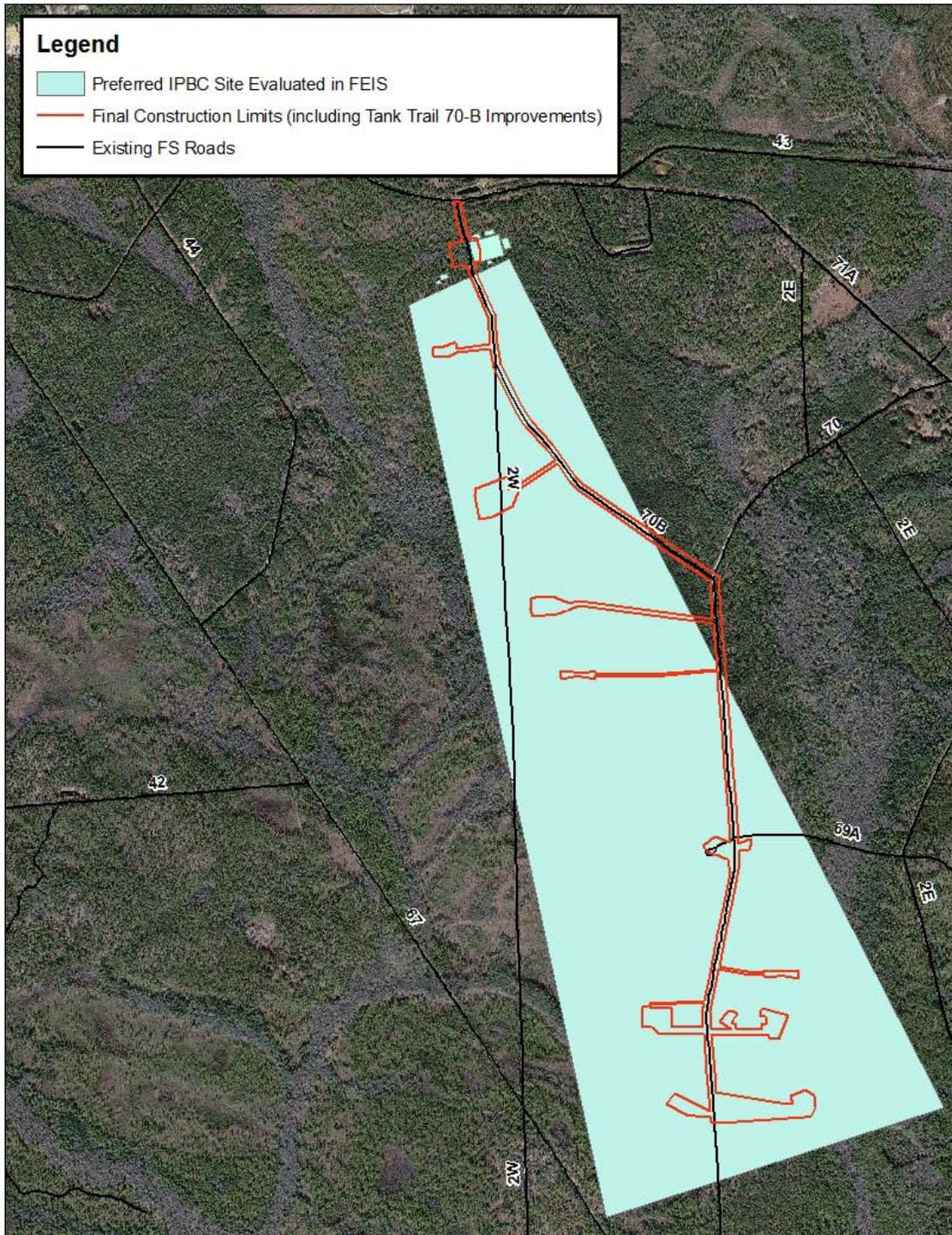
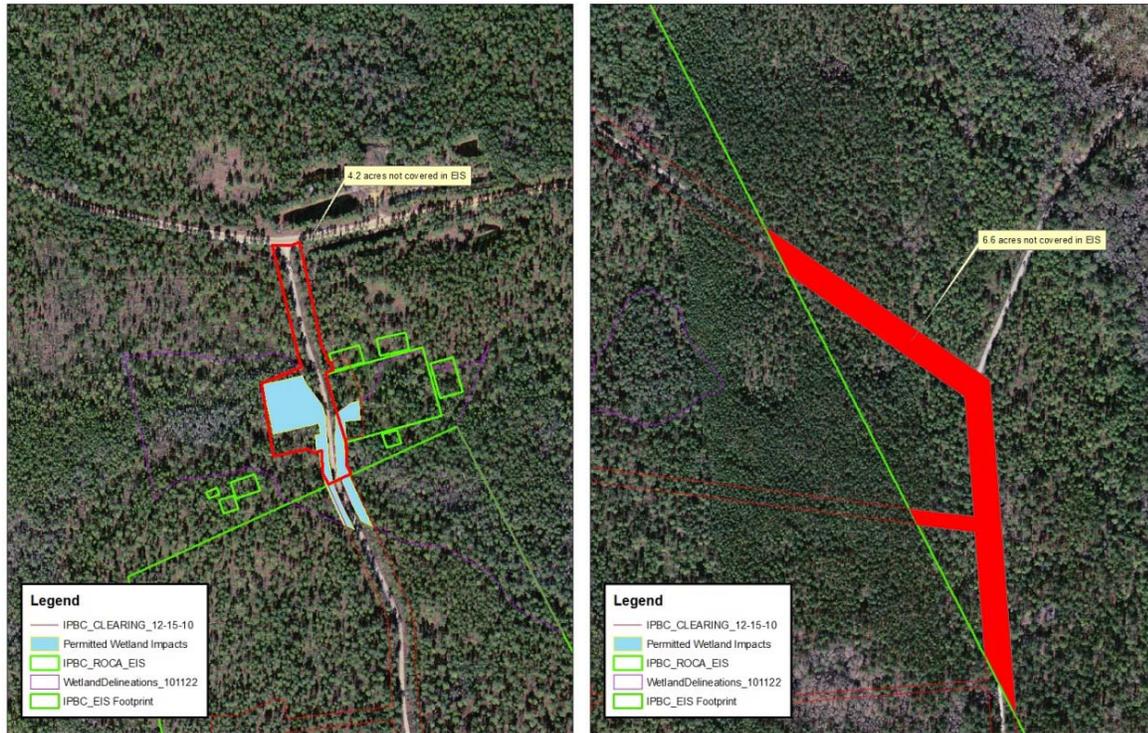


Figure 1-1: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements



**Figure 1-2: Area A (left) and Area B (right) Tank Trail 70-B, Improvements Outside of the IPBC Footprint Evaluated in the Fort Stewart EIS**

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ITS ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.1 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Army proposes to improve Tank Trail 70-B to accommodate increased vehicular traffic associated with the use and maintenance of the IPBC. Work will include clear-cutting vegetation on site, grubbing and grading the road surface until level, covering the road surface with gravel, and establishing a two-foot shoulder on either side of the road. These actions are required to facilitate better access to/from the IPBC during operation and maintenance. Two segments of Tank Trail 70-B are located outside the footprint of the IPBC. These areas are denoted as Areas A and B. Area A is at the northern edge of the IPBC and consists of 4.2 acres; Area B is at the eastern edge of the IPBC and consists of 6.6 acres, for a total footprint of 10.8 acres of disturbance not previously analyzed in the EIS. The remainder of Tank Trail 70-B is within the IPBC footprint previously analyzed in the Fort Stewart EIS.

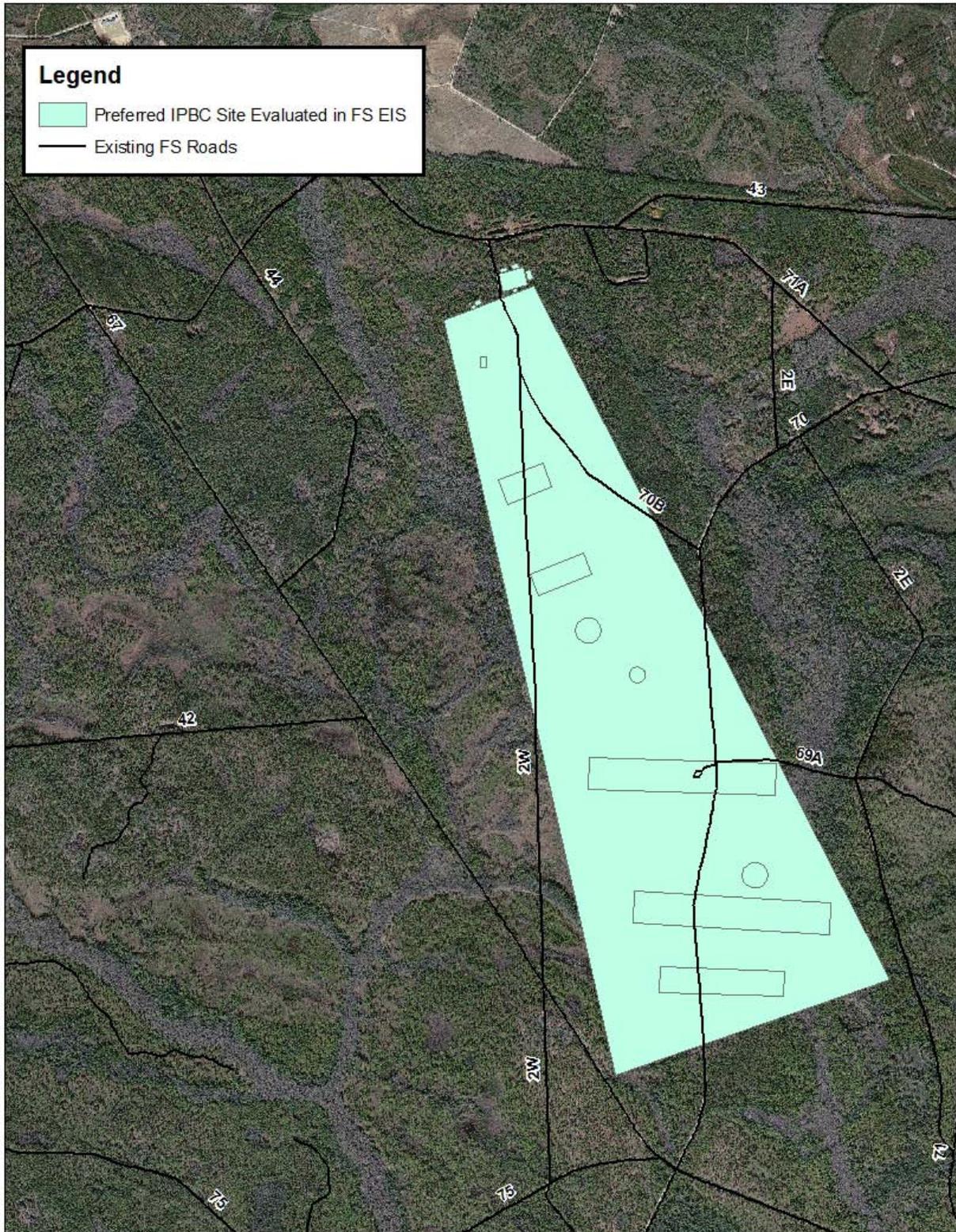
### **2.2 ALTERNATIVES**

#### **2.2.1 Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo (Figure 2-1)**

Under this alternative, construction of the FY11 IPBC will occur and Tank Trail 70-B will remain “as is” and not receive any improvements. Although this alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action, it provides a baseline for analysis and is a requirement of the Council on Environmental Quality for decision-making.

#### **2.2.2 Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred) (Figure 1-1)**

Under this alternative, all of Tank Trail 70-B will receive improvements, consisting of the construction of a 12 foot graveled road, with two-foot shoulders on each side, including the two segments located outside of the IPBC footprint (Areas A and B), as discussed in Section 1.3 and as shown on Figure 1-1. This alternative meets the purpose and need for the proposed action.



**Figure 2-1: Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo**

### **3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

*This Environmental Assessment is tiering off the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Training Ranges and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation, Fort Stewart, Georgia and its Record of Decision (hereafter, Fort Stewart EIS and ROD); therefore, the majority of the information presented in this section is summarized. For detailed affected environment and associated impact discussion, refer to Chapters 3 and 4 of the Fort Stewart EIS, a copy of which is at the following web address: [http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN\\_Downloads.asp](http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN_Downloads.asp).*

Installation subject matter experts evaluated resources for potential impacts, and found potential effect to soils, water quality and resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and safety. These impacts are discussed in this chapter. These discussions focus on the necessary improvements to Tank Trail 70-B. For a detailed analysis of Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) construction impacts and/or mitigation, please refer to the Fort Stewart EIS and ROD at the above-mentioned website.

### **3.1 SOILS**

#### **3.1.1 Environmental Consequences of Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo**

Under this alternative, minor effects to Soils are expected. Construction of the IPBC (and its associated impacts) will occur within the established footprint and will adhere to existing Clean Water Act permits, BMPs, and mitigation measures (if required), as discussed in the Fort Stewart EIS and ROD. Tank Trail 70-B, which traverses the IPBC, will not receive any improvements, but remain “as is.” Once construction of the IPBC is complete, use of Tank Trail 70-B by military vehicles will increase, and, in its existing condition (“as is”), result in eventual degradation/erosion of the tank trail surface. Adherence to existing Installation BMPs and utilization of training land rehabilitation programs will minimize potential effects.

#### **3.1.2 Environmental Consequences of Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

Overall, this alternative will have moderate adverse effects to Soils arising from the construction of the IPBC and the improvements to Tank Trail 70-B. In this alternative, the Tank Trail will have disturbance to soils within and outside the footprint of the IPBC (Areas A and B). Construction (and any other disturbance greater than 0.75 acres) requires implementation of an Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Plan (ESPCP), payment of associated fees per disturbed acre to the GA Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a Notice of Intent (NOI), and

obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The construction contractor will be required to follow all applicable BMPs throughout the entirety of this action, and design and implement all erosion and sediment control measures in accordance with the *Georgia Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control* (2002) and the Official Code of Georgia 12-7-6 (2009).

The proponent must clearly delineate trees for removal versus trees to remain on site. Timber harvest begins only after the 14-day waiting period required for GA DNR submittal of the NPDES Permit and NOI. The timber harvest contractor must adhere to all Timber Harvest BMPs, while the construction contractor must remove remaining harvest-related debris, stumps, logging slash, and non-merchantable timber.

## **3.2 WATER QUALITY AND RESOURCES**

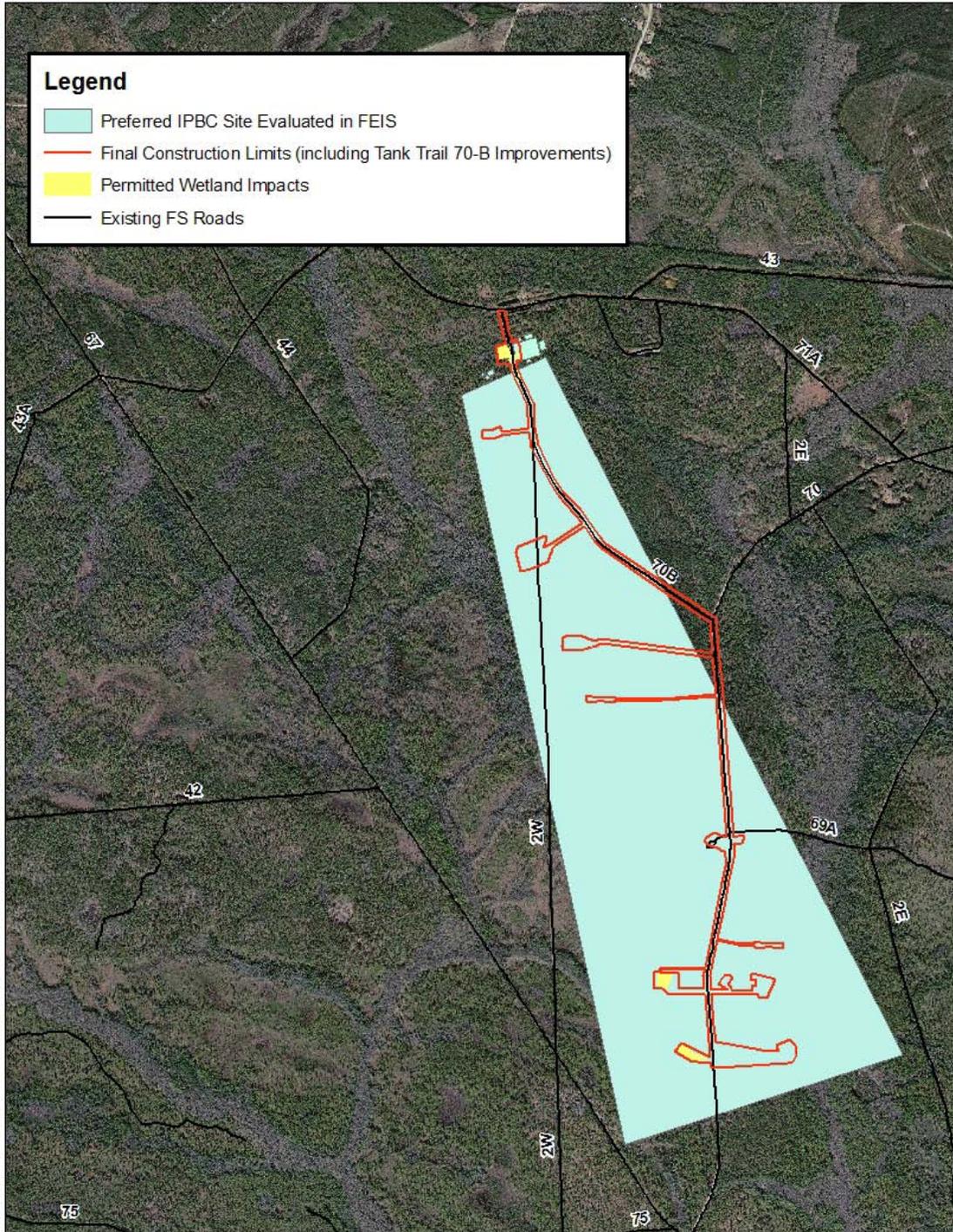
### **3.2.1 Environmental Consequences of Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo**

Overall, this alternative has minor effects to Water Quality and Resources. Under this alternative, construction of the IPBC will occur and affect 3.92 acres of wetlands (Figure 3-1) and 6.91 acres of floodplains (Figure 3-2). Tank Trail 70-B, which traverses the IPBC, will not receive any improvements, but remain “as is.” Due to the low elevations on most of Fort Stewart, wetlands comprise approximately one-third of the Installation, leaving few non-wetland and/or non-floodplain land on which to construct buildings, facilities, and ranges. Minimization of adverse impacts to wetlands and floodplains during construction will occur through adherence to obtained permits (such as a Section 404 for wetlands), and floodplain-specific BMPs (such as elevating facility construction above floodplain levels). The IPBC also has specific mitigation measures agreed to in the Fort Stewart ROD. Utilized together, these measures keep impacts to a minimum.

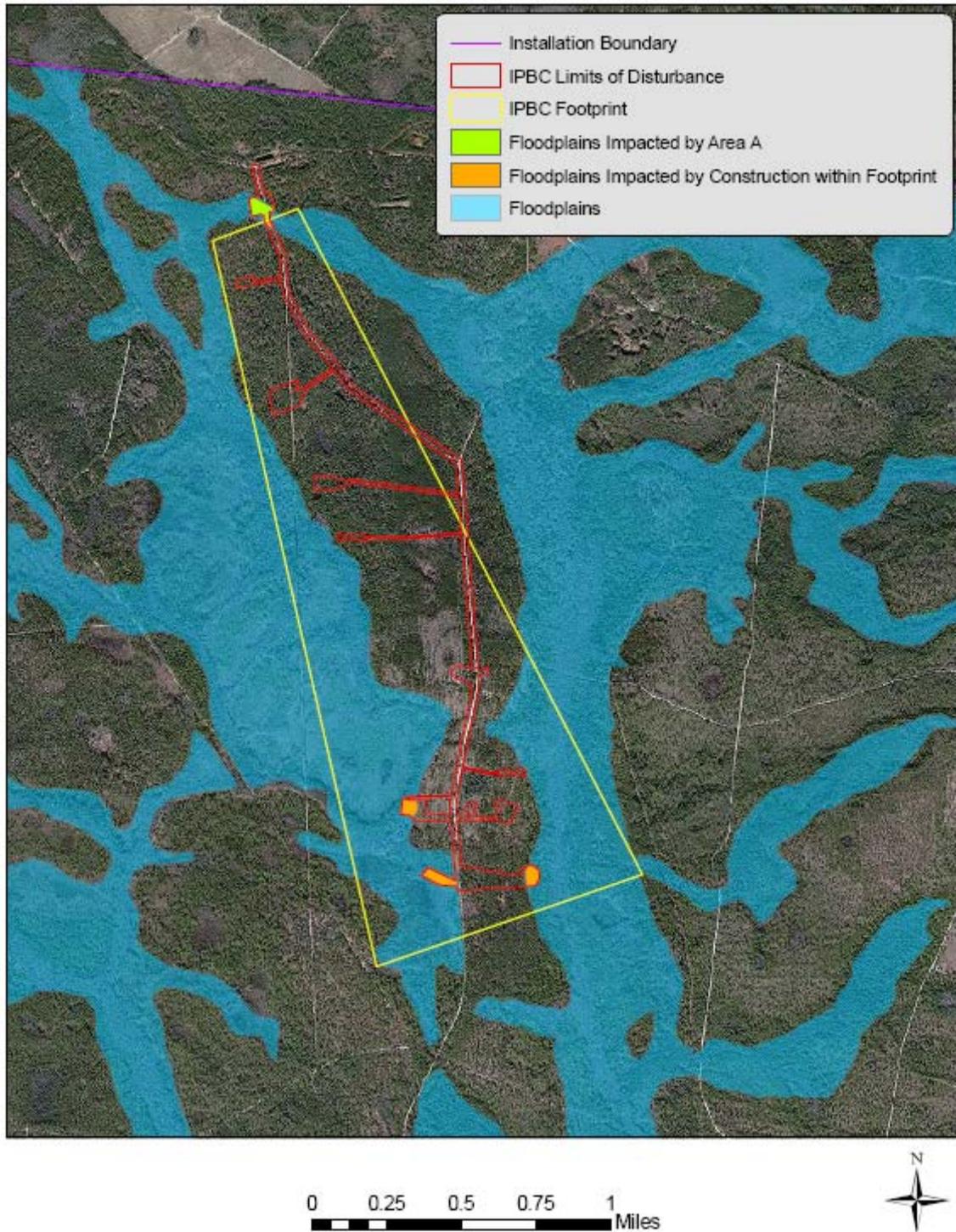
### **3.2.2 Environmental Consequences of Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

Overall, this alternative will result in minor adverse effects to Water Quality and Resources. Under this alternative, both the construction of the IPBC and the improvements to Tank Trail 70-B will occur. As discussed under Alternative I, there is a lack of non-wetland and non-floodplain locations on Fort Stewart, and wetlands are present in both Area A of Tank Trail 70-B (the Northern leg, Area A) and within the overall footprint of the IPBC.

Wetland impacts from the IPBC construction and Area A were included in the § 404 permit application reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Regulatory Division and the § 401 water certification review by GA Environmental Protection Division (see Appendix A for a copy of the permit). Area A also contains 2.41 acres of floodplains and the IPBC contains 6.91 acres of floodplains, creating a total of 9.32 acres of floodplains affected. Minimization of impacts will occur as discussed under Alternative I. A survey of Area B of Tank Trail 70-B (the Eastern Leg) in January 2011 determined no impacts to wetlands or floodplains.



**Figure 3-1: Wetland Impacts for the IPBC**



**Figure 3-2: Floodplain Impacts for the IPBC**

### **3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

#### **3.3.1 Environmental Consequences of Alternative I: No Action/Status Quo**

This alternative will have minor effects to biological resources. The construction of the IPBC will occur, but no additional disturbance to vegetation, wildlife, or protected species will occur. Tank Trail 70-B will not receive improvements and will remain “as is” within the footprint of the IPBC. As discussed in Section 3.1.1, Soils, once the IPBC becomes operational, Tank Trail 70-B will experience an increase in military vehicle use, resulting in erosion. No adverse effects to Biological Resources will occur if adherence to existing Installation BMPs and training land rehabilitation programs continue. Construction will adhere to existing reasonable and prudent measures identified in the 2010 Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the 12 FY11-14 projects addressed in the Fort Stewart EIS.

#### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences of Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

This alternative will have minor adverse effects to biological resources. Under this alternative, both the construction of the IPBC and the improvements to Tank Trail 70-B will occur. Wildlife may temporarily flush from the site due to tree clearing, ground disturbance, and construction, but will return once these actions cease and routine operations and maintenance activities begin.

The Installation prepared a modification to the original 2010 Fort Stewart EIS Biological Assessment (BA) for this action to assess potential impacts to protected species from Area A of Tank Trail 70-B. Area B, at the eastern edge of the IPBC, is located within a buffer of the IPBC footprint originally analyzed in the Fort Stewart EIS BA and did not require an additional analysis. The information in the rest of this section of the EA is from the modified BA, also available for review in Appendix B.

An additional 2.7 acres of clear-cutting, grubbing, grading, and future maintenance will occur outside of the buffer included in the original 2010 Fort Stewart EIS BA, impacting 1.3 acres of RCW Habitat Management Units and the foraging partition of RCW Cluster #70. A portion of the modified footprint will also impact the foraging partition of RCW Cluster #256, but the 2010 Fort Stewart EIS BA accounted for this partition, for which an incidental take was granted in the Fort Stewart EIS BO from the USFWS (see figures in BA, Appendix B).

The effects to these RCW clusters will not impede the Installation reaching its RCW Recovery Goal in 2013, an opinion with which the USFWS agreed in its March 18, 2011 concurrence letter to the BA (Appendix B). The proposed action may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, the RCW or other protected species on Fort Stewart, and no effects to critical habitat occur from this action. As indicated under Alternative I, during construction, contractors must adhere to all reasonable and prudent measures outlined in the USFWS' BO during construction of the IPBC and associated tank trail improvements.

### **3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Fort Stewart completed consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (GA SHPO) on this overall action (Alternatives I and II). A copy of this consultation effort is in Appendix C of this EA.

#### **3.4.1 Environmental Consequences of Alternative I (No Action/Status Quo)**

This alternative will have negligible potential effects to cultural resources. Only the construction of the IPBC will occur, with Tank Trail 70-B remaining "as is" and receiving no improvements. Some portions of the IPBC footprint were off-limits to cultural resources survey due to safety risks associated with unexploded ordnance (UXO), in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement between Fort Stewart and the GA SHPO. Within the areas open for survey, one potentially eligible site was identified and determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The IPBC was determined to not adversely affect historic properties, a determination with which the GA SHPO concurred. This consultation record is part of the Fort Stewart EIS.

#### **3.4.2 Environmental Consequences of Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

This alternative will have negligible potential effects to cultural resources. Both the construction of the IPBC and the Tank Trail 70-B improvements will occur under this alternative. Portions of Tank Trail 70-B within the IPBC footprint and Areas A and B were off-limits to cultural resources survey due to safety risks associated with unexploded ordnance (UXO), in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement between Fort Stewart and the GA SHPO.

### **3.5 SAFETY**

Fort Stewart complies with AR 385-64, "Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards," which sets the safety zone criteria on Army Installations. The Installation's range safety program prohibits the unapproved picking up, tampering with, or removal of UXO by unauthorized

personnel. The explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel are the only personnel permitted involvement in UXO clearance operations.

### **3.5.1 Environmental Consequences of Alternative I (No Action/Status Quo)**

Overall, this alternative will result in a moderate, short-term adverse impact to safety from timber removal and construction due to the potential to unearth previously unknown UXO. The IPBC footprint contains low, medium, and high-risk areas of encountering UXO according to a walkover survey conducted by the Army. Planned grubbing and grading areas in the medium and high-risk areas have received surface UXO removal. The Installation will conduct tree-thinning operations in the areas of the IPBC footprint identified as “low risk” for UXO (Figure 3-3). If any inadvertent UXO are found during timber thinning or construction, all work must cease immediately and established procedures to address the situation must be followed in accordance with AR 385-64, the Installation’s range safety program, and with the contractor’s UXO Avoidance Plan. EOD personnel will make determinations if emergency treatment of munitions is required and recover, destruct, or otherwise manage waste munitions as necessary to protect human health, safety, and the environment. If these procedures are followed, then only minor impacts are anticipated since the UXO presence would be eliminated.

### **3.5.2 Environmental Consequences of Alternative II: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements (Preferred)**

Overall, this alternative will result in a moderate, short-term adverse impact to safety from timber removal and construction due to the potential to unearth previously unknown UXO. Construction of the IPBC and improvements to Tank Trail 70-B will occur. Both Areas A and B of the Tank Trail lie outside of the IPBC footprint, with Area A lying adjacent to a low probability UXO area and Area B lying adjacent to a high probability UXO area (Figure 3-3). For this reason, it is likely the Installation will conduct timber removal operations in Area A. Timber removal of Area B will only occur by the Installation if UXO is removed from the surface, and the probability of encountering UXO is reduced to a low potential. Construction activities must comply with the IPBC UXO Avoidance Plan and contractors must utilize the expertise of the EOD for UXO clearing activities, as discussed under Alternative I. If these procedures are followed, then only minor impacts are anticipated since the UXO presence would be eliminated.

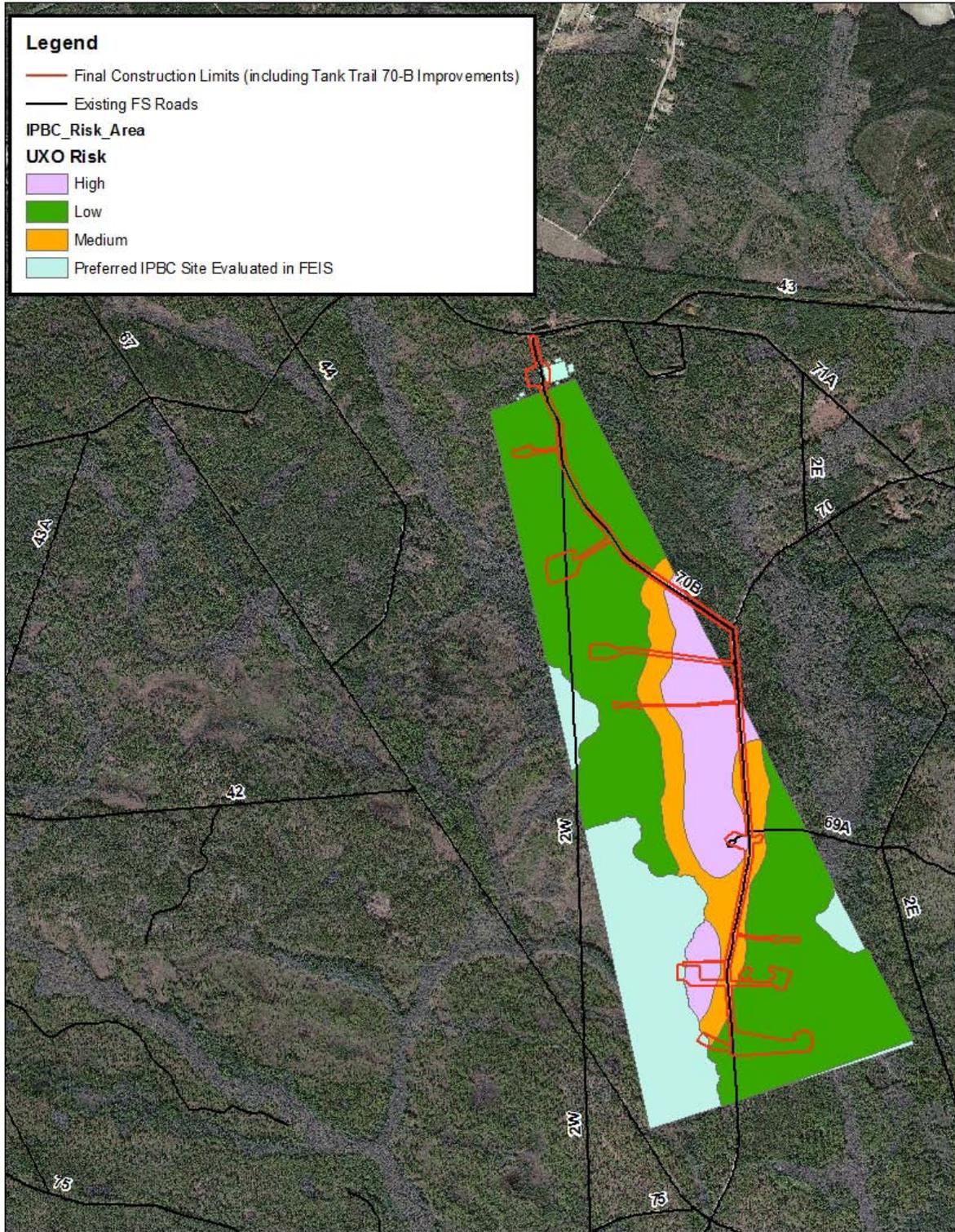


Figure 3-3: UXO Risk Map for the IPBC

#### **4.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

Incremental, or cumulative, effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a defined period of time and within a geographic proximity to one another. Actions geographically close to one another have more potential for cumulative effects than those farther away. Likewise, actions occurring at or near the same time may also affect one another and the area in which they occur. Fort Stewart's past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (PPRFFAs) discussed in the EIS have not changed. Moreover, the majority of Tank Trail 70-B improvements will occur within the preferred IPBC footprint. As such the cumulative effects remain the same as discussed in Chapter 5 of the EIS (to review cumulative effects to environmental resources, the Fort Stewart EIS is at the following worldwide web site: [http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN\\_Downloads.asp](http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/EN_Downloads.asp)).

#### **5.0 CONCLUSIONS**

This Environmental Assessment analyzed the potential impacts of proposed improvements to Tank Trail 70-B at the FY11 Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), Fort Stewart, GA, and is tiered off the 2010 *Fort Stewart Environmental Impact Statement for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation*, which originally analyzed the IPBC. Following an analysis and comparison of impacts of the No Action and Action Alternatives, it was determined that neither will result in significant impacts, and that the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate. The Army will therefore proceed with the preparation of a FNSI for this action.

## **6.0 REFERENCES AND PERSONS / LITERATURE CONSULTED**

32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651. 2002. Environmental Analysis of Army Actions.

40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500-1508. 1997. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

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Lloyd, Robert. 2011. Wetlands Program Manager. Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield.

Maggioni, Paul. 2011. Historic Architect, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield.

Moncrief, Russell. 2011. Stormwater Specialist, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield.

Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A.) § 12-7-1. 2009. The Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975. The State of Georgia.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2006. "RCW Foraging Habitat Matrix Application." Available at: <http://www.fws.gov/rcwrecovery/matrix.html>.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2003. Recovery Plan for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. Second Revision. Available at: [http://www.fws.gov/rcwrecovery/recovery\\_plan.html](http://www.fws.gov/rcwrecovery/recovery_plan.html).

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Wetlands Permit**

### **Infantry Platoon Battle Course, Fort Stewart, GA**



CHRIS CLARK  
COMMISSIONER

A.G. "SPUD" WOODWARD  
DIRECTOR

September 30, 2010

Commander, USACE Savannah District  
Attn: Mr. Mark Padgett  
100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue  
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640

RE: Consistency Certification of SAS-2009-00884, IPBC, US Army, Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities at Fort Stewart, Liberty County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Padgett:

Staff of the Coastal Management Program has reviewed the above referenced application 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 Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) proposes to impact 15.9 acres of freshwater wetlands. No jurisdictional saltmarsh impacts are proposed.

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: Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc.  
Attn: Michael Anderson  
P.O. Box 865  
Johns Island, South Carolina 29457

PAGE 11  
**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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

September 23, 2010

Fort Stewart, Environmental Branch  
Attn: Mr. Thomas C. Fry, Environmental Division Chief  
1550 Frank Cochran Dr.  
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4927

Re: Water Quality Certification  
Joint Public Notice 200900884  
Infantry Platoon Battle Course  
Ogeechee River Basin  
Liberty County

Dear Mr. Fry:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Georgia issues this certification to Fort Stewart, 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. All work performed during construction will be done in a manner so as not to violate applicable water quality standards.
2. No oils, grease, materials or other pollutants will be discharged from the construction activities that reach public waters.

pab

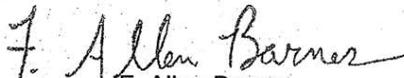
Page 2  
JPN 200900884  
Liberty County

3. "As built" final design plats shall be submitted to Georgia EPD, Section 401 permitting staff upon final construction of the project. Plats must identify all pre-construction jurisdictional and isolated waters within the project boundary overlain with all "as built" impacts. Acreages of wetland impact and linear feet of stream impact shall be footnoted on the plats.
4. Impacts to impaired waters or waters with a TMDL plan may require the submission of a monitoring plan.

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.

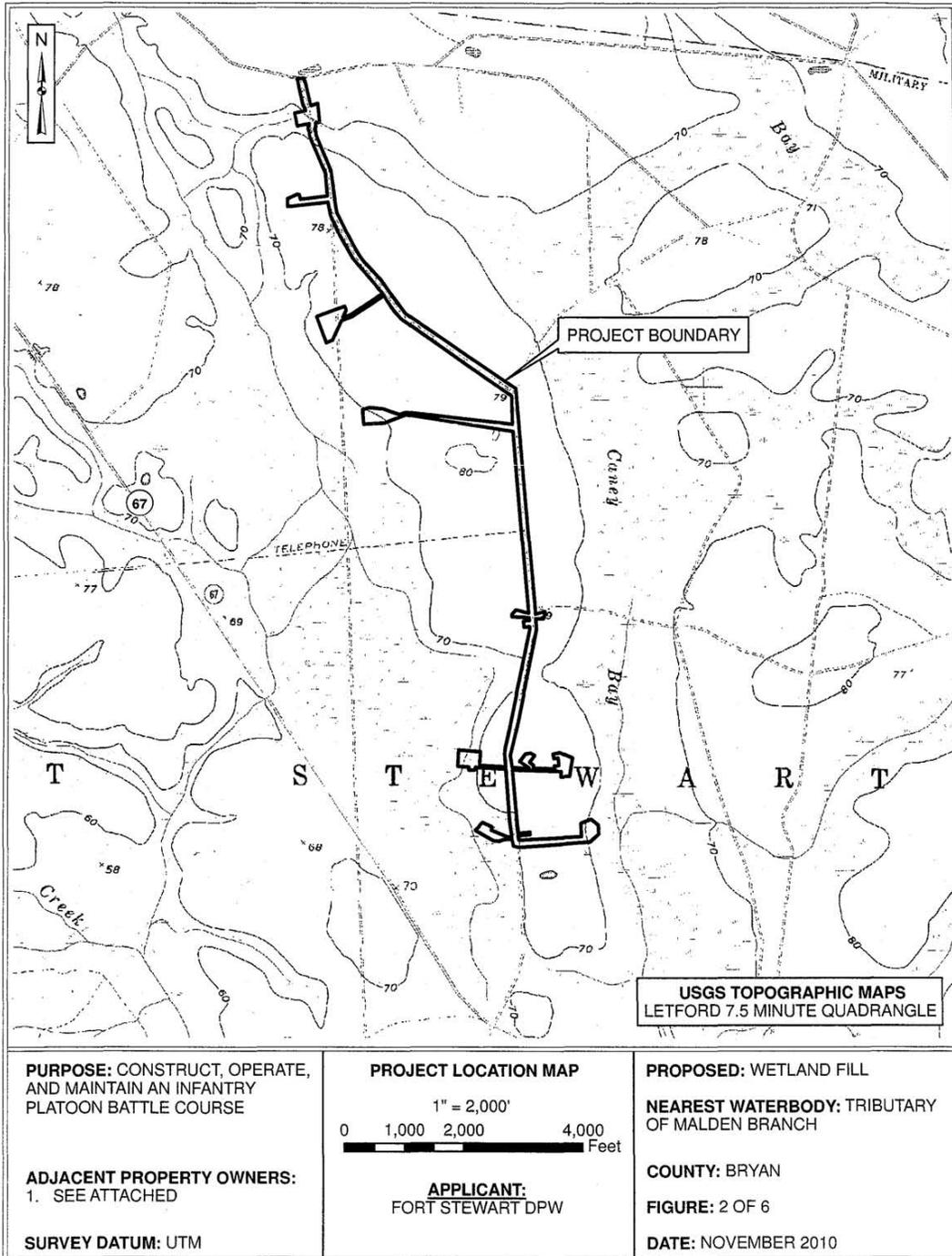
Sincerely,

  
F. Allen Barnes  
Director

FAB: dc

cc: Mr. Kurt Flynn, Ft. Stewart  
Ms. Carol Bernstein, USACE  
Mr. Mark Padgett, USACE  
Mr. Bob Lord, USEPA  
Mr. Bill Wikoff, USFWS  
Ms. Kelie Moore, CRD

bc: Mr. Dale Caldwell, GAEPD



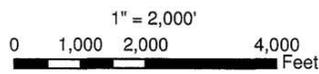
USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS  
LETFORD 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE

**PURPOSE:** CONSTRUCT, OPERATE,  
AND MAINTAIN AN INFANTRY  
PLATOON BATTLE COURSE

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**  
1. SEE ATTACHED

**SURVEY DATUM:** UTM

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



**APPLICANT:**  
FORT STEWART DPW

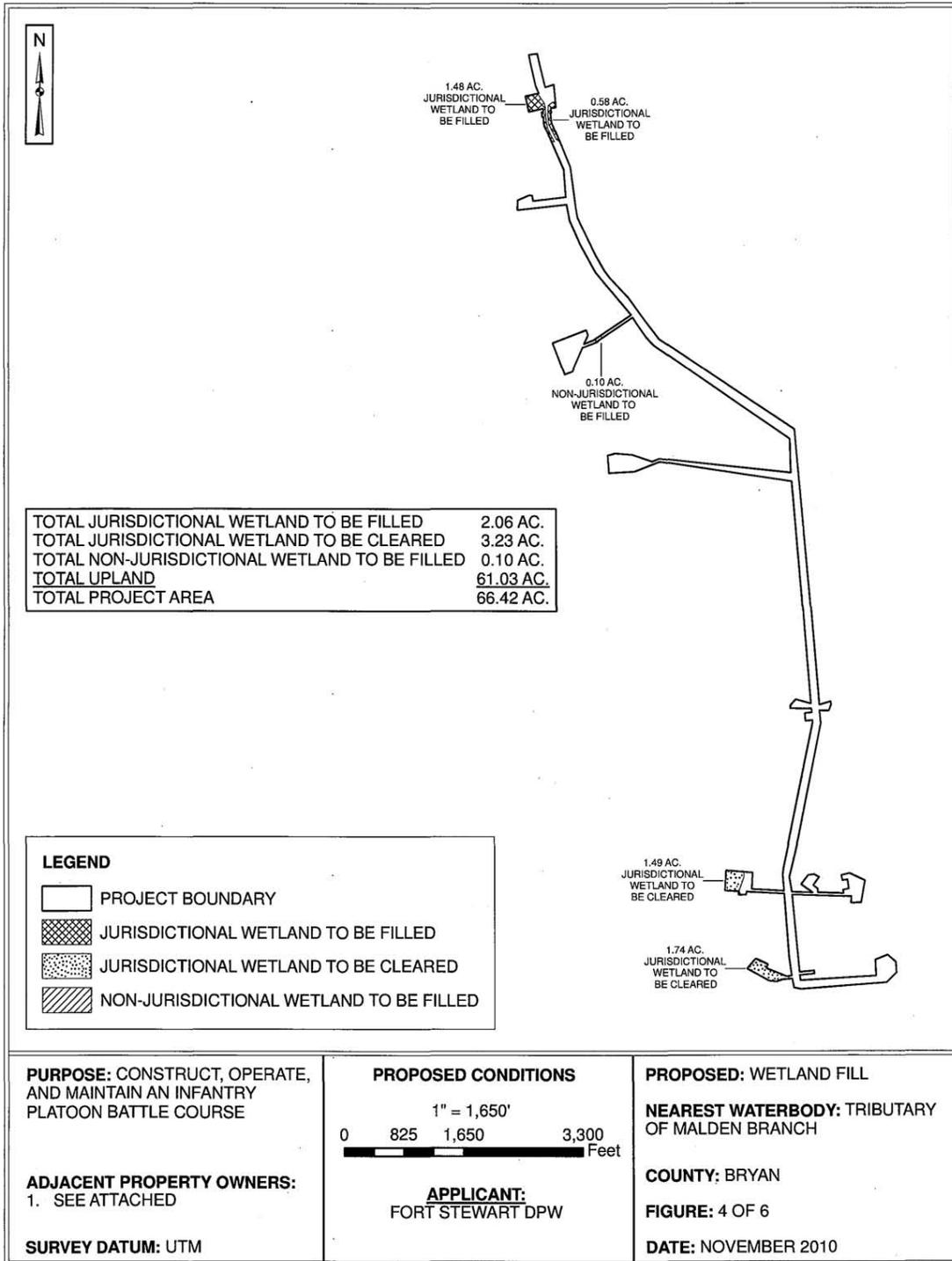
**PROPOSED:** WETLAND FILL

**NEAREST WATERBODY:** TRIBUTARY  
OF MALDEN BRANCH

**COUNTY:** BRYAN

**FIGURE:** 2 OF 6

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 2010



**PURPOSE:** CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN AN INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**  
1. SEE ATTACHED

**SURVEY DATUM:** UTM

**PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

1" = 1,650'  
0 825 1,650 3,300 Feet

**APPLICANT:**  
FORT STEWART DPW

**PROPOSED:** WETLAND FILL

**NEAREST WATERBODY:** TRIBUTARY OF MALDEN BRANCH

**COUNTY:** BRYAN

**FIGURE:** 4 OF 6

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 2010

Applicant: Fort Stewart		File Number: SAS-2009-00884	Date:
Attached is:		See Section below	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT DENIAL	C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E	
<p><b>SECTION I:</b> The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at <a href="http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/ccwo/reg/corpsregulations/2133_CFR_Part_634">http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/ccwo/reg/corpsregulations/2133_CFR_Part_634</a>.</p>			
<p><b>A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT:</b> You may accept or object to the permit.</p> <p><b>ACCEPT:</b> If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.</p> <p><b>OBJECT:</b> If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.</p>			
<p><b>B: PROFFERED PERMIT:</b> You may accept or appeal the permit</p> <p><b>ACCEPT:</b> If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.</p> <p><b>APPEAL:</b> If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.</p>			
<p><b>C: PERMIT DENIAL:</b> You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.</p>			

<p><b>D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION:</b> You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.</p> <p><b>ACCEPT:</b> You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.</p> <p><b>APPEAL:</b> If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.</p>	
<p><b>E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION:</b> You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.</p>	
<p><b>SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT</b></p>	
<p><b>REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS:</b> (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)</p>	
<p><b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</b> The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.</p>	
<p><b>POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION</b></p>	
<p>If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:                  Mark J. Padgett                  US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District                  100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue                  Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640                  912-652-5052</p>	<p>If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:                  District Commander                  US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District                  100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue                  Savannah, Georgia 31401</p>
<p><b>RIGHT OF ENTRY:</b> Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.</p>	
<p>_____                  Signature of appellant or agent.</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>
<p>Telephone number: _____</p>	

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

PERMITTEE: Fort Stewart

PERMIT NUMBER: SAS-2009-00884

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: The construction of an Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) on Fort Stewart. The IPBC is a small caliber range used to support infantry platoon live-fire collective training to test infantry platoons (mounted or dismounted) on the skills necessary to conduct tactical movement techniques, and detect, identify, engage, and defeat stationary and moving infantry and armor targets in a tactical array. In addition to live fire, this range is used to train on sub-caliber and/or laser devices and can support the live-fire collective training needs of active and reserve component infantry platoons. The project will impact 5.39 acres of wetlands. The permittee will purchase 40.35 wetland mitigation credits from the Wilkinson-Oconee Wetland Mitigation Bank.

PROJECT LOCATION: The IPBC site is located within the C-1 Training Area (in the vicinity of latitude 32° 4' 35" north and longitude 81° 33' 20" west) on Fort Stewart, Bryan County, Georgia.

PERMIT CONDITIONS:

General Conditions.

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized by this Individual Permit ends on December 31, 2015. 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

- 2 -

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.

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

- 3 -

stream areas outside of the construction area to prevent encroachment from heavy equipment into these areas.

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

- 4 -

understanding that you may obtain information concerning variances at the Georgia EPD's web site at [www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org) or by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 675-6240.

11. 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency 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.

12. Prior to the commencement of any work in jurisdictional waters of the United States for this activity, you will purchase wetland mitigation credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank. You or the mitigation bank sponsor must provide this office with documentation of this purchase before any work may commence. The notice should reference the USACE file number assigned to this project.

13. The permittee, US Army Fort Stewart, is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. The permittee shall meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

14. The permittee, US Army Fort Stewart, is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Fort Stewart shall meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

15. The site design for this project was based on the 90% design. Authorized wetland impacts are based on a standard range design. Prior to conducting any work in wetlands on this project site, the permittee shall submit final site development plans to the USACE for review and approval. No work in wetlands can occur until the USACE has reviewed and approved the final plan in writing. It is anticipated that once final design is completed, there will be a minor reduction in the amount of wetland area that will be impacted by the project. This anticipated change in the footprint of authorized wetland impact is authorized under this permit and modification of the permit will not be required for this change in site design.

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.

- 5 -

- 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.
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

- 6 -

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.

*[this space intently left blank]*



Regulatory Division

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE  
WITH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PERMIT FILE NUMBER: SAS-2009-00884

PERMITTEE ADDRESS: Fort Stewart, Environmental Branch  
Attention: Mr. Thomas C. Fry, Environmental Division Chief  
1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Building 1137  
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314-4927

LOCATION OF WORK: The IPBC site is located within the C-1 Training Area (in the vicinity of latitude 32° 4' 35" north and longitude 81° 33' 20" west) on Fort Stewart, Bryan County, Georgia.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The IPBC is a small caliber range used to support infantry platoon live-fire collective training to test infantry platoons (mounted or dismounted) on the skills necessary to conduct tactical movement techniques, and detect, identify, engage, and defeat stationary and moving infantry and armor targets in a tactical array. In addition to live fire, this range is used to train on sub-caliber and/or laser devices and can support the live-fire collective training needs of active and reserve component infantry platoons. The project will impact 5.39 acres of wetlands. The permittee will purchase 40.35 wetland mitigation credits from the Wilkinson-Oconee Wetland Mitigation Bank.

ACRES AND/OR LINEAR FEET OF WATERS OF THE US IMPACTED: 5.39 acres

DATE COMPLETED:

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION REQUIRED: Purchase 40.35 from the Wilkinson-Oconee Wetland Mitigation Bank.

DATE COMPLETED OR PURCHASED:

I understand that the permitted activity is subject to a US Army Corps of Engineers' Compliance Inspection. If I fail to comply with the permit conditions at Part C of the Nationwide Permit Program, published in the March 12, 2007, Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 42, Pages 11092-11198, 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

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Biological Assessment and USFWS Concurrence Letter**



## United States Department of the Interior

### Fish and Wildlife Service

105 West Park Drive, Suite D  
Athens, Georgia 30606  
Phone: (706) 613-9493  
Fax: (706) 613-6059

West Georgia Sub-Office  
Post Office Box 52560  
Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2560  
Phone: (706) 544-6428  
Fax: (706) 544-6419

Coastal Sub-Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive  
Townsend, Georgia 31331  
Phone: (912) 832-8739  
Fax: (912) 832-8744

March 18, 2011

Mr. Robert R. Baumgardt  
U.S. Army Installation Management Command  
Directorate of Public Works  
1587 Frank Cochran Drive  
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314-5048  
Attn: Mr. Tim Beaty,  
DPW, Wildlife Mangement Branch

Re: FWS Log # 2010-0137

Dear Mr. Fry:

Thank you for your recent letter and attached map concerning a modification to the formal consultation for the construction of 12 new ranges and an unmanned aerial system on Fort Stewart, Georgia (Log # referenced above). This modification is needed to accommodate increased military traffic due to future construction and use of the Infantry Platoon Battle Course in Training Area C-1. An additional 1.3 acres of red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Habitat Management Unit (HMU) is proposed to be clear cut and stumped for the road and powerline right-of-way. We have reviewed the information you provided and submit the following comments under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

According to the information you provided, we agree with your determination that this proposed modification does not affect the conclusions of the original biological assessment and biological opinion issued on June 11, 2010. Therefore, we believe that the requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied and no further consultation is required.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment during the planning stages of your project. If you have any questions, please write or call staff biologist Robert Brooks of our Brunswick office at (912) 265-9336, ext. 25.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra S. Tucker  
Field Supervisor 



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

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 on Fort Stewart, Georgia. The modified project footprint consists of the widening and improvement of Fort Stewart (FS) Road 70B and moving a power line right-of-way (ROW) 80 feet to the east side of the road. This modification is needed to accommodate increased military traffic due to future construction and use of the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) in FS Training Area (TA) C-1 (Figure 1). The action will require an additional 2.7 acres and will consist of clear-cutting, grubbing, grading, and future maintenance for the road and power line ROW. The total acreage consists of 0.7 acres of wetland, 1.3 acres of red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Habitat Management Unit (HMU), and 0.7 acres of non-forested area. All 1.3 acres of RCW HMU will impact the foraging partition of RCW Cluster 70 (Figure 1). The RCW Matrix previously was run on Cluster 70, with 162.4 acres of foraging habitat meeting the Managed Stability Standard (MSS). The new total for Cluster 70 is 161.1 acres of foraging habitat, and it continues to meet the MSS (Table 1). A portion of the modified footprint will impact the foraging partition of Cluster 256, but this partition was accounted for in our BA, and we received an incidental take for this group in the BO. Fort Stewart 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 Cluster 70 RCWs 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.

Figure 1. Project design modification, RCW HMU, and RCW Cluster 70 foraging partition.

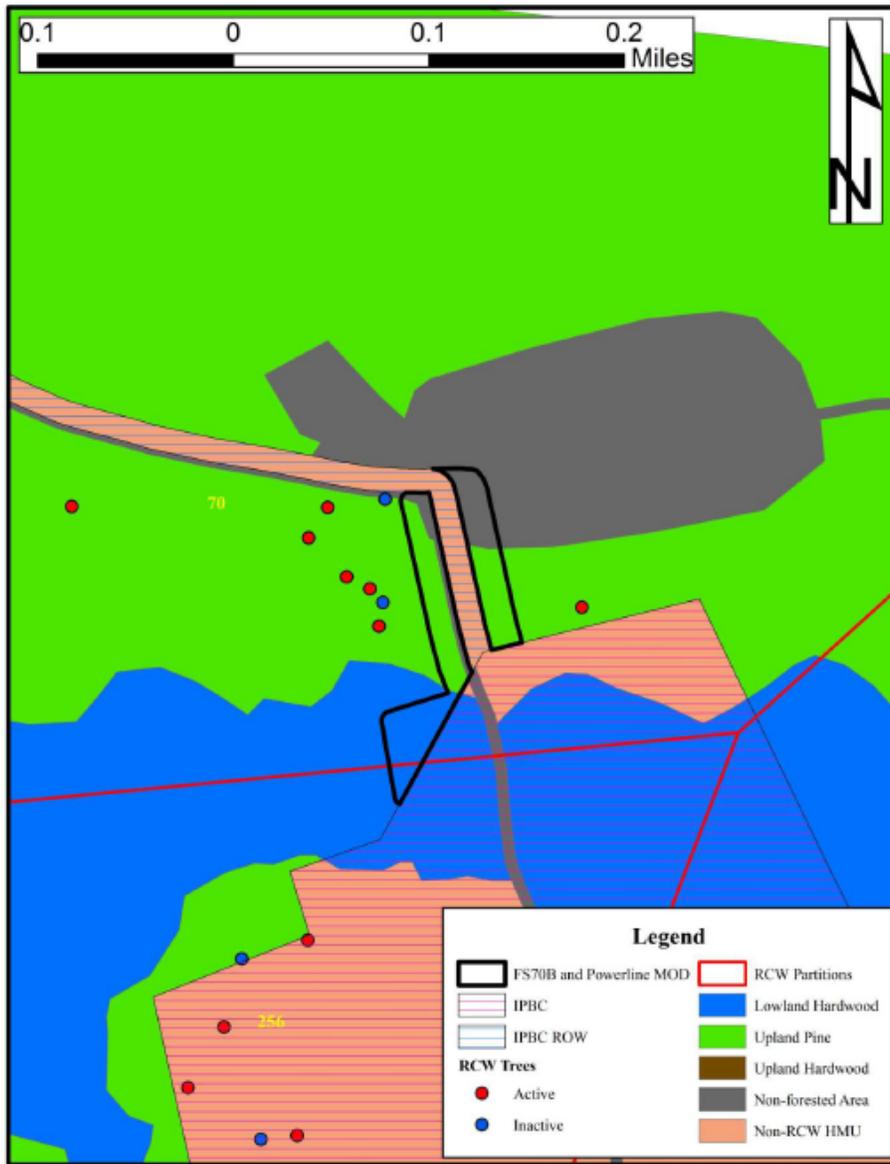


Table 1. Matrix table for Partition 70. Red text indicates that the stand did not pass the MSS.

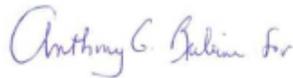
Original Analysis of Cluster 70 Foraging Partition  
Partition 70 - Stand Values (MSS) 04/01/2010

Stand ID	Age	PBA >10	PBA<10	Hdwd Midstory	Total BA	% Groundcover	Burn Interval	Burn Season	Total Acres
30111	75	40.10	17.40	2	59.40	19.00	4	1	162.4
30112	75	16.70	13.30	3	30.00	0.0	1	2	1.77

Analysis of Cluster 70 Foraging Partition with Modification  
Partition 70 - Stand Values (MSS) 12/17/2010

Stand ID	Age	PBA >10	PBA<10	Hdwd Midstory	Total BA	% Groundcover	Burn Interval	Burn Season	Total Acres
30111	75	40.10	17.40	2	59.40	19.00	4	1	161.1
30112	75	16.70	13.30	3	30.00	0.0	1	2	1.77

Sincerely,



Robert R. Baumgardt  
Director, Public Works

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Georgia State Historic Preservation Office**

#### **Consultation Record**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

March 4, 2011

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](mailto: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 construction and operation of the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In our opinion, the modifications to the project, specifically the addition of two areas (Areas A and B), will not change the previous effect finding. HPD agrees that the project as proposed will not affect 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](mailto:Elizabeth.shirk@dnr.state.ga.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Shirk".

Elizabeth (Betsy) Shirk  
Environmental Review Coordinator



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 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 reconsult with your office regarding minor changes to the construction and operation of the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) at Fort Stewart, Bryan County, Georgia. Previous consultation resulted in a determination of No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties (Reference# HP-091222-001).

Reconsultation is necessary because the project has been modified. The Army now proposes to use existing Tank Trail 70-B to access target and drop zone areas. In order to use the tank trail, the Army proposes to clear-cut, grub, grade, cover the surface with gravel, and establish a two-foot shoulder on either side of the trail. The majority of the tank trail (approximately 35 acres) would be located within the IPBC footprint, as previously consulted. However, two sections of the tank trail (Areas A and B, approximately 10 acres) are outside of the area of impact included in the previous consultation.

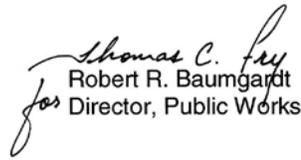
Areas A and B (Figure Nos. 1-4), located north and east of the IPBC range, respectively, have not been surveyed for cultural resources. These areas are off-limits to archaeological survey per the terms of the Programmatic Agreement with your office due to the elevated risk of encountering unexploded ordnance. Examination of the Installation's archaeological and architectural resource files showed that there are no known archaeological or architectural resources in the vicinity of Areas A and B. Examination of historic maps and aerial photographs of the project vicinity did not indicate a high potential for cultural resources being present. Furthermore, the majority of the proposed action is located along existing tank trails and therefore reduces the likelihood of encountering intact archaeological deposits that may be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on this information, the Army has determined that the proposed Tank Trail improvements would not adversely affect archaeological or architectural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP as defined in 36 CFR 800.

- 2 -

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 (Figure No. 4).

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, Cultural Resource Program Manager, at (912) 767-0992. Email correspondence may be directed to [brian.greer@us.army.mil](mailto:brian.greer@us.army.mil).

Sincerely,

  
for Robert R. Baumgardt  
Director, Public Works

Enclosure

*Note: enclosure is not included in order to comply with Archaeological Resources Protection Act and National Historic Preservation Act, in order to ensure protection of cultural resources sites.*

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Other Regulatory Coordination**



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

A.G. 'SPUD' WOODWARD  
DIRECTOR

June 3, 2011

Ms. Melissa B. Kendrick  
Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Division  
1587 Frank Cochran Drive  
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314

RE: Consistency Determination Concurrence for Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC)

Dear Ms. Kendrick:

Staff of the Coastal Management Program has reviewed your undated letter received April 7, 2011 with attached draft environmental assessment and findings of no significant impact. The proposed action is to include the construction and maintenance of Tank Trail 70-B within the Infantry Platoon Battle Course that received Corps of Engineers' Permit #2009-0084 and federal consistency certification concurrence September 30, 2010. The Trail will have no additional wetland impacts than were contemplated under that Corps permit.

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

- from Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Resources Division

**From:** [Franks, Amber E CIV USA](#)  
**To:** [Kendrick, Melissa B CIV USA IMCOM;](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FC - Fort Stewart Infantry Platoon Battle Course - Tank Trail70-B, Liberty County (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 7:35:29 AM

---

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

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

From: Lloyd, Robert L CTR US USA IMCOM  
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:05 PM  
To: 'Dale Caldwell'; Moore, Kelie  
Cc: Franks, Amber E CIV USA; Flynn, Kurt W Mr CIV USA IMCOM  
Subject: RE: FC - Fort Stewart Infantry Platoon Battle Course - Tank Trail70-B, Liberty County (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

Dale,

No - no change to the amount of wetland impacts from this tank trail construction.

Robert

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

From: Dale Caldwell [<mailto:Dale.Caldwell@dnr.state.ga.us>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:59 PM  
To: Lloyd, Robert L CTR US USA IMCOM; Moore, Kelie  
Subject: Re: FC - Fort Stewart Infantry Platoon Battle Course - Tank Trail70-B, Liberty County

Does this change the amount of wetland impacts?

>>> Kelie Moore 4/7/2011 2:04 pm >>>

I have received a federal consistency request (comments due May 5th) from the Department of the Army at Fort Stewart to construct Tank Trail 70-B improvements at the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC). The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the IPBC was published in September 2010, but did not include the footprint of two short segments (Areas A and B) of tank trail 70-B. Area A consists of 4.2 acres and

Area B consists of 6.6 acres. The remaining 35-acres of tank trail 70-B is within the 1,000-acre approved IPBC. Do you have any comments or questions?

Thank you.

Kelie Moore  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
& Coastal Resource Specialist  
DNR Coastal Resources Division  
912-264-7218

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

## Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., SE, Suite 1154, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000  
Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Environmental Protection Division  
F. Allen Barnes, Director  
Phone: 404/856-7802 FAX: 404/851-9425

May 5, 2011

BY E-MAIL

Ms. Melissa B. Kendrick  
Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works  
Environmental Division  
1587 Frank Cochran Drive  
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314

RE: Comments on the *Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) at Fort Stewart, GA*, received April 7, 2011

Dear Ms. Kendrick:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has completed its review of the above-referenced document and has the following comments:

Section 3.5.2 of the EA states, "Construction activities must comply with the IPBC UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) Avoidance Plan and contractors must utilize the expertise of the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) for UXO clearing activities, as discussed under Alternative I. If these procedures are followed, then only minor impacts are anticipated since the UXO presence would be eliminated." Please include as an attachment to the EA, a copy of the IPBC UXO Avoidance Plan, and a signed statement by the contractor that he/she has read the UXO Avoidance Plan and will follow the plan to protect human health and the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Amy Potter at (404) 656-2833.

Sincerely,



Jim Ussery, P.E.  
Assistant Director

File: Fort Stewart (R)

05/06/2011 08:41 PM 107001810

UED

05/06/2011



**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET**

**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Debbie Dlugolenski**  
Director

**GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS**

**TO:** Melissa Kendrick  
DPW-Environmental Div.  
Dept. of the Army

**FROM:** Barbara Jackson *BJ*  
Georgia State Clearinghouse

**DATE:** 5/6/2011

**PROJECT:** EA/Draft FONSI: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), Fort Stewart, GA

**STATE ID:** GA110411001

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 State level review of the above-referenced proposal has been completed, and the proposal found to be consistent with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), environmental impacts, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which the state is concerned.

/bj  
Enc.: Coastal RC of Georgia, May 6, 2011  
cc: Amber Franks

Form NCC  
Oct. 2008

Office: 404-656-3855

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Fax: 770-344-3568



GA Voicemail Fax

D Remote ID: R page of

GA110411001 Dept. of the Army - Fort Stewart, GA

CRC Analysis and Comments

**Coastal Regional Commission Clearinghouse Review of the Regional Plan for Coastal Georgia  
Adopted June 9, 2010**

Dept. of the Army - Fort Stewart, GA

EA/Draft FONSI: Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) Fort Stewart, GA  
Review By Chris Emmer, May 2, 2011 (Faxed)

**Project:** 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* (hereafter, Fort Stewart EIS). The Fort Stewart EIS analyzed the construction and operation of 12 training range and Garrison support projects planned for Fort Stewart between FYs 11-14. In September 2010, the Army published a Record of Decision (ROD), documenting the Army's decision to proceed with its preferred alternative, to construct at the Alternative B locations for each project analyzed.

One project analyzed in the Fort Stewart EIS was the Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), a small caliber range that supports infantry platoon live-fire, sub-caliber, and/or laser collective training of infantry platoons (mounted or dismounted) on tactical movement techniques. Following completion of the Fort Stewart EIS, a final design for the IPBC began based on the specific conditions associated the site ultimately selected in the ROD. During this process, the Army realized that existing Tank Trail 70-B was not suitable for consistent access to and throughout the range. Engineering analysis during the design process indicated that improvements to this trail are necessary to accommodate the increase in usage of the tank trail for access to the range by Soldiers in tactical vehicles, as well as for travel through the site for target maintenance.

**Regional Plan Compliance:**  
Future Development Pattern - Military Installations  
ARSA - Military Installations  
QCO - N/A

**Regional Plan Issues and Opportunities:**  
NR-1 Loss of environmentally sensitive and ecologically valuable resources.  
NR-3 Development within wetlands and floodplains impacts drainage patterns and property values.  
NR-18 Development in wetlands and the cumulative impact of filling wetlands for development.  
O-NR-6 Advance green space preservation through protection of wetlands and floodplains.

**Regional Plan Implementation: Stormwater Guiding Principles**  
1. Encourage development practices and sitings that do not significantly impact wetlands and habitat areas or allow for the preservation and conservation of wetlands and habitat areas through appropriate land use practices.

**Natural Resources Guiding Principles**  
1. Promote the protection, restoration, enhancement and management of natural resources.  
3. Protect and enhance Coastal Georgia's water resources, including surface water, groundwater, and wetlands and ground water recharge areas.  
5. Commit to investing in the protection of natural resources before any restoration and/or remediation is needed.  
6. Encourage the restoration and protection of wetlands to provide flooding, storm and habitat protection.

**Performance Standard - 1 point**  
1. Develop a comprehensive assessment and resource management plan which includes an inventory of significant natural resources and viewsheds. This inventory should assess resource significance, with Regionally Important Resources ranked as most significant.

**Regional Growth Guiding Principles**  
3. Protect our military installations from land use changes that jeopardize their mission through creation or implementation of Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS).

**Comments:**  
The US Military is a regional leader as an example of sustainable development through the protection and management of natural and cultural/historic resources while maintaining and expanding its vital mission. Small area (less than 20 acres) of possible impacts related to improvements of an existing tank trail located on Fort Stewart. The potential environmental and cultural impacts are minimal. Regional Plan supports continued missions of the military installations located within the Region.

Source: The Regional Plan of Coastal Georgia; Adopted June 9, 2010;  
[http://www.crc.ga.gov/planning/docs/Final\\_Agenda\\_Adopted\\_060910.pdf](http://www.crc.ga.gov/planning/docs/Final_Agenda_Adopted_060910.pdf)

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 06 2011  
GEORGIA  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
SAM NUNN  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303-8960

May 2, 2011

Mr. Robert R. Baumgardt, Director  
Directorate of Public Works  
Prevention and Compliance Branch  
Environmental Division  
1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Building 1137  
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4928

Subject: Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Tank Trail 70-B Improvements at Infantry Platoon Battle course (IPBC), Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Baumgardt:

Consistent with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the referenced project. The Army proposes to upgrade and improve Tank Trail 70-B to accommodate its increased use by military and maintenance vehicles associated with IPBC training and maintenance. This action includes clear-cutting vegetation on site, grubbing and grading the road surface until level, covering the road surface with gravel, and establishing a two-foot shoulder on each side of the road.

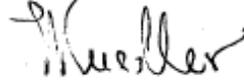
It is our understanding that this EA tiers off the Ft Stewart, GA Final *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation, Fort Stewart, Georgia*; (FEIS). EPA comments made during the FEIS review process will also apply to this EA and DFONSI as well.

EPA Region 4 has the following environmental comments:

We recommend that the necessary additional construction activities minimize sediment runoff, turbidity, and impacts to aquatic life through use of well-designed and implemented construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). The construction plans should include implementable measures to prevent erosion and minimize turbidity at the project site(s) and affected wetlands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the proposed EA. Should you have questions, feel free to coordinate with Larry O Gissentanna, of my staff at 404-562-8248 or at [gissentanna.larry@epa.gov](mailto:gissentanna.larry@epa.gov)

Sincerely,



Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Policy and Management

## **Appendix E**

### **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):

Apr. 6, 2011



*S. Marshall Griffin*  
PUBLISHER

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This 6 day of Apr. 2011



Notary Public



December 6, 2011

Commission expires

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION  
SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Personally appeared before me, Alaina Fincher, to me known, who being sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Obituary/Legal Clerk for Southeastern Newspaper Corporation, a Georgia corporation, doing business in Chatham County, GA, under the trade name of Savannah Morning News, a daily newspaper published in said county;

That he is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of said published corporation;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in said county and in the area adjacent thereto;

That he has reviewed the regular editions of the Savannah Morning News, published on:

April 6, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_, 2011,

\_\_\_\_\_, 2011, \_\_\_\_\_, 2011,  
and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

Appeared in each of said editions.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 6 day of April 2011

Alaina Fincher  
(Deponent)

Eugene J. Cronk  
Notary Public, Chatham County, Ga.

EUGENE J. CRONK  
Notary Public, Chatham County, GA  
My Commission Expire January 25, 2014