



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE FORCES RESERVE
2000 OPELOUSAS AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA 70114-1500

IN REPLY REFER TO

11000

FAC

11 January 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT MARINE CORPS RESERVE
CENTER (MCRC) BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

Ref: (a) MCO P5090.2 "Environmental Compliance and Protection"

1. Introduction. Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Environmental Compliance and Protection Program (Marine Corps Order 5090.2 dated June 18, 2018), the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for infrastructure improvements at MCRC Brooklyn, New York.

2. Proposed Action. The SEA evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with additional infrastructure improvements at MCRC Brooklyn supplemental to modernization and infrastructure improvements analyzed in a previous 2016 Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Reserve Center. The Proposed Action in the SEA would supplement ongoing infrastructure improvements at MCRC Brooklyn with the construction of an additional privately owned vehicle (POV) parking lot, construction of a new west gate, replacement of the east and north gates, installation of a new fire suppression facility, installation of fiber optic communication service to the MCRC, upgrade of property boundary fencing, and stormwater drainage improvements. The SEA analyzes the potential for significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.

3. Purpose and Need. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to further optimize installation management and reservist training through the improvement of MARFORRES infrastructure at MCRC Brooklyn. The Proposed Action is needed to improve long-term sustainable unit readiness through coordinated training and to prepare for future mission requirements. To complete training requirements, the facilities, utilities, and assets on MCRC Brooklyn require ongoing maintenance and utilities upgrades. Infrastructure on the Reserve Center is aging and requires capital investment to address deficiencies in the buildings and meet current and future mission requirements.

Upon relocation of staff and equipment from MCRC Garden City and Air Force Reserve Center Farmingdale to MCRC Brooklyn starting in 2017, the need for additional infrastructure improvements was required to further support this realignment identified

Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER (MCRC) BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

the 2016 MCRC Brooklyn EA and improve the ability of the Reserve Center to meet mission requirements.

4. No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, operations at MCRC Brooklyn would continue without the additional infrastructure projects to support MARFORRES mission activities. Reservists would continue to use the existing Reserve Center parking and continue to experience parking shortages during drill weekends. Training activities at MCRC Brooklyn would continue to be inefficient because of delays getting onto the site. Inadequate fiber optic capacity, excessive traffic queuing during drill weekends and inadequate parking availability, and insufficient stormwater drainage capacity and repairs would result in long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts on communications, transportation, and stormwater, respectively.

5. Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action. The following environmental resources, which could be impacted by the Proposed Action, were analyzed in the SEA: land use and recreation, coastal zone management, infrastructure, noise, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and cumulative impacts.

For each resource area analyzed, the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action are summarized as follows:

6. Land Use and Recreation. Short-term, negligible to minor, direct, adverse impacts on land use and recreation would be expected from construction activities. Safety measures put in place to limit access to certain locations at MCRC Brooklyn or cause different traffic routes to be taken on the installation to avoid construction sites could temporarily impact land use and recreation. Long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on recreation would be expected as a result of improved access to Floyd Bennett Field during drill weekends and improved traffic flow along Aviation Road during daily operations at MCRC Brooklyn.

7. Coastal Zone Management. Construction activities and an increase in impervious surfaces could result in short- and long-term, negligible, adverse impacts on coastal resources. The net change in impervious surfaces is relatively small. Infiltration basins would be included as part of the POV lot and east gate projects and an approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan would be developed before starting any construction and infrastructure improvements to minimize impacts on state coastal resources. The New York State Department of State concurred with MARFORRES' Negative Determination of impacts on the coastal zone.

8. Infrastructure. Short- and long-term, negligible to minor, adverse and long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on infrastructure would be expected. Temporary service disruptions would occur during construction and repair activities. The new fire suppression facility could place a higher demand on the water supply. Increased stormwater runoff would be expected from construction activities and the addition of impervious surfaces. Stormwater improvements would reduce stormwater runoff in the

Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER (MCRC) BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

long-term. Installation of the fiber optic line would result in improved communications connectivity and capacity. Solid waste generation would occur as a result of construction and repair activities.

Short-term, negligible, direct, adverse impacts on transportation and National Park Service property would occur as a result of accessibility limitations during construction activities and gate upgrades. Long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on transportation would occur as a result of the addition of the west gate and improvements of the east and north gates and additional parking with the construction of the new POV lot.

9. Noise. Short-term, negligible to minor, adverse impacts on the ambient noise environment and National Park Service ranger housing would be expected as a result of construction and traffic-related noise.

10. Air Quality. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on air quality would be expected as a result of emissions from construction and repair activities.

11. Geological Resources. Short- and long-term, negligible, adverse impacts could occur as a result of ground disturbance, soil erosion and compaction, and topographic changes from construction and repair activities and the addition of impervious surfaces.

12. Water Resources. Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts on groundwater and surface water would be expected as a result of decreased infiltration and increased stormwater runoff from the addition of impervious surfaces. Long-term, moderate, adverse impacts on floodplains would occur as a result of construction of the POV lot within the 100-year floodplain. Improved stormwater management controls and adherence to the stormwater sizing criteria outlined in the *New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual* would reduce existing ponding, potential runoff and erosion, and overbank flooding. Environmental protection measures, such as permeable pavement, rain gardens, or bioswales, could be implemented to further minimize adverse impacts on floodplains.

13. Biological Resources. Short- and long-term, negligible to moderate, direct and indirect, adverse impacts would be expected as a result of temporary and permanent loss of natural vegetation communities and associated wildlife habitat from construction activities and the permanent conversion to impervious surfaces and the addition of POV lot lighting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with a no effect finding for listed species. Although unlikely, if any special status species were discovered within the project area, it would be protected from disturbance to the greatest extent practicable and the appropriate agency would be notified upon discovery to determine the further appropriate course of action.

14. Cultural Resources. Impacts on cultural resources would range from no impacts to long-term, minor, direct, adverse impacts from the Proposed Action. MCRC Brooklyn does not contain archaeological sites and the potential for buried archaeological deposits is very low. Ground disturbance associated with the Fiber Optic Communication Services

Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS AT MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER (MCRC)
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

would be monitored by an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archeology. Should archeological deposits be discovered during ground-disturbing activities, construction would be immediately halted and the location secured and protected from further disturbance. No adverse effect on archaeological and historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act would be expected. Long-term, negligible to minor, direct, adverse impacts on visual resources under NEPA would be expected from the construction of the fire suppression facility and the addition of fencing, lighting in the POV lot, and construction and use of the west gate within the viewshed of the Floyd Bennett Field Historic District and Jacob Riis Park. The New York State Historic Preservation Office concurred with a determination of No Adverse Effect on historic properties.

15. Cumulative Impacts. Short- and long-term, negligible to minor, cumulative impacts would be expected from the Proposed Action when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

16. Finding. Although implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term impacts on some environmental resources, they would not be significant. Therefore, it is determined that the analyses in the SEA support a FONSI. Accordingly, the requirements of NEPA (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.); CEQ NEPA regulations; Navy Regulations for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR § 775); and MCO 5090.2 have been fulfilled. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

17. Coordination. The SEA addressing this action is on file and interested parties may obtain a copy from: Mr. Christopher Hurst, NEPA Program Manager, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, 2000 Opelousas Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70114, or by email at Christopher.A.Hurst@usmc.mil. MARFORRES made the Draft SEA and FONSI available for 30 days on its web site. Comments were received and considered in the completion of the Final EA.

T. G. MILLER
A C/S Facilities

Copy to:
Ron Lamb, USMC Headquarters
Anderson Thomas, MARFORRES Deputy Counsel
Richard Godchaux, MARFORRES Environmental Program Manager