MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR CONTINUED U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE (MARFORRES) TRAINING OPERATIONS AT CAMP TEUNISSEN, COLEMAN, WISCONSIN

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 11, 2018), the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that an environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required for continued U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) training operations at Camp Teunissen, Coleman, Wisconsin.

2. Proposed Action. The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the continuation of training operations for USMC reservists under a lease renewal for property at Camp Teunissen. The EA 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 provide MARFORRES units with access to a training area proximal to the Navy Operations Support Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to conduct training activities. The Proposed Action is needed to allow reservists to complete current USMC individual and/or unit level operational readiness training requirements. Camp Teunissen currently allows MARFORRES to achieve training requirements and offers MARFORRES autonomy as a dedicated site for its training.

4. No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, MARFORRES would not renew the property lease with the land owner to continue using the property. As a result, training operations at Camp Teunissen would cease. Long-term, negligible beneficial impacts could occur as a result of cessation of training-associated ground disturbance, noise, and air emissions. However, MARFORRES would have to identify another location for training activities in northern Wisconsin, and in the meantime would not meet training and mission requirements, resulting in adverse impacts.

5. Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action. The following environmental resources, which could be impacted by the Proposed Action, were analyzed in the EA: land use, biological resources, geological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, and cumulative impacts. For each resource area analyzed, the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action are summarized as follows:
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6. Land Use. The Proposed Action would not impact land use, transportation, or coastal resources. The training operations would be compatible with existing land uses and land use planning. Training operations would not impede or occur during landowner recreational activities at the time of hunting season, typically in November. No changes to traffic volume or patterns would occur. Additionally, the Proposed Action would be conducted in accordance with applicable coastal zone management and protection laws, regulations, and policies.

7. Biological Resources. Impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and rare, threatened, and endangered species would be negligible to minor over the long term. Intermittent removal of vegetation would occur during training activities, such as for berm creation. Intermittent disturbances of wildlife from training-related noise would be expected. 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. Potential habitat exists for several state-listed threatened, endangered, or species of special concern on the property. Training would be avoided in the northwestern portion of the property where potential habitat exists for the ram’s head lady’s slipper. The potential exists for northern long-eared bats to occur in the project area, but the property is over 0.25 mile away from any known bat hibernacula and over 150 feet from any known maternity roost tree. Therefore, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified that no restrictions on tree removal or other proposed activities are required. Ground disturbing activities would occur over 600 feet from Messenger Creek, avoiding impacts on the least darter. If any ground disturbance were to occur within 300 feet of the creek, sediment and erosion control prevention measures would be implemented to minimize or avoid impacts as recommended by WIDNR.

8. Geological Resources. Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts would result from soil disturbance and limited grading during training activities, such as berm creation and dismantling. Prime farmland soils are present on Camp Teunissen, and the property has been used for agriculture in the past. MARFORRES is leasing the site from a private landowner who is electing not to actively use the property for agricultural uses.

9. Cultural Resources. No impacts on cultural resources would occur because no cultural resources were identified during the Phase I archaeological survey, and no historic resources are on or near the property. If archaeological deposits were discovered during ground-disturbing activities, training activities would immediately be halted and MARFORRES environmental staff would be notified for further action.

10. Air Quality. Temporary, intermittent, negligible emissions produced during training would occur. Use of best management practices would continue to avoid or minimize impacts on air quality, including regular maintenance of vehicles and construction equipment according to manufacturer’s specifications and use of diesel particulate filters to ensure good operating conditions.

11. Noise. Long-term, intermittent, negligible noise impacts would be expected during training activities.
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12. Cumulative Impacts. 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 at or near Camp Teunissen because no additional current or future projects have been identified in the area. Cumulative impacts would not be considered significant.

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

14. Coordination. The EA 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 has made the EA and FONSI available for a limited time on the following web site:

http://www.marforres.marines.mil/GeneralSpecialStaff/Facilities.aspx

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