

Draft

Environmental Assessment

**For the Implementation of the Integrated Natural Resources
Management Plan**

At

**U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Centers Jacksonville, FL; Clinton, PA;
Syracuse, NY; Galveston, TX; Battle Creek, MI; Tampa, FL; and
Brooklyn, NY**

September 2023



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Abstract

Designation: Environmental Assessment

Title of Proposed Action: Implementation of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at Marine Corps Reserve Centers Jacksonville, FL; Clinton, PA; Syracuse, NY; Galveston, TX; Battle Creek, MI; Tampa, FL; and Brooklyn, NY

Project Locations: U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Centers Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn

Lead Agency for the EA: U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve

Cooperating Agency: None

Affected Regions: Duval County, FL; Beaver County, PA; Onondaga County, NY; Galveston County, TX; Calhoun County, MI; Hillsborough County, FL; and Kings County, NY

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Date: September 2023

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve has prepared this Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality, and U.S. Department of the Navy and Marine Corps regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The Proposed Action is to implement the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at Marine Corps Reserve Centers Jacksonville, FL; Clinton, PA; Syracuse, NY; Galveston, TX; Battle Creek, MI; Tampa, FL; and Brooklyn, NY (hereinafter referred to by location). This Environmental Assessment evaluates, or provides rational for not analyzing in detail, the potential environmental impacts associated with one action alternative, the Proposed Action, and the No Action Alternative, to the following resource areas: air quality; coastal zone management; geologic resources; prime or unique farmland; cultural resources; visual effects, aesthetics and land use; airspace; noise; infrastructure; transportation; health and safety; hazardous materials and waste; socioeconomics; environmental justice; biological resources; and water resources.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the environmental effects of implementing the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at Jacksonville, Florida; Clinton, Pennsylvania; Syracuse, New York; Galveston, Texas; Battle Creek, Michigan; Tampa, Florida; and Brooklyn, New York. The 2023–2027 INRMP is pending completion in 2023 and would remain in effect indefinitely with annual updates and formal reviews every five years.

In developing the INRMP as required by the Sikes Act (16 United States Code (USC) Section 670 *et seq.*), as amended and Department of Defense Instruction 4715.03, Change 2, *Natural Resources Conservation Program*, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) prepared the INRMP in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As such, the INRMP reflects the mutual agreement of these parties concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources on the locations covered by the plan.

This EA analyzes the potential for significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. This EA has been developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC] Section 4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508); Department of Navy (Navy) regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR Parts 775); and Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5090.2, Volume 12.

ES.2 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure compliance with Section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Sikes Act, which requires each installation in the United States to prepare and implement an INRMP unless it is determined there are no significant natural resources on a particular installation.

Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) sites in Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn all require implementation of this INRMP to document each site's natural resources, goals, objectives, and management practices.

ES.3 Alternatives Carried Forward for Analysis

One action alternative, the Proposed Action, and the No Action Alternative were considered.

Under the No Action Alternative, the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would not be implemented. Outdated management activities identified in the INRMPs for Jacksonville (last updated in 2005) and Syracuse (last updated in 2011) would remain in effect. In addition, Clinton LTA, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn would each continue to operate without an INRMP. This alternative would not meet Section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Sikes Act which requires each installation in the United States to prepare and implement an INRMP.

Although the No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative is carried forward in this EA to provide a benchmark analysis. The No Action Alternative will be used to analyze the consequences of not undertaking the Proposed Action, not simply

to reach a conclusion of no environmental impact and will serve to establish a comparative baseline for analysis.

Under the Proposed Action, the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP for Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn would be implemented which would fully meet the requirements of the Sikes Act. Per the Sikes Act, the goal of the INRMP is to implement an ecosystem-based conservation program that provides for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission.

ES.4 Summary of Environmental Resources Evaluated in the EA

The MARFORRES EA provides analyses of the potential environmental consequences resulting from implementing the Proposed Action. The EA did not analyze in detail the following resource areas because there would be either no or minor impacts: air quality; coastal zone management; geologic resources; prime or unique farmland; cultural resources; visual effects, aesthetics, and land use; airspace; noise; infrastructure; transportation; health and safety; hazardous materials and waste; socioeconomics; and environmental justice. However, the EA analyzes the detailed impacts to biological resources and water resources.

ES.5 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences of the Action Alternatives

Table ES-1 provides a tabular summary of the potential effects to the resources associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives.

ES.6 Public Involvement

In accordance with CEQ regulations and the Sikes Act, as amended, the Pre-Final Draft INRMP, Draft EA, and Draft FONSI were made available for public review. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published for three consecutive days in the Tampa Bay Times, The Post-Standard (Syracuse), The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Battle Creek Enquirer, The Houston Chronicle, The Florida Times Union (Jacksonville), and The Brooklyn Eagle. The NOA described the Proposed Action, solicited public comments on the draft documents, provided dates for the public comment period, and made the draft documents available for public review. The Pre-Final Draft INRMP and Draft EA were also made available for public review on the MARFORRES website at <https://www.marforres.marines.mil/Staff-Sections/General-Staff/G-F-Facilities/Environmental-Energy/>. All agency and public comments received will be evaluated and addressed before a final decision is made and NOA published for the Final FONSI.

Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Impacts to Resource Areas

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
Air Quality	There would be no change to baseline air quality emissions.	The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of eight surveys at Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven surveys at Syracuse, two surveys at Galveston, four surveys at Battle Creek, and three surveys at Tampa over a 5-year period. As a result of these surveys, there would be minor temporary impacts to air quality as the result of fugitive dust and vehicle-related emissions.
Coastal Zone Management	There would be no change to coastal uses and resources.	Clinton LTA, Syracuse, and Battle Creek are not located within the CZMA boundary, and there would be no effect to coastal uses or resources. There would be minor or <i>de minimis</i> beneficial effects on coastal uses and resources in the Florida, Texas, or New York coastal zones. The Proposed Action consists of environmentally beneficial surveys and management strategies meant to identify and preserve natural resource areas at Jacksonville, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn.
Geologic Resources	There would be no change to geology, topography, or soils.	There would be no change to geology, topography, or soils.
Prime or Unique Farmland	There would be no change to prime or unique farmlands.	None of the installations have soils classified as prime or unique farmlands except for Syracuse. The Proposed Action does not involve the conversion of those soils to non-agricultural use.
Cultural Resources	There would be no change to baseline cultural resources.	There would be no impact to cultural resources at Syracuse, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn, and no significant impacts to cultural resources at Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, and Battle Creek. Should cultural discoveries occur during a wetland delineation, civilian contractors will cease any potentially damaging activities upon discovery of cultural items, to include human remains and archaeological resources, and notify installation personnel immediately.
Land Use, Aesthetics, and Visual Impacts	No effect.	No effect.
Airspace	No effect.	No effect.
Noise	There would be no change to baseline noise conditions.	All work would be conducted during normal business hours; therefore, short-term minor noise impacts would occur as a result of survey efforts and any management strategies.
Infrastructure	No effect.	No effect.
Transportation	There would be no change to baseline transportation conditions.	The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of eight surveys at Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven projects at Syracuse, two surveys at Galveston, four surveys at Battle Creek, and three surveys at Tampa as well as management

Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Impacts to Resource Areas

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
		strategies over a 5-year period. As a result of these surveys, there would be minor temporary impacts to transportation resources.
Health and Safety	There would be no change to baseline health and safety conditions.	The civilian contractors performing surveys will be required to prepare and implement a site specific health and safety plan to document compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations including, but not limited to, management commitment and employee involvement, site characterization and job hazard analysis, hazard prevention and control, safety and health training, personal protective equipment, medical surveillance, exposure monitoring, emergency response, and recordkeeping and program evaluation. Therefore, negligible impacts to health and safety are anticipated.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	No effect.	No effect.
Socioeconomics	There would be no change to baseline socioeconomic conditions.	There would be a short-term generation of employment and income from civilian contractors performing surveys; however, overall beneficial impacts to the local economies would be negligible.
Environmental Justice	No effect.	No effect.
Biological Resources	MARFORRES would not be compliant with the Sikes Act and significant impacts would occur from not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.	The proposed surveys would result in short-term minor impacts associated with trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creating fugitive dust. However, the proposed projects and management strategies would result in long-term beneficial impacts.
Water Resources	MARFORRES would not be compliant with the Sikes Act and significant impacts would occur from not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.	Identifying, delineating, and mapping wetlands and waterbodies will provide the data necessary to properly manage wetlands at Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, and Battle Creek; therefore, long-term beneficial impacts would occur at these three installations. In addition, the proposed management strategies would result in long-term beneficial impacts to all installations.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DODINST	Department of Defense Instruction
EA	Environmental Assessment
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
km	kilometer(s)
km ²	square kilometer(s)
LTA	Local Training Area
m ²	square meter(s)
MARFORRES	Marine Corps Forces Reserve
MCO	Marine Corps Order
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ROI	Region of Influence
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

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1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

This EA evaluates the environmental effects from the implementation of the INRMP at Marine Forces Reserve sites Jacksonville, Florida; Clinton, Pennsylvania; Syracuse, New York; Galveston, Texas; Battle Creek, Michigan; Tampa, Florida; and Brooklyn, New York. The 2023–2027 INRMP is pending completion in 2023 and would remain in effect indefinitely with annual updates and formal reviews every five years.

In developing the INRMP as required by the Sikes Act (16 United States Code (USC) Section 670 et seq.), as amended and Department of Defense Instruction (DODINST) 4715.03, Change 2, Natural Resources Conservation Program, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) prepared the INRMP in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As such, the INRMP reflects the mutual agreement of these parties concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources on the seven sites.

This EA analyzes the potential for significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. This EA has been developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC) Section 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508); Department of Navy (Navy) regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR Parts 775); and Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5090.2, Volume 12.

1.2 Location

The Proposed Action would be implemented at Marine Forces Reserve Centers in Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn.

1.2.1 Marine Corps Reserve Center Jacksonville

Marine Forces Reserve Jacksonville site is located in Duval County, Florida and is situated on 110.5 acres (0.45 square kilometers [km²]) of Marine Corps owned land (Figure 1-1). The Center is bordered by Drummond Creek to the north, the St. John's River to the southeast, the U.S. Navy Fuel Depot to the southwest, and a recycling center to the west. Primary land uses on the site include administrative, institutional (for storage and repair of Amphibious Assault Vehicles), and training (vehicle land course within forested habitat). This site last had a compliant INRMP in 2005.

1.2.2 Clinton Local Training Area

The Clinton Local Training Area (LTA) is located in Beaver County, Pennsylvania (Figure 1-2). It is situated approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometers [km]) northwest of the Pittsburgh International Airport in a rural area characterized by agriculture, residential homes, and woodlands. The LTA consists of 191.2 acres (0.77 km²) of Marine Corps owned land. The site is predominately undeveloped, except for a 2-acre (8,093.7-square meters [m²]) area near the property's entrance that contains a covered firing range, support building, and parking lot. In addition, at the approximate center of the property, there is a separately fenced training area with two bunker buildings, a nuclear, biological, and chemical chamber, as well as a latrine building.

1.2.3 Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse

Marine Forces Reserve Syracuse site is located in Onondaga County, New York within a commercial and industrial area approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) from downtown Syracuse (Figure 1-3). The 263-acre (1.1-km²) property is bounded to the north by Syracuse Hancock International Airport, to the east by Town Line Road, to the south by New York State Thruway 90, and to the west by several local streets. The property is owned by MARFORRES. The Marine Corps leases part of this property to the U.S. Army Reserves.

The Center is bisected by East Molloy Road, which divides the property into north and south sectors. The north sector is 111 acres (0.45 km²) and the south sector is 152 acres (0.62 km²). Adjacent to the northwest corner of the Center is a 43-acre (0.2-km²) city park, which once was part of the property. This portion of land was donated to the city of Syracuse for recreational use, and currently contains ball fields and a gazebo. An INRMP was developed for this Installation in 2005 which was updated in 2011.

1.2.4 Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston

Marine Forces Reserve Center Galveston site is situated at the northeastern terminus of Texas State Highway 187 at the northeastern tip of Galveston Island, Texas (Figure 1-4). A United States Coast Guard station is located to the southwest and a United States Army Corps of Engineers dredged material disposal site, named the San Jacinto Disposal Area, borders the property to the south and east. The Center occupies approximately 45 acres (0.2 km²) of Marine Corps-owned land and comprises two buildings used for administration and training, parking lots for privately-owned and tactical vehicles, a splash ramp, and an outdoor land training course. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast has a permit from the Department of the Army to conduct maneuver training on the San Jacinto Disposal Area; an additional 68-acre (0.28-km²) parcel adjacent to the Center property.

1.2.5 Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek

Marine Forces Reserve Battle Creek site is located within Calhoun County, Michigan (Figure 1-5). The Center is approximately 166 acres (0.7 km²) of which 35 acres (0.1 km²) are owned by the Marine Corps and 131 acres (0.5 km²) are leased from the City of Battle Creek. The northern section of the site (north of Base Avenue) is primarily developed with limited natural resources whereas the southern section (south of Base Avenue) consists of forested and wetland habitats including a 14-acre (0.06 km²) man-made freshwater pond. This site is located approximately 0.75 miles (1.2 km) northeast of W. K. Kellogg Airport.

1.2.6 Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa

Marine Forces Reserve Tampa site is located in Hillsborough County, Florida (Figure 1-6). It is situated on the Interbay Peninsula on the eastern approach to the Gandy Bridge, which connects the Interbay and Pinellas peninsulas across Old Tampa Bay. The site is 19.8 acres (0.1 km²) in size and is on leased property from the Florida Department of Transportation. The site includes 22 buildings and structures, concrete and asphalt-paved parking areas, and concrete sidewalks. There is also approximately 6 acres (0.02 km²) of undeveloped land on the east side of the facility that is used for Amphibious Assault Vehicles maneuver training.

1.2.7 Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn

Marine Forces Reserve Brooklyn site is located on the north shore of Rockaway Inlet near the west end of Jamaica Bay in the borough of Brooklyn, New York (Figure 1-7). The site is located on Marine Corps

owned land and is associated with Floyd Bennett Field; an urban national park governed by the U.S. National Park Service. The property is approximately 70 acres (0.3 km²) in size and largely consists of developed land but also contains some naturally vegetated areas.

1.3 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure compliance with Section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Sikes Act, which requires each installation in the United States prepare and implement an INRMP unless it is determined there are no significant natural resources on a particular installation.

Marine Forces Reserve site in Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn need to implement the MARFORRES INRMP to document the respective site's natural resources, goals, objectives, and management practices.

1.4 Decision to Be Made

The decision to be made is the selection of an alternative for MARFORRES with regards to the Proposed Action. The decision options include the following:

- continuing current operations (No Action Alternative),
- implementing the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (Proposed Action) and preparing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) if appropriate, or
- preparing an Environmental Impact Statement if the Proposed Action would result in significant environmental impacts.

1.5 Scope of Environmental Analysis

This EA identifies, documents, and evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. The environmental resources analyzed, or rationale provided for not analyzing certain resources in detail, in this EA include air quality; coastal zone management; geologic resources; prime or unique farmland; cultural resources; visual impacts, aesthetics, and land use; airspace; noise; infrastructure; transportation; health and safety; hazardous materials and waste; socioeconomics; environmental justice; biological resources; and water resources.

1.6 Key Documents Incorporated by Reference

The 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP for Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn is hereby incorporated by reference (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

1.7 Public and Agency Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination

In accordance with the Sikes Act, DODINST 4715.03, and MCO 5090.2, the USFWS and appropriate state fish and wildlife agencies are required to review each INRMP for operation and effect on a regular basis, but no less often than every five years, to determine whether it is implemented pursuant to the Sikes Act and contributes to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. The 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP is pending completion in 2023 and, at a minimum, would be formally reviewed every five years or updated sooner if major changes at any of the seven sites it covers occurred which would substantially affect natural wildlife management.

1 The Pre-Final Public Draft INRMP and Draft EA will be made available for public review; a Notice of
2 Availability (NOA) will be published for three consecutive days in the Tampa Bay Times, The Post-
3 Standard (Syracuse), The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Battle Creek Enquirer, The Houston Chronicle, The
4 Florida Times Union (Jacksonville), and The Brooklyn Eagle. The NOA describes the Proposed Action,
5 solicits public comments on the draft documents, provides dates for the public comment period, and
6 announces the draft documents are available for public review. The Pre-Final Draft INRMP and Draft EA,
7 will also be available for public review on the MARFORRES website at
8 <https://www.marforres.marines.mil/Staff-Sections/General-Staff/G-F-Facilities/Environmental-Energy/>.



Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

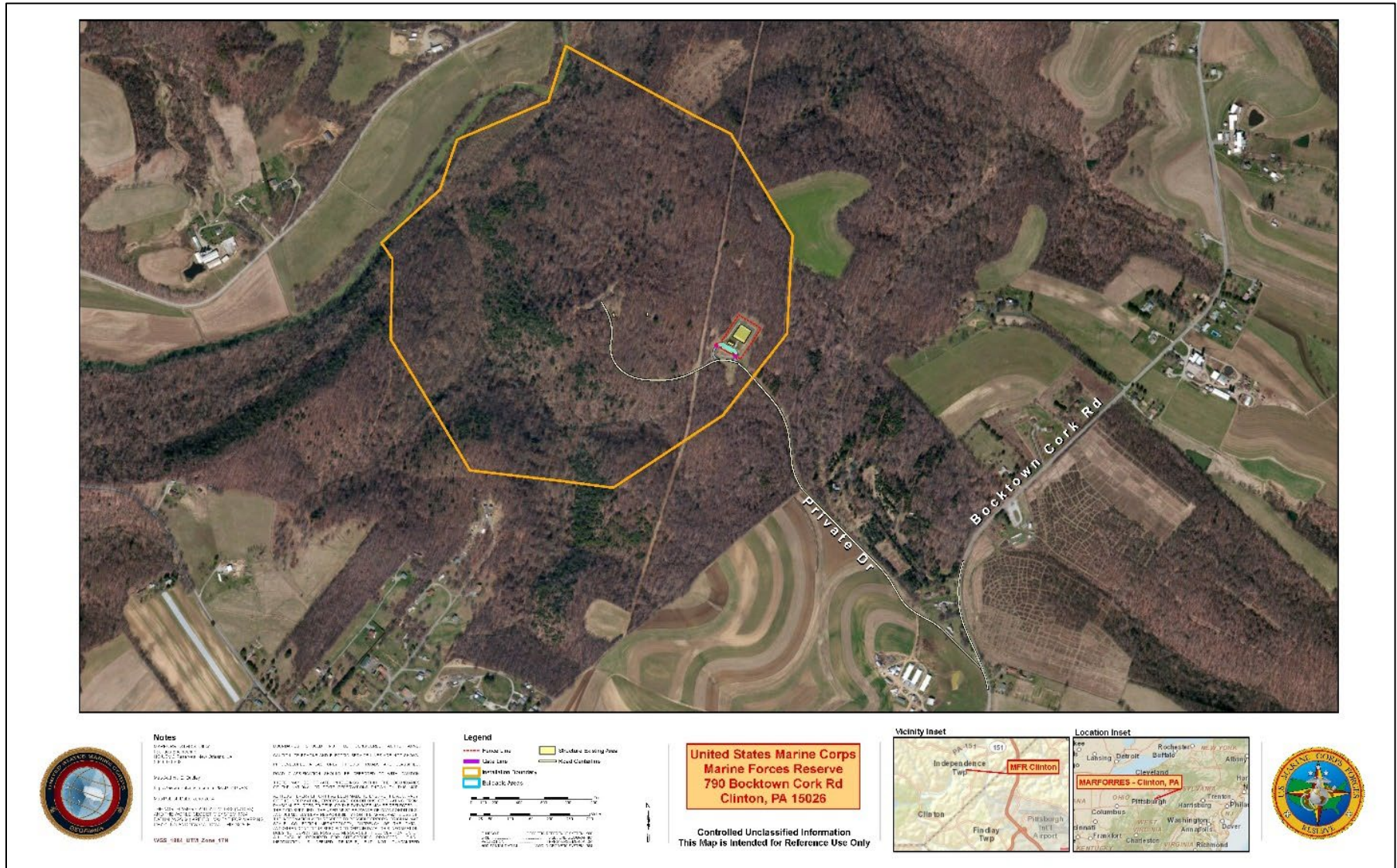


Figure 1-2. Clinton Local Training Area Site Location Map

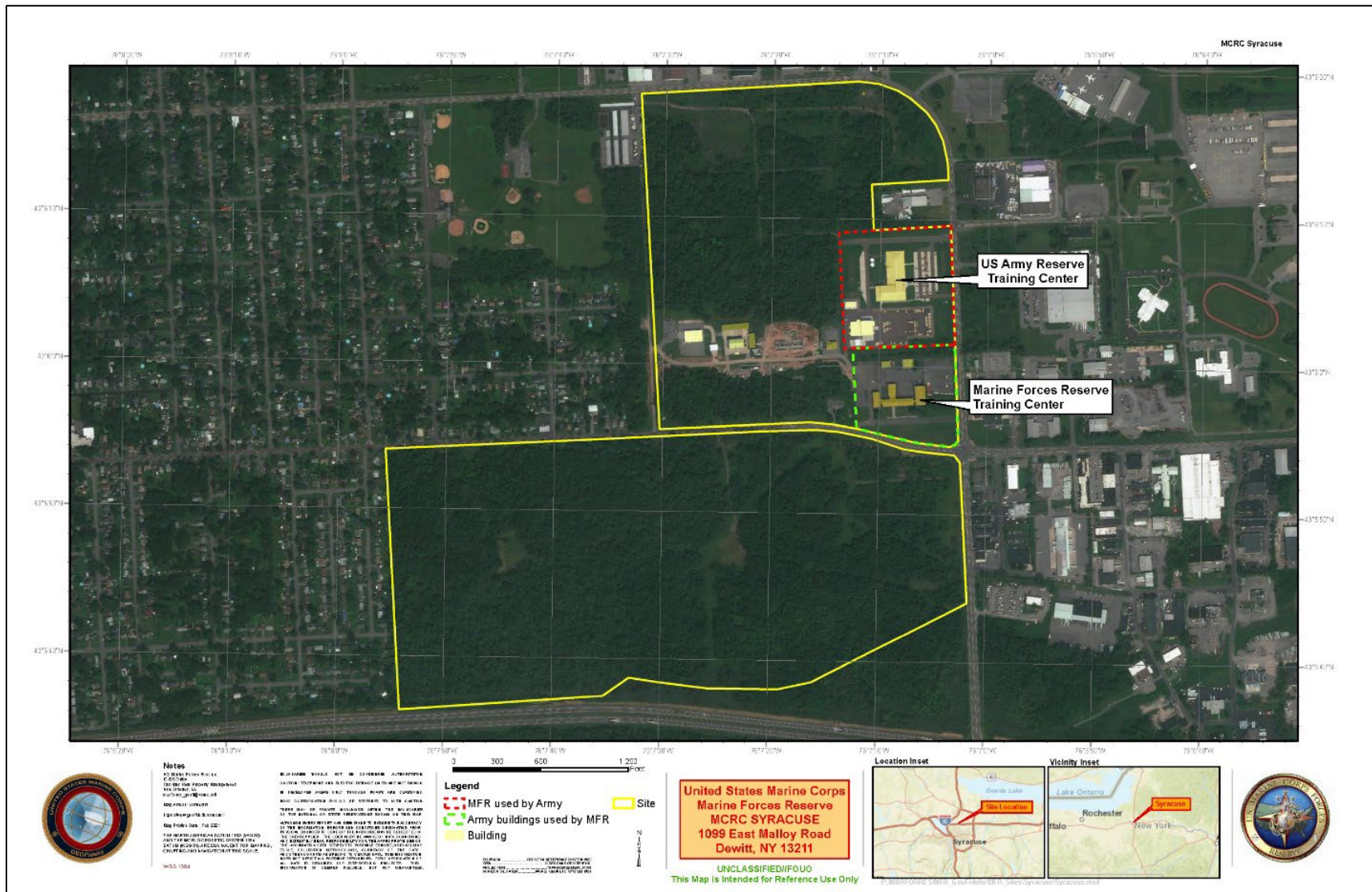


Figure 1-3. Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse Site Location Map



Figure 1-4. Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston Site Location Map

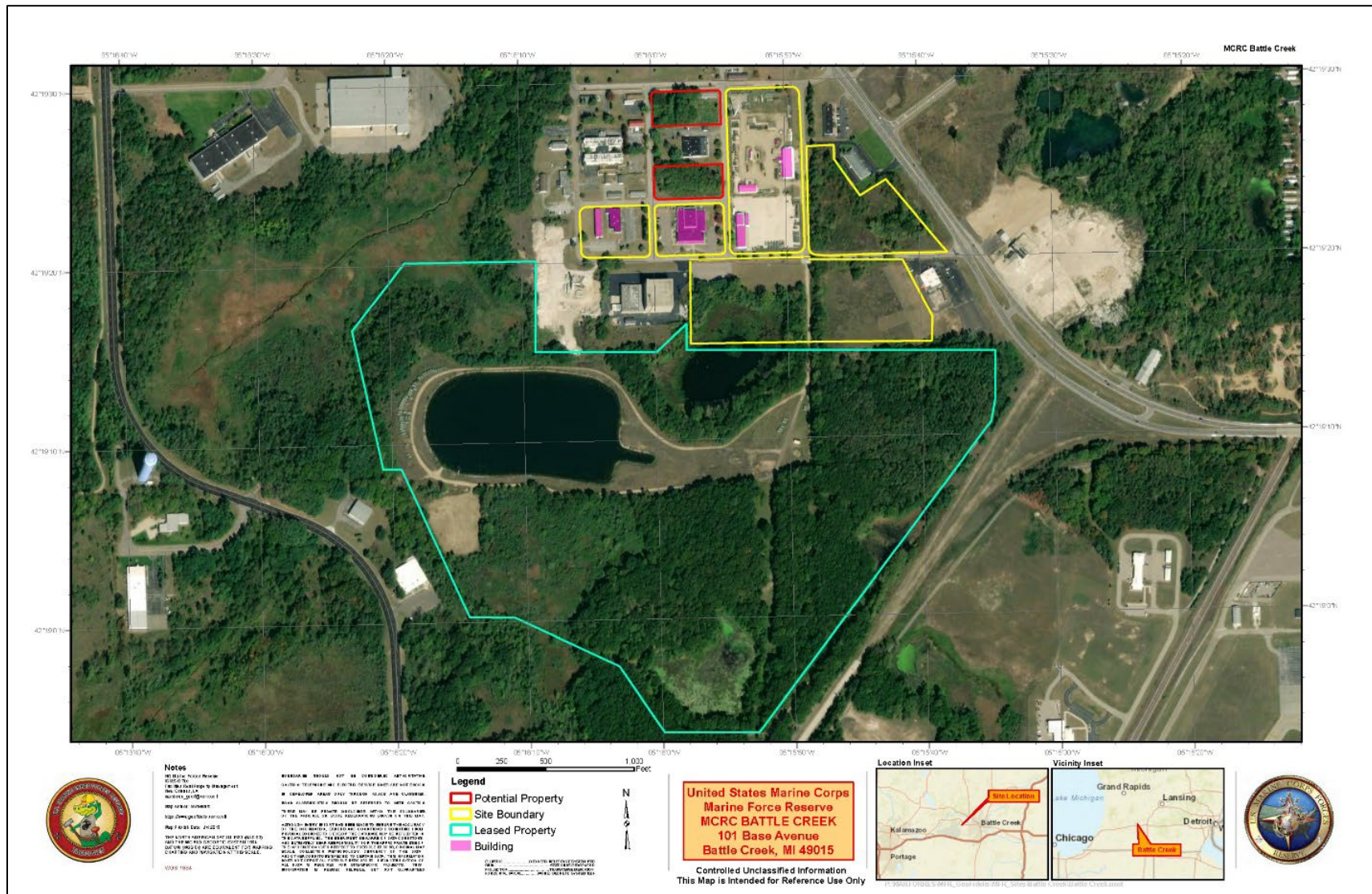


Figure 1-5. Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek Site Location Map

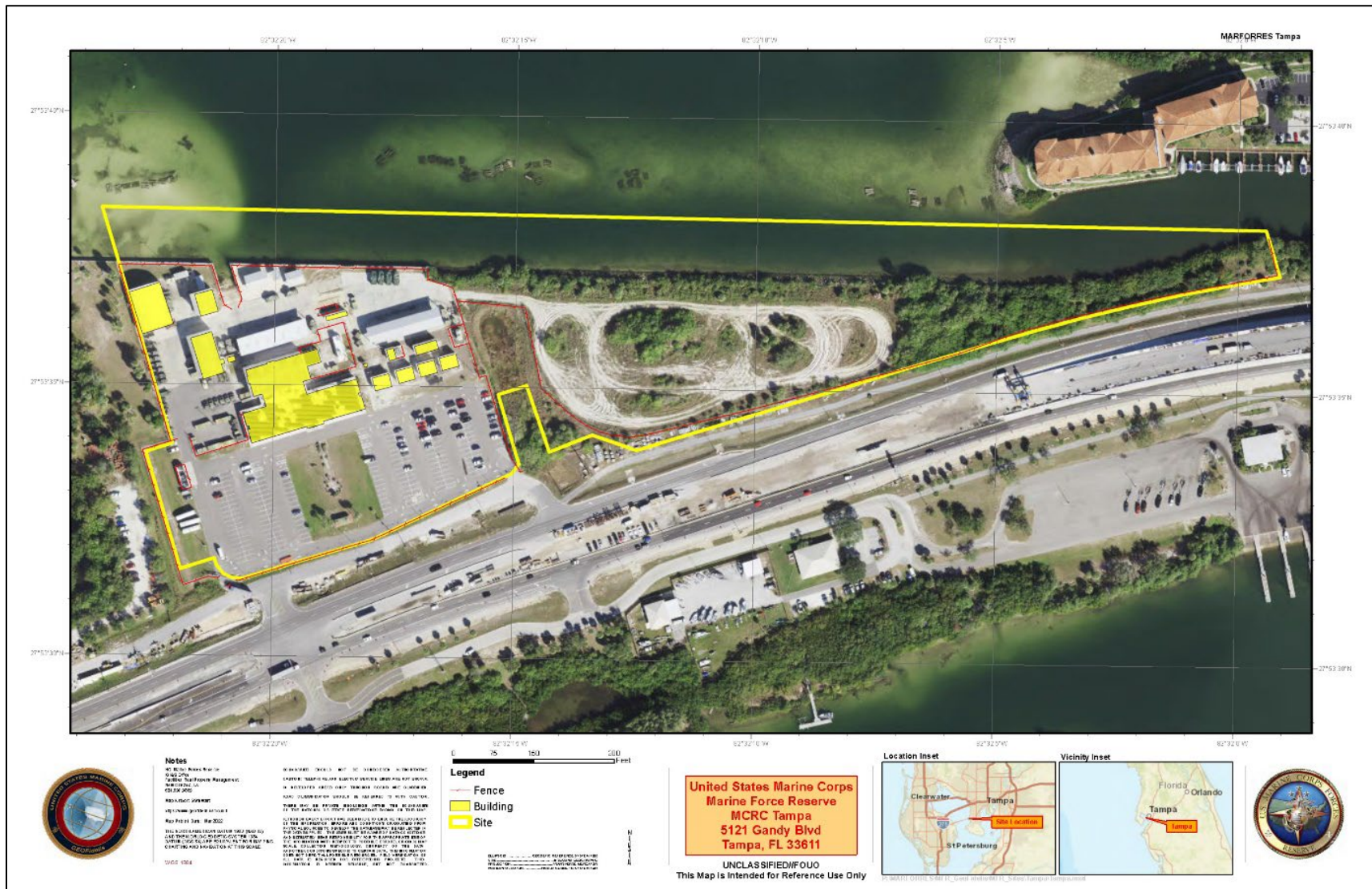


Figure 1-6. Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa Site Location Map

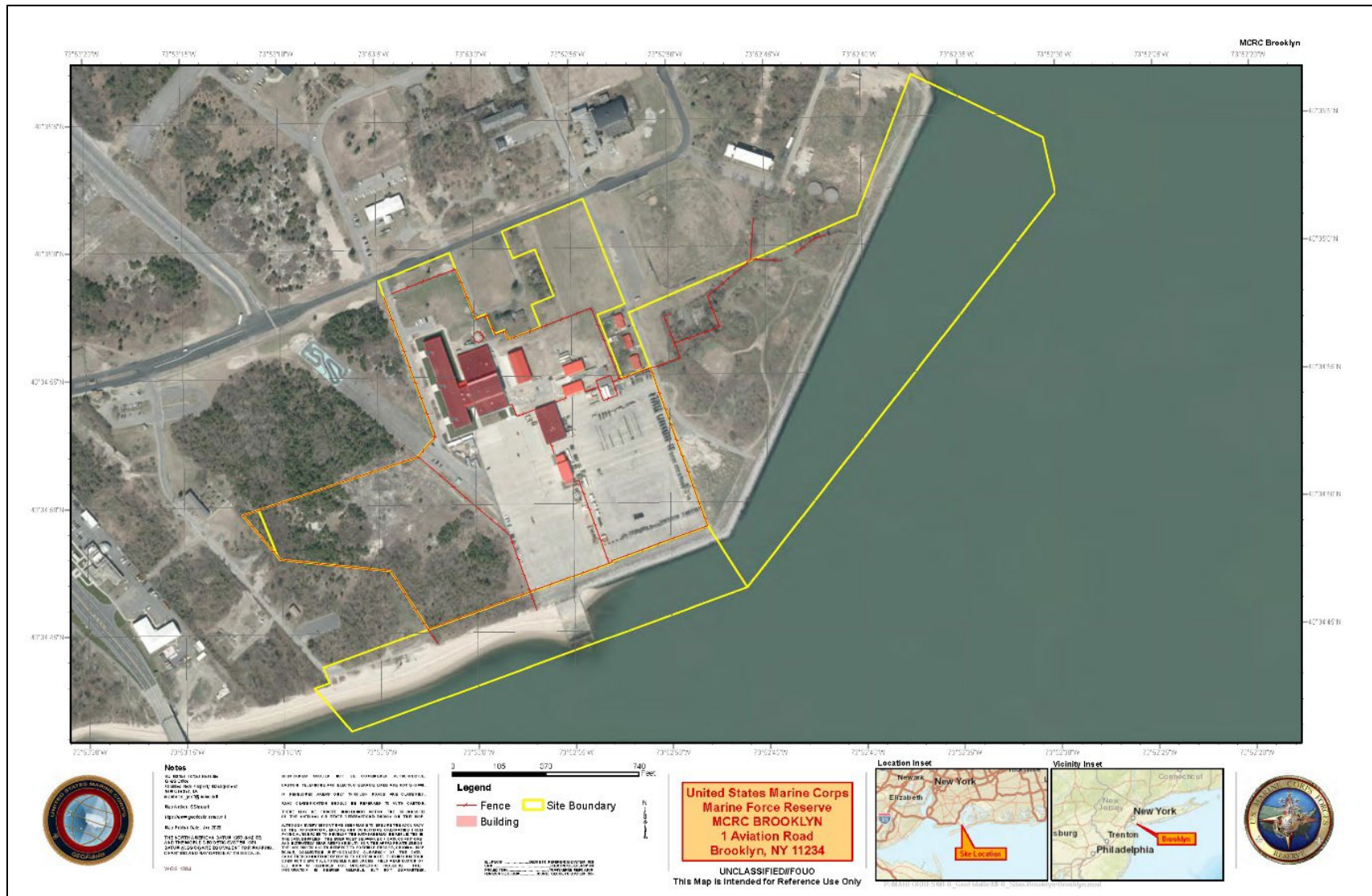


Figure 1-7. Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn Site Location Map

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2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to implement the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP for Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn that fully meets the requirements of the Sikes Act. Per the Sikes Act, the goal of the INRMP is to implement an ecosystem-based conservation program that provides for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission.

The 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP provides a comprehensive list of resource goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities that are planned for implementation at these five installations. Section 1.0 of the INRMP provides an overview of the INRMP purpose and organization, including a summary of natural resources management areas covered by each of the programmatic objectives and natural resources elements that are addressed in this INRMP, and the INRMP goals and objectives that have been established. Section 2.0 includes information on each location, history and military mission, as well as information on responsibilities and authority associated with this INRMP. This section also includes details on the existing natural resources, including species with known and potential occurrence on the seven sites, and their current conditions. Section 3.0 provides information associated with INRMP implementation, including a summary of supporting sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, agency consultation requirements, achieving no net loss, NEPA requirements, and encroachment partnering. Section 4.0 provides natural resources management recommendations and project information for the seven sites, organized by the five natural resources management programmatic objectives: (1) land management, (2) fish and wildlife management, (3) forestry management, (4) outdoor recreation management, and (5) integrated ecosystems management and partnering. Section 5.0 describes aspects of INRMP implementation, from project development and classification to funding, commitment, and use of cooperative agreements and partnerships. Section 6.0 includes the list of references cited in INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A description of the five natural resource management focus areas is as follows:

- Land Management – addresses the management of areas designated as unimproved, semi-improved, and improved grounds.
- Fish and Wildlife Management – addresses the development and implementation of techniques and programs for managing fish and wildlife.
- Forestry Management – addresses the management of stands for the benefit of flora and fauna species.
- Outdoor Recreation Management – addresses the development and implementation of techniques and programs for managing outdoor recreation resources at the MCRCs and providing educational outreach.
- Integrated Ecosystems Management and Partnering – addresses the development and implementation of integrated ecosystems management and partnering.

Proposed MARFORRES INRMP implementation actions are summarized in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Proposed MARFORRES INRMP Actions

Project Description	Anticipated Timeline (Fiscal Year)				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Jacksonville					
Rare, threatened, and endangered herpetofaunal survey (update 2018 survey)		X			
Bird survey–winter			X		
Black rail survey (two surveys)	X	X			
Pollinator (monarch butterfly) survey	X				
Upland/wetland plant survey		X			
Acoustic bat survey (update 2006/2007 surveys)				X	
Wetland delineation (update 1997 survey; provide planning level mapping)			X		
Update/ develop invasive plant management plan and implement control of target species		X		X	X
Clinton LTA					
Pollinator (monarch butterfly) survey	X				
Plant/wildflower survey				X	
Wetland Assessment		X			
Herpetofaunal surveys			X	X	
Bird survey–spring, summer, fall, and winter		X	X	X	
Syracuse					
Acoustic bat survey			X		
Acoustic anuran survey		X			
Invasive plant control of Japanese Knotweed on perimeter of south parcel (Molloy Road)			X	X	X
White-tailed deer camera survey and management plan		X		X	
Conduct forest inventory and stand mapping				X	
Pollinator (monarch butterfly) survey		X			
Bird survey–spring		X			
State-listed plant species survey - summer					X
Galveston					
Bird survey–fall and winter		X	X		
Pollinator (monarch butterfly) survey	X				
Battle Creek					
Pollinator (monarch butterfly) survey	X				
Acoustic bat survey			X		
Wetland delineation (no surveys to date)				X	
Bird surveys–spring			X		
Tampa					
Bird survey–spring and winter	X	X			
Acoustic bat and anuran survey			X		
Invasive plant mapping and management plan; implement control		X		X	X

Table 2-1. Proposed MARFORRES INRMP Actions

<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Anticipated Timeline (Fiscal Year)</i>				
	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2027</i>
Brooklyn					
Seabeach amaranth survey	X				
Herpetofaunal surveys	X				
General plant survey	X				

2.2 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated

NEPA's implementing regulations provide guidance on the consideration of alternatives to a Proposed Action and require rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of reasonable alternatives. Only those alternatives determined to be reasonable that meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action require detailed analysis. Any potential alternative must meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, as well as the ability to implement an INRMP that adequately provides for the sustainable management, multiple use, protection, and enhancement of natural resources at the seven sites in compliance with DODINST 4715.03, MCO 5090.2, and the Sikes Act. As a result, no other alternatives besides the Proposed Action (refer to Section 2.1) and the No Action Alternative (refer to Section 2.3) were identified.

2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would not be implemented. Outdated management activities identified in the INRMPs for Jacksonville (last updated in 2005) and Syracuse (last updated in 2011) would remain in effect. In addition, Clinton LTA, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn would each continue to operate without an INRMP. This alternative would not meet Section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Sikes Act which requires each installation in the United States to prepare and implement an INRMP.

Although the No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative is carried forward for analysis in this EA to serve as a baseline. The No Action Alternative will be used to analyze the consequences of not undertaking the Proposed Action, not simply to conclude no environmental impact and will serve to establish a comparative baseline for analysis.

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3.0 Affected Environment

This chapter describes the current conditions of the environmental resources, either man-made or natural, that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Action.

Consistent with CEQ's July 16, 2020, Final Rule (40 CFR Sections 1501.5 and 1508.1) and 32 CFR Part 989, EAs should be concise and support a determination of whether to prepare a FONSI or an Environmental Impact Statement. Based on the scope of the Proposed Action, issues with minimal or no impacts were identified through a preliminary screening process. In reaching this determination, consideration of short- and long-term effects, beneficial and adverse effects, effects on public health and safety, and effects that would violate laws protecting the environment were considered. Resources not analyzed in this EA because their potential impacts are considered to be less than significant and would not result in a decision to prepare an EIS include the following:

Air Quality: The Region of Influence (ROI) for this resource is Duval County, Florida; Beaver County, Pennsylvania; Onondaga County, New York; Galveston Island, Texas; Calhoun County, Michigan; Hillsborough County, Florida; and the borough of Brooklyn, New York. The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of various surveys by civilian contractors as noted in Table 2-1. Specifically, eight surveys at Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven surveys at Syracuse, two surveys at Galveston, four surveys at Battle Creek, and three surveys at Tampa would be conducted. As part of each survey, it is anticipated one vehicle and two individuals would access the survey site for one to multiple days, depending on the survey. However, no heavy equipment would be used in the conduct of these surveys and the Proposed Action would not create or alter any long-term sources of pollution. As a result of these surveys, there would be minor temporary impacts to air quality from fugitive dust and vehicle-related emissions.

Coastal Zone Management: Jacksonville, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn are located within the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) boundary, whereas Clinton LTA, Syracuse, and Battle Creek are not. The CZMA requires federal actions that may have reasonably foreseeable effects on the uses or resources of a state's coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's coastal management program. In determining the applicability of the CZMA on the Proposed Action, it was determined the Proposed Action, a series of noninvasive natural resource surveys and management strategies, constitutes a federal action. However, the Proposed Action would result in minor or *de minimis* beneficial effects on coastal uses and resources in the Florida, Texas, or New York coastal zones. The Proposed Action consists of environmentally beneficial surveys and management strategies meant to identify and preserve natural resource areas in Jacksonville, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn. As part of the public comment period, state agencies will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the *de minimis* finding.

Geologic Resources: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would have no effect on geologic resources or topography.

Prime or Unique Farmland: The Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC Section 4201 et seq.) protects prime or unique farmlands from unnecessary and irreversible conversion to non-agricultural uses. As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, 81 percent, or 231 acres (0.93 km²) of the soils at Syracuse are classified as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. The Proposed Action does not involve the conversion of prime and unique farmland to nonagricultural uses; therefore, there

would be no effect to prime farmland or farmland at Syracuse. Additionally, none of the other installations contain prime farmlands; therefore, no effect would occur from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Cultural Resources: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. With the exception of wetland delineations proposed at Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, and Battle Creek, none of the surveys or management strategies would require ground disturbance. As part of conducting wetland delineations, soil sampling surveys may dig to a depth of 12 to 16 inches (30.5 to 40.6 centimeters). Should cultural discoveries occur or suspected to have occurred during a wetland delineation, civilian contractors will cease any potentially damaging activities upon such discovery to include human remains and archaeological resources and notify installation personnel immediately. Therefore, no impact to cultural resources at Syracuse, Galveston Tampa, and Brooklyn, and no significant impacts to cultural resources at Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, and/or Battle Creek are anticipated to occur.

Land Use, Aesthetics, and Visual Impacts: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would have no effect on land use, aesthetics, or visual character of the area.

Airspace: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action will not alter, use, or have the potential to affect airspace at any of the installations. Therefore, there would be no effect to this resource from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Noise: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. Short-term minor noise would occur during various natural resources surveys and long-term minor noise would occur as part of the implementation of management strategies. However, all work will be conducted during normal business hours. Therefore, there would be minor impact to noise from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Infrastructure: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action consists of the conduct of various natural resources surveys and management strategies which would have no impact on utility systems, including water (potable and fire protection), wastewater (collection and treatment), electrical supply, and solid waste, their supplier and distribution systems.

Transportation: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of various surveys by civilian contractors as noted in Table 2-1. Specifically, eight surveys at Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven surveys at Syracuse, two surveys at Galveston, four surveys at Battle Creek, and three surveys at Tampa would be conducted. As part of each survey, it is anticipated one vehicle and two individuals would access each survey site for one to multiple days, depending on the survey. Additionally, implementation of management strategies would also require the use of transportation. Although the Proposed Action would result in a minor increase in transportation associated from civilian contractors, the increase would be considered negligible and temporary. Therefore, there would be minor, short- and long-term impacts to transportation from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Health and Safety: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would involve the

conduct of various natural resources surveys by civilian contractors. 29 CFR Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards, and 29 CFR Part 1926, Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, requires employees and their supervisors to be trained in the specific hazards and control measures associated with their assigned tasks. The civilian contractors will be required to prepare and implement a site specific health and safety plan to document compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations to include, but not limited to, management commitment and employee involvement, site characterization and job hazard analysis, hazard prevention and control, safety and health training, personal protective equipment, medical surveillance, exposure monitoring, emergency response, and recordkeeping and program evaluation. Therefore, negligible impacts to health and safety are anticipated from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Hazardous Materials and Waste: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would not involve the use of hazardous materials or generation of hazardous waste. The Proposed Action would involve the limited, carefully controlled use of non-restricted use herbicides for invasive plant species control. This herbicide use would follow all applicable regulations and labeled usage restrictions. Therefore, there would be no effect to this resource from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Socioeconomics: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would result in the generation of short-term employment and income from civilian contractors; however, any beneficial impacts to the local economies would be negligible.

Environmental Justice: The ROI for this resource includes areas within and around Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, MCRC Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. The Proposed Action would not appreciably alter the physical or social structure of any nearby community. Furthermore, no disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations, or disproportionate environmental, health, and safety risks to children would occur from implementation of the Proposed Action.

In compliance with NEPA, CEQ, Department of Navy, and Marine Corps guidelines, the discussion of the affected environment focuses only on those resource areas potentially subject to impacts. In addition, the level of detail used in describing a resource category is commensurate with the anticipated level of potential impact to that respective resource. Biological resources (including vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive species) and water resources are included for analysis in this document.

3.1 Biological Resources – Vegetation and Wildlife

Biological Resources include vegetation; rare, threatened, and endangered plant species and natural communities; fish and wildlife; and rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species. Refer to the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP Section 2 for detailed current conditions and use at each of the seven sites, and Sections 4.1.3, 4.1.5, 4.2.1, and 4.2.7 for a summary of laws, executive orders regulations, directives, and memoranda relevant to biological resources.

3.1.1 Marine Corps Reserve Center Jacksonville

3.1.1.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, during a baseline biological survey conducted in 2002 and 2003, 163 plant species were identified. None of the identified plants were listed as rare, threatened, or endangered at that time. The American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) which are confirmed present on the property are considered relatively uncommon in coastal northeast Florida (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Jacksonville (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.1.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a baseline inventory for wildlife species at Jacksonville was conducted in 1998 by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast. Additional biological surveys also occurred in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2018 by various contractors and naval personnel. A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Jacksonville are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.2 Clinton Local Training Area

3.1.2.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, plant surveys have not been performed within the site. However, given the size of the facility and diversity of habitats, it is likely that the proposed action, which includes focused surveys across every season would identify a comprehensive sample of plant species on the Installation, some of which may be protected species (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Clinton (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.2.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a mist nest survey was performed in 2015 to survey for the federally endangered Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The Northern Long-eared bat was one of three bat species confirmed present during the 2015 survey. In addition, baseline biological surveys for avian, amphibian, and reptile species were conducted in 2016 (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Clinton LTA are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.3 Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse

3.1.3.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, of the 180 plant species documented at Syracuse, 60 (33 percent) are non-native, introduced species. There is the potential for the federally threatened American Hart's-tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *Americana*) to be present on the site. In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Nature Explorer database indicates there are 24 plant species which are state endangered or threatened and recently confirmed

present in Onondaga County, New York. No extensive surveys for the state-listed plant species have been conducted. A federal endangered species survey was conducted in 2011 and did not identify any listed plant species at Syracuse (NAVFAC Atlantic 2011). A state listed plant survey is scheduled for this site in FY2027. (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Syracuse (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.3.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a number of wildlife surveys were conducted in support of the 2005 INRMP and the 2011 update to the INRMP. Avian surveys were conducted during the winter of 2000 and summer of 2001 and 2008. A seasonal pool and herpetofauna inventory were conducted in May of 2001. Mist net surveys for bat species were conducted at two sites on June 27 and 28, 2011. On May 24, 2011, bat acoustic monitoring systems were deployed as part of a bat species identification study. Lastly, field surveys for birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plants were conducted in June 2022 (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Syracuse are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.4 Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston

3.1.4.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a plant survey should be conducted to increase knowledge of existing plant composition and to search for rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may occur (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur on Galveston (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.4.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, baseline inventories for wildlife species at Galveston were conducted in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2021, and 2022 by various contractors and naval personnel. A variety of methods were used to document the wildlife species on the Center, including visual encounter surveys, point count surveys, and acoustic monitoring (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Galveston are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.5 Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek

3.1.5.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a plant survey should be conducted to increase knowledge of existing plant composition and to search for rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may occur (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Battle Creek (NAVFAC 2023).

3.1.5.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, the southern parcel of the Center contains natural habitats that support wildlife. Planning level surveys for wildlife were conducted at Battle Creek during 2016, 2017, and 2019. These surveys focused on documenting the reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals on the Center. In addition, targets species surveys were conducted for federally-listed reptile and bat species with the potential to occur on the site (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Battle Creek are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.6 Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa

3.1.6.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, various surveys at this site have documented the dominate vegetation species preset on the Center; however, no specific surveys for rare, threatened and endangered plant species have been conducted, and a survey for these species is recommended (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Tampa (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.6.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, despite being less than 20 acres (0.08 km²) in size and having limited natural habitats, numerous species of wildlife have been documented during planning-level surveys at MCRC Tampa. The most recent natural resource survey at this site was conducted in May 2022 (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Tampa are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.7 Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn

3.1.7.1 Vegetation

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a plant survey should be conducted to increase knowledge of existing plant composition and to search for rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may occur (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

There are no rare habitats known to occur at Brooklyn (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.1.7.2 Wildlife

As discussed in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, despite having approximately 30 acres (0.12 km²) of undeveloped land, numerous species of wildlife have been documented during various biological surveys at Brooklyn.

A comprehensive list of species, including sensitive species, with confirmed occurrence at Brooklyn are listed in Appendix C of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2 Water Resources – Wetlands and Floodplains

This discussion of water resources includes wetlands and floodplains as the Proposed Action would have no effect on groundwater. Furthermore, wetland delineations would only occur at Jacksonville, and Battle Creek. Therefore, there would be no effect to wetlands at Syracuse, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Refer to the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP Section 2 for detailed current conditions and use at each of the seven sites, and Section 4.1.1 for a summary of laws, executive orders, regulations, directives, and memoranda relevant to wetlands and floodplains resources.

3.2.1 Marine Corps Reserve Center Jacksonville

3.2.1.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.1.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, wetland delineation surveys were conducted in 1997 and 2013; in 1997, approximately 83 acres (0.34 km²) of jurisdictional wetlands were identified (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.1.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.1.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, the majority of the Center property, including all of Drummond Creek, is located within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zone A (Special Flood Hazard Area), which is defined as areas with a 1 percent annual chance of flooding and a 26 percent chance of flooding over a 30-year period. All of the forested habitat (located in the eastern and central areas of the Installation) are predicted to be subject to a 500-year flood event with the exception of approximately 17 acres (0.07 km²) (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.2 Clinton Local Training Area

3.2.2.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, no site-specific wetland delineations have been conducted on the Clinton LTA property. However, National Wetland Inventory layers indicate an unnamed, branching, riverine wetland which has intermittent flowing water located in the southwestern section of the property. The stream flows into Raccoon Creek (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.2.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.2.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, the northwest portion of the Clinton LTA property, within the Raccoon Creek watershed, is located within the 100-year floodplain according to the FEMA maps for the area (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.3 Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse

3.2.3.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.3.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a 2011 wetland survey was conducted. The survey boundary contained 12 areas that meet the criteria for designation as wetland, comprising a total of 56.74 acres (0.23 km²). A Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination of the 2011 report findings was provided by USACE on December 7, 2013.

In 2014, a wetland delineation identified seven isolated wetlands, two ditches, and one drainage swale on a 15-acre (0.06 km²) parcel at Syracuse. Those wetlands, swale, and ditches did not fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE or New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and were filled during construction (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.3.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.3.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, review of the FEMA maps indicates that the extreme southern section of the south parcel of the Center is within a 1 percent annual chance floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area. This area is associated with the Ley Creek floodway which is located on the south side of I-90 from the Center (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.4 Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston

3.2.4.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.4.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a wetland delineation was conducted at Galveston and the leased area in 2010 to determine the presence and extent of wetlands in accordance with the USACE guidelines. The field investigation delineated five wetland areas totaling 21.0 acres (0.08 km²) that met the criteria for Section 404 wetland designation within the survey area (NAVFAC Atlantic).

3.2.4.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.4.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, the northern and southern sections of the Center are located within FEMA Zone A (Special Flood Hazard Area), which is defined as areas with a 1 percent annual chance of flooding and a 26 percent chance of flooding over a 30-year period. The two buildings on the Center property, in addition to the vehicle training area to the east of the Installation, are outside of this food zone (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.5 Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek

3.2.5.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.5.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, the property is located in the Battle Creek River watershed that is a tributary to the Kalamazoo River that drains to Lake Michigan. The southern area of the property contains four freshwater wetlands. No site-specific wetland delineations have been conducted on the Center property. According to National Wetland Inventory wetland data layers, approximately 51 acres (0.2 km²) of Freshwater Forested/Shrub, Freshwater Emergent, and two Freshwater Ponds are present in the southern parcel of the site (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.5.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.5.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, review of the FEMA maps indicate that the Center is not located within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.6 Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa

3.2.6.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.5.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a baseline wetland inventory was completed in 2016. Based on the survey, three non-tidal wetland areas in the AAV training area met all

three of the criteria (vegetation, soils, and hydrology) and were considered to be jurisdictional wetlands. The approximate area of the three non-tidal wetlands measures 0.6 acres (2,545.5 m²). In addition to the non-tidal wetlands located within the AAV training area, the adjacent Tampa Bay waterfront, some of which may be part of the Center property, is also considered to be jurisdictional (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.6.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.6.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a review of the FEMA maps indicate that the Center is located within a 100-year flood plain (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.7 Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn

3.2.7.1 Wetlands

As discussed in Section 2.5.5 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a planning level survey did not reveal the presence of wetland habitats (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

3.2.7.2 Floodplains

As discussed in Section 2.7.6 of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP, a review of the FEMA maps indicate that the southern portion of the Center is located within a 100-year and 500-year flood plain (NAVFAC Atlantic 2023).

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4.0 Environmental Consequences

4.1 Biological Resources – Vegetation and Wildlife

The threshold of significance for impacts to vegetation resources from the Proposed Action would include the following: fragmentation, loss or degradation of high-quality natural areas or sensitive sites, local population decline or extirpation of special status plant species or the introduction of invasive species.

The threshold of significance for impacts to federally protected species would be if the Proposed Action caused degradation or permanent loss of habitat below what is required to achieve the federal long-term population recovery objectives, violations of requirements in a biological opinion, direct or indirect impacts to candidate species for federal or state listing, a USFWS jeopardy opinion, decline in reproductive success, direct or indirect mortality, unpermitted “take” of federally listed species, degradation and/or loss of designated critical habitat. Lesser impacts that could also be considered significant include anything that would negatively affect listed species that are not accounted for in a permit authorization by a regulatory agency. The Proposed Action of INRMP implementation is designed to identify and prevent lesser threshold of significance impacts from becoming more serious problems or regulatory violations.

The threshold of significance for impacts to wildlife resources from the Proposed Action would be local population-level impacts, such as population reduction below self-sustaining levels or long-term loss or impairment of portions of habitat.

Refer to the following sections of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP for management strategies specific to biological resources:

- Section 4.1.3.1 – reduce the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species.
- Section 4.1.3.2 – grounds maintenance and landscaping.
- Section 4.1.5 – rare, threatened, and endangered plant species and natural communities.
- Section 4.2.1 – wildlife management and habitat enhancement
- Section 4.2.2 – protection of migratory bird species
- Section 4.2.3 – protection of fish and other aquatic species.
- Section 4.2.5 – reduce the spread or introduction of invasive and nuisance wildlife species.
- Section 4.2.7 – protection of rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species.

Refer to the below sections for an analysis of specific impacts by site.

4.1.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, including the natural resource goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP. Outdated management activities identified in the INRMPs for Jacksonville (last updated in 2005) and Syracuse (last updated in 2011) would remain in effect. In addition, Clinton LTA, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn would each continue to operate without an INRMP. Under the No Action Alternative, the sites would be unable to provide for the conservation and

rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission. Since compliance with the Sikes Act is required by federal law, significant impacts would occur to as a result of not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.

4.1.2 Proposed Action

4.1.2.1 Marine Corps Reserve Center Jacksonville

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, an upland/wetland plant survey, development of an invasive plant management plan, six wildlife-related surveys and implementation of control of target invasive species are proposed for Jacksonville in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that site's resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.2 Clinton Local Training Area

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, a plant and wildflower survey, as well as six wildlife-related surveys are proposed for Clinton LTA in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that Installation resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.3 Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, invasive plant control of Japanese Knotweed on the perimeter of the south parcel, forest inventory/stand mapping, and six wildlife-related surveys are proposed for Syracuse in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that Installation resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.4 Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, three wildlife-related surveys are proposed at Galveston in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that the site's resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.5 Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, three wildlife-related surveys are proposed at Battle Creek in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that the site's resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.6 Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa

Vegetation

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, invasive plant mapping, development of an invasive plant management plan, implementation of control of target species, and three wildlife-related surveys are proposed for Tampa in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that the site's resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.1.2.7 Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn

Vegetation

As summarized in Table 2-1 of this EA, a general plant survey and two wildlife-related surveys are proposed at Brooklyn in addition to the management strategies.

Conduct of the natural resource surveys may result in trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creation of fugitive dust. However, any negative impacts associated with the surveys would be considered short-term and minor, and the surveys would result in long-term beneficial impacts by providing the data necessary to support the operational mission, stewardship, and legal requirements, as well as ensure that the site's resources are managed through an ecosystem approach.

In addition to the proposed surveys, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts.

4.2 Water Resources – Wetlands and Floodplains

The threshold of significance for impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action would include the following: unpermitted deposition of dredged or fill material into wetlands or jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., unmitigated net loss of wetlands within installation boundaries, violation of state water quality criteria, violation of federal or state discharge permits, or potential degradation of an aquifer.

Refer to the following sections of the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP for management strategies specific to water resources:

- Section 4.1.1.1 – protection of watersheds and floodplains.
- Section 4.1.1.2 – protection of wetlands.

Refer to the below sections for an analysis of specific impacts by site.

4.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, including the natural resource goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP. Outdated management activities identified in the INRMPs for Jacksonville (last updated in 2005) and Syracuse (last updated in 2011) would remain in effect. In addition, Clinton LTA, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn would each continue to operate without an INRMP. Under the No Action Alternative, MCRCs would be unable to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission. Since compliance with the Sikes Act is required by federal law, significant impacts would occur to as a result of not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.

4.2.2 Proposed Action

4.2.2.1 Marine Corps Reserve Center Jacksonville

Identifying, delineating, and mapping wetlands and waterbodies will provide the data necessary to properly manage wetlands at Jacksonville, as well as identify management measures to enhance resource functions and/or the military mission. The conduct of a wetland delineation survey would result in long-term beneficial impacts through conservation efforts. Management of floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the Proposed Action proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.2 Clinton Local Training Area

Identifying, delineating, and mapping wetlands and waterbodies will provide the data necessary to properly manage wetlands at Clinton LTA, as well as identify management measures to enhance

resource functions and/or the military mission. The conduct of a wetland delineation would result in long-term beneficial impacts through conservation efforts. Management of floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the Proposed Action proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.3 Marine Corps Reserve Center Syracuse

Management of wetlands or floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.4 Marine Corps Reserve Center Galveston

Management of wetlands or floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.5 Marine Corps Reserve Center Battle Creek

Identifying, delineating, and mapping wetlands and waterbodies will provide the data necessary to properly manage wetlands at Battle Creek, as well as identify management measures to enhance resource functions and/or the military mission. The conduct of a wetland delineation survey would result in long-term beneficial impacts through conservation efforts.

Battle Creek is not located within a 100-year or 500-year flood plain; therefore, there would be no effect to floodplains from the implementation of the proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP

would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.6 Marine Corps Reserve Center Tampa

Management of wetlands or floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.2.2.7 Marine Corps Reserve Center Brooklyn

Management of wetlands or floodplains would not be altered by the implementation of the proposed projects.

In addition to the proposed projects, implementation of the natural resources goals, objectives, management actions, and monitoring activities documented in the 2023–2027 MARFORRES INRMP would support the sustainability of the military mission and the natural environment, meet natural resources consultation requirements, achieve no net loss, and establish MARFORRES commitment to funding compliance- and stewardship-type projects.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term beneficial impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The approach taken in the analysis of cumulative impacts follows the objectives of the NEPA, CEQ, and CEQ guidance. Cumulative impacts are defined in 40 CFR section 1508.7 as “the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to the other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”

To determine the scope of environmental impact analyses, agencies shall consider cumulative actions, which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact analysis document.

In addition, CEQ and USEPA have published guidance addressing implementation of cumulative impact analyses—Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEQ 2005) and Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents (USEPA 1999). CEQ guidance entitled *Considering Cumulative Impacts Under NEPA* (1997) states that

cumulative impact analyses should “...determine the magnitude and significance of the environmental consequences of the proposed action in the context of the cumulative impacts of other past, present, and future actions...identify significant cumulative impacts...[and]...focus on truly meaningful impacts.”

Cumulative impacts are most likely to arise when a relationship or synergy exists between a Proposed Action and other actions expected in a similar location or during a similar time period. Actions overlapping with or in close proximity to the Proposed Action would be expected to have more potential for a relationship than those more geographically separated. Similarly, relatively concurrent actions would tend to offer a higher potential for cumulative impacts. To identify cumulative impacts, the analysis needs to address the following three fundamental questions.

- Does a relationship exist such that affected resource areas of the Proposed Action might interact with the affected resource areas of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions?
- If one or more of the affected resource areas of the Proposed Action and another action could be expected to interact, would the Proposed Action affect or be affected by impacts of the other action?
- If such a relationship exists, then does an assessment reveal any potentially significant impacts not identified when the Proposed Action is considered alone?

In determining which projects to include in the cumulative impacts analysis, a preliminary determination was made regarding the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable action. Specifically, using the first fundamental question included in Section 4.1, it was determined if a relationship exists such that the affected resource areas of the Proposed Action (included in this EA) might interact with the affected resource area of a past, present, or reasonably foreseeable action. If no such potential relationship exists, the project was not carried forward into the cumulative impacts analysis. In accordance with CEQ guidance (CEQ 2005), these actions considered but excluded from further cumulative effects analysis are not catalogued here as the intent is to focus the analysis on the meaningful actions relevant to informed decision-making.

Based on the analysis presented in this chapter and considering no other project has been implemented or is currently under consideration that could potentially result in a cumulative impact, no cumulative impacts are expected.

4.4 Other Considerations Required by NEPA

4.4.1 Consistency with Other Federal, State, and Local Laws, Plans, Policies, and Regulations

In accordance with 40 CFR Section 1502.16(c), analysis of environmental consequences shall include discussion of possible conflicts between the Proposed Action and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies, and controls. Table 4-1 identifies the principal federal and state laws and regulations that are applicable to the Proposed Action and describes briefly how compliance with these laws and regulations would be accomplished.

Table 4-1. Principal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action

<i>Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls</i>	<i>Status of Compliance</i>
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations; Navy and Marine Corps regulations for Implementing NEPA	Compliant. This EA has been prepared in accordance with NEPA and Navy/Marine Corps NEPA procedures.
Clean Air Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the Clean Air Act.
Clean Water Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the Clean Water Act.
Rivers and Harbors Act.	Not Applicable.
Coastal Zone Management Act	Compliant. There would be no effect at Clinton LTA, Syracuse, and Battle Creek as those sites are not located in coastal zones. There would be no effect to coastal uses or resources. There would be minor or <i>de minimis</i> beneficial effects on coastal uses and resources in the Florida, Texas, or New York coastal zones. The Proposed Action consists of environmentally beneficial surveys meant to identify and preserve natural resource areas at Jacksonville, Galveston, Tampa, and Brooklyn.
National Historic Preservation Act	Not Applicable.
Endangered Species Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the ESA. If unanticipated threatened or endangered species are discovered at or near the survey locations, all applicable permits and related consultation with agencies having oversight of threatened and endangered species would be obtained prior to the start of the project, if effects to those species are expected.
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act	Not Applicable.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the MBTA.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would not affect contaminated sites or their cleanup.
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would not affect the amount of hazardous chemicals present at the sites or the amount of hazardous materials that are manufactured, processed, or otherwise used.
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be in accordance with the provisions in the installation's Integrated Pest Management Plan.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	Not Applicable.

Table 4-1. Principal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action

<i>Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls</i>	<i>Status of Compliance</i>
Toxic Substances Control Act	Not Applicable.
Farmland Protection Act	Compliant.
Executive Order 11988, <i>Floodplain Management</i>	Compliant.
Executive Order 11990, <i>Protection of Wetlands</i>	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with the Clean Water Act which governs the protection of wetlands.
Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations	Compliant. There would be no disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations.
Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks	Compliant. Children would not be disproportionately affected by the Proposed Action, and there would be no environmental health risks or safety risks to children.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments	Compliant. As part of the NEPA process, government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations has been conducted as required.
State Wildlife and Listed Species Regulations	Compliant. As part of the INRMP review process and the NEPA process, state wildlife agency reviews have been conducted as required. The Proposed Action is designed to identify and protect state listed species.
State Wetland Regulations	Compliant. The Proposed Action would be implemented in accordance with all existing Individual state wetland regulations which govern the protection of wetlands. Additionally, none of the proposed surveys to be implemented as part of the Proposed Action would impact wetlands.

4.4.2 Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Resources that are irreversibly or irretrievably committed to a project are those that are used on a long-term or permanent basis. This includes the use of non-renewable resources such as metal and fuel, and natural or cultural resources. These resources are irretrievable in that they would be used for this project when they could have been used for other purposes. Human labor is also considered an irretrievable resource. Another impact that falls under this category is the unavoidable destruction of natural resources that could limit the range of potential uses of that particular environment.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would involve human labor, and the consumption of fuel, oil, and lubricants for work vehicles. However, implementing the Proposed Action would not result in a substantial irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

4.4.3 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The Proposed Action would not result in any long-term adverse effects.

4.4.4 Relationship between Short-Term Use of the Environment and Long-Term Productivity

NEPA requires an analysis of the relationship between a project's short-term effects on the environment and the impact they may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of

1 the affected environment. Impacts that narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment are of
2 particular concern. This refers to the possibility that choosing one development site reduces future
3 flexibility in pursuing other options, or that using a parcel of land or other resources often eliminates the
4 possibility of other uses at that site.

5 In the short-term, effects to the human environment with implementation of the Proposed Action
6 would primarily relate to the survey activity itself. Air quality and noise would be impacted in the short-
7 term; however, no increase in personnel is anticipated so no long-term increase in air emissions or noise
8 would occur. In the long-term, there would be beneficial effects to biological and water resources. The
9 Proposed Action would not result in any effects that would substantially reduce environmental
10 productivity or permanently narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

11 **4.5 Summary of Environmental Impacts**

12 A summary of the potential effects associated with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative to
13 each of the resource areas evaluated in this EA are presented in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. Summary of Potential Impacts to Resource Areas

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
Air Quality	There would be no change to baseline air quality emissions.	The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of eight surveys at MCRC Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven projects at MCRC Syracuse, two surveys at MCRC Galveston, four surveys at MCRC Battle Creek, and three surveys at MCRC Tampa over a 5-year period. As a result of these surveys, there would be minor temporary impacts to air quality as the result of fugitive dust and vehicle-related emissions.
Coastal Zone Management	There would be no change to coastal uses and resources.	Clinton LTA, MCRC Syracuse, and MCRC Battle Creek are not located within the CZMA boundary and there would be no effect to coastal uses or resources. There would be minor or <i>de minimis</i> beneficial effects on coastal uses and resources in the Florida, Texas, or New York coastal zones. The Proposed Action consists of environmentally beneficial surveys and management strategies meant to identify and preserve natural resource areas on MCRC Jacksonville, MCRC Galveston, MCRC Tampa, and MCRC Brooklyn.
Geologic Resources	There would be no change to geology, topography, or soils.	There would be no change to geology, topography, or soils.
Prime or Unique Farmland	There would be no change to prime or unique farmlands.	None of the installations have soils classified as prime or unique farmlands except for MCRC Syracuse. The Proposed Action does not involve the conversion of those soils to non-agricultural use.
Cultural Resources	There would be no change to baseline cultural resources.	There would be no impact to cultural resources at MCRC Syracuse, MCRC Galveston, MCRC Tampa, and MCRC Brooklyn, and no significant impacts to cultural resources at MCRC Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, and MCRC Battle Creek. Should cultural discoveries occur during a wetland delineation, civilian contractors will cease any potentially damaging activities upon discovery of cultural items, to include human remains and archaeological resources, and notify installation personnel immediately.
Land Use, Aesthetics, and Visual Impacts	No effect.	No effect.
Airspace	No effect.	No effect.
Noise	There would be no change to baseline noise conditions.	All work would be conducted during normal business hours; therefore, short-term minor noise impacts would occur as a result of survey efforts and any management strategies.
Infrastructure	No effect.	No effect.
Transportation	There would be no change to baseline transportation conditions.	The Proposed Action would involve the conduct of eight surveys at MCRC Jacksonville, five surveys at Clinton LTA, seven projects at MCRC Syracuse, two

Table 4-2. Summary of Potential Impacts to Resource Areas

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
		surveys at MCRC Galveston, four surveys at MCRC Battle Creek, and three surveys at MCRC Tampa as well as management strategies over a 5-year period. As a result of these surveys, there would be minor temporary impacts to transportation resources.
Health and Safety	There would be no change to baseline health and safety conditions.	The civilian contractors performing surveys will be required to prepare and implement a site specific health and safety plan to document compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations to include, but not limited to, management commitment and employee involvement, site characterization and job hazard analysis, hazard prevention and control, safety and health training, personal protective equipment, medical surveillance, exposure monitoring, emergency response, and recordkeeping and program evaluation. Therefore, negligible impacts to health and safety are anticipated.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	No effect.	No effect.
Socioeconomics	There would be no change to baseline socioeconomic conditions.	There would be a short-term generation of employment and income from civilian contractors performing surveys; however, overall beneficial impacts to the local economies would be negligible.
Environmental Justice	No effect.	No effect.
Biological Resources	MARFORRES would not be compliant with the Sikes Act and significant impacts would occur from not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.	The proposed surveys would result in short-term minor impacts associated with trampled vegetation or invertebrates, noise disturbances to nesting birds and other wildlife, soil compaction, and creating fugitive dust. However, the proposed projects and management strategies would result in long-term beneficial impacts.
Water Resources	MARFORRES would not be compliant with the Sikes Act and significant impacts would occur from not complying with this law, as well as other federal and state laws, and DoD and Marine Corps directives and policies.	Identifying, delineating, and mapping wetlands and waterbodies will provide the data necessary to properly manage wetlands at MCRC Jacksonville, Clinton LTA, MCRC Battle Creek; therefore, long-term beneficial impacts would occur at these three installations. In addition, the proposed management strategies would result in long-term beneficial impacts to all installations.

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5.0 List of Agencies and Individuals Consulted

In accordance with CEQ regulations and the Sikes Act, as amended, the Pre-Final Draft INRMP and Draft EA were made available for public review. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published for three consecutive days in the Tampa Bay Times, The Post-Standard (Syracuse), The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Battle Creek Enquirer, The Houston Chronicle, The Florida Times Union (Jacksonville), and The Brooklyn Eagle. The NOA described the Proposed Action, solicited public comments on the draft documents, provided dates for the public comment period, and announced the draft documents were available for public review. The Pre-Final Draft INRMP and Draft EA were also made available for public review on the MARFORRES website at <https://www.marforres.marines.mil/Staff-Sections/General-Staff/G-F-Facilities/Environmental-Energy/>. All agency and public comments received will be evaluated and addressed before a final decision is made and NOA published for the Final FONSI.

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6.0 References

- CEQ. 1997. Considering Cumulative Impacts Under NEPA.
- CEQ. 2005. Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis.
- NAVFAC Atlantic. 2023. Final Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Marine Corps Reserve Centers: Jacksonville, Clinton, Syracuse, Galveston, Battle Creek, Tampa, and Brooklyn. July 2023.

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7.0 List of Preparers

This EA was prepared collaboratively between the Navy and contractor preparers.

U.S. Department of the Navy

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Atlantic

Christopher Petersen, Natural Resources Specialist

Contractors

This EA has been prepared by LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc. The individuals that contributed to the preparation of this EA are listed in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1. List of Preparers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Resource Area</i>	<i>Years of Experience</i>
Stephen Berry	B.S., Environmental Engineering B.S., Ecology and Biology	Purpose and Need Proposed Action and Alternatives Senior QA/QC	44
Chrystal Everson	M.S., Environmental and Occupational Health B.S., Environmental and Occupational Health	Purpose and Need Proposed Action and Alternatives Cumulative Impacts Other Considerations	21
Pete Johnson	B.S., Limnology	Water Resources Biological Resources Senior QA/QC	22
Jennifer Bright	B.A., English Language and Literature/Letters Graduate Certificate, Ecological Restoration	Water Resources Biological Resources	8

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