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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE COMBAT SUPPORT TRAINING RANGE, FORT BLISS, TEXAS



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, Regional Planning and Environmental Center
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Privacy Advisory

This Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been provided for public comment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 United States [U.S.] Code 4321 et seq.), and Department of War (DoW) NEPA Implementing Procedures (hereafter referred to as “DoW NEPA Procedures”).

The DoW NEPA Procedures may use an early and open process to determine the scope of issues for analysis in an environmental document, including identifying substantive issues that meaningfully inform the consideration of environmental effects and the resulting decision on how to proceed, eliminating from further study non-substantive issues.

Public input allows the U.S. Department of the Air Force to make better-informed decisions. Letters or other written or verbal comments provided may be published in this EA. Providing personal information is voluntary. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a stakeholders inventory. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal information, home addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses will not be published in this EA.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION.....	1-1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.2 LOCATION	1-1
1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION	1-1
1.4 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION.....	1-3
1.4.1 Agency Consultation.....	1-3
1.4.2 Government-to-Government Consultation	1-3
1.4.3 Public Review	1-4
2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1 Alternative 1: CSTR Site at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29	2-1
2.2 Alternative 2: CSTR Well Water.....	2-6
2.3 No Action Alternative.....	2-7
2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis.....	2-7
2.5 Comparison of Environmental Consequences by Alternative	2-8
3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	3-1
3.1 INTRODUCTION	3-1
3.1.1 Resources Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis	3-1
3.1.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Considered.....	3-1
3.2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	3-2
3.2.1 Affected Environment.....	3-2
3.2.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-3
3.3 AIR QUALITY.....	3-6
3.3.1 Affected Environment.....	3-6
3.3.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-7
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	3-11
3.4.1 Affected Environment.....	3-11
3.4.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-14
3.5 WATER RESOURCES	3-19
3.5.1 Affected Environment.....	3-19
3.5.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-20
3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES	3-23
3.6.1 Affected Environment.....	3-23
3.6.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-25
3.7 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES	3-26
3.7.1 Affected Environment.....	3-26

3.7.2	Environmental Consequences	3-29
3.8	INFRASTRUCTURE	3-32
3.8.1	Affected Environment.....	3-32
3.8.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-33
3.9	TRANSPORTATION	3-35
3.9.1	Affected Environment.....	3-35
3.9.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-37
3.10	NOISE.....	3-39
3.10.1	Affected Environment.....	3-39
3.10.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-39
4.0	REFERENCES	4-1

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>NUMBER</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Appendix A	Stakeholder Correspondence	A-1
Appendix B	Air Quality Calculations	B-1
Appendix C	Biological Resources Supporting Information.....	C-1
Appendix D	List of Preparers.....	D-1

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>NUMBER</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Figure 1-1.	Regional Map of Fort Bliss and Associated Ranges.....	1-2
Figure 2-1.	Ranges 28 and 29 Area	2-3
Figure 2-2.	Conceptual CSTR Layout at Ranges 28 and 29.....	2-5
Figure 3-1.	Safety Arcs.....	3-5
Figure 3-2.	Primary Access Routes to Ranges 28 and 29.....	3-36

LIST OF TABLES

<u>NUMBER</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Table 1-1.	Libraries with Copies of the Environmental Assessment.....	1-4
Table 2-1.	Summary of Proposed Construction Projects.....	2-4
Table 2-2.	Minimum Water Allocation per Person per Day.....	2-6
Table 2-3.	Analysis of Alternatives	2-8
Table 2-4.	Comparative Summary of Environmental Consequences.....	2-9
Table 3-1.	Resources Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis (including brief rationale)	3-1
Table 3-2.	Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Considered	3-1
Table 3-3.	Annual Emissions for Implementation of Alternative 1.....	3-9
Table 3-4.	Annual Emissions for Implementation of Alternative 2.....	3-9
Table 3-5.	Federally and State-Listed Species Known to Occur or Potentially Occurring within McGregor Ranges 28 and 29	3-13
Table 3-6.	Traffic Data for Roads Accessing Ranges 28 and 29.....	3-37
Table 3-7.	Estimated Vehicle Trips per Training Event.....	3-38

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACAM	Air Conformity Applicability Model
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ac-ft/year	acre-feet per year
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AFIMSC	Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center
APE	Area of Potential Effects
AQB	Air Quality Bureau
AST	aboveground storage tank
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO _{2e}	carbon dioxide equivalent
COA	Course of Action
CONUS	Continental United States
CSTR	Combat Support Training Range
DAF	Department of the Air Force
DES	Directorate of Emergency Services
DoW	Department of War
EA	Environmental Assessment
EODMAG	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Storage Magazine
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FES	Fire and Emergency Service
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
GC	garrison commander
GHG	greenhouse gas
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HAZMAT	hazardous material(s)
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
ID	identification number
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
JACK	Joint Air-Transportable Containerized Kitchen
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOVES3	Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator
mph	miles per hour

MSS	medium shelter systems
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NEW	net explosive weight
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NMDGF	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O ₃	ozone
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PFOS/PFOA	perfluorooctane sulfonate/perfluorooctanoic acid
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter
POV	privately owned vehicle
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RED HORSE	Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers
ROI	region of influence
SAP	satellite accumulation point
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
SSS	small shelter systems
SSTL	shower/shave/toilet/laundry
tpy	tons per year
TXDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	United States Code
US 54	United States Route 54
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	underground storage tank
UXO	unexploded ordnance

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) proposes to develop a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) at the Fort Bliss ranges in New Mexico. AFIMSC is developing CSTRs to fill gaps in current expeditionary training capabilities for installation and mission support Airmen. CSTRs are a premier training platform with equipment and vehicles, natural and built infrastructure, and realistic threat environment to enable combat support and combat service support teams to build the mission capacity essential to winning future fights. Construction would be planned for Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 and would take 12 months.

This Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 United States [U.S.] Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), and Department of War (DoW) NEPA Implementing Procedures (hereafter referred to as “DoW NEPA Procedures”). The Department of the Air Force (DAF) determined that the Proposed Action would not likely have reasonably foreseeable significant effects on the quality of the human environment and, thus, prepared this EA. Proposed development at Fort Bliss would only occur upon completion of this EA and issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.2 LOCATION

Fort Bliss is a U.S. Army installation, consisting of over 1.1 million acres of land in Texas and New Mexico. Fort Bliss comprises the Main Cantonment Area, which is located within the City of El Paso, Texas; the South Training Areas; and Castner Range, the Dona Ana Range, and McGregor Range (Figure 1-1). The proposed CSTR would be located within the McGregor Range. McGregor Range consists primarily of withdrawn public lands, which are lands owned by the federal government, reserved by Congress for use by the Department of the Army, and administered by the Department of the Army, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (Fort Bliss, 2024).

McGregor Range is used for a variety of training, including live-fire exercises (e.g., small arms, missiles, artillery, etc.), field training exercises, and maneuver training. McGregor Range is open to the public when authorized by permit and closed during training exercises.

1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish a training platform to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary airbase. An expeditionary airbase is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-spans, and tents. The concept of an expeditionary airbase allows the DAF to set up an airfield where it is needed, rather than limiting air support to locations where permanent infrastructure exists. Expeditionary airbases support the DAF mission by being ready to set up quickly in the field using small teams that are flexible and trained in a variety of jobs, ready to deploy at any time (DAF, 2025). A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations.

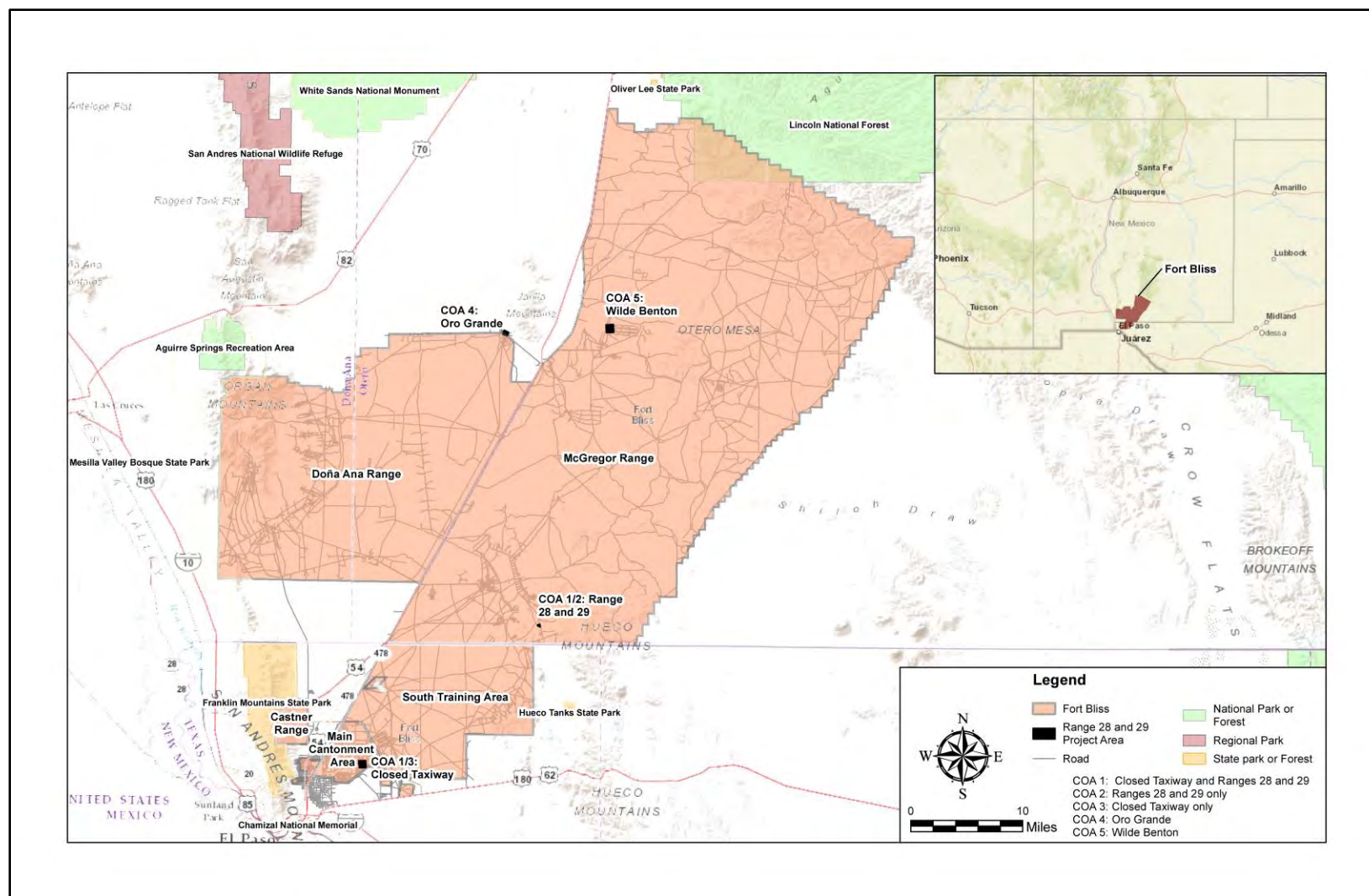


Figure 1-1. Regional Map of Fort Bliss and Associated Ranges

In 2020, the Commander of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center directed the establishment of Civil Engineer CSTR locations within a 10-hour drive from all Continental U.S. (CONUS) installations. The Proposed Action is needed to meet the DAF requirements for a Regional Training Site within the western contiguous United States. The current training locations lack sites that provide realistic training that civil engineering combat support units would face in real-world scenarios against peer or near-peer adversaries. As the force generation model evolves to create standing units ready for immediate deployment in high-threat environments, there is a pressing need for training that integrates both technical and combat skills.

1.4 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION

In accordance with NEPA, the Army provides opportunities for the public, Native American Tribes, and agencies to participate in the NEPA process to promote open communication and improve the decision-making process. Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision-making. All agencies, organizations, and members of the public with a potential interest in the Proposed Action are urged to participate in the decision-making process.

An introductory scoping letter was sent out to the general public on January 8, 2026; scoping letters were likewise sent to state and federal agencies and Native American Tribes on January 12, 2026. Example correspondence letters along with agency responses are provided in Appendix A, *Stakeholder Correspondence*.

1.4.1 Agency Consultation

The development of the CSTR is proposed to be located on Army land that was withdrawn from BLM. As a result, both the Army and BLM are serving as cooperating agencies for this EA. The DAF prepared a Draft FONSI and released it with this Draft EA for agency and public review. The Army will also sign the FONSI.

The Army initiated Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Proposed Action using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool. Basic information concerning the location and nature of the projects included in the Proposed Action was input into IPaC to obtain an official species list from the USFWS. The list identifies threatened and endangered species and other protected species (e.g., migratory birds) with potential to be affected by the Proposed Action.

The Army also initiated consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On January 26, 2026, the New Mexico SHPO provided concurrence with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

Agency responses are provided in Appendix A, *Stakeholder Correspondence*.

1.4.2 Government-to-Government Consultation

The Army has initiated consultation with seven Native American Tribes with cultural affinity to the location of the Proposed Action in keeping with the Presidential Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments; Executive

Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*; DoW Policy on Native American and Native Alaskan Consultation, and Army Regulation 200-1 Environmental Protection and Enhancement. An example letter for tribal correspondence is provided in Appendix A, *Stakeholder Correspondence*.

1.4.3 Public Review

The public and other interested stakeholders are invited to review and comment on this Draft EA. Accordingly, a Notice of Availability of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI was published in the *El Paso Times* newspaper in both English and Spanish to commence a 30-day public review comment period. In addition, the Draft EA was posted on the following website:

- <https://home.army.mil/bliss/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental>

The Draft EA is also available at the libraries listed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Libraries with Copies of the Environmental Assessment

El Paso Public Library Memorial Park Branch 3200 Copper Avenue El Paso, TX 79930	El Paso Public Library Clardy Fox Library 5515 Robert Alva Avenue El Paso, TX 79905
El Paso Public Library José Cisneros Cielo Vista Branch 1300 Hawkins Boulevard El Paso, TX 79925	El Paso Public Library Richard Burges Branch 9600 Dyer Street, Suite C El Paso, TX 79924
Mickelsen Community Library (on Fort Bliss) 2 Sheridan Road Fort Bliss, TX 79916	City of Anthony NM Library 750 Landers Road Anthony, NM 88021
Alamogordo Public Library 920 Oregon Avenue Alamogordo, NM 88310	

NM = New Mexico; TX = Texas

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This section provides a description of the alternatives to implement the Proposed Action as well as the No Action Alternative, identification of alternatives considered but eliminated from further analysis, and comparison of the environmental consequences included in the Proposed Action.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: CSTR SITE AT MCGREGOR RANGES 28 AND 29

The following projects would be included in the construction of the CSTR:

- **Primary Infrastructure.** Primary infrastructure associated with Alternative 1 would include the grading/gravel of 25.5 acres for a main cantonment area. A security fence would be installed around the cantonment area with new entry control points and include utility tie-ins to existing electric lines.
- **Mock Airfield.** A 750-foot x 120-foot x 12-inch concrete mock airfield would be constructed adjacent to the cantonment area. Concrete would be installed over 12 inches of compacted gravel base. The runway would have 20-foot asphalt shoulders with a 10-inch gravel base constructed along the entire length of the runway on both sides.
- **Support Depot.** The Support Depot would be constructed to include ten 5,000-square-foot climate-controlled K-span storage facilities. Facilities would be constructed on concrete pads equipped with electricity.
- **Life Support Area Infrastructure.** Infrastructure would need to be installed and would consist of water connections from the Support Depot to the Life Support Area via water storage tanks. Deployable facilities would include 40 small shelter systems (SSS) (military tents) (26,000 square feet) with an approximate capacity for a total of 400 trainees, two Joint Air-Transportable Containerized Kitchens (JACKs), and room for medium shelter systems (MSS). An area for an additional 48 tents would be graded and made available for future use, as needed.
- **Shower/Shave/Toilet/Laundry (SSTL).** The project would include two 5,000-square-foot SSTL facilities.
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal Storage Magazine (EODMAG).** An EODMAG security vault would be constructed to safely store weapons from theft and accidental detonation. Only blank ammunition would be stored. The EODMAG would be located on the south side of the mock runway.



Under Alternative 1, the CSTR would be constructed at Ranges 28 and 29 (Figure 2-1). Facilities constructed would include those described above. Additional details and project information are included in Table 2-1. Construction would start with a tie-in to existing electricity, which is located approximately 3,500 feet south of the site, followed by construction

of a security fence with two entry control points and site grading and gravel brought in as needed. Two culverts would be installed at the entry control points to facilitate access over the existing roadside ditch. The entry control points would consist of gravel areas within the CSTR where Airmen would practice constructing the entry points for the CSTR. This construction would include the installation of temporary bollards that would be removed at the completion of training exercises. The second step of the project would include construction of the mock runway, laydown concrete pad, and containerized storage. The third step would include installation of the K-spans on concrete pads and water tanks. The fourth step of the project would include the construction of SSTL facilities and the Life Support Area infrastructure (gravel roadways and utility connections). The fifth step would include deployment of the SSS, MSS, and JACKs. The CSTR teams would complete the fifth step during training events. Figure 2-2 illustrates a conceptual CSTR layout at Ranges 28 and 29 with one possible tent configuration.

Operations would consist of approximately 400 trainees who would train for approximately 2 weeks every month. Training would consist of assembling and disassembling structures such as the SSS and MSS, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and conducting repairs on the runway. It is anticipated that approximately two detonations would occur monthly on the mock runway using a 2.5-pound net explosive weight (NEW) explosive charge. For the purposes of providing a conservative noise and safety analysis, a 42.5-pound NEW charge was also analyzed. Other required CSTR training would occur on existing Fort Bliss ranges. These ranges include a small arms range, a full distance range, an off-road (mounted) course, a land navigation (dismounted) course, and a Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) course.

Electrical. When the CSTR operates at full capacity, the connected load would be approximately 540 kilovolt-amperes. The existing infrastructure would not be sufficient to support this load. The current overhead electrical line entering from the south would need to be evaluated and upgraded as necessary to handle the anticipated demand. The electrical connection points within the CSTR would be designed to provide safe, dependable, and efficient electrical distribution throughout the CSTR. These points must accommodate the necessary infrastructure for power supply, as well as provide flexibility for future expansion or modifications. The electrical system for the CSTR would be designed with a comprehensive set of features to ensure efficiency, safety, and functionality. Key components include power distribution panels and subpanels, which manage the flow of electricity to various parts of the site. Electrical distribution cables would run underground from the main distribution panel/disconnect to the various subpanels/disconnects located at each pad site. Mobile generators would be used as part of the CSTR training. The generators have not been selected to date, but were assumed to be continuously used for 8,760 hours per year. Generators would include six 60-kilowatt and various other generators (twelve 60-kilowatt [80-horsepower], four 30-kilowatt [40-horsepower], and one 800-kilowatt [1,073-horsepower] advanced medium mobile electric power sources generators).



Small Shelter System: all-purpose tent-type shelter used for billeting, work areas, storage, etc.

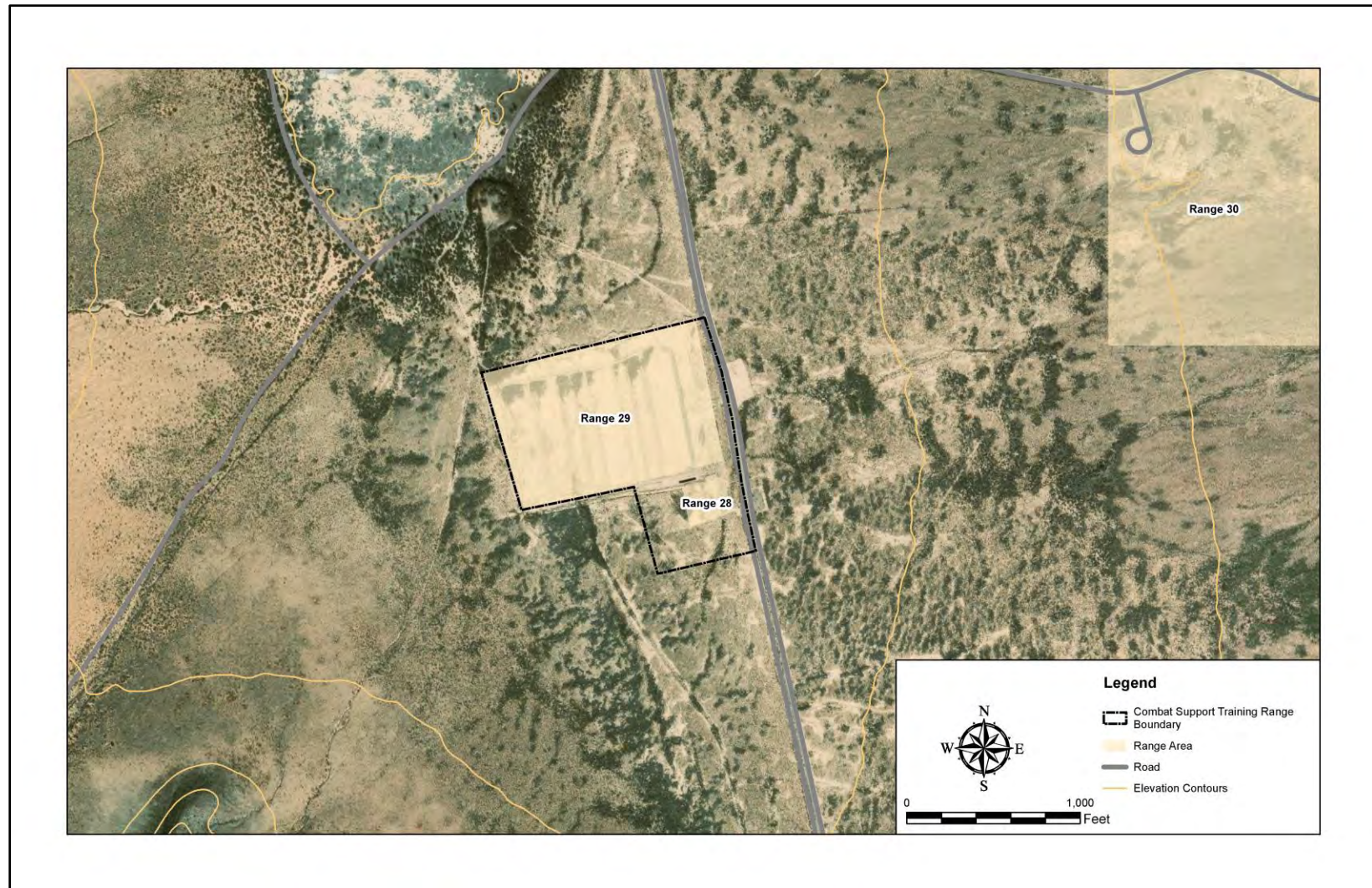


Figure 2-1. Ranges 28 and 29 Area

Table 2-1. Summary of Proposed Construction Projects

Feature	Description	Size
Field Training Infrastructure		
Site Grading	Grading and placement of gravel across the entire area.	25.5 acres
Security Fencing	Eight foot tall chain-link fence with two gates and featuring a buried chain-link apron. The apron would extend up to 24 inches deep into the ground and outward for 48 inches from the fence line.	5,200 LF
Utilities	Civil works for installing water and electric.	NA
Electric	Installing electric lines from the existing power pole.	3,500 LF
Water tanks	Two water tanks (14 feet deep by 20 feet high). Installing water lines from the nearest point of connection.	20,000 gallons
Water lines	Installing water lines from tanks to SSTL facilities.	160 LF
Security Guard Towers	Five.	NA
Mock Runway		
Mock Runway	750 feet x 150 feet x 12 inches.	2.6 acres
Laydown Pad	One 100-foot by 200-foot pad for general storage.	2,000 sq. ft.
Containerized Storage Units		
K-spans	Ten 5,000-square-foot storage areas (60 feet by 83 feet) on concrete pads. Concrete pads will be 110 feet by 52 feet.	1.3 acres
Concrete Pad	Base for cooling unit (7 feet by 10 feet).	70 sq. ft.
Electric	Installing electric lines from the closest point of connection.	3,500 LF
Life Support Area		
Wastewater	Four 10,000-gallon tanks. Tanks would be buried approximately 10 feet underground.	40,000 gallons
SSTL	Two, each 4,485 sq. ft. Two concrete pads for SSTL facilities, each 5,000 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
JACKs	Two JACKs, assembled by the CSTR teams (22 feet by 17 feet).	~750 sq. ft.
SSS	48 tents, assembled by CSTR teams.	31,200 sq. ft.
MSS	Up to five tents, assembled by CSTR teams.	7,800 sq. ft.
Entry Control Point	Fencing, gates, and road improvements over existing topography. Temporary bollards during training.	10,000 sq. ft.
EODMAG		
EODMAG	One 7 feet x 7 feet x 7 feet unit for the storage of blanks. Maximum NEW of 128 pounds. Actual NEW not to exceed 40 pounds.	50 sq. ft.
Expansion Area		
SSS	48 tents, assembled by CSTR teams.	31,200 sq. ft.
MSS	Up to five, assembled by CSTR teams.	7,800 sq. ft.
JACKs	Two JACKs, assembled by the CSTR teams (22 foot by 17 feet).	~750 sq. ft.
SSTL	Two, each 4,485 sq. ft. Two concrete pads for SSTL facilities, each 5,000 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Water lines	Installing water lines from tanks to SSTL facilities.	500 LF
Electric	Installing electric lines from the closest point of connection.	100 LF

~ = approximately; CSTR = Combat Support Training Range; EODMAG = Explosive Ordnance Disposal Storage Magazine; JACK = Joint Air-Transportable Containerized Kitchen; LF = linear feet; MSS = medium shelter systems; NA = not applicable; NEW = net explosive weight; sq. ft.= square feet; SSS = small shelter systems; SSTL = shower/shave/toilet/laundry

Note:

1. Trenching for electrical and water lines would be at a depth of 24 inches.

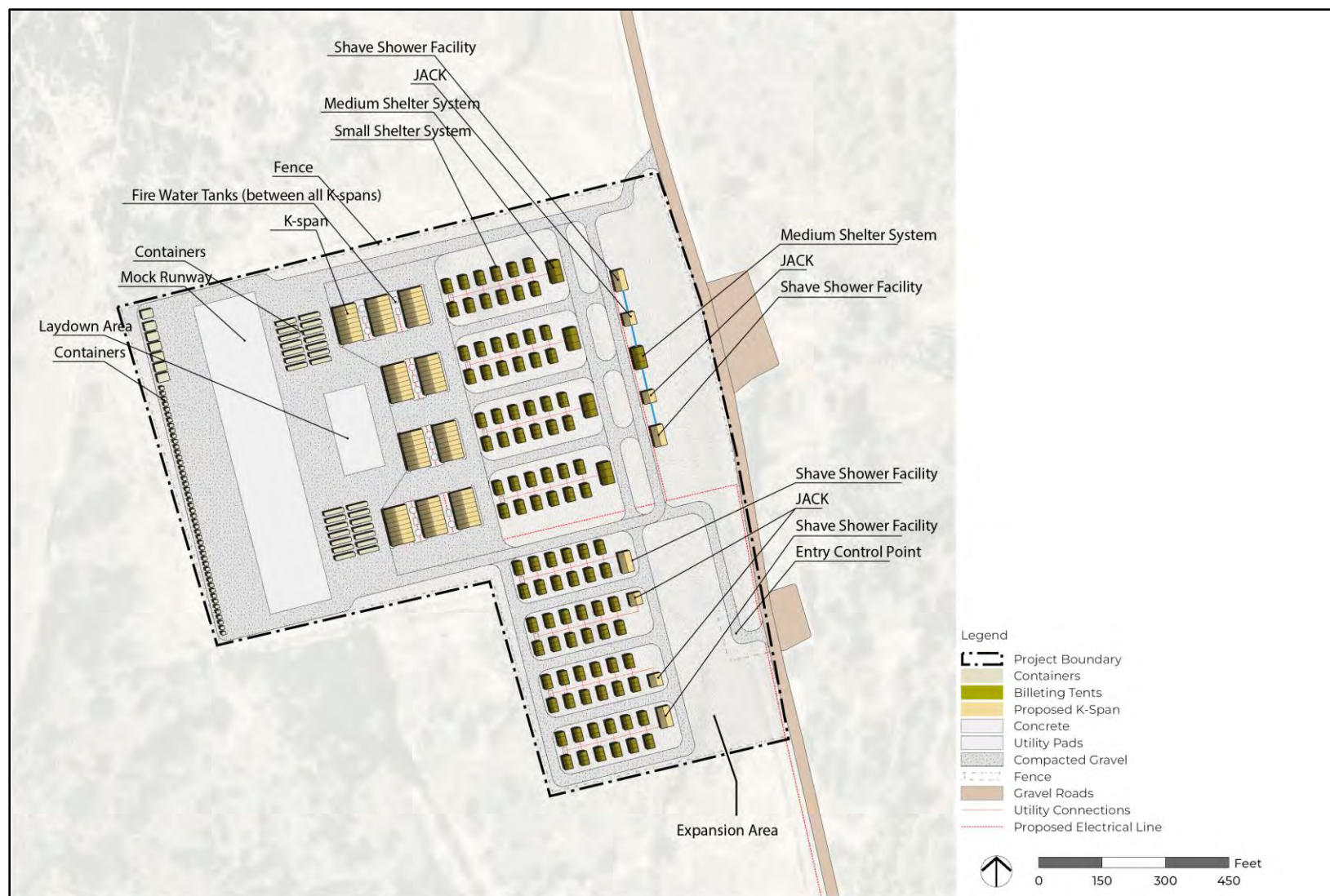


Figure 2-2. Conceptual CSTR Layout at Ranges 28 and 29

Rio Grande Electrical Cooperative would run electricity from the existing closest utility pole to a transformer at the corner of the CSTR site (3,500 linear feet). An additional 3,500 linear feet of electrical line would be run within the CSTR site. All electrical lines would be buried 24 inches deep.

Water. There is no potable water distribution at the proposed CSTR site, and there is not a suitable connection point within a reasonable distance of the site. The most viable and cost-effective option to provide water would be to install two 20,000-gallon water tanks for storage and distribution of potable water. The tanks would be filled by tanker trucks. Connection points would be established near the SSTL facilities and JACKs, as well as at each K-span structure.

Expansion Area. The portion of the site planned for future expansion is approximately 5 acres and located in the southeast corner of the project site. The site would include sufficient space for 48 MSS, 5 SSS, along with 2 additional SSTL facilities and JACKs, electric lines, water lines, and entry control bollards, as described for the 400-person area. SSTL facilities would be connected to the wastewater tanks located in the Main Cantonment Area.

The water requirements for a CSTR depend on factors such as climate, intensity of training, and specific mission needs. However, the Army Techniques Publication (ATP 4-44) provides general water consumption planning guidelines (see Table 2-2).

Table 2-2. Minimum Water Allocation per Person per Day

Use	Conditions	Gallons per Person per Day
Drinking Water	Temperate	1.5
	Hot/arid or high intensity	3.0
Personal Hygiene and Sanitation	Personal hygiene	1.0 to 1.7
Field Feeding	Not applicable	0.8 to 2.8
Laundry and Equipment Cleaning	Not applicable	2.3

Wastewater. Ranges 28 and 29 have no existing sanitary sewer infrastructure. Wastewater would be managed through the installation of new wastewater storage tanks. Effluent from the SSTL facilities and JACKs would be collected in four newly added 10,000-gallon underground wastewater storage tanks located at the end of each pad grouping. These tanks would be installed 10 feet underground and pumped out as needed, depending on the number of trainees.

Table 2-1 provides a summary of the proposed construction projects.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: CSTR WELL WATER

Under Alternative 2, the CSTR site would be developed the same as under Alternative 1, except well water would be used rather than water tanks for supplying drinking water. To provide training on drilling operations and to provide a more permanent water source for the CSTR, two to three groundwater wells would be installed at the site. Depth of the wells would be determined by on-site conditions but could range from 100 to 1,500 feet in depth. The target yield/water demand would be 13,600 gallons per day. Should this alternative be implemented, water would only need to be trucked from the McGregor Base Camp if well yields were insufficient for demand. Well water would be treated utilizing expeditionary reverse osmosis water purification units as part of training operations. Drinking water wells are regulated through the Safe Drinking Water Act in addition to

the Clean Water Act and require compliance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 141. New Mexico regulations include New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 20.7.10, *Drinking Water*, and 20.6.2, *Ground and Surface Water Protection*.

2.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the action would not take place and critical DAF training requirements would not be met. The No Action Alternative provides baseline conditions and/or a comparative benchmark enabling the reader to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

As part of the Area Development Plan process, AFIMSC and Fort Bliss planners and range managers selected five potential Courses of Action (COAs) at Fort Bliss for a CSTR (Figure 1-1). In January 2025, AFIMSC, Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Readiness Squadron Engineer, and Fort Bliss planners and range managers conducted a workshop to determine which location was best suited for a CSTR. Considerations included site analysis, preliminary environmental analysis, and a quantitative COA analysis. The analysis considered 23 different criteria for consideration in selecting a preferred location. Criteria were weighted from 1 to 3 for importance, with the highest priority criteria given a weight of 3. Each COA was then assessed by criteria using a 0 to 3 point scale for each criteria. A score of 0 represents the COA did not meet the goal in any way and a score of 3 indicates the COA strongly met the goal. Table 2-3 provides a simplified summary of the results of that quantitative analysis, which resulted in the selection of Ranges 28 and 29 as the preferred location for the CSTR at Fort Bliss.

As shown on Figure 1-1, five COAs were considered for potential CSTRs. The four COAs eliminated from further analysis are described below.

COA 1: Closed Taxiway and Ranges 28 and 29. COA 1 is a combination of two separate sites. The Closed Taxiway is a large area of asphalt located at Biggs Army Airfield. It is currently unused and contained within the airfield fence, near the Air Traffic Control Tower. Site limitations for the Closed Taxiway include the congested area near the Closed Taxiway, the inability to use explosives, and the lack of wastewater nearby. Furthermore, the existing airfield is asphalt, so the mock runway would require construction at Ranges 28 and 29. This site, while well-suited to expeditionary training, is 60 minutes away from the airfield, meaning transit time would reduce training time.

COA 3: Closed Taxiway Only. COA 3 is for the Closed Taxiway only. This COA had all the constraints of COA 1 without the benefits provided by the location at Ranges 28 and 29. Without the additional space at Ranges 28 and 29, there is not enough available square footage to meet all CSTR requirements.

COA 4: Oro Grande. Oro Grande is a 60-minute drive north of Fort Bliss. The benefit of Oro Grande is that it is already a remote training location with existing dormitory, dining hall, laundry, chapel, administrative, and airfield facilities that the Army uses. The site also has electricity, water, fuel, and communications. There are also unmanned aerial and special forces units that use the site and ranges around Oro Grande each week, which enhances security of the site. However,

explosives cannot be used at the Oro Grande site and the layout of available land is oddly shaped with limited space for CSTR requirements.

COA 5: Wilde Benton. COA 5 is located about 60 minutes north of Fort Bliss and to the east of Oro Grande. The benefit of the site is access to an operational dirt air strip. The CSTR could use the dirt air strip for C-130 drops or to bring in troops or equipment. This alternative was considered unsuitable for a number of reasons, including the need for a second CSTR runway and that explosives could not be used in the area. The site also has limited space for CSTR requirements.

Table 2-3. Analysis of Alternatives

Factors	COA 1: Closed Taxiway + Ranges 28/29	COA 2: Ranges 28/29 Only	COA 3: Closed Taxiway Only	COA 4: Oro Grande	COA 5: Wilde Benton
Level Area	√	√	√	—	√
Existing Buildings	X	X	X	—	X
Utilities	—	X	√	√	—
Fire Training Pit	—	—	√	X	X
Concrete Airfield	—	X	—	√	√
Hub & Spoke	√	√	—	—	—
Secure	—	X	√	X	X
Scheduling Ease	—	√	X	X	X
Close to Main Area	—	X	√	X	X
Explosives Use	X	√	X	X	X
Sufficient Space	√	√	√	X	√
Lack of Other Users	—	√	X	X	X
Nearby training facilities (full distance range, small arms range, MOUT, mounted and dismounted courses)	√	√	—	—	—
Environmental Constraints	—	—	X	√	—
Limited Public Access	X	—	X	X	X
Constructability	√	√	√	—	—

& = and; + = plus; √ = meets factor; X = does not meet factor; — = partially meets factor; COA = Course of Action; MOUT = Military Operations on Urban Terrain

2.5 COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES BY ALTERNATIVE

Table 2-4 presents a summary of potential environmental consequences for the alternatives by environmental resource area.

Table 2-4. Comparative Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Public Health and Safety	No significant effects would occur to public health and safety with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Health and safety effects could occur, but effects would be reduced to less than significant with proper training, hearing protection, and BMPs.	Health and safety effects could occur, but effects would be reduced to less than significant with proper training, hearing protection, and BMPs.
Air Quality	Air emissions and resulting air quality effects under the No Action Alternative would remain unchanged from existing conditions.	Compliance with permit requirements would ensure that implementation of Alternative 1 would result in less than significant air quality effects.	Compliance with permit requirements would ensure that implementation of Alternative 1 would result in less than significant air quality effects.
Biological Resources	No significant effects to biological resources would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Implementation of Alternative 1 may have effects on vegetation, wildlife, migratory birds, and invasive and exotic species, but no significant effects are anticipated. BMPs will be used to minimize effects to natural resources.	Effects associated with Alternative 2 would be the same as those described for Alternative 1 and, therefore, would not be significant. BMPs will be used to minimize effects to natural resources.
Water Resources	No effects to water resources with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Implementation of Alternative 1 may have effects on surface water management and groundwater, but no significant effects are anticipated. In compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a Construction General Permit is required. The project will have soil disturbance greater than 1 acre and will require a SWPPP. For soil disturbance greater than 5 acres, an NOI and NOT are required by the state. Wastewater resulting from operations would be containerized and disposed of properly.	Implementation of Alternative 2 may have effects on surface water management and groundwater, but no significant effects are anticipated. In compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a Construction General Permit is required. The project will have soil disturbance greater than 1 acre and will require a SWPPP. For soil disturbance greater than 5 acres, an NOI and NOT are required by the state. Wastewater resulting from operations would be containerized and disposed of properly.
Cultural Resources	No effects to cultural resources with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	No adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of Alternative 1.	No adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of Alternative 2.

Table 2-4. Comparative Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	There would be no changes to hazardous materials, hazardous waste, toxic substances, petroleum products, or ERP sites in the ROI beyond baseline conditions.	Implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in significant effects to the hazardous materials and waste resource area.	Implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in significant effects to the hazardous materials and waste resource area.
Infrastructure	No significant effects to infrastructure would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Changes in demand to infrastructure would be minimal and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region.	Changes in demand to infrastructure would be minimal and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region.
Transportation	No significant effects to transportation would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Effects to transportation could occur, but effects would not be significant.	Effects to transportation could occur, but effects would not be significant.
Noise	There would be no effects to the noise resource area with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	The loudest noise generated by activities proposed under Alternative 1 (i.e., cratering charge detonation) would be infrequent (two charges per month) and at levels associated with a low risk of complaints at the closest noise-sensitive location. Other proposed activities would be the same as ongoing activities resulting in no noise-level changes and/or would be inaudible at the closest sensitive locations. There would be no significant noise effects.	Noise-generating activities proposed under Alternative 2 would be the same as under Alternative 1 and would not result in significant noise effects.

BMP = best management practice; ERP = Environmental Restoration Program; NOI = Notice of Intent; NOT = Notice of Termination; ROI = region of influence; SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Resources Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis

Table 3-1 lists the environmental resources or valued environment components not carried forward and the rationale for why they were not analyzed in detail in this EA.

Table 3-1. Resources Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis (including brief rationale)

Valued Environmental Components	Rationale
Airspace	The CSTR does not include the use of any aircraft and would involve ground activities only. Therefore, there would be no effects to airspace.
Geology and Soils	The proposed CSTR site is level but would require some grading. There are no unique or valuable geological or soil features in the project area. There is no prime farmland in the project area. The proposed site has been previously graded for a small arms range. Potential flood and groundwater effects are discussed in Section 3.5, <i>Water Resources</i> .
Land Use	Land use would remain the same, as the site was previously used as a small arms range and is consistent with existing uses within the McGregor Range.
Socioeconomics	A one-time injection of funds due to construction would have no noticeable effect on the socioeconomics of the region.

CSTR = Combat Support Training Range

3.1.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Considered

Table 3-2 lists those actions that are occurring at the same time and place as the Proposed Action and are within the power of the Army and DAF to regulate.

Table 3-2. Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Considered

Project/Trend	Description	Resources Potentially Affected
Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas	Extension of the land withdrawal of public lands to allow the Army to continue current mission and training activities, complete previously approved construction and demolition, and maintain existing infrastructure. Project is currently ongoing.	Air Quality, Land Use, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Infrastructure, Public Health and Safety, Noise
McGregor Range (Barracks) - Various Phases	Construction of facilities at McGregor Camp to offset a shortage of transient training barracks. Project is estimated for construction in 5 to 6 years.	Air Quality, Land Use, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Infrastructure, Public Health and Safety

Table 3-2. Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Considered

Project/Trend	Description	Resources Potentially Affected
McGregor Range (Additional Facilities)	Construction of facilities at McGregor Camp to meet shortages in administrative, DFAC, and maintenance space. Projects are estimated for construction in 5 to 6 years.	Air Quality, Land Use, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Infrastructure, Public Health and Safety
Vehicle Bridge US 54 Overpass	Provide overpass at the Alvarado Crossing to connect maneuver areas with training areas and eliminate the current at-grade crossing of US 54 with military convoys. Project is estimated for construction in 5 to 6 years.	Air Quality, Land Use, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Infrastructure, Public Health and Safety

DFAC = dining facility; US 54 = United States Route 54

3.2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.2.1 Affected Environment

This section discusses public health and safety associated with construction, public access, the potential need for emergency services and response during training events, and environmental health and safety risks to children. The region of influence (ROI) for public health and safety is Ranges 28 and 29 and the closest emergency services.

3.2.1.1 Construction

Health and safety during construction is generally associated with the safety of personnel within or adjacent to the construction zones. DAF Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) and/or any construction contractors would comply with federal regulations, including 29 CFR Part 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*, and appropriate Fort Bliss and DAF safety protocols.

3.2.1.2 Public Access

Public access is permitted for recreation, but the range is closed during training events.

3.2.1.3 Emergency Services and Response

The Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) at Fort Bliss plans, directs, and provides law and order, fire and emergency services, and protection operations in support of Fort Bliss. The DES is made up of the Police Services Division, Fire and Emergency Service (FES) Division, and Physical Security Division. The FES Division is responsible for monitoring and suppressing all fires caused by military activities on the installation. The FES serves as the lead for managing all wildfires at Ranges 28 and 29. Any wildfire caused by CSTR training events would be

reported to Range Operations, who would furnish personnel. Between May and September, the FES supplies at least eight soldiers with transportation, fire tools and communications to fight wildfires on the live-fire ranges (Fort Bliss, 2021a).

Personnel could be injured during training events such as vehicle turnovers, sprains, spot fires, insect bites, other vegetation and wildlife interactions, and explosives use. The closest Army medical facility is the William Beaumont Army Medical Center, a designated Level III Trauma Center. It is located at 18511 Highlander Medics Street at Fort Bliss and offers emergency services. The medical center is located at an approximately 35- to 40-minute drive from Ranges 28 and 29. Other non-Army facilities include the following, which are still 35 to 40 minutes of travel time:

- The University Medical Center, located at 4815 Alameda Avenue, El Paso; open 24 hours and offers a variety of medical services
- Del Sole Medical Center, located at 10301 Gateway Boulevard West, El Paso; open 24 hours

Explosives safety relates to the management and safe use of ordnance and munitions. Safety arcs create a safe distance between the ordnance storage, loading/unloading, handling, and inhabited buildings. The actual size of the arc depends on the types and quantities of ordnance that the facility is authorized to store or handle. The arcs protect personnel against potential serious injury or equipment destruction from possible fires or explosions.

3.2.1.4 Children

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, requires federal agencies to “make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” Since the Proposed Action takes place on the Fort Bliss McGregor CSTR, children would not be present and disproportionate risks would not occur. Therefore, children will not be discussed further in this EA.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

This section evaluates the public and employee health and safety associated with new construction and CSTR training events. An effect on public health and safety would be significant if the Proposed Action resulted in the following:

- A substantial increase in the risks associated with safety of employees, contractors, or the general public.
- Introduction of a new health and safety risk that DAF is not prepared to respond to.
- Ability of emergency services to respond to an emergency event.

3.2.2.1 *Alternative 1*

3.2.2.1.1 Construction

Construction would take place on McGregor Range, consisting primarily of withdrawn public lands used by the Army and administered by the Army and BLM. The construction area would be fenced to prevent unauthorized access. DAF RED HORSE and/or any construction contractors would comply with federal regulations, including 29 CFR Part 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*, and appropriate Fort Bliss and DAF safety protocols. As a result, no significant effects to public health and safety would occur.

3.2.2.1.2 Public Access

As during existing training events at the McGregor Range, the CSTR would be closed to public recreational access. Coordination would be required to notify potential users that the area is closed. With coordination and planning, no significant effects to public health and safety and public access would occur.

3.2.2.1.3 Emergency Services and Response

CSTR training missions would be performed in accordance with Army and DAF safety regulations and occupational health and safety standards. The range would be closed to the public during CSTR training exercises. It is possible that some trainees could be injured and would need to be treated at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center or other local facilities. However, these facilities are at least a 35- to 40-minute drive from Ranges 28 and 29. As a result, an on-site medic could be assigned during CSTR training events to provide first aid, accompany any injured trainees to the local hospital, or accompany the trainee if transferred to a larger hospital. Serious situations would require helicopter transport. With the remote nature of Ranges 28 and 29, coordination would be required with the DES and other community emergency service providers before engaging in a training event. Mobile firefighting units may also be required with support from Fort Bliss, community fire stations, and/or BLM.

As shown in Figure 3-1, safety arcs have been established for the use of explosives at the mock runway and the EODMAG. These arcs represent the prescribed minimum distance between sites storing or handling explosive materials and specified exposures. Land uses within safety arcs are restricted to protect personnel and the public. As a result, no significant effects to public health and safety would occur.

Following similar procedures for other training events at McGregor Range, coordination with the DES and other community emergency service providers before engaging in a training event would ensure that health and safety risks would be minimized. Possible advanced planning efforts could include notifying the DES prior to the training events for medical and firefighting emergency support, securing mobile firefighting units, providing an on-site medic, and obtaining mutual aid agreements as needed with BLM or community providers. With planning and/or mutual aid agreements, long-term public health and safety effects could occur but would not be significant.

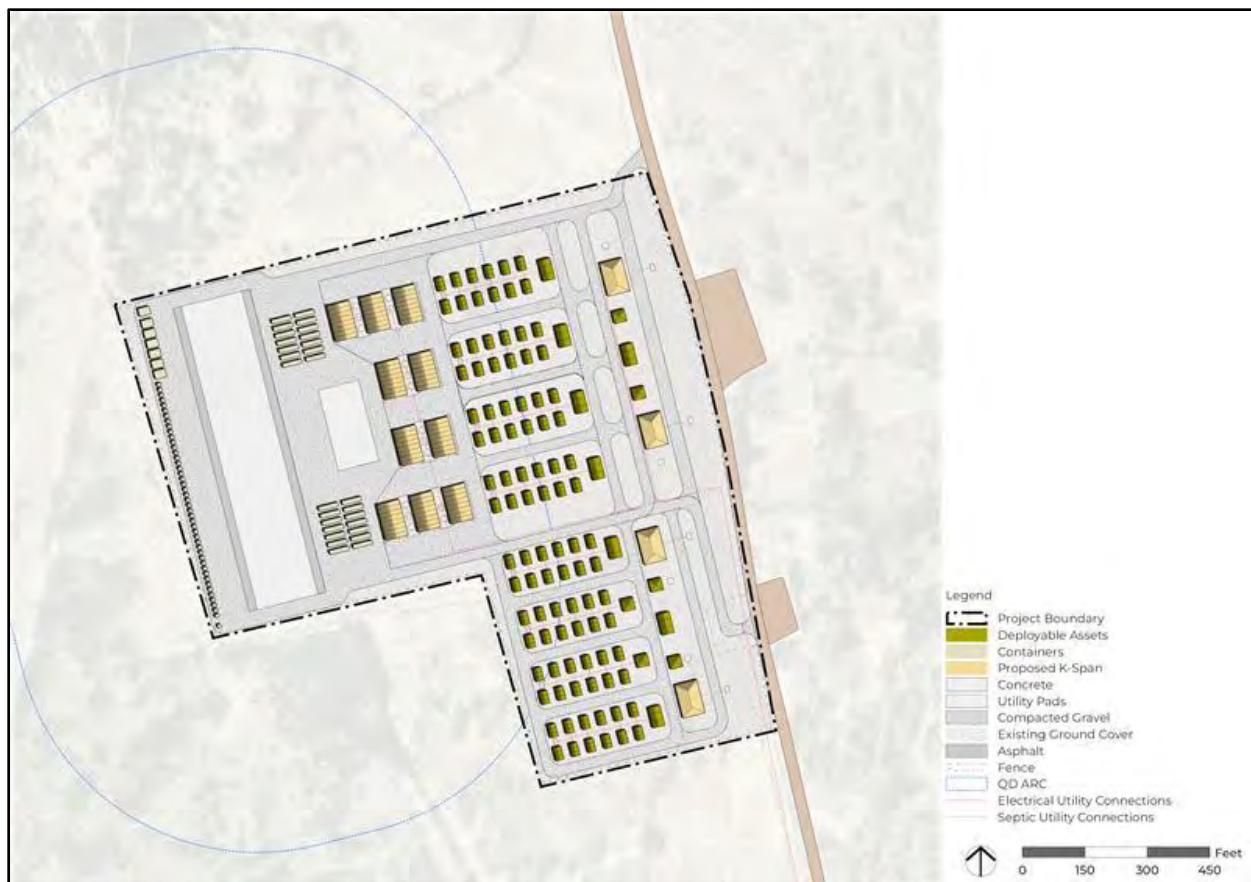


Figure 3-1. Safety Arcs

3.2.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Health and safety effects under Alternative 2 would be similar to effects described under Alternative 1. Under Alternative 2, well drilling would expose trainees to noise, risk of lightning strikes, and electrical shock (NIOSH, 2005). Therefore, health and safety effects could occur, but effects would be reduced to less than significant with proper training, hearing protection, and best management practices (BMPs).

3.2.2.3 *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSTR would not be constructed, students would train elsewhere, and there would be no change to health and safety. Training on McGregor Range would continue as it does under current conditions. Therefore, no significant effects would occur to public health and safety with implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.2.2.4 *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*

Other projects include the land withdrawal extension at Fort McGregor, construction of barracks, and development of the vehicle bridge overpass for U.S. Route 54 (US 54). The land withdrawal extension at McGregor Range would allow training and infrastructure upgrades to continue. Multiple training events could pose additional health and safety effects since emergency response events could increase. Following existing procedures for training events at McGregor Range plus

planning and coordination with the DES would ensure safe conditions and appropriate emergency response. Other proposed projects that involve new construction during the same time period as the Proposed Action could pose additive health and safety effects. However, proposed construction projects at McGregor Range would be located in separate areas on the range, likely not occurring during the same timeframe and would be conducted in compliance with all applicable safety rules and regulations (e.g., Occupational Safety and Health Administration). For example, the proposed barracks construction projects are estimated to occur after construction of the CSTR. The proposed vehicle bridge for the US 54 overpass at Alvarado Crossing would present a safety benefit for military convoys and public safety. Therefore, public health and safety effects associated with implementing the Proposed Action, when considered with other proposed projects, could occur, but would not be significant, considering preventative measures. The public would not be exposed to construction health and safety effects or safety arcs since the projects are located on Fort Bliss.

3.2.2.5 Mitigation

Because effects would not be significant, mitigation measures are not proposed.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Air quality in a given location is defined by the size and topography of an air basin, the air emissions that occur within and outside of the air basin, local and regional meteorological influences, and the resulting types and concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere. The significance of a pollutant concentration often is determined by comparing its concentration to an applicable national or state ambient air quality standard. These standards represent the allowable atmospheric concentrations at which the public health and welfare are protected and include a reasonable margin of safety to protect the more sensitive individuals in the population. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to regulate the following criteria pollutants: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), and lead.

The ROI for the air quality analysis includes the areas surrounding the CSTR site and Otero County. Air emissions from the project also would affect air quality along roadways used to transport personnel and materials between the CSTR site and Fort Bliss. However, since proposed emissions would be low and more dispersed within these transportation routes, the analysis focused on the area immediately surrounding the CSTR site.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) and its subsequent amendments establish air quality regulations and the NAAQS and delegate the enforcement of these standards to the states. The CAA establishes air quality planning processes and requires areas in nonattainment of NAAQS to develop a State Implementation Plan that details how the state will attain the standards within mandated timeframes. The requirements and compliance dates for attainment are based on the severity of the nonattainment classification of the area. Under the CAA, state and local agencies may establish ambient air quality standards and regulations of their own, provided these are at least as stringent as the federal requirements. The New Mexico Environmental Department Air Quality Bureau (AQB) is responsible for enforcing air pollution regulations in New Mexico. The AQB enforces the NAAQS and state ambient air quality standards by monitoring air quality, developing rules to

regulate and to permit stationary sources of air emissions, and contributing to air quality attainment planning processes statewide.

In addition to criteria pollutants, USEPA also regulates hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) that are known or are suspected of causing serious health effects or adverse environmental effects. HAPs are emitted from a range of industrial facilities and vehicles. The CAA identifies 188 substances as HAPs (e.g., benzene, formaldehyde, mercury, and asbestos). USEPA sets federal regulations to reduce HAP emissions from stationary sources in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (USEPA, 2025a).

O₃ is formed in the atmosphere by photochemical reactions of previously emitted pollutants called precursors. O₃ precursors are mainly nitrogen oxides and photochemically reactive volatile organic compounds. In the presence of solar radiation, the maximum effect of precursor emissions on O₃ levels usually occurs several hours after they are emitted and many miles from their source. O₃ concentrations are highest during the warmer months of the year and coincide with the period of maximum insolation. Inert pollutants tend to have the highest concentrations during the colder months of the year, when light winds and nighttime/early morning surface-based temperature inversions inhibit atmospheric dispersion.

USEPA designates all areas of the United States in terms of having air quality better (attainment) or worse (nonattainment) than the NAAQS. Former nonattainment areas that have attained NAAQS are designated as maintenance areas. Currently Otero County, which encompasses the CSTR site, is classified as an attainment area for all NAAQS (USEPA, 2025b). Therefore, the requirements of the CAA General Conformity Rule do not apply to the Proposed Action.

The McGregor Range that encompasses the CSTR project site generates air emissions from training exercises due to (1) the use of fossil-fuel-powered vehicles, non-road equipment, rotary aircraft, and ordnance and (2) the operation of vehicles on unpaved surfaces and the use of larger ordnance, which generates fugitive dust. Fugitive dust is a concern in the region to the aridity of the climate and the associated lack of soil moisture.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are naturally occurring and human-made atmospheric constituents that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. This process plays a crucial role in regulating Earth's temperature. Common GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride, sulfur hexafluoride, and water vapor. Cumulative GHG emissions from all sources, worldwide, can increase heat in the atmosphere, which has the potential to impact average global temperatures.

The project alternatives would emit GHGs into the atmosphere. Because GHGs can persist in the atmosphere and disperse globally, emissions from various sources, including the activities from the project alternatives, can collectively contribute to the overall atmospheric concentration of GHGs. An analysis of the projected GHG emissions from the project alternatives are presented in Section 3.3.2.4, *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

The air quality analysis estimated the effects of the proposed activities by comparing the increase in annual criteria pollutant emissions to applicable insignificance indicators for attainment areas (AFCEC, 2025). The ROI surrounding the CSTR site currently attains all NAAQS, and the insignificance indicator used to evaluate actions in such areas is the USEPA Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permitting threshold of 250 tons per year (tpy) of a criteria

pollutant besides lead. The insignificance indicator for lead in this area is 25 tpy. The insignificance indicators do not denote a significant effect; however, they do provide a threshold to identify actions that have insignificant effects to air quality. Any action with net emissions below the insignificance indicators is considered so insignificant that the action would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of any NAAQS.

The air quality analysis estimated the magnitude of emissions that would result from construction and operation of the proposed alternatives with the use of the DAF Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) version 5.0.24a (Solutio Environmental, 2025). The analysis also used emissions factors developed by USEPA to estimate emissions from proposed munitions usages (USEPA, 1995).

3.3.2.1 *Alternative 1*

Air quality effects resulting from construction of Alternative 1 would occur from (1) combustive emissions due to the use of fossil-fuel-powered equipment and (2) fugitive dust emissions (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}) from the operation of equipment on exposed soil. Construction activity data for Alternative 1 were developed to estimate construction equipment usages and areas of disturbed ground for use as inputs to the ACAM. The air quality analysis assumed that the proposed construction activities would begin in early 2028 and last for 1 year. To provide a conservative analysis, it was assumed that all proposed construction activities would occur within FY 2028.

Proposed construction activities would implement standard practices to minimize fugitive dust emissions and to comply with NMAC 20.2.23, *Fugitive Dust Control* (a reduction of at least 50 percent from uncontrolled levels). Some of these practices would include the following:

1. Use water trucks to keep areas of vehicle movement damp enough to minimize the generation of fugitive dust.
2. Minimize the amount of disturbed ground area at a given time.
3. Suspend all soil disturbance activities when winds exceed 25 miles per hour (mph) or when visible dust plumes emanate from the site, and stabilize all disturbed areas with water application.
4. Designate personnel to monitor the dust control program and to increase watering, as necessary, to minimize the generation of dust.

Air quality effects resulting from operation of Alternative 1 would occur from (1) a series of diesel-powered electric generators, (2) occasional use of explosives, (3) trucks that would deliver water and materials and export waste, and (4) buses and light-duty vehicles used to transport personnel to and from the project site. Operational activity data for Alternative 1 were developed for use as inputs to the ACAM. The air quality analysis assumed that the proposed operational activities would begin January 2029.

Table 3-3 presents estimates of annual air emissions that would occur from implementation of Alternative 1. These data show that annual emissions would remain below the insignificance indicator thresholds. Therefore, implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in significant air quality effects.

The estimation of emissions for the proposed series of diesel-powered electric generators used during operations at the CSTR site were based on each unit operating every hour of the year, or 8,760 hours per year. Based on this metric, these combined sources would produce emissions that would equate to the definition of a major source and, therefore, would require an operating permit

subject to the requirements of NMAC 20.2.70, *Operating Permits*. Compliance with these permit requirements would ensure that operation of Alternative 1 would result in less than significant air quality effects.

Table 3-3. Annual Emissions for Implementation of Alternative 1

Year/Activity	Air Pollutant Emissions (tons per year)						
	VOCs	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e}
Year 2028							
Construction Emissions	0.11	1.22	0.91	0.002	9.30	0.03	268
Year 2029							
Personnel Emissions	0.01	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	3
Generator Emissions	22.92	86.16	202.32	16.53	21.39	21.39	15,571
Explosive Emissions	-	0.21	-	-	-	-	0.10
Wastewater Truck Delivery Emissions	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	32
Water Truck Delivery Emissions	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	39
Total Emissions – Year 2029	22.93	86.66	202.48	16.53	21.41	21.39	15,645
Insignificance Indicator	250	250	250	250	250	250	75,000
Exceed Threshold Indicator?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

- = no data; < = less than; CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; Pb = lead; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compound

Notes:

1. Total Pb emissions would be < 0.001 tons per year, substantially less than the insignificance indicator of 25 tons per year.
2. Calculated values and totals have been rounded; therefore, sum totals might not exactly match the totals row.

3.3.2.2 Alternative 2

Air emissions and resulting air quality effects from Alternative 2 would be nearly identical to those estimated for Alternative 1. The differences between the two alternatives would be that Alternative 2 would operate a diesel-powered drill rig system during construction to develop water wells and would not require the delivery of water by diesel-powered trucks during operations.

Table 3-4 presents estimates of annual air emissions that would occur from implementation of Alternative 2. These data show that annual emissions would remain below the insignificance indicator thresholds. Therefore, implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in significant air quality effects.

Table 3-4. Annual Emissions for Implementation of Alternative 2

Year/Activity	Air Pollutant Emissions (tons per year)						
	VOCs	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e}
Year 2028							
Construction Emissions	0.11	1.22	0.92	0.002	9.30	0.03	305
Well Drilling Emissions	0.01	0.08	0.35	0.0002	0.01	0.01	17
Total Construction Emissions – Year 2028	0.12	1.30	1.27	0.00	9.31	0.04	322
Year 2029 and Post-Year 2030							

Table 3-4. Annual Emissions for Implementation of Alternative 2

Year/Activity	Air Pollutant Emissions (tons per year)						
	VOCs	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e}
Personnel Emissions	0.01	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	3
Generator Emissions	22.92	86.16	202.32	16.53	21.39	21.39	15,571
Explosive Emissions	-	0.21	-	-	-	-	0.10
Wastewater Truck Delivery Emissions	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.0002	0.00	0.00	31.76
Total Emissions – Year 2029 and Post-Year 2030	22.93	86.58	202.43	16.53	21.40	21.39	15,606
Year 2030							
Construction Emissions	0.01	0.17	0.11	0.00	0.02	0.00	36.28
Personnel Emissions	0.01	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	3
Generator Emissions	22.92	86.16	202.32	16.53	21.39	21.39	15,571
Explosive Emissions	-	0.21	-	-	-	-	0.10
Wastewater Truck Delivery Emissions	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.76
Total Emissions – Year 2030	22.93	86.58	202.43	16.53	21.40	21.39	15,606
Insignificance Indicator	250	250	250	250	250	250	75,000
Exceed Threshold Indicator?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

- = no data; < = less than; CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; Pb = lead; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compound

Notes:

1. Total Pb emissions would be < 0.001 tons per year, substantially less than the insignificance indicator of 25 tons per year.
2. Calculated values and totals have been rounded; therefore, sum totals might not exactly match the totals row.

Similar to Alternative 1, proposed construction activities would implement standard practices to minimize fugitive dust emissions and to comply with NMAC 20.2.23 (a reduction of at least 50 percent from uncontrolled levels), as listed in Section 3.3.2.5, *Mitigation*. In addition, operation of the proposed diesel-powered electric generators at the CSTR site would require an operating permit subject to the requirements of NMAC 20.2.70. Compliance with these permit requirements would ensure that operation of Alternative 2 would result in less than significant air quality effects.

3.3.2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSTR would not be developed at McGregor Range. Air emissions and resulting air quality effects under the No Action Alternative would remain unchanged from existing conditions.

3.3.2.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

3.3.2.4.1 Criteria Pollutants

Future projects that emit air emissions within McGregor Range and the greater air quality ROI could combine with emissions from the Proposed Action and result in reasonably foreseeable effects. Currently, Otero County attains all NAAQS. Due to its remoteness, proposed emissions emanating from the CSTR site would marginally combine with emissions from other sources within the ROI. Therefore, effects resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action, in

conjunction with reasonably foreseeable future actions within the ROI, would not exceed any NAAQS and, therefore, would not result in significant effects.

3.3.2.4.2 Greenhouse Gases

Regarding reasonably foreseeable effects from proposed GHG emissions, the analysis used the PSD threshold for GHGs of 75,000 tpy of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) as an indicator or threshold of insignificance for NEPA effects. A source this large would trigger major source PSD permitting requirements for GHGs, assuming the source first triggered PSD permitting for another regulated pollutant. Actions with a net change in CO₂e emissions below the insignificance indicator (threshold) are considered too insignificant on a global scale to warrant any further analysis of GHGs.

Table 3-3 and Table 3-4 present estimates of annual GHG emissions that would occur from implementation of Alternatives 1 and 2, respectively. These data show that GHGs from the alternatives would remain well below the GHG emissions insignificance indicator. Therefore, Alternatives 1 and 2 would not result in any significant reasonably foreseeable effects to GHG emissions. Additional information regarding calculations for GHGs is provided in Appendix B, *Air Quality Calculations*.

3.3.2.5 *Mitigation*

In the absence of any significant effects to air quality, no mitigation measures are identified that would reduce air quality effects from the project alternatives.

3.4 **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The definition of this resource and regulatory setting (e.g., ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, etc.) are described in the *Legislative Environmental Assessment for the Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas* on pages 3-25 to 3-27 (Fort Bliss, 2024).

The ROI consists of the area within McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 and adjacent areas supporting biological resources that could be affected by activities identified in Chapter 1.0, *Purpose of and Need for Action*.

3.4.1 **Affected Environment**

3.4.1.1 *Vegetation*

Fort Bliss lies within the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion with a semi-arid to arid subtropical desert climate. There is a high degree of biodiversity within Fort Bliss due to its varied topography and large size (approximately 1.12 million acres). Plant communities on the installation range from the Chihuahuan Desert plant communities in the Tularosa Basin to Rocky Mountain conifer forests in the Organ and Sacramento Mountains (Fort Bliss, 2021a).

The major plant community types in the lower areas of Fort Bliss are desert grasslands, Chihuahuan Desert scrub, and plains mesa sandscrub. Vegetation types that occur in the mountains are juniper savanna, coniferous and mixed woodlands, and montane conifer forests (Fort Bliss, 2021a). The proposed CSTR site consists of foothills desert scrub plant communities. The foothills desert scrub occurs in broad desert basins and plains extending up onto dissected gravelly alluvial

fans, piedmonts, and foothills in the Chihuahuan Desert. It is characterized by a moderate to sparse shrub layer that is dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and American tarwort (*Flourensia cernua*) (Brown et al., 2025).

3.4.1.2 Wildlife

Information on wildlife occurring within McGregor Range is provided in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) (Fort Bliss, 2021a). Common wildlife documented on the base includes a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and invertebrate species adapted for survival in the hot, dry environment of the Chihuahuan Desert. There are no fish resources at McGregor Range. Desert wildlife species documented at the installation within areas of human disturbance include small rodents, rabbits, coyotes and a variety of birds and reptiles.

3.4.1.3 Special Status Species

Special status species with potential for occurrence on or near Fort Bliss consist of species protected by federal law, including the ESA, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and MBTA, as well as species designated by BLM, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the State of New Mexico. The USFWS's IPaC online system was accessed on August 14, 2025, to identify current USFWS trust resources (e.g., migratory birds, species proposed or listed under the ESA [16 U.S.C. Section 1531 et seq.], interjurisdiction fishes, and USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System lands) with potential to occur within the ROI for biological resources. In addition, the New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMDGF, 2025) and the New Mexico Rare Plant (NMRP, 2025) databases were accessed on August 15 and 18, 2025, to identify potential state-listed and BLM-listed species that could occur in the area. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) provided a letter containing additional state-listed species, species of greatest conservation need (per the State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico), New Mexico species of economic and recreational importance, USFS sensitive species, and BLM sensitive and watch species potentially occurring in the ROI. Results from the review tool and plant database, as well as the NMDGF letter, are included in Appendix C, *Biological Resources Supporting Information*, and Appendix A, *Stakeholder Correspondence*, respectively.

The USFWS provided an automated official species list via a Section 7 letter that identified eight federally threatened and endangered species and one proposed threatened species; these species are listed in Table 3-5. While there is no designated critical habitat on McGregor Range, four separate plots of land on Otero Mesa are designated by BLM as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). These ACECs were established to ensure portions of black grama grasslands remain intact (Fort Bliss, 2021a). Otero Mesa is located approximately 25 miles from the proposed CSTR site.

The 2021 Fort Bliss INRMP indicates there are 48 federally and/or state-sensitive, -threatened, or -endangered species of plants and animals that are known to occur or have the potential to occur on Fort Bliss, McGregor Range (Fort Bliss, 2021a). As discussed in the *Legislative Environmental Assessment for the Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas*, Fort Bliss has an active monitoring and survey program for sensitive, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species to ensure that newly discovered sensitive species receive adequate protection. Species on McGregor Range being managed under plans by Fort Bliss include the Northern Aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus*

bairdii), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), mountain plover (*Anarhynchus montanus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Fort Bliss, 2024).

The Northern Aplomado falcon is listed as federally endangered in Texas, while any populations in Arizona and New Mexico are considered experimental and nonessential. Fort Bliss lies within the historical range of the falcon and contains substantial areas of suitable habitat; there is potential for the falcon to inhabit and establish territories on the installation (USFWS, 2024).

The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is divided into two geographically separate subspecies. The western yellow-billed cuckoo has been documented in the Organ Mountains and on Otero Mesa (Fort Bliss, 2021a).

Table 3-5. Federally and State-Listed Species Known to Occur or Potentially Occurring within McGregor Ranges 28 and 29

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal and State Listing Status	Occurrence
Plants			
Sacramento Mountains Thistle	<i>Cirsium vinaceum</i>	FT, SE	Potential to occur in Otero County
Sacramento Prickly Poppy	<i>Argemone pleiakantha</i> ssp. <i>pinnatisecta</i>	FE, SE	Potential to occur in Otero County
Todsen's Pennyroyal	<i>Hedeoma todsenii</i>	FE, SE	Potential to occur in Otero County
Birds			
Rufa Red Knot ¹	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	FT	Potential to occur in Otero County
Northern Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	FE, SE	Potential to occur in Otero County
Northern Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	Exp. Pop	Potential to occur in Otero County
Piping Plover ¹	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	FT	Potential to occur in Otero County
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	FT	Potential to occur in Otero County
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ST	Potential to occur in Otero County
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	ST	Potential to occur in Otero County
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	ST	Potential to occur in Otero County
Mammals			
Penasco Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus atristriatus</i>	FE, SE	Potential to occur in Otero County
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	ST	Potential to occur in Otero County
Invertebrates			
Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	PT	Potential to occur in the ROI

Source: (USFWS, 2025a; NMDGF, 2025; NMRP, 2025)

ESA = Endangered Species Act; Exp. Pop = experimental population; FE = federally endangered; FT = federally threatened; PT = proposed for ESA listing as threatened; ROI = region of influence; SE = state endangered; ST = state threatened

Note:

1. The rufa red knot and piping plover are not carried out for further analysis. These species only need to be considered under conditions present for wind energy projects (USFWS, 2025a).

3.4.1.3.1 Migratory Birds

A total of 336 bird species occur on Fort Bliss and most are protected by the MBTA. Most migratory species are considered birds of conservation concern (species that without additional conservation action are likely to become candidates for listing under the ESA), and numerous species are also considered New Mexico species of greatest conservation need (refer to Appendix C, *Biological Resources Supporting Information*). Burrowing owls (*Athene*

cunicularia), ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*), and songbirds are among the species that occur on the grasslands of Otero Mesa (Fort Bliss, 2024). The Sacramento Mountains provide bald eagle winter range and golden eagle (*Aquila chysaetos*) nesting areas. Golden eagle nesting occurs in mountainous areas of Fort Bliss, and, in 2024, two nests were confirmed to be successful in Southern Otero Mesa and the Southern Hueco Mountains (USFWS, 2025b). The closest of these nests would be approximately 7 miles from the CSTR site and are outside of the buffer area surrounding an active nest.

Fort Bliss' MBTA compliance and migratory bird conservation efforts are described in detail in the INRMP (Fort Bliss, 2021a). Conservation actions include habitat restoration, protection, and enhancement, as well as the prevention and abatement of air and water pollution. Examples of management practices include conducting landscaping activities during the fall and winter to avoid effects on nesting birds and instructing soldiers to avoid disturbing or destroying bird nests in training areas.

3.4.1.3.2 Sensitive Habitats

The New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (NMCHAT, 2026) indicates that crucial habitats may occur on or near Ranges 28 and 29. Crucial habitats are areas considered likely to provide the natural resources important to wildlife, including species of concern and species important for hunting and fishing. Habitats indicated by the tool include several macrogroups of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands. A macrogroup is a habitat classification based on similar dominant and diagnostic growth forms and species composition (NMDW, 2025). As described in Section 3.5, *Water Resources*, there are no jurisdictional wetlands on McGregor Range. The NWI wetlands indicated near the ranges consist of a dry lake with associated depressional playa wetlands, totaling approximately 100 acres north of the proposed CSTR site, and an ephemeral stream (arroyo) that formerly flowed through the western portion of Range 29 (the stream path has been modified and no longer crosses the site). Construction BMPs and stormwater management measures would prevent indirect erosion and sedimentation effects on playa wetlands north of the proposed CSTR site and, therefore, wetlands are not discussed further in the EA.

3.4.1.3.3 Invasive and Exotic Species

African rue (*Peganum harmala*), salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and Malta starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) are invasive plant species present on McGregor Range. The African rue is actively controlled (Fort Bliss, 2021a). The oryx (also called gemsbok) (*Oryx gazelle*) and Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) are native species of Africa released in the United States in the mid-1900s. The oryx population has been growing in southern New Mexico over the past several decades and population reduction hunts occur on McGregor Range. Limited hunting for Barbary sheep occurs on Fort Bliss (Fort Bliss, 2021a).

3.4.2 **Environmental Consequences**

Potential effects on biological resources, including plants, animals, and their habitats, would depend on factors such as sensitivity to a particular activity, proximity to potential stressors, and duration of exposure to stressors. This analysis provides an assessment of potential direct, indirect, temporary, and permanent effects to biological resources that could result from the Proposed Action.

The following factors were evaluated when determining the significance of an effect on biological resources that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action:

- The direct effect or taking of a protected species, including habitat alteration
- The importance (legal, commercial, ecological, or scientific) of the resource
- The relative sensitivity of biological resources
- The quantity or percentage of biological resources relative to overall abundance in the ROI
- The expected duration of potential effects

3.4.2.1 *Alternative 1*

3.4.2.1.1 Vegetation

Grading and land disturbance would occur on the entire proposed CSTR site (30.5 acres), which includes the expansion area to the south. Vegetation in the CSTR site is mostly disturbed from previous range construction and training activities. Approximately 25.5 acres on Range 29 would be graded and graveled, and a concrete mock airfield and a perimeter fence would be constructed under Alternative 1. Five acres on Range 28 would be subject to future expansion under the Proposed Action. It is assumed that up to 30.5 total acres of vegetation, primarily foothills desert scrub, would be disturbed during CSTR site development. Foothills desert scrub comprises 95,172 acres, or 8.53 percent, of the total land cover vegetation types within Fort Bliss (Fort Bliss, 2021a). The disturbance of 30.5 acres would represent approximately 0.03 percent of the total vegetation type available on the installation. Effects to the vegetation community on Ranges 28 and 29 would not be significant due to previous land clearing activities in the area and an abundance of foothills desert scrub remaining throughout McGregor Range.

3.4.2.1.2 Wildlife

Ground-disturbing activities within the project area during construction would occur in up to 30.5 acres of habitat potentially occupied by native reptile, mammal, and bird species, including crucial habitats of the Chihuahua Desert ecoregion that may potentially be used by species of concern. These species would have the potential to be disturbed, displaced, injured, or killed during land clearing activities. Effects to bird species in the ROI are discussed under Section 3.4.2.1.3.1, *Migratory Birds*. Previous monitoring studies on Fort Bliss indicate that several bat species may occur in the area. Since bats are a highly mobile species and roosting habitat near the project area is limited, direct effects during land clearing and construction activities would not be expected. Game and nongame species would be expected to clear the area at the start of activities. Suitable habitat exists nearby for those species and there would be minimal effects to hunting or foraging success. Effects to reptile and small mammal species would be expected to be minor from the loss of habitat, as most of Ranges 28 and 29 have been previously cleared for construction of a firing range or disturbed from other training activities. The reptile and small mammal species that occur in the ROI are relatively abundant and common, and displacement or loss of a relatively small number of individuals or small area of suitable habitat would not affect regional populations. The buried fencing and apron around the project area may affect wildlife movement by creating a barrier to relatively large species, although smaller species like reptiles and rodents may be able to access the site through openings in the fence. The buried fence and apron would deter wildlife

from digging into the site and assist in preventing potential animal stress from becoming trapped inside the CSTR site.

Operational effects have the potential to introduce noise into the environment at the CSTR site and in adjacent areas. The proposed CSTR site is located at the site of a former small arms range and is located less than a mile from an existing demolition range. The introduction of noise from explosives used in training on the mock runway would be similar to the existing twice-monthly explosions at the demolition range. Wildlife may be startled by sudden loud noises but typically return to previous behaviors within a short time of exposure. Some wildlife may leave the vicinity of areas with continued noise exposure. No significant effects are anticipated to wildlife from implementation of Alternative 1.

3.4.2.1.3 Special Status Species

ESA-listed, state-listed, BLM Watch, and BLM sensitive plant species with the potential to occur within McGregor Range have not been documented in the project area and, therefore, there would be no effects from construction or operations to listed species.

Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) occurrence would be transient in nature during migration periods, when individuals may utilize milkweed species common in the Chihuahuan Desert such as bract milkweed (*Asclepias brachystephana*) as a food source or to deposit eggs (McCoshum & Agrawal, 2021). Land clearing activities could potentially remove milkweed and other food sources. However, bract milkweed has been identified in roadside milkweed studies and suitable numbers of milkweed and other flowering plants would remain available outside the project area. Effects to available habitat for monarch's would be minor but long-term.

Burrowing owls have the potential to occur in the ROI. Before any ground disturbance, a burrowing owl survey would be completed using the NMDGF burrowing owl survey protocol if construction activities occur between March 1st and October 30th. If burrowing owls are found in areas to be disturbed, Fort Bliss personnel would contact the NMDGF or USFWS for recommendations on relocation or avoidance measures.

Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) colonies have the potential to occur in the ROI. Prairie dog burrows can provide habitat for other wildlife, including burrowing owls. Before any ground disturbance, a prairie dog survey would be conducted according to NMDGF prairie dog survey protocol. If active burrows are found in areas to be disturbed and cannot be avoided, Fort Bliss personnel would contact the NMDGF for recommendations on live trapping and relocation of prairie dogs.

The U.S. Army initiated informal Section 7 consultation through the USFWS' online IPaC tool, which resulted in a conformity letter. The U.S. Army reviewed the results of the informal coordination and incorporated relevant information into this EA, where applicable. Proposed or designated critical habitat does not occur in or near the ROI for any federally listed species. Due to the nature of suitable and preferred habitats outside the ROI, effects to federally and state-listed, BLM Watch, and BLM sensitive species from implementation of Alternative 1 would not be significant. Coordination with the USFWS is ongoing.

3.4.2.1.3.1 *Migratory Birds*

Up to 30.5 acres of habitat potentially used by migratory birds would have the potential to be lost from the development of the project area. Migratory birds in the ROI may be affected by noise,

construction, and loss of habitat. Over 95,000 acres of desert scrub habitat occurs within Fort Bliss. The likelihood of effects to migratory species would be minor due to relative abundance of suitable habitat nearby. Many of the listed bird species are found in Otero County grassland ecosystems outside the ROI and only have the potential to occur in the ROI. Breeding and nesting areas for golden eagles exist on McGregor Range; however, they are outside the ROI and golden eagle potential in the ROI would be transient in nature.

All construction activities with potential to remove vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season (February 15th through September 15th) would have an avian nest search completed by a qualified biologist prior to activities to prevent the “take” of a protected species. Disturbance of any nests found would be avoided until the young have fledged. A buffer would be established around active nests to minimize disturbance to nesting birds (see section 3.4.2.1.3.3, *Measures to Minimize Effects*). Removal of active nests, if necessary, would be conducted by a qualified biologist. The Proposed Action would not be expected to have a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations; therefore, no significant effects to migratory bird species would be anticipated from implementation of Alternative 1.

3.4.2.1.3.2 Invasive and Exotic Species

Construction equipment has the potential to introduce and spread invasive plants and noxious weed species within and outside of the project area. Grading of the project area may provide conditions suitable to the establishment of invasive species and noxious weeds. During construction, all vehicles and equipment would be inspected and cleaned of any dirt, debris, seeds, and visible plant material prior to being brought onto or before leaving the project area. If any disturbed areas are revegetated, only native plant species would be used per NMDGF recommendations, including plants that enhance local pollinator habitat as feasible. The seed mix and mulch would be certified weed-free. Seeds used for revegetation would be sourced from the region as feasible. Alternative 1 may have effects on the establishment of invasive and noxious weed species, but effects would not be significant.

3.4.2.1.3.3 Measures to Minimize Effects

The following measures, which include recommendations provided by the NMDGF (Appendix C, *Biological Resources Supporting Information*), would minimize effects to biological resources.

- The Fort Bliss Pest Management Plan will be implemented to reduce and minimize effects from invasive species (Fort Bliss, 2021a).
- Compliance with the MBTA will be ensured during construction activities (Fort Bliss, 2021a).
- Before any ground disturbance, a burrowing owl survey will be completed using the NMDGF burrowing owl survey protocol if construction activities occur between March 1st and October 30th. If burrowing owls are found, the NMDGF or USFWS would be contacted for recommendations on relocation or avoidance measures.
- Before any ground disturbance, a prairie dog survey would be conducted according to NMDGF prairie dog survey protocol. If active burrows are found in areas to be disturbed and cannot be avoided, Fort Bliss personnel would contact the NMDGF for recommendations on live trapping and relocation of prairie dogs.
- All construction activities with potential to remove vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season (February 15th through September 15th) will have an avian nest search completed by a qualified biologist prior to activities to prevent the “take” of a protected

species. Disturbance of any nests found would be avoided until the young have fledged. A buffer would be established around active nests to minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Buffer distances would be at least 100 feet from songbird and raven nests; 0.25 miles from most raptor nests; and 0.5 miles from ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) nests. Removal of active nests, if necessary, would be conducted by a qualified biologist.

- For construction activities that include temporary open holes or trenches (e.g., utility line trenches), NMDGF guidelines would be followed to prevent wildlife mortality due to entrapment (NMDGF, 2022). Potentially relevant measures include implementing concurrent digging, utility laying, and backfill operations if possible; covering open trenches or blocking them with silt fencing; providing escape ramps; covering open pipe ends that are left overnight; and inspecting trenches that have been left open overnight and removing any wildlife present.
- An invasive plant species, African rue, is known to occur near the CSTR site; therefore, all earth-moving equipment will be thoroughly washed prior to and before leaving the site to prevent both the introduction and spread of invasive plant species. Per NMDGF recommendations, if any disturbed areas are revegetated, only native plant species would be used, including plants that enhance local pollinator habitat as feasible. The seed mix and mulch would be certified weed-free. Seeds used for revegetation would be sourced from the Fort Bliss region as feasible.
- The electric company is required to ensure that all above ground transmission poles and lines (temporary and permanent) are compliant with Edison Electric Institute and Aviation Power Line Interaction “Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines,” specifically for golden eagles since they utilize power poles and have the greatest wing span. All equipment must be properly insulated, grounded, and adequately spaced to avoid raptor electrocutions. Bird deterrents or alternative perches need to be installed on poles and cross arms when line configurations do not allow for adequate wire separation to avoid avian electrocutions. The responsible electric company is required to contact the Environmental Division prior to removal of any bird best of a raptor, crow, or other protected bird species during the removal and replace of utility poles. If encountered, personnel associated with Alternative 1 are not to interfere with nesting birds or disturb the nest until a qualified Wildlife Biologist has determined that all young have fledged and left the nest.

3.4.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Alternative 2 would occur in the same location and have the same disturbance effects as Alternative 1. The only difference in operational effects would be the installation of groundwater wells. Wells would be installed within the same ROI as Alternative 1. Effects associated with Alternative 2 would be the same as those described for Alternative 1 and, therefore, would not be significant.

3.4.2.3 *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed CSTR site at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 would not be constructed. Baseline conditions would remain the same and no significant effects to biological resources would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.4.2.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

Implementation of the extension of the land withdrawal of public lands is currently ongoing at Fort Bliss. Analysis of effects to biological resources provided in the *Legislative Environmental Assessment for the Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas* (Fort Bliss, 2024) determined that there would be no new adverse effects. Construction activities associated with McGregor Range barracks facilities and additional facilities at McGregor Camp, including administrative, dining facility, and maintenance space, would occur in previously developed areas. Construction of the vehicle bridge overpass on US 54 could reduce suitable habitat for biological species near the highway; however, access to suitable habitat exists nearby. Additionally, animals may be struck due to increased vehicle traffic and equipment use during construction of the overpass. Therefore, effects on biological resources associated with implementing the Proposed Action, when considered with other proposed projects, could occur but would not be significant.

3.4.2.5 Mitigation

In the absence of any significant effects to biological resources, no mitigation measures have been identified.

3.5 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources include watershed management, surface waters, stormwater management, floodplains, wetlands, and groundwater, the features and functions of which are valued by or beneficial to humans (e.g., water quality, recreation, and flood protection).

The ROI for water resources includes the surface and subsurface environments at, adjacent to, and downstream of the Proposed Action.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

3.5.1.1 Watershed Management

The proposed CSTR site is located in the Tularosa Basin Watershed, which is managed by the Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins Water Planning Region. Under Section 3019 of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999, there are no established water rights for the federal government on the McGregor Range. Water rights within the basin are permitted by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer.

3.5.1.2 Surface Water and Stormwater Management

Annual precipitation averages 8.8 inches. Brief heavy rainstorms that can spur localized flooding occur July through September and account for more than half of annual precipitation (Fort Bliss, 2021a). The majority of McGregor Range is undeveloped.

The Tularosa Basin Watershed is characterized by small ephemeral springs that discharge towards the central areas of the basin (Fort Bliss, 2021a). One ephemeral stream, flowing north to an artificial depressional impoundment, also known as a “dirt tank,” is mapped within the proposed CSTR site (USFWS, 2025c). This stream’s path was modified by the construction of Range 29 in 2009 and no longer crosses the site. The impoundment is located approximately 0.15 miles north

of the proposed CSTR site. Dirt tanks hold runoff from precipitation and are for livestock and wildlife use.

3.5.1.3 Floodplains and Wetlands

There are no jurisdictional wetlands on McGregor Range (Fort Bliss, 2021a). Depressional playa wetlands (e.g., dry lakes), totaling approximately 100 acres, are located approximately 0.3 miles north of the proposed CSTR. The wetlands consists of an approximately 75-acre intermittently flooded persistent palustrine emergent wetland that surrounds an approximately 25-acre temporarily flooded lacustrine littoral wetland (USFWS, 2025c).

The proposed CSTR site is categorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as Zone X (minimal flood risk). A Zone A category area (the 100-year floodplain) is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the proposed CSTR site and is within the wetland area discussed above.

3.5.1.4 Groundwater

Within the Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins Water Planning Region, there are four declared underground water basins—the Tularosa, Salt, and small sections of the Roswell and Hueco. Only the Tularosa is present at the proposed CSTR site.

Tularosa basin groundwater withdrawals total approximately 19,400 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/year) (Longworth et al., 2013). Aquifer recharge estimates vary widely, from 11,890 ac-ft/year to 42,315 ac-ft/year (NMOSE, 2016). Despite the recharge rates, groundwater levels in the basin are declining. Estimates using modeled and observed rates project groundwater level declines of 20 to 65 feet by the Year 2060 (NMOSE, 2016).

Water quality in the Tularosa underground water basin generally deteriorates with increasing depth and distance from the mountain front. Water on the eastern side of the basin has lower salinity but higher sulfate concentrations compared to groundwater on the western edge, which has higher salinity (NMOSE, 2016). Groundwater in the vicinity of the proposed CSTR likely contains fresh to slightly saline water (less than or equal to 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids). Depth to groundwater in the area, based on the nearest wells with data, is greater than 300 feet (NMBGMR, 2025; TWDB, 2020). Groundwater yields from wells in the basin interior are about 300 to 700 gallons per minute (Hibbs et al., 1997).

Due to the remote location of the proposed CSTR and the lack of identified sources of potential contamination in the area (e.g., leaking underground storage tanks [USTs], agricultural sites, chemical storage facilities, septic tanks, etc.), groundwater contamination in the area of the proposed CSTR is not expected (NMED, 2025).

Drinking water wells are regulated through the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and must comply with 40 CFR Part 141, which requires sampling and monitoring for water standards. New Mexico regulations associated with drinking water include NMAC 20.7.10 and 20.6.2.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

A significant effect to water resources within the ROI would include the following:

- Adverse effects to water quality of the region
- Exceedance of safe annual yield of water supply sources/overdrafts of groundwater basins
- Violation of established laws or regulations adopted to protect sensitive water resources

3.5.2.1 *Alternative 1*

3.5.2.1.1 Surface Water and Stormwater Management

New construction, paving, and grading would potentially result in higher ephemeral stream rates of flow, causing downstream erosion and sedimentation. During construction, crews would employ BMPs for stormwater management, such as minimizing the disturbed area, installing silt fencing, and installing rock check dams to reduce these effects. Construction would result in short-term minor adverse effects to surface waters; however, effects would not be significant.

In compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a Construction General Permit would be required. The project would disturb more than 1 acre of land; therefore, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be required prior to construction. A Notice of Intent and Notice of Termination would also be required, as more than 5 acres of land would be disturbed.

Because the project construction has a footprint greater than 5,000 square feet, it must comply with the Energy Independence and Security Act's low impact development requirement to maintain or restore, to the maximum extent technically feasible, the predevelopment hydrology of the property with regard to the temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow. Methods to comply include bioretention cells, swales, permeable/porous pavement, etc. Operations at the CSTR would not be expected to affect surface waters because they would be conducted on improved surfaces that are compliant with Energy Independence and Security Act low impact development requirements. Chemical constituents of the explosives used at the mock runway would be consumed in the explosion and would not pose a contamination risk for area waters. CSTR operations would result in long-term adverse effects to surface waters; however, the effects would not be significant.

3.5.2.1.2 Floodplains and Wetlands

Because of the BMPs detailed in the above section and the distance to these features, effects to the floodplain and associated depressional wetlands, which are downstream of the CSTR site, would not be expected.

3.5.2.1.3 Groundwater

Because minimal aquifer recharge occurs at the CSTR site (most of the scarce precipitation in the area evaporates), the aquifer is more than 300 feet below grade, and there are no withdrawals or discharges to groundwater/wells (e.g., no septic tanks), this alternative is not expected to result in effects to groundwater.

3.5.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Alternative 2 would occur in the same location and have the same disturbance effects as Alternative 1. This alternative would have the same effects as described for surface waters,

stormwater, floodplains, and wetlands under Alternative 1. Effects to groundwater due to the installation of groundwater wells are discussed below.

3.5.2.2.1 Groundwater

Under Alternative 2, a well (or wells) with a target yield/water demand of 13,600 gallons per day would be installed. Prior to drilling, the DAF would apply for and obtain a water rights permit from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. Permit issuance conditions require that water is available, that the appropriation would not impair existing water rights, that the use would conform with state water conservation efforts, and that the use is not detrimental to public welfare. While the target yield would be 13,600 gallons per day, actual demand/use would be much less. Using the high water requirements from Table 2-2, annual water demand at the CSTR would be approximately 2.2 ac-ft/year or 0.01 percent of total groundwater basin withdrawals. Due to the lack of groundwater production wells nearby, this alternative would not meaningfully affect water availability elsewhere in the basin. Issuance of the water rights permit by the State Engineer would demonstrate that the water is available and that the well would not impair existing water rights, conservation efforts, or public welfare. If granted, the DAF would comply with all permit requirements, including appropriation limits. Effects to groundwater quantity and availability would not be significant.

Under this alternative, effects to groundwater quality would not be expected. Well protection and treatment in accordance with NMAC 20.7.10.400, *General Operating Requirements* and Air Force Manual 32-1072/Army Field Manual 3-34.49, *Water-Well Drilling Operations*, would be employed. These practices include disinfecting drilling equipment and well components prior to installation, sealing the well casing, constructing a concrete platform, and implementing corrosion protection (sacrificial anode). Operation of the well, the reverse osmosis water purification units, and the connected water distribution system would follow Air Force Handbook 10-222, Volume 11, *Contingency Water System Installation and Operation*. Wastewater and brine resulting from water purification would be containerized and disposed of properly (see Section 3.7, *Hazardous Materials and Wastes*, and Section 3.8, *Infrastructure*). Wells no longer required would be decommissioned in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements.

3.5.2.3 *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSTR would not be constructed. There would be no effects to water resources.

3.5.2.4 *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*

Due to separation in both time and distance between the Proposed Action and the actions in Table 3-2, meaningful reasonably foreseeable effects to water resources are not expected. Under the Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation, Fort Bliss would continue to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and standard mitigation measures for the management and protection of water resources on the withdrawn lands on McGregor Range. For the other actions, McGregor Camp is approximately 5 miles from the Proposed Action area, and the vehicle bridge US 54 overpass is approximately 11 miles from the CSTR site, respectively. Because these actions are distant from the CSTR site, there is little expectation that their effects to water resources would result in combined effects.

3.5.2.5 *Mitigation*

Because effects would not be significant, mitigation measures are not proposed.

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

As defined under 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1), “Historic property means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.”

The preservation of these historic properties is regulated by government laws and regulations, including the NHPA of 1966, as amended. The NHPA establishes policies and procedures for the preservation of historic resources by government entities for properties listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP. In addition, the NHPA encourages state and local historic preservation by the establishment of local preservation offices and regulations. The U.S. Army provides historic preservation guidance and procedures for compliance with the NHPA in Army Regulation 200-4, *Cultural Resources Management*, which details the policy for managing cultural resources on Army installations, integrating requirements of applicable federal, state, and local laws.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

A full chronology and description of the prehistoric and historic record can be found in Section 3.2 of the Fort Bliss Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (Fort Bliss, 2022). More than 20,000 archaeological sites of all periods have been recorded on post, including more than 700 historic-period sites. These sites comprise historic and prehistoric period sites, including pueblos, rock shelters, and sacred sites.

Management of cultural resources on the Fort Bliss Military Installation are directed by several laws, documents, and agreements regarding treatment of said resources. Army Regulation 200-4 details the policy for managing cultural resources on Army installations. Other installation-specific documents include the current Programmatic Agreement (PA) between Fort Bliss, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the Texas and New Mexico SHPOs (2015 to 2025) (Fort Bliss, 2014) and the 2022 ICRMP (Fort Bliss, 2022). The garrison commander (GC) appoints a Cultural Resource Manager to assist in that compliance. Those responsibilities include ensuring that Army law enforcement personnel are trained in conservation law enforcement where appropriate. Specific operating procedures can be found in the Fort Bliss ICRMP in Section 4.

The SOPs for meeting Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA of 1966 (as amended) are found in the current PA between Fort Bliss, the ACHP, and the Texas and New Mexico SHPOs (2015 to 2025). These procedures have been distributed to Fort Bliss as the GC’s Policy. In addition to the stipulations provided in the PA, the following SOPs address other preservation laws implemented by the ICRMP (Fort Bliss, 2022):

- SOP #1: Compliance with Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
- SOP #2: Compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- SOP #3: Native American Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act

- SOP #4: Identifying Consulting Parties
- SOP #5: Curatorial and Collection Management of Archaeological and Historical Collections and Associated Records

Fort Bliss manages its cultural resources under a PA between the Texas and New Mexico SHPOs and the ACHP that will expire in October 2026. The PA guides Fort Bliss in its management of cultural resources and meeting its NHPA Section 106 responsibilities and Fort Bliss is working to extend the PA beyond 2026. Fort Bliss is also operating under research and significance standards that guide the determination of NRHP eligibility of archaeological sites across the installation (Fort Bliss, 2022). This agreement also details the level of tribal engagement depending on the nature of the project.

McGregor Range is currently utilized for live firing of high-to-medium-altitude missiles, small-arms-firing guided missiles, automatic weapons, tank weapons, conventional artillery, aerial gunnery, and small arms, as well as the launch and control of aerial targets and other explosive ordnance activities. Ranges 28 and 29 were used as small arms ranges until 2012, but these activities no longer take place on these ranges. As of 2021, about 80 percent of McGregor Range training areas have been inventoried for cultural resources (Fort Bliss, 2022). Impact areas exempt from survey contain high amounts of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and will never be surveyed due to safety concerns. The proposed project area was subject to cultural resource surveys, but the remainder will not be inventoried due to proximity to impact area.

The proposed project area is equivalent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this EA, which is a mix of previously disturbed cleared areas and scrubland where a variety of ground-disturbing operations take place. The current training area encompasses the APE for this EA (see Figure 2-1). The APE outside of the project area boundaries is typically only indirectly affected by explosive activities through sound, vibration, and overpressure effects from munitions detonation during installation activities.

In accordance with the Fort Bliss Cultural Resource Management records, cultural resource surveys were performed except for areas where there is significant UXO concerns within the APE. These prior surveys have concurrence from the SHPO (CRM Fort Bliss, 2025). No historic properties including NRHP-eligible prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic structures, historic districts, historic cemeteries, or Traditional Cultural Properties have been identified within the project area. The general vicinity often contains homesteads from the World War II era, but none have been identified in or adjacent to the project area (CRM Fort Bliss, 2025).

Under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, consulting parties are limited to those federally recognized tribes that may have sacred sites on lands managed by Fort Bliss and who have a responsibility to determine, in consultation with Fort Bliss, appropriate protection and preservation measures of Native American religious cultural rights and practices as they may be affected by Fort Bliss missions. Under the NHPA, all of these parties are given opportunities to participate in the Section 106 process. If the results of consultation with the appropriate tribes trigger Section 106 of the NHPA, then the appropriate SHPO will become a consulting party. These tribes are identified below (Fort Bliss, 2022):

- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

- Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

The Fort Bliss Military Installation, Directorate of Public Works–Environmental Division, Conservation Branch is responsible for applying the standards set forth in the NHPA through the implementation of Army Regulation 200-4—the Army regulation that details the policy for managing cultural resources on Army installations, the executed PA for cultural resource management on Fort Bliss (Fort Bliss, 2014) and the ICRMP (Fort Bliss, 2022). Activities restrictions, limitations, and mitigation measures are set forth in these documents to protect the cultural resources on Fort Bliss.

The existing historic structures and cultural resources within the APE, as analyzed in accordance with these documents, were scrutinized for condition and evaluated to determine the effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on the existing resources. As defined under 36 CFR 800.16(d), “Area of potential effects means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.” The APE for this undertaking is not assumed to extend beyond the boundaries identified in Figure 2-1.

The level of effect on the cultural resources and the effect’s potential significance is determined by considering how the effects of the Proposed Action could affect the cultural resource in terms of context, intensity, and duration.

3.6.2.1 Alternative 1

Given that identification of cultural resources in non-duddled areas has occurred, the dudged areas are exempt from survey due to safety concerns and no historic properties have been identified; no adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of Alternative 1.

Alternative 1 consists of construction of a 25.5-acre main cantonment area, associated infrastructure, and mock runway, as well as a 5-acre expansion area. Operations activities include destruction and reconstruction of mock runway activities associated with the billeting of personnel. The proposed activities would not affect historic properties. The New Mexico SHPO concurred with this determination by a letter dated January 26, 2026.

3.6.2.2 Alternative 2

The effects on cultural resources would be the same under Alternative 2 as stated under Alternative 1 and, therefore, would have no effect on historic properties. Alternative 2 consists of the suite of activities proposed in Alternative 1, with the addition of the construction of groundwater wells.

3.6.2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed CSTR at Fort Bliss would not be constructed. The DAF would not meet the requirement to locate a CSTR within a 10-hour drive from all CONUS installations and would continue to lack the capacity to meet combat support readiness requirements. There would be no adverse effects to cultural resources in the APE beyond baseline conditions.

3.6.2.4 *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*

Cultural resources are a finite record of the past. The more effects from construction projects, human degradation, and environmental decay a resource endures, the less integrity it possesses. The NHPA is crucial to mitigating these effects through preservation and regulation of cultural resources. NRHP-eligible historic properties within Fort Bliss and elsewhere on the installation benefit from NHPA regulations when a plan is implemented to avoid affecting resources. When construction plans avoid archaeological sites and limit ground-disturbing activities inside sites, the reasonably foreseeable effects are mitigated.

Activities under the Proposed Action, as well as planned future actions such as the Vehicle Bridge US 54 Overpass; the McGregor Range Additional Facilities; the McGregor Range (Barracks) construction; and the Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas, would require adherence to laws, regulations and published procedures to satisfy the Section 106 process and avoid reasonably foreseeable effects to cultural resources. This would include adherence to SOPs and stipulations put forth in the Fort Bliss ICRMP (Fort Bliss, 2022) and the PA for management and protection of cultural resources at Fort Bliss (Fort Bliss, 2014).

The Proposed Action is anticipated to maintain the same level of cultural resource degradation or preservation as effects from previous activities. The key to preserving cultural resources within Fort Bliss is to identify any unknown cultural resources in non-surveyed training areas, to avoid known NRHP-eligible or potentially eligible cultural resource sites and to maintain NRHP-eligible or potentially eligible structures. Past use of the project area precludes the feasibility of cultural resource surveys where UXO is a safety concern. Any unknown cultural resources in these unsafe areas would be assumed to lose integrity due to munitions effects. As there are no NRHP-eligible structures or sites in the Proposed Action area, no reasonably foreseeable effects to cultural resources would be anticipated.

3.6.2.5 *Mitigation*

Because effects would not be significant, mitigation measures are not proposed.

3.7 **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES**

The definition of this resource and regulatory setting (e.g., Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA]; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act [CERCLA]; Toxic Substances Control Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, etc.) are described in the *Legislative Environmental Assessment for Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas*, on page 3-37 (Fort Bliss, 2024).

The ROI for this resource area is McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 and the immediate surrounding area.

3.7.1 **Affected Environment**

3.7.1.1 *Hazardous Materials and Wastes*

Activities at McGregor Range require the use and storage of a variety of hazardous materials (HAZMAT), including flammable and combustible liquids, degreasers, acids, antifreeze, solvents,

paints, and paint thinners. HAZMAT on McGregor Range is inventoried and tracked throughout its lifetime via the Hazardous Material Inventory Database to ensure safe handling, storage, and usage, as well as compliance with environmental regulations and health and safety regulations.

Hazardous wastes generated on McGregor Range are managed in accordance with the Fort Bliss Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Fort Bliss, 2025b). Use of proper procedures for the disposal of hazardous wastes ensures that all wastes generated on the installation are disposed of according to applicable rules and regulations at state and federal levels. McGregor Range is designated as a large-quantity generator of hazardous waste (USEPA identification number [ID]: NM421372010). Since McGregor Range is located within the New Mexico portion of Fort Bliss, it is managed under a separate USEPA ID.

Hazardous wastes generated at McGregor Range are stored at waste satellite accumulation points (SAPs). These accumulation points are not permanent locations and are established as needed based on hazardous waste generation. Because of this, the number of waste storage areas on the range varies over time, increasing or decreasing as needed to accommodate the needs of the generator. Once operational, any regulated waste generated shall be stored in a waste SAP, (i.e., cooking spray aerosol cans; petroleum, oil, and lubricant products). A hazardous waste field service reimbursement agreement shall be established with the Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division for SAP installation, maintenance, and waste pickup and disposal. There is a 90-day waste accumulation point at McGregor Range Camp, Buildings 9491 and 9492. Wastes generated on McGregor Range are transported to the Texas portion of the installation for aggregation before being properly disposed of (Fort Bliss, 2025b).

3.7.1.2 Petroleum Products

The use, storage, and transportation of petroleum products is vital to the mission of Fort Bliss. Petroleum products are used to heat buildings and provide fuel for emergency generators and vehicles across the installation.

Petroleum products at McGregor Range are stored in accordance with the Fort Bliss Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC Plan contains the operating procedures and controls for spill prevention in accordance and compliance with state and federal regulations and U.S. Army requirements (Fort Bliss, 2025c). There are no aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), USTs, or oil-water separators located at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 or in the immediate surrounding area. Mobile emergency generators are used throughout Fort Bliss and McGregor Range. Mobile generators with a fuel capacity of 55 gallons or more are subject to the SPCC Plan.

3.7.1.3 Pesticide Management

Pesticides and herbicides are used for grounds and infrastructure maintenance at McGregor Range. Application and management of these products at McGregor Range are performed in accordance with the Fort Bliss Integrated Pest Management Plan (Fort Bliss, 2024). Pest management operations must be scheduled, reported, and coordinated with mission activities to avoid inadvertently exposing personnel.

3.7.1.4 Toxic Substances

The Proposed Action would not involve renovation or demolition of existing structures on Fort Bliss; therefore, asbestos and lead-based paint are not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

Fort Bliss has a program for testing electrical equipment for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and any equipment found to contain these chemicals is removed from service and replaced (Fort Bliss, 2025a). The Proposed Action would not result in construction or modification of electrical equipment with the potential to contain PCBs within the ROI. Therefore, PCBs are not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

3.7.1.5 Radon

The ROI is located within Radon Zone 2, which has moderate potential for elevated indoor radon levels. No mitigation measures are recommended in Zone 2 and radon is not discussed further in this EA (USEPA, 2025c).

3.7.1.6 Environmental Restoration Program Sites

The Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites located within McGregor Range, their status, and additional information are discussed in the *Legislative Environmental Assessment for Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas* on pages 3-39 and 3-40 (Fort Bliss, 2024). These ERP sites have been closed or are pending closure but could still require some level of post-closure monitoring (e.g., annual inspections, sampling, annual reporting, etc.) to remain in compliance with RCRA permit requirements.

A preliminary assessment and site inspection of perfluorooctane sulfonate/perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOS/PFOA) has been completed at McGregor Range. The preliminary findings indicate that PFOS/PFOA substances were detected in the soil at several locations (i.e., Fire Station and Fire Fighter Training Area) and further investigation is underway (Fort Bliss, 2023).

3.7.1.7 Live Fire and Munitions

McGregor Range is currently utilized for the following training exercises: live firing of high-to-medium-altitude missiles; small arms firing of guided missiles; and use of automatic weapons, tank weapons, conventional artillery, aerial gunnery, and small arms, as well as the launch and control of aerial targets and other explosive ordnance activities. Ranges 28 and 29 were used as small arms (e.g., 5.56-mm rifle) qualification ranges between 2010 and 2012, but these activities no longer take place on these ranges. There is no high-caliber UXO in this area (Mendoza, 2025).

Munitions constituents can include explosives, toxic heavy metals (e.g., lead), uranium, and, in some specific instances, chemical warfare agents or materials. The effects from these munitions and explosives of concern may include contamination (e.g., heavy metals) of soil and surface water and groundwater. The Military Munitions Rule and later USEPA munitions response guidelines clarify when military munitions may be managed under RCRA. The rule states "... military munitions that have been used as intended in training or in research, development, testing or evaluation would remain excluded from the regulatory definition of solid waste..." when fired on an operational range under the management of the DoW. Should the land this operational range is located on be transferred to another entity, there would need to be an evaluation of the risks

associated with munitions and explosives of concern. This could result in the need for CERCLA-related munitions response actions (USEPA, 2010).

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Evaluation Criteria

A significant effect to HAZMAT and waste, petroleum/oil/lubricants, pesticide management, and contaminated sites within the ROI would occur if the Proposed Action would result in the following:

- Noncompliance with applicable federal and state regulations
- Increases in the amounts of hazardous waste generated or procured beyond Fort Bliss' current waste management procedures and capacities
- Disturbance or creation of contaminated sites resulting in negative effects on human health or the environment

3.7.2.1 Alternative 1

Implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in significant effects to the HAZMAT and wastes resource area. Additional details are described below.

3.7.2.1.1 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

The use of certain HAZMAT would be required during proposed development associated with Alternative 1; HAZMAT that could be used include paints, adhesives, welding gases, solvents, preservatives, sealants, and pesticides. Adherence to the Fort Bliss Hazardous Waste Management Plan would minimize effects from the handling and disposal of hazardous substances and ensure compliance with federal, state, and Army HAZMAT regulations (Fort Bliss, 2025b).

Operation of the CSTR would likely require the use of routine HAZMAT and would generate small amounts of hazardous waste. Many of the same HAZMAT that would be used during construction of the site would likely be used for maintenance of the facility and reconfiguration of the site to suit training needs. The mock runway would be used to train personnel on rapid repair of runways damaged under combat simulated conditions and would be constructed of a variety of different materials so that personnel could gain experience repairing various types of asphalt and concrete surfaces. Some of the materials used for runway repair, such as additives, solvents, adhesives, and paints, would be HAZMAT, and unused portions of these materials would contribute to the generation of hazardous waste at the site.

The relatively small amount of hazardous waste generated from the construction and operations associated with Alternative 1 would be managed in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Management Plan and not affect the installation's generator status (Fort Bliss, 2025b). The Fort Bliss hazardous wastes management procedures and capacities would not be negatively affected by the implementation of Alternative 1. The DAF would need to coordinate with Fort Bliss if a SAP(s) is needed at the proposed CSTR site.

3.7.2.1.2 Petroleum Products

Implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in adverse effects related to petroleum products. The effects would be long-term but not significant. Alternative 1 would be anticipated to result in

an increase in the amount of petroleum products used on-site, as well as an increased risk of accidental petroleum release. The use of certain petroleum products would be required during development activities associated with Alternative 1. Hydraulic fluids and petroleum products, such as diesel and gasoline, would be used in construction and grading vehicles. RED HORSE would be responsible for handling petroleum products in accordance with BMPs.

During operational activities, petroleum products would be used on-site in vehicles for trainee movement, heavy equipment used in runway repair, and generators. Alternative 1 includes refueling at least a portion of the equipment on-site. Refueling would be completed using mobile refueling techniques. As such, installation of permanent petroleum infrastructure (e.g., ASTs, USTs, etc.) would not be anticipated. All petroleum products used or dispensed on-site would be handled in accordance with the SPCC Plan (Fort Bliss, 2025c). The trainees would be instructed to comply with the Fort Bliss SPCC Plan, and any waste from petroleum spills would be transported to and stored at SAPs.

Under Alternative 1, mobile generators would be used as part of the CSTR training. The generators have not been selected to date but are assumed to include six 60-kilowatt and various other generators (twelve 60-kilowatt [80-horsepower], four 30-kilowatt [40-horsepower], and one 800-kilowatt [1,073-horsepower] advanced medium mobile electric power sources generators). Mobile generators contain fuel tanks that vary from 20 to 200+ gallons in capacity depending on power rating and configuration. Mobile generators that contain 55 gallons of fuel or more must have sized secondary containment. If secondary containment is impracticable, 55- or 30-gallon spill kits would be provided and inspected weekly (Fort Bliss, 2025c).

3.7.2.1.3 Pesticide Management

Under Alternative 1, the development, operations, and maintenance at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 associated with the CSTR could require the use of pesticides and herbicides. Pest management operations would be conducted in accordance with the Fort Bliss Integrated Pest Management Plan and would be scheduled, reported, and coordinated with mission activities to avoid inadvertently exposing personnel (Fort Bliss, 2024). Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in no effects related to pest management.

3.7.2.1.4 Environmental Restoration Program Sites

Activities associated with the implementation of Alternative 1 would not occur on or directly adjacent to any of the ERP sites. However, there is the possibility that undocumented contaminated soils or groundwater may be present. If encountered, storage/transport/disposal of contaminated groundwater/soils would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and installation policies. Should soil or groundwater contaminants be encountered during Alternative 1 activities, health and safety precautions, including worker awareness training, would be required.

A preliminary assessment and site inspection have been completed at Fort Bliss and McGregor Range and there is no known presence of PFOS/PFOA within the Alternative 1 area (Fort Bliss, 2023). Adverse effects related to PFOS/PFOA would not be anticipated to occur with implementation of Alternative 1.

3.7.2.1.5 Live Fire and Munitions

Under Alternative 1, small arms training would not occur at Ranges 28 and 29, but an EODMAG would be constructed to store blank ammunition. The establishment of the EODMAG would require the DAF to coordinate with and notify the Army for addition to the Toxic Release Inventory reporting.

CSTR training would include detonating explosives (i.e., 2.5-pound NEW explosive charges) twice monthly and conducting runway repairs. This would result in the generation of a nominal amount of munitions related waste. Since McGregor Range is and will continue to be an operational range under DoW management, munitions used for their intended purpose would continue to be exempt from RCRA regulations (USEPA, 2010).

From 2010 to 2012, Ranges 28 and 29 were used for small arms (e.g., 5.56-mm rifle, 9 mm, etc.) qualification training, with approximately 1.35 million rounds being discharged during this timeframe. Use of these munitions may have resulted in lead contamination of the soil in these ranges, particularly the adjacent impact area(s). The CSTR would be constructed in the areas considered as the baseline of Ranges 28 and 29 and that do not have any requirements for lead remediation (Mendoza, 2025). The baseline of Ranges 28 and 29 consisted of an administration area for the ranges used for firing and associated tasks, such as ammunition temporary storage and issuing points, briefing areas, and assembly areas. However, basic surface surveys would be conducted prior to, during, and after grading and excavation activities. Soil excavated during the proposed construction activities would remain on the range. Additionally, Alternative 1 includes the placement of gravel cover and/or concrete pads across the entire project area. This would reduce potential exposure (i.e., contact, inhalation, ingestion, etc.) to lead in soil or groundwater. Should soil or groundwater contaminants be encountered during Alternative 1 activities, health and safety precautions, including worker awareness training, would be required.

3.7.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Under Alternative 2, effects to this resource area would be same as to slightly less than Alternative 1. The installation of groundwater wells on-site would reduce the need to truck water from the McGregor Base Camp to the proposed CSTR site, Ranges 28 and 29. This would reduce the amount of operational- and maintenance-related petroleum, oils, and lubricants and HAZMAT usage and hazardous waste generated. Implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in significant effects to the HAZMAT and waste resource area.

3.7.2.3 *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed CSTR at Fort Bliss would not be constructed. The DAF would not meet the requirement to locate a CSTR within a 10-hour drive from all CONUS installations and would continue to lack the capacity to meet combat support readiness requirements. There would be no changes to HAZMAT, hazardous waste, toxic substances, petroleum products, or ERP sites in the ROI beyond baseline conditions.

3.7.2.4 *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not be anticipated to result in short- or long-term, adverse effects to the HAZMAT and wastes resource area. The projects identified in Table

2-1 would have the potential to generate new hazardous wastes during construction activities at McGregor Range. Hazardous wastes associated with the *Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas*; McGregor Range (Barracks); and McGregor Range Additional Facilities projects would be managed in accordance with the Fort Bliss Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The Vehicle Bridge US 54 Overpass project would be managed in accordance with Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) hazardous waste management requirements. Adherence to the Hazardous Waste Management Plan and agency requirements would minimize effects from the handling and disposal of hazardous substances and ensure compliance with state and federal HAZMAT regulations (Fort Bliss, 2025b). Potential effects from the accidental release of such products would be minimized by following response procedures specified in Fort Bliss' or TXDOT's SPCC Plan (Fort Bliss, 2025c).

When considered in conjunction with the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at Fort Bliss, no significant, adverse additive effects to the HAZMAT and waste resource area would be anticipated to occur with implementation of the Proposed Action.

3.7.2.5 Mitigation

The EA analysis of the HAZMAT and waste resource area concluded that the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental effects; therefore, no mitigation measures are required. BMPs are described and recommended where applicable.

3.8 INFRASTRUCTURE

3.8.1 Affected Environment

This section discusses infrastructure such as utilities, including potable water, wastewater, solid waste management, and energy.

3.8.1.1 Potable Water

Drinking water at McGregor Range is supplied by the City of El Paso, Texas. Approximately 95 percent of the drinking water provided by the city is obtained from a river and groundwater. The majority of the water is sourced from groundwater located in the Mesilla and Hueco Bolson basins, which are located beneath portions of New Mexico, Texas, and Chihuahua, Mexico (El Paso Water, 2025; Campana et al., 2006). Fort Bliss accounts for approximately 4 percent (2 billion gallons) of the annual water demand in El Paso County (TWDB, 2025).

3.8.1.2 Wastewater

Fort Bliss Water Services Company is responsible for wastewater at Fort Bliss under a 50-year privatization contract. The company oversees a variety of utility assets, including 1.7 million feet of water piping, nearly 1 million feet of wastewater piping, 40 storage tanks, and 16 wastewater lift stations for wastewater management at Fort Bliss and across the ranges (ASUS, 2023). In New Mexico, wastewater is directed to oxidation ponds maintained by the Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works. Three ponds within the Meyer Oxidation Pond area at Meyer Range are managed by the Fort Bliss Water Services Company.

3.8.1.3 Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management at Fort Bliss is serviced by a contractor. Fort Bliss' qualified recycling program diverts waste to be recycled where possible. Waste that cannot be recycled is diverted to other landfills within 50 miles of Fort Bliss, including the City of El Paso Clint Landfill and Camino Real Landfill (Fort Bliss, 2011).

3.8.1.4 Energy

Electrical services to Fort Bliss are provided by Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. Electrical distribution systems consist of pole-mounted transformers, pad-mounted transformers, and overhead and underground distribution lines. The typical building voltage service ranges from 120/208 volts to 120/240 volts. The high-voltage lines are owned and maintained by the El Paso Electrical Company. Electrical power is localized to substations, where Rio Grande Electric distributes medium voltage throughout Fort Bliss and the ranges. Electrical power is then stepped down via transformers on the industrial, commercial, or residential scale (Fort Bliss, 2020). Texas Gas Service provides public and privatized utility natural gas to Fort Bliss. Presently, only the McGregor/Meyer Range Complex is serviced with natural gas lines.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

A significant effect on or from utilities within the ROI would involve one or more of the following:

- Prolonged or repeated service disruptions to utility end users
- Substantial increase in utility demand relative to existing and planned regional uses

3.8.2.1 Alternative 1

3.8.2.1.1 Potable Water

Water use for Alternative 1 at 400 personnel a month is estimated to be approximately 2.4 million gallons per year (13,600 gallons per day for a total of 168 days). This represents approximately 0.1 percent of Fort Bliss' water use and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region. Should CSTR use be expanded to accommodate 800 personnel a month, water use would be doubled and would represent 0.2 percent of current water use.

Because Alternative 1 would establish a water supply that serves 25 different individuals or more at least 60 days of the year, it is a Transient Non-Community Water System as defined by USEPA (see <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/information-about-public-water-systems>). Operation of a public water system, including Transient Non-Community Water Systems, requires compliance with federal and state regulations. Transient Non-Community Water Systems have to comply with regulations that govern contaminants that may result in acute health effects (such as microbiological organisms [e.g., bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites] and nitrates/nitrites), rather than health effects associated with long-term exposure (such as chemical carcinogens). There are also various monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements. In addition, New Mexico requires that public water systems are run by an operator that holds an active New Mexico utility operator certification or must be supervised by an individual who holds an active certification.

3.8.2.1.2 Wastewater

Wastewater produced from operations would be approximately 840,000 gallons per year. This represents approximately 0.004 percent of the 22 billion gallons of wastewater generated in the City of El Paso and the surrounding region annually. Changes in demands would be minimal and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region.

3.8.2.1.3 Solid Waste Management

Under Alternative 1, solid waste and construction debris would be generated during construction and demolition activities phased over multiple years. Disposal and recycling of solid waste generated during construction would be the responsibility of RED HORSE. RED HORSE is required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations for the collection and disposal of solid waste from the installation. Construction and demolition debris would be hauled, recycled, and/or disposed of as required by Fort Bliss' qualified recycling program.

Following completion of construction and upon implementation of Alternative 1, there would be an increase of approximately 400 personnel a month at McGregor Range. With the potential expansion area, this number could increase to 800 personnel per month. An increase in the amount of municipal solid waste generated at the CSTR would be expected. Recycling efforts at Fort Bliss and McGregor Range divert solid waste generated on the installation or ranges from being sent to local landfills (Fort Bliss, 2021b). Any solid waste generated (nonhazardous or construction-debris-related) would be disposed of by the project proponent. All solid waste that cannot be recycled would be disposed of at a permitted landfill or other authorized facility. Solid waste generated would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region. Therefore, no significant effects to solid waste management would be expected under Alternative 1.

3.8.2.1.4 Energy

Under Alternative 1, permanent electrical power would be supplied to permanent facilities such as the SSTL facilities. Temporary facilities such as the MSS would receive power from generators that would be installed and removed as part of training exercises. An increase in the demand for electrical power would be expected under Alternative 1, as an increase of approximately 400 to 800 personnel would occur monthly. During the construction process, potential effects to electrical systems could include temporary service interruptions. Any expected service interruptions would be communicated to range personnel. Increases in electrical demand would not create a long-term service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region. Therefore, no significant effects to energy are expected under Alternative 1.

3.8.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Demands on infrastructure under Alternative 2 would be the same as Alternative 1. The primary difference between the alternatives would be that Alternative 2 would draw most, if not all potable water, from groundwater wells installed at the CSTR site. The public water supply requirements for Alternative 2 would be the same as described for Alternative 1 except it would

obtain water from the Tularosa Basin Aquifer. Prior to drilling, the DAF would apply for and obtain a water rights permit from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. Permit issuance conditions require that water is available, that the appropriation would not impair existing water rights, that the use would conform with state water conservation efforts, and that the use is not detrimental to public welfare. No significant effects to potable water resources would be expected under Alternative 1.

3.8.2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSTR would not be constructed, students would train elsewhere, and there would be no change to infrastructure. Therefore, no significant effects to infrastructure would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.8.2.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

The land withdrawal extension at McGregor Range would allow training and infrastructure upgrades to continue. Other proposed projects that involve new construction during the same time period as the Proposed Action could also increase temporary demand on infrastructure. However, proposed construction projects at McGregor Range would be located in separate areas on the range and not likely occur during the same timeframe. Therefore, demands on infrastructure associated with implementing the Proposed Action, when considered with other proposed projects, could occur but would not be significant.

3.8.2.5 Mitigation

The EA analysis concluded that the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental effects to infrastructure; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.9 TRANSPORTATION

Traffic is commonly measured through average daily traffic and design capacity.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The primary access from Fort Bliss to Ranges 28 and 29 is US 54 or Railroad Drive. US 54 begins in El Paso at Loop 375 downtown and runs north-south approximately 20 miles to the New Mexico border. The speed limit can vary but is generally 75 mph from the Texas border to south of Alamogordo. It also serves as a military highway to connect Fort Bliss to Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Railroad Drive runs along the Union Pacific/Golden State railroad line in northeast El Paso. This high-speed corridor (speed limit is 55 mph) has two lanes in each direction, separated by a wide median and bike lane. The ranges also are accessible to the public via New Mexico State Road 506 or Otero County roads. The state highway spans approximately 32 miles and is located in Otero County, New Mexico. The route begins at US 54, north of Oro Grande, and extends eastward to the boundary of the Fort Bliss Military Installation. Use of other roads on the range requires a permit from the Army. The range is closed to the public during a training event. Figure 3-2 shows the primary access routes to Ranges 28 and 29.

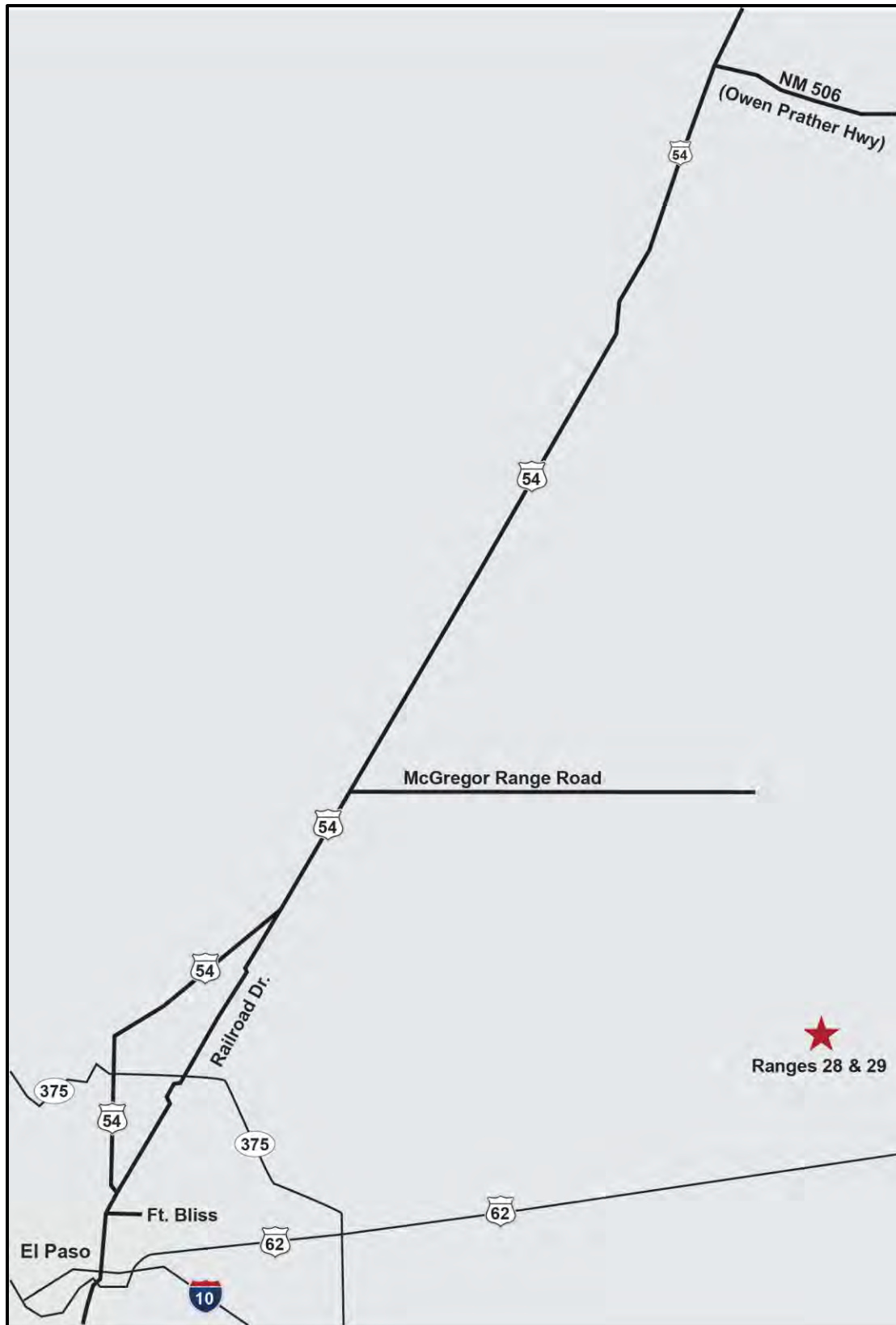


Figure 3-2. Primary Access Routes to Ranges 28 and 29

Table 3-6 provides recently available average daily traffic data for key roadway segments that provide access to Ranges 28 and 29.

Table 3-6. Traffic Data for Roads Accessing Ranges 28 and 29

Road	State	Segment	2024 AADT
US 54	Texas	72UL48	21,251
	Texas	72A37505	24,331
	Texas	72H6	22,890
	Texas	72H6A	16,500
	Texas	72H5405	9,000
	Texas	72H5406	9,806
	New Mexico	77839	4,762
	New Mexico	77831	7,515
Railroad Drive	Texas	72HP1062A	26,408
	Texas	72HP106B	21,831
	Texas	72HP1060	22,472
NM 506 (Owen Prather Highway)	New Mexico	FL1827P	48
McGregor Range Road	New Mexico	78283	48

Sources: (TXDOT, 2024; NMDOT, 2025)

AADT = average annual daily traffic; NM = New Mexico; US 54 = United States Route 54

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

Effects to transportation were analyzed by considering the possible changes to existing traffic conditions and the capacity of area roadways from proposed increases in construction and commuter traffic.

3.9.2.1 Alternative 1

3.9.2.1.1 Construction

Construction vehicles and worker trips would result in a temporary increase in truck and passenger vehicle traffic on the roadways that access Ranges 28 and 29. Approximately 30 construction workers would commute to the site on a daily basis. The analysis assumes that 30 workers would drive alone and would generate an additional 60 trips per day. Heavy equipment would travel to the ranges but predominantly would be parked at the site and, therefore, would not commute on a daily basis.

3.9.2.1.2 Operations

Students would attend training for 2 weeks once per month. It is assumed that buses would transport the students from Fort Bliss Army Airfield or the El Paso International Airport to the site, with only instructors arriving by single-occupancy vehicles. Assuming 400 students and smaller size buses that hold approximately 25 people, approximately 16 buses would be required to drop off and return to Fort Bliss then pick up the students when training is complete. Some buses would likely park on-site. Larger buses could also be used to reduce trips. Trucks would be required to transport drinking water, pump out the septic systems, and deliver other equipment, supplies, and food. Table 3-7 shows the estimated number of vehicle trips per training event.

Based on the average annual daily traffic levels, these additional trips, even with the expansion area, would represent a small percentage of trips on US 54. The trips would be spread over the 2-week training event, with the most trips occurring during arrival and departure days. Even if all instructors, students, and deliveries arrived on the same day, it would be a 0.8 to 2 percent increase in traffic volume in Texas and a 0.5 to 2 percent increase in New Mexico. Range roads would likely experience more noticeable increases in traffic; however, these roads would not be open to the public and are currently gravel and low-speed routes that have a primary function of military training. As a result, effects to transportation could occur, but effects would not be significant.

Table 3-7. Estimated Vehicle Trips per Training Event

Source	Number	Expansion Area	Trips	Round Trips
Personnel				
Instructors	10	10	20	40
Students	400	400	32	64
Deliveries				
Supplies	4	4	8	16
Water	34	34	68	136
Wastewater	28	28	56	112
TOTAL			184	368

3.9.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Transportation effects under Alternative 2 would be similar to effects described under Alternative 1. Under Alternative 2, some additional equipment would be required and some heavy vehicles, but the number of water delivery trucks would be reduced. As a result, Alternative 2 could result in effects to transportation, but effects would not be significant.

3.9.2.3 *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSTR would not be constructed, students would train elsewhere, and there would be no change to transportation. US 54 would continue to operate as it does today. Therefore, no significant effects to transportation would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3.9.2.4 *Reasonably Foreseeable Effects*

The land withdrawal extension at McGregor Range would allow training and infrastructure upgrades to continue. Multiple training events could pose additional vehicle trips since the number of training events would increase. Other proposed projects that involve new construction during the same time period as the Proposed Action could increase traffic, including slow-moving heavy vehicles and range access congestion. However, proposed construction projects at McGregor Range would be located in separate areas on the range and would not likely occur during the same timeframe. The proposed vehicle bridge US 54 overpass at Alvarado Crossing would be beneficial for traffic movement of military convoys. Therefore, transportation effects associated with implementing the Proposed Action, when considered with other proposed projects, could occur but would not be significant.

3.9.2.5 *Mitigation*

The EA analysis concluded that the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental effects to transportation; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.10 **NOISE**

Noise is unwanted sound. Although very intense noises can have other effects, the most common noise effect is annoyance. Army Regulation 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, describes noise levels of greater than 115 decibels peak as being associated with a moderate risk of complaints. The same regulation establishes Noise Zones II and III, areas in which noise is sufficiently frequent and intense that noise-sensitive land uses (e.g., residences) are discouraged. The ROI for this resource area includes McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 and surrounding areas in which noise generated by the Proposed Action would be audible.

3.10.1 **Affected Environment**

As noted in Section 1.2, *Location*, McGregor Range is currently used for military training that includes live-fire exercises (e.g., small arms, missiles, artillery, etc.), field training exercises, and maneuver training. Areas near Fort Bliss ranges experience elevated noise levels associated with military training on a regular basis (U.S. Army, 2013).

3.10.2 **Environmental Consequences**

Noise effects would be considered potentially significant if noise generated by the Proposed Action would exceed 115 decibels peak at a sensitive location. Cratering charge detonation noise levels were estimated using the Army's BNOISE2 OneShot Module assuming charge burial at a depth of 1 foot. The closest noise-sensitive location to the proposed CSTR site is a residence located approximately 6.5 miles to the south.

3.10.2.1 *Alternative 1*

At the closest noise-sensitive location, the loudest noise generated by activities proposed under Alternative 1 (i.e., cratering charge detonation) would be approximately 99 decibels peak—a level associated with a low risk of complaints. There would be two charge detonations per month. Noise frequency and intensity would be well below the Noise Zone II criteria level. Noise associated with construction and day-to-day operations at the CSTR would not be expected to be audible at the closest noise-sensitive location. Proposed training at locations other than the CSTR (e.g., MOUT facility) would be the same as ongoing training at those facilities and would not generate different noise levels. Because noise at the closest noise-sensitive location would be similar to ongoing noise and would be below criteria levels (cratering charges) or inaudible (other CSTR activities), noise effects associated with implementation of Alternative 1 would not be significant.

3.10.2.2 *Alternative 2*

Noise-generating activities proposed under Alternative 2 would be the same as under Alternative 1. Noise effects would be the same as under Alternative 1, and no significant noise effects would occur under Alternative 2.

3.10.2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no new noise-generating activities would occur. Existing conditions would not change and there would be no new noise effects.

3.10.2.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

Other actions at the same time and place as the Proposed Action would not result in reasonably foreseeable effects. Continuation of current mission and training activities, which was considered as part of the legislative EA for Extension of the Withdrawal of Public Lands for Fort Bliss Army Reservation El Paso, Texas, would result in continuation of training noise in areas that also be affected by noise associated with the Proposed Action. Because the legislative EA proposes a continuation of activities, that action would not result in increased noise levels, and no reasonably foreseeable noise effects would occur.

3.10.2.5 Mitigation

No mitigation measures are proposed at this time.

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1 **APPENDIX A STAKEHOLDER CORRESPONDENCE**

2 **Mailing List**

Ms. Thora Walsh Padilla
President
Mescalero Apache Tribe
101 Central Avenue
Mescalero, NM 88340

Mr. Lawrence SpottedBird
Chairman, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015

Governor E. Michael Silvas
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
119 South Old Pueblo Road
El Paso, TX 79907

Mr. Kasey Velasquez
Chairman
White Mountain Apache Tribe
201 E. Walnut St.
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Ms. Jennifer Heminokeky
Chairwoman
Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache Tribe of
Oklahoma
43187 US Hwy 281
Apache, OK 73006

Mr. Chris Faivre
Community Development Director
700 N. Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Ms. Erin Taylor
Acting Secretary
1220 S. St. Frances Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Mr. Eric Enriquez
Las Cruces Mayor
700 N. Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Senator Ben Lujan
NM Senator
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ms. Amy Barela
Commissioner - District 2 Otero County
1101 New York Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Mr. James Kenney
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Senator Martin Heinrich
NM Senator
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ms. Shelbe Abbott
Assistant City Planner
1376 E. Ninth St.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Senator John Coryn
1100 Congress Ave. Room 3E.3
Austin, TX 78701

Senator John Coryn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

COL Andrew R. Morgan
Senior Commander
U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range
100 Headquarters Avenue, Suite 231
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002

Representative Gabe Vasquez
NM Representative - District 2
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Veronica Escobar
TX Representative - District 16
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ernest (Tony) Gonzalez
TX Representative - District 23
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Jason Freeman
Forest Supervisor
3463 Las Palomas Rd.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Representative Mary E. Gonzalez
1498 Main St.
San Elizario, TX 79849

Mr. Jason Hardy
Superintendent
400 Pine Canyon
Salt Flat, TX 79847

Mr. Lester S. Jacks
Acting Regional Director
3800 Commons Ave.
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Mr. Scott Mason
Regional Administrator
1201 Elm Street, Ste. 500
Dallas, TX 75270

Mr. Franklin McIntosh
Director – FAA CSS
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Ms. Sylvia Tillbrook
Executive Assistant
Otero County Grazing Board
1101 N. New York Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Mr. Scott Andrews, Ed. D
County Manager
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Mr. Scott Cooke
District Manager
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Representative Joe Moody
7635 Remcon Circle C-301
El Paso, TX 79912

Ms. Dionne Mack
El Paso City Manager
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX 9901

Mr. Donald B. McClure
Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources
Las Cruces District Office
Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Mr. Michael Kesler
District Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
2301 Entrada DeL Sol
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Mr. Christopher Schalio-Hernandez
Dona Ana County Commissioners – District 1
Dona Ana County
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Ms. Gloria Gameros
Dona Ana County Commissioners – District 2
Dona Ana County
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Ms. Shannon Reynolds
Dona Ana County Commissioners – District 3
Dona Ana County
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Ms. Susana Chaparro
Dona Ana County Commissioners – District 4
Dona Ana County
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Mr. Manuel Sanchez
Dona Ana County Commissioners – District 5
Dona Ana County
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Mr. Michael McIroy
Planning and Community Development Director
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Ms. Michelle Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer/Executive
Director, HPD
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Mr. Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Ste. 308
Washington, DC 20001

Representative Eddie Morales
101 S. Monroe St.
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Ms. Karen Myers
Field Supervisor
10711 Burnett Rd., Suite 200
Austin, TX 78578

Representative Claudia Ordaz
1200m Golden Key, Ste. 141
El Paso, TX 79925

Representative Vincent Perez
100 N. Ochoa
El Paso, TX 79901

Mr. Renard Johnson,
El Paso Mayor
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX 79901

Mr. Ikani Taumoepeau
Las Cruces City Manager
700 N. Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Governor Eugene Jiron
Pueblo of Isleta
117-A Tribal Road 40
Isleta, NM 87022

Mr. Forrest Tahdooahnippah
Charmain Comanche Nation
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Mr. Richard Stump
Chair
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Cpt. Logan Vanlandingham
District Manager
2715 Northrise Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88011

Ms. Jean-Ann Stump
Reference Librarian
Alamogordo Public Library
920 Oregon Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Reference Librarian
Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
200 E. Picacho Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Reference Librarian
El Paso Public Library - Main Branch
501 N. Oregon St.
El Paso, TX 79901

Reference Librarian
El Paso Public Library – José Cisneros Cielo
Vista Branch
1300 Hawkins Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79925

Mr. Brandford Patterson
Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
Austin, TX 78701

A.1 GENERAL STAKEHOLDERS

A.1.1 Example Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

January 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

Ms. Shelbe Abbott
Assistant City Planner
1376 E. Ninth St.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear M. Abbott:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish a training platform to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base. An expeditionary air base is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-Spans, and tents. A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations. The CSTR at Fort Bliss would be constructed at McGregor Range, New Mexico, on Ranges 28 and 29, an approximately 30-acre parcel of land previously used as a small arms range.

To consider possible environmental concerns, the Army is engaging early with all potentially affected stakeholders as it formulates the action. We request your assistance to identify any concerns of potential effects of the Proposed Action. A project location map is enclosed with this letter. Your comments will help us develop the scope of the EA.

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, safety and occupational health, hazardous materials and waste, and infrastructure. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA. We intend to notify your office when the Draft EA is completed and welcome comments and input at that time as well.

-2-

Specific written comments including attachments may be submitted by email to usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil or via US postal mail or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). The mailing address is 624 Pleasonton, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916. We respectfully request that comments be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter so that they can be included in the Draft EA, which will be published for review and comment.

Please direct any questions regarding the action or the scoping process to the NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-1455 or by email.

The Army appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Fort Bliss. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Shane P. Offutt
Chief, Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works

Enclosure

A.1.2 Responses

From: Seamster, Virginia, DGF <Virginia.Seamster@dgf.nm.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 12:32 PM

To: USARMY Ft Bliss ID-Readiness Mailbox DPW NEPA Support <usarmy.bliss.id_readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil>

Subject: EA for Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

To whom it may concern:

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas project letter (attached) received by the Department on 12 January 2026. In addition to the auto-generated project report obtained by Department staff by entering this project into our New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMERT; attached), the Department would like to provide the following additional recommendations regarding potential impacts on wildlife and their habitats from your proposed project. Further, if future similar letters can be addressed to me, Ginny Seamster, as supervisor over our Technical Guidance team, which will always be the lead on these sorts of project reviews, that would be very helpful. Additionally, the relevant entity with Fort Bliss can also create a user account and enter this project into the NMERT directly. This will streamline the timeline and process for us receiving and reviewing similar future information requests or projects.

If there are any excavations being performed for this project, they could unintentionally entrap and cause the unnecessary mortality of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals, and can cause injury to large mammals. Trapped animals can die from exposure, starvation, drowning, and predation. This unnecessary wildlife mortality can be avoided by implementing conservation measures including conducting boring activities during the cooler months (October – March); minimizing time that excavates are left uncovered and accessible to wildlife; and fencing excavated areas and employing biological monitors to remove trapped animals if excavated areas are left open overnight or longer (see more details below). Periods of highest activity for amphibians and reptiles vulnerable to entrapment include summer months and wet weather, and they can be active both day and night. Small mammals subject to entrapment are active year-round and generally most active at night. Implementing the modifications to the Department's general trenching conservation measures (see [Trenching Project Guidelines](#)) should aid in mitigating impacts to wildlife.

If tree/vegetation removal is necessary for the completion of the project, please note that all migratory birds are protected against direct take under the federal [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) (16 U.S.C. Sections 703-712). Hawks, falcons, vultures, owls, songbirds, and other insect-eating birds are protected under New Mexico State Statutes (17-2-13 and 17-2-14 NMSA) unless permitted by the applicable regulatory agency. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, nests, eggs, or nestlings, the Department recommends that ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities be conducted outside of the primary migratory bird breeding season of April 15-September 1. Breeding season may begin earlier for raptors or when working in low-elevation habitats such as deserts. If ground disturbing and clearing activities must be conducted during the breeding season, then the area should be surveyed for active nest sites (with birds or eggs present in the nesting territory) and avoid disturbing active nests until young have fledged. For active nests,

establish adequate buffer zones to minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Buffer distances should be at least 100 feet from songbird and raven nests; 0.25 miles from most raptor nests; and 0.5 miles for ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) nests. Active nest sites in trees or shrubs that must be removed should be mitigated by qualified biologists or wildlife rehabilitators. Department biologists are available to consult on nest site mitigation and can facilitate contact with qualified personnel.

The list of [New Mexico SGCN](#) (see link, page 18, table 5) and the federal list of [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) should be reviewed to fully evaluate the potential effects on migratory birds from your proposed project. Federal agencies are also required under Executive Order 13186 to implement standards and practices that lessen the amount of unintentional take attributable to agency actions. These conservation measures are strongly recommended to ensure the persistence of migratory bird species whose populations are small and/or declining within New Mexico.

The current project area appears to be within Crucial Habitat as identified in the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) layers provided in the NMERT. This indicates that a diversity of species of conservation concern and sensitive or important habitats for wildlife is likely to be found in the project area. The Department recommends the completion of a thorough environmental assessment before exercising care during the implementation of project activities to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive wildlife and habitats.

For any post-construction reclamation of any disturbed sites/bare ground in the project area, the Department recommends that only native plant species be used in the reclamation seed mix and that the mix be designed to enhance local pollinator habitat. The Department also recommends that the seed mix and mulch be certified weed-free to avoid inadvertently introducing non-native species to the reclamation site. Any alternative plant species used to substitute for primary plant species that are unavailable at the time of reclamation should also be native. When possible, the Department recommends using seeds that are sourced from the same region and habitat type as the reclamation site and suggests including seeds from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site.

Thank you for collaborating with the Department to protect the state's wildlife. Please reach out with any questions or comments.

Take care
Ginny Seamster

Virginia "Ginny" Seamster, Ph.D.
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507
Cell: 505-629-7738



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-5502

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

Project Type: MILITARY, GENERAL (OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE), NEW FACILITIES OR OPERATIONS AREAS

Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.026798 / -106.092196

County(s): OTERO

Project Description: The Proposed Action entails construction of a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) on a 30-acre parcel of land previously used as a small arms range. The CSTR can include structures such as concrete block buildings, K-Spans, and tents. The intent is to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base, which is a mobile installation that includes the type of structures listed above.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:

Contact Name: Ginny Seamster

Email Address: virginia.seamster@dgf.nm.gov

Organization: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Address: 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe NM 87507

Phone: 5056297738

OVERALL STATUS

This report contains an initial list of recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from the proposed project; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. Your project proposal is being forwarded to a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) biologist for review to determine whether there are any additional recommendations regarding the proposed actions. A Department biologist will be in touch within 30 days if there are further recommendations regarding this project proposal.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the [Wildlife Conservation Act \(WCA\)](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#) (page 18, table 5), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\) for New Mexico](#); all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#), the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-5502

Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Install



NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-5502

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Barking Frog	Craugastor augusti			SGCN			
Plains Leopard Frog	Lithobates blairi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii		T	SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Vesper Sparrow	Poocetes gramineus			SGCN			
Baird's Sparrow	Ammodramus bairdii		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Rock Rattlesnake	Crotalus lepidus			SGCN			
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-5502

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in bison-m.org; Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in NatureServe Explorer; ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this [website](#); WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need; USFS = U. S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.

Project Recommendations

Your proposed project activities may require a custom review for assessment of potential effects to wildlife. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. A Department biologist will confirm whether any additional conservation measures are needed. You should expect to receive any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission. If the "OVERALL STATUS" section indicates that no further consultation with the Department is required based on its location, then you will only receive additional project feedback from the Department if a biologist deems it necessary.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist using the Department's [Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol](#). Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Prairie dog colonies may occur within the vicinity of your project area. Both black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) are designated as New Mexico SGCN, and their colonies provide important habitat for other grassland wildlife. Wherever possible, occupied prairie dog colonies should be left undisturbed, and all project activities should be directed off the colony. Any burrows that are located on the project site should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to determine whether burrows are active or inactive and whether burrowing owls may be utilizing the site. Colonies within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, year-round using binoculars. Colonies within the range of the Gunnison's prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, using binoculars during the warmer months from April through October and by searching for fairly fresh scat and lack of cobwebs or debris at the mouths of burrows during the cold months (November through March). If ground-disturbing activities cannot be relocated off the prairie dog colony, or if project activities involve control of prairie dogs, the Department recommends live-trapping and relocation of prairie dogs. The Department can provide recommendations regarding suitability of potential translocation areas and procedures.

The current project area appears to contain one or more wetland types as classified by the New Mexico Environment Department's [Wetland Map](#). Information on wetlands in your project area can also be viewed on the ERT's [Create Project/Map](#) page. This [key](#) can assist in interpreting Landscape Position, landform, water flow path, and waterbody type (LLWW) codes in the ERT's wetland data. Wetlands provide important habitat for numerous species of wildlife and pollinators and provide ecosystem services, such as water filtration and storage, to downstream users. The Department recommends avoiding disturbance of wetlands whenever possible, avoiding actions or infrastructure installment that may disrupt natural wetland hydrological processes, and reseeding or replanting areas where disturbance cannot be avoided with native wetland plant species appropriate to the local wetland type. For a list of native seed providers, please see the Department's habitat handbook guideline for [Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems](#). For projects involving filling wetlands under federal jurisdiction, please contact the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) for more information on permits required under the Clean Water Act.

Disclaimers regarding recommendations:

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.

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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

February 11, 2026

Shane P. Offutt, Chief
Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works
624 Pleasonton
Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Submitted electronically to: usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil

RE: Environmental Assessment for Combat Support Training Range - Fort Bliss, TX

Mr. Offutt,

Thank you for providing the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) the opportunity to review and submit comment on the Proposed Environmental Assessment for Combat Support Training Range - Fort Bliss, TX ("Proposed EA").

We have attached NMED's comments, which include regulations and requirements that apply to the project as described. However, other environmental regulations administered by NMED may apply depending on the circumstances of the project in addition to regulations and requirements of other federal, state, nations, pueblos, tribes, county, and municipal agencies. NMED offers a favorable opinion of the Proposed EA, provided certain conditions are met as detailed in the attachment to this letter.

Strong intergovernmental coordination is essential to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Please reach out to env.review@env.nm.gov with further questions you may have and use the environmental review request portal at <https://www.env.nm.gov/review-request/> for new review requests.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Keyes", is enclosed within a blue rectangular box.

313D52420257438...

Christina Keyes
Acting Director
Office of Strategic Initiatives

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469 | (505) 827-2855 | www.env.nm.gov

Docusign Envelope ID: FFED4927-859B-43D9-A631-5C683A3140EE

Attachment

On January 21, 2026, the Department of the Army submitted a proposed Environmental Assessment for Combat Support Training Range - Fort Bliss, TX, to NMED for review. Specifically, NMED was asked to provide an opinion regarding the environmental impact of the project.

Drinking Water Bureau

The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau does not oppose this project. There are no regulated public groundwater system sources within 1 mile of the proposed project area, nor any regulated public surface water system intakes within 10 miles downgradient. Therefore, this project is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on any regulated public water system.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

Surface Water Quality Bureau recommends the United States Department of the Airforce and Department of the Army include a thorough analysis of both Clean Water Act - Waters of the United States and New Mexico Water Quality Act – Surface Waters of the State that may be impacted by the project, including hydrological modifications to surrounding areas that could disrupt the hydrologic regimes of surface waters in the Environmental Assessment. The National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper identifies a 24.57-acre Lake habitat and 75.12-acre Freshwater Emergent Wetland habitat approximately 270 meters north/northwest of the Range 28 and 29 project location.

Resource Recovery Bureau

All solid waste generated during the construction of the project should be disposed of properly at a properly permitted solid waste facility. The Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.2.8.D NMAC states that any person who generates, stores, processes, transports or disposes of solid waste shall do so in a manner that does not create a public nuisance. Prevention of waste generation and diversion for reuse and recycling should be considered wherever feasible. The Resource Recovery Bureau recommends that the United States Department of the Airforce and Department of the Army develop a comprehensive list of potential contaminants of concern that may be associated with or generated during training activities, and then ensure appropriate plans are made for the proper containment, transportation, and disposal of all such wastes.

Ground Water Quality Bureau

Onsite wastewater systems with design flows of more than 5,000-gallons per day must be constructed and operated in accordance with Ground Water Discharge Waste permits approved by the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau. If domestic wastewater is to be delivered offsite to an existing municipal or regional wastewater treatment system, an additional permit will not be required by NMED.

Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau

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Prevention and Inspection Program response:

The request contains no actions that will impact storage tank systems regulated under 20.5 NMAC and does not propose the installation of new storage tank systems. The table below lists active facilities within the project area.

FID	Facility	Street	City
29324	MCGREGOR RANGE CAMP BLDG 9485	CORNER OF AJAX & 2ND STREET	MCGREGOR RANGE
29805	ORO GRANDE RANGE CAMP C	BUILDING 8690	ORO GRANDE
54940	BLDG 8604 ORO GRANDE RANGE CAMP	BLDG 8604 ORO GRANDE RANGE CAMP	ORO GRANDE

Remedial Action Program response:

There are two (2) confirmed release sites and three (3) "no further action" status sites within the project area location. The sites are listed below by release ID and Facility ID.

RID	FACILITY ID	RELEASE NAME	ADDRESS	STATUS
2628	26218	Oro Grande Ranch Camp	Building 8659	Investigation Federal Facility
3453	29328	McGregor Range Camp C	Building 9522	Investigation Federal Facility

No Further Action (NFA) sites:

RID	FACILITY ID	RELEASE NAME	ADDRESS	STATUS
739	27396	Landfill-Alamo	Landfill RD	No Further Action, Suspected Release
2956	29806	Orogrande Chevron	1717 Main St S HWY 54	No Further Action, Confirmed Release
4679	1227	NM 1310 Fairacres Co	20000 Corralitos RD	No Further Action, Confirmed Release

Summary:

If an abandoned storage tank system or petroleum impacted soil and/or water is discovered during construction, the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau must be notified (20.5.118 NMAC, etc.). In the event that an abandoned storage tank system or petroleum impacted soil and/or water is discovered during any construction activity, please notify the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau during business hours via the "Leak of the Week" at: https://www.env.nm.gov/petroleum_storage_tank/ (see box to the right, Report a Leak or Spill) or call 505-476-4397. During non-business hours, please call 505-827-9329. Owners, operators, and others dealing with petroleum storage tank systems must comply with all regulations in 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico's Petroleum Storage Tank regulations.

Docusign Envelope ID: FFED4927-859B-43D9-A631-5C683A3140EE

Air Quality Bureau

The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau recommends assessing potential pollutant emissions and associated impacts from generators, disturbed areas, aircraft, and other vehicles. Hazardous substances should be assessed if present.

As some of the training areas are located in Doña Ana County the project must adhere to NMAC 20.2.23 for Fugitive Dust Emissions. Any soil disturbing activities of greater than one acre must develop and implement a dust control plan and maintain records of the dust control measures.



AMIM-BLP-E

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

MEMORANDUM FOR Air Force EIAP/NEPA Division, Ms. Grace Keesling, JBSA-Lackland, San Antonio, TX 7826

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) at McGregor Range on Fort Bliss, New Mexico

1. The Fort Bliss Garrison Command Directorate of Public Works – Environmental Division (DPW-ED) sincerely appreciates your letter dated August 12, 2025, inviting our installation to serve as a cooperating agency for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Combat Support Training Range (CSTR). We value this opportunity for interagency collaboration and are pleased to formally accept your invitation.
2. As the underlying landowner and lead federal authority for the McGregor Range complex, the Army will serve as a signatory for the final determination. In our capacity as a cooperating agency, we look forward to assisting with the development of alternatives, identifying potential mission impacts, and providing formal technical reviews of the draft and final EA to ensure the document meets all statutory requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
3. The DPW-ED: Office of the NEPA Program Manager will be the lead office for Fort Bliss on this project. The point of contact will be Claudia Ramirez, NEPA Program Manager, at (915) 568-3605, or email claudia.m.ramirez4.civ@army.mil.

OFFUTT, SHANE P. Digitally signed by
ATRICK.110487598 OFFUTT, SHANE, PATRICK.1104
6 875986
Date: 2026.01.29 09:30:04 -0700

SHANE P. OFFUTT
Chief, Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works

A.2 TRIBAL CONSULTATION (EXAMPLE)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

Forrest Tahdooahnippah
Chairman Comanche Nation
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Dear Chairman Tahdooahnippah:

The United States (US) Department of the Air Force, in cooperation with the Department of the Army, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Title 42 US Code 4321 et seq.) and Department of Defense (DoD) NEPA Implementing Procedures (30 June 2025).

The purpose of the proposed action is to establish a training platform that allows civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills necessary to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base. An expeditionary air base is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-Spans, and tents. A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations. The CSTR at Fort Bliss would be constructed at McGregor Range, New Mexico, on Ranges 28 and 29, an approximately 30-acre parcel of land formerly used as a small arms range (Enclosure).

To consider possible environmental concerns, the Army is engaging early with all potentially affected Native American Tribes as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the Army seeks consultation with the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona; Comanche Nation, Kiowa Tribe, and Fort Sill Apache Tribe in Oklahoma; Mescalero Apache Tribe and Pueblo of Isleta in New Mexico; and Ysleta Del Sur Tribe in Texas. The Army is also contacting the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, and DoD Instruction 4710.02, *DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes*, we request government-to-government consultation with the Comanche Nation on the proposed Action. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) and (b), we request your assistance to identify properties of historic, cultural, or religious significance that may be located within the Area of Potential Effect for this action and any concerns of potential effects of the

-2-

proposed action on significant cultural resources. A McGregor Range vicinity map is enclosed with this letter. The Army desires to discuss the proposal in detail with you so that we may understand and consider any comments, concerns, and suggestions you may have.

In particular, we invite you, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4), to provide information on any properties of historic, religious, or cultural significance that may be affected by our proposed undertaking. The Army will comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act by informing you of any inadvertent discovery of archaeological or human remains and consulting on their disposition. Being defined as a federal undertaking, we will be seeking input and inviting other potential consulting parties, such as the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office.

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning stages include effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, safety and occupational health, hazardous materials and waste, and infrastructure. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA. We intend to notify your office when the Draft EA is completed and welcome comments and input at that time as well.

Specific written comments including attachments may be submitted by email to usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil or via US postal mail or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). The mailing address is 624 Pleasonton, Fort Bliss, TX 79916. Although there is no established timeline for Tribal consultation, we respectfully request that comments be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter so that they can be included in the EA, which will be published for review and comment.

Please direct any questions regarding the action or the scoping process to the NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-5162 or by email: claudia.m.ramirez4.civ@army.mil

The Army appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Fort Bliss. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Soyka
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

A.3 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 CONSULTATION

A.3.1 Example Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

SUBJECT: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Combat Support Training Range Environmental Assessment, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

Mr. Bradford Patterson
Chief Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Patterson:

The United States (U.S.) Department of the Air Force, in cooperation with the U.S. Army, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Title 42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (30 June 2025).

Pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108 (commonly referred to as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800 (*Protection of Historic Properties*), this letter is intended to initiate Section 106 consultation regarding the proposed undertaking.

The purpose of the proposed action is to establish a training platform to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base. An expeditionary air base is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-spans, and tents. A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations. The CSTR at Fort Bliss would be constructed at McGregor Range, New Mexico, on Ranges 28 and 29, an approximately 30-acre parcel of land formerly used as a small arms range (Enclosure).

The proposed project area is equivalent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this EA, which is a mix of previously disturbed cleared areas and scrubland where a variety of ground-disturbing range operations took place. The APE outside of the project area boundaries is typically only indirectly affected by explosive activities through sound, vibration, and overpressure effects from munitions detonation during installation activities. The APE has been defined to include all areas where the undertaking may cause direct or indirect changes to the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

-2-

According to the Fort Bliss Cultural Resource Management records, cultural resource surveys were performed in areas except where there are safety concerns. No historic properties including NRHP-eligible prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic structures, historic districts, historic cemeteries, or Traditional Cultural Places have been identified within the project area. The general vicinity often contains homesteads from the World War II era, but none have been identified in or adjacent to the project area.

To consider possible environmental concerns, the Army is engaging early with all potentially affected resource agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the Army seeks consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. The Army is also engaging with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Federally Recognized Tribes.

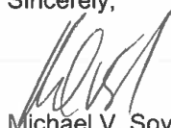
Based on the project location, previous identification efforts, and the lack of historic properties in the APE, Fort Bliss has determined No historic properties were identified within the APE. The Department of the Army requests concurrence on both the APE for this project and this finding of No Historic Properties Affected.

We invite your comments and request your concurrence with our finding of No Historic Properties Affected. Specific written comments including concurrence on the APE and attachments may be submitted by email to usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil or via U.S. postal mail, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). The mailing address is 624 Pleasonton, Fort Bliss, TX 79916. We respectfully request that comments be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter so that they can be included in the Draft EA, which will be published for review and comment.

Please direct any questions regarding the action or the scoping process to the NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-1455 or by email: claudia.m.ramirez4.civ@army.mil

The Army is committed to continuing the Section 106 process in a timely and effective manner and appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Fort Bliss. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Soyka
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

A.3.2 Responses



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

HPD Log 127241
Received 1-14-2026

SUBJECT: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Combat Support Training Range Environmental Assessment, Fort Bliss Army Installation, El Paso, Texas

Ms. Michelle Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer/ Executive Director, HPD
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Ensey:

The United States (U.S.) Department of the Air Force, in cooperation with the U.S. Army, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Title 42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (30 June 2025).

Pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108 (commonly referred to as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800 (*Protection of Historic Properties*), this letter is intended to initiate Section 106 consultation regarding the proposed undertaking.

The purpose of the proposed action is to establish a training platform to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base. An expeditionary air base is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-spans, and tents. A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations. The CSTR at Fort Bliss would be constructed at McGregor Range, New Mexico, on Ranges 28 and 29, an approximately 30-acre parcel of land formerly used as a small arms range (Enclosure).

The proposed project area is equivalent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this EA, which is a mix of previously disturbed cleared areas and scrubland where a variety of ground-disturbing range operations took place. The APE outside of the project area boundaries is typically only indirectly affected by explosive activities through sound, vibration, and overpressure effects from munitions detonation during installation activities. The APE has been defined to include all areas where the undertaking may cause direct or indirect changes to the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

-2-

According to the Fort Bliss Cultural Resource Management records, cultural resource surveys were performed in areas except where there are safety concerns. No historic properties including NRHP-eligible prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic structures, historic districts, historic cemeteries, or Traditional Cultural Places have been identified within the project area. The general vicinity often contains homesteads from the World War II era, but none have been identified in or adjacent to the project area.

To consider possible environmental concerns, the Army is engaging early with all potentially affected resource agencies as it formulates the undertaking. Accordingly, the Army seeks consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. The Army is also engaging with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Federally Recognized Tribes.

Based on the project location, previous identification efforts, and the lack of historic properties in the APE, Fort Bliss has determined No historic properties were identified within the APE. The Department of the Army requests concurrence on both the APE for this project and this finding of No Historic Properties Affected.

We invite your comments and request your concurrence with our finding of No Historic Properties Affected. Specific written comments including concurrence on the APE and attachments may be submitted by email to usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpw-nepa-support@army.mil or via U.S. postal mail, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). The mailing address is 624 Pleasonton, Fort Bliss, TX 79916. We respectfully request that comments be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter so that they can be included in the Draft EA, which will be published for review and comment.

Please direct any questions regarding the action or the scoping process to the NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-1455 or by email: claudia.m.ramirez4.civ@army.mil

The Army is committed to continuing the Section 106 process in a timely and effective manner and appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Fort Bliss. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Soyka
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

Concur with Recommendations as Proposed



for the NM SHPO, 1/26/2026

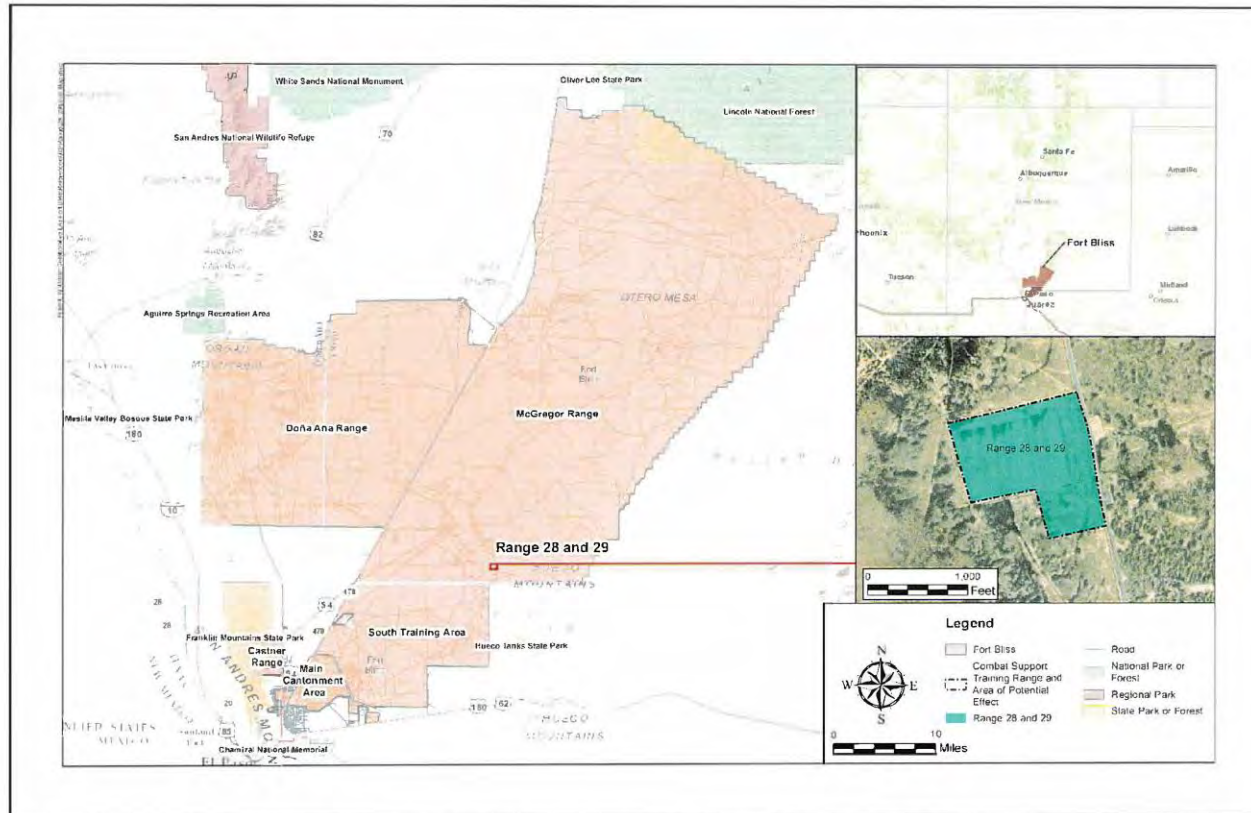


Figure 1. Project Location and Area of Potential Effect



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

THC Tracking #202604865

Date: 01/20/2026

Combat Support Training Range EA

Fort Bliss

El Paso, TX

Description: Construction of a combat support training range

Dear Claudia Ramirez:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The review staff, led by Caitlin Brashear and Drew Sitters, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

We have the following comments: The THC thanks the Department of the Army for the opportunity to comment on this undertaking. However, it appears that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is wholly located within the State of New Mexico. Therefore, we defer concurrence on the APE and the determination of effects to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers: caitlin.brashear@thc.texas.gov, drew.sitters@thc.texas.gov.

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

for Joseph Bell, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Please do not respond to this email.

A.4 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTATION



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss Texas

Mr. Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The United States (US) Department of the Air Force, in cooperation with the Department of the Army, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Title 42 US Code 4321et seq.) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (30 June 2025).

The purpose of the proposed action is to establish a training platform that allows civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills necessary to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary air base. An expeditionary airbase is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete buildings, K-Spans, and tents. A CSTR enables a larger unit to train together and provides complex training events that are not practical at all home stations. The CSTR at Fort Bliss would be constructed at McGregor Range, New Mexico, on Ranges 28 and 29, an approximately 30-acre parcel of land formerly used as a small arms range (Enclosure).

To consider possible environmental concerns, the Army is engaging early with all potentially affected agencies as it evaluates this undertaking. The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and any alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Potential impacts identified during the initial planning include the effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, safety and occupational health hazardous materials and waste, and infrastructure. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you believe should be addressed in the EA. We intend to notify your office when the draft EA is completed and welcome any comments and input.

Specific written comments including attachments may be submitted by email to usarmy.bliss.id-readiness.mbx.dpx-nepasupport@army.mil or via US postal mail, or in person (Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). The mailing address is

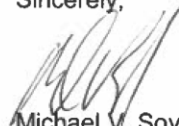
-2-

624 Pleasonton, Fort Bliss, TX 79916. We respectfully request that comments be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter so that they can be included in the Draft EA, which will be published for review and comment.

Please direct any questions regarding the action or the scoping process to the NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-1455 or by email: claudia.m.ramirez4.civ@army.mil.

The Army appreciates your interest in and support of its military mission at Fort Bliss. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Soyka
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

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APPENDIX B AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

B.1 AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

This section presents an export of results directly from the air quality modeling software retaining the organizational headings, text and table formatting produced by the software.

B.1.1 Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) Summary Report for Alternative 1

1. General Information: The Air Force's Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) was used to perform a net change in emissions analysis to assess the potential air quality impact/s associated with the action. The analysis was performed in accordance with the Air Force Manual 32-7002, *Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention*; the *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*; the *General Conformity Rule (GCR, 40 CFR 93 Subpart B)*; and the *USAF Air Quality Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Guide*. This report provides a summary of the ACAM analysis.

Report generated with ACAM version: 5.0.24a

a. Action Location:

Base: GENERIC BASE
State: New Mexico
County(s): Otero
Regulatory Area(s): NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA

b. Action Title: Construction and Operation of a Combat Support Training Range at Fort Bliss, New Mexico

c. Project Number/s (if applicable): N/A

d. Projected Action Start Date: 3 / 2028

e. Action Description:

Under Alternative 1, the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center would construct and operate a CSTR at Ranges 28 and 29 on McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, New Mexico. Construction would occur by the following sequence of activities:

- Grade and gravel 25.5 acres for a main cantonment area.
- Install a security fence, entry control points, guard tower, and water and electric utilities/associated distribution lines.
- Install two 20,000-gallon water storage tanks/associated distribution lines.
- Build a mock concrete runway of 2.6 acres with asphalt shoulders and a 2,000 square foot (sf) laydown pad for storage.
- Construct containerized storage units (support depot) with 10 K-span storage facilities (5,000 sf each) on concrete pads of 110 feet by 52 feet.
- Construct a life support area infrastructure including two 5,000 sf concrete pads for shower/shave/toilet/laundry facilities (SSTLs) and four 10,000 gallon underground wastewater tanks. Assemble 40 small shelter systems (SSS) (military tents) (26,000 sf total) with a capacity for about 400 trainees, two Joint Air Transportable Containerized Kitchens (JACKs) (about 750 sf), and five medium shelter systems (MSS) (7,800 sf total).
- Install an arms, ammunition, and explosives storage (ARMAG) vault (50 sf).

Operations would train up to 400 personnel for two weeks per month in tasks such as erecting and dismantling structures, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and performing runway repairs.

f. Point of Contact:

Name: Allison Williams
Title: Environmental Scientist
Organization: Leidos Corporation
Email: allison.williams@leidos.com
Phone Number: (719) 470 9579

2. Air Impact Analysis: Based on the attainment status at the action location, the requirements of the GCR are:

 applicable
 X not applicable

Total reasonably foreseeable net direct and indirect emissions associated with the action were estimated through ACAM on a calendar-year basis for the start of the action through achieving “steady state” (cCba.e., no net gain/loss in emission stabilized and the action is fully implemented) emissions. The ACAM analysis uses the latest and most accurate emission estimation techniques available; all algorithms, emission factors, and methodologies used are described in detail in the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Stationary Sources*, the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Mobile Sources*, and the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Transitory Sources*.

“Insignificance Indicators” were used in the analysis to provide an indication of the significance of the proposed Action’s potential impacts to local air quality. The insignificance indicators are trivial (de minimis) rate thresholds that have been demonstrated to have little to no impact to air quality. These insignificance indicators are the 250 ton/yr Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold and 25 ton/yr for lead for actions occurring in areas that are “Attainment” (cCba.e., not exceeding any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)). These indicators do not define a significant impact; however, they do provide a threshold to identify actions that are insignificant. Any action with net emissions below the insignificance indicators for all criteria pollutants is considered so insignificant that the action will not cause or contribute to an exceedance on one or more NAAQS. For further detail on insignificance indicators, refer to *Level II, Air Quality Quantitative Assessment, Insignificance Indicators*.

The action’s net emissions for every year through achieving steady state were compared against the Insignificance Indicators and are summarized below.

Analysis Summary:

2028			
Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	0.114	250	No
NOx	0.915	250	No
CO	1.216	250	No
SOx	0.002	250	No
PM 10	9.295	250	No
PM 2.5	0.031	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.004	250	No

2029

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	22.920	250	No
NOx	202.316	250	No
CO	86.183	250	No
SOx	16.528	250	No
PM 10	21.392	250	No
PM 2.5	21.392	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.000	250	No

2030 - (Steady State)

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	22.920	250	No
NOx	202.316	250	No
CO	86.183	250	No
SOx	16.528	250	No
PM 10	21.392	250	No
PM 2.5	21.392	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.000	250	No

None of the estimated annual net emissions associated with this action are above the insignificance indicators; therefore, the action will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of one or more NAAQSs and will have an insignificant impact on air quality. No further air assessment is needed.

Allison Williams, Environmental Scientist

Dec 11 2025

Name, Title

Date

B.1.2 ACAM Summary Report for Alternative 2

1. General Information: The Air Force's Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) was used to perform a net change in emissions analysis to assess the potential air quality impact/s associated with the action. The analysis was performed in accordance with the Air Force Manual 32-7002, *Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention*; the *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*; the *General Conformity Rule (GCR, 40 CFR 93 Subpart B)*; and the *USAF Air Quality Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Guide*. This report provides a summary of the ACAM analysis.

Report generated with ACAM version: 5.0.24a

a. Action Location:

Base: GENERIC BASE
State: New Mexico
County(s): Otero
Regulatory Area(s): NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA

b. Action Title: Construction and Operation of a Combat Support Training Range at Fort Bliss, New Mexico

c. Project Number/s (if applicable): N/A

d. Projected Action Start Date: 3 / 2028

e. Action Description:

Under Alternative 2, the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center would construct and operate a CSTR at Ranges 28 and 29 on McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, New Mexico. Construction would occur by the following sequence of activities:

- Grade and gravel 25.5 acres for a main cantonment area.
- Install a security fence, entry control points, guard tower, and water and electric utilities/associated distribution lines.
- Install two 20,000-gallon water storage tanks/associated distribution lines.
- Build a mock concrete runway of 2.6 acres with asphalt shoulders and a 2,000 square foot (sf) laydown pad for storage.
- Construct containerized storage units (support depot) with 10 K-span storage facilities (5,000 sf each) on concrete pads of 110 feet by 52 feet.
- Construct a life support area infrastructure including two 5,000 sf concrete pads for shower/shave/toilet/laundry facilities (SSTLs) and four 10,000 gallon underground wastewater tanks. Assemble 40 small shelter systems (SSS) (military tents) (26,000 sf total) with a capacity for about 400 trainees, two Joint Air Transportable Containerized Kitchens (JACKs) (about 750 sf), and five medium shelter systems (MSS) (7,800 sf total).
- Install an arms, ammunition, and explosives storage (ARMAG) vault (50 sf).

Operations would train up to 400 personnel for two weeks per month in tasks such as erecting and dismantling structures, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and performing runway repairs.

f. Point of Contact:

Name: Allison Williams
Title: Environmental Scientist
Organization: Leidos Corporation
Email: allison.williams@leidos.com
Phone Number: (719) 470 9579

2. Air Impact Analysis: Based on the attainment status at the action location, the requirements of the GCR are:

 applicable
 X not applicable

Total reasonably foreseeable net direct and indirect emissions associated with the action were estimated through ACAM on a calendar-year basis for the start of the action through achieving “steady state” (cCba.e., no net gain/loss in emission stabilized and the action is fully implemented) emissions. The ACAM analysis uses the latest and most accurate emission estimation techniques available; all algorithms, emission factors, and methodologies used are described in detail in the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Stationary Sources*, the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Mobile Sources*, and the *USAF Air Emissions Guide for Air Force Transitory Sources*.

“Insignificance Indicators” were used in the analysis to provide an indication of the significance of the proposed Action’s potential impacts to local air quality. The insignificance indicators are trivial (de minimis) rate thresholds that have been demonstrated to have little to no impact to air quality. These insignificance indicators are the 250 ton/yr Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold and 25 ton/yr for lead for actions occurring in areas that are “Attainment” (cCba.e., not exceeding any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)). These indicators do not define a significant impact; however, they do provide a threshold to identify

actions that are insignificant. Any action with net emissions below the insignificance indicators for all criteria pollutants is considered so insignificant that the action will not cause or contribute to an exceedance on one or more NAAQS. For further detail on insignificance indicators, refer to *Level II, Air Quality Quantitative Assessment, Insignificance Indicators*.

The action's net emissions for every year through achieving steady state were compared against the Insignificance Indicators and are summarized below.

Analysis Summary:

2028

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	0.114	250	No
NOx	0.915	250	No
CO	1.216	250	No
SOx	0.002	250	No
PM 10	9.295	250	No
PM 2.5	0.031	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.004	250	No

2029

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	22.920	250	No
NOx	202.316	250	No
CO	86.183	250	No
SOx	16.528	250	No
PM 10	21.392	250	No
PM 2.5	21.392	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.000	250	No

2030

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	22.933	250	No
NOx	202.421	250	No
CO	86.357	250	No
SOx	16.528	250	No
PM 10	21.415	250	No
PM 2.5	21.396	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.001	250	No

2031 - (Steady State)

Pollutant	Action Emissions (ton/yr)	INSIGNIFICANCE INDICATOR	
		Indicator (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
NOT IN A REGULATORY AREA			
VOC	22.920	250	No
NOx	202.316	250	No
CO	86.183	250	No
SOx	16.528	250	No
PM 10	21.392	250	No
PM 2.5	21.392	250	No
Pb	0.000	25	No
NH3	0.000	250	No

None of the estimated annual net emissions associated with this action are above the insignificance indicators; therefore, the action will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of one or more NAAQSs and will have an insignificant impact on air quality. No further air assessment is needed.

Allison Williams, Environmental Scientist

Dec 18 2025

Name, Title

Date

B.1.3 Explosive Activities Emissions

Explosives associated with Alternatives 1 and 2 include charges of 2.5 pounds and 42.5 pounds net explosive weight (NEW). Emissions from explosive use were estimated using emission factors published in United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) AP-42, Chapter 13.3, *Explosive Detonations*. These factors were applied to the assumed charge weights and number of detonations that generate the annual emissions presented in Table B-1.

Table B-1. Explosive Emissions

Source	Annual Emissions (tons/year)									
	CO	NOx	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO _{2e}
Emission Factors (lbs/ton)	796	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	14.3	-	358
Charge NEW 2.5lb Weight (tons)	0.001	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.001	-	-
Emissions per detonation (lbs)	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.02	-	0.45
Events per year	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	
NEW 2.5 lb Emissions - Tons/year	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0002	-	0.01
Charge NEW 42.5lbs Weight (tons)	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.02	-	
Emissions per detonation (lbs)	16.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.30	-	7.60
Events per year	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-

Table B-1. Explosive Emissions

Source	Annual Emissions (tons/year)									
	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO _{2e}
NEW 42.5 lb Emissions - Tons/year	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.004		0.09
Total Emissions (tons/year)	0.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.004		0.10

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). January 1995. AP-42: Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, Volume I: Stationary Point and Area Sources. Chapter 13.3, "Explosives Detonation."

- = no data; CO = carbon monoxide; CO₂ = carbon dioxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; lb = pound; N₂O = nitrous oxide; ND = not detected; NEW = net explosive weight; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compound

B.1.4 Water Delivery Truck Emissions

Water delivery trucks are required under Alternative 1 to support site operations. Emissions from truck trips were estimated using emission factors (grams per mile) generated with the USEPA's Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES3). Based on project description, approximately 34 trips occur per period, for 12 periods annually, resulting in about 408 trips (24,480 miles) per year. Emissions were calculated by multiplying the annual mileage by the MOVES3 emission factors and converting to tons per year. The resulting estimates are presented in Table B-2.

Table B-2. Water Delivery Truck Emissions

	Emissions (tons/year)						
	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO _{2e}
Emissions Factor (g/mile)	2.9	1.82	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.10	1,429
Total	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.56

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2021. Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES3): User Guide and Model. Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Assessment and Standards Division. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/moves>

CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; g/mile = grams per mile; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; U.S. = United States; VOCs = volatile organic compounds

B.1.5 Wastewater Truck Emissions

Wastewater trucks are required under Alternatives 1 and 2 to transport wastewater offsite. Emissions from truck trips were estimated using emission factors (grams per mile) generated with the USEPA's MOVES3. Based on project requirements, approximately 28 trips occur per period, for 12 periods annually, resulting in about 336 trips (20,160 miles) per year. Emissions were calculated by multiplying the annual mileage by the MOVES3 emission factors and converting to tons per year. The resulting estimates are presented in Table B-3.

Table B-3. Wastewater Truck Emissions

	Emissions (tons/year)						
	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO _{2e}
Emissions Factor (g/mile)	2.90	1.82	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.10	1,429
Total	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	31.76

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2021. Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES3): User Guide and Model. Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Assessment and Standards Division. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/moves>

CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; g/mile = grams per mile; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; U.S. = United States; VOCs = volatile organic compounds

B.1.6 Well Drilling Emissions

Drilling activity under Alternative 2 includes installation of three wells using a GEFCO 50K (approximately 565-horsepower) diesel drilling engine. Emissions from drilling were estimated using brake-specific emission factors from USEPA's AP-42, Chapter 3.4, *Large Stationary Diesel and All Stationary Dual-Fuel Engines* (Table 3.4-1). For each pollutant, emission factors were applied to the assumed engine horsepower, an equipment load factor of 0.65, and 80 hours of operation for the three wells, with results converted to tons per year. The resulting estimates are presented in Table B-4.

Table B-4. Emissions from GEFCO 50K (565HP) Drilling Engine

	Emissions (tons/year)						
	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO _{2e}
Emissions Factor (lb/hp-hr)	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16
Total	0.08	0.35	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	17.06

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. January 1995. AP-42, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, Volume I: Chapter 3.4 – Large Stationary Diesel and All Stationary Dual-Fuel Engines, Table 3.4-1

CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; U.S. = United States; VOCs = volatile organic compounds

B.1.7 Personnel Commuting Bus Emissions

Personnel required to support exercise operations under Alternatives 1 and 2 total up to 400 individuals. A portion of this activity was modeled in ACAM using the "Personnel" module to represent privately owned vehicle (POV) trips. For POV trips, approximately 10 round trips per month (60 miles per trip) were assumed, while the remaining personnel trips were represented as bus round trips of the same distance. Assuming 40 passengers per bus, 10 buses would be required each commuting day, with commuting assumed to occur 10 days per month (approximately 2 weeks per month). This results in about 72,000 miles of bus travel annually. Emissions for buses were calculated by multiplying annual mileage by emission factors (grams per mile) from the USEPA's MOVES3 and converting to tons per year. The resulting estimates are presented in Table B-5.

Table B-5. Personnel Commuting Emissions

	Emissions (tons/year)						
	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x	VOCs	CO _{2e}
Emissions Factor (g/mile)	1.53	0.97	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.12	4.47
Total	0.12	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.36

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2021. Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES3): User Guide and Model. Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Assessment and Standards Division. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/moves>

CO = carbon monoxide; CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent; g/mile = grams per mile; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_x = sulfur oxides; U.S. = United States; VOCs = volatile organic compounds

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APPENDIX C BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SUPPORTING INFORMATION

C.1 INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND CONSULTATION REPORT



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna Road Ne
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To:

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0136218

Project Name: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss,
TX

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project
location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>.

Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: nhnm.unm.edu

2 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021>) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

3 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at nmesfo@fws.gov, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Note: IPaC has provided all available attachments because this project is in multiple field office jurisdictions.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
(505) 346-2525

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. However, only one species list document will be provided for all offices. The species and critical habitats in this document reflect the aggregation of those that fall in each of the affiliated office's jurisdiction. Other offices affiliated with the project:

4 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

Austin Ecological Services Field Office
1505 Ferguson Lane
Austin, TX 78754-4501
(512) 937-7371

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0136218

Project Name: Environmental Assessment for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss, TX

Project Type: Military Development

Project Description: The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) proposes to develop a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) at the Fort Bliss ranges in New Mexico. The development of the CSTR would be located on withdrawn public land at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29. The primary infrastructure would consist of grading/gravel of 25 to 30 acres, a mock concrete runway, laundry and billeting facilities, and supporting utilities. A security fence with a buried chain-link apron would be installed around the cantonment area. Training would consist of assembling and disassembling structures such as small and medium tents, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and conducting runway repairs. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.412269699999996,-105.98853410172298,14z>



Counties: New Mexico and Texas

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 10 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

7 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Penasco Least Chipmunk <i>Tamias minimus atristriatus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5126 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/9171.pdf	Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon <i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i> Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/8928.pdf	Experimental Population, Non-Essential
Northern Aplomado Falcon <i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/8928.pdf	Endangered
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Wind Energy Projects Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Wind Energy Projects Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/9183.pdf	Threatened

8 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed Threatened
There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Sacramento Mountains Thistle <i>Cirsium vinaceum</i>	Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7486 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/9175.pdf	
Sacramento Prickly Poppy <i>Argemone pleiacantha</i> ssp. <i>pinnatisecta</i>	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3332	
Todsen's Pennyroyal <i>Hedeoma todsenii</i>	Endangered
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1081 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/TRAQTOKL7VBQFM6K73IB7TZH3U/documents/generated/9181.pdf	

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The data in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

10 of 13

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Cactus Wren <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus guttatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8834	Breeds Mar 5 to Sep 30
Virginia's Warbler <i>Leiothlypis virginiae</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9441	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

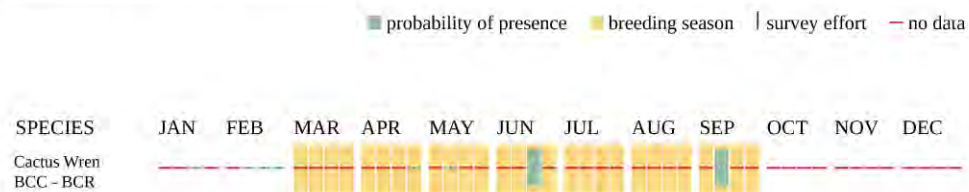
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

Virginia's Warbler
BCC Rangewide
(CON)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NW1 wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R4SBJ

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1Cx

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBFx

Project code: 2025-0136218

08/14/2025 22:13:50 UTC

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Defense Contract Management Agency

Name: Christina Meyer

Address: 408 Andros Way

City: Niceville

State: FL

Zip: 32578

Email christina.a.meyer@leidos.com

Phone: 8505026372

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Air Force

C.2 NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TOOL



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: EA for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss, TX
Project Type: MILITARY, GENERAL (OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE), NEW FACILITIES OR OPERATIONS AREAS
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.026891 / -106.092181
County(s): OTERO
Project Description: The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) proposes to develop a Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) at the Fort Bliss ranges in New Mexico. The development of the CSTR would be located on withdrawn public land at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29. The primary infrastructure would consist of grading/gravel of 25 to 30 acres, a mock concrete runway, laundry and billeting facilities, and supporting utilities. A security fence with a buried chain-link apron would be installed around the cantonment area. Training would consist of assembling and disassembling structures such as small and medium tents, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and conducting runway repairs. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:
Contact Name: Christina Meyer
Email Address: christina.a.meyer@leidos.com
Organization: Leidos, Inc.
Address: 408 Andros Way, Niceville FL 32578
Phone: 850-502-6372

OVERALL STATUS

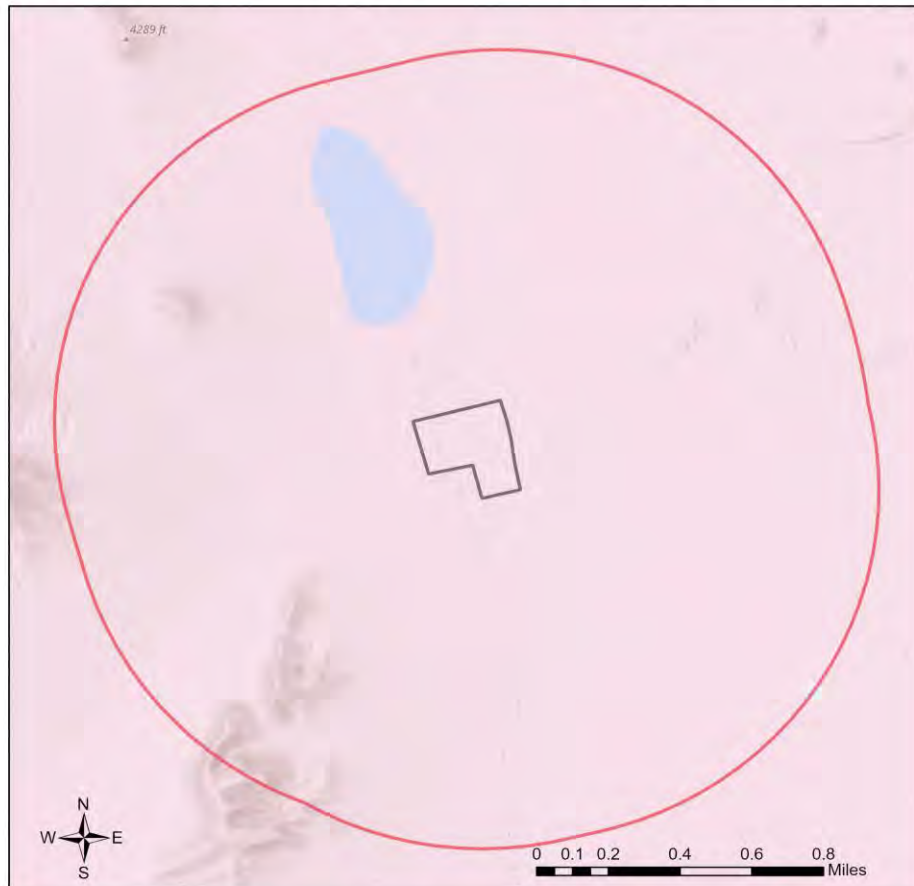
This report contains an initial list of recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from the proposed project; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. Your project proposal is being forwarded to a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) biologist for review to determine whether there are any additional recommendations regarding the proposed actions. A Department biologist will be in touch within 30 days if there are further recommendations regarding this project proposal.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the [Wildlife Conservation Act \(WCA\)](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\) for New Mexico](#); all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#), the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

EA for the Combat Support Training Range, Fort Bliss, TX



Buffered Project Boundary	NM State Forestry Division	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project_Boundary	NM State Parks	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service	U.S. Department of Agriculture
City Land	Other Federal Agency	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County Land	Other Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service
Department of Defense	State Land Office	U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Energy	State of New Mexico	
NM Department of Game & Fish	Tribal Land	

NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
Esri, NASA, NOAA, USGS, FEMA
Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METINASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Barking Frog	Craugastor augusti			SGCN			
Plains Leopard Frog	Lithobates blairi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii		T	SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Vesper Sparrow	Poocetes gramineus			SGCN			
Baird's Sparrow	Ammodramus bairdii		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Rock Rattlesnake	Crotalus lepidus			SGCN			
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in [bison-m.org](https://www.bison-m.org/); Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in [NatureServe Explorer](https://www.natureserve.com/explorer); ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this [website](#); WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

Project Recommendations

Your proposed project activities may require a custom review for assessment of potential effects to wildlife. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. A Department biologist will confirm whether any additional conservation measures are needed. You should expect to receive any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission. If the "OVERALL STATUS" section indicates that no further consultation with the Department is required based on its location, then you will only receive additional project feedback from the Department if a biologist deems it necessary.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist using the Department's [Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol](#). Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Prairie dog colonies may occur within the vicinity of your project area. Both black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) are designated as New Mexico SGCN, and their colonies provide important habitat for other grassland wildlife. Wherever possible, occupied prairie dog colonies should be left undisturbed, and all project activities should be directed off the colony. Any burrows that are located on the project site should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to determine whether burrows are active or inactive and whether burrowing owls may be utilizing the site. Colonies within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, year-round using binoculars. Colonies within the range of the Gunnison's prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, using binoculars during the warmer months from April through October and by searching for fairly fresh scat and lack of cobwebs or debris at the mouths of burrows during the cold months (November through March). If ground-disturbing activities cannot be relocated off the prairie dog colony, or if project activities involve control of prairie dogs, the Department recommends live-trapping and relocation of prairie dogs. The Department can provide recommendations regarding suitability of potential translocation areas and procedures.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Project ID: NMERT-4946
Project Number: 08142025

Disclaimers regarding recommendations:

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.

C.3 NEW MEXICO RARE PLANTS

Scientific Name	Common Name	NMRPTC	FWS	State of NM	USFS	BLM	Navajo Nation	State Rank	Global Rank	Counties
<i>Anulocaulis leiosotenus</i> var. <i>howardii</i>	Howard's Gyp Rinestem	R				SEN		S1	G4T1	OTERO
<i>Aquilegia chaplinei</i>	Chapline's Columbine	R				SEN		S3	G2	EDDY,OTERO
<i>Argemone pinnatisecta</i>	Sacramento Prickly-Poppy	R	LE	E	SEN			S2	G4G5T2	OTERO
<i>Boechera zephyra</i>	Wind Mountain rock-cress	R				SEN		S1	G1	DONA ANA,EDDY,OTERO
<i>Cirsium vinaceum</i>	Sacramento Mountains Thistle	R	LT	E				S1	G1	OTERO
<i>Cirsium wrightii</i>	Wright's Marsh Thistle	R	LT	E	SEN	SEN		S2	G2	CHAVES,EDDY,GUADALUPE,OTERO,SOCORRO
<i>Dermatophyllum guadalupense</i>	Guadalupe Mescalbean	R				SEN	SEN	S1	G2	EDDY,OTERO
<i>Echinocereus fendleri</i> var. <i>kuenzleri</i>	Kuenzler's Cactus	R	LE	E				S2	G4G5T2Q	CHAVES,EDDY,LINCOLN,OTERO
<i>Escobaria villardii</i>	Villard's Pincushion Cactus	R		E	SEN	SEN		S2	G2Q	DONA ANA,OTERO
<i>Hedeoma todosenii</i>	Toden's Pennyroyal	R	LE	E				S2	G2	OTERO,SIERRA
<i>Hexaletris arizonica</i>	Arizona Crested Coralroot	R		E	SEN			S1	G5T3	DONA ANA,HIDALGO,OTERO,SIERRA
<i>Hexaletris nitida</i>	Shining Coralroot	R		E				S1	G3	EDDY,OTERO
<i>Lepidospartum burgessii</i>	Gypsum Scalebroom	R		E		SEN		S1	G1	OTERO
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> var. <i>andinum</i>	Mountain Lily			E				S3	G5T4T5	COLFAX,LOS ALAMOS,OTERO,SAN MIGUEL,SANDOVAL,SANTA FE
<i>Mentzelia humilis</i> var. <i>guadalupensis</i>	Guadalupe Stickleaf	R				SEN		S1S2	G4T1T2	OTERO
<i>Nerisyrenia hypercorax</i>	Crow Flats Fanmustard	R				SEN		S1S2	G1G2	CHAVES,OTERO
<i>Paronychia wilkinsonii</i>	Wilkinson's Nailwort	R				SEN		S1	G2G3	OTERO
<i>Penstemon alamosensis</i>	Alamo Beardtongue	R			SEN	SEN		S3	G3	DONA ANA,LINCOLN,OTERO
<i>Penstemon cardinalis</i> ssp. <i>regalis</i>	Guadalupe Penstemon	R			SEN	SEN		S3	G3T3	EDDY,OTERO

Source: Query from New Mexico Rare Plants website rare plant list tool.

Key: E = endangered; G1 = critically imperiled; G2 = imperiled; G3 = vulnerable; G4 = apparently secure; LE = listed endangered; LT = listed threatened; Q = questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority; R = rare; SEN = sensitive; S1 = critically imperiled; S2 = imperiled; S3 = vulnerable; Tn = Intraspecific taxon (trinominal).

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APPENDIX D LIST OF PREPARERS

Government Agency Development Team			
Name/Title		Role	
Ricqui Brager		USACE	
Grace Keesling		AFCEC/CIE, NEPA Manager	
Maj Blanch		AFCEC/CFS	
Lt Col Shallcross		AFCEC/CFS	
Claudia Ramirez		Fort Bliss, NEPA Manager	
Contractor Development Team			
Name/Title	Project Role	Subject Area	Qualifications
Jay Austin Noise Analyst M.S. Environmental Science B.A. Biology	Section Author	Noise	24 years Environmental Science
Quentina Borgic Geospatial Technician/Archaeologist M.S. Geographic Information Science and Technology B.A. Anthropology and Geography	Geospatial	Document Maps	24 Years Geospatial, Cultural Resources, Environmental Science
Chris Crabtree Air Quality Meteorologist B.A. Environmental Studies	Section Author	Air Quality	27 years Environmental Science
Rick Combs Environmental Scientist M.S. Biology B.S. Biology B.S. Business Administration	Section Author	Biological Resources	23 Years Environmental Science
Denise Delancey Technical Editor B.A. English/Communications	Production	Technical Editing	21 Years Technical Editing
Peggy Farrell, CHMM, QEP, PMP Environmental Scientist M.S. Natural Sciences and Environmental Studies B.A. Biology and Environmental Studies	Section Author	Public Health and Safety Transportation	46 Years Environmental Science
Nathan Gross, CHMM Environmental Scientist B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Management	Section Author	Hazardous Materials and Waste	20 Years Environmental Science
Jason Koralewski Senior Archaeologist M.A. Anthropology B.A. Anthropology	Section Author	Cultural Resources	30 Years Archaeology, Environmental Science
Christina Meyer Environmental Scientist B.S. Environmental Scientist	Section Author	Biological Resources	15 years Environmental Science

Contractor Development Team			
Name/Title	Project Role	Subject Area	Qualifications
Vincent Passaro Environmental Scientist M.S. Environmental Science B.S. Fish and Wildlife Science	Section Author	Water Resources	25 Years Environmental Science
Amy Sands Assistant Project Manager M.A.S. Environmental Policy B.S. Environmental Science	Quality Assurance	Document Review	22 Years Environmental Science
Heather Stepp Environmental Scientist B.S. Environmental Engineering Technology	Production	Document Production	28 Years Editing, Document Production, Environmental Science
Brian Tutterow Environmental Scientist B.S. Biology	Project Manager	Document Review	27 Years Environmental Science
Jennifer Wallin Environmental Scientist M.S. Environmental Toxicology B.S. Biology	Production	Document Production	26 Years Editing, Document Production, Environmental Science
Jessica Welsh Technical Editor B.A. Journalism	Production	Document Production	25 Years Editing, Document Production

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE COMBAT SUPPORT TRAINING RANGE AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS

INTRODUCTION: The United States (U.S.) Army and the Department of the Air Force (DAF) have prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures. This Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) herein references the attached EA and has been developed as the final decision document for the EA.

LEAD AND COOPERATING AGENCIES: The DAF is the proponent for this action; however, the development of the Combat Support Training Range (CSTR) is proposed to be located on Army land that was withdrawn from Bureau of Land Management. As a result, the Army is serving as a cooperating agency for this EA. This EA is being prepared to satisfy the procedural requirements of NEPA for both the Army and the DAF with the Army signing this FONSI.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action includes the development and operations of a CSTR. CSTRs are being developed to fill gaps in current expeditionary training capabilities for installation and mission support Airmen. CSTRs are a premier training platform with equipment and vehicles, natural and built infrastructure, and realistic threat environment to enable combat support and combat service support teams to build the mission capacity essential to winning future fights. Construction would be planned for Fiscal Year 2028 and would take 12 months.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed location is on Ranges 28 and 29 at the Fort Bliss McGregor Range in New Mexico.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish a training platform to allow civil engineering combat support teams to develop skills needed to establish, operate, protect, and recover an expeditionary airbase. An expeditionary airbase is a mobile installation that can be established rapidly in the field under a variety of conditions. These installations often consist of simple structures such as concrete block buildings, K-spans, and tents. The concept of an expeditionary airbase allows the DAF to set up an airfield where it is needed, rather than limiting air support to locations where permanent infrastructure exists. Expeditionary airbases support the DAF mission by being ready to set up quickly in the field using small teams that are flexible and trained in a variety of jobs, ready to deploy at any time. A CSTR enables larger units to train together and provides for more complex training events that would not be practical to establish at all home stations.

ALTERNATIVES: Three alternatives were considered: the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Descriptions of these alternatives are provided below.

Alternative 1. CSTR Site at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29.

Proposed Construction: Construction-related activities would consist of grading and gravelling of an approximately 30.5-acre site at the location of an existing small arms range. Construction would include utilities, a mock airfield, a support depot, life support infrastructure, shower/shave/toilet/laundry facilities, and equipment storage.

Proposed Operations: Operations would consist of approximately 400 trainees who would train for approximately 2 weeks every month. Training would consist of assembling and disassembling structures such as the small shelter systems (tents) and medium shelter systems, detonating explosives on the mock runway, and conducting repairs on the runway. It is anticipated that approximately two detonations would occur monthly on the mock runway using a 2.5-pound net explosive weight (NEW) explosive charge. For the purposes of providing a conservative noise and safety analysis, a 42.5-pound NEW charge was also analyzed. Other required CSTR training would occur on existing Fort Bliss ranges. These ranges include a small arms range, a full distance range, an off-road (mounted) course, a land navigation (dismounted) course, and a Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) course.

Alternative 2. CSTR Site at McGregor Ranges 28 and 29 with Well Water (Preferred Alternative).

Under Alternative 2, the CSTR site would be developed the same as under Alternative 1, except well water would be used rather than water trucks for supplying drinking water. To provide training on drilling operations and to provide a more permanent water source for the CSTR, two to three groundwater wells would be installed at the site. Well water would be treated utilizing expeditionary reverse osmosis water purification units as part of training operations. Other operations at the CSTR site would be the same as those proposed for Alternative 1.

No Action Alternative.

Under the No Action Alternative, the action would not take place and critical DAF training requirements would not be met. The No Action Alternative provides baseline conditions and/or a comparative benchmark, enabling the reader to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACTION: Implementation of the Proposed Action and alternatives has the potential for minor impacts to public health and safety, air quality, biological resources, water resources, infrastructure, and transportation (Table 1). None of the effects identified in the EA would be significant.

MITIGATION: The Draft EA analysis concluded that the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, would not result in significant environmental effects; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: As part of the planning process for this EA, Fort Bliss mailed introductory project scoping letters to local, state, and federal elected officials; Native American Tribes; and agencies on January 14, 2026. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, consultation letters were provided to the New Mexico and Texas State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) on January 14, 2026. The Texas SHPO replied on January 20, 2026, deferring concurrence to the New Mexico SHPO. On January 26, 2026, the New Mexico SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. On August 14, 2025, the U.S. Army initiated informal Section 7 consultation through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS') online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool, which resulted in a conformity letter. The U.S. Army is continuing coordination with the USFWS by requesting comments on the Draft EA and on the finding of "no effect" for this action.

Table 1. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Environmental Resources	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Public Health and Safety	No significant effects would occur to public health and safety with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Health and safety effects could occur, but effects would be reduced to less than significant with proper training, hearing protection, and BMPs.	Health and safety effects could occur, but effects would be reduced to less than significant with proper training, hearing protection, and BMPs.
Air Quality	Air emissions and resulting air quality effects under the No Action Alternative would remain unchanged from existing conditions.	Compliance with permit requirements would ensure that implementation of Alternative 1 would result in less than significant air quality effects.	Compliance with permit requirements would ensure that implementation of Alternative 1 would result in less than significant air quality effects.
Biological Resources	No significant effects to biological resources would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Implementation of Alternative 1 may have effects on vegetation, wildlife, migratory birds, and invasive and exotic species, but no significant effects are anticipated. BMPs will be used to minimize effects to natural resources.	Effects associated with Alternative 2 would be the same as those described for Alternative 1 and, therefore, would not be significant. BMPs will be used to minimize effects to natural resources.
Water Resources	No effects to water resources would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Implementation of Alternative 1 may have effects on surface water management and groundwater, but no significant effects are anticipated. In compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a Construction General Permit is required. The project will have soil disturbance greater than 1 acre and will require a SWPPP. For soil disturbance greater than 5 acres, an NOI and NOT are required by the state. Wastewater resulting from operations would be containerized and disposed of properly.	Implementation of Alternative 2 may have effects on surface water management and groundwater, but no significant effects are anticipated. In compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a Construction General Permit is required. The project will have soil disturbance more than 1 acre and will require a SWPPP. For soil disturbance greater than 5 acres, an NOI and NOT are required by the state. Wastewater resulting from operations would be containerized and disposed of properly.
Cultural Resources	No effects to cultural resources would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	No adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of Alternative 1.	No adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated from the implementation of Alternative 2.
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	There would be no changes to hazardous materials, hazardous waste, toxic substances, petroleum products, or ERP sites in the ROI beyond baseline conditions.	Implementation of Alternative 1 would not result in significant effects to the hazardous materials and wastes resource area.	Implementation of Alternative 2 would not result in significant effects to the hazardous materials and wastes resource area.

Table 1. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences (continued)

Environmental Resources	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Infrastructure	No significant effects to infrastructure would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Changes in demand to infrastructure would be minimal and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region. There would be no significant infrastructure effects.	Changes in demand to infrastructure would be minimal and the increased demand would not create a service disruption to existing users or substantially increase demand in the region. There would be no significant infrastructure effects.
Transportation	No significant effects to transportation would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	Effects to transportation could occur, but effects would not be significant.	Effects to transportation could occur, but effects would not be significant.
Noise	There would be no effects to the noise resource area with implementation of the No Action Alternative.	The loudest noise generated by activities proposed under Alternative 1 (i.e., cratering charge detonation) would be infrequent (two charges per month) and at levels associated with a low risk of complaints at the closest noise-sensitive location. Other proposed activities would be the same as ongoing activities resulting in no noise-level changes and/or would be inaudible at the closest sensitive locations. There would be no significant noise effects.	Noise-generating activities proposed under Alternative 2 would be the same as under Alternative 1 and would not result in significant noise effects.

BMP = best management practice; ERP = Environmental Restoration Program; NOI = Notice of Intent; NOT = Notice of Termination; ROI = region of influence; SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

FINDING: After review of the attached EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, as amended (Title 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), which is hereby incorporated by reference, I have determined that the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, would not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This decision was made after considering all submitted information, including a review of agency and public comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the U.S. Army.

Michael V. Soyka

Colonel, U.S. Army

Garrison Commander

Date

FINDING: After review of the attached EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, as amended (Title 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), which is hereby incorporated by reference, I have determined that the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, would not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This decision was made after considering all submitted information, including a review of agency and public comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the DAF.

RONALD J. ONDERKO, P.E. NH-04, DAF

Date

Command Senior Civil Engineer

Logistics, Civil Engineering, Force Protection
and Nuclear Integration