

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Fort George G. Meade
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755-5115**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Department of Defense (DoD) Cyber Crime Center (DC3) at Fort George G. Meade

1.0 INTRODUCTION

U.S. Army Garrison Fort George G. Meade (FMMD) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts on the quality of the human environment associated with constructing and operating a new, efficient, and effective Department of Defense (DoD) Cyber Crime Center (DC3) facility in the eastern portion of FMMD, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. This EA was prepared pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969 (42 *United States Code* § 4321 et seq.), the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures (2025), and Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement* (2007).

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to consolidate the DC3 operations into one facility located on Fort George G. Meade (FMMD). The Proposed Action is intended to increase collaboration with other agencies with similar missions on FMMD and provide adequate facilities for full-time personnel and students of the academy.

The need for the Proposed Action is to facilitate optimal mission performance of the DC3. In 2015, the Secretary of the Air Force directed the DC3 to terminate further leasing of commercial facilities and pursue funding for military construction on FMMD. Since 2000, DC3 has leased space in three separate buildings in Linthicum, Maryland. These leased facilities are aging, lack the proper security, and would require substantial upgrades by the government for unique heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, electrical systems, and ancillary support for the multiple information technology infrastructure systems necessary to sustain the unit's mission. For example, the forensic laboratory requires up to three full workstations with sufficient memory per examiner to run multiple analyses. Continued use of the current leased space would conflict with the 2015 directive, require extensive and costly renovations to commercial facilities, and severely limit DC3's collaboration with other agencies with similar missions located on FMMD.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Proposed Action

3.1.1 Conceptual Details

The Proposed Action includes the construction and operation of a new, approximately 262,000 gross square foot (GSF) facility, an approximately 294,150 GSF parking deck, and associated road improvements internal to FMMD. The final site layout and massing for the facility and parking deck are in development. The U.S. Army continues to evaluate configurations during the design process. All designs include the new DC3 facility, parking deck, and associated road improvements described in this EA. Site design includes sidewalks, landscaping, utility connections, and stormwater management.

The Proposed Action would be designed to operate with stormwater management systems that comply with the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Stormwater Design Manual Volumes I & II with Environmental Site Design requirements, the MDE Stormwater Management Guidelines for State and Federal Projects, MDE's applicable Technical Memoranda, and Code of Maryland Regulations stormwater management regulations. The designer of record would be responsible for obtaining stormwater management and erosion and sediment control approval from MDE prior to construction.

Measures to comply with the DoD Minimum Antiterrorism for Buildings standards would be incorporated into the design. Access for individuals with disabilities would be provided in compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act. Facilities would be designed for a minimum life of 40 years in accordance with DoD's Unified Facilities Criteria 1-200-02 and include energy efficiencies, building envelope standards, and integrated building systems performance.

3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. DC3 would continue to use the current leased buildings in Linthicum, Maryland, within its current disparate leased spaces, maintaining current operations. The No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need to provide a secure, enhanced environment that allows for agency collaboration and meets DC3's updated facility and program of requirements.

3.3 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated

The U.S. Army began considering the consolidation of personnel in multiple leased spaces into a single facility in 2016. Alternatives considered but not carried forward include:

- Siting DC3 outside of the FMMD complex. This alternative was not carried forward when a new group was added to the facility, changing the requirements.
- Smaller massing on the current site. This alternative considered working within a site boundary of under 5 acres, and was not carried forward as it was too small to meet the purpose and need for the proposed action.
- Constructing a new facility at FMMD at an alternate site. This alternative was analyzed in a Draft EA issued in April 2024. This alternative included the clearing and grading of 33 acres of mature wooded forestland and a phased construction approach. Ultimately, this alternative was removed from consideration based on several factors, including impacts to the mature forest, a tree replacement requirement, the cost of site preparation, and community concern.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

As described in Chapter 4 of this EA, the construction and operation of the Proposed Action would not generate any significant adverse impacts.

Minor or negligible adverse impacts caused by constructing the Proposed Action would be temporary, occurring during the approximately 30-month construction phase, and be limited in extent to the area as defined for each specific resource area.

Beneficial impacts caused by operating the Proposed Action would be permanent. The Proposed Action would consolidate DC3 operations into one facility and increase collaboration with other agencies with similar missions on FMMD and optimize DC3 mission performance.

Table 1 summarizes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The summary is based on information discussed in detail in Chapter 4 of this EA and includes a concise definition of the issues addressed and the potential environmental impacts associated with each phase of the Proposed Action and its potential cumulative impacts.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public participation opportunities with respect to this EA and decision making on the Proposed Action are guided by the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures. Accordingly, the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been made available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. These documents were made available online at <https://home.army.mil/meade/index.php/my-fort/all-services/environmental> and printed copies at the FMMD Medal of Honor Memorial Library and the Odenton Regional Library, Odenton, Maryland. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA and FONSI and the start of the 30-day review and comment period was published in the *Capital Gazette*. Additionally, the NOA was emailed to federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholder organizations with potential interested in the Proposed Action to solicit their comments during the 30-day review period.

Table 1. Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	Proposed Action – Construction	Proposed Action – Operation	No Action Alternative
Air Quality	Short-term, negligible, adverse impacts due to operation of construction equipment and ground disturbance.	Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts due to building operations, emergency generators, and vehicles.	No impact on air quality.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials	Short-term, negligible to minor, adverse impacts due to the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and the generation of hazardous waste.	Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts due to the generation of solid waste.	No impact on hazardous and toxic materials.
Noise	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to construction and the use of machinery associated with construction.	Long-term, negligible adverse impacts due to increased traffic and noise from back-up generators during emergencies.	No impact on noise.
Geology, Soils, and Topography	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts due to clearing existing vegetation and soil disturbance.	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to ground disturbance and the addition of impervious surfaces.	No impact on geology, soils, and topography.
Water Resources and Water Quality	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts due to site clearing, grading, and soil disturbance.	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to increased impervious surface area and associated stormwater runoff.	No impact on water resources and water quality.
Coastal Zone Management	No impact to coastal zone management and resources is expected during construction.	No impact to coastal zone management and resources is expected during operation.	No impact on coastal zone management.
Biological Resources	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on vegetation due to site clearing and alteration. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on wildlife and protected species due to the loss or permanent conversion of habitat and noise.	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on vegetation due to permanent removal. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on wildlife and protected species from the permanent loss of potential habitat.	No impact on biological resources.
Energy and Utilities	Short-term, negligible, adverse impacts due to potential disruptions in service.	Long-term, negligible to minor, adverse impacts due to additional demands on utilities and energy resources. Long-term, negligible to minor, beneficial impacts	No impact on energy and utilities.

Resource Area	Proposed Action – Construction	Proposed Action – Operation	No Action Alternative
		due to efficient building and site design.	
Cultural Resources	No impacts are expected to occur to cultural resources during construction.	No impacts are expected to occur to cultural resources during facility operation.	No impact on cultural resources.
Visual Aesthetics	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts due to the presence of machinery and disturbances associated with construction.	Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts expected to those with a direct view of the area.	No impact on visual aesthetics.
Transportation and Traffic	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on regional and interior roadways due to additional traffic from construction and delivery vehicles. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts due to lane closures within FMMD during roadwork construction.	Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts due to an increase of personnel at FMMD.	No impact on transportation and traffic.
Socioeconomic Resources	Short term, negligible, beneficial impacts due to increased construction spending, benefiting the local economy.	No long-term impacts on socioeconomics are expected during facility operation.	No impact on socioeconomics.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have considered the results of the analysis in the EA, incorporated herein in its entirety and the comments received during the 30-day review and comment period. Based on these factors, I have decided to proceed with the Proposed Action to construct and operate the DC3 at FMMD, providing a long-term solution that would meet applicable federal, state, local, and Installation regulations. The Proposed Action would meet the mission requirements at FMMD, and, along with specified permits, plans and measures, would have no significant impact of an adverse nature on the quality of the human environment.

This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA as well as the requirements of AR200-1. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

YOLANDA D. GORE
COL, AG
Commanding

Date