FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

2020 Real Property Master Plan
Fort Jackson, South Carolina
July XX, 2021

1. Proposed Action
The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Jackson has completed a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Title 42 of the *United States Code* Section 4321); Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations (Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [C.F.R.] Parts 1500-1508); and the Army's NEPA implementing regulation, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 C.F.R. Part 651).

The Proposed Action evaluated in the PEA is the implementation of the 2020 Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) for Fort Jackson. The PEA analyzes the proposed projects in the three area development plans (ADPs) that comprise the RPMP: Victory District ADP, Semmes District ADP, and Palmetto and Villages Districts ADP. Projects include new construction, demolition, renovation, and road improvements within the cantonment area.

No Action. The CEQ regulations in 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(d) and 32 C.F.R. Part 651 require analysis of a No Action Alternative in all NEPA documents. The No Action Alternative provided a baseline against which the impacts of implementing the Proposed Action were measured. Under the No Action Alternative, the updated RPMP would not be implemented. The existing 2012 RPMP would remain in effect, and the Installation could not accept any new missions requiring substantial renovations or additions to existing buildings or supporting infrastructure, demolition, and new construction.

The PEA, which is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), considers the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative.

2. Environmental Impacts of the Preferred Alternative
Resources were evaluated for impacts in the EA. Resource impacts from implementing the preferred alternative include the following:

- **Air Quality.** Implementation of the preferred alternative would result in a short-term emissions increase from the operation of construction equipment, land clearing, paving off-gases, or dust. These impacts would end upon project completion. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented to reduce air quality impacts.

- **Biological Resources.** Biological resources may be impacted by construction and demolition activities under the preferred alternative. The impacts of each project on wetlands and associated wildlife would be independently evaluated in a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC), as detailed siting and design are being developed. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be completed if a project impacted a threatened or endangered species. BMPs and mitigation actions required for permitting would be

implemented. All projects would be implemented in compliance with the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

- **Cultural Resources.** Implementation of the preferred alternative would not result in impacts to cultural resources. Fort Jackson would continue to comply with the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) and Programmatic Agreement, and would continue to consult, as needed, for any effects of projects under this alternative.

- **Environmental Restoration and Compliance.** Implementation of the preferred alternative may have minor, short-term adverse effects during the management and disposal of asbestos containing materials and/or lead based paint. However, long-term environmental and restoration compliance concerns would be eliminated. All hazardous materials and waste associated with renovation, demolition, and construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with Federal, state, and local regulations and would not have any significant impacts on the human and natural environment. The impacts of each project on potential IRP sites would be independently evaluated in a REC.

- **Infrastructure.** The proposed projects under the preferred alternative would result in long-term beneficial impacts to the existing infrastructure and provide expanded services to meet the increased needs. There would be no significant impacts to on-Post infrastructure.

- **Geology and Soils.** Construction and demolition activities would have direct, short-term adverse impacts on soils. Erosion and sediment control measures and BMPs would be implemented to minimize these impacts. These impacts would end upon project completion.

- **Land Use.** Implementation of the preferred alternative would not have any significant or negative impacts to land use.

- **Noise.** No long-term noise increases would occur from construction or demolition activities under the preferred alternative. BMPs would be implemented to reduce noise during construction/demolition. These impacts would end upon project completion.

- **Socioeconomic Resources.** Short-term beneficial impacts on the local economy would result from the hiring of local construction companies for project under the preferred alternative. The construction of new facilities would result in long-term beneficial impacts by reducing maintenance requirements and providing more energy-efficient facilities. There are no adverse impacts to environmental justice and the protection of children.

- **Transportation Systems.** Construction and demolition activities would have short-term impacts on traffic within the cantonment area, but these impacts would end upon project completion. There would be long-term beneficial impacts from projects, including improvements to vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

- **Visual Resources.** Short-term minor and localized adverse impacts would result from demolition and construction activities and associated equipment. Long-term beneficial impacts would result from the improvement in the aesthetic appeal of facilities.

- **Water Resources.** Long-term adverse impacts on water resources could occur during construction and demolition activities due to the potential increase in impervious surface area, which may contribute to increased erosion, stormwater runoff, pollutants, and sediment loads. Impacts would be minimized by adherence to sediment and erosion control plans, stormwater pollution prevention plans, and other BMPs.

- **Cumulative Effects.** No significant adverse cumulative effects are expected as a result of implementing the preferred alternative. Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions on Fort Jackson largely involve temporary, construction-related impacts. No present or reasonably foreseeable future projects are located in areas with rare plant communities, or are expected to result in the loss of any endangered or threatened species or their habitat. Therefore, any impacts associated with the preferred alternative, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, are collectively less than significant.

3. Mitigation Measures

The PEA identified mitigation measures and BMPs that must be followed to further reduce impacts of the preferred alternative. They are discussed in the PEA and listed in Table 1 of this document. These mitigation measures and BMPs will be incorporated into all contract documents and specifications.

4. Conclusions

The draft PEA and FONSI were distributed for public review from 18 June – 19 July 2021 for a 30-day comment period. There were # comments received from the public. Since Fort Jackson's findings demonstrate that the project will not result in significant adverse effects to environmental resources or human health, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

I have considered the results of the analysis in the PEA, as well as the comments received during the public comment period, and have decided to proceed by selecting the preferred alternative.

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Date

RYAN M. HANSON
COL, CA
COMMANDING

Table 1. Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures

Resource Area	BMPs/Mitigation Measures
Air Quality	• Consider low-emission options for all emissions-producing equipment (e.g., HVAC systems, generators, transformers, and refrigeration units). • To suppress dust during ground-disturbing activities, cover or apply water or soil stabilizers to soil. Limit or halt soil-disturbing activities during high-wind conditions when work is in soil classified as highly erodible. • Cover soil stockpiles and trucks transporting soil or other materials that could cause airborne dust. • Use electricity from established power sources rather than generators whenever possible. • Minimize vehicle and equipment idling times.
Biological Resources	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; Army and installation programs, policies; and the INRMP. • Conduct informal or formal consultations with USFWS if any development or activities are planned in areas that support any federally listed threatened and endangered species or their habitat. • Avoid vegetation removal during the migratory bird breeding season. If vegetation must be removed, a Wildlife Biologist will inspect for nests before removal. • Promptly revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species from the Garrison's approved plant list. • For construction projects, implement an approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and/or appropriate erosion and sedimentation control BMPs, such as silt fences, diversion ditches, limiting total area of disturbance, and sedimentation ponds. • Conduct surveys to confirm or delineate jurisdictional wetlands if development or activities are planned in areas identified to contain wetlands, and coordinate with appropriate agencies to ensure that no significant impacts would occur or that appropriate mitigation is provided.
Cultural Resources	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; Army and installation programs, policies; the ICRMP, and the Programmatic Agreement with SC SHPO.
Environmental Restoration & Compliance	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including RCRA and CERCLA); permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans, including the Fort Jackson Hazardous Substances Management Plan, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan.
Infrastructure	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans.
Geology and Soils	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans. • Minimize soil erosion that could result in sedimentation of surface water during ground-disturbing activities by implementing appropriate control measures, such as silt fences, inlet protection, and diversion ditches. Prepare a SWPPP when required for ground disturbing activities. • After finishing ground-disturbing activities, promptly establish permanent ground cover using native species from the Garrison's approved plant list, mulch, and/or other appropriate cover materials (e.g., rock, gravel).
Land Use	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans.

Resource Area	BMPs/Mitigation Measures
Noise	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans. • In densely developed, mixed-use areas, incorporate appropriate levels of sound-dampening construction materials into the design of buildings where a quiet interior is important, such as homes, lodging, schools, childcare centers, offices, and classrooms. • For all construction activities, implement the industry standard practice of operation construction equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and with standard mufflers and other noise-reducing equipment in proper operating condition. • For construction activities within 800 feet of on- or off-post noise-sensitive receptors, use equipment mufflers and/or other sound-dampening devices, as appropriate. Shut down noise-generating equipment when not in use. If complaints about noise are received, increase sound-reducing measures appropriately. • Position HVAC systems, generators, and other noise-producing equipment away from areas where quiet is important, and shield it with walls or other enclosures, as appropriate, to reduce sound transmission.
Socioeconomic Resources	• Fence construction sites and post appropriate signage to deter unauthorized people, including children, from accessing them.
Transportation Systems	• Route and schedule construction vehicles to minimize conflicts with other traffic to the maximum extent practical. Submit a traffic plan to the Garrison Commander's Office for approval before beginning any road projects.
Visual Resources	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans.
Water Resources	• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; permits; and Army and installation programs, policies, and plans.