

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
FOR
TEMPORARY SHELTER OF AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS
AT
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY



PREPARED FOR:
Department of the Air Force
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ

August 2021

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

Public comments on this Draft EA are requested pursuant to NEPA, 42 United States Code 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period will be made available to the public and considered during the final EA preparation. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. However, address information will be used to compile the project mailing list and failure to provide it will result in your name not being included on the mailing list.

COVER SHEET

Responsible Agencies:

Department of the Air Force (DAF), Air Mobility Command, 87th Air Base Wing

Proposed Action:

Temporary Shelter of Afghan Special Immigrants (ASIs) at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), New Jersey

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Report Designation:

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Abstract:

Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, the DAF prepared this EA to address and analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the provision of temporary facilities to shelter ASIs. The analysis process for this EA was conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA* (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989). The DAF has enacted emergency EIAP procedures pursuant to 32 CFR 989.34, *Special and emergency procedures* in development of this EA.

Under the Proposed Action, the DAF would provide the following to support relocation of Afghan Special Immigrant (ASIs) Visa principal applicants, their families, and other individuals at risk at JB MDL in New Jersey:

- Existing facilities (hard billeting structures) for temporary shelter
- Open land to erect temporary facilities (tent cities) for mass sheltering

Under CEQ, NEPA and DAF regulations, the DAF will also consider taking no action (the No Action Alternative). By taking no action, the DAF would not provide land or access to JB MDL to support temporary shelter of ASIs.

Potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action were assessed in this EA. The following resource areas were identified for further study:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Biological /Natural Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Cultural Resources
- Earth Resources
- Infrastructure / Utilities
- Safety and Occupational/Public Health
- Socioeconomics

Due to the urgent and time sensitive nature of the proposal, **public and agency comments were requested no later than 28 August 2021** to ensure substantive input can be fully considered.

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1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, the President authorized Afghan Special Immigrants (ASIs) including principal visa applicants, their families, and other individuals at risk¹ to be moved out of Afghanistan and into the United States (U.S.). As a result on **13 Aug 2021**, the Joint Staff issued *Planning Order (PLANORD) for Department of Defense (DoD) Support to the Department of State (DoS) for Afghan Relocation* to coordinate U.S. efforts to provide temporary shelter to ASIs and foreign national evacuees. On **21 August 2021** the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed use of JB MDL to provide support to ASIs.

To assess potential environmental impacts associated with mobilizing temporary shelter on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), the Department of the Air Force (DAF) developed this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA* (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)* (32 CFR Part 989).

1.2 LOCATION

JB MDL is managed by DAF's Air Mobility Command (AMC) and spans more than 20 miles west to east within Burlington and Ocean counties in central New Jersey. JB MDL encompasses a total of 41,766 acres. The Dix Area of JB MDL encompasses 30,784 acres, which includes the cantonment area, tactical training areas, and training ranges. Located in the western portion of JB MDL, the cantonment area encompasses approximately 1,950 acres. (**Figure 1-1**). JB MDL is the only joint base that consolidated DAF, Army, and Navy installations. The installations at JB MDL coordinate under Joint Installation Partnership to utilize partner capabilities. The DAF will coordinate with Army North (ARNORTH) to utilize space at the Dix Area if the Proposed Action is implemented.

¹ Afghan Special Immigrant Visa principal applicants, their families, and other individuals at risk are hereafter referred to as Afghan Special Immigrants (ASIs) throughout the document.

Figure 1-1: Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst



1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support U.S. government noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) in accordance with Defense Directive (DoD) 3025.13 (*Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Designated Aliens from Threatened Areas Abroad*), Executive Order (EO) 12656 (*Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Procedures*) and the **13 August 2021** PLANORD, to evacuate ASIs who supported the US mission and forces in Afghanistan for the past 20 years. On **21 August 2021** the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed use of JB MDL to provide support to ASIs. Department of the Air Force (DAF) has been directed to coordinate with the Department of State (DoS) in support of the NEO on availability of military installations to furnish shelter for the ASIs. The purpose of this Proposed Action is to support this effort by providing temporary sheltering of ASIs at JB MDL.

The need for the Proposed Action is to provide safe haven and shelter at JB MDL for ASIs who assisted the U.S. and our allies in response to an increasingly unstable and deteriorating security situation caused by insurgent Taliban operations in Afghanistan. Taking no action would likely result in a considerable humanitarian crisis and harm to those who have furthered U.S. and allied operations and interests in Afghanistan.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This EA evaluates impacts associated with the provision of temporary shelter, including existing facilities (hard billets) and temporary structures (tent cities) for ASIs at JB MDL. The Proposed Action also involves the use of existing facilities in addition to establishment and operation of temporary shelter with minimal land disturbance and low potential to disrupt existing conditions and environmental resources. Environmental analysis included in this EA is proportional to this Proposed Action.

1.5 RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

As the lead agency, the DAF developed this EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500 – 1508), and DAF *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (EIAP) (32 CFR Part 989).

The DAF has enacted emergency EIAP procedures pursuant to 32 CFR 989.34, *Special and emergency procedures* in development of this EA.

1.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Interagency Coordination / Consultation

Per the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction within the scope the Proposed Action were notified during the development of this EA. The DAF is the lead service supporting DoD base operations at JB MDL. In supporting the emergency NEO effort, the DAF has directly coordinated with ARNORTH to identify potentially available facilities and land.

Government-to-Government Coordination / Consultation

EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* directs federal agencies to coordinate and consult with Native American tribal governments whose interests might be directly and substantially affected by activities on federally administered lands. In accordance with the EO, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02, *Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 90-2002, *Air Force Interaction with Federally-Recognized Tribes* the DAF initiates consultation with Native American tribal governments when a Proposed Action may have the potential to affect properties of cultural, historical, or religious significance. Federally recognized tribes historically affiliated with the JB MDL geographic region were invited for consultation on the Proposed Action. On **19 Aug 2021**, DAF sent letters to the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Delaware Nation. Correspondence letters and records of communication are provided in **Appendix A**. Responses will be incorporated as part of the Final EA.

Historic Preservation Coordination / Consultation

Per the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, findings of no effect and request for concurrence were transmitted to the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). JB MDL held a conference call to discuss the project on **19 August 2021**.

Concurrence with the Area of Potential Effect (APE) definition pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1), efforts to identify historic properties is adequate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(b), and finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1) was received from the New Jersey SHPO on **19 August 2021**. The New Jersey SHPO responded with concurrence of the APE and concurrence of no effect in a letter dated **19 August 2021**. Correspondence letters and records of communication are provided in **Appendix A**.

Biological Coordination / Consultation

JB MDL sent scoping letters dated **19 August 2021** to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJ DEP) and Pinelands Commission. On **19 August 2021**, the DAF received a response from NJ DEP indicating they do not expect significant impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of the Proposed Action. On **19 August 2021**, the Pinelands Commissions responded requesting more information. DAF replied to their request for more information and will continue to correspond with the Pinelands Commission regarding the Proposed Action, as requested. All correspondence between the DAF and these agencies is provided in **Appendix A**.

Per the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementing regulations, including the Migratory Treaty Bird Act (MBTA) the DAF consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). The Proposed Action would *not likely adversely affect* special status species due to a lack of suitable habitat present on the Doughboy Parade Grounds. JB MDL initiated informal consultation with the USFWS in a letter dated **19 August 2021**. The USFWS replied with a response concurring *not likely to adversely affect* in a correspondence dated **20 August 2021**. Correspondence between the DAF and USFWS is provided in **Appendix A**.

Public and Agency Review of the EA

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for public review of this Draft EA was published in the Burlington County Times on **24 August 2021**. This Draft EA was also made available for public review at the

Burlington County Library Pemberton Branch (16 Broadway Street Brown Mills, NJ 08015). The NOA invited the public to review and comment on the Draft EA during the public review period ending on **28 August 2021**. This Draft EA was also made available for public review electronically on the JB MDL Public Affairs website at <https://www.jbmdl.jb.mil/Home/Public-Affairs/>. Public and Agency responses will be incorporated as part of the Final EA in **Appendix A**.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action includes the provision of temporary housing for up to 9,500 ASIs in Billeting Areas #5900 (**Figure 2-1**), #5400 (**Figure 2-2**), and #5500 (**Figure 2-3**) along with temporary shelters located in the 26.4 acre parcel on the Doughboy Parade Grounds (**Figure 2-4**). Up to 1,500 support personnel would support ASI operations at JB MDL as part of the Proposed Action.

Figure 2-1: Billeting Area 5900



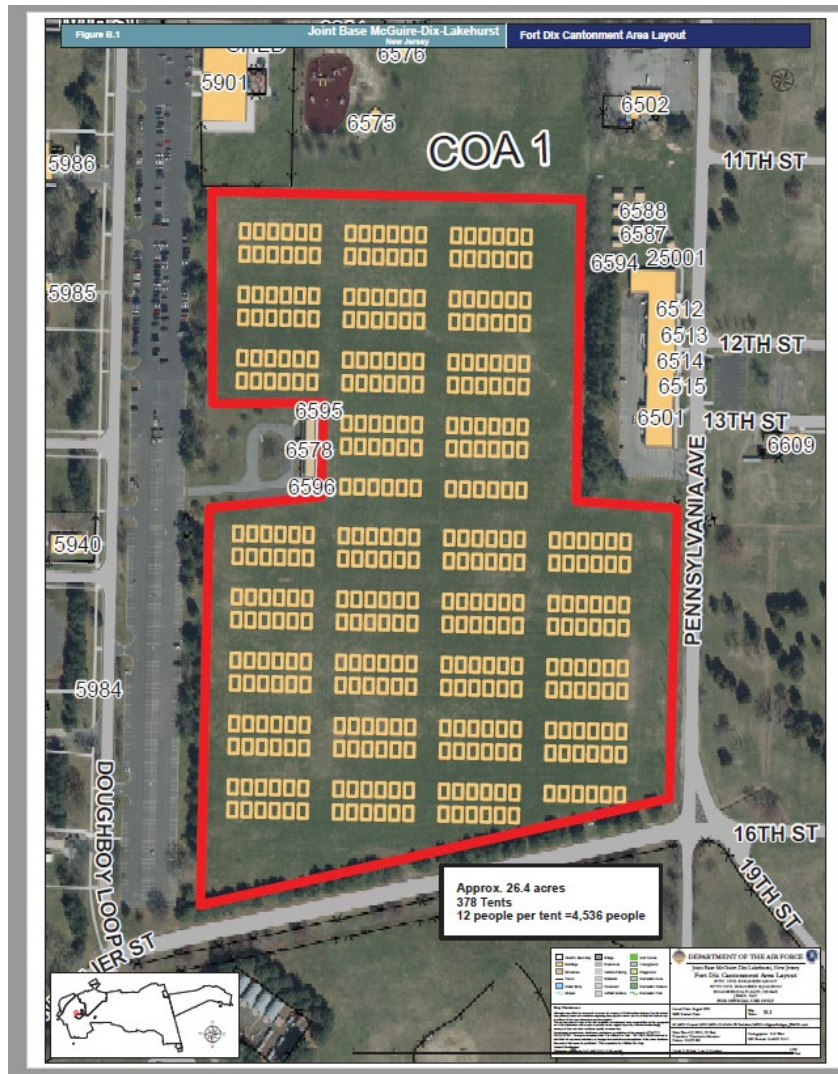
Figure 2-2: Billeting Area 5400



Figure 2-3: Billeting Area 5500



Figure 2-4: Doughboy Parade Grounds



Under the Proposed Action, the DAF would coordinate with DoS and ARNORTH to facilitate temporary shelter for a minimum of 180 days up to 365 days. The DAF would award a support contract and utilize limited support personnel to support the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action includes the following onsite modifications:

- Construction of temporary shelters and work facilities and perimeter fence
- Utilities connections, as applicable

The Proposed Action area, including the facilities boundary, would provide sufficient support structures, construction laydown area, and security fencing to separate the temporary facilities from other areas and functions at JB MDL. DAF in coordination with DoS would be responsible for adherence to all local, state, and federal regulations associated with implementation of the Proposed Action. Construction efforts as part of the Proposed Action are estimated to require up to 30 days to reach full operational capabilities. ASIs and federal agency staff would begin arriving in a timeline to be determined as staging and construction for their arrival are stood-up and mobilized.

The Proposed Action would implement the following actions to support the mission:

- Site prep
 - Tents would be erected on the grassed area.
 - Layer of sandbags would be placed around exterior perimeter of each tent to control runoff
 - Gravel walkways would be installed on grid pattern in between tent areas and directly on the grass to control erosion, mud
 - There are some low areas in the parade field that would need to be built up with gravel to control ponding, muddy areas
 - Gravel areas/walkways would be removed at the conclusion of the effort
- Main ingress/egress to the tent city would be near the existing paved loop in the central west portion of the Doughboy Parade Grounds
- Electric generators would be stationed in the paved parking lot on west side of the tent city
- Temporary Shelters/Logistics/Processing/Temporary Construction
 - Lodging Operations/Billeting Desk & Ops (family unit of 8-12, account for some single units)
 - Processing Center
 - Work center
 - Transportation (busses / vans)
 - Operation of entry/exit gate
 - Transportation to site
 - Facilities & stand-alone utilities (hauling water, hauling sewage, electrical production/generation)
 - Fencing around compound
 - Aerial Port Ops
 - Security
 - Transition of Afghan Special Immigration (ASI) to sponsors
- Hygiene, meals, and Basic Life Services
 - Showers/shaves/latrines
 - Accommodations
 - Meal service
 - Laundry service
 - Wrap Around Services
 - Refuse collection/removal
 - Custodial services in common areas
 - Medical Services
 - Religious support

- COVID Testing
- Child and youth services
- Religious support
- Public Affairs
- Retail (purchase of necessities - Afghan considerate)
- Barber services
- Linens, pillows, blankets, towels, hygiene kits
- Grounds maintenance
 - Pest management
 - Dust mitigation/control
 - Site security

2.2 SCREENING CRITERIA

The DAF developed the Proposed Action and alternatives carried forward for analysis by weighing all possible courses of action capable of meeting the Purpose and Need. Siting location for the Hard Billets/Contingency Barracks would be the same under each alternative and is based on available capacity to temporarily shelter ASIs in existing facilities. These Screening Criteria for siting of grounds for temporary shelter for ASI are based on needs with respect to providing temporary, short-term shelters for ASIs, and are listed below:

- Site is at least 20 acres in size
- Staging area for service trailers
- Outside space available for wrap-around services
- Road access to the site
- Ability to tie to existing utilities
- Allows the base to effectively maintain necessary security of the site and its ongoing missions
- Site would limit impacts to existing base operations and missions

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

2.3.1 Proposed Action:

Proposed action as described in **Section 2.1** was carried forward for detailed analysis.

2.3.2 No-Action Alternative

The CEQ regulation, 40 CFR §1502.14(d), requires the inclusion of a No Action Alternative in the NEPA analysis. The No Action Alternative would not conduct onsite modifications or construct temporary shelters. Due to the critical nature of the deteriorating security and instability in Afghanistan, shelter locations are urgently needed to house ASIs and U.S. support personnel. Without sufficient temporary shelter options, taking no action would likely result in mission risk to provide aid to ASIs.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Several other sites on JB MDL were reviewed for suitability based on the siting criteria. Several billeting Areas in the McGuire and Lakehurst areas of JB MDL were eliminated from consideration due to full occupancy, building maintenance condition, distance from air terminal facilities, or proximity to private housing or schools. Several open areas, including the former location of Walson Hospital in the Dix Area and undeveloped land in the Lakehurst area of JB MDL, were eliminated from consideration since they did not meet the screening criteria.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes current / baseline conditions of each resource area (Affected Environment), while outlining potential consequences associated with implementation of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative (Environmental Consequences).

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the Affected Environment for the Proposed Action is dependent on each resource area. In the case of resource areas with localized impacts, this would be JB MDL in the areas that are sited for temporary shelter. For resource areas where impacts may extend beyond the boundaries of the Proposed Action site, the Region of Influence (ROI) is considered to be Burlington County, New Jersey.

Table 3-1: Resource Areas Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

Resource Area	Reason Eliminated from Detailed Analysis
Airspace	The Proposed Action would be contained on the installation to the identified hard billeting areas and Doughboy Parade Grounds and involves no components with the potential to impact airspace or airfield operations.
Water Resources	The Proposed Action would have no impact on surface waters as the Proposed Action area does not contain any surface waters. The Proposed Action would not impact the quality or quantity of groundwater at JB MDL as staging of the Doughboy Parade Grounds for temporary shelter would only involve the placement of gravel and sandbags and would not have the potential to disturb groundwater occurring below the surface level. In addition, the Proposed Action area does not contain floodplains or wetlands. Therefore, water resources were not considered for detailed analysis. The impacts to water supply and stormwater are discussed in Section 3.7 Infrastructure / Utilities. Implementing the Proposed or No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts to water resources.
Land use	The Proposed Action to temporarily shelter ASIs would not impact Land Use. The areas proposed for hard billeting are already existing facilities used for living quarters, so there would be no impact to these facilities. The 26.4 acre Doughboy Parade Grounds is an open space and the Proposed Action would not alter or impact the parcel in a way that would preclude it from future use. Additionally, land uses adjacent to the parcel are considered to be compatible with the temporary shelter camp.
Environmental Justice	In accordance with EO12898, <i>Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income</i> , and EO 13045, <i>Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks</i> , the Proposed Action was analyzed for the potential to result in disproportionate impacts to low income or minority populations and/or children. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in adverse impacts to environmental resources that would affect human populations, including low income, minority populations living within the vicinity of JB MDL. By the nature of the Proposed Action, to offer humanitarian aid to ASIs, there would be beneficial impacts to people of color, including children, imminently needing to evacuate from a sociopolitical environment that presents a risk to their health and safety. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse environmental justice impacts to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

The following resource areas are carried forward for detailed analysis:

- Noise
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Infrastructure / Utilities
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Safety and Occupational/Public Health
- Biological /Natural Resources
- Earth Resources
- Socioeconomics

3.1 NOISE

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The noise environment at JB MDL generally is caused by DAF aircraft operations at the McGuire airfield and Army training activities at the Dix Area. The DAF primarily operates large transport aircraft such as C-17 and KC-135 aircraft. Army training includes helicopter operations, small arms, and large-caliber weapons training.

A noise-sensitive receptor is commonly defined as the occupants of any facility where a state of quietness is a basis for use, such as a residence, school, hospital, or church. On-base sensitive receptors include the Fort Dix Elementary School, Dix Youth Center, and the residential areas adjacent to Juliustown Road. Off-base sensitive receptors include Helen Fort Middle School and Marcus W Newcome Middle School on Fort Dix Road.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

Noise associated with the Proposed Action would be due to site preparation and construction including material delivery, in processing of ASIs and DoS support personnel, operations, and teardown at the conclusion of the action.

Site preparation includes erecting the tent-city using gradalls (forklifts), delivery trucks, and small earthmoving equipment for gravel pathways; the loudest activity would likely be material handling equipment such as, delivery trucks and gradalls. Noise levels for a gradall would be about 85 A-weighted decibel (dBA) at 50 feet distant. The nearest receptor would be in the housing area north of the intersection of Juliustown Road and West 16th Street at a distance of more than 1,800 feet. Assuming gradalls, several trucks, and a variety of other small equipment operating at the same time at the southwest corner of the parade grounds. Noise levels would be approximately 53 dBA at the nearest receptor.

Transportation noise would occur during the in-processing portion of the Proposed Action with noise generated by construction and supply vehicles, busses, and vans bringing people to the site. Assuming ASIs arrive by standards busses averaging 50 seats per bus, 190 bus trips would be required. This would be accomplished over a 30-day period and noise would be dispersed over that time-frame. For the duration of Proposed Action operations there would be an increase in transportation noise generated by trucks bringing supplies onsite and hauling off waste. Additionally, increased transportation noise would occur from transporting ASIs to sites identified on-base, such as hygiene facilities, if required, and as applicable. This increased transportation noise would be short-term and limited to the duration of the Proposed Action and supporting operations.

Once the facilities become fully operational, the nearest residents in the area would be expected to experience noise from the sound of people and ancillary equipment such as generators. For a large gathering crowd noise can be synchronous or random in time. Cheering for a score in a sporting event is a synchronous noise event, while a babble of individual conversations with occasional individuals yelling, laughing, or cheering would be the latter. The closest residential property from the Proposed Action is approximately 1,800 ft. Estimates associated with crowd noise for a typical outdoor football game is estimated to be 79 dBA at 360 ft. For a typical soccer game, the noise level would be estimated to be approximately 78 dBA at 90 ft (Haynes et al. 2006). The expected noise levels for the Proposed Action would be random in nature and be less than any of these events, so it would be unlikely that residents would experience noise levels more than 65 dBA and would be considered a negligible impact.

3.1.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with noise are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. §§7401-7671 et seq.). The CAA also set emission limits for certain air pollutants from specific sources, set new source performance standards based on best demonstrated technologies, and established national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. According to the CAA, a source whose potential emission of all criteria pollutants exceeds 100 tons per year (tpy) would be considered a major stationary source. A major stationary source for the emission of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) would exceed the individual 10 tpy and aggregate 25 tpy emissions thresholds defined by the CAA. Based on this criteria JB MDL is considered a major facility.

The CAA, which was last amended in 1990, requires USEPA to set NAAQS (40 CFR part 50) for six principal pollutants which can be harmful to public health and the environment. The CAA identifies two sets of standards – primary and secondary – for each regulated air pollutant. Primary standards define levels of air quality necessary to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as people with asthma, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards define levels of air quality necessary to protect against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

The federal air quality standards are currently established for six pollutants (known as criteria pollutants), and include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur oxides (SO_x), commonly measured as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead, particulate matter equal to or less than 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}). Although O₃ is considered a criteria pollutant and is measurable in the atmosphere, it is often not considered as a pollutant when reporting emissions from specific sources, because O₃ is not typically emitted directly from most emissions sources. O₃ is formed in the atmosphere from its precursors – nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – that are directly emitted from various sources. Thus, emissions of NO_x and VOCs are commonly reported instead of O₃. The NAAQS for the six criteria pollutants are shown in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-2: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
		1 hour	35 ppm	
Lead (Pb)	primary and secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 µg/m ³ ⁽¹⁾	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
	primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb ⁽²⁾	Annual Mean

Pollutant		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Ozone (O ₃)		primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm ⁽³⁾	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
Particle Pollution (PM)	PM _{2.5}	primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	PM ₁₀	primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)		primary	1 hour	75 ppb ⁽⁴⁾	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

Note: Units of measure for the standards are parts per million (ppm) by volume, parts per billion (ppb) by volume, and micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³).

(1) In areas designated nonattainment for the Pb standards prior to the promulgation of the current (2008) standards, and for which implementation plans to attain or maintain the current (2008) standards have not been submitted and approved, the previous standards (1.5 µg/m³ as a calendar quarter average) also remain in effect.

(2) The level of the annual NO₂ standard is 0.053 ppm. It is shown here in terms of ppb for the purposes of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard level.

(3) Final rule signed October 1, 2015, and effective December 28, 2015. The previous (2008) O₃ standards are not revoked and remain in effect for designated areas. Additionally, some areas may have certain continuing implementation obligations under the prior revoked 1-hour (1979) and 8-hour (1997) O₃ standards.

(4) The previous SO₂ standards (0.14 ppm 24-hour and 0.03 ppm annual) will additionally remain in effect in certain areas: (1) any area for which it is not yet 1 year since the effective date of designation under the current (2010) standards, and (2) any area for which an implementation plan providing for attainment of the current (2010) standard has not been submitted and approved and which is designated nonattainment under the previous SO₂ standards or is not meeting the requirements of a SIP call under the previous SO₂ standards (40 CFR 50.4(3)). A SIP call is an EPA action requiring a state to resubmit all or part of its State Implementation Plan to demonstrate attainment of the required NAAQS.

The USEPA classifies the air quality within an Air Quality Control Region (AQCR) according to whether the region meets federal primary and secondary air quality standards. “Unclassified” indicates that air quality in the area cannot be classified and the area is treated as attainment. An area may have all three classifications for different criteria pollutants.

The CAA requires federal actions to conform to any applicable state implementation plan (SIP). USEPA has promulgated regulations implementing these conformity requirements in 40 CFR §51 and §93.

General conformity refers to federal actions other than those conducted according to specified transportation plans (which are subject to the Transportation Conformity Rule). Therefore, the General Conformity rule applies only to non-transportation actions in non-attainment or maintenance areas. Such Actions must perform a determination of conformity if the emissions resulting from the action exceed applicability thresholds specified for each pollutant and classification of nonattainment. Both direct emissions from the action itself and indirect emissions that may occur at a different time or place but are an anticipated consequence of the action must be considered. The Transportation Conformity Rule does not apply to this Proposed Action.

Regional Air Quality

JB MDL- Dix Area is located in Burlington County, which is a nonattainment area for ozone and a maintenance area for PM_{2.5}, in the State of New Jersey. The entire county of Burlington is currently

USEPA designated as nonattainment for ozone. JB MDL is not subject to the General Conformity regulations (40 CFR §§6, 51 and 93). New Jersey has adopted SIP rules for general conformity and JB MDL has an implemented budget which we must stay below.

JB MDL is a major stationary source as defined by the CAA. Potential emissions of all criteria pollutants should not exceed the 100 tpy major source threshold. JB MDL is also considered a major stationary source for the emission of HAPs because potential emissions are above the individual 10 tpy and aggregate 25 tpy emissions thresholds. **Table 3-3** presents the JB MDL 2020 actual air emissions from stationary sources.

Table 3-3: JB MDL 2020 Actual Air Emissions from Stationary Sources

Pollutant	Tons per year (tpy)
CO	600
NOx	0.56
PM-10	104
SO2	0.00
TSP	104
VOC	63.5

CO = Carbon Monoxide
 NOx = Nitrogen Oxides
 PM-10 = Particulates under 10 microns
 TSP = Total Suspended Particulates
 VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds

Greenhouse Gases

There are six primary Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) of concern: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). Only three of the GHGs are considered in the emissions from the Proposed Action. CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O, represent the majority of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) associated with the Proposed Action operations. The other GHGs were not considered in the potential emissions from the Proposed Action as they are presumed to be not emitted. HFCs are most commonly used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems; PFCs and SF₆ are predominantly emitted from various industrial processes including aluminum smelting, semiconductor manufacturing, electric power transmission and distribution, and magnesium casting, none of which are a part of the Proposed Action.

Direct emissions of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O occur naturally to the atmosphere but human activities have increased global GHG atmospheric concentrations. The 2011 total U.S. GHG emissions were 6,702,300,000 metric tons of CO₂eq (USEPA 2013). U.S. total GHG emissions have risen 8.4 percent from 1990 to 2011 (USEPA 2013).

JB MDL is currently not subject to the annual reporting requirements of CO₂eq from stationary source fuel combustion, as required by 40 CFR §98 - Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

The following factors were considered in evaluating air quality: (1) the short- and long-term air emissions generated from facility construction and on-road vehicle activities; (2) the type of emissions generated; and (3) the potential for emissions to result in ambient air concentrations that exceed one of the NAAQS or SIP requirements. The air pollutant emission calculations for the Proposed and No Action Alternative included in the sections below are detailed in **Appendix B**.

The Proposed Action would result in short-term emissions during the assembly of new facilities. The only new air emissions that would be associated with the Proposed Action are direct and indirect emissions sources resulting from the construction activities, additional personnel, generators for power, and vehicle

supply trips. Emissions from construction activity can cause temporary and localized increases in air emissions. There would be no long-term significant increases in air emissions, as the construction is not indefinite.

An Air Quality Impact Assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidance in the DAF Quality EIAP Guide and 32 CFR Part 989.30 which refers to AFI 32-7040. Under the DAF guidance, a Net Change Emissions Assessment was performed which compared all net (increases and decreases caused by the federal action) direct and indirect emissions against general conformity de minimis values as indicators of air quality impact significance. While the Proposed Action would occur within a nonattainment or maintenance area, the General Conformity de minimis (i.e., too trivial or minor to merit consideration) values (40 CFR 93.153) were used as a conservative indicators of potential air quality significance. If these values represent de minimis emissions levels for nonattainment or maintenance areas; logically they would also represent emissions levels too trivial or minor to merit consideration in an attainment area. Therefore, any net emissions below these significance indicators are consider too insignificant to pose a potential impact on air quality.

The Net Change Analysis was performed using the DAF’s Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) for criteria pollutant (or their precursors) and GHGs. The results of the ACAM assessment are summarized in **Table 3-4** (see **Appendix B** for details).

Table 3-4: Results of ACAM

Pollutant	2021 Action Emissions (ton/yr)	GENERAL CONFORMITY	
		Threshold (ton/yr)	Exceedance (Yes or No)
Burlington, NJ			
VOC	34.387		
NOx	141.790		
CO	94.712	100	No
SOx	28.949		
PM 10	30.924		
PM 2.5	30.924	100	No
Pb	0.000		
NH3	0.000		
CO2e	16,417.5		

No significant short-term or long-term impacts to regional air quality would be expected from the Proposed Action.

Greenhouse Gases

Under the Proposed Action approximately 14,894 metric tons of CO₂eq would be released due to the proposed construction. The amount of CO₂eq released under the Proposed Action represents less than 0.00029 percent of the 2011 U.S. anthropogenic emissions of CO₂eq. This is a limited amount of emissions that would not contribute significantly to climate change, but any emission of GHGs represents an incremental increase in global GHG concentrations. The DAF is poised to support climate-changing initiatives globally, while preserving military operations, sustainability, and readiness by working, where possible, to reduce GHG emissions.

Activities under the Proposed Action are not subject to the requirements of the USEPA National Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule. Therefore, no impacts to GHGs would result from the Proposed Action.

3.2.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with air quality are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL / NATURAL RESOURCES

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The part of the Proposed Action in the Hard Billeting Areas would occur in existing facilities already used for lodging and have no potential to impact Endangered Species. The temporary shelter at the Doughboy Parade Grounds was considered for the potential to impact biological/natural resources. There are five federally listed threatened and endangered species on JB MDL. The species are as follows:

- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*): Federally threatened and State candidate for listing. The Northern Long-eared Bat is a mammal that primarily lives and roosts in crevices of trees and snags. They are also sometimes found hibernating in caves during the winter months.
- Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*): Federally threatened and State endangered. As its name indicates, the Bog turtle is a small reptile that lives in bogs, acidic wetlands, and mucky soils. In New Jersey, they are usually found in wetlands that border wooded areas or open canopy meadows.
- American Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*): Federally and State endangered. The American Chaffseed is a perennial herb with large purplish-yellow flowers. It prefers sandy and acidic soils in open areas. Its success depends heavily on fire and fluctuating water tables.
- Knieskern's Beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora knieskernii*): Federally threatened and State endangered. The Knieskern's Beaked-Rush is a semi-perennial grass-like plant. This specific rush is endemic to New Jersey and is only found in wetlands. It prefers early successional iron rich wetlands near slow moving water.
- Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*): Federally threatened and State endangered. Swamp Pink is a perennial member of the lily family that can grow up to three feet tall. They produce a cluster of pink flowers in the spring but retain evergreen leaves year round. Swamp Pink is found solely in wetlands and, New Jersey is regarded as a stronghold for the species.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

There are no known occurrences of the federally threatened and endangered species listed above on the Doughboy Parade Grounds, and none of the species have critical habitat designated on JB MDL. No wetland habitat is present, therefore no suitable habitat exists for Bog Turtles, Knieskern's Beaked-rush, or Swamp Pink in this area. Additionally, the Doughboy Parade Grounds is maintained as decorative lawn with little to no trees making the habitat unsuitable for American Chaffseed and the Northern Long-eared Bat. As noted in the USFWS letter dated **20 August 2021**, the Proposed Action is *not likely to adversely affect* federally listed species and would have no significant impact on biological / natural resources (**Appendix A**).

3.3.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with biological / natural resources are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous material use and management at JB MDL are regulated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) under the Toxic Substance Control Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and DAF Occupational Safety and Health Standards. The regulations require personnel using hazardous materials to be trained in the application, management, handling, and storage of material; to know the location of material safety data sheets for all hazardous materials that they are using; and to wear the correct personal protective equipment required for materials that are being used.

- **Asbestos**

The USEPA regulates Asbestos under the OSHA, 29 U.S.C. §§669 et seq. Emissions of asbestos fibers to ambient air are regulated under Section 112 of the CAA. An Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) survey was previously conducted and identified to be present at all billeting facilities in the Proposed Action area with exception of B5512 and B5513. However, the priority index values for all ACM were below the action levels. Material poses no risk, if not disturbed.

- **Lead-Based Paint**

The Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 regulates the use and disposal of lead-based paint (LBP) at federal facilities. Federal agencies are required to obey all applicable federal, state, interstate, and local laws relating to LBP activities and hazards. In the Proposed Action area, billeting buildings were all constructed prior to 1980 and may contain LBP.

- **Radon**

Radon, a radioactive gas that seeps out of rocks and soil, comes from uranium in the ground (USEPA 1998). It can occur in high concentrations in soil and rocks containing uranium, granite, shale, phosphate, and pitchblende, and may also occur in soil contaminated with industrial waste byproducts from uranium or phosphate mining (USEPA 2012b). The only known health risk associated with exposure to elevated levels of radon is an increased risk of developing lung cancer. Typically, outside air contains very low levels of radon (USEPA 1998). However, radon can accumulate in enclosed indoor spaces. The USEPA recommends consideration of radon mitigation measures at 4 picoCuries per liter, which is based on the assumption that an individual would be exposed to those levels at least 75 percent of the time, a situation usually found only in residences (USEPA 2012b). Radon is not prominent in the geographical area of JB MDL and based on previous surveys no mitigation systems currently exist on the installation.

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous wastes are defined by the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which was further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, RCRA subtitle C (40 CFR, §§260-270). JB MDL has two State issued RCRA Part B permits for two Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and maintains installation solid and hazardous management plans to ensure compliance with all regulations.

Environmental Restoration Program

In accordance with The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and its amendment, The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the DAF established the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). There are two categories of sites under the ERP at JB MDL: installation restoration program (IRP) sites that include subsets of CERCLA National Priority List (NPL) sites, CERCLA non-NPL sites, and compliance sites that address the hazardous substances, including emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); and, military munitions response program (MMRP) sites that address munitions. The JB MDL-Dix portion of

the base is non-NPL; therefore, NJDEP is the lead regulatory agency for both the CERCLA non-NPL and compliance sites.

Both IRP and MMRP sites are present on JB MDL-Dix. JB MDL-Dix has 10 active IRP sites and two active MMRP sites (Arcadis, 2021). None of the sites are located within the region of influence (ROI) while the nearest site is located more than 2,000 feet from the ROI.

Several historical inactive IRP compliance sites were located near the ROI but were not located on the ROI. These sites have met the conditions for unrestricted use/unlimited exposure (UU/UE), as agreed to by NJDEP, require no additional investigation or remediation, and have been closed within the ERP. These sites no longer pose a threat to human health or the environment and are safe for residential use.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

Hazardous Materials

In the Proposed Action area, billeting buildings are regularly occupied during military exercises and asbestos and radon issues do not pose concerns. However, currently there is no data available on the lead based paint present at these facilities and occupancy by young children is not recommended. An assessment of LBP in the Proposed Action area facilities would be conducted as part of the site preparation, if required.

Because the temporary facilities would not be constructed as permanent structures, radon impacts would not be expected from the Proposed Action. During all operations, the use or storage of hazardous materials would be handled according to local, state, and federal regulations. No significant impacts would be expected to result from the Proposed Action.

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste oversight and hazardous waste disposal would be handled by JB MDL under the existing contracts and in accordance with the State issued RCRA Part B permits for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility. However, the facilities would be operated pursuant to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement, which will address waste management training and on-site responsibility to ensure compliance with federal, state, local, and DoD regulatory requirements for hazardous waste storage and disposal and consistency with installation hazardous waste management plan. In the event of a hazardous spill, immediate action would be taken by to contain and clean up the spill in accordance with the appropriate regulation. The generation and storage of regulated medical waste would be managed in accordance with all local, state, and federal guidelines while removal and disposal would be handled under the existing contract managed by 87 MDG. Any hazardous waste generated due to the Proposed Action would be jointly handled by complying with local, state, and federal regulations. No significant impacts would be expected to result from the Proposed Action.

Environmental Restoration Program

Since there are no active ERP sites located within the ROI and historical IRP compliance sites that were located near the ROI are closed within the ERP and are safe for residential use, there would be no impacts related to ERP sites as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.4.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with hazardous materials / waste are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Archaeology

Seven cultural resources surveys with archaeological components have been completed within the Dix cantonment section of JB MDL (JB MDL 2020). These cultural resources surveys identified one prehistoric archaeological site (28BU674) within 0.5 miles of the ASI Beddown project area. Site 28BU674 has not been evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. Previous cultural resources surveys identified one archaeological historic district, the Pointville Archaeological District within 0.8 miles of the ASI Beddown project area, composed of four historic archaeological sites dating to the nineteenth century. No previously identified prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are located within or adjacent to the ASI Beddown project area.

The ASI Beddown project area is 1,490 feet from the nearest permanent water course or wetland, and no map-documented eighteenth or nineteenth century roadways are located adjacent to the project area. The ASI Beddown project area is rated as low sensitivity for prehistoric and historic archaeological resources.

Historic Architectural Resources

Thirteen cultural resources surveys with architectural history components have been completed within the Dix cantonment section of JB MDL (JB MDL 2020). One architectural historic district, the Scott Plaza Family Housing Historic District, identified by these surveys is located within 0.5 miles of the ASI Beddown project area. The historic district consists of 15 red brick Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival buildings constructed during the pre-World War II mobilization period of 1938-1939 buildings (5412-5423, 5425) eligible for the NRHP under criteria (a) and (c). The construction of the Scott Plaza complex established the future of Camp Dix as a permanent Army installation. No NRHP eligible or listed buildings, structures, or objects are located within, adjacent to, or within the viewshed of the ASI Beddown project area.

Traditional Cultural Properties

No Native American tribes culturally affiliated with JB MDL have, to date, identified any sacred sites to which they would like access to under AIRFA, or any properties of religious and cultural significance (JB MDL 2020). No Traditional Cultural Properties have been identified at JB MDL.

Native American Consultation

Two federally-recognized tribes, now located outside the state, have a cultural ancestral affiliation with the lands comprising JB MDL (JB MDL 2020). JB MDL is in the process of establishing a formal government-to-government relationship with the Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians. No Native American Traditional Cultural Properties, protected tribal resources, treaty rights, sacred sites, or Indian lands are known to be present within the project area (JB MDL 2020). JB MDL invited the tribes to participate as consulting parties for this EA under Section 106 of the NHPA in letters dated **19 August 2021**. The letters sent to the tribes are included in **Appendix A**.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

On **19 August 2021** the DAF (JB MDL) initiated consultation with the NJ HPO under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The DAF consulted on the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for which consists of the Doughboy Parade Grounds (**Figure 2-4**).

The DAF determined that the undertaking would have *no effects* on historic properties, as there are no historic properties within or adjacent to APE and the APE was deemed not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places NRHP. The DAF determined there would be *no effects* to archeological resources since the APE is rated as low sensitivity for prehistoric and archeological resources.

The NJ HPO responded on **19 August 2021** with concurrence of the APE and concurrence of *no effects* to historic properties. All correspondence between the DAF and NJ HPO is included in **Appendix A**.

3.5.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with cultural resources are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.6 EARTH RESOURCES

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The ASI Beddown project area is located within the Outer Coastal Plain section of the Coastal Plain physiographic province. The ASI Beddown project areas lie entirely within the Cohansey Sand Formation, which consists of unconsolidated, yellow quartz sand with gravel, silt, and clay (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS], 1993). The Cohansey Sand Formation is primarily 50 to 100 feet thick within the JB MDL area (JB MDL, 2015a).

Burlington County, New Jersey has a low earthquake risk. The largest potentially active fault in New Jersey, the Ramapo Fault, is situated within northern New Jersey (USGS, 2008).

Topography

Elevations range between 150 to 160 feet above sea level within the ASI Beddown project area, as referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88).

Soil Types and Characteristics

The Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database identifies soils present within the ASI Beddown project area as members of the Sassafras series (NRCS, 2021). **Table 3-5** lists the soil series mapped within the ASI Beddown project area, their drainage class, and farmland designation.

Table 3-5: Soil Series within the Proposed ASI Beddown Project Area

Series ID	Series Name	Drainage Class	Farmland Designation
SacA	Sassafras sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Well drained	Prime Farmland
SacB	Sassafras sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Well drained	Prime Farmland

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

There would be no potential impacts to earth resources associated with the use of hard billets to temporarily shelter of ASIs. Onsite modifications to the Doughboy Parade Grounds for erecting temporary shelter would not require clearing, grading or excavation that disturbs an acre or more of land. Onsite modification would include layering of sandbags around exterior perimeter of each tent to control runoff, installation of temporary gravel walkways on a grid pattern in between tent areas and directly on the grass to control erosion, and build up with gravel to control ponding in some areas. These activities would be temporary and the Proposed Action is not expected to result in significant impacts to earth resources.

3.6.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with earth resources are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.7 INFRASTRUCTURE / UTILITIES

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Infrastructure and utility resources refer to systems and structures that contribute to the basic functionality of inhabited areas. Infrastructure and utility components at JB MDL/ Dix Area include transportation systems, electricity, solid waste disposal, potable water, and wastewater treatment services.

Electricity is not included in the analysis since the portion of the Proposed Action that utilizes existing infrastructure would result in no changes to previous use of electricity for dormitory/lodging and the portion of the Proposed Action on the Doughboy Parade Grounds would utilize emergency generators which would have no impact on existing electrical infrastructure.

Water Supply

Potable drinking water is supplied by the Dix drinking water system on the JB MDL installation, which is a regulated community water system (CWS) registered with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) CWS #0325001. Water sources include four groundwater wells and a surface water treatment plant. The wells are screened in the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy (PRM) Aquifer System. The wells range in depth from 1118 feet to 1155 feet. Total pumping capacity of the wells is approximately 700 gallons per minute (GPM) each. The groundwater is filtered through manganese greensand filters for iron and manganese removal. Sodium hypochlorite is used for disinfection. The surface water source is the Greenwood Branch of the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek. The surface water plant has a capacity of 4 million gallons per day (MGD). Surface water is treated using sodium hydroxide to adjust pH, rapid mixing with aluminum sulfate addition for flocculation (a process where solids in water aggregate through chemical action so they can be separated from water), sedimentation (solids settling by gravity), multimedia filtration, and chlorine gas for disinfection. The water system has a total storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for use at JB MDL - Dix in four water towers/clear wells.

On **19 May 2016**, the EPA's Office of Water issued new Lifetime Health Advisory levels (LHAs) for two perfluorinated compounds (PFCs):

- Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS): Publication EPA 822-R-16-004
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA): EPA 822-R-16-005.

The EPA LHAs are 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for both PFOS and PFOA, individually or as the sum of the two. PFOS/PFOA were below the detection limit in the Dix water system when initially sampled in 2016. In 2018, the NJDEP established health based Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), PFOA and PFOS and has identified these three analytes as "Regulated PFAS". The MCLs are 0.013 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) (or 13 ppt) for PFNA and PFOS, and 0.014 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (or 14 ppt) for PFOA. The highest reported concentration of PFNA was 1.5 ppt, PFOS was 1.1 ppt, and PFOA was 5.1 ppt. There have been no reported levels of Regulated PFAS within the Dix water system above the MCL (2020 Annual Water Consumer Confidence Report).

Sanitary Wastewater

The sanitary wastewater at the Dix Area, JB MDL is managed by the Dix Wastewater Treatment Facility (OPTECH Contractor). The wastewater system operates an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility with a daily treatment capacity of 4.6 MGD. There is available capacity in this system. The current system is treating an average of 1.7 MGD with the highest peak at 2.2 MGD during heavy sustained rainfall. There are limited sewage lines in the area of the Doughboy Parade Grounds and these lines are between 6 and 8 inches in diameter.

Storm water

Storm water on Dix Area is regulated under the Tier A municipal storm water General Permit effective January 1, 2018. 123 outfalls and a system of underground pipes are utilized for discharging storm water off-site to the surrounding storm drain system. The majority of the land area that makes up JB MDL Dix Area drains to the Delaware River to the west. The Crosswicks Creek drains the northern half of both the Cantonment Area and the Range Area. This Creek then joins the Assicunk Creek to meet the Delaware River in the City of Burlington.

Solid Waste

JB MDL manages their solid waste in accordance with AFMAN 32-7002, DoDI 4715.23, 40 CFR 261.2, 40 CFR 266.202, and NJAC 7:26-1, 7:26A-1, and 7:26H. As such, many factors attribute to the proper management of their solid waste program. As JB MDL has a very successful Qualified Recycling Program (QRP), diversion and recycling is a large part of their non-hazardous solid waste program. Their success is based on the on-base recycling contractor and the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) contractor providing accurate and monthly records. The JB MDL Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, recently approved by the Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Council (ESOHC) in July 2021, documents the effectiveness and success of the program. JB MDL is required to report tonnage and costs of recycling and non-hazardous solid waste, including construction and demolition debris (C&D) semi-annually, as required by DoDI 4715.23. All records are submitted to the JB MDL Solid Waste Program Manager on a monthly basis. These records are compiled and submitted for review and validation each April and October.

Transportation

Existing transportation networks and infrastructure in Burlington County are considered to be excellent (JB MDL IDP, 2016). There are three gates for entrance onto JB MDL/ Dix Area, the Wrightstown Gate, located on Wrightstown Road on the northern portion of the installation, Brown's Mills Gate, located on Texas Avenue on the southeast portion of the installation, and 68 Gate located on NJ-68 and Pemberton Wrightstown Road. The Dix Commercial Gate is located on the northwestern portion of the installation on Saylor's Pond Road. There are no significant existing issues with traffic congestion on JB MDL/Fort Area or the immediately adjacent intersections.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

Water Supply

The proposed site for construction of temporary shelters at the Doughboy Parade Grounds is near the potable water supply tower and main lines along the surrounding streets. The Proposed Action would occur in a phased approach and includes providing bottled water and potable water. There is existing water supply capacity at JB MDL which is more than sufficient for the total estimated number of maximum ASIs and there would be no effect to water supply for duration of the Proposed Action.

Sanitary Wastewater

Wastewater created as a result of the Proposed Action would be collected at the site and transported from the Proposed Action area to be treated at the Dix Wastewater treatment facility. Any use of contingency barracks would result in no significant increase vs. normal usage of the barracks. An increase of the maximum estimate of 4,500 ASIs to the total population from the tent city would contribute less than 300,000 GPD of additional wastewater. A potential increase of 300,000 GPD would not present a challenge to the plant given the design flow of 4.6 MGD and current average flow of 1.7 MGD. Any handling of sanitary wastewater by government employees or contractors, would be completed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Therefore, no significant impacts to the wastewater system at JB MDL would be anticipated to result from the Proposed Action.

Storm water

The Proposed Action area would not require clearing, grading or excavation that disturbs an acre or more of land. Coverage under a construction general permit would not be required. The temporary erection of shelter would increase impervious cover that would result in a temporary increase in stormwater runoff. No long-term effects are expected. Best management practices (BMPs) would be applied to limit the impact of the temporary increase. Sandbags would be used around temporary shelters to control runoff and temporary gravel walkways would be placed to prevent erosion from foot traffic. Standard BMPs such as silt fencing and soil stabilization would be used during the temporary operation if deemed applicable.

Despite the anticipated temporary increase, use of BMPs and other actions would ensure that the stormwater features and stormwater collection system at JB MDL would have the capacity to accommodate the potential increase in stormwater that would be generated as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not significantly impact stormwater resources at JB MDL.

Solid Waste

Non-hazardous solid waste disposal/recycling would occur under the Proposed Action. It is expected that the Proposed Action would include divert non-hazardous solid waste as much as possible. The DoD Integrated Solid Waste Management Metrics requires installations to divert 40% of non-hazardous solid waste (excluding C&D) from incineration or landfilling, divert 60% of C&D from incineration and landfilling, and reduce total annual waste generation by 2% of total waste each year through FY2025. MSW would be collected and landfilled/incinerated off-site, as required by the contractor working for the DoD. Recycling would be collected and recycled on-site or off-site, as determined by the contractor working for the DoD. C&D would be collected and disposed/recycled off-site, as required by the contractor working for the DoD. All tonnage and costs would be reported to the JB MDL Solid Waste Program Manager for inclusion in semi-annual reporting.

JB MDL would not meet the 2% reduction of total during operation of the Proposed Action. However, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in significant impacts to solid waste.

Transportation

The Proposed Action would result in increased traffic from construction vehicles, delivery and supply trucks, and passenger vehicles for transportation of ASIs and support staff. ASIs would be transported to the temporary shelter in phases as they arrive in the U.S., so they would not all be arriving the Dix Area at the same time. The commercial gate would be used for the delivery of construction materials and supplies. BMPs such as planning construction vehicle routes and staggering arrival times of staff would be in place during ramp up and when the Proposed Action is fully operational, as applicable. The Proposed Action would not change the Level of Service on local off-installation roads, and there would be no significant impacts to transportation when the temporary shelters are fully operational. The Proposed Action would have short-term, minor, less than significant impacts on transportation during the construction period and for the duration of the temporary shelter operations.

3.7.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with infrastructure / utilities are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.8 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL / PUBLIC HEALTH

3.8.1 Affected Environment

Operations, maintenance, and construction activities would be performed by trained and qualified personnel in accordance with applicable regulations and standards. Construction site safety is managed by adherence to regulatory requirements and by implementation of operational practices that reduce risk of illness, injury, death, and property damage. The health and safety of construction contractors are safeguarded by the OSHA regulations 29 CFR §1910 and 29 CFR §1926. These standards specify the amount and type of training required for industrial workers, the use of PPE, engineering controls, and maximum exposure limits for workplace stressors. Contractors responsible for construction and demolition/deconstruction activities would be responsible for compliance with the applicable OSHA regulations and identifying appropriate protective measure for employees.

Disease Control

JB MDL currently maintains an Integrated Pest Management Program in order to prevent or control pests and disease vectors that may adversely impact readiness or military operations by affecting the health of personnel, or by damaging structures, material, or property.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

All construction activities would be conducted in accordance with federal OSHA regulations and are conducted in a manner that does not increase risk to workers or the public. OSHA regulations (29 CFR §1910 and 29 CFR §1926) address the health and safety of people at work and cover potential exposure to a wide range of chemical, physical, and biological hazards, and ergonomic stressors. The regulations are designed to control these hazards by eliminating exposure to the hazards via administrative or engineering controls, substitution, use of personal protective equipment, and availability of Safety Data Sheets. During construction activities associated with the Proposed Action, additional measures would be implemented in order to protect both the construction workers and military personnel.

The safety and security of the residents in the temporary facilities would be a high priority. Serious injuries or illness would be treated at emergency rooms closest to JD MDL. DAF and DoS would work with the local law enforcement and community government to address security issues. Adverse impacts resulting from the safety and security issues associated with this Proposed Action would be anticipated to be minor. Given the employment of the safety measures discussed above, no significant effects to safety would be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Disease Control

All disease control would follow all DoD guidelines and policies related to disease control along with JB MDL's Integrated Pest Management Program.

Under the Proposed Action, ASIs would first go to reception, which would include COVID screening (referenced Binex antigen testing). If an ASI tests positive, they and their family would go to a quarantine location. If an individual comes up negative, they would be assigned a shelter location (not in the quarantine area). Individuals would also be screened for other medical concerns, and if there are non-COVID concerns, they would be brought to an aid station to have their concerns addressed.

3.8.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with safety and occupational health are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

3.9 SOCIOECONOMICS

3.9.1 Affected Environment

Socioeconomics Resources comprise the basic attributes and resources associated with the human environment, particularly population and economic activity.

The Region of Influence (ROI) for Socioeconomic Resources is Burlington County, NJ, particularly the area within a 30 mi radius of the Dix Area. The population in Burlington County has experienced a -0.8% decrease in population between 2010 and 2019 as compared to the State of New Jersey (1.0% population growth) and the U.S. (6.3% population growth). The economy of Burlington County is overall healthy with a higher median household income and lower rate of poverty as compared to both the State of New Jersey and U.S. (USCB, 2021).

There are several hospitals, clinics, and fire departments within Burlington County. JB MDL is home to the 305th Medical Group and McGuire Clinic.

There are several hotels within a 30 mi radius of Burlington County, NJ. Commercial hotel booking sites reflect capacity of approximately 1,000 hotel rooms within a 30 mile radius (Trip Advisor, 2021).

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences: Proposed Action

As part of the Proposed Action all required materials and supplies, including temporary facilities, would be provided or sourced. Staff would be present on-site. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in any long-term changes to employment within Burlington County.

As part of the Proposed Action, routine medical and social services would be provided. In the event that emergency services are needed beyond what is provided onsite, there is sufficient capacity on JB MDL and within Burlington County.

Minor construction would be necessary to stand up the temporary facilities, including portable toilets, tents, or other temporary structures. The local economy would likely experience minor, short term beneficial impact if local employees were utilized.

Approximately 1,500 site support staff and would be staying in hotels within a 30 mile radius of JB MDL for a minimum of 180 and up to 365 days. There would be sufficient hotel capacity to accommodate all personnel if two or more personnel were to stay in each room. Personnel may need to arrange with hotels for extended stay. In the event that lodging capacity is insufficient for support staff, it is anticipated JB MDL would coordinate alternative accommodations on a case-by-case scenario. Personnel would create demand for goods, services, and incidentals within the local economy during their stay, which would result in a minor and not significant beneficial economic impact. Overall impacts to socioeconomic resources in Burlington County would be beneficial and less than significant.

3.9.3 Environmental Consequences: No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no change to baseline conditions in the Affected Environment. Therefore no potential impacts associated with socioeconomics are anticipated since the No Action Alternative would not provide temporary shelter to ASIs.

4.0 PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PLANNED ACTIONS

This EA also considers the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned action which may result in environmental impacts with a close causal connection to the Proposed Action.

A list of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at JB MDL and the surrounding area that could result in additional adverse impacts when combined with Proposed Action are shown in **Table 4-1**. Future actions which are not reasonably foreseeable would be evaluated under separate NEPA documentation, if required, by the appropriate federal agency.

Table 4-1: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Action	Location	Timeframe	Description
Fiber Optic Cable Upgrades to Existing Infrastructure	JB MDL Base-wide	Present	Existing infrastructure in the flightline area is undergoing improvements to transition to fiber optic cables. The existing facilities proposed for temporary shelter of ASIs may undergo fiber optic cable upgrades.
Energy Performance Optimization Contract	JB MDL Base-wide	Future	This project involves optimization of energy systems, such as solar panels and building modifications, to support energy efficiency and renewable energy. The upgrades associated with this project are occurring on existing infrastructure installation-wide. The existing facilities proposed for temporary shelter of ASIs may undergo energy optimization upgrades.
Construct Hot Cargo Loading Area (HCLA)/Munitions Storage Area (MSA)	JB MDL McGuire Airfield	Future	The Proposed Action is to conduct a fully operational and efficient hot cargo loading area HCLA/MSA in the McGuire area of JB MDL that are compliant with applicable Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) requirements. The construction associated with this Proposed Action would take place on the airfield area of McGuire which is geographically remote from the Proposed Action.
Logistics Unit Beddown	JB MDL Dix Area	Future	Construction of several warehouses in the northern portion of the Dix Area, potentially in the footprint of the now-demolished Army hospital. The action is currently in the very early stages of planning. The Proposed Logistics Unit Beddown would consist of the construction of several warehouses in the northern portion of the Dix Area, potentially in the footprint of the now-demolished Army hospital. The footprint of the old hospital has been maintained as grassy lawn and has no wetlands

Action	Location	Timeframe	Description
			or federally listed species present. Infrastructure from the old hospital remains accessible for the use of any new construction. All actions associated with this project are geographically distant and temporally remote from this Proposed Action.
Water pipe replacement	JB MDL Dix Area	Future	Replace a water pipe in the Dix Area. This project is southwest of the parade field and not proximal to the Proposed Action. A water pipe replacement is occurring as a standard infrastructure upgrade in an area approximately 0.8 mi south and west of Doughboy Parade Grounds.

Noise: Although some of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions may generate temporary construction-related noise, these impacts would be minor and spread out base-wide, so would not generate additional noise from once source close to the Proposed Action. There would be minor, temporary noise increases due to construction related traffic from the Proposed Action and past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. This increased noise would be temporary for the duration of the Proposed Action and would not result in significant impacts to the noise environment at JB MDL.

Hazardous Materials and Wastes: Some of the other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions may generate hazardous waste; however, the two basewide projects which may occur on the existing billets would be modifications to existing infrastructure used for lodging and any handling of hazardous waste and materials would be conducted in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The replacement of a water pipe, Logistics Unit Beddown, and Construct a HCLA/MSA would occur in areas temporally and geographically remote to Doughboy Parade Grounds and are not expected to result in increased impacts to Hazardous Materials and Waste when combined with the Proposed Action.

Infrastructure / Utilities: The Proposed Action would result in temporary increase of impervious cover which would result in temporary, minor impacts to storm water systems; however, other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions which would result in ground disturbing activities are remote to the project site. The water-pipe replacement would occur 0.8 miles south and west of the Doughboy Parade Grounds and coordination would occur prior to installation to prevent increased impacts to utilities. There would be minor increases to traffic on and off base as a result of the Proposed Action and past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions. These impacts would be minor and only last for the duration of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would not result in additional adverse impacts to infrastructure and utilities when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions.

Cultural Resources: There would be no effects to cultural resources in the APE as a result of the Proposed Action and therefore no increase in adverse impacts to cultural resources, when considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions would occur.

Safety and Occupational/Public Health: The Proposed Action would not result in adverse impacts to Safety and Occupation Health. Activities under the Proposed Action such as standard construction site safety practices, installation of a perimeter fence and COVID related precautionary measures would minimize risks to health and safety. There would be no increased adverse impacts to Safety and Occupational/Public Health as a result of the Proposed Action when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions

Biological /Natural Resources: The Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect special status species and no increase in adverse impacts to biological/natural resources when considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions would occur.

Earth Resources: The Proposed Action would involve only minimal ground disturbing activities in the Doughboy Field and would not require clearing, grading or excavation that disturbs an acre or more of land. The replacement of a water-pipe would occur 0.8 miles away from Doughboy Parade Grounds and would not result in additional adverse impacts when combined with the Proposed Action. Other ground disturbing activities associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions would occur in areas remote to the Proposed Action and would not result in additional adverse impacts to Earth Resources when combined with the Proposed Action.

Socioeconomics: The Proposed Action when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable planned actions would result in minor beneficial impacts to the ROI, due to purchase of materials, supplies and temporary employment of construction workforce. These beneficial impacts would be short-term for the duration of construction and operation and would not be significant.

Air Quality: No significant short-term or long-term impacts to regional air quality or GHGs would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. Due to the fact that Burlington County is in a nonattainment area, cumulative air quality impacts resulting from the Proposed Action in conjunction with other identified actions would be short-term and would not be significant.

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