

**Final Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**2012 Real Property Master Plan**  
**Fort Jackson, South Carolina**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Parts 1500–1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 42 of the *United States Code* 4321 *et seq.*) and 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions), Fort Jackson, South Carolina, conducted a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing the 2012 Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) and its Component Plans.

**1. Proposed Action.** This PEA evaluates a multi-faceted Proposed Action that includes the implementation of the Fort Jackson RPMP and its Component Plans. Fort Jackson proposes to implement the RPMP in order to provide the facilities and infrastructure required to support both current and future missions.

The master planning process is based on guidance provided in AR 210-20, which establishes and prescribes the Army RPMP process, and assigns responsibilities and prescribes policies and procedures relating to the development, content, submission, and maintenance of a RPMP. Army installation master planning is a continual evolving process that is designed to provide direction for the continued development, operation, management, and maintenance of installation resources including land, facilities, and infrastructure. It also provides a framework whereby the installation can manage its resources in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. It is anticipated that future updates of the RPMP will continue to occur, and that these updates will reflect new and evolving Army master planning guidance.

**2. Purpose and Need.** The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the recommendations of the 2012 RPMP for Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to support current and foreseeable mission requirements. The RPMP is a living document that helps the Garrison to achieve the goals of the Army and Fort Jackson through real property and infrastructure planning.

Many of the permanent structures at the Installation have reached the age where extensive renovations and repairs are required to extend their useful life, comply with current facility standards, and meet current and projected mission requirements. In response to these needs, Fort Jackson has initiated a comprehensive master planning program. Although this program is a continuous and on- going process, the framework for guiding the future development of the installation has been documented in the Installation RPMP.

**3. Alternatives Considered.** As required by federal regulations governing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and 32 CFR Part 651), the proponent of an action must identify and describe all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The master planning process includes a careful review of project- or program-specific implementation alternatives during the formulation of each proposed (construction, renovation, or maintenance) project. Typically, alternatives that are considered in planning to meet new building space requirements include:

- leasing off-site space;
- consolidation of similar or compatible uses in existing structures by increasing the use density;
- rehabilitation or adaptive reuse of existing space;
- construction of new facilities; and
- review of alternative construction sites.

Therefore, this PEA limits the scope of its analysis to the comparison of the No Action Alternative and Full Implementation of the RPMP and ongoing mission.

**4. Factors Considered in Determining that No Environmental Impact Statement is Required.** The PEA, which is attached and incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examines the potential effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative on the following resource areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern: land use, aesthetics and visual resources, physical resources, water resources, biological resources, air quality, historic and cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, infrastructure, and environmental restoration and compliance.

The Preferred Land Use Plan for Fort Jackson proposes the expansion of existing land uses only to the extent necessary to accommodate additional construction as required to meet mission requirements and operating standards, and to allow the implementation of several relatively low- impact land use improvement concepts. The analysis of the Preferred Land Use Plan indicates that it would be capable of meeting mission requirements and minimizing impacts to the natural and cultural environment. Beneficial impacts on the visual character of the Installation, as well as the functionality of the facilities, would be realized while increasing overall system efficiency. Given this conclusion, other elements of the Proposed Action were evaluated under the assumption that the Installation will proceed with implementation of the Preferred Land Use Plan.

Under the Full Implementation Alternative, a number of construction projects would be implemented over an extended period of time. This construction program would result in some short- and long- term adverse impacts to the physical, water, and biological resources on the Installation. However, since these impacts are within the range of those normally expected with construction activities, no critical or unique sensitive resources would be impacted, and no significant adverse impacts would be expected to occur. The completion of these projects would have a substantial overall beneficial effect on the ability of the Installation to meet current and future mission requirements as well as the local and regional economy.

Ongoing mission activities would continue to occur at their current level, and would be expanded to meet the needs of all future RPMP elements and activities. The Full Implementation Alternative, as it relates to ongoing mission activities, would result in both beneficial and adverse impacts. Adverse impacts are generally associated with training, utility systems, maintenance of utility right-of-way and other cleared areas, or the construction of additional buildings and infrastructure as required to meet mission requirements and comply with current regulations, laws and standards. However, none of these impacts are expected to reach significant levels and these adverse impacts are offset by numerous beneficial impacts.

**5. Public Review.** The final PEA and draft FNSI were available for review and comment for 30 days upon publication of a notice of availability in *The State* newspaper. Only minor, formatting comments were received.

**6. Conclusions.** On the basis of the PEA, it has been determined that implementing the Proposed Action would have no significant adverse effects on the quality of human life or the natural environment. Preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required before implementing the Proposed Action.



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Date