

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et seq.), and Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 6050.1 and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Order 5090.2, which implement these regulations, direct that DoD and USMC officials take into account environmental consequences when authorizing or approving major federal actions in the United States. Accordingly, this environmental assessment (EA) analyzes the potential environmental consequences for the Visitor Control Center (VCC) at Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ), Virginia.

### **1.0. NAME OF ACTION**

Proposed VCC.

### **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

MCBQ proposed to construct a 5.0 acre VCC adjacent to MCB-4/Russell Rd. within Training Area (TA)6A on the Westside of MCBQ. The proposed action would include a low-rise masonry building, 100 space parking lot, and access roads. The no action alternative refers to the continuation of existing conditions of the affected environment without implementation of the proposed action. The no action alternative would not construct a new 5.0 acre VCC Facility and current conditions would remain the same. The no action alternative is prescribed by CEQ regulations and serves as a benchmark against which federal actions and potential impacts can be evaluated.

### **3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

The EA supports this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) by examining potential effects of the proposed action and its alternatives on resources and areas of environmental concern that could be affected by the construction of the VCC. These include, air quality, water resources, geological resources, cultural resources, biological resources, land use, transportation, hazardous materials and wastes and cumulative impacts. Potential effects from implementation of the proposed action are summarized below.

The proposed action has been determined not to influence or affect some resource areas and determined not to warrant further analysis. These resources include visual resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, noise, and military airspace and training.

## **Air Quality**

The proposed action was not evaluated for general conformity under the Clean Air Act, Section 1.76 because the proposed action is located in an area of attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The impacts of the action are considered insignificant based on meeting the de minimis definition as described in 40 CFR 93.153 (b). Guidance to reduce any impacts to air quality will be followed and was addressed in chapter 3.0 of the EA.

## **Water Resources**

The proposed action will not require fill within a 100-year floodplains and will not directly affect water resources such as wetlands as well as all other surface waters. Any water quality impacts associated with tree and vegetation removal will be mitigated through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) per the Virginia BMP Field Guide (2009), the Virginia BMPs for Water Quality Technical Manual (2011) and the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (1992). The construction project will require installation of proper E&SC measures (such as proper silt fence and storm drain inlets) prior to the onset of land disturbing activities. The proper installation and maintenance of E&SC measures will minimize the movement of disturbed soils off-site and into both the Chopawamsic Creek and Potomac River watersheds.

## **Geological Resources**

Approximately 5.0 acres of land would be disturbed to implement the proposed action. With the implementation of proper erosion & sediment control measures, the proposed action is not expected to significantly impact on-site or area soils.

## **Cultural Resources**

The proposed action was reviewed per the Programmatic Agreement with the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and it was determined that the proposed action would have no effect on archaeological or historic resources.

## **Biological Resources**

### **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Potential habitat was found for the federally-threatened small whorled pogonia (SWP) however the species was not found within the footprint of the proposed action. As a result, the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the federally-threatened SWP. The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the federally-threatened northern long-eared bat or the federally-endangered Indiana bat. To reduce impacts to both species MCBQ will be implementing USFWS Time of Year Restrictions (TOYR) from 15 April – 15 September inclusive. During this time, no tree removal will occur.

## **Land Use**

The proposed action is compatible with land use requirements on the Westside of the base and will not negatively impact land use on the base. There will be no impact to recreational activities due to the implementation of the proposed action.

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

The proposed action will construct 100 parking spaces and two short access roads. However, the proposed action is not located near critical infrastructure or utilities. The proposed action is also located within a relatively low volume traffic area and although an increase in traffic is expected, the existing transportation network of the area will not be overwhelmed.

## **Public Health and Safety**

The proposed action is not located a within a known munitions response site. Guidance outlined in MCO 5090.2, Chapter 10, Section 2, paragraph 10 will be followed if any contamination is discovered during construction.

## **Hazardous Materials and Wastes**

The contractor will be required to follow all guidance pertaining the removal of construction demolition debris as well as other hazardous waste or materials potentially generated during construction of the VCC.

## **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action will be associated with past, present and reasonable foreseeable actions. Although 5.0 acres of forest cover will be removed during the implementation of the proposed action over 52,000 acres of forest cover will remain at MCBQ.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the EA, which completed a 30-day public notification in June 2020, the USMC has determined that implementation of the proposed action, as defined and executed in accordance with the procedures described, will have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the quality of the natural or human environment. A FONSI is thus warranted. The requirements of NEPA and the CEQ have been satisfied and an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.

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Date

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