

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact
Environmental Assessment for United States Space Command Headquarters
Basing and Construction

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code 4231 to 4270d; Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508; and 32 CFR Part 989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the U.S. Air Force has prepared the attached environmental assessment (EA) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the establishment of a headquarters for the U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM; Proposed Action) at one of five Department of Defense (DoD) installations in the United States.

Purpose and Need (EA Section (§) 1.2, page 1-1)

Pursuant to Section 1601(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense was directed to review national security space DoD components and recommend changes to Congress by August 1, 2018. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense's final report to Congress recommended that the President of the United States modify the Unified Command Plan to standup a new combatant command for space (USSPACECOM). The U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Force Space Component Command was elevated to a combatant command and assumed these duties in 2019.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish a permanent operational USSPACECOM headquarters as a functional combatant command. The need for the Proposed Action is driven by the need for suitable permanent facilities to fulfill USSPACECOM required functions to enable achievement of full operational capability by 2025.

Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action and all reasonable alternatives are presented and evaluated in the attached EA.

Proposed Action (EA § 2.1, page 2-1)

The Proposed Action would establish a USSPACECOM headquarters at one of five DoD installations in the United States: Buckley, Peterson, or Schriever Air Force Base (AFB) in Colorado; Vandenberg AFB in California; or U.S. Army Garrison Redstone Arsenal (Redstone Arsenal) in Alabama. The proposed headquarters facility would accommodate approximately 1,870 personnel in a typical headquarters setting consisting of 498,000 square feet of office/administrative space, and 502,000 square feet for privately owned vehicle (POV) parking, totaling 1,000,000 square feet, or approximately 23 acres. POV parking would be provided in adjacent parking lots except at Peterson AFB, where it would be provided in parking garages. The majority of the permanent facility would be sensitive compartmented information facility space, and open administrative space, offices, conference rooms, classrooms, kitchen, dining, and break rooms. USSPACECOM operations would include command and control of global DoD space operations, support to other combatant commands, defense of U.S. and allied space operations, the gaining and maintaining of space superiority, and the evolution of DoD space capabilities and training.

To conduct operations prior to the completion of the permanent construction (estimated to be 2025), temporary basing would include 193,000 square feet for interim facility space, and an estimated 502,000 square feet for parking. Existing, vacant office/administrative space or leased office/administrative space on or outside the selected installation, and/or new temporary/modular buildings that would be purchased or leased by the Air Force and placed on a suitable site within the selected installation's secure perimeter would be used in the interim until the permanent headquarters

facility is operational. POV parking would be provided in existing parking lots and/or temporary gravel lots. To maximize flexibility for siting USSPACECOM headquarters operations, the interim and permanent facilities would not necessarily be at the same installation. Staffing of the interim facility would begin in 2019, and gradually increase to a total staff of approximately 1,870. Staff would transfer from the interim to the permanent facility after construction of the permanent facility is complete.

Force protection measures for the new facility will be incorporated in accordance with the Unified Facilities Criteria 4-010-01, *DOD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings*, February 9, 2012. Construction of the permanent facility would comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Construction General Permit in effect at the time of construction, and with the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) Section 438 requirements. Construction activities would be implemented using sustainable design concepts as outlined in the Unified Facilities Criteria and the selected installation's design and construction standards. Sustainable design concepts would emphasize state-of-the-art strategies for site development, efficient water and energy use, and improved indoor environmental quality. Stormwater management at the new facility would use low-impact development as required by Section 438 of the EISA, and the selected installation's municipal separate storm sewer system permit.

Alternatives (EA § 2.3, pages 2-7 to 2-33)

The Air Force identified seven potential interim and seven potential permanent site alternatives at the five DoD installations noted above. These site alternatives are summarized in **Table 1**. The perimeter of all alternative sites can be accessed by existing roads at the DoD installations being considered. The attached EA analyzes potential impacts from implementing the Proposed Action at these interim and permanent site alternatives.

All other potential installations and alternative sites evaluated during the Air Force's basing selection process were dismissed from analysis in the EA because they did not meet one or more of the Air Force site selection screening criteria, and therefore failed to meet the Proposed Action's purpose and need.

**Table 1
Summary of Alternatives**

Site Alternative	Site Alternative Description
Buckley AFB	
Interim Site Alternative 1 (West End District)	Previously disturbed but currently vacant land containing maintained vegetation on the western side of the base outside of its Restricted Area (RA). Interim facilities would consist of modular buildings.
Permanent Site Alternative 1 (North Corner Site 1)	Previously disturbed but currently vacant land on the northeastern side of the base outside of its RA. Partially overlaps a former skeet range.
Permanent Site Alternative 2 (North Corner Site 2)	Immediately southwest of Permanent Site Alternative 1. Partially overlaps vacant structures associated with the former skeet range, an on-base thrift store, and construction lay-down area.
Peterson AFB	
Interim Site Alternative 1 (Command Complex and Leased Off-base Office Space)	Previously disturbed but mostly undeveloped vacant land east of Building 3 in the installation's Command Complex. Interim facilities would consist of modular buildings and existing, leased off-base office space within 4 miles of Peterson AFB's West Gate. Temporary parking for the on-base modular facilities would be established on adjacent vacant land leased from the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport.

**Table 1
Summary of Alternatives**

Site Alternative	Site Alternative Description
Permanent Site Alternative 1 (Command Complex)	Existing paved parking lot immediately south of Buildings 1 and 2 in the installation's Command Complex. POV parking would be provided in two garages that would be built on existing paved parking lots as part of the alternative.
Schriever AFB	
Interim Site Alternative 1 (Inside RA / West Side of RA / Leased Off-base Office Space)	Previously undeveloped sites consisting of maintained vegetation (i.e., prairie grass). Interim facilities would consist of modular buildings and existing, leased off-base office space within 4 miles of Peterson AFB's West Gate.
Interim Site Alternative 2 (Outside RA / North of Building 24 / Leased Off-base Office Space)	
Permanent Site Alternative 1 (Inside RA) (West Side of RA)	Previously undeveloped sites consisting of maintained vegetation (i.e., prairie grass).
Permanent Site Alternative 2 (Outside RA) (Northwest of Building 24)	
Vandenberg AFB	
Interim Site Alternative 1 (Buildings 6523, 7225, and 10577)	Buildings 6523, 7225, and 10577 would undergo minor interior renovations to accommodate the interim facility. POV parking would be provided in existing lots and in an approximately 28,000-square-foot gravel-covered area that would be established adjacent to the existing parking lot at Building 6523.
Permanent Site Alternative 1 (California South)	Previously disturbed but currently vacant land in the installation's cantonment area. Land cover primarily consists of maintained vegetation and parking lots. An existing modular building on the site would be demolished.
Redstone Arsenal	
Interim Site Alternative 1 (Redstone Gateway, and Buildings 5201 and 5220)	Personnel would occupy office space currently under construction at Redstone Gateway, an enhanced use lease area within the installation's secure perimeter administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and existing vacant office space that would undergo minor interior renovations at Buildings 5201 and 5220.
Interim Site Alternative 2 (Area 2, and Buildings 5201 and 5220)	Personnel would occupy existing vacant office space that would undergo minor interior renovations at Buildings 5201 and 5220, and modular buildings that would be placed on Area 2, a previously disturbed but currently undeveloped area that primarily consists of maintained vegetation.
Permanent Site Alternative 1 (Area 5 and Building 5201)	The new permanent facility would be built on Area 5, which is previously disturbed but currently vacant, and consists of maintained vegetation. Existing vacant space in Building 5201 also would be used following minor interior renovations.

No Action Alternative (EA § 2.3.7, page 2-33)

Under the No Action Alternative, the interim and permanent USSPACECOM headquarters would not be established. USSPACECOM would not be able to effectively perform the strategic objectives outlined in fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act Section 1601c.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The analyses of the affected environment and environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action presented in the EA concluded that there would be no significant impacts on the following resources at any of the candidate installations or site alternatives:

- Transportation
- Hazardous materials and waste
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology and paleontological resources
- Water resources

The Proposed Action would have a potentially significant impact on socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice communities near Vandenberg AFB if that installation is selected for implementation. This impact and proposed mitigation measures are discussed below.

Because this potentially significant socioeconomic impact would have no interrelated physical environmental effects, it would not, in and of itself, require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement as stated in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.14.

Transportation (EA § 4.2, page 4.2-1)

The Proposed Action would generate additional construction-related traffic in the short term, but the number and frequency of additional vehicles traveling to and from the project site would vary during the construction phase. The additional volume of construction-related traffic would be proportionate to the scale of the facilities being renovated or built to accommodate the interim and permanent facilities, and would not be particularly unusual.

In the long term, the Proposed Action would increase commuter traffic volumes on and off the selected installation(s), and require minor improvements to installation roads to provide vehicular access to the proposed interim and permanent facilities. However, these traffic increases would not exceed the existing capacity of the vehicular transportation network on or outside the selected installation(s), or noticeably contribute to the degradation of traffic conditions outside the installation.

Therefore, short-term and long-term impacts on transportation from the Proposed Action would be negligible or minor, and would not be significant.

Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste (EA § 4.3, page 4.3-1)

Hazardous materials and hazardous and non-hazardous solid wastes used and generated, respectively, during the Proposed Action's construction and operational phases would be managed in accordance with applicable federal, state, local, and Air Force regulatory requirements; would be small in the context of such substances present on the selected installation(s); and would not exceed the selected installation's capacity to manage them, nor the capacity of licensed disposal facilities outside the installation to accept and dispose of them. To the extent possible, recyclable construction debris would be segregated from the non-recyclable waste stream in accordance with applicable Air Force/installation policies. Implementation

of the Proposed Action would not delay or prevent the continued management and remediation of Environmental Restoration Program sites on the selected installation(s), and would not result in changes to the selected installation's Environmental Protection Agency generator status.

Therefore, short-term and long-term impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous waste from the Proposed Action would be negligible or minor, and would not be significant. In the long term, remediation of contaminated soils or hazardous materials underlying or at the selected site alternatives would represent a beneficial effect on hazardous waste management.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EA § 4.4, page 4.3-1)

The Proposed Action would have positive short-term socioeconomic impacts in jurisdictions adjacent to or near the selected installation(s) from employment, sales, and tax revenues generated by construction activities. Construction-related impacts with the potential to disproportionately affect environmental justice populations or concentrations of children would not extend beyond the boundaries of the selected interim and permanent sites, and therefore, would have no potential to affect those communities.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant long-term socioeconomic impacts for any of the proposed candidate sites, apart from Vandenberg AFB. The nearest sizable municipalities to each installation except Vandenberg AFB have an existing supply of public and private services to meet the needs of the 1,870 staff that would be assigned to the proposed facilities.

Nearly 20 percent of the population in the cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria, California lived below the poverty line in 2017, and upwards of 60 percent of households that rent spend 30 percent or more of their income on rent. Any sizeable increase in demand for housing that is not closely matched by an increase in supply would be expected to result in an increase in housing and rental prices. Low-income populations, which have less discretionary income compared to high-income populations, would face disproportionate impacts if there is increased competition for housing. The current housing supply and associated public and private services in those cities would not be able to meet the demands of the new population required for the Proposed Action at Vandenberg AFB.

To mitigate potentially significant and/or disproportionately adverse effects on low-income and environmental justice communities in the vicinity of Vandenberg AFB from the Proposed Action, and ensure such impacts remain less than significant, the Air Force will incorporate one or more of the following measures in the Proposed Action:

- Develop a plan for identifying and tracking locally available housing options that can help to meet the demand associated with new (out of region) personnel assigned to support long term operations of the proposed action;
- Continue to dedicate staff resources to assist new (out of region) personnel in securing housing;
- Work to identify persons currently living in the region to meet some level of the operational staffing needs; and/or
- Collaborate with public (e.g., cities) and private (e.g., developers) entities in the region that have the capacity and desire to develop new housing.

This potentially significant socioeconomic impact would have no interrelated physical environmental effects. Therefore, as stated in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.14, it would not, in and of itself, require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

No mitigation measures would be required at the other candidate installations because impacts on socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice communities would not be significant.

Air Quality (EA § 4.5, page 4.5-1)

Short-term and long-term emissions from the Proposed Action of criteria pollutants regulated by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act would remain below *de minimis* levels, and would not contribute to the further degradation of air quality such that attainment areas would be classified as non-attainment or maintenance, or delay or prevent the attainment of air quality standards in maintenance or non-attainment areas. A formal general conformity determination for the Proposed Action is not required. If implemented at Vandenberg AFB, emissions from the Proposed Action would remain below California daily significance thresholds. Emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) from the Proposed Action would be higher relative to the No Action Alternative; however, *de minimis* levels have not been established for HAP emissions.

Each of the candidate installations is anticipated to be affected by global climate change to varying degrees. Emissions from the Proposed Action would contribute to climate change. However, given the magnitude of anticipated GHG emissions, the impact on cumulative global climate change would be low. Although sea level rise is anticipated to affect Vandenberg AFB, effects on the Proposed Action, if implemented at the installation, would be minimal because the proposed interim and/or permanent facilities would be well inland.

Biological Resources (EA § 4.6, page 4.6-1)

Vegetation impacts would be contained entirely within the boundaries of the selected sites and/or utility and transportation corridors where improvements are made to accommodate the proposed facilities. Vegetation removed to construct the interim and permanent facilities would constitute a small portion of existing vegetation on the selected installation(s) and surrounding region. Areas of the project sites not built on or otherwise developed would be revegetated in accordance with the installation's landscape design guidelines. The introduction or spread of non-native or invasive species would be prevented or minimized by adherence to each installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, and/or other applicable policy documents.

Construction of the proposed facilities would remove habitat; and displace, and in some limited cases, potentially destroy individuals of common wildlife species. Although these would be adverse effects, they would occur at the individual rather than population or species level, and would not threaten the continued propagation of common wildlife species. Mobile individuals would likely relocate to other areas of suitable habitat that would remain near the selected sites. Individual animals adapted to urbanized environments or high degrees of human activity would potentially return to the interim and permanent sites once construction activities have ended.

Adherence to site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs), erosion and sediment control plans, and/or stormwater management plans that would be prepared by the construction contractor in accordance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements applicable to the selected installation(s) would prevent or minimize the potential for the degradation of water quality in receiving waterbodies and corresponding impacts on aquatic species.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not involve the disturbance or filling of jurisdictional wetlands.

No federally listed species have been documented on the proposed interim and permanent sites. State-listed species, species of special concern, and/or migratory birds are known or suspected to be present on a number of the sites, particularly those in Colorado. Suitable habitat for special-status species also is present on a number of site alternatives. As applicable, vegetation clearing on the selected sites would occur outside of applicable time-of-year (TOY) restriction periods to avoid impacts on special-status species. If construction must occur during the TOY period, surveys for special-status species would be conducted on sites where such species or their habitat are known or suspected to be present. If the surveys confirm the presence of special-status species, the Air Force would conduct additional consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or other applicable federal and state regulatory agencies to develop avoidance and mitigation measures.

The operation of the proposed interim and permanent facilities would not involve ongoing disturbance of common and special-status plant and animal species.

Therefore, short-term and long-term impacts on biological resources from the Proposed Action would be negligible or minor, and would not be significant.

Cultural Resources (EA § 4.7, page 4.7-1)

No known archaeological resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) identified at the candidate installations would be directly or indirectly affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. Given prior land-disturbing activities conducted on and around site alternatives, unanticipated discoveries are not likely, and the potential for unearthing previously undocumented resources is low to moderate. In the event of inadvertent discoveries of undocumented cultural resources, ground-disturbing work would stop immediately and policies in the selected installation's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan would be implemented to preserve and document the discovery, thereby ensuring that impacts would not be significant.

No identified NRHP-eligible buildings would be directly affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. Physical alterations proposed for unevaluated buildings in Interim Site Alternative 1 at Vandenberg AFB would be limited to interior renovations. Therefore, no significant direct impacts on the historic built environment under any of the proposed interim and permanent site alternatives are anticipated.

No buildings at Buckley AFB, Schriever AFB, Peterson AFB, and Vandenberg AFB that were considered for potential visual or other indirect effects appear to be eligible for the NRHP. Building 4381 at Redstone Arsenal has been extensively modified and is separated from Interim Site Alternative 2 by a forested area. Therefore, Building 4381 would not be indirectly affected by implementation of Interim Site Alternative 2.

The Air Force has proposed the preparation of a project-specific Programmatic Agreement (pPA) to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as allowed for in 36 CFR 800.14(b)(1)(ii) "when effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to approval of an undertaking." If a site alternative in Colorado is selected for implementation of the Proposed Action, the pPA would commit the Air Force to conducting additional Section 106 consultation following signature of the FONSI (if appropriate based on the analysis presented in the EA), but prior to beginning construction of the proposed facility. The Colorado SHPO has concurred that a pPA for the Proposed Action is appropriate, and agreed to participate in its development.

The Alabama and California SHPOs will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA for review and comment during the 30-day public comment period.

As of 2019, no Traditional Cultural Places, sacred sites, or items of cultural patrimony have been identified at any of the proposed interim and permanent sites. Consultation letters were sent in May and June 2019 to federally recognized Native American tribes with historic affiliations to the geographic areas of Redstone Arsenal and the Colorado candidate installations. To date, three tribes have requested to be a consulting party to the Proposed Action. Letters announcing the availability of the EA and Draft FONSI for public review will be sent during the 30-day public comment period to all federally recognized tribes initially consulted in May and June 2019.

Therefore, through ongoing consultation and adherence to applicable cultural resource management policies at the selected installation(s), the Proposed Action would have no or negligible impacts on NRHP-eligible archaeological and architectural resources, or on areas of tribal concern. Impacts would not be significant.

Geological and Paleontological Resources (EA § 4.8, page 4.8-1)

Construction of the Proposed Action would have the potential to disturb soils and alter topography on the selected interim and permanent sites. The extent of ground disturbance from site preparation associated with the proposed interim and permanent facilities would vary depending on the sites that are ultimately selected. Such disturbance from an interim alternative involving the use of modular buildings would be minimal relative to construction of the proposed permanent facility. All interim and permanent site alternatives are previously disturbed; do not contain pristine or unique soils; and are not considered Prime Farmland. Soils exposed on the sites for extended periods would be revegetated to prevent or minimize erosion by wind and water. Clean fill soils with properties supporting the proposed construction would be imported to the selected sites as necessary to supplement or replace soils considered unsuitable for development. Soils containing hazardous substances exceeding applicable regulatory thresholds (e.g., petroleum constituents) would be removed from the selected sites and transported to licensed disposal facilities outside the installation(s) for disposal.

Ground-disturbing activities on the selected interim and permanent site alternatives would alter existing topography to provide level construction surfaces. The extent of alteration would vary based on the site(s) that are ultimately selected; however, all of the proposed interim and permanent sites are relatively flat, previously disturbed, and do not contain unique, pristine, or noteworthy topographic features. The selected interim and permanent sites would be regraded as necessary to achieve positive surface drainage post-construction.

The extent and nature of effects on subsurface geology from construction of deep foundations for the permanent facility would be determined by site-specific soil properties and depth to bedrock. Geotechnical studies would be conducted following selection of the permanent site to determine the extent of foundation support required. No unique or noteworthy geologic strata would be affected, because none are present under any of the permanent site alternatives. Excavation associated with construction of the proposed interim facility would be relatively shallow (i.e., no more than a few feet at most), and would have no potential to affect underlying geologic strata.

All ground disturbance associated with the Proposed Action's construction phase would be limited to the selected interim and permanent sites, and discrete areas of the respective installation(s) where associated infrastructure and/or road improvements would occur. Ground disturbance would be proportionate to the scale of the facilities being constructed, and would not be particularly unusual in the context of facility construction projects of similar type and scale that occur with relative frequency at each of the candidate installations.

If an interim and/or permanent site alternative with a higher likelihood for paleontological resources to be present is selected for the Proposed Action, additional surveys for such resources would be conducted prior to ground-disturbing activities, as determined necessary through coordination between the Air Force and the selected installation(s). In the event of inadvertent discovery of previously undocumented paleontological resources during construction of the proposed facilities, all ground-disturbing work would immediately stop, and procedures specified in the selected installation's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan would be implemented to preserve and document the discovery.

Interim site alternatives only involving the use of existing, vacant office space (i.e., Redstone Arsenal Interim Site Alternative 1) would have no potential to disturb geological or paleontological resources.

The Proposed Action does not involve mineral extraction or the ongoing disturbance of geological or paleontological resources. Soils not built on or otherwise developed would be revegetated to minimize or prevent continued erosion. The proposed permanent facility, and to the extent possible, the proposed interim facility, would be built in accordance with seismic reinforcement requirements applicable to the selected locations.

Therefore, short-term impacts on geological and paleontological resources from the Proposed Action would be negligible or minor, and would not be significant. There would be no long-term impacts.

Water Resources (EA § 4.9, page 4.9-1)

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action would not involve redirecting, channeling, damming, draining, spanning, or withdrawals from surface waterbodies; withdrawals or intentional discharge or injection of pollutants to groundwater; or disturbance of the 100-year floodplain.

Contractors would adhere to site-specific erosion and sediment control plans, Stormwater Management plans, and SWPPPs, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, including the applicable requirements of each installation's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, to minimize concentrations of sediments and pollutants in stormwater discharged from the construction sites, and corresponding degradation of water quality in receiving waterbodies.

All areas of the sites not built on, paved, or otherwise developed would be revegetated in accordance with the selected installation's landscape design and planting guidelines; or would otherwise be maintained in a permeable condition to minimize or eliminate the potential for further impacts from erosion of exposed soils and degradation of downstream water quality.

Potential increases in stormwater volume generated on the proposed interim and permanent sites resulting from an increase in impervious surface would be managed in accordance with the policies and requirements of the selected installation's SWPPP and other applicable policy documents, thereby ensuring that runoff from the proposed facilities would have no potential to contribute to exceedances of water quality thresholds in receiving waterbodies. Stormwater management infrastructure on or near the selected permanent and interim modular site alternatives would be installed or upgraded as necessary to account for any additional stormwater volume generated by the proposed facility. Incorporation of low-impact development measures in accordance with Section 438 of the EISA would maintain the pre-development hydrology of the site to the maximum extent technically feasible, further minimizing impacts.

Hazardous materials and hazardous waste used and generated, respectively, during construction and operation of the Proposed Action would be managed in accordance with label directions and the selected installation's applicable policies, including those specified in its Hazardous Waste Management Plan and

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan, thereby minimizing or preventing the migration of hazardous substances to groundwater or receiving surface waterbodies. Adherence to these requirements would prevent or minimize the potential for accidental spills or releases of hazardous substances.

Therefore, short-term and long-term impacts on water resources from the Proposed Action would be negligible or minor, and would not be significant.

Cumulative Impacts (EA § 4.13, page 4.13-1)

The Proposed Action analyzed in this EA would have short- and long-term, negligible or minor cumulative impacts on transportation, hazardous materials and waste, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and water resources. It is anticipated that impacts on those resources from federal and non-federal projects of similar type and scale occurring on and near the selected installation(s) would be similar. Short-term, beneficial cumulative impacts on socioeconomics would occur at all installations except for Vandenberg AFB, which would experience long-term, potentially significant cumulative impacts on socioeconomics and environmental justice due to collective demand on housing. Impacts on environmental justice communities near Vandenberg AFB, if selected for implementation of the Proposed Action, would require mitigation by the Air Force; it is anticipated that such impacts from similar federal and non-federal projects on and near Vandenberg AFB would be similarly mitigated through conditions of development granted by federal, state, and local regulatory authorities.

Mitigation and Environmental Management Actions

The Proposed Action would potentially have significant adverse impacts on socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice populations near Vandenberg AFB if that installation is selected for implementation. Therefore, the Air Force will incorporate one or more of the following mitigation measures in the Proposed Action to ensure such impacts remain less than significant if the Proposed Action is implemented at Vandenberg AFB:

- Develop a plan for identifying and tracking locally available housing options that can help to meet the demand associated with new (out of region) personnel assigned to support long term operations of the proposed action;
- Continue to dedicate staff resources to assist new (out of region) personnel in securing housing;
- Work to identify persons currently living in the region to meet some level of the operational staffing needs; and/or
- Collaborate with public (e.g., cities) and private (e.g., developers) entities in the region that have the capacity and desire to develop new housing.

As stated in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.14, this potentially significant socioeconomic impact would have no interrelated physical environmental effects, and therefore would not require, in and of itself, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

There would be no significant impacts on other resources analyzed in the EA. Therefore, mitigation measures for impacts on those resources would not be required.

To prevent or minimize potential adverse effects on special-status species from the Proposed Action, vegetation clearing required on the selected sites would be conducted outside applicable TOY restriction periods to prevent the removal suitable habitat. Species surveys would be conducted prior to construction if special-status species are suspected to be present on the selected sites, and vegetation clearing must

be conducted during TOY restriction periods. If special-status species are determined to be present, mitigation or avoidance measures would be developed through additional consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or other federal and state regulatory agencies.

Conclusion

Based on the provisions set forth in the Proposed Action, the proposed activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality, and coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. The attached EA and a draft of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available to the public on 24 July 2019 for a 30-day review period.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After review of the attached EA, prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA; CEQ regulations; and 32 CFR Part 989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process, and which is hereby incorporated by reference, I have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment with the incorporation of applicable mitigation measures. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the U.S. Air Force. The signing of this FONSI completes the environmental impact analysis process.

Michelle A. Linn, GS-15, DAFC
Chief, Engineering Division
Command Civil Engineer

Date

Attachment:

Environmental Assessment for Construction and Operation of USSPACECOM Headquarters Facility, Multiple Department of Defense Installations, United States.

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