
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
Headquarters Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) Beddown at One of
Multiple Installations

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500–1508 and the Department of the Air Force (DAF) Environmental Impact Analysis Process Regulations at 32 CFR 989, the DAF has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts on the natural and human environment associated with the Proposed Action to locate headquarters (HQ) of the Strategic Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) at DAF installations in the U.S. The EA is herewith incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to establish a permanent location with necessary infrastructure and functional requirements to support the mission of STARCOM HQ to prepare the USSF to prevail in competition and conflict through innovative education, training, doctrine, and testing. The Proposed Action is needed to provide HQ STARCOM appropriate permanent facilities of sufficient size and configuration to perform its mission effectively. To enhance the mission's ability to withstand challenges, HQ STARCOM must be situated in close proximity to a USSF Delta. Furthermore, there's a requirement for expanded infrastructure and assistance in terms of sufficient on-base accommodations and accessible amenities like medical, dental, and childcare services to cater to the needs of both HQ STARCOM active-duty personnel and their families.

Proposed Action

HQ STARCOM would require 68,599 square feet of facility space and 94,500 square feet of parking area at both the future interim and permanent locations to support approximately 350 authorized positions to be added over a 3-year span. Once DAF identifies a location for beddown of HQ STARCOM, personnel and operations would relocate from current temporary facilities at Peterson Space Force Base to the selected base. Operations at the new location would be conducted out of temporary, reusable, modular components (also known as relocatable facilities, or RLFs) until construction of permanent facilities is completed.

Functions and components of the proposed facilities would include the following:

- Operations center(s);
- Associated offices, conference rooms, and administrative areas;
- Training and exercise space;
- Communications and infrastructure equipment, including the potential installment of antennas;
- Kitchen and dining area;
- Loading dock and shipping/receiving areas; and
- Energy management including electric vehicle charging stations.

Alternatives

The Proposed Action includes construction and operation of permanent facilities for HQ STARCOM at Buckley Space Force Base (BSFB) in Colorado, Patrick Space Force Base (PaSFB) in Florida, Peterson Space Force Base (PeSFB) in Colorado, Schriever Space Force Base (SSFB) in Colorado, and Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) in California.

- **BSFB:** Permanent siting for the HQ STARCOM beddown would occur on a 12-acre area open field located within the Aspen Corridor area of the installation northwest of Building 1005. This alternative would comply with the existing BSFB Installation Development Plan and the Aspen Corridor Area Development Plan. Minimal infrastructure upgrades would be required to accommodate the proposed facilities. During construction of a permanent beddown location, HQ STARCOM personnel would be temporarily located in RLFs to be installed near Patriot Hall, an existing dormitory, until construction of permanent facilities is complete.
- **PaSFB (Preferred Alternative):** The considered site located north of the existing Buildings 984 and 989 encompasses over 6 acres and currently supports communications and utility infrastructure. Initially, HQ STARCOM personnel would conduct operations from a temporary location in the existing Building 560 as-is, with no renovations. Following installation of RLFs in an area planned for future use as a new lodging facility, HQ STARCOM would relocate temporary operations until construction of permanent facilities is complete.
- **PeSFB:** New construction for permanent beddown of HQ STARCOM would be in the Command West area located west of Building 1840. This 4-acre site would be prepared for military construction of a two- to four-story building. HQ STARCOM personnel would be temporarily located in RLFs to be installed on the former site of the commissary and base exchange until construction of permanent facilities is complete.
- **SSFB:** The proposed site at SSFB is a 6-acre vacant parcel of land north of Blue Road, south of a notional extension of Falcon Parkway, and west of Enoch Road/Talon Way. Minimal site preparation would be needed; however, development at this site would require new utility connections to the existing utility corridors paralleling the roads (at a distance of approximately 1,500 feet). Connector roads within the 6-acre footprint would also be required between Blue and Enoch Roads and just east of the perimeter fence line. This alternative would also include a connector road (possibly an east-west extension of Hubble Avenue) bisecting the parcel. HQ STARCOM personnel would be temporarily located in RLFs to be located in the modular facilities campus area near the west side entrance of the restricted area until construction of permanent facilities is complete.
- **VSFB:** Under this alternative, HQ STARCOM would be constructed on an approximately 27-acre lot located on the southwest side of the intersection of 10th Street and California Boulevard. This site, known as California South, has been previously disturbed; the site currently supports three existing parking lots and a concrete slab supporting the temporary site of American Water. During construction of permanent facilities, HQ STARCOM personnel would be temporarily located in RLFs to be installed in the 34-acre Building 11777/Parade Ground area.

This EA has considered a reasonable number of alternatives in accordance with the CEQ regulation, 40 CFR §1502.14(f). Some alternative sites within the locations selected through the Strategic Basing Process were eliminated from detailed analysis for reasons discussed in the EA at section 2.4.

Description of the No-Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed permanent beddown of HQ STARCOM would not occur. Permanent beddown of HQ STARCOM would require DAF Strategic Basing reconsideration and potential further NEPA analysis.

Environmental Consequences

The EA evaluates the existing environmental conditions and potential environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action with regard to air quality and greenhouse gas/climate change, water resources, cultural resources, biological resources, noise, transportation, hazardous materials and waste, and environmental justice and socioeconomics. The DAF has concluded that the Proposed Action

would not meaningfully or measurably affect land use and aesthetics, soil and geological resources, utilities and infrastructure, or public health and safety; thus, these resources were eliminated from detailed analysis. Environmental consequences are summarized below. Full analysis can be found within the EA. As shown in Table 1, implementation of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in significant adverse environmental impacts under any alternative. [Note to Reviewer: These determinations are preliminary in nature and are dependent upon agency consultations which are in process. All concurrences and determinations from pending consultations will be included in the Final FONSI/EA.] Under the No Action Alternative, no changes to baseline conditions would occur.

Table 1. Summary of Potential Environmental Effects from Baseline Conditions

Resource Area	Level of Impact (All Alternatives)	Adverse Impact
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change	Adverse construction impacts to local air quality and greenhouse gas emissions impacts to the climate would be short-term and less than significant. Operations impacts would be less than significant.	Less than significant
Water Resources	Adverse construction impacts would be short-term and less than significant. Operations impacts would be less than significant.	Less than significant
Cultural Resources	Adverse construction impacts would be less than significant (no adverse effect). Operations would have no adverse effect to cultural resources.	Less than significant
Biological Resources	Adverse construction and operational impacts would be less than significant (no adverse effect).	Less than significant
Noise	Adverse construction impacts would be short-term and less than significant. Operations impacts would be less than significant.	Less than significant
Transportation	Adverse construction and operational impacts would be less than significant.	Less than significant
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Adverse construction and operational impacts would be less than significant.	Less than significant
Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics	Adverse effects would be short-term and less than significant. Environmental justice communities in the vicinity of the installations may benefit from certain long-term effects of the Proposed Action, such as increased regional spending and increased job opportunities.	Less than significant

Regulatory Compliance Measures, Design Commitments, and Minimization Measures

Construction and operation of HQ STARCOM facilities at PaSFB would incorporate required lighting management for listed sea turtles per U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion 41910- 2009-F-0087 and Space Launch Delta 45 Instruction 32-7001, Exterior Lighting Management. Section 3.4.2 of the EA presents specific measures that can be taken that will minimize impacts to wildlife. With implementation of these measures, the Proposed Action would have no significant adverse impacts.

Construction and operation of HQ STARCOM facilities at VSFB would incorporate surveys to be conducted during the appropriate season to confirm the presence or absence of fairy shrimp near action alternative sites and incorporate avoidance measures if presence was confirmed.

Any additional mitigation measures identified during pending agency consultations will be included in the final FONSI/EA.

Public Review

The DAF sent early notification letters to federal, state and local governments and federally recognized tribes that are historically affiliated with the geographic region of each AFB on June 13, 2023. DAF received comments from the following stakeholders: Brevard County Natural Resources Management

Department, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida State Clearinghouse, Natural Resources Conservation Service, California Water Boards, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (see Appendix A for comments). The DAF published a Notice of Availability of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI in local newspapers at each alternative site. These documents were available for a 30-day public review and comment period. During the Draft EA public review period, a total of X public comments, from X distinct commenters, were received by the DAF. Copies of all comments are provided in Appendix A of the Final EA with responses as appropriate.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After review of the Final EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, 32 C.F.R. Part 989, and which is attached, I have determined that the proposed establishment of permanent beddown facilities for HQ STARCOM under any analyzed alternative will not have a significant impact on the quality of the natural, cultural or human environment. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of reasonable alternatives that meet the purpose and need. The signing of this FONSI completes the environmental impact analysis process. The final basing decision will be documented in a subsequent basing decision memorandum for record.

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Chief, Space Force Mission Sustainment
(Engineering, Logistics, & Force Protection)

Attachment:

Environmental Assessment for Headquarters Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM)
Beddown at One of Multiple Installations