

Draft
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for an
Environmental Assessment
Addressing Central Campus Development
at Fort Meade, Maryland

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and National Security Agency (NSA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate the potential environmental effects from demolition of relevant existing structure and infrastructure and construction of new operational facilities and upgraded utilities on the NSA's Central Campus at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The EA was prepared in accordance with the requirements and guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (United States Code [USC] Title 42 Sections 4321–4347); DoD Instruction 4715.9 (*Environmental Planning and Analysis*); DoD NEPA Procedures dated June 30, 2025 (Federal Register Volume 90 page 27857); Department of the Army Interim Final Rule for NEPA dated July 3, 2025 (Federal Register Volume 90 page 29450); and NSA's *National Environmental Policy Act Procedures*.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to allow for greater personnel and mission consolidation and effectiveness, along with more efficient land uses throughout NSA's Central Campus. The Proposed Action is needed because the Central Campus currently consists of antiquated buildings that have insufficient utility infrastructure and discontinued operational missions that do not support modernization of NSA space. More efficient use of space would allow for greater mission-oriented organization.

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

DoD and NSA propose to demolish antiquated buildings and utility infrastructure and construct new operational facilities and upgraded utilities on NSA's Central Campus to allow for greater personnel and mission consolidation and effectiveness, along with more efficient land uses. The project area for the Proposed Action contains two parcels: the Troop Support Area (TSA) and the West Campus Parking Structure (WCPS) parcel. The TSA is approximately 31 acres, bounded on the north, west, south, and east by Cochrane, Canine, Emory, and Love Roads, respectively. The WCPS parcel is approximately 13 acres, located northwest of the TSA, near the main entrance to the NSA campus, and bounded on the north and east by Canine Road.

The proposed Central Campus Development (CCD) would include site preparation to include demolition of any relevant existing structures and infrastructure in the TSA, including Buildings 9802 through 9804 (barracks) and 9805 (administrative/office building), Six Hats Dining Hall, Eagle Fitness Center, and T22 and T23 parking lots. Up to four new facilities, including a Cyber National Mission Force (CNMF) Mission Operations Support Facility (MOSF), Consolidated Military Support Facility (CMSF), Integrated Workforce Support Center (IWSC), Well-Being Center (WBC), and surface parking or a parking structure (West Campus Parking Structure [WCPS]) would be constructed. In addition to new facilities, vehicle parking, access roads, sidewalks, life-safety generators, utilities, and related infrastructure would be constructed and installed. Environmental Site Design, including stormwater management facilities, would be installed as required for all facilities and roadways. Additionally, Sigaba Way would be

extended from its current terminus from the east to Canine Road to the west, allowing for direct shuttle bus access from the Main and Central Campuses to the East Campus.

The analyses in the EA consider four alternatives for the Proposed Action, including the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1 would include construction of the MOSF in the northeast portion of the TSA, as well as construction of the WBC in the southeast portion of the TSA. Sigaba Way would be extended to connect the East and West Campuses, bisecting the TSA in an east–west direction. All existing buildings in the TSA would be demolished and the remainder of the TSA would be converted to surface parking. Alternative 2 would include all development proposed under Alternative 1, as well as construction of the CMSF in the southeast portion of the TSA. Structured parking would also replace the surface parking proposed under Alternative 1 in the southwest portion of the TSA. Alternative 3 (the Preferred Alternative) would include all development proposed in Alternatives 1 and 2, as well as construction of the IWSC in the northwest portion of the TSA. Under Alternative 3, the WCPS would be constructed north of the administrative facilities of NSA’s West Campus in an existing surface parking lot.

The No Action Alternative is analyzed to provide a baseline comparison for the Proposed Action and alternatives. Because DoD has identified a need for the Proposed Action (i.e., to meet mission requirements of NSA and the intelligence community), taking no action does not meet the project purpose and need. The No Action Alternative is analyzed to provide a baseline of the existing conditions against which potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative actions can be compared. Under the No Action Alternative, CCD construction would not occur and operations would remain decentralized across the NSA campus and leased facilities off campus.

Summary of Anticipated Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action

Based on the analyses in the EA, which is herein incorporated by reference, it is determined that no significant, adverse effects would be expected on any resource area as a result of the Proposed Action. DoD and NSA would adhere to all agency management plans, policies, and procedures. Short-term, insignificant, adverse effects on land use and visual resources, transportation, noise, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous materials and waste would be expected as a result of construction activities. The effects associated with the construction activities would be short-term and primarily be localized to the immediate area of construction, and would subside following the end of construction activities in that area. All necessary permits and waivers would be acquired prior to commencement of construction activities. Long-term, insignificant, adverse effects on visual resources, transportation, air quality, geological resources, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous materials and waste would be expected as a result of operating the proposed facilities and parking facility or surface parking. Long-term, beneficial impacts would be expected on land use and visual resources, transportation, water resources, sustainability, hazardous materials and waste, and socioeconomics. No impacts on cultural resources are anticipated.

The Proposed Action would not violate the provisions of NEPA; DoD Instruction 4715.9 (*Environmental Planning and Analysis*); or any other federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

Public Review and Interagency Coordination

DoD and NSA distributed the EA to potentially interested federal, state, and local agencies and other stakeholder groups or individuals. The public comment period for the Draft EA and Draft FONSI was September 3, 2025 through October 3, 2025. All response letters will be incorporated as appropriate into the Final EA and FONSI.

Commitment to Implementation

DoD and NSA affirm their commitment to implement this Proposed Action in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. NSA will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the EA.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After a review of the EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and receipt of public comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI, DoD and NSA have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement does not need to 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 that are within the legal authority of DoD, NSA, and Fort George G. Meade.

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