

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for an
Environmental Assessment
Addressing Cyber National Mission Force (CNMF) Facility
at Fort Meade, Maryland

Introduction

The Cyber National Mission Force (CNMF) and National Security Agency (NSA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate the potential environmental effects from construction and operation of a CNMF facility at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The EA was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States Code [USC] Section 4321–4347); the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508), as amended; and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9, Environmental Planning and Analysis.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to consolidate CNMF personnel and operations on the NSA campus and optimize CNMF, U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM), and NSA mission and collaboration. The Proposed Action is needed because the current dispersal of operations across the NSA campus leads to inefficiencies in operations, which does not meet the mission requirements for CNMF, USCYBERCOM, and NSA.

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

CNMF and NSA propose to construct and operate a new 750,000-square foot CNMF Mission Operations Facility (MOF). The footprint of the proposed MOF would be approximately 115,000 square feet with the total square footage distributed between 6 levels and a basement. The height of the facility would be approximately 122 feet above grade, excluding mechanical rooms and utilities located on the roof level. Features within the MOF would include administrative, conference and meeting spaces, operations and operations support areas, support services (e.g. cafeteria fitness center), and loading dock/platform.

The MOF would accommodate 2,500 personnel, including 1,700 currently onsite at Fort Meade and 800 coming from off-site facilities and future growth. The majority of privately-owned and government-owned vehicle traffic is expected to enter the NSA campus via Vehicle Control Points 1, 2, and 6, depending on alternative, which have sufficient capacity to accommodate the future growth.

A parking structure would be constructed to accommodate 90 percent of the personnel located in the proposed MOF, or 2,250 parking spaces, in addition to the number of parking spaces displaced by construction of the parking structure, which would vary by alternative. The number of levels needed in the parking structure fluctuate depending on the alternative. A small percentage of the parking spaces would include level II electric vehicle chargers and space capacity for future additions. Roadway modifications would be included to provide access to the structure.

Four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, were analyzed in the EA. Alternative 1 includes locating the MOF at the site of Building 9899 (Site 1), with associated parking at the proposed West Campus Parking Structure (Site 2). Alternative 2 includes locating the MOF at Building 9899 (Site 1), as discussed under Alternative 1, with associated parking at East Campus Parking Structures 3 and 4, which are currently under or separately proposed for construction and were addressed in previous NEPA documentation. Alternative 3 would include locating the MOF and associated parking on the Mapes Tract (Site 3) on Fort Meade outside of and adjacent to the NSA campus. Alternative 4 includes locating the MOF at 9800 Area North or South (Site 4 or 5) and associated parking near East Campus Parking Structure 3.

CEQ NEPA regulations specify the inclusion of the No Action Alternative in the alternatives analysis (40 CFR Part 1502.14[c]). Because DoD has identified a need for the Proposed Action (i.e., to meet mission requirements of NSA and the Intelligence Community), it is understood that 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, CNMF would not construct the MOF building and associated parking and infrastructure at Fort Meade. USCYBERCOM and CNMF personnel would remain dispersed across the NSA campus using available existing office space, creating inefficiencies in mission objectives.

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. CNMF 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, hazardous materials and waste, and environmental justice 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, water resources, biological resources, infrastructure, hazardous materials and waste, and environmental justice would be expected as a result of operating the proposed CNMF facility and parking structure. Long-term, beneficial impacts would be expected land use and visual resources, transportation, sustainability, 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

CNMF and NSA distributed the EA to potentially interested federal, state, and local agencies and other stakeholder groups or individuals. Public review of the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is being conducted. All response letters will be incorporated as appropriate into the FONSI.

Commitment to Implementation

USCYBERCOM and CNMF affirm their commitment to implement this Proposed Action in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. USCYBERCOM and CNMF 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, CEQ regulations, and receipt of public comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI, CNMF 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 CNMF, USCYBERCOM, NSA, and Fort George G. Meade.

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