

FINAL FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR THE 2017 MASTER PLAN UPDATE AT THE ROWLEY TRAINING CENTER IN BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA [40 CFR 1500-1508 (1986)], the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Directive 023-01, Rev 1, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01 Rev 1, based on the analysis presented in the attached Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Secret Service (USSS) has determined that the 2017 Rowley Training Center Master Plan Update (2017 RTC Master Plan Update) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Purpose and Need: The USSS prepared an EA to analyze the environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update. The purpose of the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update is to propose engineering and architectural direction for the development of a world-class training campus for the USSS. The 2017 RTC Master Plan Update is needed in order to accommodate the renovation of existing structures and newly proposed specialized training facilities that will support the agency's current mission threat trends. Furthermore, the build-out of the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update is needed to support various training programs associated with the agency's role within DHS.

Proposed Action: Although facilities under the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update would be located throughout the RTC, the overall development density on the site would be limited. The intent of the USSS is to retain a low-density campus environment in the future. Currently, RTC has 538 personnel on campus: 298 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (including in-service instructors) and 240 basic training students. Under the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update, the projected RTC population would increase to 700 (460 FTE and 240 training students). The projects and activities included in the Master Plan are as follows: renovation of existing buildings and construction of new buildings; reorganization of the campus into six precincts based on similarity of functions or critical relationships; circulation improvements, including roadway and parking improvements; security enhancements; utility improvements; and stormwater management, wetlands management, and sustainability improvements to serve both the current needs of the RTC campus and the projected needs resulting from the proposed facilities expansion.

Alternatives Considered: Multiple alternatives were analyzed during the planning stages of the project; however, after some alternatives were eliminated from consideration, only two alternatives were carried forward. The two alternatives include the following:

- Alternative A: No Action Alternative – no update of the 2012 RTC Master Plan and continuation of training and administrative functions at the RTC. Under this alternative, the USSS would continue implementation of the projects described in the 2012 Master Plan for the RTC.
- Alternative B: Action Alternative - update of the 2012 RTC Master Plan to accommodate the expanded training program at the RTC through the addition of new specialized training facilities and the renovation of existing structures.

The EA documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Action Alternative (the implementation of the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update), and a No Action Alternative. The USSS has selected the Action Alternative as the Preferred Alternative because it better supports the different and evolving training programs associated with the agency's role in DHS.

Affected Environment and Consequences: The Preferred Alternative would not significantly impact the resource categories analyzed in the EA. A full description of the potential impacts to natural resources and public health and safety resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternative is presented in the EA. To address these impacts, the EA also identifies mitigation measures as well as best management practices (BMPs) for the clearing, grading, excavation, and construction activities that would occur in implementing the projects and activities included in the Master Plan. A summary of the resource categories analyzed, the consequences of the implementation of the Action Alternative, and the mitigation measures identified is presented below.

Table 1: Environmental Consequences and Mitigation of Preferred Alternative

Impact Topic	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation
Land Use and Planning Policies	The Preferred Alternative would result in long-term beneficial impacts on land use within the RTC and negligible impacts on planning policies. Impacts on uses outside of the RTC would be negligible. Implementation of the proposed 2017 RTC Master Plan Update would generally be consistent with applicable federal, State and local plans, policies, and regulations.	None
Socio-economics, Environmental Justice and Protection of Children:	The Preferred Alternative would have no adverse and negligible positive socioeconomic impacts. The Preferred Alternative would not have disproportionate long-term impacts on Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities of Concern near the RTC, nor would it have the potential to disproportionately affect children in the short- or long-term. Implementation of the proposed projects would have a positive economic impact that would continue as each project is implemented. The presence of residential areas that may qualify as EJ Communities of Concern in proximity to the RTC is an unavoidable condition that has been factored into the planning of the proposed projects.	None
Historic and Archaeological Resources:	The Preferred Alternative would result in negligible impacts on historic and archaeological resources. No known historic or archaeological resources are present at the RTC, although the Baltimore-Washington Parkway is adjacent to the RTC. USSS will continue to consult with the Maryland Historical Trust to address visibility issues from the Parkway.	None
Roadways and Traffic Patterns	The Preferred Alternative would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to roadways and traffic patterns due to the proposed relocation of the vehicular entrance to the RTC. USSS will update the traffic study, as needed for the design and construction of the new entrance, and coordinate the possible signalization of the intersection with the appropriate government agencies. Beneficial impacts would occur to the internal roadway network due to the completion of the loop road. The USSS has prepared a transportation management plan (TMP) to increase the proportion of non-single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips by employees and trainees.	<p>USSS will update the traffic study, as needed, and coordinate the signalization of the Powder Mill Road/Springfield Road/ Site access intersection. USSS with the appropriate government agencies.</p> <p>Measures outlined in the 2017 Transportation Management Plan (TMP) will be implemented to the greatest extent practicable.</p> <p>The USSS will update the Transportation Impact Study (TIS) and TMP will be updated at key phases as the master plan is implemented.</p>

Parking:	The Preferred Alternative would have long-term negligible impacts on parking at the RTC. The proposed parking garage would efficiently meet the increased parking demand from the proposed expansion of RTC programs and population.	None
Public Transit	The Preferred Alternative would have no short-term impacts and no or negligible impacts on public transit services operating in the vicinity of the RTC. Increases in ridership on public transit services resulting from increases in RTC personnel would remain within the capacity of those systems.	None
Topography, Drainage, and Soils	The Preferred Alternative would have minor short-term impacts on topography and soils, and negligible short-term impacts on drainage. Construction activities could result in soil compaction and erosion. In the long term, the Proposed Action Alternative would have minor impacts on topography, negligible impacts on drainage and minor impacts on soils, with some beneficial soils impacts. Site preparation activities would alter the topography but would remain consistent with the RTC's gentle to moderate topography. Drainage patterns would be similar to those that currently exist at the RTC. Remediation of lead in soils near the proposed Merletti Building expansion, if necessary, would have a long-term beneficial impact.	<p>Appropriate BMPs will be implemented during clearing, grading, excavation, and construction activities to minimize potential erosion and sedimentation. A contamination monitoring and mitigation program will be implemented during the soil excavation and transport process.</p> <p>An erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented for each project in accordance with MDE regulations.</p> <p>To the degree practicable, areas subjected to cut or fill during development of the proposed facilities will be returned to pre-construction grades.</p> <p>Avoid soil compaction in design of landscape plans, during construction, and maintenance. During construction, heavy equipment will be confined to areas of proposed development. Ground permeability would be improved and exposed soils will be re-vegetated in order to reduce surface/sheet flow of stormwater and thus minimize soil erosion.</p> <p>As part of the construction of the Merletti addition and adjacent Administration Building, soils will be tested to assess potential lead levels. Contaminated soils will be removed by a State-licensed hazardous waste contractor.</p>

Water Resources

The Preferred Alternative would result in minor short-term and negligible long-term impacts on water quality, groundwater, and surface water and long-term adverse impacts to wetlands are anticipated to be minor, as impacts would be limited to small sections of isolated wetlands. The Preferred Alternative would permanently impact 4.46 acres of wetlands at the RTC. RTC will coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to obtain necessary approvals for individual projects affecting wetlands. Road projects would be designed and engineered to minimize impacts to wetlands. BMPs will be followed to minimize the potential for erosion and control the potential for impacts on water quality and aquatic habitat from sedimentation and turbidity. Impacts on surface water resulting from the Preferred Alternative would be limited to a 0.17 acre segment of an ephemeral stream. BMPs would be used to minimize the erosion of exposed soils during construction and the corresponding sedimentation of receiving water. RTC will coordinate with the USACE, MDE, and the MDNR to obtain necessary approvals for individual projects affecting surface water.

In the design of the individual projects, USSS will seek ways to reduce pollutant loads by identifying potential restoration or retrofit opportunities that could be done in conjunction with new development. This will minimize impacts of the projects and decrease the current pollutant loads within the watershed.

During the design phase, USSS will consult with MDE on individual projects to ensure that Tier II waters in the area are not degraded.

If localized perched groundwater is encountered during excavation, appropriate dewatering techniques will be implemented consistent with USACE regulations for erosion, sediment control, and stormwater management.

Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures and stormwater management will be implemented throughout the course of construction and operation of the proposed facilities, consistent with applicable federal, State, and Prince George's County regulations.

Regulated substances will be stored on an impervious area and away from surface water and storm drains.

Potential impacts on wetlands or associated buffer will be subject to federal and/or State review and approval in accordance with Section 404 of the CWA, Maryland Nontidal Wetlands Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. USSS will work with appropriate federal and State agencies to obtain proper permits and authorizations for any alterations.

Project impacts on waters of the U.S., including wetlands, will be mitigated for by complying with the Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule (33 CFR Part 332), as well as stipulations from federal and State resource agencies.

To the greatest extent practicable, roads and parking areas will be routed to minimize their footprint on wetlands, while maintaining vehicular access to the eastern sector of the site for patrol purposes. If road construction through wetlands is unavoidable, mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts. Adequate drainage of the natural surface and groundwater below the roadway would be maintained by either constructing a raised roadway or using culverts and drains to assist water movement. The roadway will also be constructed in such a way that stormwater is able to drain away from wetlands, thereby minimizing an influx of additional water and pollutants. To the greatest extent practicable, disturbance to vegetation will be minimized during construction of the roadway and disturbed areas would be re-vegetated with native vegetation of similar composition and structure as the surrounding vegetation.

Heavy equipment will be confined to proposed development areas during construction.

<p>Vegetation</p>	<p>Long-term adverse impacts on vegetation resulting from the Preferred Alternative would be moderate. Approximately 76 acres of vegetation would be removed as a result of the 2017 RTC Master Plan. Forest impacts would require MDNR approval of a Forest Stand Delineation and Forest Conservation Plan. The phased implementation; reforestation of areas of the RTC where feasible; and limiting tree and vegetation removal would further minimize impacts on trees and vegetation at the RTC.</p>	<p>Where feasible, development will be concentrated in unforested areas or at the perimeter of the forest.</p> <p>Limit forest removal to the footprint of buildings and necessary driveways, roads, and parking lots.</p> <p>No removal or disturbance of forest habitat will occur during April-August, the breeding season for most forest interior dwelling species (FIDS).</p> <p>Afforestation and reforestation measures will be implemented to the extent practicable consistent with the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (1991; as amended 1993 and 1994).</p> <p>Afforestation efforts to offset impacts on removal of forests associated with the development under the master plan will target riparian areas less than 300 feet wide, and gaps or peninsulas of non-forested habitat.</p> <p>Native trees and landscaping will be planted to supplement existing vegetation throughout the site. New vegetation would be introduced for each acre removed from the campus. Tree vegetation to be retained on-site will require protection measures (i.e. tree protective fencing) during construction.</p> <p>Noxious weeds and non-native invasive plant control will be implemented through the RTC forest management plan.</p> <p>To the extent practicable, the forested wetlands and their buffers throughout the property will be protected, as they are identified as high-priority retention areas performing valuable water quality functions.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would result in long-term minor adverse impacts. A total of 76 acres would be cleared to accommodate the proposed projects. Extensive amounts of similar habitat would remain on the RTC property and at the adjacent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. No federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species are known to exist on the site. Several State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species have been identified within the Beaverdam Creek watershed, but their likely habitat would not be disturbed.</p>	<p>To the extent practicable, limit forest removal to the “footprint” of buildings and only what is necessary for placement of roads and driveways.</p> <p>Implement a planting program to reduce potential loss of wildlife habitat</p> <p>Focus afforestation efforts on streamside areas lacking woody vegetation to help minimize effects of habitat loss to FID bird species.</p> <p>Consult with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service as specific projects of the Master Plan are implemented.</p>

<p>Noise</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative could result in short-term minor adverse noise impacts to sensitive receptors due to construction activities. There is the potential for long-term, but intermittent, moderate adverse impacts from noise due to expanded training activities proximate to the residential uses. During the design of potentially noise-producing training venues, the impact of noise generated by the new development will be studied and potential mitigation measures identified. To the extent feasible, training activities along the northern perimeter road and within the northern woods will be limited to daytime hours. During the design of a perimeter fence, the incorporation of a noise barrier wall will be studied.</p>	<p>During the design of potentially noise-producing training venues, the impact of noise generated by the new development will be studied and potential mitigation measures identified.</p> <p>To the extent feasible, training activities along the northern perimeter road and within the northern woods will be limited to daytime hours.</p> <p>A double perimeter security fence is proposed under the RTC 2017 Master Plan; during the design of the fence, the incorporation of a noise barrier wall as part of the inside perimeter would be studied.</p> <p>USSS will continue to coordinate with adjacent property owners to address ongoing noise issues.</p>
<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>The implementation of the Preferred Alternative would have minor short-term and long-term impacts on air quality. Construction activities would generate fugitive dust and emissions of criteria pollutants from construction-related equipment and vehicles. Impacts would be minimized through the use of standard BMPs and the implementation of the projects over several years. Emissions would remain at or below regulatory thresholds and would not contribute to the deterioration of regional air quality. The Preferred Alternative would generate a negligible increase in vehicle traffic to and from the site.</p>	<p>The following BMPs will be used to minimize fugitive dust generated during construction activities: wetting or vegetating soils that would be exposed for extended periods; covering equipment used to convey fill or excavated soils; and promptly removing spilled or tracked dirt from paved areas.</p> <p>Construction contractors will be required to maintain their gas- and diesel-powered equipment in good working order, and to minimize idling when equipment is not being actively used.</p> <p>Adherence to NCPC parking ratios will minimize the number of employee-owned SOV traveling to and from the RTC each day.</p>
<p>Utilities</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would have long-term beneficial impacts to the water supply and electrical distribution systems due to system upgrades and negligible impacts on the sewage collection and natural gas distribution systems.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Stormwater Management</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative could have short-term minor adverse construction-related impacts to stormwater due to increased sediment flows. Long-term impacts to stormwater are anticipated to be beneficial, as existing deficiencies would be remedied. Pursuant to Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, RTC will implement "green infrastructure" or "low impact development" stormwater management strategies.</p>	<p>BMPs will be implemented during construction in order to minimize sediment loads in stormwater runoff.</p> <p>USSS will coordinate with MDE through the detailed design of individual projects to facilitate the implementation of ESD to the extent practicable and to ensure stormwater management controls meet established requirements and that post-development runoff characteristics mimic pre-development characteristics.</p> <p>As detailed design progresses for individual elements of the 2017 RTC Master Plan Update, USSS will consider additional soil testing as necessary to determine suitability of underlying soils for specific stormwater management elements.</p>
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>The construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure as part of the Preferred Alternative would have short-term minor adverse impacts on site sustainability due to the use of equipment and vehicles that burn fossil fuels. There would be minor long-term adverse impacts. In addition, utility improvements would result in greater energy efficiency, resulting in beneficial impacts. Pursuant to Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, RTC will implement management strategies to improve sustainability.</p>	<p>None</p>

Hazardous Materials	<p>The Preferred Alternative would have minor short-term and long-term impacts on hazardous materials. Construction activities in the vicinity of the Merletti Building and the new Administration and Classroom building have the potential to disturb contaminated soils. The increased scope of weapons training activities and cleaning may result in an increased volume of hazardous waste generated at the RTC, but compliance with hazardous waste management requirements will minimize the potential for adverse impacts. Excavated soils will be tested prior to reuse elsewhere on the site and any contaminated soils will be disposed of by a State-licensed hazardous waste contractor, minimizing the potential for adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Soils excavated in the vicinity of the Merletti Addition and new Administration and Classroom Building will be tested prior to reuse elsewhere on the site and any contaminated soils would be disposed of by a State-licensed hazardous waste firm.</p> <p>The USSS will consult with the MDE regarding hazardous wastes to ensure activities are being conducted in compliance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations.</p> <p>USSS will coordinate with the MDE to ensure that the installation and maintenance of an above-ground or underground petroleum storage tank is in accordance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations</p> <p>USSS will coordinate the removal of above-ground or underground petroleum storage tanks, their contents, and associated contamination with MDE as projects are implemented.</p> <p>Solid waste generated through the implementation of specific projects of the Master Plan will be disposed of at a permitted solid waste acceptance facility or recycled.</p> <p>Contracts specifying “lead paint abatement” will comply with Code of Maryland Regulations 26.16.01- Accreditation and Training for Lead Paint Abatement Services.</p>
Coastal Zone Management	<p>USSS will submit individual projects and comply with the Federal Consistency Review in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.</p>	<p>None</p>

Public Outreach: The SEA was made available for review and comment for a 30-day period. Notices on the availability of the document and the comment period were distributed to the stakeholder list. USSS received four responses on the SEA, including from the Maryland State Clearinghouse. Attachment 1 lists the comments received; the mitigation measures identified in response to these comments are included in Table 1.

Findings and Conclusions: Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant impacts on the resources analyzed within the EA and no further analysis or documentation, such as the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, is required. USSS does not anticipate receiving further information that would change its assessment of no significant impact to resource areas. In the event that unexpected issues arise, USSS may issue additional NEPA documentation as appropriate. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted.



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Date



Mr. Clarence T. Laster
Special Agent in Charge
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Date

Committer	Comment
<p>Maryland Department of the Environment</p>	<p>Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks must be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations.</p> <p>If the proposed project involves demolition -Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks that may be on site must have contents and tanks along with any contamination removed.</p> <p>Any solid waste including construction, demolition and land clearing debris, generated from the subject project, must be properly disposed of at a permitted solid waste acceptance facility, or recycled if possible.</p> <p>The Waste Diversion and Utilization Program should be contacted directly at (410) 537-3314 by those facilities which generate or propose to generate or handle hazardous wastes Any contract specifying "lead paint abatement" must comply with Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.16.01 - Accreditation and Training for Lead Paint Abatement Services.</p> <p>Accordingly, MDE's Brownfields Site Assessment and Voluntary Cleanup Programs (VCP) may provide valuable assistance to you in this project.</p> <p>During and post construction enhanced BMPs or additional controls, potentially above those minimally required, should be utilized to protect high quality Tier II stream resources.</p>
<p>Maryland Department of Natural Resources</p>	<p>This project could potentially impact an unnamed tributary to Beaverdam Creek and Beaverdam Creek proper. Both of these streams are classified as a Use I streams. Generally no instream work is permitted in Use I streams during the period of March 1 through June 15, inclusive, during any year to protect spawning fish. Please note that it currently appears that the updated plans would not affect either of these two streams. If this is the case, then the Use I Time of Year restriction would not be required.</p> <p>In addition there are several Sensitive Species Project Review Areas located on the west and east sides of the property in addition to a Wetlands of Special State Concern on the East side of the property. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service should be further consulted to see if they have any additional comments concerning further development of the site.</p> <p>Beaverdam Creek and its tributaries support many resident fish species documented by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey. MBSS data can be accessed via the MDDNR web page at http://streamhealth.maryland.gov, allowing access to resource surveys in neighboring tributaries</p>