

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1. Name of Action. Proposed expansion of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Facility for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Ga.

2. Description. The Center is proposing to expand the existing ATF Facility from 3 office trailers up to a maximum of 8 office trailers, one additional septic tank, and will provide an additional parking area for ATF employees. The new trailers (approximately 1,755 square feet each) would be located in a wooded area adjacent to the three existing ATF trailers. The trailers would be used for ATF offices.

3. Alternatives. Due to the limited scope and the nature of the proposed expansion to the ATF Facility, there were no practicable alternatives other than the No Action alternative.

4. Anticipated Environmental Impacts. The proposed action would not impact any Federally listed (endangered, threatened, or candidate) species. There are no wetlands on the proposed site. The site has been recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The site has no potential to yield significant information about the area's prehistory and no diagnostic material or subsurface features were discovered. Should the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office concur with the recommendation, no avoidance or mitigation of this site will be necessary. A slight increase in storm water runoff would be expected by the creation of paved surfaces and the new structures.

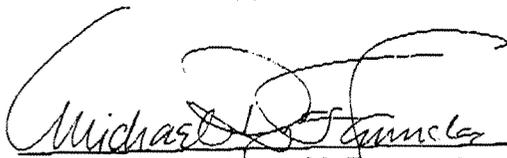
5. Mitigation. The proposed action would have only minor environmental impacts. Project mitigation would consist of appropriate measures for control of erosion and storm water runoff, use of best management practices, incorporation of recycled porous asphalt for paved area of project, and planting grass around the trailers and parking area.

6. Finding of No Significant Impact. The enclosed Environmental Assessment was prepared and evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). I have concluded that the proposed expansion of the ATF facility, does not constitute a "major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment" when considered individually or cumulative in the context of the referenced act including both direct and indirect impacts. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

7. Public Comment. Copies of this Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been distributed to agencies, elected officials, organizations, and individuals who have expressed interest in the project. In addition, a news release announcing these documents was issued. There were no comments received that were averse to this proposed action.

8. Point of Contact. Comments and inquiries for further information about this EA and FONSI should be directed to Mr. David Walker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PD-E), P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, telephone (912) 652-5793.

Reviewed and Approved by



Mr. Michael R. Hanneld, Deputy Associate Director
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

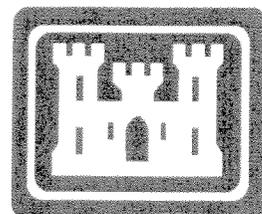
May 2001
DATE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**EXPANSION
OF
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS FACILITY
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
CENTER GLYNCO, GEORGIA**



Prepared by: Planning Division
Environmental Resources Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
April 2001



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE EXPANSION OF
THE
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIRE ARMS FACILITY
FLETC, GLYNCO, GEORGIA

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- 7. Public Comment.** Copies of this Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are being distributed to agencies, elected officials, organizations, and individuals who have expressed interest in the project. In addition, a news release announcing these documents was issued.

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Reviewed and Approved by

Mr. Michael R. Hanneld, Deputy Associate Director
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

DATE

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR THE EXPANSION OF
THE
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIRE ARMS FACILITY**

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco, Georgia is the nation's leading organization for interagency training of Federal law enforcement personnel. Its mission is to provide high quality, cost-effective training to the Federal Government's law enforcement officers and agents. Currently, 74 Federal agencies participate in training at the FLETC. This Environmental Assessment (EA) follows the guidelines and regulations established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the standards and procedures for implementing those regulations as described on the Department of Treasury Directive of 1990 (Treasury Directive 75-02, Department of Treasury Environmental Quality Program). This EA describes those environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Location

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco is located in Glynn County in southeast Georgia. The Center is proposing to expand the existing ATF Facility, which is located in a wooded area west of Gate #10 (see figures 1 & 2; Appendix A).

Description and Need of the Proposed Action

The Center is proposing to expand the existing ATF Facility from 3 office trailers up to a maximum of 8 office trailers, one additional septic tank, and will provide an additional parking area for ATF employees (Jones 2001). Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the detailed drawings of the additional parking area and 6 additional trailers (2 more may be added in the future). This environmental assessment includes the entire project impact area for the site shown on figure 3 and additional area for adding 2 trailers, which may be added in the future. The project impact area would consist of 58,211 square feet for trailers and parking. The pad for the trailers will be earth. The area will be filled to grade and proof rolled (Kretzschmar 2001).

The proposed construction would provide new office space for the ATF personnel and students attending FLETC. The existing office space is currently inadequate. Currently,

ATF has two separate locations on FLETC. This expansion would allow consolidation of the ATF Facility into one location improving logistics and the efficiency of the ATF staff (Daugherty 2001). This expansion would also improve circulation by eliminating traffic flow back and forth between the two units.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives to the proposed location of the original ATF Facility (consisting of the existing 3 trailers and parking area) have been assessed in the EA and FONSI for the proposed ATF Facility (USACE 2000a). Due to the limited scope of the proposed action and the subsequent impacts, the No Action Alternative was the only alternative considered.

No Action Alternative

Inclusion of the No-Action Alternative is prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations as the benchmark against which Federal actions are evaluated. Under the no action alternative, the proposed expansion of the ATF Facility would not occur at FLETC and additional office space would not be provided for ATF's employees and staff. The current and future ATF Facility needs and requirements would not be met and the existing facility would be substandard. This alternative would not solve the problem of the current need to train more students and personnel with limited facilities. No action would not allow consolidation of the ATF Facility into one location and would not improve circulation by eliminating traffic flow back and forth between the two units.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Physical Setting

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glyngo is located in Glynn County in southeast Georgia, 3 miles north of Brunswick, Georgia. The climate is mild with hot humid summers and abundant yearly rainfall. Brief frost and freeze events occur in winter. Snowfall is rare, occurring on average less than once per year.

The topography on all of the project sites are relatively flat with little or no slope with elevations ranging from 14 to 20 feet above mean sea level (USGS 1956).

During the 1997 assessment for the construction of building 93 (3,300 feet south of proposed project site), groundwater was encountered approximately 3 feet below the surface during geo-technical testing (USACE 1997). The drainage ditch located along the south edge of the site is deep enough (3-4 feet) to intercept groundwater and contained standing water during the site visit on May 1, 1997 (USACE 1997). The proposed site is approximately 6 meters above mean sea level (msl) and the site of building 93 is approximately 4 meters above msl (USGS 1956).

Biological Features

The site proposed for the expansion of the office trailers is a forested area of planted pine trees approximately 20 years old. The stand is primarily composed of slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*). The trees are well spaced with an average diameter of 12 inches at breast height. The sparse understory is composed primarily of small water oaks (*Quercus nigra*), red bay (*Persea borbonia*), and Carolina jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). The ground is covered with a layer of pine needles 1 to 2 inches thick.

There are no wetlands on this site. The nearest wetland area is located approximately 200 feet south of the proposed site. This area is identified as Wetland #1 in the FLETC Facility Wide Wetland Delineation (USACE 1996). The site is not located within floodplains (FEMA 1994).

A list of Endangered and Threatened Species for Glynn County is enclosed in Appendix C. The project site contains no habitat suitable for listed species. The trees in the planted pine stand are not mature enough (approximately 20 years old) to contain nesting trees for the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). The project site contains no habitat identified as critical habitat for an endangered species.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials have not been stored or used at the existing ATF facility (Daugherty 2001). ATF staff (Daugherty 2001) are not aware of any spills of hazardous materials within the project impact area.

A 1989 site survey conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE 1989 and 2000b) on the former Glynco Naval Air Station did not identify any hazardous waste or ordnance near the site of the proposed action.

There were no indications observed of hazardous conditions within project impact areas during this site investigation (USACE 2001).

Cultural Resources

An archeological survey of the proposed project area was conducted by the Savannah District of USACE. One prehistoric ceramic scatter was discovered. The National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 coordination is ongoing.

Traffic Circulation

Due to security concerns, all non-commercial traffic entering and exiting FLETC is restricted to one gate only (Behrend 2000). In emergency evacuations, additional side gates may be opened to facilitate evacuations (Jones 2000). Currently, there are no significant circulation problems on the Center.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Physical and Biological Features

Protected species would not be affected by the proposed project. The sites contain no listed species or critical habitat. The proposed construction site for the office trailers would be cleared of trees and shrubs to accommodate for the new offices and parking area. An area of 58,211 square feet would be completely cleared of vegetation. Approximately 200 merchantable pine trees would be harvested in the pine plantation.

No wetlands were identified within the project impact area during the site visit (USACE 2001) or in the basewide wetland delineation (USACE 1996). Incorporation of standard erosion controls during construction (i.e. silt fences), would protect the wetland area to the south of the proposed construction site.

Cultural Resources

One prehistoric ceramic scatter is located within the bounds of the proposed project boundary. The site has been recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The site has no potential to yield significant information about the area's prehistory and no diagnostic material or subsurface features were discovered. Should the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office concur with the recommendation, no avoidance or mitigation of this site will be necessary.

Social and Economic Features

The proposed project would provide the additional office space needed for the ATF staff.

Traffic Circulation

This expansion of the AFT Facility would allow consolidation of the ATF Facility into one location improving the efficiency of the ATF staff. This expansion would also improve circulation by eliminating traffic flow back and forth between the two locations.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The creation of paved surfaces and construction of structures would normally increase storm water runoff on the proposed construction site. However, the use of porous asphalt would mitigate the impacts by allowing percolation of water through the entire paved surface area. The other portion of the project impact area that would impact storm water runoff would be the surface area of the trailers, but would only consist of 7,128 square feet. The proposed action would be conducted in compliance with the Master Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for FLETC (QST 1999).

Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The proposed project would include disturbance of approximately 1.33-acres of land. The opportunity to enjoy or use the existing wooded area would be lost due to decisions to manage the resource for another purpose. However, the planted pines in this area were planted for eventual harvesting.

Cumulative Impacts

No significant cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action and other past, present, and foreseeable actions have been identified. These project impacts, when combined with impacts from the original ATF Facility consisting of 3 trailers, would not be significant.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures would be included in the project:

- incorporate standard erosion controls during construction, such as silt fences to protect adjacent areas.
- Planting of trees, shrubs, and grass after construction.
- protect adjacent trees and their root system from machinery and construction equipment and activities.
- Incorporate use of recycled porous asphalt for paved area of project to allow percolation of water and mitigating storm water runoff.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A copy of the draft EA has been sent (Appendix D) to US Fish and Wildlife Service, Brunswick Office, requesting their opinion with our determination of no impacts to Endangered Species. Previous consultation with this office for a similar project in the same facility has been done and they have concurred with our determination of no impacts.

Section 106 coordination (Appendix D) with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer to obtain their concurrence with our determination of no effects to historic properties or cultural resources from the proposed construction is on-going.

Construction permits and other state/county permits that need to be obtained prior to construction are the responsibility of FLETC and/or its contractors.

REFERENCES

Behrend, Dave. Assistant Chief of Security and Investigative Services (SIF) at FLETC. Personal communication regarding the security of entrance/exit gates at FLETC facility. April 20, 2000.

Daugherty, Bob; and Hankins, Craig (912/267-3495). ATF Staff at FLETC. Personal communication regarding use and storage of Hazardous Materials at the site of the ATF Facility. March 12, 2001.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 100-year Flood Map #2 130092 0227 Glynn County, GA. April 4, 1994.

Jones, James M. Senior Environmental Protection Specialist at FLETC. Personal communication, March 30, 2000.

Jones, James M. Environmental Specialist, FLETC. Site visit and meeting. Feb 27, 2001.

Kretzschmar, Rick. FLETC Project Engineer. Coorespondence regarding Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA). March 12, 2001.

Messick, Denise P. *A Historic Structures Survey of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynn County, Georgia*. New South Associates Technical Report 527. Report submitted by New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. 1999.

QST Environmental, Master Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for FLETC, September 1996; revised January 1999.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Planning Division, Savannah District. Defense Environmental Restoration Program – Inventory Project Report for the former Glynco Naval Air Station. December 1989.

USACE. Facility Wide Wetland Delineation, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia. Planning Division, Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. December 5, 1996.

USACE, Planning Division, Savannah District. EA for Construction of Administration Building 93 at Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Glynco, Georgia. December 5, 1997.

USACE. Environmental Assessment and FONSI for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Facility at FLETC. Glynco, Georgia. January 2000.

USACE, Planning Division, Savannah District. Defense Environmental Restoration Program – Inventory Project Report for the former Glynco Naval Air Station. December 2000.

USACE, Planning Division, Savannah District. Site investigation of ATF Facility.
February 27, 2001.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Brunswick East Quadrangle, Georgia. (7.5-minute
series topographic map). 1956.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES

APPENDIX B

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
SPECIES
GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Protected Species in Glynn County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Mammals			
<i>Balaena glacialis</i>	Right whale	E	E
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	E	E
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern bat	SC	N
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	West Indian manatee	E	E
Birds			
<i>Aimophila aestivals</i>	Bachman's sparrow	SC	R
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	T	T
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson's plover	N	R
<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Kirtland's warbler	E	E
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	Southeastern American kestrel	N	E
<i>Haliaeetus L. leucocephalus</i>	Southern bald eagle	T	E
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American oystercatcher	N	R
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	E	E
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded woodpecker	E	E
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least tern	N	R
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed tern	N	T
<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	Bachman's warbler	E	E
Reptiles			
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead sea turtle	T	T
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green sea turtle	T	T
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback sea turtle	E	E
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Eastern indigo snake	T	T
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill sea turtle	E	E
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	SC	T
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	Kemp's ridley sea turtle	E	E
<i>Ophisaurus compressus</i>	Island glass lizard	SC	N
Amphibians			
<i>Rana areolata aesopus</i>	Florida gopher frog	SC	SC
<i>Rana capito capito</i>	Carolina gopher frog	SC	SC
Fish/Shellfish			
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose sturgeon	E	E
<i>Elliptio spinosa</i>	Altamaha spiny mussel	SC	N
Plants			
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	Pondspice	SC	T
<i>Plantago sparsiflora</i>	Pineland Plantain	SC	N
<i>Sageretia minutiflora</i>	Climbing buckthorn	N	T
<i>Tillandsia recurvata</i>	Ball-moss	N	T

E – Endangered T - Threatened R – Rare N - None SC - Species Management Concern
 Source: The information in this table was updated by FWS in Feb 2000.

APPENDIX C

NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces on behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Facility at FLETC, Glynn County, GA.

Comment period will extend 30 days from the date of this publication. This document is available for review at the Glynn County Public Library. For more information contact Mr. James Jones, FLETC Senior Environmental Specialist, at 912-267-3322.

APPENDIX D

COORDINATION LETTERS



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 889

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

April 4, 2001

Planning Division

Greg Masson, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brunswick Field Office
4270 Norwich Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31520-2523

Dear Dr. Masson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has enclosed for your review a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed expansion of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Facility at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynn County, Georgia.

The proposal is discussed in detail in the enclosed draft EA and FONSI. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, I have evaluated the potential impacts of the construction of this facility on any threatened and endangered species occurring on the site.

Because of the limitations of available habitat for listed species and the lack of evidence of red-cockaded woodpecker activity near the project sites, we have concluded that there would be no impact to listed species from the proposed action.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, I request you review this document and provide any comments that you may have within 30 days. If you have any questions concerning this proposed action, please contact Mr. David Walker, at (912) 652-5397.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
DAVID A. COLEMAN

David A. Coleman
Chief, Environmental
Resources Branch

~~WALKER PD-E~~ *DW*
~~COLEMAN PD-E~~ *DAc*

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 889
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

April 4, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Planning Division

Glynn County Public Library
208 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31523

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find an Environmental Assessment for the proposed expansion of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Facility at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia. A Public Notice has been published on April 4, 2001, in the "Brunswick News" announcing the availability of the Environmental Assessments for public review.

We request you maintain this document available for review until May 6, 2001. If you need additional information, please contact Mr. David Walker, Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (912) 652-5793 or Mr. James Jones, Environmental Specialist, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, at (912) 267-3322.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
DAVID A. COLEMAN

David A. Coleman
Chief, Environmental
Resources Branch

~~WALKER PD-E~~ *DW*

~~COLEMAN PD-E~~ *DC*

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 889
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

March 27, 2001

Planning Division

W. Ray Luce, Ph.D.
Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
156 Trinity Avenue, SW., Suite 101
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600

Dear Dr. Luce:

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Glynn County, Georgia, is proposing to construct a temporary office site with parking for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Working in consultation with FLETC, Savannah District has applied the Criteria of Effects as stated in 36 CFR 800.5 and determined the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties. The following summary documentation is supplied for your review:

- a. A description of the proposed undertaking;
- b. A description of the efforts made to identify historic properties in the undertaking's areas of potential effects;
- c. Effects on historic properties; and
- d. A map showing the area of potential effect.

A report detailing the archaeological investigation is included with the above supporting documentation. Please review the enclosed materials and provide any comments to this office within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Julie Morgan, Environmental Resources Branch, at (912) 652-5492.

Sincerely,

David A. Coleman
DAVID A. COLEMAN
David A. Coleman
Chief, Environmental
Resources Branch

~~MORGAN PD-E~~ *JM*
~~COLEMAN PD-E~~ *DC*

Enclosure

Project: Construction of 6-8 trailers in ATF Compound, FLETC, Glynn County, GA

1. Project Description: The FLETC, Glynco, Georgia, is proposing to add temporary offices and parking to the existing ATF compound. This project would entail clearing vegetation, grading to a level surface, and placing 6-8 trailers on dirt pads. Recycled asphalt will be used to construct a parking area and an access road. A septic tank with drainage field and underground utility lines constitute the major subsurface earth disturbing activities. Utilities will tie into existing utilities and be routed along road easements.

2. Efforts to Identify Historic Properties: An archaeological survey was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. Shovel tests were used to identify and evaluate historic properties within the area of potential effect. One archeological site, 9Gn287, was located. This site consisted of one prehistoric, plain, sand-tempered ceramic. The site has been recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This report is submitted with this letter.

A historic building inventory was conducted in 1998. Two historic districts were identified (Messick 1999).

3. Effects on Historic Properties. This project will have no effect on historic properties. One site, 9Gn287, lies within the proposed project area. This site has been recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Neither of the historic building districts is located near, nor visible from, the proposed project area. The districts will not be affected by the proposed construction of the ATF offices.

Citation:

Messick, Denise P.

1999 *A Historic Structures Survey of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynn County, Georgia.* Prepared by New South Associates, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Submitted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Savannah, Georgia.

Maps:

1. Site Plan for Trailers at ATF. Area of potential effect outlined in pink.
2. FLETC, Expansion of ATF Facility.