ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER
GLYNCO, GEORGIA

Prepared by: Planning Division
Environmental Resources Branch
May 1997

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
APPENDIX A

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT


2. Description. The project would involve the construction of a new administration building on the east corner of the intersection of FLETC Avenue and Memorial Drive. This site is northeast of and immediately across FLETC Avenue from the existing administration building. The one-story building would be approximately 20,000 square feet (200 by 100 feet). The long axis would face FLETC Avenue. An asphalt parking lot would provide spaces for 111 vehicles. Access to the site would be from FLETC Avenue on the southwest and from Training Street on the southeast.

3. Alternatives. Alternatives considered included (1) the proposed action, (2) other location, and (3) no action.

4. Anticipated Environmental Impacts. The proposed action would not impact any federally listed species (endangered, threatened, or status review) species. There are no wetlands on the proposed site. There are no known cultural resources located within the project area that have been listed or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, the proposed action would have no impact on cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties. The proposed action would adversely impact 1.5 acre of wooded area. Trees and grass would be removed for the construction of the new administration building. An increase in storm water runoff would be expected by the creation of paved surfaces and new structures.

5. Mitigation. The proposed action would have only minor environmental impacts. Project mitigation would consists of appropriate building location to minimize impacts to the existing drainage ditch, appropriate measures for control of erosion and storm water runoff, use of best management practices, and planting of grass and trees after construction of building 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 construction of a new administration building and parking area 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 the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact will be distributed to agencies, elected officials, organizations, and individuals who have expressed interest in the project. In addition, a news release announcing these documents will be issued.

8. **Point of contact.** Comments and inquiries for further information about this EA and FONSI should be directed to Mr. Brad Foster, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PD-E), P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, phone (912) 652-5833.

Reviewed and Approved by

[Signature]

James M. Jones
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
BUILDING 93, FLETC
GLYNCO, GEORGIA

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 1

PURPOSE AND NEED 1

Location

Description and Need for Proposed Action

ALTERNATIVES 1

Alternative 1 - No Action

Alternative 2 - Site near Building 28

Alternative 3 - Proposed Action

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT 4

Physical Setting

Biological Features

Social and Economic Features

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES 7

Physical and Biological Features

Social and Economic Features

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Cumulative Impacts
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
BUILDING 93, FLETC
GLYNO, GEORGIA

Introduction
The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glyno, 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, 71 federal agencies participate in training at the FLETC (Environmental Assessment, Master Plan, FLETC, 1992). 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. 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 Glyno is located in Glynn County in southeast Georgia (see Figure 1). The proposed construction of the new administration building would be located northeast of FLETC Avenue (see Figure 2).

Description and Need for Proposed Action. The administrative and support staff at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) has grown substantially in the last 10 years in response to increases in mission and training loads. The growth of this staff has exceeded the capacity of the main administration building, Building 94, forcing several offices to be located throughout the FLETC complex. Many offices are located in facilities which are too small or in old buildings which pose asbestos and indoor air quality risks to personnel. A new administration building would consolidate safety and environmental, finance, procurement, security, and other offices from many scattered locations into one location. The personnel would work in a modern, spacious, healthful and more comfortable environment.

Alternatives
Alternative 1, No Action. Under this alternative, no new construction would occur. The various administrative and support offices would continue to operate in their current locations. This alternative does not address the problems of the inefficiencies of having offices scattered throughout the FLETC complex and the problems of small and inadequate working conditions.

Alternative 2, site near Building 28. A new administration building would be constructed on a site between Building 28 and a softball field (Figure 2). This alternative would consolidate
several administrative offices and improve working conditions. This alternative was rejected as a site for a new administration building because it is located far from the existing administration building, Building 94. In addition, this site is needed for a different proposed construction project. This other facility must be located in this area of FLETC so that it would be adjacent to other buildings where related activities are performed.

**Alternative 3, Proposed Action, site near Building 94.** The preferred site for construction of a new administration building is on the east corner of the intersection of FLETC Avenue and Memorial Drive (see previous Figure 2). This site is northeast of and immediately across FLETC Avenue from the existing administration building. The one-story building would be approximately 20,000 square feet (200 by 100 feet) (Figure 3). The long axis would face FLETC Avenue. An asphalt parking lot would provide spaces for 111 vehicles. Access to the site would be from FLETC Avenue on the southwest and from Training Street on the southeast.

After construction is completed, the building would be occupied by the Safety and Environmental, Finance, Procurement, sections of Security, and possibly other offices. Only current employees would use the new building. No significant increases in the number of personnel at FLETC are expected.

**Affected Environment**

**Physical Setting**
The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynnco is located in Glynn County in southeast Georgia, 3 miles north of Brunswick, Georgia. The facility contains 1,580 acres. 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 proposed new administration building would be placed on an approximately 2.8 acre site bounded by Memorial Drive, FLETC Avenue, Training Street, and a drainage ditch. The entire site is managed by groundskeeping staff of FLETC.

The topography of the site is flat and the elevation of the site is approximately 15 feet above mean sea level (USGS 1956). The highest point of the site is only 2 to 3 feet above the lowest point, near the edge of the drainage ditch located along the north and northeast sides of the site. The ditch is 3 to 4 feet deep.

Groundwater was encountered approximately 3 feet below the surface during geotechnical testing (Atlanta Testing & Engineering 1997). The drainage ditch located along the edge of the site is deep enough to intercept groundwater, and contained standing water during the site visit on May 1, 1997.

**Biological Features**
Slightly over one-half of the site, approximately 1.5 acres, contains a stand of trees. This stand is primarily composed of slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). These trees range from 12 to 25 inches diameter at breast height. Three pond cypress trees (*Taxodium*
ascendens) grow near the edges of the stand. Poison ivy (Toxicodendron radicans) vines are commonly growing up the trunks of the pine trees. The ground is covered with pine needles and only a small amount of grass. There are no shrubs or other herbaceous vegetation.

The remaining 1.3 acres is turf grass, which is found in an approximately 100 foot wide band adjacent to the drainage ditch. The drainage ditch contains standing water. The width of the surface of the water ranges from 2 to 5 feet and is wider at east end of the ditch. The leaves and flowers of water lilies (Nymphaea odorata) cover most of the surface of the water. Mosses are abundant along the bank of the ditch and turf grass dominate the upper edge of the bank of the ditch. This ditch and bank is not jurisdictional wetlands subject to provisions of the Clean Water Act (Padgett 1997). The drainage ditch is part of a man-made system of drainage ways which transfer water eastward off the facility. The immediate destination of the ditch is a forested wetland east of FLETC Avenue and north of Beltsville Road, identified as Wetland #5 in the FLETC Facility Wide Wetland Delineation (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1996).

A list of protected species in Glynn County was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The list contains 34 species, but the project site contains habitat suitable for only one of these species, the red-cockaded woodpecker (Picoides borealis). All of the pine trees on the site were visually inspected for cavities or cavity starts. None of the trees contained evidence of red-cockaded woodpecker activity. There are no known red-cockaded woodpeckers within one-half mile of the project site, or any other location on FLETC (Ozier 1997). The site contains no habitat identified as critical habitat for an endangered or threatened species.

Social and Economic Features
The archive research reveals that site surveys conducted on the former Glynco Naval Air Station did not identify spills of petroleum products, hazardous wastes, or ordnance on the proposed construction site. A geotechnical exploration of the site did not identify any contamination, landfill debris, or any other cause for concern (Atlanta Testing & Engineering 1997). The project engineer has no knowledge that a building has ever been located on the site (Sanchez 1997). No other sites besides the airfield area have been indentified with hazardous waste material. A hazardous and toxic waste removal project was conducted on the airfield area, now the Glynn County Airport, located north of FLETC. The HTRW project was completed in 1987.

Cultural Resources
The Glynco Naval Air Station was established on this site in 1942 and operated as a training facility until it closed in 1973. FLETC relocated from Beltsville, MD to Glynco in 1975 after the base was declared surplus. FLETC acquired 1,580 acres in the southern part of the NAS, while the remainder was transferred to the city for use as an airport. In addition to the land, the Department of Treasury obtained 123 buildings on the main station, 62 housing units, and 31 townhouses. Real estate records generally describe these structures as temporary wooden, World War II buildings and more modern.

Several administrative offices are housed in buildings at various locations on FLETC. The Safety and Environmental office is currently in Building 379, Finance is in Building 94,
Procurement is in Building 28, and sections of Security are in Building 1. A new administration building is included in the facilities master plan for FLETC (Sanchez 1997).

There are no known cultural resources located within the project area that have been listed or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Environmental Consequences**

**Physical and Biological Features**
All of the trees in the 1.5 acre stand would be removed and replaced by the administration building. Most of the 1.3 acres of turf grass would be replaced by the parking areas for the new building. Ornamental trees would be planted at the perimeter of the parking area and grass would be planted on all areas of exposed or disturbed soil.

A small part of the parking lot would be placed over a section of the drainage ditch. During construction, two parallel culverts, each 120 feet long and 3 foot in diameter, would be placed in the ditch. The dimensions of the culverts were selected in order to carry the expected high volume of water under the parking lot. No wetlands would be dredged or filled.

Protected species would not be affected by the proposed project. The site contains no listed species or critical habitat.

**Social and Economic Features**
The new administration is included in facilities master plan and therefore would be compatible with the plan.

There would be no change in number of personnel at FLETC. Automobile traffic would decrease since the location of the new administration building would be closer to the main entrance of FLETC than most of the locations currently occupied by the offices which would be transferred.

**Cultural Resources**
A reconnaissance level investigation of the project area identified no cultural resources. Glynco Naval Air Station maps illustrate the area as a vacant lot as does the 1956 Brunswick East, GA 7.5 minute series USGS topographic map. There are no WWII era buildings that will be visible from Building 93. The duplexes in the navy family housing area northeast of the proposed project site are less than 50 years old. They have retained little of their original fabric or integrity. Construction of Building 93 will have no effect on historic properties.

**Unavoidable Adverse Effects**
The 1.5 acre of wooded area and the turf grass area would be impacted by the proposed action. Trees and grass would be removed as a consequence of the proposed action. The creation of paved surfaces and construction of structures would increase storm water runoff on the proposed construction site. Similar impacts are expected if these actions were taken at another location.
Irretrievable Commitment of Resources
The proposed project would include disturbance of approximately 2.8 acres of land. Of this, 1.5 acres are wooded. The opportunity to enjoy or use the existing resource (wooded and grass areas) would be lost for a period of time due to decisions to manage the resources for another purpose.

Cumulative Impacts
No significant cumulative operational impacts associated with the proposed action and other foreseeable actions have been identified.

Mitigation Measures
The following mitigation measures would be included in the project:
• locate the building as close to the existing roads as possible and as far from the drainage ditch as possible
• incorporate standard erosion controls during construction, such as silt fences and hay bales to protect the drainage ditch.
• plant trees and grass after construction of building and parking area.

Consultation and Coordination
Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species and with the Georgia Historic Preservation Office on cultural resources has been initiated and will be completed for the project (see Appendix B). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurs with our determination of no impact to Federally listed species/critical habitat.

Additional consultation/coordination would be required with the local authority or state authority as appropriate for approval of an erosion and sedimentation control plan prior to construction.
References and Persons Consulted


USGS. 1956. Brunswick East Quadrangle, Georgia. (7.5-minute series topographic map).
APPENDIX A

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1. **Name of Action.** Proposed construction of administration building for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco.

2. **Description.** The project would involve the construction of a new administration building on the east corner of the intersection of FLETC Avenue and Memorial Drive. This site is northeast of and immediately across FLETC Avenue from the existing administration building. The one-story building would be approximately 20,000 square feet (200 by 100 feet). The long axis would face FLETC Avenue. An asphalt parking lot would provide spaces for 111 vehicles. Access to the site would be from FLETC Avenue on the southwest and from Training Street on the southeast.

3. **Alternatives.** Alternatives considered included (1) the proposed action, (2) other location, and (3) no action.

4. **Anticipated Environmental Impacts.** The proposed action would not impact any federally listed species (endangered, threatened, or status review) species. There are no wetlands on the proposed site. There are no known cultural resources located within the project area that have been listed or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, the proposed action would have no impact on cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties. The proposed action would adversely impact 1.5 acre of wooded area. Trees and grass would be removed for the construction of the new administration building. An increase in storm water runoff would be expected by the creation of paved surfaces and new structures.

5. **Mitigation.** The proposed action would have only minor environmental impacts. Project mitigation would consist of appropriate building location to minimize impacts to the existing drainage ditch, appropriate measures for control of erosion and storm water runoff, use of best management practices, and planting of grass and trees after construction of building 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 construction of a new administration building and parking area 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 the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact will be distributed to agencies, elected officials, organizations, and individuals who have expressed interest in the project. In addition, a news release announcing these documents will be issued.

8. **Point of contact.** Comments and inquiries for further information about this EA and FONSI should be directed to Mr. Brad Foster, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PD-E), P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, phone (912) 652-5833.

Reviewed and Approved by

______________________________
James M. Jones
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 889
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889
June 2, 1997

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:
Planning Division

Mr. Mark R. Edwards, Chief
Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department
of Natural Resources
500 The Healey Building
57 Forsyth Street, NW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) located in Glynnco, Glynn County, Georgia, is proposing the construction of a new administration building. Acting on behalf of FLETC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, has applied the Criteria of Effect and Adverse Effect found in 36 CFR 800.9 to this undertaking and determined that the construction will have no effect on historic properties as none are located within the area of potential effects. The following summary documentation is supplied for your review:

A description of the new administration facility;

A description of the efforts made to identify historic properties in the undertaking’s area of potential effects;

A map showing the area of potential effect.

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 of our Environmental Resources Branch at (912) 652-5492.

Paul S. Metz, Jr.
Chief, Environmental Resources Branch

Enclosure
DETERMINATION OF
NO EFFECT

FLETC, Glynco, Georgia

1. Project Description and Location. FLETC is currently proposing the construction of a new administration building (Bldg 93) which will be located across from the existing administration building (Bldg 94). During the past 10 years the administrative and support staff at FLETC has increased substantially. This expansion in personnel has exceeded the capacity of the current building. Therefore, FLETC requires a an additional administration building. The proposed building will be a one-story structure, measuring approximately 20,000 ft$^2$ (200 x 100 ft). The long axis will parallel FLETC Avenue.

    Presently the proposed project location is a pine stand with an open understory that contains sparse azalea bushes and occasional grass. The trees appear to be 25-30 years old. There is a drainage ditch that bounds the project site on the west and north sides; Training Street abuts the project area on the southeast side. Northeast of the proposed site is an old naval family housing complex that is now used as a practical training area.

2. Efforts to Identify Historic Properties. The facility was originally established in 1942 as the Glynco Naval Air Station (NAS) and was used primarily as a training facility. Property was acquired for the NAS between the years 1942 and 1959. Although most of the buildings were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s, construction continued through 1973. FLETC acquired the southern part of the NAS in 1975 when the base was declared surplus. In addition to the land (1,602 ac), FLETC acquired 123 buildings on the main station, 62 housing units, and 31 townhouses. Real estate records generally describe the transferred structures as temporary wooden, WWII buildings and more modern.

    Several NAS structures still stand on the FLETC campus. Most of the buildings have been renovated extensively for reuse or are in a state of disrepair and ready for demolition. One group of renovated NAS structures is the navy housing area which lies northeast of the proposed project area. These one-story duplexes exhibit vinyl siding as well as new windows. The
duplexes are presently used in training exercises and some house medical and research laboratories. Little of their original fabric or integrity is intact. A map of the Glynco NAS shows a ballfield near the proposed project area, but no associated buildings. Most likely this area served as a buffer zone between the housing and administrative areas. The buildings located northwest of the proposed project area have been constructed since 1975.

Few archeological surveys have been conducted on the FLETC campus. Prior to expansion in 1992, Phase I investigations were conducted in site specific areas. These areas included the firing ranges, the athletic fields, the driving facility, and the area northwest of the navy housing (Taylor Anderson Architects 1992). No cultural resources were located in any of these areas. In addition, Julie Morgan, Savannah District archeologist, performed a walkover of the project area, supplementing the inspection with subsurface testing. No artifacts were recovered. This reconnaissance was conducted on 21 May 1997.
May 19, 1997

Mr. M.J. Yuschishin
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
P.O. Box 889
Savannah, Georgia 31402

RE: FWS Log 4-4-97-304
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia

Dear Mr. Yuschishin:

Thank you for your May 14, 1997, letter regarding the proposed construction of a new administration building and parking lot on 2.8 acres at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Construction would require clearing approximately 1.5 acres of slash and loblolly pine (with scattered pond cypress) and 1.3 acres of turf grass.

The Corps determined that the project will not impact Federally listed species/critical habitat under the Service's purview. We concur with that determination. Requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied. However, obligations under the Act must be reconsidered if (1) the project is modified in a manner not considered in this assessment; (2) a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the project; or (3) new information indicates that the project may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not considered.

Please contact staff biologist Robin Goodloe at (912) 265-9336 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

J. Mitch King
Field Supervisor
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND PARKING AREA
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER
GLYNGO, GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA

To Whom it May Concern

Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announces on behalf of the Federal law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) the completion and public availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of a new administration building and parking area in the center in Glynn County, Georgia. These documents were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

In accordance with part 1501.4(e)(1) of Title 40 of the Code of Regulations, we are making the EA and FONSI available to the interested public. Anyone wishing to review the EA and FONSI may do so at the Glynn County Public Library located at 208 Gloucester Street, in Brunswick, Georgia, during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Anyone wishing to comment on the EA must do so within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Comments and requests for information should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: PD-E (Mr. Brad Foster), Savannah District, P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, telephone (912) 652-5833.

M. J. Yuschishin
Chief, Planning Division