

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF P-614
SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING GROUP (SOTG) BATTLE COURSE, 41 AREA AT
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Marine Corps Order (MCO) P5090.2A, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) gives notice that a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared for the construction of a P-614 SOTG Battle Course in 41 Area at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton (Base), California. Based on the analysis provided in the SEA, I find that the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact on the human environment and, therefore, an EIS is not required.

Background. The Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for P-614 SOTG Battle Course proposes to construct a new tactical automated range/urban sniper range and related facilities northwest of Range 130. A FONSI was signed on September 22, 2009 and a design-build construction contract was awarded shortly thereafter. As a result, the construction contractor reviewed the project and determined that modifications were necessary to the original design. In addition, through the course of reviewing the modifications, it was determined that the location of one of the original gnatcatcher (CAGN) points was located within the action footprint of the selected alternative rather than slightly outside, as depicted in the FEA. Those modifications and corrections resulted in an increase of 4.2 acres of impacts to occupied CAGN habitat. The revised total permanent impacts to occupied CAGN habitat is 13.8 acres, an increase from the 9.6 acres of impacts identified in the FEA.

Additional modifications outside the Scope and Footprint include: water for construction and dust abatement; 3 miles of an above ground temporary water line; 1 million gallon temporary construction water reservoir; temporary water towers; booster pumps; and an increase in cubic yards of cut and fill soil from 700,000 to 1,300,000.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action consists of the construction and operation of a 270-degree range, control room/observation tower with environmental control, two-story sniper house with multiple firing positions, bench canopy attached to the sniper house, moving infantry and stationary target emplacements, two-story facade, known distance (KD) target carriages, technical operating manuals, and concrete pad (for portable toilets). Additionally, the Proposed Action includes construction of drainage structures that would connect with existing drainage structures and redirect stormwater from the surrounding hillside around the new range; utilities connections and upgrades to existing electrical facilities; transformers; safety chain link fencing; night lighting; lateral limit signs with power outlets for thermal imaging connectors; a flagpole with a warning beacon, telephone and public address system; a paved access road connecting to the existing concrete road near Range 130 and extending to the Battle Course; a stabilized gravel access road on the Battle Course; a three-stall paved parking area, and a two-stall gravel parking area.

Purpose and Need: A SEA is required to evaluate environmental impacts associated with the correction of and modifications to the original FEA.

Summary of Environmental Effects: The SEA describes and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the changes and corrections to the Proposed Action. A full range of environmental issues were evaluated. Implementation of the modified Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to any resource area and will comply with all regulatory requirements. The SEA found that significant impacts to

biological resources will not occur based on implementation of environmental protection measures, including avoiding impacts on federally listed, regionally sensitive, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected species, and restoration of areas disturbed by grading and construction. Regarding listed species, an amendment was made to the previously issued U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion, the terms and conditions of which the USMC will fully comply. An amendment to the archaeological survey resulted in the discovery of historic properties. Previously, no known historic properties were found within the original footprint. The change in footprint and addition of the temporary waterline has been previously surveyed as part of the Basewide Utilities Infrastructure EIS. The results of that survey identified two archaeological sites. One site was considered to be ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the other was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but assumed to be destroyed. No adverse effect on cultural resources would be anticipated from carrying out the proposed changes. Air quality impacts associated with the modified Proposed Action were evaluated and emissions were found to: (1) not exceed any conformity de minimis threshold for the San Diego Air Basin; and (2) not be regionally significant. A Record of Non-Applicability for Clean Air Act General Conformity requirements has been prepared and approved for this project. There are no significant cumulative effects associated with this project. The modified Proposed Action will impact 0.66 acre and 9,621 linear ft (2,932 m) of non-wetland Waters of the U.S., requiring authorization under a Clean Water Act Section 404 Individual Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

Findings: There will not be any disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects from the action on minority or low-income populations. Nor will there be any impacts associated with the protection of children from environmental health risks and safety risks.

The SEA and FONSI addressing this action are on file and may be reviewed by interested parties at the place of origin: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base (Attn: Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security), Camp Pendleton, California 92055-5010, telephone (760) 725-4512.



O. A. JAMAL
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton
By direction of the Commanding Officer

28 Jan 2011

Date