

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**FOR**  
**CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN URBAN OPERATIONS VILLAGE**  
**JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, WASHINGTON**

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Yakima Training Center (YTC) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of an Urban Operations Village (UOV) at JBLM YTC, Washington. The EA analyzed effects from the construction and operation of this training facility.

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

In order for Soldiers to support the Army mission and conduct urban combat operations effectively in wartime, they must maintain technical and tactical proficiency through effective training. Army forces must be prepared to operate in the full spectrum of today's operational environments, including urban environments found in the Middle East. JBLM YTC provides areas that are similar in topography to the terrain encountered in the current Afghanistan theater of operation. This action will provide urban operations facilities necessary to support the training of Army warfighters in techniques to secure, identify, detect and operate within urban environments that replicate terrain and scenarios encountered in the current theater of operation. This training will provide warfighters with advanced, realistic and rigorous operational experience and enhance combat readiness.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

JBLM YTC proposes to construct, operate and maintain a UOV facility in the eastern portion of Training Area (TA) 2 to support advanced and realistic urban operations training. The complex will be located on the north side of North Doris Road with a footprint of 400 feet by 400 feet. The UOV facility will consist of container modules configured into a complex of one- and two-story structures, sited topographically to replicate contemporary urban combat settings. Specifically, the complex will be sited along an existing travel route and contain 27 modular structures surrounded by 770 feet of simulated courtyard walls. The walls will be up to eight feet tall and constructed of pre-cast concrete. Stationary Infantry and Armor Targets and Moving Armor Targets may be placed around the structures. Training will be centered on tactics to secure, identify, detect and operate within an urban environment as found in the current theater of operation.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Potential alternatives to the proposed activities were evaluated and compared to the Proposed Action. Five potential sites were considered in TAs 1, 2, 16 and 10. Only one of these sites (the Proposed Action) satisfied all screening criteria, and the remaining four sites contained limitations that prevented them from being carried forward into detailed analysis. The No-Action alternative was also considered, as required by NEPA.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

The EA analyzed potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No-Action alternative on resources described in the *Environmental Consequences* section of the EA. Analysis revealed that impacts from the proposed action range from negligible to moderate, with the potential to

reduce moderate impacts to minor through the use of existing best management practices and management plans. The construction and operation of an Urban Operations Village in TA 2 will have less than significant impacts on the surrounding natural and human environment at JBLM YTC. Resource areas evaluated and determined not affected by this project, include but are not limited to: socioeconomic and environmental justice, human health-protection of children, solid waste, ground water, noise, utilities, and hazardous materials/waste. One comment was received inquiring about contamination near the project site. In consideration of this comment, a review was conducted and no documentation of contamination in the project area was located. A summary of the resource areas with potential impacts is presented below.

**Summary of Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>
Air Quality	No Change	Operation of a UOV would generate particulate matter (fugitive dust) and emissions from training and vehicles. Impacts would be negligible and short-term in nature and occur at or below levels already experienced from training operations. No overall impacts to air quality would result from the Proposed Action.
Geology/ Topography/Soils	No Change	Minor, short-term construction-related impacts (e.g., compaction and reduced permeability) would occur at and around the site as a result of the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Minor compaction and erosion of soils could occur during operation and maintenance activities. Overall impact would be less than significant.
Surface Water Quality	No Change	Overall impacts to surface water as a result of the proposed action would be negligible and less than significant.
Wildland Fire Management	No Change	Wildland fire impacts associated with construction activities are negligible and short-term in nature, and result from the operation of vehicles and equipment and other human sources of ignition. Standard best management practices and operational constraints (management plans) would be used during training and maintenance operations, and impacts from these operations would be negligible. Overall impacts to wildland fire management are less than significant.
Cultural and Historic Resources	No Change	The project site has been surveyed and is not located near any known historic or cultural sites. The closest known site with evidence of human occupation is over 1.5 miles from the project location with the Cantonment Area being an additional 23 miles to the southwest. No impacts to cultural and historic resources would result from the training and operation of the UOV facility.
Upland Vegetation	No Change	Direct but minor impacts to upland vegetation would result from construction activities and the associated permanent loss of a relatively small (less than four acre) area of upland vegetation. Minor, indirect impacts would occur during the training and operation activities, including from use of overlook sites during training. Overall impacts to upland vegetation are less than significant.
Riparian Vegetation	No Change	No riparian vegetation is present within the proposed site. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to riparian vegetation would occur.
Wildlife/Fish	No Change	Although the proposed action is relatively small in scale, given the permanent loss of intact stiff sagebrush/Sandberg Bluegrass habitat, its associated direct effects of displacement/disturbance, and the indirect effects of increased potential for fire and noxious weeds, the intensity of impacts of the proposed action on wildlife species is considered moderate. The overall impact to wildlife species is less than significant.
Threatened &	No Change	Determinations of "no effects" have been made for all Federal listed

**Summary of Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative**

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
Endangered Species		species (threatened, endangered, candidate) analyzed within this document primarily due to the absence of species and suitable habitat within the proposed project area.
Infrastructure	No Change	The proposed action would not require any new roads or electricity, sewer or water connections. The UOV facility would add structures to provide training opportunities Impacts to infrastructure are minor and beneficial.

**MITIGATION**

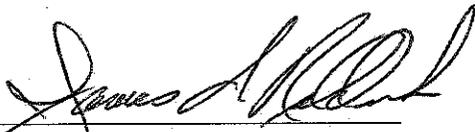
Mitigation measures may be used to alleviate potential environmental impacts that may be significant. No mitigation is warranted for offsetting the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action.

**CONCLUSION**

As described in the EA, impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) from the proposed action, when considered with other past present, or reasonably foreseeable proposed actions, range from negligible to moderate, and results in an overall finding of no significant impacts for this proposed action.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

After carefully considering the results of the analysis in the EA, I find that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment or generate significant controversy. This analysis fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), as well as the requirements of the Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). Therefore, issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is warranted and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.



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Date