Environmental Impact Analysis Process

Environmental Assessment for Munitions Buildings

United States Air Force
Air Education and Training Command
Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi

January 2006
The purpose of the proposed action is to construct a multi-cube storage building and a maintenance/inspection building on Columbus AFB. This EA evaluates the Proposed Action, Alternative Actions, the No Action Alternative and the cumulative impacts. The Alternative Actions were dismissed because of increased maintenance costs, safety and security issues. The No Action Alternative would result in no changes to the environment, but would also not provide basic storage, and maintenance/inspection of munitions. Resources considered in the impact analysis were land use, air quality, hazardous materials and wastes, surface water, wetlands, flood plains, wildlife, vegetation, and environmental justice. No significant impacts would result from the Proposed Action, Alternative Action, or No Action Alternative, nor would there be any cumulative impacts from other construction actions rumowiced for Columbus AFB.
A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the construction of two munitions buildings, a maintenance/inspection building and a munitions storage building at Columbus AFB. Columbus AFB is approximately ten miles northwest of the city of Columbus in Lowndes County, Mississippi. The current buildings which would require considerable repairs were constructed 40 years ago and are seriously deteriorated. They are no longer functional for munitions maintenance/inspection and storage.

The Proposed Action is to construct two buildings. Other alternatives considered were: repair the existing structures, install portable buildings in the munitions area, and the No Action Alternative of continuing to use the existing buildings. The two action alternatives (repair the existing structures and install portable buildings) were dismissed from the environmental assessment because of increased maintenance requirements, and design requirements. The No Action Alternative would result in no changes to the environment, but would also not provide facilities which meet the requirements of security or space for inspection, maintenance, and packing of munitions.

The western and northwestern area of the base is within the 100-year flood plain. The munitions area is within the 100-year flood plain area. The buildings are to be built within the current munitions area and, therefore, would be in the 100-year flood plain. Therefore, there is no practicable alternative to the Proposed Action.

Measures to prevent adverse environmental impacts to the flood plain would be taken by limiting disturbed areas during construction. All construction activity would last only a few days in any specific area. Before the buildings are installed, the area would be grade-cleared and filled. No measurable impact on flood plain, flood flows or drainage patterns would result from the Proposed Action since the construction site is inside a raised road that encircles the munitions area. The road was constructed above the flood plain elevation. In addition no grubbing or filling activities would occur within or adjacent to any wetlands.

There are no threatened or endangered species on base, and impacts to wildlife and vegetation would be minor. There would be no wastewater discharged into the flood plain or wetlands, and no generation or disposal of hazardous wastes would occur within the wetlands or the flood plain zone. Air quality and noise impacts would only occur during construction and would be short-term. Air quality around Columbus AFB is in attainment, and a conformity determination pursuant to the Clean Air Act is not required.
The draft EA and draft FONPA/FONSI were made available to the public for a 30-day comment period from September 21 through October 21, 2005, as required by 32 CFR Part 989.15 (e) (2). No comments were received.

Finding Of No Practicable Alternative: Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and taking the above information into consideration, I find there is no practicable alternative to this action and the Proposed Action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the existing environment. In accordance with Executive Order 11988, Section 2(a)(2), the Columbus AFB Environmental Flight has sent notices to Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the State of Mississippi, State Clearinghouse for Federal Programs.

LEONARD A. PATRICK, Colonel, USAF
The Civil Engineer
Air Education and Training Command

Finding Of No Significant Impact: Based on my review of the facts and analysis contained in the environmental assessment, which is attached and incorporated by reference, I conclude the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact either by itself or considering cumulative impacts. Accordingly, the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, regulations promulgated by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 (Environmental Impact Analysis Process) have been fulfilled, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and would not be prepared.

STEPHEN W. WILSON, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing
Cover Sheet
Environmental Assessment for
Munitions Buildings

- Responsible Agency: Department of the Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), Lowndes County, Mississippi.

- Proposed Action: To construct a multi-cube storage building and a maintenance/inspection building within the munitions storage area within the Columbus AFB property line.

- Written comments and inquiries regarding this document should be directed to: 14 FTW/PA, 555 Seventh Street, Columbus AFB, Mississippi 39710, (662) 434-7068 on or before 31 September 2005.

- Abstract: The purpose of the proposed action is to construct a multi-cube storage building and a maintenance/inspection building on Columbus AFB. This EA evaluates the Proposed Action, Alternative Actions, the No Action Alternative, and the cumulative impacts. The Alternative Actions were dismissed because of increased maintenance costs, safety and security issues. The No Action Alternative would result in no changes to the environment, but would also not provide basic storage, and maintenance/inspection of munitions. Resources considered in the impact analysis were land use, air quality, hazardous materials and wastes, surface water, wetlands, flood plains, wildlife, vegetation, and environmental justice. No significant impacts would result from the Proposed Action, Alternative Action, or No Action Alternative, nor would there be any cumulative impacts from other construction actions announced for Columbus AFB.
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Chapter 1

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action
Chapter 1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to construct buildings that would serve as a storage building and a consolidated munitions maintenance and inspection building. Munitions personnel would perform surveillance inspections of munitions to determine and identify serviceability, potential hazards and possible deterioration. The existing buildings have serious shortfalls: leaking roofs, failing mortar, inoperable doors, and security issues. Munitions cannot be left in the current facilities overnight due to security issues. One of the current buildings does not meet the inhabited building distance (IBD) requirements set forth in Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 91-201 for class 1.1 munitions (explosives) and class 1.2.2 munitions (explosives that produce fragments).

The Proposed Action is needed because the existing storage buildings are no longer usable for proper storage and the two munitions maintenance/inspection facilities; one is too small to be used for all maintenance/inspections and the other requires considerable repairs to maintain its usability.

1.2 Location of the Proposed Action

Columbus AFB, the home of the Air Education and Training Command’s (AETC’s) 14th Flying Training Wing (14 FTW), is located in Lowndes County, approximately ten miles northwest of the city of Columbus (Figure 1.2-1). The installation is approximately 4,930 acres. The Tombigbee River is located one mile northwest and the Buttahatchee River is approximately 1,000 feet north of the base. Single-family homes and mobile trailer communities are immediately east of the base, U.S. Highway 45 is to the east and southeast, and the Oakdale Park Subdivision and mobile home parks are to the south. The affected environment includes Columbus AFB and the surrounding properties described above.
Location of Columbus AFB

Figure 1.2-1
1.3 Scope of the Environmental Review

The full spectrum of resource categories was considered in this EA. However, some topics are evaluated in more detail than others. A preliminary analysis conducted for this EA determined the following issues would not impact, or be impacted by, the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative. Therefore, these topics were eliminated from further discussion for the reasons given below.

Air Quality: The base is located in an area that is in attainment for air quality. The munitions buildings would have no additional effect to air emissions.

Land use: The current land use in the proposed action area includes grass covered and undeveloped property. The land was previously disturbed during the construction of the original munitions storage area. There would be no change to the land use.

Ground Water, Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment: The proposed construction site overlies one unconfined ("superficial") and three confined aquifers. The unconfined aquifer is uppermost and is associated with alluvial deposits of the Pleistocene Series. The aquifer’s thickness is approximately 20 to 30 feet, with the water table being approximately 10 feet below the surface. TCE contaminated groundwater exists in the proposed area but would not be affected by construction (Appendix H). The water supply for Columbus AFB is from the city of Columbus municipal water supply and the sanitary sewer from the base is treated at the city of Columbus wastewater facility. There would be no impacts to the groundwater, water supply or wastewater treatment.

Wetlands: The US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted a wetlands delineation for the entire base. The delineation was certified by the US Army Corp of Engineers, Mobile District, 31 May 02. The construction would not be located within any of the delineated wetland areas.

Noise: The primary noise source at Columbus AFB is from aircraft operations. Aircraft activities include specialized undergraduate pilot training, aircraft maintenance and transient military aircraft operations. During periods of no flying activity at Columbus AFB, noise results primarily from aircraft maintenance and shop operations, ground traffic movement, occasional construction and similar sources. This noise is almost entirely restricted to the base itself and is comparable to sounds that occur in typical communities. Baseline noise conditions from aircraft operations at Columbus AFB are defined using the Air Force developed NOISEMAP (Version 6.5) modeling program. This model indicates the proposed action would occur between the 65- and 80-decibel noise contours for Columbus AFB (USAF, 1998). Any increase in noise levels during the construction would be of limited duration and would not change the current noise maps.

Prehistoric and cultural resources: There are no identified prehistoric and cultural resources at Columbus AFB. There are two cold war significant structures on the
property, the SAC Alert building and the SAC parking ramp. Neither of these structures will be affected by this action.

Soils: Columbus AFB soils are moderately well to poorly drained silt and clay loams of the Prentiss Rosella Steens and Cahaba Prentiss Guyton associations. These soils are characteristic of river terrace and flood plain deposits. This project would occur in previously disturbed areas modified by prior construction and would not change the soils.

Threatened and Endangered Species: A 1993 Nature Conservancy field survey found no endangered, threatened or special status species on the base.

The following resource categories are evaluated in detail in this EA: military mission, hazardous materials and wastes, surface water, flood plains, wildlife, vegetation and environmental justice.

1.4 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

Potential regulatory permits applicable to the Proposed Action are listed below.

Development Permit: Issued by Lowndes County for actions which take place within the 100-year flood plain. The Permit is issued for construction that takes place within the 100-year flood elevation. Lowndes County is the local administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and issues a Development Permit based on location and effect on flood plain and flood way (Appendix F).

Storm Water Permit: Issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for actions which disturb an area of one or more acres. Along with the permit, a storm water pollution prevention plan would be required.

Finding of No Practicable Alternative: Because construction would take place within the 100-year flood plain, a Finding of No Practical Alternative in addition to the Finding of No Significant Impact must be prepared and forwarded to HQ AETC/CE for review and approval.

The Proposed Action may require additional permits and amendments to existing permits. Columbus AFB would coordinate permit requirements identified by the construction contractor during the project.

1.5 Introduction to the Organization of the Document

This EA is organized into four chapters. Chapter 1 contains a statement of the purpose of and need for the action, the location of the Proposed Action, the scope of the environmental review, applicable regulatory requirements and a description of the organization of the EA. Chapter 2 provides a history of the formulation of alternatives, briefly describes the alternatives eliminated from further consideration, describes the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative, lists other actions anticipated at Columbus
AFB and summarizes the environmental impacts. Chapter 3 contains a general
description of the biophysical resources and baseline conditions that potentially could
impact, or be impacted, by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. Chapter 4 is
an analysis of the environmental consequences. Appendix A lists preparers of this
document. Appendix B lists persons and agencies consulted in the preparation of this
EA. Appendix C is a list of source documents referenced in the preparation of the EA.
Appendix D contains Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental
Planning correspondence. Appendix E contains the Air Force Form 813, Request for
Environmental Impact Analysis.

1.6 Public Involvement

Columbus AFB published a notice of availability in the Columbus Commercial Dispatch
announcing the opportunity to comment on this EA. The draft EA was made available
for public review for 30 days, beginning on Sept. 21, 2005, in the Columbus-Lowndes
County Public Library. No public comments were received.
Chapter 2

Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives
Chapter 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

This chapter has seven sections: this introduction, a history of the formulation of alternatives, identification of alternatives eliminated from further consideration, a detailed description of the Proposed Action, a description of the No Action Alternative, identification of other actions announced for the base and a comparison of the environmental impacts of all alternatives.

2.2 History of the Formulation of Alternatives

A number of criteria were used in developing alternatives to the Proposed Action. These criteria include (a) security, (b) safety and (c) compliance with Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDES) requirements.

2.3 Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

Several alternatives were considered, but were determined not to be viable. They are listed below, along with the reasons why they were rejected.

**Repair Current Buildings:** The current buildings have deteriorated to the point that repair is no longer practical. Even if the buildings were repaired, they would not meet the current DDES design requirements. This alternative does not meet criteria a, b and c.

**Install portable buildings:** There are no portable buildings approved by the DDES Board. This alternative does not meet criteria b and c.

2.4 Detailed Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to build two new buildings within the current munitions area of the base. Normal construction equipment would be used. The existing buildings would be removed. The new buildings would be built to meet the requirements of the Air Force Munitions Facilities Standards Guide, Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDES) and AFMAN 91-201. The proposed construction site is located within the 100-year flood plain. Most of the western half of Columbus AFB is located in the 100-year flood plain (Appendix F). Except for those areas which are also determined to be wetlands, the flood plain area is approximately 1,550 acres.

2.5 Description of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is to continue to repair the existing structures. The buildings do not meet the inhabited building distance (IBD) requirements set forth in AFMAN 91-201 and do not provide security and protection of federal property and resources.
2.6 Other Actions Announced for Columbus AFB

Five actions are considered in this EA for cumulative impacts.

(1) A T-6 contractor-operated and managed base supply (COMBS) warehouse is currently under construction and would continue through 2005. Repair/ Renovation to the center runway would begin late 2005 and be completed during 2005. A Fire/Rescue Station would be under construction starting in the last quarter of 2005 and continuing through 2006. A Military Family Housing Privatization initiative project would began during 2006 and housing construction could take place. Construction of a Mission Support Group building could begin in 2006 and would continue through 2006.
2.7 Comparison of Environmental Effects of All Alternatives

Implementing the Proposed Action would not impact hazardous materials and wastes, surface water, wetlands, and environmental justice because the new munitions facilities would be constructed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations. Temporary impacts to air quality and noise would be expected, and minor impacts to wildlife and vegetation would be expected. None of the impacts would be adverse.

There are no impacts from implementing the No Action Alternative.
Chapter 3

Affected Environment
Chapter 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the existing environment that could be affected by the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative at Columbus AFB. Within this context, only those base-specific components relevant to the potential impacts are described in detail.

3.2 History of Columbus AFB

Construction of the installation began in September 1941 and the first flight training began with 25 cadets who had already completed most of their training at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. In April 1942, the installation was named Columbus Army Flying School. During World War II, over 7,400 men graduated and received their wings and commissions from Columbus. After the end of the war, training activities slowed significantly and in 1946 the field was deactivated. In March 1950, the field was reopened as a contract flying school and re-designated as Columbus Air Force Base. Under the supervision of Air Training Command (ATC), the base provided both basic and primary flight training for pilots during the Korean conflict. The Air Training Command relinquished command of the field to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) in 1955 and, for the next 14 years, Columbus AFB was the home for B-52s and KC-135s. In 1969, Columbus AFB was transferred to Air Education Training Command (AETC) and returned to its original mission of training pilots. Since that time, the base has trained pilots in the T-37 and T-38 jet trainers. In 1996, the base began using the T-1 aircraft along with the T-37s and T-38s in the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) program.

3.3 Description of the Affected Environment

3.3.1 Military Mission

The 14 FTW is the host unit at Columbus AFB and is part of AETC. The 14 FTW provides SUPT training for Air Force personnel, as well as students from foreign countries. The 14 FTW also provides administrative, medical and logistical support for assigned personnel as well as tenant agencies associated with Columbus AFB and military retirees and their families. The organizational structure of the 14 FTW consists of the 14th Medical Group, the 14th Operations Group and the 14th Mission Support Group. The latter includes Security Forces, which provides police protection for the base.

3.3.2 Air Quality

The proposed construction site occurs in an area with air quality designated as being in attainment, meaning the concentrations of criteria air pollutants in the atmosphere do not exceed primary or secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
3.3.3 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

All hazardous materials and wastes on Columbus AFB are handled in accordance with the base’s Hazardous Materials Management Process which meets all applicable local, state and federal laws and guidelines.

3.3.4 Surface Water

The Tombigbee River is located one mile northwest and the Butthatchee River is approximately 1,000 feet north of the base.

3.3.5 Wetlands

The US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service has conducted a wetlands delineation for the entire base. The delineation was certified by the US Army Corp of Engineers, Mobile District on 31 May 02. The completed delineation identified wetlands throughout the base, including those along its perimeter.

Construction that includes grubbing, grading or filling within a delineated wetlands requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit.

3.3.6 Flood plains

Flood plains on Columbus AFB are located at and below the 185 Mean Sea Level elevation as indicated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Lowndes County, Mississippi (Appendix F).

Construction in a flood plain requires notification to the FEMA. A Development Permit from Lowndes County, the local FEMA administrator would be required

3.3.7 Wildlife

Columbus AFB contains woodland and grassland vegetative communities that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Confirmed mammal species observed on the base include gray squirrel, southern flying squirrel, swamp rabbit, white-tailed deer, bats, and rodents. Bird species common to lowland areas of the base include red-shouldered hawk, Cooper’s hawk, rock dove, Carolina wren and wood duck. None are threatened or endangered species.

3.3.8 Vegetation

Columbus AFB contains the woodland species oak, maple, willow, bald cypress, sweet gum and loblolly pine. Grass species located along roadways, runways, and cleared areas include plumbgrass, switchgrass, beggartick and tickclover (USAF, 1998). None of the
woodland species or grass species located on Columbus AFB are on the endangered plant list.

3.3.9 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, was issued on February 11, 1994. In the EO, the President instructed each federal agency to make “achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.”

The minority population in the census tracts comprising the project area (Census Tracts 1 and 2) is proportionately lower (24.9 and 26.7 percent, respectively, 2000 Census Data) than both Lowndes County (44.0 percent) and the state (39.3 percent). The poverty rate for the project area census tracts is similarly considerably lower than the county and state, and thus is eliminated from further analysis in accordance with Executive Order 12898.
Chapter 4

Environmental Consequences
Chapter 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for comparing the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The probable effects on environmental resources from implementing each alternative are described.

4.2 Change in Current Mission

The activities associated with implementing the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative would not change the base’s mission to provide Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT).

4.3 Description of the Effects of All Alternatives on the Affected Environment

4.3.1 Military Mission

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would have a positive impact on Columbus AFB military flying mission by allowing for the munitions to be stored that are required for the base, as required in AFMAN 91-201. The military mission is affected by the current condition of the existing buildings.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would have a negative effect on the Columbus AFB flying mission. The base would not have the ability to store, inspect and maintain the required munitions.

4.3.2 Air Quality

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would have a temporary negative effect on installation air quality related to a slight increase in exhaust emissions associated with construction activities. Columbus AFB is located in an area that is in attainment; therefore, a conformity determination is not required. There would be no negative effect on installation air quality after construction is completed.

No Action Alternative: There would be no change on the installation air quality from continuing to repair the current facilities. Air pollution from construction equipment would be even more dispersed than under the Proposed Action.

4.3.3 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Proposed Action: Normal construction equipment would be used during the construction of the facilities. The construction contractor would be required to handle hazardous materials and wastes in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and
guidelines. There would be no additional hazardous waste associated with the use of the buildings; therefore, there would be no impact on hazardous materials and wastes.

No Action Alternative: There would be no change in the base’s handling of hazardous materials and wastes from continuing to repair the current buildings.

4.3.4 Surface Water

Proposed Action: The construction site would disturb more than one acre, so a Storm Water Permit from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality would be required. As part of the contract, the construction contractor would develop a site specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan in conjunction with getting the required permit. The plan would include best management practices to prevent pollution from reaching the Tombigbee and Buttabatchee Rivers. Therefore, there would be no impacts to surface water.

No Action Alternative: There would be no change to surface water from continuing to repair the current buildings.

4.3.5 Wetlands

Proposed Action: The construction site is not located within or near delineated wetlands. A wetlands delineation for the entire base was certified by the US Army Corp of Engineers, Mobile District, 31 May 02 and does not include the area of munitions storage. Therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to wetlands.

4.3.6 Flood plains

Proposed Action: The munitions storage area is located within the 100-year flood plain. The munitions storage area consists of a road raised above the 100-year flood plain and storage/inspection buildings build adjacent to the road all of which were raised above the 100-year flood plain. The proposed facilities would be constructed within the raised road area of the munitions storage site. Even though the center of the munitions storage area is within the flood plain there would be no effect in the flood way. The Flood Insurance Rate Map, Lowndes County, Mississippi, indicates that the area is zone X and describes the area as “areas of 100-year flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile and areas protected by levees from 100-year flood (Appendix F)”. The construction would be in accordance with FEMA regulations and policies. A Development Permit from Lowndes County Flood Administrator, the local FEMA administrator, would be required (Appendix F).

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on the flood plain.
4.3.7 Wildlife

Proposed Action: There would be no changes to current wildlife populations. The current area is completely fenced which excludes medium to large wildlife.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would have no effect on the wildlife populations.

4.3.8 Vegetation

Proposed Action: There would be changes to current vegetation. The current area is covered with grass. The building sites and associated parking areas would be paved. These changes are not adverse.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on vegetation.

4.3.9 Environmental Justice

The minority population in the census tracts comprising the project area (Census Tracts 1 and 2) is proportionately lower (24.9 and 26.7 percent respectively, 2000 Census Data) than both Lowndes County (44.0 percent) and the state (39.3 percent). The poverty rate for the project area census tracts is similarly considerably lower than the county and state, and thus is eliminated from further analysis in accordance with Executive Order 12898.

4.4 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

There are other actions listed for Columbus AFB. A T-6 COMBS warehouse is currently under construction and would continue through 2005. Repair/Renovation to the center runway would begin late 2005 and be completed during 2005. A Fire/Rescue Station would be under construction starting in the last quarter of 2005 and continuing through 2006. A Military Family Housing Privatization initiative project would began during 2006 and housing construction could take place. Construction of a Mission Support Group building could begin in 2006 and would be continuing through 2006. A portion of an electrical transmission line will be constructed on the southwestern corner of the base during late 2005 continuing into 2006.

There are other actions in the surrounding area which impact Columbus AFB. An electrical transmission line will be constructed from West Point to the Lowndes County Industrial Park with construction beginning in 2006. Construction of a steel production
facility is to be constructed within the Lowndes County Industrial Park beginning in 2005 and would continue through 2006.

The impacts from implementing the Proposed Action are minor (vegetation) and temporary (air and noise). None of them are adverse. These impacts, when added to the impacts from past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions, would be minor, temporary and not adverse.

The resources and effects are shown in Table 4.4.1.

Table 4.4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Proposed Action</th>
<th>No-Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Mission</td>
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<td>Land Use</td>
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<td>Water Quality</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permits/Certification</td>
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<td>Required</td>
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<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<td>Temporary negative</td>
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<td>Wetlands/Flood Plains</td>
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<td>Cultural Resources</td>
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Appendix A

List of Preparers
## Appendix A  LIST OF PREPARERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Professional Discipline</th>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank Lockhart</td>
<td>B.S., Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Environmental Planner</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MEd., Biological Sciences/Education</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Appendix B

List of Persons and Agencies Consulted
Appendix B  LIST OF PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Kathy Lunceford, Vicksburg Ecological Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Jim Mahaffey, Certified Flood Plain Manager
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Lowndes County
17 Airline Road
Columbus, MS 39702
Appendix C
List of References
Appendix C  LIST OF REFERENCES


Appendix D

Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Correspondence
Ms. Miranda S. Brannon  
Chief, Environmental Flight  
Columbus Air Force Base  
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 108  
Columbus AFB, MS 39710-6010

Dear Ms. Brannon:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your letter dated June 23, 2005, regarding the construction of two munitions buildings on the Columbus Air Force Base (CAFB), Lowndes County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e), and the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Your agency proposes to construct a multi-cube storage building, and a maintenance building within the existing munitions storage area on the CAFB. There are no federally listed species or their habitats located on the subject site. Also, since the site is surrounded by an existing elevated roadway, no runoff into wetlands or other sensitive habitats is expected.

Therefore, the Service has no objection to the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office, telephone: (601) 321-1132.

Sincerely,

Kathy W. Lunceford  
Mississippi Environmental Coordinator
23 June 05

Mrs. Miranda S. Brannon, P.E.
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 108
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

Ms. Kathy Lunceford
Vicksburg Ecological Service
Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson MS 39213

Dear Ms. Lunceford

The 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for the proposed construction of two munitions buildings at Columbus AFB. This action is necessary to enable the base to accomplish its mission requirements.

The proposed action is to construct a multi-cube storage building, and a maintenance/inspection building within the munitions storage area in the northwest area of the base. The purpose of the buildings is to provide storage and inspection/maintenance areas. The existing buildings used for storage and inspection/maintenance do not meet the requirements of the Department of Defense for storage, inspection, and maintenance. These buildings will replace existing buildings which have deteriorated beyond repair.

To assist with this EA, please advise us if there are any threatened or endangered bird and/or mammal species known to exist in the area of the base in which the construction project would occur. Please provide your response by 29 July 05.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Frank Lockhart, FPMI at (662) 434-3130.

Sincerely

Miranda Brannon

Attachments
1. FONSI/FONPA
2. Abstract
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

23 June 05

Mrs. Miranda S. Brannon, P.E.
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 108
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

Ms. Mildred Tharpe
State Clearinghouse for Federal Programs
1301 Woolfolk Bldg, Suite E
501 North West St.
Jackson MS 39213

Dear Ms. Tharpe,

The 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for the proposed construction of two munitions buildings at Columbus AFB. This action is necessary to enable the base to accomplish its mission requirements.

The proposed action is to construct a multi-cube storage building, and a maintenance/inspection building within the munitions storage area in the northwest area of the base. The purpose of the buildings is to provide storage and inspection/maintenance areas. The existing buildings used for storage and inspection/maintenance do not meet the requirements of the Department of Defense for storage, inspection, and maintenance. These buildings will replace existing buildings which have deteriorated beyond repair.

To assist with this EA, please advise us if there are any state resources known to exist in the area of the base in which the construction project would occur. Please provide your response by 29 July 05.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Frank Lockhart, FPMI at (662) 434-3130.

Sincerely,

Miranda Brannon

MIRANDA S. BRANNON, P.E.

Attachments
1. FONSI/FONPA
2. Abstract
STATE AGENCIES MUST REVIEW CERTAIN PROPOSALS PRIOR TO RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS CLEARANCE. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REVIEWS ANY PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS A HIGHWAY OR AN APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CULTURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, REVIEWS APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES REVIEWS APPLICATIONS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL PROGRAM.

IF APPLICATIONS ARE FOR PROJECTS OF LOCAL IMPACT, THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AT THE SAME TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS IS THE USE OF STANDARD FORM 424. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION PREPARES AND DISTRIBUTES A WEEKLY LOG LISTING PERTINENT INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS FORM. OUR ADDRESS IS 1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 AND OUR PHONE NUMBER IS (601) 359-6762.
REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

INSTRUCTIONS: Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).

SECTION I - PROPOSENENT INFORMATION
1. TO (Environmental Planning Function) 14CES/CEV
2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) 14FTW/MXMC
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION
   Construction of new Maintenance/Inspection Facility and Multi-cube Storage Facility
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION
   (Identify decision to be made and need date)
   (Continuation sheet)
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.)
   (Continuation sheet)
6. PROPOSENENT APPROVAL (Name and Grade)
   Hardy Smith, Contractor
   6a. SIGNATURE
   6b. DATE 20050301

SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY.
   (Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = unknown effect)
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)
   0
8. AIR QUALITY (Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)
   0
9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.)
   0
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.)
    X
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)
    0
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.)
    X
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.)
    X
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)
    X
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)
    X
16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.)
    X

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION
17. □ PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # ; OR
    X PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.
18. REMARKS
   Columbus Air Force Base is located in an area that is in attainment; therefore, a conformity determination is not required.

MICHAEL P. SMITH, REN
Chief, Environmental Flight

AF IMT 813, 19990901, V1

THIS FORM CONSOLIDATES AF FORMS 813 AND 814, PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF BOTH FORMS ARE OBSOLETE.
The facility must have the following capabilities and characteristics:

5.2. Decision that must be made: is whether to construct a new Maintenance / Inspection and new multi-cube facility or not. And if so, where, how, and when to construct it.

5.3. Anticipated Environmental Issues:

Facility will be sited within the 100 year floodplain. A no rise permit for construction within the floodplain is required.

A General Stormwater Construction Permit Coverage and/or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan are required if the project area exceeds 1 acre. Contact Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to confirm permits or plans requirements.

IRP site SS-32, TCE plume is under part of the munitions area. Exact locations of facilities to be coordinated with the Instillation Restoration manager 14 CES/CEVR for site planning.

5.4. Selection Criteria:
The facility must have the following capabilities and characteristics:

5.4.1 Operational requirements: Facility must be constructed to meet DDESB, AFMAN 91-201, and the design requirements of the Air Force Munitions Facilities Guide.

5.4.2 Location and transport requirements:

Located inside the Munitions Storage Area. Meet all siting requirements and IBD in AFMAN 91-201. (See attached map.)

5.4.3 Interior requirements:

A. Maintenance/Inspection Facility

1. Telephones
2. Computer terminals with network access
3. Lighting Protection System (LPS)
4. Grounding stations
5. 110 volt a/c power
6. Portable water
7. Sanitary sewer system
B. 4-bay Multi-cube
   1. Electrical power for interior/exterior light
   2. Lightning Protection System (LPS)

5.4.4 Environmental requirements:
Hazardous wastes must be disposed of IAW applicable EPA guidelines.

5.5. Description of Alternatives:
5.5.1 No-action Alternative:
Continue to use building 1836 and 1834 for Maintenance/Inspection of munitions items until facilities deteriorate to the point they can no longer be utilized.

5.5.2 Proposed Action Alternative:
Construct new Maintenance/Inspection Facility and New 4 Bay Multi-cube inside the Munitions Storage Area.

5.5.3 Alternative 3:
Renovate buildings 1830, 1832, and 1836 and still have old facilities that not meet all requirements of DDES B, AFMAN 91-201, and the Air Force Munitions Facility Guide so they may be used to their full intent.

5.6. List of Required Permits, Licenses, and Entitlements:
   Explosive Site Plan
   No-rise certification
   General Stormwater Construction Permit Coverage
# HAZARD ABATEMENT PLAN

**TO:** Wing Safety  
14 FTW/SEG  
COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710  

**FROM:** DynCorp  
14 FTW/MX  
COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710  

**POINT OF CONTACT**  
Avery Phillips  
AUTOVON NUMBER 742-7391  

## HAZARD/DEFICIENCY INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. CONTROL NO.</th>
<th>2. RAC</th>
<th>3. CATEGORY</th>
<th>4. DISCOVERY</th>
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<th>b. SUGGESTION</th>
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<td>3BIII</td>
<td>20011101</td>
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<th>8. EXPOSURE</th>
<th>9. STANDARD VIOLATED</th>
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<td>14 FTW/</td>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Munitions Maintenance</td>
<td>4 individuals</td>
<td>AF MAN 91-201, 2.27.3</td>
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## DESCRIPTION

Disrepair of facilities becoming a safety hazard. The mortar is decaying from block walls, rain blows through walls and runs down the inside of the walls, concrete blocks are decaying and crumbling apart, and dock door is rotted from inside metal covered wood doors.

## ABATEMENT LOCATION

Work orders submitted to Civil Engineering: repairs identified: reroof, clad building, seal and paint, replace doors and hardware.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. METHOD</th>
<th>14. PROJECT NO.</th>
<th>15. COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>16. COST</th>
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No status change for AF Form 332, 11 Feb 99.

## INTERIM CONTROL MEASURES

Use only for mission essential requirements. Limit access to minimum personnel and any PPE determined by the supervisor. Will restrict use of the east side, "Not an Exit".

**FUNCTIONAL MANAGER** (Typed/Printed Name, Grade, Title)  
David Rose, CIV, DynCorp Deputy Division Manager  

**REVIEW RECORD**  
INITIALS: [Signature]  
DATE: 21 Jun 03  
200203  200203  200203  200203

**FOR SAFETY/FIRE/HEALTH USE ONLY**

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**QUALIFIED OFFICIAL** (Typed/Printed Name, Grade, Title)  
Theodore Zolus, Sr., GS-72, Ground Safety Manager  
14 FTW/SEG 2519  

**SIGNATURE**  
DATE: 3 Jan 2003  
PREVIOUS EDITION WILL BE Used.


## HAZARD ABATEMENT PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO: Wing Safety</th>
<th>FROM: DynCorp</th>
<th>POINT OF CONTACT: Avery Phillips</th>
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</thead>
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<td>14 FTW/SEG</td>
<td>14 FTW/MX</td>
<td>AUTOYON NUMBER: 742-7391</td>
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<td>COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710</td>
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### 1. HAZARD/DEFICIENCY INFORMATION

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### 2. FACILITY NO.

- 1830

### 3. FUNCTION

- Munitions Storage

### 4. EXPOSURE

- 4 individuals

### 5. ORGANIZATION

- 14 FTW/

### 6. OFFICE SYMBOL

- MCMCM

### 7. STANDARD-violated

- AF MAN 91-201, 2.27.5

### 8. EXPOSURE

- 20021101

### 9. SUGGESTION

- OTHER (Specify)

### 10. ABATEMENT LOCATION

- Work orders submitted to Civil Engineering: repairs identified: reroof, replace frames and doors, seal and paint building.

### 11. ABATEMENT LOCATION

- No status change, awaiting funding since Feb 1999.

### 12. INTERIM CONTROL MEASURES

- Structure is unsuitable for munitions storage, noncompliant with AFI 31-101. Limits access to mission requirements and use PPE deemed necessary by the supervisor. Will not store live munitions in building until repairs have been completed.

### 13. FUNCTIONAL MANAGER

- David Rose, Civ, DynCorp Deputy Division Manager

### 14. QUALIFIED OFFICIAL

- Theodore Zooka, Jr, 65-12, Ground Support
HAZARD ABATEMENT PLAN

<table>
<thead>
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<th>TO:</th>
<th>FROM:</th>
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<tr>
<td>COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710</td>
<td>COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710</td>
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</table>

**HAZARD/DEFICIENCY INFORMATION**

- **LOCATION**
  - EEPZ03-02 S
  - SEG 93-62

- **DESCRIPTION**
  - Disrepair of facility. Doors and frames deteriorating, mortar decomposing and crumbling from walls, paint peeling from entire eight bay multi-cell building.

**ABATEMENT LOCATION**

- **METHOD**
  - Work orders submitted to Civil Engineering: replace doors/frames with hardware, clad, seal and paint facility.

- **PROJECT NO.**
  - EEPZ031039

- **ABATEMENT COST**
  - $56,000.00

- **INTERIM CONTROL MEASURES**
  - Restrict to mission essential storage, limit access and use PPE determined necessary by the supervisor. Use only the three serviceable bays for storage of munitions (D, G, and H) and the others for non-munitions items.

**FUNCTIONAL MANAGER**

David Rose, CIV, DynCorp Deputy Division Manager

**REVIEW RECORD**

DATE: 7 JUN 03

**FOR SAFETY/FIRE/HEALTH USE ONLY**

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<thead>
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AF FORM 3, 19861001 (EF-V2)
Appendix F

FEMA Permits and Maps
LOWNDES COUNTY -- COMMUNITY #280193
Development Permit Number 346 Date: 1/12/05

Location of Development: Columbus Air Force Base
Owner: Columbus Air Force Address: CAFB, Ms.
Permittee: Mr. Frank Lockhart Address: 14 CES/CEV, 555 Simler Blvd.
Mailing Address: CAFB, MS. Zip Code: 39710
Type of Development: Structures

Engineer: CAFB Address:

Located in a Flood Hazard Area: [N/A ] Floodplain ..... [ ] Floodway

F.I.R.M. # 28087C0025J .. ZONE X

If you are aggrieved by any decision of this office you have the right to appeal.
If there are any questions that may arise, Please Do Not Hesitate To Call ME at The
Lowndes County Building Inspection Office 662-329-5860 Between 7:00 and 4:00

Date Mailed 1/13/05
Lowndes County Building Inspection Department Use:
17 Airline Road, Columbus, Miss. 39702
Building Permit # N/A

(1) Elevation Certificate dated [N/A ] showing the actual lowest floor
elevation at [ N/A].
This information and the Development is based on the attached letter
and the discussion with Mr. Lockhart
(2) Lat. Log.
(3) NO – RISE Certificate [N/A ] attached
(4) Flood Proofing [ N/A ]
(5) Variance ?----none

County Flood Administrator, Jim Mahaffey CFM#41.
NOTES

A map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program; it
is not necessarily identical to maps subject to flooding, particularly from high
water sources of small size, or all plantations located outside Special Flood
Vulnerable Areas. The community maps prepared by the Federal Emergency
Management Agency, based on data provided by the Federal Emergency
Management Agency, may differ significantly from those

areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be presented by flood
structures.

Areas of the floodplain were computed at zero vertices
and the zero cross section. The floodplains were based on subaerial elevations
for requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Software for flood hazards assessment is based on the latest data. Any areas
should consult appropriate authority officials or the FEMA Flood Insurance
Study Report.


to the Flood Insurance Rate Map Effective date shown on the map to
when deluge conditions are applied to structures in the area where the
classes and flood insurance may be added to the area.

Flood Insurance Rate Map

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
AND INCORPORATED
AREAS

PANEL 25 OF 175
SEE MAP INDEX FOR PAGES NOT PRINTED

LOWNDES COUNTY
280193 00207

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1998

Federal Emergency Management Agency
LEGEND
SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS INUNDATED BY 100-YEAR FLOOD
ZONE A No base flood elevations determined.
ZONE AE Base flood elevations determined.
ZONE AH Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding); base flood elevations determined.
ZONE AO Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding); average depth determined; area of above the flooding; vehicles that enter flood.
ZONE AR Some area that may be flooded by 100-year flood by federal flood insurance program under provisions; no base flood elevations determined.
ZONE V Coastal flood with velocity hazard (waves), no base flood elevations determined.
ZONE VE Coastal flood with velocity hazard (waves), base flood elevations determined.
FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE
OTHER FLOOD AREAS
ZONE X Area of 100-year flood, areas of 100-year flood with average depths less than 1 foot or areas protected by levees or flood elevations determined.
OTHER AREAS
ZONE X Areas determined as outside 100-year floodplain.
ZONE D Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined.
UNDEVELOPED COASTAL BARRIERS
NOTE: To whom: The MAP NUMBER shown below should be used to verify flood zone information. If a community is affected by special flood insurance requirements, a call should be made to the community planner shown above should be made to ensure insurance applications are reviewed.

FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
AND INCORPORATED AREAS
PANEL 35 OF 175
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
AND INCORPORATED AREAS
PANEL 55 OF 175
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1998

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Appendix G
Site Map
To: Jim Mahaffey  
County Flood Administrator  
Fax 329-5846

From: Frank Lockhart, contractor  
14 CES/CEV  
555 Simler Blvd.  
Columbus Air Force Base, MS  39710  
Phone 343-3120  
Fax 434-3013

Jim,

The two drawings show the site of proposed construction on Columbus AFB. The two buildings will be in the AMMO AREA and are shown on the drawing as M&I, and MULTICUBE.

The inside area of the AMMO AREA is indicated on the flood plain map as being in the flood plain. The road going to and around the AMMO AREA is above the 100 yr flood level.

Please provide me with a construction certificate.

Frank Lockhart
Appendix H

SS-32 TCE Plume