

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES AT
BRANDYWINE RECEIVER SITE,
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND**



SEPTEMBER 2003

Report Documentation Page

*Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188*

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1. REPORT DATE SEP 2003	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2003 to 00-00-2003			
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Environmental Assessment of Consolidation Activities Brandywine Receiver Site, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER			
		5b. GRANT NUMBER			
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
		5e. TASK NUMBER			
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) e2M Inc,4215 Walney Road, Suite 4,Chantilly,VA,20151		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER			
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)			
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 52	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

89 AW	89 Airlift Wing	IRP	Installation Restoration Program
ACM	Asbestos Containing Material	LBP	Lead-based paint
AFB	Air Force Base	MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
AFI	Air Force Instruction	MSL	mean sea level
AFOSH	Air Force Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Protection, and Health	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
AFPD	Air Force Policy Directive	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
AMC	Air Mobility Command	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
C&D	Construction and Demolition	NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
CAA	Clean Air Act	NPL	National Priorities List
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
CHP	Central Heating Plant	POL	Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants
CWA	Clean Water Act	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program	RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense	SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act
EA	Environmental Assessment	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process	SIP	State Implementation Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	TSCA	Toxic Substance Control Act
EO	Executive Order	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program	USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act	U.S.	United States
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact	USAF	United States Air Force
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments	U.S.C.	United States Code
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan	WP	Waste Accumulation Point
		WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
		WSSC	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CONSOLIDATION OF BRANDYWINE RECEIVER SITE ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND

INTRODUCTION

The 89th Airlift Wing (89 AW) of the United States Air Force (USAF) has proposed to consolidate the Brandywine Receiver Site at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB), Maryland. The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were assessed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), which is hereby incorporated by reference. Andrews AFB is a USAF base under the Air Mobility Command and is the headquarters base to the 89 AW. The 89 AW provides logistical support for the President, Vice President, Cabinet members and high-ranking U.S. and foreign government officials.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

In 1967, a survey was conducted for locating a communications satellite terminal at the Brandywine site; installation of the facility was completed in January 1968. Over the last 35 years, advances in technology have reduced the amount and size of equipment and the manpower necessary to run the site. As a result, the majority of buildings at the site are no longer necessary to continue operations. In addition, the existing main building is deteriorating rapidly and maintenance and repair of the building have been quite costly in recent years.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, the existing main building and other excess buildings would be demolished. The current gymnasium (built in 1997) would be converted to the main building. The site would become unmanned. Although personnel would frequently visit the site, no personnel would be permanently assigned to the site.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, Andrews AFB would continue to use the Brandywine facility in its current condition and configuration. There would be no change from the existing conditions at the installation. The main building would continue to deteriorate, resulting in expensive maintenance and repair costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Analysis performed in the EA addressed potential effects on geological resources, hazardous materials and wastes and infrastructure. The analysis indicates that implementing the Proposed Action would have no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects on the quality of the natural or human environment.

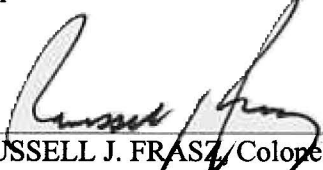
PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Federal, state and local agencies listed in Appendix A of the EA were contacted for comment on the Proposed Action. Agency comments were included in the analysis.

Based on the provisions set forth in the Proposed Action, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and coordinated with the appropriate Federal, state and local agencies. A draft of this was made available to the public. Additionally, copies of the draft FONSI were forwarded to Federal, state and local agencies for review and comment. Public and agency comments will be addressed at the end of the review period prior to implementing the Proposed Action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After review of the EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Environmental Impact Analysis Process, 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989, as amended, I have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement does not need to be prepared. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the USAF.



RUSSELL J. FRASZ/Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander, 89th Airlift Wing

30 Sep 03

Date

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**AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
Environmental Planning Branch
507 Symington Drive
Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225-5022**

SEPTEMBER 2003

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1. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Background

Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) is a United States (U.S.) Air Force (USAF) base under the Air Mobility Command (AMC). The 89 Airlift Wing (89 AW) is the host unit at Andrews AFB and reports to AMC headquartered at Scott AFB, Illinois. The mission of the 89 AW is to provide airlift, airdrop, and air refueling support, including the movement of troops, passengers, military equipment, cargo, and mail. The 89 AW also provides logistical support for the president, vice president, cabinet members, and high-ranking U.S. and foreign government officials. Other responsibilities include operation, administration, and maintenance of Andrews AFB facilities.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the 89 AW's Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. If the analyses presented in the EA indicate that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared. A FONSI briefly presents why a Proposed Action would not have a significant effect on the human environment and why an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary. If significant environmental issues result that cannot be mitigated to insignificance, an EIS will be required, or the Proposed Action would be abandoned and no action would be taken.

Based on the analysis in the EA, the USAF, as the decision-maker, will decide whether there are significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the Consolidation Activities. Based on the review of the analysis, the USAF will either prepare a FONSI or recommend the analysis proceed to an EIS.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

In 1967, a survey was conducted for the location of a communications satellite terminal at the Brandywine site and installation of the facility was completed in January 1968. Over the last 35 years, advances in technology have reduced the amount and size of equipment and the manpower necessary to run the site. As a result, the majority of buildings at the site are no longer necessary to continue operations. In addition, the existing Main Building is deteriorating rapidly and maintenance and repair of the building has been quite costly in recent years. Under the Proposed Action, the existing Main Building and other excess buildings would be demolished. The current gymnasium (built in 1997) would be converted to the Main Building. The site would become un-

manned. Although personnel would frequently visit the site, no personnel would be permanently assigned to the site.

1.3 Location

Andrews AFB encompasses 6,828 acres and is located in Prince George's County, Maryland, five miles southeast of Washington, D.C. (see Figure 1-1). The communities of Camp Springs and Morningside surround the base. Interstate 495 (the Capital Beltway) is immediately northwest of the base. The Brandywine Receiver Site is located about seven miles to the southeast of Andrews AFB, just north of the town of Mattawoman (USAF 2001). Total acreage is 1,635 with only 6 acres of improved grounds; antenna facilities occupy 266 acres of semi-improved land. The site was established as an off-base USAF site in 1967.

1.4 Summary of Key Environmental Compliance Requirements

1.4.1 National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act, commonly known as NEPA, is a Federal statute requiring the identification and analysis of potential environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions before those actions are taken. NEPA established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that is charged with the development of implementing regulations and ensuring agency compliance with NEPA. CEQ regulations mandate that all Federal agencies use a systematic interdisciplinary approach to environmental planning and the evaluation of actions that may affect the environment. This process evaluates potential environmental consequences associated with a proposed action and considers alternative courses of action. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed Federal decisions.

The process for implementing NEPA is codified in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*. The CEQ was established under NEPA to implement and oversee Federal policy in this process. CEQ regulations specify the following must be accomplished when preparing an EA.

- Briefly provide evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a FONSI
- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is unnecessary
- Facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary

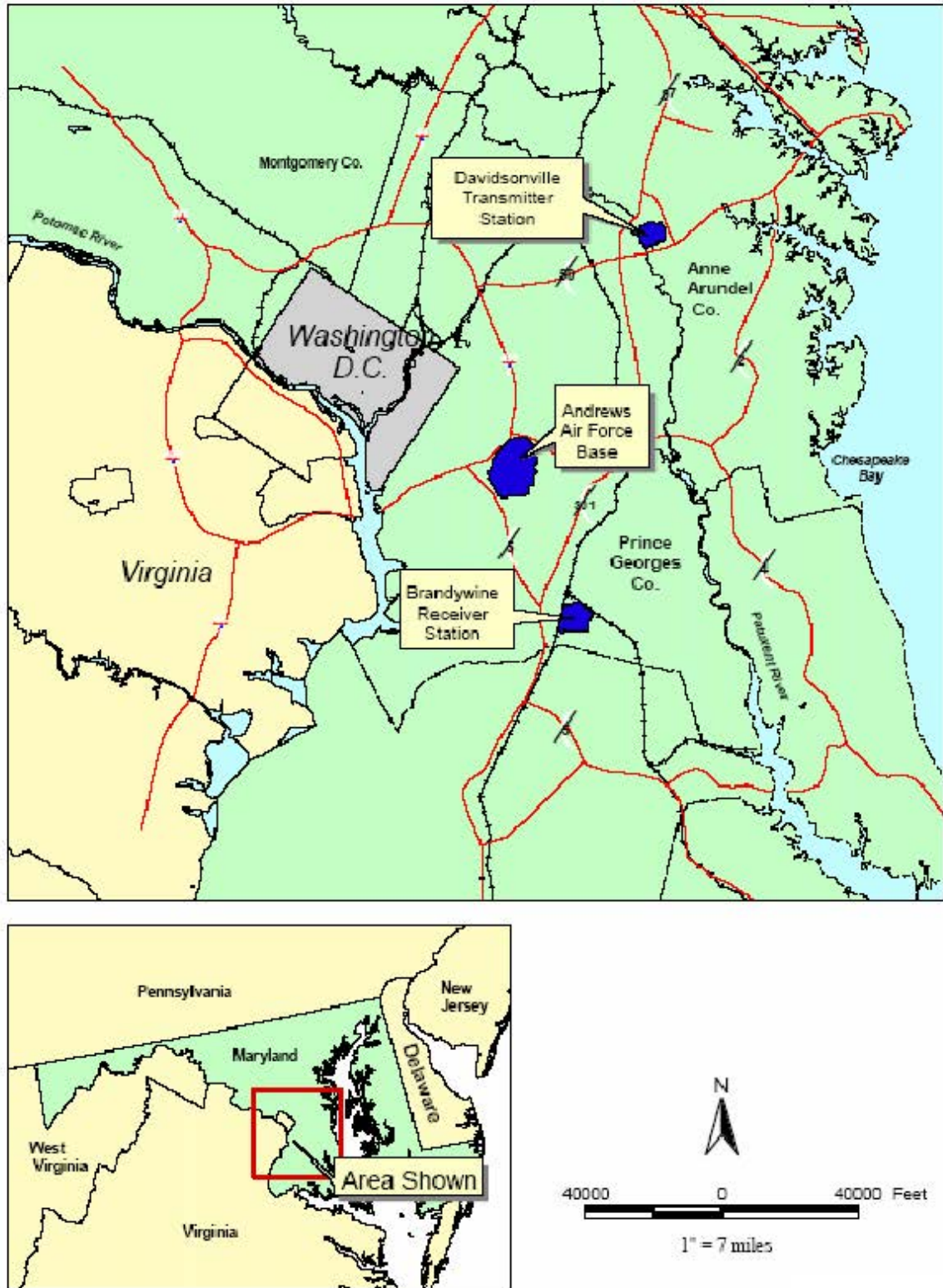


Figure 1-1. Andrews AFB and Brandywine Receiver Site

Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, states that the USAF will comply with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA. The USAF's implementing regulation for NEPA is *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*, 32 CFR 989, as amended.

1.4.2 Integration of Other Environmental Statutes and Regulations

To comply with NEPA, the planning and decision-making process for actions proposed by Federal agencies involves a study of other relevant environmental statutes and regulations. The NEPA process, however, does not replace procedural or substantive requirements of other environmental statutes and regulations. It addresses them collectively in the form of an EA or EIS, which enables the decision-maker to have a comprehensive view of major environmental issues and requirements associated with the Proposed Action. According to CEQ regulations, the requirements of NEPA must be integrated "with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or by agency so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively."

The EA will examine potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on three resource areas including geological resources, hazardous materials and waste, and infrastructure. The following paragraphs present examples of relevant laws, regulations, and other requirements that are often considered as part of the analysis.

Safety

AFI 91-301, *Air Force Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Protection, and Health (AFOSH) Program*, implements AFPD 91-3, *Occupational Safety and Health*, by outlining the AFOSH Program. The purpose of the AFOSH Program is to minimize loss of USAF resources and to protect USAF personnel from occupational deaths, injuries, or illnesses by managing risks. In conjunction with the USAF Mishap Prevention Program (Air Force Instruction [AFI] 91-202), these standards ensure all USAF workplaces meet Federal safety and health requirements. This instruction applies to all USAF activities.

Air Quality

The *Clean Air Act* (CAA) establishes Federal policy to protect and enhance the quality of the nation's air resources to protect human health and the environment. The CAA requires that adequate steps be implemented to control the release of air pollutants and prevent significant

deterioration in air quality. The 1990 amendments to the CAA require Federal agencies to determine the conformity of proposed actions with respect to State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for attainment of air quality goals.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure consists of the systems and physical structures that enable a population in a given area to sustain itself. Consideration of infrastructure is applicable to a proposed action or alternative where there may be an issue with respect to local capacities (e.g., utilities, transportation networks, energy) to provide the required support.

Water Resources

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (33 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1344) and the Water Quality Act of 1987, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq., as amended) establish Federal policy to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters, and where attainable, to achieve a level of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water.

Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires Federal agencies to take action to reduce the risk of flood damage; minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Federal agencies are directed to consider the proximity of their actions to or within floodplains. Where information is unavailable, agencies are encouraged to delineate the extent of floodplains at their site.

Biological Resources

The *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) requires Federal agencies that fund, authorize, or implement actions to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered species, or destroying or adversely affecting their critical habitat. Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of their actions through a set of defined procedures, which can include preparation of a Biological Assessment and formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires that Federal agencies provide leadership and take actions to minimize or avoid the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.

The CWA, under Section 404, contains provisions for protections of wetlands and establishes a permitting process for activities having potential effects in wetland areas. Wetlands, riverine, and open water systems are considered waters of the United States and, as such, fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Cultural Resources

The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (NHPA) provides the principal authority used to protect historic properties, establishes the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and defines, in Section 106, the requirements for Federal agencies to consider the effect of an action on properties on or eligible for the NRHP.

Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800 [1986]) provides an explicit set of procedures for Federal agencies to meet their obligations under the NHPA, including inventorying of resources and consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs).

The *Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* ensures that Federal agencies protect and preserve archeological resources on Federal or Native American lands and establishes a permitting system to allow legitimate scientific study of such resources.

EO 13007, *Indian Sacred Sites*, requires that, to the extent practicable, Federal agencies accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

EO 13084, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, requires that each Federal agency shall have an effective process to permit elected officials and other representatives of Indian tribal governments to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies or matters uniquely affecting their communities.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs Federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations within their region of influence. Agencies are encouraged to include demographic information related to race and income in their analysis of the environmental and economic effects associated with their actions.

1.4.3 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning

NEPA requirements help ensure that environmental information is made available to the public during the decision-making process and prior to actions being taken. The premise of NEPA is that the quality of Federal decisions will be enhanced if proponents provide information to the public and involve the public in the planning process. CEQ regulations implementing NEPA specifically state, “There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping.” The Intergovernmental Coordination Act and EO 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, require Federal agencies to cooperate with and consider state and local views in implementing a Federal proposal. AFI 32-7060 requires the AF to implement a process known as Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP), which is used for the purpose of agency coordination and implements scoping requirements.

Through the IICEP process, the 89 AW notified relevant Federal, state, and local agencies of the action proposed and provided them time to make known their environmental concerns specific to the action. The IICEP process provides the 89 AW the opportunity to cooperate with and consider state and local views in implementing the Federal proposal. Upon receipt, agency responses will be incorporated into the analysis of potential environmental impacts. Appendix A includes a copy of the IICEP letter mailed to the agencies for this action, the IICEP distribution list, and will include agency responses, once received.

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2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

2.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the existing Main Building and other excess buildings would be demolished. The current gymnasium (built in 1997) would be converted to the Main Building. The site would become un-manned. Although personnel would frequently visit the site, no personnel would be permanently assigned to the site.

Figure 2-1 shows the Proposed Action at the Site. All of the structures that are not highlighted in the figure would be demolished.

2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Andrews AFB would continue to use the Brandywine facility in its current condition and configuration. There would be no change from the existing conditions at the installation. The Main Building would continue to deteriorate, resulting in expensive maintenance and repair costs.

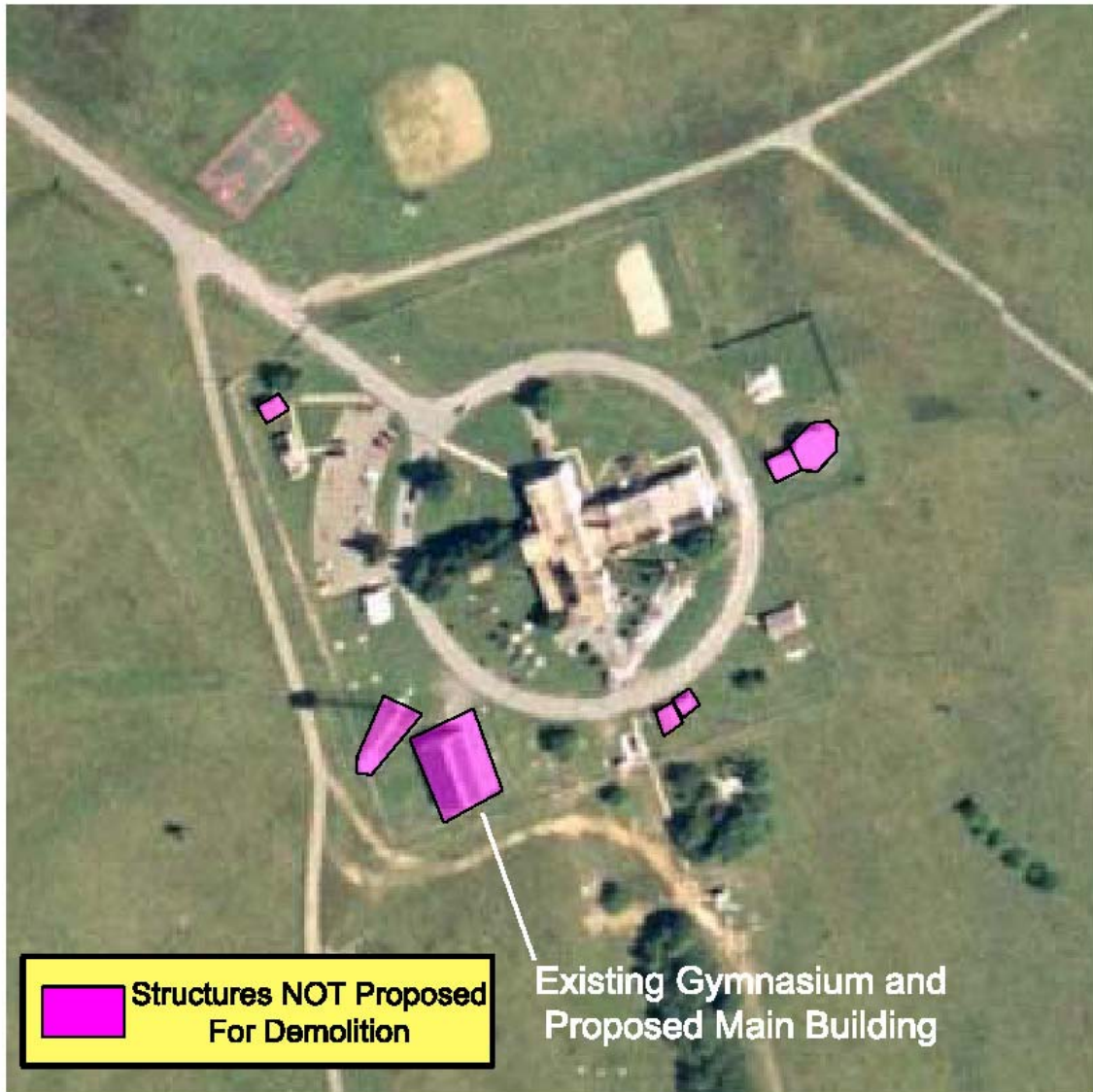


Figure 2-1. Location of Proposed Consolidation Projects at Brandywine Receiver Site

3. Affected Environment

Section 3.0 describes the environmental and socioeconomic resources and conditions most likely to be affected by the proposed consolidation and demolition projects. This section provides information to serve as a baseline from which to identify evaluate environmental and socioeconomic changes likely to result from implementation of the Proposed Action. Baseline conditions represent current conditions. The potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on the baseline conditions are described in Section 4.0.

In compliance with NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and 32 CFR Part 989, as amended, the description of the affected environment focuses on those resources and conditions potentially subject to impacts. Some environmental resources and conditions that are often analyzed in an EA have been omitted from this analysis. The following details the basis for such exclusions:

- **Noise.** Implementation of the Proposed Action does not involve permanent alterations to aircraft inventories, operations, or missions. No new permanent ground-based heavy equipment operations are included in the Proposed Action. No activity included in the Proposed Action would result in a situation where residences would be impacted by an increase to present ambient noise levels. Furthermore, noise produced by consolidation and demolition activities associated with the Proposed Action would be short-term and would not significantly affect sensitive receptors. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of noise.
- **Land Use.** All activities associated with the Proposed Action would be consistent with present and foreseeable land use patterns at the Brandywine Receiver Site. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not significantly alter the existing land use. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of land use.
- **Air Quality.** The Proposed Action does not involve permanent alterations to air quality. No new permanent buildings or emission sources are included in the Proposed Action. All potential air quality effects would be associated with the proposed demolition activities. Once consolidation is finished, air emissions would cease. Normal operation of the new facilities would have no effect on air quality at the Brandywine Receiver Site. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of air quality.
- **Safety.** The only safety concerns associated with the Proposed Action involve demolition safety. However, demolition projects on USAF bases are strictly guided by numerous Department of Defense (DOD) and USAF regulations designed to comply with standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Individuals, supervisors, managers, commanders, and contractors working at the Site would be expected to adhere to recognized safety standards established by AFI 91-301,

AFOSH Program. It is assumed that safe demolition practices would be used at all times, greatly reducing safety hazards as a result of the Proposed Action. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of safety.

- **Water Resources.** The Proposed Action does not involve permanent changes to water resources at Brandywine Receiver Site. The floodplain at Brandywine is located on the western side of the site around the unnamed intermittent creek (USAF 2001). The Proposed Action would not affect the floodplain. Stormwater from Brandywine drains south to unnamed intermittent streams that flow to Mattawoman Creek. Mattawoman Creek is located within the Lower Potomac Watershed. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of water resources.
- **Biological Resources.** The Proposed Action does not involve permanent changes to the biological resources located at the site. When the Brandywine Receiver Station was established, much of the interior forest was cleared to erect antennae and construct operations buildings. Most of the trees within approximately 3,400 feet of the central buildings were removed. Today, portions long unused at Brandywine have become reestablished with vegetation (Davis 1994). National Capital Parks–East monitors land at Brandywine, located about 500 feet north-northeast of the proposed consolidation area where Midwestern gerardia and sandplain flax, state-endangered and threatened, respectively, plants grow. The area is off-limits to training exercises and would not be affected by the Proposed Action (USAF 2001). Wildlife habitat within the improved areas of the site is limited due to fragmentation by the existing facilities, roads, and impervious surfaces at Brandywine. The Proposed Action would occur in areas of Brandywine that are improved. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of biological resources.
- **Cultural Resources.** No cultural resources or artifacts have been identified in the proposed Brandywine project area. Because of the highly disturbed nature of that site, it is unlikely that any cultural resources with integrity would be found. However, should any accidental discoveries occur, Andrews AFB has a current Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan that governs correct procedures. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of cultural resources.
- **Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.** The Proposed Action does not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in socioeconomic resources. There would be a small change in the number of personnel assigned to the Brandywine Receiver Site; however, there would be no changes in area population or associated changes in demand for housing and services. Accordingly, USAF has omitted detailed examination of socioeconomics.

3.1 Geological Resources

3.1.1 Definition of Resource

Geological resources consist of the earth's surface and subsurface materials. Within a given physiographic province, these resources typically are described in terms of topography, soils,

geology, minerals, and, where applicable, paleontology. Topography pertains to the general shape and arrangement of a land surface, including its height and the position of its natural and human-made features.

Soils are the unconsolidated materials overlying bedrock or other parent material. Soils typically are described in terms of their complex type, slope, and physical characteristics. Differences among soil types in terms of their structure, elasticity, strength, shrink-swell potential, and erosion potential affect their abilities to support certain applications or uses. In appropriate cases, soils properties must be examined for their compatibility with particular consolidation activities or types of land use.

Geology, the study of the earth's composition, provides information on the structure and configuration of surface and subsurface features. Such information derives from field analysis based on observations of the surface and borings to identify subsurface composition. Hydrogeology extends the study of the subsurface to water-bearing structures. Hydrogeological information helps in the assessment of groundwater quality and quantity and its movement.

3.1.2 Existing Conditions

Physiography and Topography. Brandywine is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province. The Blue Ridge Mountains are about 60 miles west of the main base and the Chesapeake Bay is 25 miles east. The Coastal Plain province is primarily characterized by unconsolidated substrata. Most of the surface is nearly level to gently sloping in the general southwest direction. Land surface elevations at Brandywine vary from approximately 195 feet to about 225 feet above mean sea level (MSL) (USAF 2001).

Natural Hazards. The mid-Atlantic and central Appalachian region, including Maryland, is characterized by a moderate amount of low-level earthquake activity, but their cause or causes are largely a matter of speculation. In Maryland, for example, there are numerous faults, but none are known or suspected to be active. Because of the relatively low seismic energy release, this region has received relatively little attention from earthquake seismologists (MGS 2003).

Soils. One major soil association dominates the Brandywine area, the Beltsville-Leonardtown-Chillum association (USAF 2001). These soils are predominately gently to moderately sloping, but may include areas that are nearly level to fairly steep. This association consists mainly of moderately deep, well-drained soils with a compacted subsoil or substratum. Composition is about 45 percent Beltsville soils, 13 percent Leonardtown soils, and 42 percent Chillum and

minor soils. The majority of Brandy Receiver Site is located on poorly drained Leonardtown and Elkton silt loams, but the moderately to well-drained Beltsville, Croom, Sassafras, Chillum, and Iuka soils also occur, primarily on eastern and southern portions of the site.

3.2 Hazardous Material and Waste

3.2.1 Definition of Resource

Hazardous material is defined by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as any substance with physical properties of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity that may cause an increase in mortality, a serious irreversible illness, incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a substantial threat to human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which was further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA), as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semisolid waste, or any combination of wastes that poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment.

Evaluation of hazardous materials and wastes focuses on underground storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks and the storage, transport, and use of pesticides and herbicides, fuels, and petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL). Evaluation may also extend to generation, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes when such activity occurs at or near the project site of a proposed action. In addition to being a threat to humans, the improper release of hazardous materials and wastes can threaten the health and well being of wildlife species, botanical habitats, soil systems, and water resources. In the event of release of hazardous materials or wastes, the extent of contamination varies based on the type of soil, topography, and water resources.

Special hazards are those substances that may pose a risk to human health but are not regulated as contaminants under the hazardous waste statutes. Hazards of significance associated with the Proposed Action are asbestos and lead-based paint. The presence of special hazards or controls over them may affect, or be affected by, a proposed action. Information on special hazards describing their locations, quantities, and condition assists in determining the significance of a proposed action.

To protect habitats and people from inadvertent and potentially harmful releases of hazardous substances, DOD has dictated that all facilities develop and implement Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Plans or Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plans. Also, DOD has developed the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), intended to facilitate thorough investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites located on military installations. These plans and programs, in addition to established legislation (i.e., CERCLA and RCRA) effectively form the “safety net” intended to protect the ecosystems on which most living organisms depend.

AFPD 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, establishes the policy that USAF is committed to:

- Cleaning up environmental damage resulting from its past activities
- Meeting all environmental standards applicable to its present operations
- Planning its future activities to minimize environmental impacts
- Managing responsibly the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources it holds in public trust
- Eliminating pollution from its activities wherever possible

AFPD 32-70 and the AFI 32-7000 series incorporate the requirements of all Federal regulations, other AFIs and DOD Directives for the management of hazardous materials, hazardous wastes and special hazards.

3.2.2 Existing Conditions

Hazardous Materials. AFI 32-7086, *Hazardous Materials Management*, establishes procedures and standards that govern management of hazardous materials throughout the USAF. It applies to all USAF personnel who authorize, procure, issue, use, or dispose of hazardous materials, and to those who manage, monitor, or track any of those activities. The 89 AW has established a hazardous materials pharmacy in accordance with AFI 32-7086 (AFIERA 2002). The pharmacy ensures that only the smallest quantities of hazardous materials necessary to accomplish the mission are purchased and used.

Hazardous and toxic material procurements at the Brandywine Receiver Site are approved and tracked by the Bioenvironmental Engineering Office located at Andrews AFB. The Environmental Management Flight office at Andrews AFB supports and monitors environmental permits, hazardous material and hazardous waste storage, spill prevention and response, and participation on the Base Environmental Protection Committee.

Hazardous Wastes. Hazardous wastes generated within the State of Maryland must be managed in accordance with USEPA, State of Maryland, and USAF regulatory requirements. The 89 AW maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan (AFIERA 2002) as directed by AFI 32-7042, *Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance*. This plan prescribes the roles and responsibilities of all members of Andrews AFB with respect to the waste stream inventory, waste analysis plan, hazardous waste management procedures, training, emergency response, and pollution prevention. The plan establishes the procedures to comply with applicable Federal, state, and local standards for solid waste and hazardous waste management.

Wastes generated at Brandywine Receiver Site include municipal solid waste (MSW), and other miscellaneous wastes. Management of hazardous waste is the responsibility of each waste-generating organization and environmental flight (AAFB 1998). Andrews AFB has a USEPA permit for hazardous waste (AFIERA 2002). A USEPA identification number has been assigned to Andrews AFB for use in tracking hazardous waste once it leaves the base. It is the responsibility of hazardous waste generators to ensure that their hazardous waste is transferred daily to a designated 90-day hazardous waste site. Hazard waste generators are required to maintain a listing of all the hazardous waste streams generated in their section, proper identification, handling, storage, and record keeping of hazardous waste.

Pollution Prevention. AFI 32-7080, *Pollution Prevention Program*, implements the regulatory mandates in the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, Pollution Prevention Act of 1990; EO 12856, *Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements*; EO 12873, *Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention*; and EO 12902, *Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation at Federal Facilities*. AFI 32-7080 prescribes the establishment of Pollution Prevention Management Plans. The 89 AW fulfills this requirement with the following plans:

- *Storm Water Management Plan (89 AW 2003)*
- *Hazardous Waste Management Plan Andrews AFB, MD (AFIERA 2002)*
- *Pollution Prevention Management Plan (AAFB 2003)*
- *Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Plan Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland (AAFB 2003)*
- *Solid Waste Management Plan (AAFB 2003)*

These plans ensure that the Brandywine Receiver Site maintains a waste reduction program and meets the requirements of the CWA, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program and Federal, state, and local requirements for spill prevention control and countermeasures.

Asbestos. AFI 32-1052, *Facilities Asbestos Management*, provides the direction for asbestos management at USAF installations. This instruction incorporates by reference applicable requirements of 29 CFR 669 et seq., 29 CFR 1910.1025, 29 CFR 1926.58, 40 CFR 61.3.80, Section 112 of the CAA, and other applicable AFIs and DOD Directives. AFI 32-1052 requires bases to develop an asbestos management plan for the purpose of maintaining a permanent record of the status and condition of asbestos containing material (ACM) in installation facilities, as well as documenting asbestos management efforts. In addition, the instruction requires installations to develop an asbestos operating plan detailing how the installation accomplishes asbestos-related projects. Asbestos is regulated by the USEPA with the authority promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. § 669, et seq. Section 112 of the CAA regulates emission of asbestos fibers to ambient air. The USEPA policy is to leave asbestos in place if disturbance or removal could pose a health threat.

Asbestos at the Brandywine Receiver Site is managed in accordance with the Asbestos Management Program Plan that was updated in 2002 (89 AW 2002). This plan specifies procedures for the removal, encapsulation, enclosure, and repair activities associated with ACM abatement projects. Additionally, it is designed to protect personnel who work at the Brandywine Receiver Site from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers as well as to ensure the installation remains in compliance with Federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to asbestos. Materials that may contain asbestos include pipe insulation and floor tiles. Asbestos materials are removed on an as needed basis to minimize health risks from release of asbestos fibers during normal activities, maintenance, renovation, or demolition.

Lead-Based Paint (LBP). The Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, Subtitle B, Section 408 (commonly called Title X), passed by Congress on October 28, 1992, regulates the use and disposal of LBP on Federal facilities. Federal agencies are required to comply with applicable Federal, state, and local laws relating to LBP activities and hazards.

USAF policy and guidance establishes LBP management at USAF facilities. The policy incorporates by reference the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120, 29 CFR 1926, 40 CFR 50.12, 40 CFR 240 through 280, the CAA, and other applicable Federal regulations. Additionally, the

policy requires each installation to develop and implement a facility management plan for identifying, evaluating, managing, and abating LBP hazards. LBP at the Brandywine Receiver Site is managed in accordance with the Lead-Based Paint Management Plan that was updated in 2002 (USAF 2002).

Environmental Restoration Program. ERP, formerly known as the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), is a subcomponent of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) that became law under the SARA. The ERP requires each DOD installation to identify, investigate, and cleanup hazardous waste disposal or release sites.

Andrews AFB began its ERP in 1985 with the investigation of possible locations of hazardous waste contamination (Amoako 2003). Andrews AFB was officially listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) by the USEPA in May 1999. The CERCLA sites are managed by the Andrews AFB's regulatory Partnering group, which includes USEPA, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Prince George's County Health Department.

The Brandywine Receiver Site has one ERP site, Waste Accumulation Point (WP)-16 (see Figure 3-1). Site WP-16 was originally identified as a past drum storage/accumulation point where servicing of lawn movers and personal vehicle took place. Oil staining on the gravel and along the southern wall of the adjacent building was observed in 1985. WP-16 is currently awaiting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under the CERCLA program (AAFB 2001). The trace amounts of soil contamination pose no public health hazard because there is no public access to the site (ATSDR 2001). The supply well for the Brandywine Receiver Site is located about 1200 feet away from WP-16. The potential for contaminated groundwater does not pose a health hazard since the supply well is not located downgradient from WP-16.

3.3 Infrastructure

3.3.1 Definition of the Resource

Infrastructure consists of the systems and physical structures that enable a population in a specified area to function. Infrastructure is wholly human-made, with a high correlation between the type and extent of infrastructure and the degree to which an area is characterized as "urban" or developed. The availability of infrastructure and its capacity to support growth are generally regarded as essential to economic growth of an area. The infrastructure information contained in this section was obtained from the Andrews AFB General Plan (AAFB No date) and provides a brief overview of each infrastructure component and comments on its existing general condition.



Figure 3-1. Brandywine Receiver Site ERP Site WP-16

The infrastructure components to be discussed in this section include transportation systems, utilities (electrical power, natural gas, liquid fuel, and water supply), solid waste, and sanitary systems.

Solid waste management primarily concerns itself with the availability of landfills to support a population's residential, commercial, and industrial needs. Alternative means of waste disposal may involve waste-to-energy programs or incineration. In some localities, landfills are designed specifically for, and limited to, disposal of consolidation and demolition debris. Recycling programs for various waste categories (e.g., glass, metals, and papers) reduce reliance of landfills for disposal.

3.3.2 Existing Conditions

Transportation Systems. The Brandywine Receiver Site is located in Prince George's County approximately seven miles south-southeast of Andrews AFB. The Andrews AFB is situated at the confluence of major transportation arteries making it readily accessible to the Washington,

D.C. Metropolitan Area, the State of Maryland, and Commonwealth of Virginia. The off-base transportation system consists of regional access to the base via U.S. Route 301. On base, Brandywine Road converges into Air Force Road.

Electrical Power. The Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) provides Andrews AFB with electrical power. Power metering in the main substation belongs to PEPCO and all other electrical equipment in the main substation and throughout the base is government owned and maintained.

Natural Gas. Washington Gas Light Company provides Andrews housing units with natural gas. Two distribution systems are served by a central heating plant (CHP) consisting of direct-buried piping. The western system is selectively being replaced with shallow-trench mains. All boilers in these two CHPs have recently been converted to natural gas.

Wastewater and Storm Water Systems. The Brandywine Receiver Site has a biological treatment wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) regulated under NPDES permit. This facility used to process approximately 2,000 gallons per day. It was recently decommissioned and the site was connected to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

Brandywine does not have a storm water drainage system. Predevelopment runoff patterns are relatively unchanged since only small portions of the site have impermeable surfaces. Stormwater from Brandywine drains south via two unnamed tributaries to Mattawoman Creek. Mattawoman Creek enters the Potomac River at a point slightly more than 15 miles to the southeast.

Water Supply. One water well located at the Brandywine Receiver Site provides the potable water supply. An operator licensed in the State of Maryland supervises the treatment of water through an on-site plant.

Solid Waste. MSW at the Brandywine Receiver Site is managed in accordance with the guidelines specified in AFI 32-7042, *Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance*. This AFI incorporates by reference the requirements of Subtitle D, 40 CFR Parts 240 through 244, 257, and 258, and other applicable Federal regulations, AFIs, and DOD Directives. In general, AFI 32-7042 establishes the requirement for installations to have a solid waste management program that incorporates the following: a solid waste management plan; procedures for handling, storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste; record-keeping and reporting; and pollution prevention.

The Environment Article Annotated Code of Maryland and Title 26 of the Code of Maryland Regulations are the primary statute and regulations relating to environmental protection and regulation in the State of Maryland. These laws and regulations contain requirements for landfills, asbestos, medical waste, tire recycling, industrial waste disposal, and wood waste, newsprint, plastic container labeling, telephone directory recycling, yard waste banned from disposal facilities, battery collection and battery recycling. The annual reporting of quantities of solid waste disposed in the state, and the jurisdictions where it originated is also governed by these laws. In addition, solid waste exported from the state for disposal is addressed within these laws and regulations.

A contractor handles the collection, transportation, and removal of non-hazardous MSW from the Brandywine Receiver Site. Waste is collected in dumpsters located throughout the base and then removed. The amount of MSW would be minimized once the site becomes unmanned. There are no operating landfills at Brandywine.

Subtitle 21-126 of the Prince George's County Code and Section 9-210(b) (2) and (3) of the Environment Article regulate the disposal of materials in a rubblefill. A rubblefill is a landfill in which construction or building demolition rubble is placed in a controlled manner. Rubble is a type of solid waste and includes land clearing debris, demolition debris, and construction debris. In Prince George's County, there is currently one operating rubblefill, the Ritchie-Marlboro facility (PGC 2002). The Ritchie-Marlboro Road Rubblefill has an approved State permit (1999-WRF-0126, issued October 25, 1999, expiring October 24, 2004) and County license (RF-001-86) and is currently in operation. Recently, an additional 30 acres was purchased at the site. However, this additional land is not approved for use as part of the existing rubblefill operation. The projected capacity based on projected demands is an additional 20 years.

Non-hazardous MSW from the Brandywine Receiver Site is primarily transported to the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill, located in Prince George's County approximately two miles northwest of the Town of Upper Marlboro. Prince George's County manages the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste generated from specific construction, renovation, and maintenance projects on the Brandywine Receiver Site, most of which are performed by off-base contractors, is the responsibility of the contractor. All non-recyclable C&D waste is collected in C&D dumpsters and stored on the project site until the contractor takes it away to an approved C&D landfill. C&D waste contaminated with hazardous waste, asbestos, lead-based paint, or

other undesirable components are managed in accordance with 459 SPTG/CEV procedures and AFI 32-7042.

Sanitary Systems. Brandywine Receiver Site is connected to the WSSC.

4. Environmental Consequences

This section of the EA assesses potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Potential impacts are addressed in the context of the scope of the Proposed Action as described in Section 2.0 and in consideration of the potentially affected environment as characterized in Section 3.0.

4.1 Geological Resources

4.1.1 Evaluation Criteria

Protection of unique geological features, minimization of soil erosion, and the siting of facilities in relation to potential geologic hazards are considered when evaluating potential impacts of a proposed action on geological resources. Generally, impacts can be avoided or minimized if proper construction techniques, erosion control measures, and structural engineering design are incorporated into project development.

Analysis of potential impacts on geological resources typically includes the following steps:

- Identification and description of resources that could potentially be affected
- Examination of a proposed action and the potential effects this action may have on the resource
- Assessment of the significance of potential impacts
- Provision of mitigation measures in the event that potentially significant impacts are identified

4.1.2 Environmental Consequences

Under the Proposed Action, demolition activities, such as grading, excavating, and recontouring of the soil, would result in soil disturbance. Implementation of best management practices would limit potential impacts resulting from demolition activities. Standard erosion control means (e.g., silt fencing, sediment traps, application of water sprays, and revegetation at disturbed areas) would also reduce potential impacts related to these characteristics. Therefore, impacts to soils at the base would not be significant.

The Proposed Action would not cause or create significant changes to the topography of Brandywine Receiver Station or the surrounding area. Therefore, no significant impacts to

regional or local topography or physiographic features would result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

4.2 Hazardous Material and Waste

4.2.1 Evaluation Criteria

Impacts to infrastructure are evaluated on their potential for disruption or improvement of existing levels of service and additional needs for energy and water consumption, wastewater systems, and transportation patterns and circulation. Impacts may arise from physical changes to circulation, consolidation activities, introduction of consolidation-related traffic on local roads, or changes in daily or peak-hour traffic volumes, and energy needs created by either direct or indirect workforce and population changes related to base activities.

4.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Hazardous Materials and Waste. Consolidation activities associated with the Proposed Action would require the use of certain hazardous materials such as paints, welding gases, solvents, preservatives, and sealants. Contractors would be responsible for the disposal of hazardous wastes in accordance with Federal and state laws and regulations. Therefore, hazardous materials management at the Brandywine Receiver Site would not be impacted by the proposed consolidation activities.

Asbestos and Lead-based Paint. Any ACM or LMP encountered during demolition of the buildings would be handled in accordance with established USAF policy and the *Asbestos Management and Operations Plan* (89 AW 2002) or *Lead Based Paint Management Plan* (USAF 2002). USAF regulations prohibit the use of ACM and LBP for new construction.

Pollution Prevention. It is anticipated that the Proposed Action would not impact the pollution prevention program at the Brandywine Receiver Site. Quantities of hazardous material and chemical purchases, off-base transport of hazardous waste, disposal of MSW, and energy consumption would remain unchanged under with implementation of the Proposed Action.

Environmental Restoration Program. Demolition of Building 10 would occur adjacent to ERP site WP-16. Sampling would take place to ensure worker safety during the consolidation activities. Should contamination be encountered, the handling, storage, transportation and disposal activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal, state, and local regulations, AFIs, and Andrews AFB programs and procedures.

4.3 Infrastructure

4.3.1 Evaluation Criteria

Impacts to infrastructure are evaluated on their potential for disruption or improvement of existing levels of service and additional needs for energy and water consumption, wastewater systems, and transportation patterns and circulation. Impacts may arise from physical changes to circulation, construction activities, introduction of construction-related traffic on local roads, or changes in daily or peak-hour traffic volumes, and energy needs created by either direct or indirect workforce and population changes related to base activities.

4.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Transportation Systems. There would be a temporary increase in the utilization of the installation's roadways as a result of consolidation traffic. Demolition equipment would be driven to the project location and would be kept on-site during the duration of the project. Following completion of consolidation, the transportation system surrounding the Brandywine Receiver Site would likely improve because of building consolidation. Therefore, long-term beneficial impacts to transportation systems would result from the Proposed Action.

Electrical Power. The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in electrical power usage. Therefore, no adverse impacts to electrical power would result from the Proposed Action.

Natural Gas. The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in natural gas usage. Therefore, no adverse impacts to natural gas systems would result from the Proposed Action.

Water Supply. The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in water usage. Therefore, no adverse impacts to water supply systems would result from the Proposed Action.

Solid Waste. Solid waste generated from the proposed consolidation activities would consist of building materials such as solid pieces of concrete, metals (conduit, piping, and wiring), and lumber. Implementation of the Proposed Action at the Brandywine Receiver Site would not impact the solid waste management program.

Sanitary Systems. The Proposed Action would not result in a net change in sanitary system usage. Therefore, no adverse impacts to sanitary systems would result from the Proposed Action.

4.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would remain as is and none of the proposed projects would occur. If the No Action Alternative were carried forward, there would be no change in or effects on geological resources, hazardous materials and waste, or infrastructure at the Brandywine Receiver Site. Andrews AFB would continue to use the Brandywine facility in its current condition and configuration. The Main Building would continue to deteriorate, resulting in expensive maintenance and repair costs.

5. Cumulative and Adverse Impacts

Cumulative impacts on environmental resources result from incremental impacts of proposed actions, when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area. Cumulative impacts can result from minor, but collectively substantial, actions undertaken over a period of time by various agencies (local, state, and Federal) or individuals. In accordance with NEPA, a discussion of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the near future is required.

There are no known future consolidation or demolition projects at the Brandywine Receiver Site other than those that have been identified as part of the Proposed Action.

Consolidation activities near Building 10 would be coordinated with the ERP activities for WP-16. Should contamination be encountered, the handling, storage, transportation and disposal activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal, state, and local regulations, AFIs, and Andrews AFB programs and procedures. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects to be addressed in association with the Proposed Action.

5.1 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Unavoidable adverse impacts would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. None of these impacts would be significant.

Geological Resources. Under the Proposed Action, consolidation activities, such as grading, excavating, and recontouring of the soil, would result in soil disturbance. Implementation of best management practices would limit potential impacts resulting from demolition activities. Standard erosion control means would also reduce potential impacts related to these characteristics. Although unavoidable, the effects on soils at the Brandywine Receiver Site base is would not be considered significant.

Hazardous Materials and Waste. The generation of hazardous materials and wastes are unavoidable conditions associated with the Proposed Action. However, the potential for these unavoidable situations would not significantly increase over baseline conditions and, therefore, are not considered significant.

Energy. The use of nonrenewable resources is an unavoidable occurrence, although not considered significant. The Proposed Action would require the use of fossil fuels, a

nonrenewable natural resource. Energy supplies, although relatively small, would be committed to the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

5.2 Compatibility of the Proposed Action and Alternatives with the Objectives of Federal, Regional, State, and Local Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls

Impacts to the ground surface as a result of the Proposed Action would occur entirely within the boundaries of the Brandywine Receiver Site. Consolidation activities would not result in any significant or incompatible land use. Consequently, consolidation activities would not be in conflict with base land use policies or objectives. The Proposed Action would not conflict with any applicable off-base land use ordinances or designated clear zones.

5.3 Relationship Between Short-term Use and Long-term Productivity

Short-term uses of the biophysical components of human's environment include direct construction-related disturbances and direct impacts associated with an increase in population and activity that occurs over a period of less than five years. Long-term uses of human's environment include those impacts occurring over a period of more than five years, including permanent resource loss.

Several kinds of activities could result in short-term resource uses that compromise long-term productivity. Filling of wetlands or loss of other especially important habitats and consumptive use of high-quality water at nonrenewable rates are examples of actions that affect long-term productivity.

The Proposed Action would not result in an intensification of land use at the Brandywine Receiver Site. Development of the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative would represent an increase of open space.

5.4 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The irreversible environmental changes that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action involve the consumption of material resources, energy resources, and human resources. The use of these resources is considered to be permanent.

Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effects that use of these resources will have on future generations. Irreversible

effects primarily result from use or destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame (e.g., energy and minerals).

Material Resources. Material resources utilized for the Proposed Action include concrete and various material supplies (for infrastructure). Most of the materials that would be consumed are not in short supply, would not limit other unrelated construction activities, and would not be considered significant.

Energy Resources. Energy resources utilized for the Proposed Action would be irretrievably lost. These include petroleum-based products (such as gasoline and diesel), natural gas, and electricity. During demolition, gasoline and diesel would be used for the operation of construction vehicles. During operation, gasoline would be used for the operation of private and government-owned vehicles. Natural gas and electricity would be used by operational activities. Consumption of these energy resources would not place a significant demand on their availability in the region. Therefore, no significant impacts would be expected.

Biological Habitat. The Proposed Action would not result in the loss of vegetation or wildlife habitat on proposed construction sites. Proposed consolidation is occurring on already developed land that is restricted for other uses for security reasons. Furthermore, the Proposed Action would increase open space and create more land to function as biological habitat.

Human Resources. The use of human resources for construction and operation is considered an irretrievable loss, only in that it would preclude such personnel from engaging in other work activities. However, the use of human resources for the Proposed Action represents employment opportunities, and is considered beneficial.

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6. List of Preparers

This EA has been prepared under the direction of Andrews AFB. The individuals who contributed to the preparation of this document are listed below.

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7. References

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APPENDIX A

INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 89TH AIRLIFT WING (AMC)

9/15/03

89 CES/ CEVP
3479 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB MD 20762

Ms. Susan Essig
Chief, Division of Habitat Conservation
USFWS Region 5
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Dear Ms. Essig

The 89th Airlift Wing is preparing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the following actions: Demolition of Building 3306, Modifications to Building 1535, and Brandywine Receiver Site Consolidation. The Draft Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are included with this correspondence as Attachment 1 and 2.

The environmental impact analysis process for these proposals is being conducted by the Air Mobility Command (AMC) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we request your participation by reviewing the attached Draft FONSI and solicit your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. Please provide written comments or information regarding the action at your earliest convenience. In order to meet internal deadlines, the AMC is seeking to obtain FONSI signatures by September 30, 2003. Although FONSI signatures are expected by September 30, 2003, agency comments are welcome after that date and will be taken into account. Also enclosed is a listing of those Federal, state, and local agencies that have been contacted (see Attachment 3). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the proposal, please include them in your distribution of this letter and the attached materials.

Please address questions or comments regarding the proposals to our consultant, engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e²M). The point-of-contact at e²M is Ms. Suanne Collinworth. She can be reached at (703) 263-3350. Please forward your written comments to Ms. Collinworth, in care of e²M, Inc., 4215 Walney Road, Suite 4, Chantilly, VA 20151. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Joseph Brown (89 CES/CEVP)
Environmental Planning Chief

Attachments:

1. Draft FONSI for Demolition of Building 3306 and Modifications to Building 1535
2. Draft FONSI for Brandywine Receiver Site Consolidation
3. Distribution list

DRAFT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**MODIFICATIONS TO BUILDING 1535 AND DEMOLITION OF BUILDING 3306
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND**

INTRODUCTION

The 89th Airlift Wing (89 AW) of the United States Air Force (USAF) has proposed to modify Building 1535 and demolish Building 3306 at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB), Maryland. The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were assessed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). Andrews AFB is a USAF base under the Air Mobility Command (AMC) and is headquarters to the 89 AW. The 89 AW provides logistical support for the President, Vice President, cabinet members, and high-ranking U.S. and foreign government officials.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Renovations to Building 1535. Building 1535 was built in 1946 and is deteriorating rapidly. If current conditions continue, the facility will either deteriorate to a nearly unusable condition or require costly repair and maintenance costs with no tangible benefits to the USAF. Continued use of the substandard wing headquarters facility adversely affects the morale and productivity of over 1,200 assigned USAF and tenant personnel. In addition, Building 1535 is frequented by dignitaries and USAF senior staff that regularly attend conferences and other special events. The condition of the facility is less than professional and does not project the positive image of USAF. In addition, USAF force protection requirements are not currently being met and security of the building could be compromised, jeopardizing the protection of personnel who work and visit the facility.

Demolition of Building 3306. Building 3306 was built in 1963. It was constructed to incinerate waste and, due to a change in mission requirements, is no longer in use. Under the Proposed Action, the building would be demolished.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Andrews AFB proposes to renovate Building 1535. Under the Proposed Action, Building 1535 would be upgraded to improve the condition of the interior office spaces and common areas, utilities, roof, and security. Building 3306 was constructed to incinerate waste and due a change in mission requirements, is no longer in use. Under the Proposed Action, Building 3306 would be demolished.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, Andrews AFB would continue to use Building 1535 in its current condition and configuration. Building 1535 would continue deteriorating to a nearly unstable condition. Worker environment and morale would continue to suffer. Building 3306 is considered excess property and if left standing, would slowly deteriorate.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

As part of the NEPA process, reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action must be considered. Economic analyses were performed for the proposed modifications of Building 1535 to compare construction of new buildings, renovation of the existing building, and the status quo. The analyses determined that revitalization of Building 1535 would be the most cost effective over the life of the project. Therefore, other alternatives were initially considered, but eliminated from further consideration because they were not found to be viable alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Analysis performed in the EA addressed potential effects on air quality, geological resources, hazardous materials and wastes, infrastructure, and safety. The analysis indicates that implementing the Proposed Action would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the quality of the natural or human environment.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Federal, state, and local agencies listed in Appendix A of the EA were contacted for comment on the Proposed Action. Agency comments were included in the analysis.

Based on the provisions set forth in the Proposed Action, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and coordinated with the appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies. A draft of this FONSI was made available to the public. Additionally, copies of the draft FONSI were forwarded to Federal, state, and local agencies for review and comment. Public and agency comments will be addressed at the end of the review period prior to implementing the Proposed Action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After review of the EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989, as amended, I have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the USAF.

RUSSELL J. FRASZ, Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander, 89th Airlift Wing

Date

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**CONSOLIDATION OF BRANDYWINE RECEIVER SITE
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND**

INTRODUCTION

The 89th Airlift Wing (89 AW) of the United States Air Force (USAF) has proposed to consolidate the Brandywine Receiver Site located in Brandywine, Maryland. The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were assessed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). Andrews AFB is a USAF base under the Air Mobility Command (AMC) and is headquarters to the 89 AW. The 89 AW provides logistical support for the President, Vice President, cabinet members, and high-ranking U.S. and foreign government officials.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

In 1967, a survey was conducted for the location of a communications satellite terminal at the Brandywine site and installation of the facility was completed in January 1968. Over the last 35 years, advances in technology have reduced the amount and size of equipment and the manpower necessary to run the site. As a result, the majority of buildings at the site are no longer necessary to continue operations. In addition, the existing Main Building is deteriorating rapidly and maintenance and repair of the building has been quite costly in recent years.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, the existing Main Building and other excess buildings would be demolished. The current gymnasium (built in 1997) would be converted to the Main Building. The site would become un-manned. Although personnel would frequently visit the site, no personnel would be permanently assigned to the site.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, Andrews AFB would continue to use the Brandywine facility in its current condition and configuration. There would be no change from the existing conditions at the installation. The Main Building would continue to deteriorate, resulting in expensive maintenance and repair costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Analysis performed in the EA addressed potential effects on geological resources, hazardous materials and wastes, and infrastructure. The analysis indicates that implementing the Proposed Action would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the quality of the natural or human environment.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Federal, state, and local agencies listed in Appendix A of the EA were contacted for comment on the Proposed Action. Agency comments were included in the analysis.

Based on the provisions set forth in the Proposed Action, all activities were found to comply with the criteria or standards of environmental quality and coordinated with the appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies. A draft of this FONSI was made available to the public. Additionally, copies of the draft FONSI were forwarded to Federal, state, and local agencies for review and comment. Public and agency comments will be addressed at the end of the review period prior to implementing the Proposed Action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After review of the EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989, as amended, I have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information, and considering a full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and are within the legal authority of the USAF.

RUSSELL J. FRASZ, Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander, 89th Airlift Wing

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