FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION BEDDOWN MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

April 2011

Report Documentation Page

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 1500-1508), and the *Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (32 CFR 989). The decisions included in this FONSI are based upon information contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for beddown of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) mission at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), Minneapolis, Minnesota. The EA analyzed potential environmental consequences that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action, two alternatives, or the No Action Alternative.

1. Name of Action

BEDDOWN OF AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION AT MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternative Actions

Proposed Action:
The U.S. Air Force Reserve (USAFR) proposes to beddown a new explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The new EOD mission would employ six full-time Air Force Reservists at MSPARS and train up to eight traditional reservists for the EOD mission. The proposed location for the EOD mission beddown facility is Building 750 at MSPARS, which would be renovated and expanded to the required 11,000 square feet needed for the mission.

An off-range training area would be established at Area B of MSPARS, located approximately 2 miles from the main base, adjacent to the Minnesota River. Area B contains a closed landfill and an active MSPARS small arms firing range.

Two alternative sites are available for the EOD proficiency range, which involves individual detonations of up to 5 pounds of C-4 explosive. Both sites are located on existing ordnance testing and training ranges within 2 hours driving time from MSPARS. One site is at the Alliant Techsystems (ATK) Proving Ground (ATPG) in Elk River, Minnesota, an active ordnance and military explosives testing site within 1-hour driving distance from MSPARS. The other site is located at Camp Ripley, a Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) training base approximately 2 hours driving distance north of MSPARS. Camp Ripley is regularly used for Army training involving high explosives and artillery detonations. The exact design details of the proficiency range facilities have not been determined, but both alternative sites are secured to prevent public access. The Proposed Action includes the use of both alternative proficiency range sites, ATPG and Camp Ripley, in order to avoid training delays if one site is temporarily unavailable.

Alternative Actions:
Alternatives which use only one of the proficiency range sites are also proposed, but are not evaluated separately, since the environmental consequences would be the same as for the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative:
Under the No Action Alternative, the USAFR would not beddown a new EOD mission at MSPARS.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated
The USAFR considered other alternatives in addition to the Proposed Action, the EOD Site Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative. Three sites at MSPARS were considered for the off-range training area,

but were eliminated due to conflicting land uses in place or proposed. Four sites were considered for the proficiency range location, but were eliminated due to distance from MSPARS or inability to secure a use agreement with the site owners.

3. Summary of Environmental Resources and Impacts

Land Use. No significant impacts on land use would result from the Proposed Action, as all project sites would remain in their current ownership and use. The No Action Alternative would not impact land use.

Recreation and Aesthetics. Possible recreation impacts at Area B would occur if a recreational river trail proposed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is impeded, but a recreational use would be negotiated with MNDNR to reduce those impacts to less than significant. No recreation or aesthetic impacts would occur at any of the other project sites. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts.

Noise. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on the noise environment. Construction and traffic would insignificantly affect the noise environment at MSPARS, because the noise generated would be intermittent, and would occur during daytime hours and within the context of fairly high ambient noise levels. Noise impacts at the proficiency range sites would be less than those currently existing due to ordnance and explosives detonation at ATPG and Camp Ripley. No sensitive receptors are located within a distance to be significantly impacted at either location. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts due to noise.

Soils. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on soils in Area B due to the limited depth of potential excavation and the use of best management practices to prevent erosion. No additional impacts on soils at the proficiency range sites would occur due to the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts on soils.

Air Quality. The Proposed Action would have short-term insignificant impacts on air quality as a result of construction activities and detonation of explosives. There would be no impacts under the No Action Alternative.

Water Resources. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on surface water and groundwater. Short-term increased sedimentation of nearby surface waters could result from ground disturbances during construction, but implementing best management practices would reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation, and impacts would be insignificant. There would be no impacts on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-delineated floodplains. There would be no impacts under the No Action Alternative.

Biological Resources. The Proposed Action would have only short-term and insignificant impacts on biological resources due to construction and use of the EOD ranges. Impacts would result primarily from construction and training activities that would temporarily displace wildlife. No critical habitat, threatened or endangered species, or wetlands would be affected. Operational impacts would be insignificant, as noise from training activities would not significantly affect avian or other wildlife species currently habituated to detonation of explosives. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on the biological environment.

Cultural Resources. There are no known cultural resources near any of the project areas. Operations would not affect cultural resources. There would be no impacts on cultural resources from the No Action Alternative.

Utilities. Utilities at MSPARS are currently adequate for existing and future facilities and operations, and the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on availability of electricity, gas, water or sewer services at MSPARS. There would be no impacts on utilities from the No Action Alternative.

Transportation. The Proposed Action would have insignificant short-term impacts on transportation at MSPARS during construction as a result of increased traffic and the use of construction equipment. After construction is complete, traffic levels in the project area would return to near pre-construction levels, with no significant long-term impacts. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on the transportation infrastructure.

Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice and Protection of Children. Due to the distance removed of the proposed project sites from residential areas, the small increase in personnel at MSPARS relative to the population of the Minneapolis metropolitan area, and the restricted access of the project sites, there would be no significant impacts on socioeconomics, environmental justice, or protection of children as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

Hazardous and Toxic Substances. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on hazardous materials and waste. Landfill materials in Area B would not be impacted, and waste and residue generated by detonation of explosives at the proficiency range sites would be within the parameters of existing permits for those sites. Testing and proper disposal of any asbestos-containing material in Building 750 would be accomplished during construction. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts.

Safety. Compliance with U.S. Air Force (USAF) and Department of Defense manuals and procedures would reduce the safety risk for EOD mission personnel to an insignificant level. No public risk impacts would occur due to detonation of explosives at the proficiency range sites due to lack of public access and established buffer zones. The No Action Alternative would have no safety impacts.

Cumulative Impacts. There would be no significant cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action. The insignificant increases in air and noise emissions, and the insignificant impacts predicted for other resource areas, would also be insignificant when considered cumulatively with other activities in the Minneapolis metropolitan area and near ATPG and Camp Ripley.

4. Conclusions

Based on the analysis and conclusions presented in the EA, conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process, as promulgated in Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 989, and after careful review of the potential impacts, I conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action or the Alternative Actions would result in no significant impacts on the quality of the human or natural environments. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is warranted, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

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26 April 2011

Darrell G. Young — Date

Colonel, USAFR

Commander

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION BEDDOWN
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Public comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) were requested pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period were considered during preparation of the final EA. Private address information provided with comments was used solely to develop a mailing list for the final EA distribution and will not be otherwise released.

United States Air Force

April 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) Command (AFRC) proposes to beddown a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training mission at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), which is located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider environmental consequences in their decision-making process. The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has issued regulations to implement NEPA that include provisions for both the content and procedural aspects of the required environmental analysis. The U.S. Air Force (USAF) environmental impact assessment process is accomplished through the adherence to the procedures set forth in CEQ regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) §1500-1508) and 32 CFR 989 (*Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process*). These Federal regulations establish both the administrative process and substantive scope of the environmental impact evaluation, designed to ensure that deciding authorities have a proper understanding of the potential environmental consequences of a contemplated course of action. This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes potential environmental consequences from implementing the Proposed Action or alternatives, including a No Action Alternative.

The 934th Airlift Wing, housed at MSPARS, provides air transport capabilities for moving military equipment and personnel worldwide. The EOD mission would serve as first responder for civil and military incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and other explosive threats. The training of EOD personnel would support the worldwide mission of the USAF. The purpose of the action is to provide a facility where EOD personnel can receive all required training to maintain proficiency with a variety of munitions. Training would be conducted in accordance with USAF safety and operational requirements and EOD standards.

The Proposed Action sites and EOD site alternatives are located at MSPARS and at remote existing ordnance ranges within a reasonable driving distance from MSPARS. Facility siting criteria eliminated many potential locations because of quantity-distance restrictions for explosives. Only two sites were available for the EOD proficiency range, and only one for the off-range training area. The alternative proficiency range sites are currently used for detonation of explosives and ordnance.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action would establish a new EOD mission at MSPARS. Facilities, training, and operations would be essentially the same under the Proposed Action and both EOD proficiency range site alternatives. The proposed location for the EOD mission beddown facility is Building 750 at MSPARS, which would be renovated and expanded to the required 11,000 square feet needed for the mission. Six full-time reservists and eight traditional reservists would be assigned to the EOD mission.

An off-range training area would be established at Area B of MSPARS, located approximately 2 miles from the main base, adjacent to the Minnesota River. Area B contains a closed landfill and an active MSPARS small arms firing range.

Two alternative sites are available for the EOD proficiency range, which involves individual detonations of up to 5 pounds of C-4 explosive. Both sites are located on existing ordnance testing and training ranges within 2 hours driving time from MSPARS. One site is at the Alliant Techsystems (ATK) Proving Ground (ATPG) in Elk River, Minnesota, an active ordnance and military explosives testing site within 1-hour driving distance from MSPARS. The other site is located at Camp Ripley, a Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) training base approximately 2 hours driving distance north of MSPARS. Camp Ripley is regularly used for Army training involving high explosives and artillery detonations. The

exact design details of the proficiency range facilities have not been determined, but both alternative sites are secured to prevent public access.

The Proposed Action includes the use of both alternative proficiency range sites, ATPG and Camp Ripley, in order to avoid training delays if one site is temporarily unavailable. Alternatives which use only one of the proficiency range sites are also proposed, but are not evaluated separately, since the environmental consequences would be the same as for the Proposed Action. As required by CEQ regulations, a No Action Alternative was also evaluated, where no new EOD mission would be established at MSPARS.

EOD Proficiency Range Site Alternative 2, ATPG
This alternative site is on a private ordnance proving ground at an existing ordnance test site (ATPG). The site is within a secured area with no public access. Existing test structures would be removed by ATK, and any required containment structures would be constructed on the already-disturbed site. No resources of concern are located at the ATPG site, and detonations are currently conducted on ATPG at levels well in excess of those required for EOD training. A lease or use arrangement would be negotiated with ATK for use of the site for MSPARS EOD mission training.

EOD Proficiency Range Site Alternative 3, Camp Ripley
This alternative site is located on an active 52,000-acre National Guard training base approximately 2 hours driving distance north of MSPARS. Two possible proficiency range sites are available at Camp Ripley, Engineer Demolition Range L (Lima Range) and Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility (Breach Range). Both sites are actively used for explosives training and are heavily disturbed with existing safety bunkers in place. No resources of concern are present at either site. A use agreement would be negotiated with MNARNG for use of a site at Camp Ripley for MSPARS EOD mission training.

No Action Alternative
Under the No Action Alternative, a new EOD mission would not be established at MSPARS, and no new personnel would be assigned nor would new facilities be constructed.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated
The Air Force considered other alternatives in addition to the Proposed Action, the EOD Site Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative. Three sites at MSPARS were considered for the off-range training area, but were eliminated due to conflicting land uses in place or proposed. Four sites were considered for the proficiency range location, but were eliminated due to distance from MSPARS or inability to secure a use agreement with the site owners.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BY RESOURCE

The following resource areas were analyzed for potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Land Use. No significant impacts on land use would result from the Proposed Action, as all project sites would remain in their current ownership and use. The No Action Alternative would not impact land use.

Recreation and Aesthetics. Possible recreation impacts at Area B would occur if a recreational river trail proposed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is impeded, but a recreational use would be negotiated with MNDNR to reduce those impacts to less than significant. No recreation or aesthetic impacts would occur at any of the other project sites. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts.

Noise. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on the noise environment. Construction and traffic would insignificantly affect the noise environment at MSPARS, because the noise generated would be intermittent, and would occur during daytime hours and within the context of fairly high ambient noise levels. Noise impacts at the proficiency range sites would be less than those currently existing due to ordnance and explosives detonation at ATPG and Camp Ripley. No sensitive receptors are located within a distance to be significantly impacted at either location. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts due to noise.

Soils. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on soils in Area B due to the limited depth of potential excavation and the use of best management practices to prevent erosion. No additional impacts on soils at the proficiency range sites would occur due to the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts on soils.

Air Quality. The Proposed Action would have short-term insignificant impacts on air quality as a result of construction activities and detonation of explosives. There would be no impacts under the No Action Alternative.

Water Resources. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on surface water and groundwater. Short-term increased sedimentation of nearby surface waters could result from ground disturbances during construction, but implementing best management practices would reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation, and impacts would be insignificant. There would be no impacts on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-delineated floodplains. There would be no impacts under the No Action Alternative.

Biological Resources. The Proposed Action would have only short-term and insignificant impacts on biological resources due to construction and use of the EOD ranges. Impacts would result primarily from construction and training activities that would temporarily displace wildlife. No critical habitat, threatened or endangered species, or wetlands would be affected. Operational impacts would be insignificant, as noise from training activities would not significantly affect avian or other wildlife species currently habituated to detonation of explosives. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on the biological environment.

Cultural Resources. There are no known cultural resources near any of the project areas. Operations would not affect cultural resources. There would be no impacts on cultural resources from the No Action Alternative.

Utilities. Utilities at MSPARS are currently adequate for existing and future facilities and operations, and the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on availability of electricity, gas, water or sewer services at MSPARS. There would be no impacts on utilities from the No Action Alternative.

Transportation. The Proposed Action would have insignificant short-term impacts on transportation at MSPARS during construction as a result of increased traffic and the use of construction equipment. After construction is complete, traffic levels in the project area would return to pre-construction levels, with no long-term impacts. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on the transportation infrastructure.

Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice and Protection of Children. Due to the distance removed of the proposed project sites from residential areas, and the small increase in personnel at MSPARS relative to the population of the Minneapolis metropolitan area, and the restricted access of the project sites, there would be no significant impacts on socioeconomics, environmental justice, or protection of children as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

Hazardous and Toxic Substances. The Proposed Action would have insignificant impacts on hazardous materials and waste. Landfill materials in Area B would not be impacted, and waste and residue generated by detonation of explosives at the proficiency range sites would be within the parameters of existing permits for those sites. Testing and proper disposal of any asbestos-containing material in Building 750 would be accomplished during construction. The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts.

Safety. Compliance with USAF and Department of Defense (DoD) manuals and procedures would reduce the safety risk for EOD mission personnel to an insignificant level. No public risk impacts would occur due to detonation of explosives at the proficiency range sites due to lack of public access. The No Action Alternative would have no safety impacts.

Cumulative Impacts. There would be no significant cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action. The insignificant increases in air and noise emissions, and the insignificant impacts predicted for other resource areas, would also be insignificant when considered cumulatively with other activities in the Minneapolis metropolitan area and near ATPG and Camp Ripley.

MITIGATION, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Significant adverse impacts can be mitigated through avoidance, minimization, remediation, reduction, or compensation; certain mitigations are required by law. Within each resource area, this EA presents any mitigation identified during the analysis, along with best management practices and preventive measures that are necessary or useful to minimize environmental impacts.

Mitigation

No significant impacts were identified. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

Best Management Practices

Construction best management practices to protect air quality and soil, water, and biological resources include the following:

- Dampening disturbed soil as needed to prevent wind erosion
- Revegetating disturbed areas (exposed soil) as quickly as possible
- Using sediment barriers or traps and trench boxes
- Surveys for migratory bird nests if construction will occur during the nesting season.

Preventive Measures

Preventative measures to protect hearing and the general safety of EOD mission personnel are outlined in the following instructions:

- Air Force Manual 91-201, *Explosive Safety Standards*
- Air Force Instruction 32-3001, *Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program*
- Department of Defense Directive 6055.9, *DoD Explosives Safety Board and DoD Component Explosives and Safety Responsibilities*

Adherence to these instructions would prevent significant human health or safety impacts during EOD training activities.

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SECTION 1.0
PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE

1.0 PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to comply with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law [PL] 91-190; 42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321-4347), as amended. Preparation of this EA followed instructions established in 32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (EIAP) for the United States (U.S.) Air Force (USAF), and 40 CFR 1500-1508, *Council on Environmental Quality* (CEQ) regulations.

This EA evaluates potential impacts of Federal actions associated with the beddown of a new explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS) (Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2).

1.1 INTRODUCTION

MSPARS occupies approximately 267 acres located at the northeast corner of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Manpower at the base consists of approximately 350 full-time personnel and 1,200 part-time reservists. MSPARS is collocated with three other military services: Navy and Marine Reserves, Army Reserves, and Air National Guard. The 934th Airlift Wing is the host squadron for MSPARS, and operates eight C-130H aircraft with a mission to provide combat aircrews and mission-ready aeromedical evacuation crews and trained reservists in support of USAF and National objectives.

EOD units in the USAF have become a required mission for combat deployments due to the increased use of improvised explosive devices (IED) by opposing forces and terrorists in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. mainland. The USAF recognized the need to stand up additional EOD missions at USAF Reserve (USAFR) installations to train and maintain sufficient personnel to meet the growing need at USAF locations around the world (HQ AFRC/CV Memorandum 2008). The request to posture an additional 92 EOD authorizations included the stand up of new EOD missions at 11 USAFR installations, including MSPARS. However, USAFR was not originally designed to provide EOD support to the installations, or to Federal or civil government agencies.

The EOD mission at MSPARS is scheduled to be completely staffed in late 2011; however, the first permanent mission member has been hired and reported for duty in November 2010. Existing building and equipment space at MSPARS will be used to temporarily house the new EOD mission until permanent space can be secured and modified to meet the mission needs.

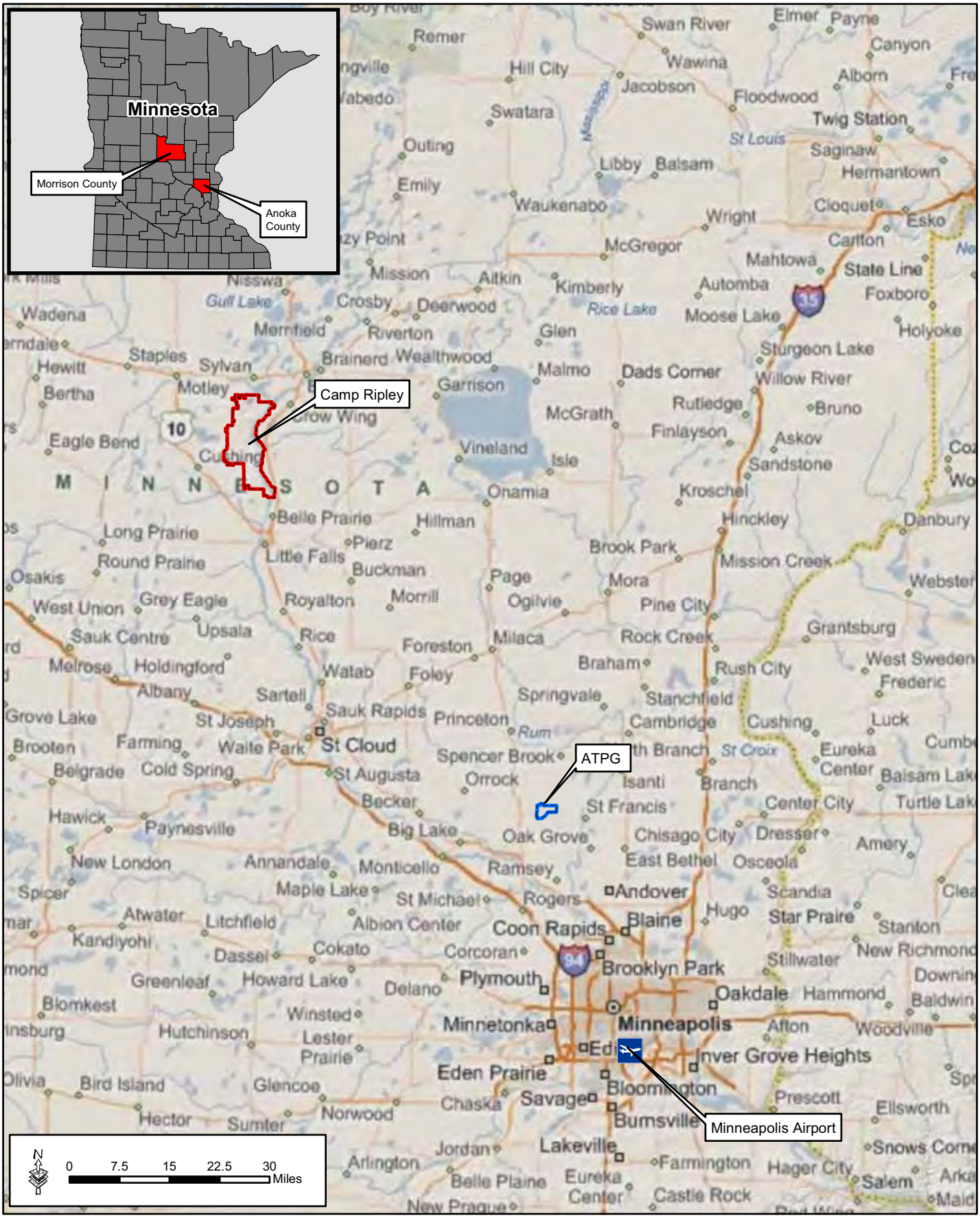

Figure 1-1: Vicinity Map

GSRC

January 2011

Figure 1-2: MSPARS Location Map

January 2011

The USAFR is preparing this EA to address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, resulting from the proposed beddown of a new EOD mission at MSPARS. The proposed new EOD mission would be housed at MSPARS, with an off-range training area and a proficiency range developed at locations away from the main MSPARS base (see Figure 1-1). The new EOD mission would include full-time employment of six new USAFR personnel, as well as an additional eight traditional reservists, renovation and construction of facilities at the main MSPARS facility, construction and use of an off-range training area on MSPARS property for non-explosive ordnance training, construction and use of a remote site not on MSPARS property for proficiency training using explosive charges, and purchase and maintenance of equipment necessary for the mission.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action at MSPARS is to meet the USAF requirement for additional EOD support personnel necessary for deployment as needed at USAF installations. The new EOD mission at MSPARS is needed to train USAFR personnel in EOD techniques and equipment, to increase the capability of the USAF to respond to IEDs and other munitions disposal situations at USAF installations and other Federal and civil agencies facilities, and to maintain mission proficiency compliant with Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-3001, *Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program*.

1.3 SCOPE

The scope of this EA includes the analysis of effects resulting from the construction and modification of buildings at MSPARS, beddown and operation of the EOD mission at MSPARS, and construction and use of a new off-range training area and a new proficiency range for the EOD mission. This analysis does not include an assessment of normal operations conducted at MSPARS. The potentially affected natural and human environment would include resources associated with the developed MSPARS base at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the off-range training area site located southeast of the airport, and the remote proficiency range sites at the Alliant Techsystems (ATK) Proving Grounds (ATPG) and at Camp Ripley, managed by Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG). Potential effects would be limited to the construction sites at the MSPARS base, the effects of ground disturbance at the off-range training area, and the effects of explosives detonation on resources at the proficiency range sites.

1.4 APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS

This EA was prepared by the USAFR in accordance with NEPA of 1969 (42 USC 4321-4347) and the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), as well as 32 CFR Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)* for the USAF, and other pertinent environmental statutes, regulations, and compliance requirements, as indicated in Table 1-1.

1.5 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This EA is organized into 10 major sections, including this introduction. Section 2.0 describes all alternatives considered for the project. Section 3.0 discusses the environmental resources potentially affected by the project and the environmental consequences for each of the viable alternatives, and Section 4.0 discusses commitment of resources; cumulative impacts are discussed in Section 5.0; and public involvement is discussed in Section 6.0. Sections 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10 present a list of mitigation measures, the references cited in the document, a list of acronyms and abbreviations, and a list of the persons involved in the preparation of the EA, respectively. Pertinent correspondence generated during the preparation of this EA can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1-1. Relevant Policy Documents, Invoking Actions, Regulatory Requirements, and Status of Compliance *

Policy Document	Administrative Authority	Invoking Action	Requirements for Compliance	Status of Compliance
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 16 United States Code (USC) § 470 et seq.	Department of Interior	Excavation, removal, damage, or other alteration or defacing; or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands 43 Code Federal Regulations (CFR) 7.4	Because activities are exclusively for purposes other than the excavation and/or removal of archaeological resources, even though those activities might incidentally result in the disturbance of archaeological resources, no permit shall be required	Full compliance
Clean Air Act of 1963 16 USC § 470 et seq.	Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	Any Federal action where the total of direct and indirect emissions in a non-attainment area would equal or exceed the provided rates 40 CFR 51	Project emission levels were determined to be less than *de minimis* thresholds; therefore, a determination of conformity with applicable implementation plan is not required	Full compliance
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 42 USC § 9601 et seq.	USEPA	Release or threatened release of a hazardous substance 40 CFR 302	Development of emergency response plans, notification, and cleanup	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 16 USC § 1531 et seq.	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	All Federal actions in which there is discretionary involvement or control potentially impacting species listed under the ESA 50 CFR 402.03	Determination of no jeopardy to listed species and no destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat through consultation with the USFWS	Full compliance
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 7 USC § 9601 et seq.	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Any Federal action that impacts prime or unique farmland soils 7 CFR 658	Identify and take into account the adverse effects on the protection of farmland	Full compliance

Table 1-1, continued

Policy Document	Administrative Authority	Invoking Action	Requirements for Compliance	Status of Compliance
Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1977 (also known as Clean Water Act or CWA) 33 USC § 1251 et seq.	USEPA	Storage, use, or consumption of oil and oil products, which could discharge oil in quantities that could affect water quality standards, into or upon the navigable waters of the U.S. 40 CFR 112	Preparation of a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan	To be completed by USAFR or contractor
		Discharge of pollutants that could impact surface water or groundwater 40 CFR 122	Obtain a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)Permit	To be completed by USAFR or contractor
	USEPA, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Excavation, fill or discharge of materials into wetlands 40 CFR 230 § 404	Identification of wetlands and application for permit, if necessary	Full compliance
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 16 USC § 703	USFWS	Any USAF action resulting in the take of any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such bird 50 CFR 21.11	Avoidance of take or application for permit	Proposed surveys prior to any construction beginning during nesting season
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 16 USC § 470 et seq.	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Any Federal undertaking that could impact cultural resources 36 CFR 800.3	Assessment of effects through consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Full compliance
Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970 29 USC § 651 et seq.	Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor	Employees performing in a workplace 29 CFR 1910.5 (a)	Adherence to occupational health and safety standards	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation

Table 1-1, continued

Policy Document	Administrative Authority	Invoking Action	Requirements for Compliance	Status of Compliance
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 42 USC § 6901 et seq.	USEPA	Collection of residential, commercial, and institutional solid wastes and street wastes 40 CFR 243	Adherence to guidelines for waste storage and safety and collection equipment, frequency, and management	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation
		Procurement of more than $10,000 annually of products containing recovered materials 40 CFR 247	Procure designated items composed of the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable	To be completed by USAF during design and operation
		Recovery of resources from solid waste through source separation 40 CFR 246	Recovery of high-grade paper, residential materials, and corrugated containers	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation
RCRA of 1976 42 USC § 6901 et seq.	USEPA	Treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste on-site 40 CFR 262.10(c)	Determination of hazardous or non-hazardous nature of solid waste, obtain an EPA identification number if necessary, properly accumulate hazardous waste, and maintain a record	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation
Executive Order (EO) 11988: Floodplain Management 42 Federal Register (FR) 26,951 (May 24, 1977)	Water Resources Council, Federal Emergency Management Agency	Acquisition and management of Federal lands; Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction; conducting Federal activities affecting land use in a floodplain	Determine whether the proposed action will occur in a floodplain, then evaluate potential effects of any action in a floodplain	Full compliance
EO 11990: Protection of Wetlands 42 FR 26,691 (May 24, 1977)	USACE, USEPA	Acquisition and management of Federal lands; Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction; conducting Federal activities affecting wetlands	Take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands	Full compliance

Table 1-1, continued

Policy Document	Administrative Authority	Invoking Action	Requirements for Compliance	Status of Compliance
EO 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations 59 FR 7629 (February 11, 1994)	USEPA	All programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment	Analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic, and social effects of USAF actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities	Full compliance
EO 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks 62 FR 19883 (April 23, 1997)	USEPA	Any Federal action potentially affecting health and safety of children	Identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children	Full compliance
EO 13423: Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management 72 FR 3919 (January 26, 2007)	USEPA, Department of Energy (DOE)	Acquisition planning, development of procurement programs, operation of a Federal facility	Incorporate waste prevention and recycling in the agency's daily operations and work to increase and expand markets for recovered materials through greater Federal Government preference and demand for such products	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation
EO 13514: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance 74 FR 52117 (October 8, 2009)	CEQ	Construction, operation, and maintenance of a Federal facility; aircraft operations and worker commutes	Increase energy efficiency; measure, report, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from direct and indirect activities; conserve and protect water resources through efficiency, reuse, and stormwater management; eliminate waste, recycle, and prevent pollution; design, construct, maintain, and operate high performance sustainable buildings in sustainable locations	To be completed by USAFR during design and operation

*Not All Inclusive

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SECTION 2.0
PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED EOD MISSION COMPONENTS

The EOD mission at MSPARS would include the following components:

- Six full-time Air Force Reserve (AFR) personnel stationed at MSPARS
- Eight traditional reservists to train for the EOD mission
- An 11,000 square foot facility to house the EOD mission offices and equipment
- A 1-acre off-range training area to be used for non-explosives-detonation training
- An 18-acre proficiency range to be used for training detonation of small explosive charges
- Vehicles and explosives handling equipment as specified for the mission

The off-range training area would be located in close proximity to MSPARS in order to more efficiently conduct training for reservists without the need for extensive travel. The term "off-range training" refers specifically to training with materials, equipment, tools, and techniques that are used to identify and isolate explosive ordnance in an emergency response situation, as well as how to prepare for the safe destruction of explosive ordnance. Off-range training consists exclusively of simulation; it does not include any detonation or destruction of actual ordnance. The following is a synopsis of the characteristics of the proposed off-range training area and activities.

Table 2-1. Off-Range Training Area Frequency of Use

Anticipated normal and maximum frequencies of off-range training area operations				
	Daytime operations frequency		Night operations frequency	
	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum
Mon-Fri	1 day per week	2 days per week	1 day per week	2 days per week
Weekends	1 weekend per month	1 weekend per month	1 weekend per month	1 weekend per month

Permanent structures needed at the site to accommodate off-range training operations will include a 60-foot x 60-foot concrete pad, 12-foot wide x 16-foot long x 2-foot deep sand box adjacent to concrete training pad, and a 14-foot x 12-foot overhang (pavilion-style roof) and concrete slab at a firing point safe area. The concrete pad will provide a clean, level surface for training with remotely-controlled robotic equipment; for practicing proper techniques for setting up and laying out equipment and materials in the manner necessary for actual emergency responses; and to conduct training that simulates destruction of

munitions. The sandbox will allow placement of inert metal training items in a subsurface location for the purpose of practicing with subsurface detection equipment. The overhang will provide a covered area from which to train with sensitive electronic equipment during inclement weather, with minimal risk of damage to the equipment. There would be no recurring excavation outside of the sand box area. Equipment or materials would not be buried in any areas other than the sand box during training operations, and equipment or materials would not remain on site between training operations. Hand tools would be used for general clean up after training operations. A small portable diesel-fueled or gasoline-fueled generator would be used for lighting needs during night time operations.

Photograph 2-1. Building 750 at MSPARS

The proficiency range would be located within reasonable driving distance outside the developed area of Minneapolis and St. Paul in order to minimize the noise impacts from explosives detonation on sensitive receptors. USAFR EOD personnel would perform proficiency training using explosives on a monthly frequency. Proficiency training detonations use C-4 explosive charges of up to 5 pounds.

Building 750, located on MSPARS main base campus, would be renovated and expanded to meet the 11,000 square foot facility required to house the EOD mission and equipment (Photograph 2-1). Building 750 is currently used by the honor guard and base custodial staff. It is located on Kittyhawk Avenue near the north boundary of MSPARS (see Figure 1-2). Until Building 750 is modified to meet the EOD mission needs, the fire training station (Building 802) and garage (Building 726) would be used to house the EOD mission on MSPARS.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Two key components of the proposed EOD Mission Beddown that require application of careful siting considerations are the 18-acre proficiency range and the 1-acre off range training area. Various possible locations for a proficiency range and an off range training area were considered.

Considered for Proficiency Range:

- Area B, owned by MSPARS along the Minnesota River southeast of the airport. Specifically, the tract previously used as a landfill in the 1960s. There is currently an active small arms range present nearby. This location was favored by the project proponents (Air Force Reserve Command) as the most preferred site for the 18-acre proficiency range.
- A parking lot and storage area on station property leased to the Minnesota Air National Guard. This location was favored by the project proponents as the second preference for the 18-acre proficiency range.
- Property owned by the State of Minnesota approximately 1 mile northeast of the installation, adjacent to the Mississippi River. This location was favored by the project proponents as the third preference for the 18-acre proficiency range.
- Land owned by the University of Minnesota in Rosemont, Minnesota. The property is currently used as a training area by local police bomb squads.
- Fort McCoy (Army) and Volk Field (Air National Guard), Wisconsin. Explosive demolition ranges and Air-to-Ground ranges exist at these military installations.
- Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota. The Minnesota National Guard operates various explosive demolition and training ranges at this military installation. Two existing ranges were identified by Camp Ripley as suitable for EOD Proficiency training (Figure 2-1)
- Duluth Air National Guard Base, Duluth, Minnesota. The Minnesota Air National Guard operates an existing EOD proficiency range at this military installation.
- Alliant Techsystems Proving Ground (ATPG), a private weapons research facility in Elk River, Minnesota, permitted and used for high explosive detonations (Figure 2-2).

Considered for Off Range Training Area:

- A vacant lot across Kittyhawk Avenue from Building 750. This location was initially favored by the project proponents (Air Force Reserve Command) as the preferred site for the 1-acre off range training area.
- The baseball/softball field adjacent to Building 750.
- A parking lot and storage area on station property leased to the Minnesota Air National Guard.
- Area B, owned by MSPARS along the Minnesota River southeast of the airport. Specifically, the tract previously used as a landfill in the 1960s.

Figure 2-1: Camp Ripley Proficency Range Map

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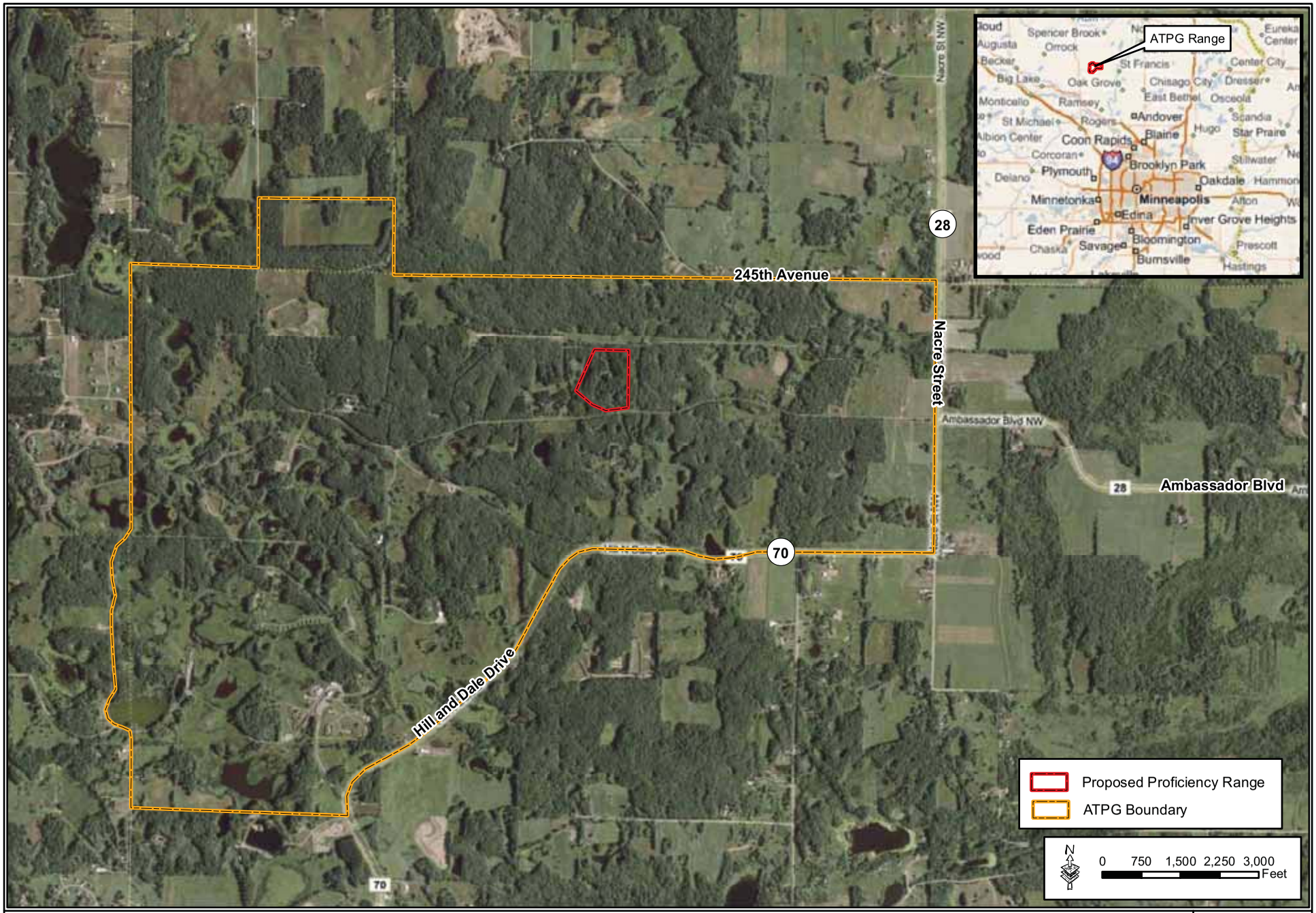

Figure 2-2: ATPG Proficiency Range Map

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2.3 ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS

As permitted by 32 CFR 989.8(c), the Air Force may expressly eliminate alternatives from detailed analysis, based on reasonable selection standards. The following selection standards were used to firmly establish which sites would be "reasonable" to include for the key components (18-acre proficiency range, and 1-acre off range training area) of alternatives assessed for the proposed EOD Mission Beddown:

Selection Standards – Proficiency Range:

- Site without obvious potential conflict with existing urban land use in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan areas.
- Site within a 2-hour drive from MSP ARS, to minimize loss of training hours due to travel.
- Site on property owned by the Department of Defense; a state National Guard property; or a site with ownership open to establishing a formal use agreement/lease that would allow proficiency training detonations using C-4 explosive charges of up to 5 pounds.
- Site not currently developed and in use for incompatible purposes.

Selection Standards – Off-Range Training Area:

- Site on Air Force property at MSP ARS.
- Site not currently developed and in use for other purposes.
- Site not a designated location for planned construction with a design already in progress.

As a result of applying the selection standards, the following sites, although initially considered as possible alternatives, were eliminated from detailed environmental impact analysis:

Eliminated from Consideration for Proficiency Range:

- Area B, owned by MSPARS along the Minnesota River southeast of the airport; specifically, the tract previously used as a landfill in the 1960s. The site has obvious potential conflicts with existing urban land use in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan areas (close proximity to interstate highway bridge). Additionally, the property configuration of Area B cannot encompass an 18-acre range.
- Parking lot and storage area leased to the Minnesota Air National Guard. The site has obvious potential conflicts with existing urban land use (within 750 feet of an active commercial runway), and is currently in use for incompatible purposes (Air National Guard parking lot, Roads & Grounds storage and equipment staging area).
- Property owned by the State of Minnesota approximately 1 mile northeast of the installation, adjacent to the Mississippi River. The property is controlled by the state historical society, and has been proposed as a future recreational site by the state. Contact with the state determined that the state is not open to considering location of a proficiency range at the property.

- Land owned by the University of Minnesota in Rosemont, Minnesota, and currently used as a training area for local bomb squads. A long range plan exists, for redevelopment to residential/educational land uses. Contact with the university determined that they are not open to considering location of a proficiency range at the property, and anticipates curtailment of any explosives activities when current leases expire.
- Fort McCoy and Volk Field, Wisconsin. These installations are located approximately 3.5 hours driving time from MSPARS.
- Duluth Air National Guard Base, Duluth, Minnesota. This installation is located approximately 3 hours driving time from MSPARS.

Eliminated from Consideration for Off Range Training Area:

- Vacant lot across Kittyhawk Avenue from Building 750. In November 2010, a storm water infiltration area was constructed on this site to help reduce storm water runoff volume at MSPARS.
- The baseball/softball field adjacent to Building 750. Site is the designated location for a 2011 construction project (fitness center running track), slated for summer 2011.
- A parking lot and storage area on station property leased to the Minnesota Air National Guard. Site is currently in use by the Air National Guard for a parking lot, Roads & Grounds storage and equipment staging area.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES SELECTED FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS

After applying the selection standards, the following sites remained as viable potential sites, and were incorporated into the proposed action's "reasonable alternatives":

Selected for Detailed Analysis for Proficiency Range:

- Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota. Two existing ranges identified by Camp Ripley as suitable for EOD Proficiency training.
- ATPG, the private weapons proving grounds facility located in Elk River, Minnesota, which is currently permitted for and used for high explosive detonations.

Selected for Detailed Analysis for Off Range Training Area:

- Area B, owned by MSPARS along the Minnesota River southeast of the airport. Specifically, the tract previously used as a landfill in the 1960s. Although this site was favored by the project proponents (Air Force Reserve Command) as the most preferred site for the 18-acre proficiency range, it was eliminated from consideration for that use on the basis of obvious potential conflicts with existing urban land use in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan areas (interstate highway bridge), and due to boundary configuration not providing a large enough area to encompass an 18-acre range. However, the site remains viable as a potential site for the less restrictive Off Range Training Area.

Because the EOD mission beddown is required to be at MSPARS, and only one suitable location (Area B) is available for the EOD off-range training area (Photograph 2-2), the selection of the Preferred Alternative is based on the suitability and availability of a site for the EOD proficiency range. Both of the selected alternative proficiency range sites could be used individually; however, the Preferred Alternative proposes to develop and use both sites (Camp Ripley and ATPG), in combination with MSPARS buildings and property, to satisfy the EOD mission purpose and need. This would provide for flexibility in scheduling training in case one of the sites is temporarily unavailable. Further, a No Action Alternative has been included in the evaluation as required by NEPA regulations. Therefore, four alternatives are carried forward for analysis: 1) No Action Alternative, 2) Alternative 1 - Preferred Alternative, 3) Alternative 2 – ATPG site, and 4) Alternative 3 – Camp Ripley site.

Photograph 2-2. Area B Off-range Training Area

2.4.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would preclude the beddown of an EOD mission at MSPARS. The No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the proposed project, but will be carried forward for analysis, as required by the CEQ regulations. The No Action Alternative describes the existing conditions in the absence of any other alternative.

2.4.2 Alternative 1– Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative includes the beddown of an EOD mission at MSPARS, including renovation and expansion of Building 750, use of MSPARS Area B for the EOD off-range training area, use of test sites at ATPG and at Camp Ripley for the EOD proficiency range on an alternating basis, depending on the training requirements for each use.

2.4.3 Alternative 2 – ATPG Proficiency Range Use

Alternative 2 includes the beddown of an EOD mission at MSPARS, including renovation and expansion of Building 750, and use of MSPARS Area B for the EOD off-range training area. The ATPG spin-test site (Photograph 2-3) would be used for the EOD proficiency range through a contractual or leasing arrangement. Any site alteration or protective barricade construction to prepare the spin-test site for use as an EOD proficiency training site conforming to USAF Explosive Safety Standards would be accomplished through contracts or use agreements negotiated between the USAF and ATK.

Photograph 2-3. ATPG Spin Test Site

2.4.4 Alternative 3 – Camp Ripley Proficiency Range Use

Alternative 3 includes the beddown of an EOD mission at MSPARS, including renovation and expansion of Building 750, and use of MSPARS Area B for the EOD off-range training area. Camp Ripley would provide an explosives test site for use as the EOD proficiency range. Two sites at Camp Ripley (Engineer Demolition Range L, or Lima Range [Photograph 2-5], and Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility [Photograph 2-4]) would be considered for the proficiency range, and the chosen site would be at the discretion of Camp Ripley. The need for any kind of construction at either Camp Ripley site has not been determined. Potential use of either site for USAFR EOD proficiency training is initially assumed to not require construction of additional protective barricades due to the presence of existing personnel protective structures at both sites. However, in the event that additional protective barricades are determined necessary to meet USAF Explosive Safety Standards, design and construction of such

Photograph 2-4. Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility

Photograph 2-5. Engineer Demolition Range L (Lima Range)

barricades would be negotiated with Camp Ripley. Negotiated use of existing explosive storage facilities at Camp Ripley for storage of C-4 for Air Force Reserve use is also assumed. Camp Ripley could also provide overnight accommodations for reservists using the proficiency range, if needed.

2.5 FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PERMITS

The Proposed Action would not require USAFR or MSPARS to acquire any permits from regulatory agencies. Use of Area B for the off-range training area would require the use of best management practices (BMPs) to control erosion due to ground disturbance; but no permits would be required, since the EOD training activities would not disturb the hazardous wastes present in the old landfill on the site and the site would be less than 1 acre. Both ATPG and Camp Ripley maintain permits from state and Federal regulatory agencies for activities involving explosives detonation, including air and water pollution permits. No environmental permits would be acquired by the USAF.

2.6 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Table 2-1 presents a summary of the impacts anticipated under the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives. Alternatives 2 and 3, which involve use of a single proficiency range, would have the same impacts as the Proposed Action Alternative and, therefore, are not evaluated separately.

Table 2-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts

Affected Resource	Proposed Action	No Action
Land Use	Land use change within MSPARS would occur, but the land would remain as a military reservation; therefore, no impacts would occur.	No impacts would occur.
Soils	Less than 1acre of non-native, previously disturbed soils would be modified at Area B, but erosion control measures would reduce the impacts on soils.	No impacts would occur.
Air Quality	Short-term and minor impacts on air quality would occur during explosives detonation, but the effects would be within permitted parameters.	No impacts would occur.
Noise	Noise would be generated during the detonation of explosives at the proficiency ranges, but no civilian receptors are within a distance to be significantly impacted, and noise generated would be within permitted parameters.	No impacts would occur.
Water Resources	Minor impacts on water resources would occur at the proficiency ranges, but the impacts would be within permitted parameters.	No impacts would occur.
Biological Resources	No native biological resources or habitats exist in any the project action areas; therefore, there would be no significant impacts on vegetation. Impacts on wildlife populations would be insignificant. To avoid impacts on nesting birds, surveys for active nests or nesting activity would be conducted prior to construction should clearing and grubbing occur during the nesting season.	No impacts would occur.
Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice issues would not be incurred, because all activities would occur on military or private property permitted for the activities and restricted from public access. Very minor positive socioeconomic effects would result from the addition of six full-time personnel at MSPARS.	No impacts would occur.
Hazardous and Toxic Material	Hazardous materials are known to be located on the off-range training site; however, the closed and capped landfill would not be penetrated by construction activities to a depth that would expose hazardous materials. Explosive materials residue and generated waste at the proficiency ranges would be within the limits of existing permits.	No impacts would occur.
Safety	Safety response for the EOD training would remain with MSPARS, and the public would not be exposed to unsafe conditions, so no significant safety impacts would occur.	No impacts would occur.
Cultural Resources	No cultural resources are present at any of the proposed project sites, so no impacts on cultural resources would occur.	No impacts would occur.

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SECTION 3.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the existing environmental conditions at and surrounding the MSPARS main base and at the ATPG and Camp Ripley proficiency training sites. It provides a baseline from which to identify and evaluate environmental changes resulting from the proposed beddown of a new EOD mission at MSPARS. The effects on human and environmental resources is evaluated for each of the alternative actions proposed, as well as for the No Action alternative.

Only those resources that have a potential to be affected are discussed, as per CEQ guidance (40 CFR 1501.7[3]). Therefore, the following resources will not be discussed for the following reasons:

- **Climate** - The project would not affect, or be affected by, climate.
- **Prime Farmland Soils -** No prime or unique farmlands exist on or near the project sites.
- **Wilderness** - The project sites are not located in or near a wilderness area.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers** - No wild and scenic rivers exist in proximity to the project sites.
- **Fire Management** - The project sites are not located in a fire risk area, and local building codes would regulate fire control following construction at MSPARS.
- **Geology** - The project would not impact geological resources, since all ground disturbance would be on the surface only.

3.2 LAND USE

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Approximately 1 acre of land within a 27-acre tract (Area B) owned and managed by MSPARS would be used to construct and operate the off-range training area. Area B, also known as the "Snelling Small Arms Range Annex", contains the following land uses:

- An existing Air Force small arms range
- Asphalt and gravel access roads
- State-owned park storage and maintenance buildings on 6 acres leased to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
- A retention basin owned and maintained by Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), on 3.3 acres leased from the Air Force. This basin, identified as "South Retention Basin #3" and "494

Pond," functions as a high flow bypass detention pond, receiving storm flow from MAC's MSP Pond 1 when runoff rates exceed 300 cubic feet per second.

- A former remediation site known as the "Twin Cities Air Force Reserve Base Small Arms Range Landfill," or "SARL Site."

The specific location that would be used for the EOD off-range training area is on the SARL Site (Figure 3-1). The SARL was an unpermitted landfill/waste dump from 1963 to 1972, which was later investigated and addressed by the Air Force in coordination with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Investigations began in the 1980s. The most recent 5-year review for the site was conducted in 2007-2008. The USEPA Region 5 Superfund Division provides USEPA's liaison for 5-year reviews of the site. The SARL is a highly disturbed unnatural landscape, capped with native soil cover in 1972. It is now a 2-acre site enclosed by a security fence. Approximately 1 acre is grass-covered. Mature trees are located around the edges of the SARL Site. The site is managed by periodically mowing the grass and removing vegetative debris as necessary.

Building 750 is located on the MSPARS main base, and is a single-story, brick veneer structure with wood frame and concrete block interior wall construction. It is currently used as office and storage space for the base custodial staff and the honor guard. The building currently encompasses 3,470 square feet with landscaped grounds and paved parking around the building. The proposed proficiency ranges at ATPG and at Camp Ripley are currently existing explosives test ranges actively and formerly used for explosives detonation. Both ranges are restricted from public access and are located in rural areas.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Area B is currently a restricted-access area owned and managed by MSPARS. It would remain a restricted access area after implementation of any of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. If the EOD off-range training area is established on the SARL Site in Area B, more restrictive perimeter fencing may be installed around the SARL Site to deter trespassers from accessing the site. Land management would change from landscape maintenance to active use as an off-range EOD training area with the implementation of the Proposed Action. MAC would continue to have access to its South Retention Basin #3 (494 Pond), to allow recurring maintenance of the basin. Minnesota Department of Transportation would continue to have access to the 494 bridge via the existing gravel road in Area B. No significant impacts on land use would result, since the land would remain under MSPARS ownership.

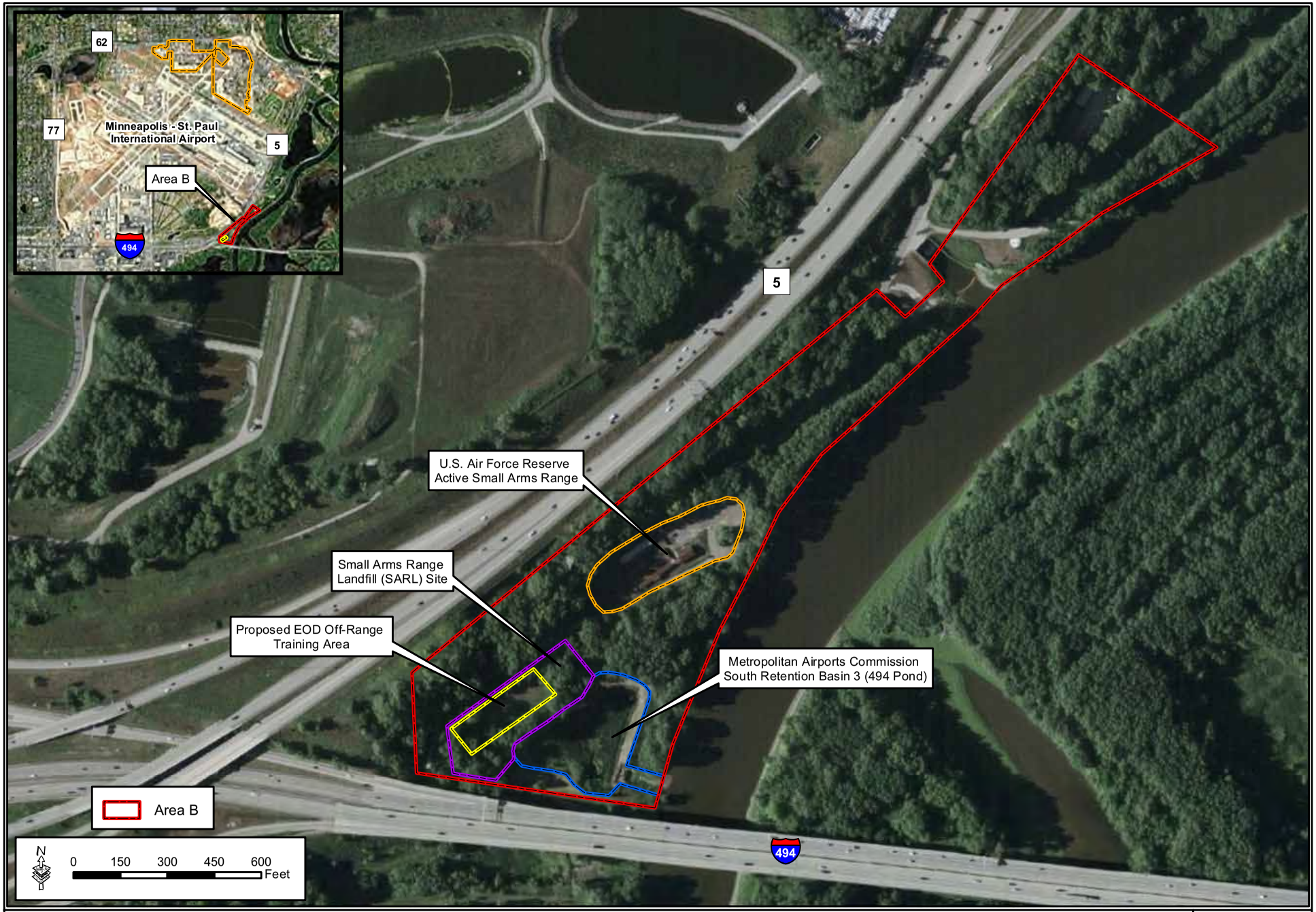

Figure 3-1: MSPARS Area B Property Map Detail

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Building 750 would remain in use as an office and support building with the implementation of the Proposed Action. The size of the building would be increased to 11,000 square feet, and the building addition would displace some grassed areas and paved parking. Land use would remain as part of the MSPARS main base, and no significant land use impacts would occur.

Proficiency range development at the ATPG or at Camp Ripley would have no effect on land use at either facility. Both range areas would remain in use as explosives detonation test areas with restricted public access. Implementation of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative would have no impact on land use.

3.3 RECREATION AND AESTHETICS

3.3.1 Affected Environment

All of the alternative project sites for the EOD mission at MSPARS are currently restricted from public use. The Air Force's 27-acre Area B property lies between Fort Snelling State Park and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. MNDNR previously proposed development of a segment of the Minnesota Valley Trail through Area B. A lease for trail development and construction of a multiple-purpose recreational trail was granted by the Air Force to MNDNR in 1994, with lease renewals occurring in 1999 and 2004. The proposed trail was not developed or constructed by MNDNR. Upon expiration of the lease in 2009, the Air Force did not offer renewal. Fort Snelling State Park representatives have indicated that MNDNR remains interested in possible future development of a trail segment through Area B. However, MNDNR has conveyed no tentative plans or timelines for trail development. There is evidence of public use of a *de facto* trail in a portion of Area B. Trespassers circumvent a vehicle barrier gate to get onto Air Force property. There is no evidence that trespassers access the Air Force's fenced active small arms range or the fenced SARL Site. The visual aesthetics of Area B are related to the relatively undeveloped nature of the area, coupled with the remnant old range structures remaining as a result of its current and former use as a firing range.

The 2009 Minnesota Legislature directed MNDNR to establish rules for the "Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area" (MRCCA). The segment of the Minnesota River adjacent to Area B lies within the defined area of the MRCCA. MNDNR is currently engaged in a rulemaking process that would create regulations addressing, among other things, minimum guidelines and standards for the protecting and enhancing key resources through various land use controls. Area B is not on land incorporated into any municipality or township, and the county (Hennepin County) has no "Critical Area Plan" or ordinance. It is, therefore,

unclear what future standards might be relevant or applicable to Area B after the MNDNR rulemaking process has concluded.

The Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan proposes new regional parks system facilities in the general vicinity of two of the preferred alternative sites. A regional park search area and a regional trail search corridor are proposed in the general area of the ATPG site in St. Francis. This area was selected for a new regional park and trail due to the presence of high quality natural resources and rolling topography. Additionally, this area has been designated and mapped as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area of Outstanding Quality by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A boundary for the regional park and the alignment of the regional trail will be determined by Anoka County through a future master planning process. Potential establishment of an EOD Proficiency Range within the confines of the ATK Proving Ground site in St. Francis is entirely dependent on the willingness of ATK to enter into and maintain leasing or contractual arrangements with the Air Force. In the event that future development of regional parks and/or trails in the vicinity ATK's property lead to curtailment of ATK's operations on its property, the Air Force would seek alternate proficiency range sites at that time.

Due to current and former use for weapons testing and explosives detonation, ATPG and Camp Ripley do not have any publicly available aesthetic or recreational resources. Seasonal hunting is allowed at Camp Ripley, but it is limited to on-base personnel only.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Development of the off-range training area in Area B might limit the availability of the area for use as a recreational trail along the river. Until the final design and facilities are developed for the EOD mission, consideration of a new lease to MNDNR for a river trail through Area B would be deferred. Although development of an EOD off-range training area on the SARL Site within Area B would not necessarily eliminate the future potential for MNDNR development of a recreational trail segment through Area B, it would require establishment of additional restrictive measures that could be implemented during periods when EOD personnel are conducting training operations at the site. MNDNR trail alignment proposals would need to take into account the presence of the EOD off-range training area, as well as the existing active small arms range. Additional fencing along any future trail corridor could be a necessary condition to ensure that trail users remain exclusively on the trail and away from Air Force training areas or the MAC retention basin. Periodic short-term closure of an Area B trail segment during military use of the EOD off-range training area and/or the active small arms range could also be a necessary condition.

Ability to meet Air Force mission requirements will remain the first priority in decisions on possible future lease requests from MNDNR for recreational trail development.

Table 3-1 on the following page identifies tools and explosives items listed in Air Force Manual 91-201, *Explosives Safety Standards*, as conditionally allowable for off-range training, inspection, and evaluation operations. For each item, the anticipated frequency of use and anticipated maximum quantity for the new EOD mission is specified, as well as the identity of which tools/items use or generate explosively propelled liquids, shots, gases, or slugs. There would not be any handling, use, or detonation of live explosive charges at the proposed off-range training area.

Off-range training operations would require access controls to ensure that non-EOD personnel remain clear of the site during training operations. A 300-foot distance is required from tool actuation. Locked gates to restrict vehicle traffic, signs to restrict foot traffic, and audible signal prior to actuation are anticipated.

Aesthetics would not be affected in any of the areas proposed for use in the EOD mission. Preliminary draft standards have been developed for the MRCCA. At this time, there do not appear to be any conflicts between the Air Force's proposed off-range training area and criteria in the MRRCA preliminary draft standards. The site proposed for the off-range training area in Area B is currently an open field, and EOD training would not significantly alter that appearance.

3.4 NOISE

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound, which can be based either on objective effects (i.e., hearing loss, damage to structures, etc.) or subjective judgments (e.g., community annoyance). Sound is usually represented on a logarithmic scale with a unit called the decibel (dB). Sound on the decibel scale is referred to as sound level. The threshold of human hearing is approximately 0 dB and the threshold of discomfort or pain is around 120 dB.

Noise levels occurring at night generally produce a greater annoyance than do the same levels occurring during the day. "A-weighted" decibel (dBA) is a measure of noise at a given, maximum level or constant state level louder than the same level of intrusive noise during the day, at least in terms of its potential for causing community annoyance. It is generally agreed that people perceive "A-weighted" intrusive noise at night as being 10 dBA louder than the same level of intrusive noise during the day. This perception is

Table 3-1. Off-Range Training Area Tools and Devices

Conditionally Allowable Off-Range Training Tools/Items	Anticipated Frequency of Use			Anticipated Maximum Quantity			Explosively propelled liquids, shots, gas, slugs used or generated			
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Daily	Weekly	Monthly				
MK 1 Remote Wrench	2	2	4	2	2	4	None	None	None	None
MK 2 .50 Dearmer	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water
MK 31 Jet Remote Opening Device	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Improvised Dearmer	2	2	4	2	2	4	Plaster	Plaster	Plaster	Plaster
Robotic Vehicle (with shotgun)	2	2	4	2	2	4	SHOT	SHOT	SHOT	SHOT
Stand-off disrupter	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water
Stand-off dearmer	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water
Percussion Actuated Neutralizer	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water
Explosively propelled water charges	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water
.50 caliber impulse cartridges	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
.50 caliber ball, M2 cartridges (projectile extracted)	2	2	4	2	2	4	None	None	None	None
Electric or non-electric blasting caps	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
Standard detonating cord (DODIC M456)	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
Safety fuse	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
M60 fuse lighters	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
AN-M14 thermite grenades	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
12 gauge shotgun shells	6	6	12	6	6	12	SHOT	SHOT	SHOT	SHOT
Stand-off disrupter blank cartridges	2	2	4	2	2	4	None	None	None	None
Shock Tube	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
Igniters (Shock Tube Initiators, DODIC YY35)	6	6	12	6	6	12	None	None	None	None
PAN Cartridges	2	2	4	2	2	4	Water	Water	Water	Water

largely because background environmental sound levels at night in most areas are also approximately 10 dBA lower than those during the day.

Noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (USEPA 1974). A DNL of 65 dBA is the level most commonly used for noise planning purposes and represents a compromise between community impact and the need for activities like construction. Acceptable DNL noise levels have been established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for construction activities in residential areas (HUD 1984):

- **Acceptable** (not exceeding 65 dBA) – The noise exposure may be of some concern, but common building construction will make the indoor environment acceptable and the outdoor environment will be reasonably pleasant for recreation and play.
- **Normally Unacceptable** (above 65 but not greater than 75 dBA) – The noise exposure is significantly more severe. Barriers may be necessary between the site and prominent noise sources to make the outdoor environment acceptable. Special building constructions may be necessary to ensure that people indoors are sufficiently protected from outdoor noise.
- **Unacceptable** (greater than 75 dBA) – The noise exposure at the site is so severe that the construction costs to make the indoor noise environment acceptable may be prohibitive and the outdoor environment would still be unacceptable.

As a general rule, noise generated by a stationary noise source, or "point source," will decrease by approximately 6 dBA over hard surfaces and 9 dBA over soft surfaces for each doubling of the distance. For example, if a noise source produces a noise level of 85 dBA at a reference distance of 50 feet over a hard surface, then the noise level would be 79 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the noise source, 73 dBA at a distance of 200 feet, and so on. To estimate the attenuation of the noise over a given distance the following relationship is utilized:

$$\text{Equation 1: } dBA_2 = dBA_1 - 20 \log (d_2/d_1)$$

Where:

dBA_2 = dBA at distance 2 from source (predicted)

dBA_1 = dBA at distance 1 from source (measured)

d_2 = Distance to location 2 from the source

d_1 = Distance to location 1 from the source

Source: California Department of Transportation 1998

3.4.1 Affected Environment

The off-range training area (Area B) is adjacent to Interstate Highway 494, and is approximately 3,000 feet from an active runway for the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (see Figure 1-2). There are no sensitive noise receptors located within 0.6 mile of the site. The off-range training area is located within the airport 60 dB DNL noise contour (Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport 2008).

Building 750 is located on Kittyhawk Avenue on the MSPARS main base. It is approximately 400 feet from the nearest residential noise receptors and separated from the receptors by State Highway 62, a major, multi-lane thoroughfare north of the airport with an ambient noise signature due to heavy vehicle traffic. It is situated within the 65 dB DNL noise contour for the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The ATPG is located on 3,200 acres in Elk River, Minnesota, a rural area approximately 37 miles northwest of MSPARS. ATPG is an advanced weapons systems proving grounds, and regularly detonates explosives charges well in excess of the 5-pound charges proposed for use in the EOD training. The ATPG site is heavily wooded, with undulating terrain, including earthen explosion containment berms which reduce noise propagation off-site. The spin test site proposed for MSPARS use at ATPG is located within earthen containment berms, approximately 0.43 mile from the nearest sensitive noise receptor at the north edge of the ATPG property.

Camp Ripley is an active MNARNG base located on 58,321 acres approximately 100 miles northwest of MSPARS. Live fire training at Camp Ripley includes explosives detonation well in excess of the 5-pound charges proposed for use in the EOD training. The two sites proposed for use by MSPARS are located well within the boundaries of Camp Ripley, and are located within earthen containment berms which reduce off-site noise propagation, with the nearest sensitive noise receptor located over 1 mile from the test sites.

Experience has shown that complaints from infrequent or sporadic detonation are usually attributed to a single loud event at a particular point in time. The military is committed to avoid and mitigate noise impacts on areas adjacent to military installations, and has developed a noise abatement policy and implemented this policy through the Installation Compatible Use Zone (ICUZ) program. To assess the complaint risks for demolitions, the military has adopted the complaint risk PK 15 (met) noise metrics (U.S Army Public Health Command [USAPHC] 2010). Table 3-2 contains the complaint risk guidelines.

Table 3-2. Complaint Risk Guidelines for Large Caliber Weapons

Risk of Complaints	C-4 Demolitions
	PK15(met) dB Noise Contour
Low	< 115
Moderate	115 – 130
High	> 130

Source: USAPHC 2010.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Area B is located in a high ambient noise environment due to the adjacent high-traffic highways and proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport; therefore, use of excavation or other earth-moving equipment in the off-range training area would not generate noise levels above the existing background noise in the area. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant noise impacts. The No Action Alternative would not result in any noise impacts.

Building 750 is located in a high ambient noise environment due to the adjacent high-traffic highway and proximity to the airport. Sensitive noise receptors located approximately 400 feet north of Building 750 would not experience noise impacts in excess of those already present in the area as a result of the use of heavy equipment to expand and remodel Building 750, and the construction noise would be temporary. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant noise impacts. The No Action Alternative would not result in any noise impacts.

The EOD mission anticipates periodic detonation of 5 pounds of C-4 at the proficiency range sites. Noise impacts from C-4 detonations were analyzed, using PEAKEST noise modeling software, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (USAFR 2003). The model predicts peak noise levels at defined distances from the detonation site, for explosions at the surface and buried explosions. Burial of the charge to a depth of 2 feet reduces the noise level by 10 dB. Meteorological conditions also affect the distance which noise travels. Overcast days cause noise emission to travel further than on clear sunny days. Topographic variations and vegetation also attenuate noise emissions. The PEAKEST noise model was run to analyze noise emissions from C-4 discharges over a variety of meteorological conditions. Table 3-3 summarizes modeled noise emissions results.

Table 3-3. Modeled Noise Emissions from C-4 Detonation.

Location of Detonation	Noise Level (dB) at Distance (feet) from Detonation			
	500	1,000	3,000	4,000
At Ground Surface	145-152	137-146	123-141	120-138
Below Ground Surface (2 feet)	135-142	127-136	113-131	110-128

Source: EOD Training Facility and Munitions Complex EA, Westover ARB, Massachusetts.

The PEAKEST model run assumed that noise emissions would travel over a flat surface. Surrounding trees and hills would help attenuate noise levels as they traveled across terrain. The nearest sensitive noise receptor to the ATPG proficiency range is 2,270 feet from the detonation site, outside ATK property, and may experience noise annoyance during detonation of C-4 charges; but the peak noise involved would be less that currently generated at the site by normal ATPG detonations. At the Camp Ripley proficiency range, the nearest sensitive noise receptor is over 1 mile from the detonation site, and would not likely experience noise annoyances due to C-4 detonations. Both ATPG and Camp Ripley contain heavily vegetated undulating terrain, which would also attenuate noise generated by explosives.

The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley are both permitted and used for explosives detonations well in excess of those proposed by the EOD mission, so there would be no significant noise impacts on sensitive receptors from use of the sites by the EOD mission in Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would not result in any noise impacts.

3.5 SOILS

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Soils in Area B are mapped as Minneiska fine sandy loam by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2010). A soil cap has been placed on the closed landfill. The proposed off-range training area slopes slightly from west to east, and erosion potential is low. A grass cover is maintained over the landfill cap to prevent erosion.

Soils at the ATPG and Camp Ripley proficiency range sites are heavily disturbed from previous explosives detonations and construction, and the spin-test site at ATPG is partially paved with asphalt and gravel. Erosion is not a problem at either location.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Development of an off-range training area in Area B would involve minor soil disturbance, grading, and possibly the addition of top soil. EOD training at the site would involve digging and hand excavation of the site. Proper best management practices (BMPs), such as erosion control silt fences or berms around disturbed areas, stabilization of disturbed soil areas after use, and maintenance of proper drainage slopes to prevent scouring by rain runoff, would be implemented to prevent erosion and transport of sediment off-site. Following implementation of BMPs, there would be no significant soil impacts due to the Proposed Action at Area B.

The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley currently have stabilized surface soils with no erosion problems noted. A containment structure would be constructed at both sites, including a concrete or compacted earth bottom within a concrete explosion containment wall. This configuration would minimize the possibility of disturbed soil exiting the sites during rain events. No significant impacts on soils would occur due to implementation of the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would not result in any soil impacts.

3.6 AIR QUALITY

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The USEPA establishes National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for specific pollutants. The NAAQS standards are classified as either "primary" or "secondary" standards. The major pollutants of concern, or criteria pollutants, are carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM-10), and lead (Pb). NAAQS represent the maximum levels of background pollution that are considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health and welfare. The NAAQS are included in Table 3-4.

Areas that do not meet these NAAQS standards are called non-attainment areas or maintenance areas; areas that meet both primary and secondary standards are known as attainment areas. The Federal Conformity Final Rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93) specifies criteria or requirements for conformity determinations for Federal projects. The Federal Conformity Rule was first promulgated in 1993 by the USEPA, following the passage of Amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990. The rule mandates that a conformity analysis must be performed when a Federal action generates air pollutants in a region designated as non-attainment or as a maintenance area for one or more NAAQS.

Table 3-4. National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Primary Standards		Secondary Standards	
	Level	Averaging Time	Level	Averaging Times
Carbon Monoxide	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	8-hour [1]	None	
	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	1-hour [1]		
Lead	0.15 µg/m^3 [2]	Rolling 3-Month Average	Same as Primary	
	1.5 µg/m^3	Quarterly Average	Same as Primary	
Nitrogen Dioxide	53 ppb [3]	Annual (Arithmetic Average)	Same as Primary	
	100 ppb	1-hour [4]	None	
Particulate Matter (PM-10)	150 µg/m^3	24-hour [5]	Same as Primary	
Particulate Matter (PM-2.5)	15.0 µg/m^3	Annual [6] (Arithmetic Average)	Same as Primary	
	35 µg/m^3	24-hour [7]	Same as Primary	
Ozone	0.075 ppm (2008 std)	8-hour [8]	Same as Primary	
	0.08 ppm (1997 std)	8-hour [9]	Same as Primary	
	0.12 ppm	1-hour [10]	Same as Primary	
Sulfur Dioxide	0.03 ppm	Annual (Arithmetic Average)	0.5 ppm	3-hour [1]
	0.14 ppm	24-hour [1]		
	75 ppb [11]	1-hour	None	

Source: USEPA 2010 at http://www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html

Units of measure for the standards are parts per million (ppm) by volume, parts per billion (ppb - 1 part in 1,000,000,000) by volume, milligrams per cubic meter of air (mg/m^3), and micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m^3).

[1] Not to be exceeded more than once per year.

[2] Final rule signed October 15, 2008.

[3] The official level of the annual NO_2 standard is 0.053 ppm, equal to 53 ppb, which is shown here for the purpose of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard

[4] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 100 ppb (effective January 22, 2010).

[5] Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years.

[6] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the weighted annual mean PM2.5 concentrations from single or multiple community-oriented monitors must not exceed 15.0 µg/m3.

[7] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour concentrations at each population-oriented monitor within an area must not exceed 35 µg/m3 (effective December 17, 2006).

[8] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.075 ppm. (effective May 27, 2008)

[9] (a) To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.08 ppm.
(b) The 1997 standard—and the implementation rules for that standard—will remain in place for implementation purposes as USEPA undertakes rulemaking to address the transition from the 1997 ozone standard to the 2008 ozone standard.
(c) USEPA is in the process of reconsidering these standards (set in March 2008).

[10] (a) USEPA revoked the 1-hour ozone standard in all areas, although some areas have continuing obligations under that standard ("anti-backsliding").
(b) The standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with maximum hourly average concentrations above 0.12 ppm is ≤ 1.

[11] (a) Final rule signed June 2, 2010. To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 99th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 75 ppb.

A conformity analysis determines whether a Federal action meets the requirements of the General Conformity Rule. It requires the responsible Federal agency to evaluate the nature of the Proposed Action and associated air pollutant emissions, calculate emissions as a result of the Proposed Action, and mitigate emissions if *de minimis* thresholds are exceeded. The USEPA considers the Minneapolis metropolitan area as an attainment area with maintenance for CO (USEPA 2010b). The areas around ATPG and Camp Ripley are considered in attainment for all NAAQS.

3.6.1.1 Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change

Global climate change refers to a change in the average weather on the earth. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. They include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), fluorinated gases including chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), and halons, as well as ground-level O_3 (California Energy Commission 2007).

The major GHG-producing sectors in society include transportation, utilities (e.g., coal and gas power plants), industry/manufacturing, agriculture, and residential. End-use sector sources of GHG emissions include transportation (40.7 percent), electricity generation (22.2 percent), industry (20.5 percent), agriculture and forestry (8.3 percent), and other (8.3 percent) (California Energy Commission 2007). The main sources of increased concentrations of GHG due to human activity include the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation (CO_2), livestock and rice farming, land use and wetland depletions, landfill emissions (CH_4), refrigeration system and fire suppression system use and manufacturing (i.e., CFC), and agricultural activities, including the use of fertilizers.

3.6.1.2 Greenhouse Gases Regulatory Framework

The regulatory framework for GHG has changed rapidly over the past few years. The USEPA has issued the Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule. The rule requires large sources that emit 27,550 tons or more per year of GHG emissions to report GHG emissions in the U.S., collect accurate and timely emissions data to inform future policy decisions, and submit annual GHG reports to the USEPA.

On 7 December 2009, the USEPA Administrator signed two findings regarding GHGs under Section 202(a) of the CAA:

- **Endangerment Finding:** The Administrator finds that the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed GHGs (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, perfluorocarbons [PFCs], and sulfur hexafluoride [SF_6]) in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.

- **Cause or Contribute Finding:** The Administrator finds that the combined emissions of these well-mixed GHGs from new motor vehicle engines contribute to the GHG pollution, which threatens public health and welfare.

These findings individually do not impose any requirements on industry or other entities. However, this action is a prerequisite to finalizing the USEPA's proposed GHG standards for light-duty vehicles, which were jointly proposed by the USEPA and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) on 15 September 2009.

EO 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, signed on 5 October 2009, directs Federal agencies to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change in NEPA analysis. It expands upon the energy reduction and environmental performance requirements of EO 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*. The new EO establishes GHG emission reductions as an overarching, integrating performance metric for all Federal agencies and requires a deliberative planning process.

The CEQ provided draft guidelines for determining meaningful GHG decision-making analysis. The CEQ GHG guidance is currently undergoing public comment at this time; however, the draft guidance states that if the proposed action would be reasonably anticipated to cause direct emissions of 27,550 tons or more of CO_2 GHG emissions on an annual basis, agencies should consider this an indicator that a quantitative and qualitative assessment may be meaningful to decision-makers and the public. For long-term actions that have annual direct emissions of less than 27,550 tons of CO_2, CEQ encourages Federal agencies to consider whether the action's long-term emissions should receive similar analysis. CEQ does not propose this as an indicator of a threshold of significant effects, but rather as an indicator of a minimum level of GHG emissions that may warrant some description in the appropriate NEPA analysis for agency actions involving direct emissions of GHGs (CEQ 2010).

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

The renovations and construction proposed at MSPARS would not involve any significant or long-term addition of pollutants to the air quality of the Minneapolis metropolitan area. No significant addition of personnel or commuting vehicles is proposed. Therefore, there would be no significant pollutant or GHG emissions as a result of the Proposed Action.

The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley would result in temporary and intermittent air emissions when detonations occur, but the areas are in attainment for all air quality standards, and the

detonation emissions would be *de minimis* and would be within the parameters for current permits at those sites. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on air quality.

3.7 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources encompass the surface and groundwater features at the proposed project areas. Factors that make water resources important in Minnesota involve the abundance of lakes, rivers, and streams in the state and the proximity of surface water resources to developed areas.

3.7.1 Affected Environment – Surface Water

Surface water in the Minnesota River is approximately 400 feet from the proposed off-site training area in Area B. A constructed stormwater retention basin (Metropolitan Airports Commission's South Retention Basin 3 [494 Pond]) is located adjacent to the east side of the proposed off-range training area, and the pond receives excess surface stormwater runoff from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport prior to discharge into the Minnesota River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) online Wetlands Mapper depicts wetlands in the southeast corner of Area B. These wetlands predominantly coincide with the MAC's retention basin, which would not be encroached by the proposed off-range training area. Figure 3-2 shows the graphic output from the USFWS online Wetlands Mapper, depicting the wetlands location (USFWS 2011). Additionally, some portions of the 27-acre Area B property lie below the 100-year flood elevation line. However, any structures needed at the proposed off-range training area (e.g., cement pad, sandbox, and overhang structure) would be constructed above the 100-year flood elevation.

The section of the Minnesota River adjacent to Area B is HUC Code 07020012-505, Minnesota River RM 22 to Mississippi River. This river segment is listed as an "impaired water" with the following pollutants of concern: fecal coliform, turbidity, mercury water column, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in fish tissue, and dissolved oxygen (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [MPCA] 2010). The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley are not located in proximity to any surface water resources or flood zones.

3.7.2 Affected Environment – Hydrogeology/Groundwater

The proposed off-range training area is located on an elevated slope with non-native soils, no significant groundwater near the surface, and no groundwater supply aquifers in the vicinity. The site is located on a capped landfill which has been closed with no further restoration action planned. As part of the closure actions for the landfill, groundwater monitoring wells were installed between the landfill and the

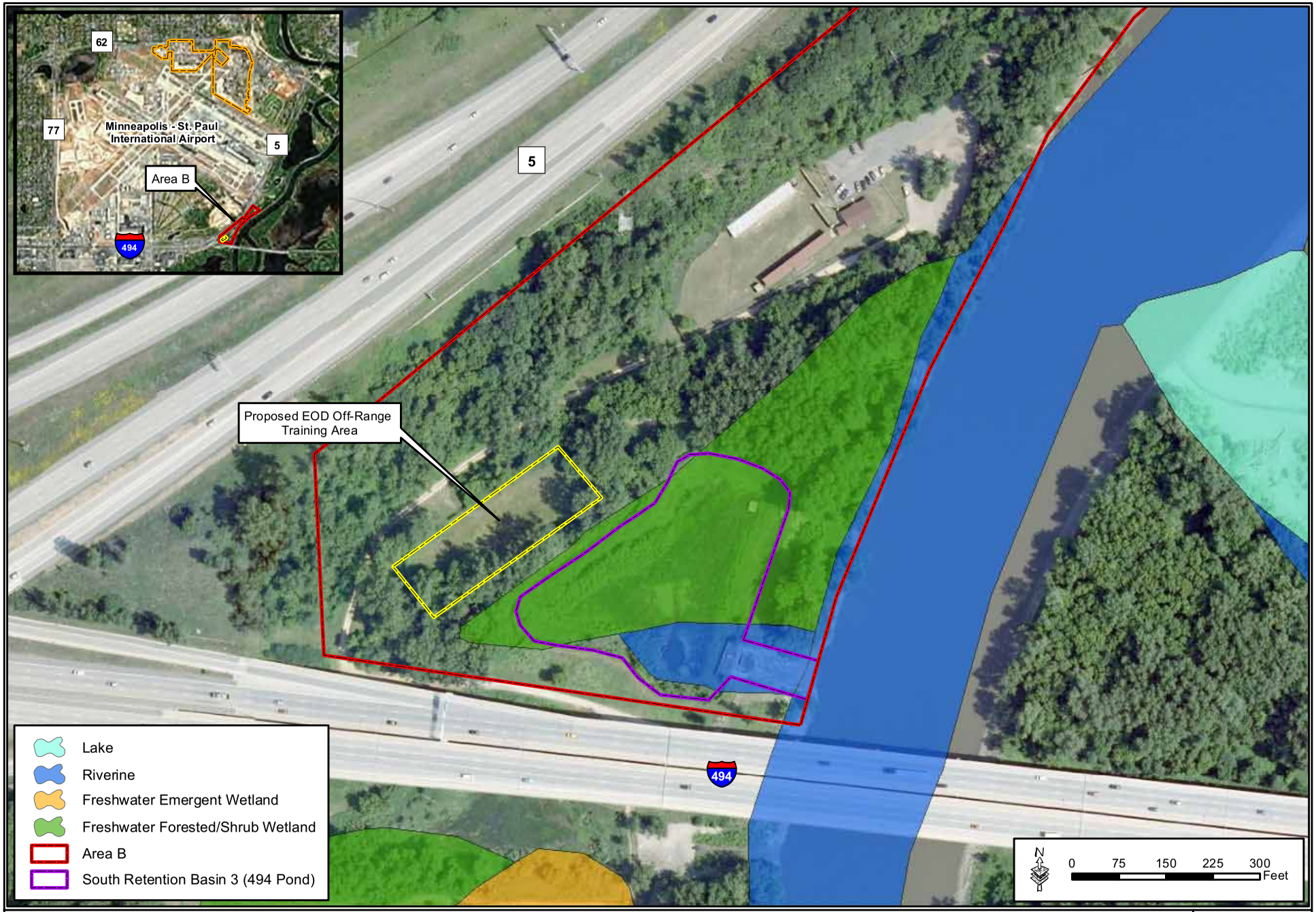

Figure 3-2: USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Map

GSRC

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Minnesota River. Water table levels in these wells indicated a depth to shallow groundwater of 22 to 25 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the shallow aquifer (USEPA 1992). Recent analysis of groundwater collected from the monitoring wells confirmed that groundwater in the shallow aquifer around the proposed project area is not contaminated by leachate from the landfill and it is not used for potable water supply (USEPA 2010d).

The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley are currently covered by NPDES and other permits which regulate detection and maintenance of groundwater contamination from explosives residue. The MSPARS EOD activities would also be covered by those permits. No groundwater contamination has been reported at ATPG or Camp Ripley.

3.7.3 Environmental Consequences – Surface Water

The proposed action is not expected to disturb a total of 1 acre or more and, therefore, will not require coverage under the Minnesota Construction Stormwater Permit. Sediment and erosion control BMPs will be employed as needed in the off-range training area. There is no direct discharge of stormwater from any part of Area B into either the MAC South Retention Basin 3 (494 Pond), nor into the adjacent Minnesota River. The proposed off-range training area will not alter this condition. Development and subsequent use of the proposed off-range training area in Area B will have no impact on the pre-existing impairment of the Minnesota River. No fill or structures would be introduced that would have an effect on the floodplain of the Minnesota River.

The infrequent use of the proficiency ranges would result in *de minimis* introduction of possible contaminants to soils in the area as a result of explosives residue. Any minor soil contamination introduced would be contained within the immediate training area and would not affect any surface waters. The proposed action does not involve any activity in navigable waters of the U.S., and will not require construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over or under navigable waters. It also does not involve any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of navigable waters, nor does it involve discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the U.S. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on surface water.

3.7.4 Environmental Consequences – Hydrogeology/Groundwater

Use of Area B for the off-range training area would not impact any groundwater resources, since no explosives would be used there. The proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ripley are currently permitted and monitored for groundwater contamination due to explosives detonation; the minor and

infrequent detonation of the small charges used for EOD training would also be covered by existing permits. No significant groundwater contamination would occur due to EOD training activities. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on groundwater.

3.8 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources reconnaissance of all sites proposed for use in the MSPARS EOD mission were conducted by Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) in October 2010. All vegetation and wildlife observed were noted.

3.8.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation

Vegetation on the MSPARS main base consists of maintained turf grass and ornamental shrubs and trees. No natural vegetation communities or habitat is present. Vegetation in the portion of Area B proposed for the off-range training area included Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), crabgrass (*Digitaria* sp.), creeping Jenny (*Glechoma hederacea*), and clover (*Trifolium* sp.). Trees around the area included yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and oak (*Quercus* sp.). Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), cockle burr (*Xanthium strumarium*), and wild grape (*Vitis* sp.) were present in the understory. Marsh vegetation, including cattails (*Typha* sp.) and duckweed (*Lemna minor*), was present around the edges of the stormwater pond. The grass covering the landfill area at Area B is maintained by periodic mowing and removal of woody debris.

The ATPG spin-test site vegetation consisted of dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and crabgrass around the flat portion of the site, with additional grasses, oats (*Avena fatua*), broomsedge (*Andropogon* sp.), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), and goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) on the berms and hillsides. On top of the hills and beyond toward the site boundary fence, mature trees included oak, yellow birch, poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). A small man-made pond is located on the site, beyond the containment berm, with duckweed, switchgrass (*Panicum* sp.) and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) around the edges.

The Camp Ripley test sites have been heavily disturbed by construction of earthen containment berms, test pads, and explosion-proof concrete bunkers, as well as detonation of explosives. The Lima Range site is in a scrub-shrub area with immature cottonwoods, birch, and oak trees. Various grasses and milkweed provide spotty ground cover. The Breach Range site is primarily bare ground with gravel

cover. Weeds growing through the gravel included broomsedge, yarrow, and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.). Containment berms and concrete bunkers are also present on this site.

3.8.2 Affected Environment – Wildlife

Animals observed or reported in Area B included grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and juncos (*Junco hyemalis*). White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have also been observed in the area.

The only animals observed at the ATPG site were a single deer and sparrows. ATK employees have reported seeing deer, wild turkey, black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and coyotes (*Canis latrans*) near the site.

No wildlife was observed at the Lima Range site at Camp Ripley, and a single red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and deer tracks were observed at the Breach Range site.

3.8.3 Affected Environment – Sensitive Species

The USFWS's responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) include: (1) the identification of threatened and endangered species; (2) the identification of critical habitats for listed species; (3) implementation of research on, and recovery efforts for, these species; and (4) consultation with other Federal agencies concerning measures to avoid harm to listed species.

In addition, the USFWS has identified species that are candidates for listing as a result of identified threats to their continued existence. The candidate designation includes those species for which the USFWS has sufficient information on hand to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened under the ESA. However, proposed rules have not yet been issued because such actions are precluded at present by other listing activity. Candidate species and Species of Concern currently have no legal protection under the ESA. However, they may be protected under other Federal or state laws. Eleven Federal listed species are indicated for the State of Minnesota (USFWS 2010), as shown in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5. Federal Listed Species Occurring in Minnesota

Species Name	Status	Potential to Occur on Project Sites
Karner's blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*)	E	Yes, but no habitat observed
Higgins eye (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis higginsii*)	E	No, no habitat present
Canada lynx (Contiguous U.S. DPS) (*Lynx canadensis*)	T	No, not listed in the project area
Winged entire mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*)	E	No, not listed in the project area
Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)	T	No, no habitat present
Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka (=tristis)*	E	No, no habitat present
Gray wolf (MN) (*Canis lupus*)	T	Yes, present at Camp Ripley and managed on base
Prairie bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)	T	Yes, but no habitat observed
Minnesota dwarf trout lily (*Erythronium propullans*)	E	No, no habitat present
Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)	T	No, no habitat present
Leedy's roseroot (*Rhodiola integrifolium ssp. leedyi*)	T	No, no habitat present

USFWS 2010. T=threatened, E=endangered

None of these species were observed during site surveys, and, given the disturbed nature of all of the alternative sites, it is unlikely that any of these species would occur there. Camp Ripley operates under an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), and the only Federal listed species occurring and being managed on the base is the gray wolf (MNARNG 2009a). Given the highly altered and disturbed nature of the proposed proficiency range sites at Camp Ripley, it is unlikely that any Federal listed species would occur at either site.

3.8.4 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

The off-range training area in Area B would be generally cleared of grass cover, and several trees could possibly be removed. The removal of less than 1 acre of vegetation would have an insignificant impact on regional vegetative cover and habitat in the area, and the vegetation to be removed is relatively common. No significant vegetation impacts would occur at the proficiency range sites at ATPG or Camp Ripley, since the demolition training areas are already heavily disturbed and relatively unvegetated. The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on vegetation.

3.8.5 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife

The off-range training area at Area B has very little natural habitat for wildlife. The maintained grass areas could be used by turkeys, rabbits, and squirrels, all common wildlife in the general area. The area is currently used by MSPARS personnel for maintenance and by airport personnel for access to the stormwater retention basin. Additional infrequent use by EOD mission personnel would not significantly increase human disturbance of wildlife in the area. The effect of any activities at the proposed off-range training area will limited to the immediate site. There would be no impacts on wildlife at either Fort Snelling State Park to the north, or the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to the south. Wildlife would continue to use the area when EOD activities are not being conducted, so wildlife impacts in Area B would be insignificant.

If construction or tree removal would occur for EOD facilities during the migratory bird nesting season, then surveys for nesting birds would be conducted, and any active nests found would be avoided until the young birds have fledged.

The proficiency range site at ATPG is secured by an 8-foot-high chain-link fence and locked gate. No wildlife, other than birds, rodents, and reptiles, could enter the area, although deer have been reported to jump the fence in the past. Wildlife at ATPG is conditioned to the effects of explosive detonations, so the use of small explosive devices in the EOD training would not significantly affect wildlife in the area. Wildlife at Camp Ripley is also conditioned to the effects of explosive detonations and would likewise be relatively unaffected by the activities of the EOD training. The No Action Alternative would have no effect on wildlife.

3.8.6 Environmental Consequences – Sensitive Species

No Federal threatened or endangered species would be present in Area B, so there would be no impacts. No Federal threatened or endangered species are known to be present at ATPG, so none would be affected by the Proposed Action. At Camp Ripley, only the gray wolf is known to be present on the base, and the population is monitored by base biologists (MNARNG 2009a). Wolves on the base are conditioned to explosive detonations on the existing ranges and would not normally be present when human activities, particularly detonations, are occurring. Consequently, the USAF has determined that there may be an effect on gray wolves at Camp Ripley, but the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect the gray wolf. The USFWS has concurred with this determination (see Appendix A). The No Action Alternative would have no effect on sensitive species.

3.9 INFRASTRUCTURE

The focus of this section is on infrastructure components that could be temporarily or permanently impacted by the Proposed Action Alternative. Infrastructure associated with MSPARS (i.e., potable water, wastewater treatment, utilities and transportation) are described in the MSPARS General Plan (MSPARS 2007) and that description is incorporated herein by reference.

3.9.1 Affected Environment – Utilities

Electrical power, gas service, water service, and sanitary sewer service for MSPARS were described in the MSPARS General Plan as adequate for current and proposed future facilities (MSPARS 2007). Electrical service is provided by Xcel Energy; Minnegasco provides gas service through a single metered pipeline; water supply is provided by the local municipal water company; and sanitary sewer collection on MSPARS transfers wastewater to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Service Metro wastewater treatment plant in St. Paul for treatment.

3.9.2 Affected Environment – Transportation

The roads within MSPARS form a network independent from the surrounding vicinity and were described as being in good condition in the MSPARS General Plan (MSPARS 2007). MSPARS is located within a loop of high-traffic, multi-lane expressways around the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Access to MSPARS is through the main gate at the west side of the base via Military Highway and 34th Avenue from State Highway 62.

3.9.3 Environmental Consequences – Utilities

Utilities at MSPARS would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Action, since no major new facilities would be added at the base. The MSPARS General Plan (MSPARS 2007) anticipates significant alterations and additions to base facilities, including upgrade of utilities services to accommodate the changes. The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on utilities.

3.9.4 Environmental Consequences – Transportation

No new roads or access requirements would be added at MSPARS by the Proposed Action, and the addition of six new EOD personnel would not significantly increase traffic on the base. Therefore, there would not be significant impacts on transportation as a result of the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on transportation.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

3.10.1 Affected Environment – Socioeconomics

MSPARS is located in the Minneapolis metropolitan area with a total population of 379,500 in 2009. The per capita income (PCI) of Minneapolis residents in 2009 was $29,249, with 21.5 percent of individuals below the poverty level. The median household income for Minneapolis was $45,625 (US Census Bureau 2010).

3.10.2 Affected Environment – Environmental Justice

EO 12898, Environmental Justice, was issued by the President on 11 February 1994. Objectives of the EO, as it pertains to this EA, include development of Federal agency implementation strategies and the identification of low-income and minority populations potentially affected because of proposed Federal actions. Accompanying EO 12898 was a Presidential Transmittal Memorandum referencing existing Federal statutes and regulations to be used in conjunction with EO 12898. One of the items in this memorandum was the use of the policies and procedures of NEPA when such analysis is required by the NEPA 42 U.S.C. Section 4321 et. seq. Specifically, the memorandum indicates that:

> *"each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic, and social effects, of federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities,"*

Although an environmental justice analysis is not mandated by NEPA, the Department of Defense (DoD) has directed that NEPA will be used as the primary mechanism to implement the provision of the EO. None of the proposed project sites are located adjacent to residential areas populated with low-income and minority residents.

3.10.3 Affected Environment – Protection of Children

EO 13045, Protection of Children, requires each Federal agency to:

> "*identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children;"* and *"ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks*."

This EO was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. None of the proposed project sites are located adjacent to residential areas where children might be exposed to safety hazards, and all of the sites are within secured areas that would prevent children from entering.

3.10.4 Environmental Consequences

Due to the distance removed of the proposed project sites from residential areas, and the relatively small increase in personnel at MSPARS relative to the population of the Minneapolis metropolitan area, there would be no significant impacts on socioeconomics, environmental justice, or protection of children as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

3.11 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MSPARS operates under a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Response Plan, a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, a Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Also, a Lead-based Paint Management Plan and an Asbestos Operating and Management Plan are implemented on the base (MSPARS 2007). The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) is implemented to assess and remediate sites on the base covered by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA).

3.11.1 Affected Environment

All IRP sites on MSPARS formerly undergoing remediation have achieved regulatory compliance and obtained No Further Action (NFA) status. Area B carries a land-use controls (LUC) designation to restrict public access to the former landfill site.

An asbestos survey was completed for Building 750 in 2001, and assumed asbestos-containing material (ACM) was found in floor tiles and mastic throughout the building (MSPARS 2001). The tiles were non-friable and undamaged. Thermal insulation material was also present in walls and ceilings in Building 750 and is assumed to be ACM. Testing would be required prior to disturbance of possible ACM in Building 750.

ATPG is operated under environmental permits issued by the State of Minnesota and USEPA which cover hazardous waste storage and treatment under the RCRA, Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator License, Air Emissions Registration D Permit, Industrial Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit, and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP). The operational parameters for activities conducted during EOD mission proficiency training at the Spin Test Site on ATPG fall within the limits of those permits. ATK conducted a Preliminary Assessment Report at ATPG for munitions and explosives of concern in June 2005, and no environmental issues were noted in that report for the Spin Test Site (ATK 2005).

Camp Ripley operates in compliance with state and Federal laws governing hazardous and toxic substances and monitors soil and water resources on the base for hazardous waste, particularly residue from detonation of explosives and ordnance.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

Use of Area B for the EOD off-range training area would not involve excavation to the depth of the remaining waste in the closed landfill, so no impacts on hazardous or toxic materials would result from the Proposed Action. No hazardous or toxic materials would be used or kept at the EOD facility at MSPARS. The only type of debris, scrap, waste material, or residue anticipated to be generated from off-range training operations is packaging material, which would be removed from the site for disposal following training operations. There would be no detonation of explosives at the off-range training area, and there would be no disposal of any munitions items at the off-range training area. Testing and proper disposal of discovered ACM in Building 750 during construction would eliminate any impacts associated with ACM at MSPARS. Generation of waste and residue from C-4 detonations at the proficiency range sites at ATPG and Camp Ridley would be intermittent and would be within parameters covered by the waste permits for each site. No significant impacts on hazardous or toxic materials would result from the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would have no impacts.

3.12 SAFETY

Safety and emergency response for the EOD mission at MSPARS is the responsibility of the USAF. All EOD mission activities would occur within secured areas not accessible to the general public. There are no safety concerns not currently addressed at any of the sites proposed for use for the EOD mission at MSPARS.

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Area B at MSPARS is currently restricted from public access, with plans to install additional fencing and gates to prevent public access to the area. There are no existing safety concerns in Area B. ATPG and Camp Ripley are secured by fencing and security patrols to prevent public access. Safety at ATPG and Camp Ripley is governed by range operational and safety procedures in place at each facility. Camp Ripley Range Operations personnel have indicated that the Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility can be considered part of an ordnance impact area, and has the potential for the presence of unexploded ordnance.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

No activities are proposed at MSPARS that would result in safety concerns for the general public. Safety procedures currently in place at MSPARS would reduce safety risks for personnel on the base. Exclusion of non-DoD personnel from proximity to the off-range training area during training procedures would eliminate any possibility of public safety issues/concerns during the training. Additionally, the Minnesota River and road surfaces of Interstate 494 and Highway 5 are beyond a 300-foot exclusion distance from the proposed site of off-range training operations. Based on these factors, the off-range training procedures proposed for Area B would not create safety concerns for the public, including swimmers and boaters on the Minnesota River and vehicular traffic on Interstate 494 and Highway 5. The use and detonation of explosives by EOD mission personnel at the proficiency ranges would conducted in accordance with USAF and DoD explosives safety instructions:

- Air Force Manual 91-201 (USAF 2009), *Explosive Safety Standards*
- Air Force Instruction 32-3001 (USAF 2007), *Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program*
- Department of Defense Directive 6055.9 (DoD 2008), *DoD Explosives Safety Board and DoD Component Explosives and Safety Responsibilities*

Air Force Reserve EOD proficiency training operations involving the use of explosives on either Camp Ripley site are not expected to differ in any significant manner from the existing use of these sites. The need for any kind of construction at either Camp Ripley site has not been determined. Potential use of either site for Air Force Reserve EOD proficiency training is initially assumed to not require construction of additional protective barricades due to the presence of existing personnel protective structures at both sites. However, in the event that additional protective barricades are determined necessary to meet Air Force Explosive Safety Standards, design and construction of such barricades would be negotiated with

Camp Ripley. Air Force Reserve use of either Camp Ripley site is entirely contingent on full compliance with conditions of use established by the MNARG.

Compliance with USAF and DoD manuals and procedures would reduce the safety risk for EOD mission personnel to an insignificant level. No public risk impacts would occur due to detonation of explosives at the proficiency range sites due to lack of public access. The No Action Alternative would have no safety impacts.

3.13 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.13.1 Affected Environment

The proposed action constitutes a "Federal undertaking" as defined in 36 CFR 800.16. The "area of potential effect" for this undertaking includes:

- Building 750 on the MSPARS main base campus
- "Area B" tract of property owned by MSPARS
- ATPG spin-test site owned by ATK
- Engineer Demolition Range L at Camp Ripley
- Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility at Camp Ripley

Building 750 on the MSPARS main base campus was constructed in 1979 (see Figure 1-2). Area B is located adjacent to the Minnesota River, southeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (see Figure 1-2). The ATPG spin-test site is part of a privately-owned ordnance development and testing complex located in Elk River, Minnesota. Engineer Demolition Range L and the Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility are sites located within the Camp Ripley military installation at Little Falls, Minnesota (see Figure 2-1).

Based on the age of Building 750 (less than 50 years), formal evaluation against the criteria for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility is not considered to be warranted. Additionally, the facility does not meet any of the National Park Service's "criteria considerations" that could potentially justify NRHP eligibility for properties less than 50 years old.

Area B was evaluated for the presence of historic properties in 1995 (USAFR 1995). The evaluation included both an architectural survey and an archeological survey. The conclusion of the survey was that Area B contained no known cultural resources eligible for the NRHP. The survey report was submitted to

the Minnesota Historical Society (SHPO) in 1997. Concurrence with the results of the survey was received from SHPO in 1999 (reference SHPO Number 95-1349).

The ATPG ordnance development and testing complex was initially established in 1966. The spin-test site is not known to contain, nor be in close proximity to, any properties eligible for the NRHP. Based on the age of any structures located at the spin-test site (less than 50 years), formal evaluation against the criteria for NRHP eligibility is not considered to be warranted. No archeological survey has been conducted at the ATPG spin-test site. Previous use of this site as an explosives testing site makes it unlikely that any archeological resources would remain at the site or, if present, would likely lack integrity sufficient to meet NRHP eligibility criteria.

Engineer Demolition Range L and the Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility at Camp Ripley are both sites where explosives are currently detonated during military training. Cultural resource surveys have previously been performed at Camp Ripley. No historic properties have been identified at either Camp Ripley site (MNARNG 2009b). However, no surveys have been done specifically at the Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility, which is considered to be part of an ordnance impact area.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

No cultural resources are present at any of the MSPARS facilities and sites proposed for use by the EOD mission; therefore, no impacts on cultural resources would occur with implementation of the Proposed Action.

Camp Ripley complies with historic preservation requirements through implementation and adherence to its Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (MNARNG 2009b), and there are no known cultural resources present at either of the proposed proficiency range sites at Camp Ripley. It is, therefore, extremely unlikely that the proposed Air Force Reserve EOD proficiency training at either Camp Ripley site could have any direct or indirect effect on any historic properties.

In summary, data reviewed as part of this environmental assessment indicates that there are no historic properties known to be present, and, therefore, historic properties will not be affected. The No Action Alternative would have no cultural resources impacts.

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SECTION 4.0
IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

4.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

The renovation of Building 750 for the EOD mission at MSPARS would result in a long-term commitment of Air Force resources for the length of the EOD mission, but would not constitute an irretrievable commitment of resources for the Air Force. Construction and operation of the off-range training area would be an irretrievable commitment of various resources, including labor, capital, and energy resources, by the Air Force. The proficiency range sites would be leased from others, and use of those sites would not result in an irretrievable commitment of resources by the Air Force.

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SECTION 5.0
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A cumulative impact is defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as "the impact on the environment which results 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." By Memorandum dated June 24, 2005, from the Chairman of the CEQ to the Heads of Federal Agencies, entitled "Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis", CEQ made clear its interpretation that "generally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions", and that the "CEQ regulations do not require agencies to catalogue or exhaustively list and analyze all individual past actions."

Minor cumulative adverse impacts would occur on land use and biological resources in Area B as a result of the Proposed Action. Because the MSPARS main base is already heavily developed, and the areas to be used for the Proposed Action Alternative are already developed with a building and parking, there would be no cumulative impacts on land use or biological resources around Building 750.

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would occur during the construction and operation of the proficiency ranges, since the sites are currently developed and used for explosives testing and detonation.

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SECTION 6.0
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Consultation and coordination with Federal and state agencies has occurred during preparation of this document. Included are contacts that were made during the development of the action alternatives and writing of the EA. Copies of correspondence are provided in Appendices A, B, and C. Formal and informal coordination was conducted with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Army corps of Engineers (USACE)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Environmental Quality Board
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
- Fort Snelling State Park
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota State Archaeologist
- Minnesota Historical Society (SHPO)
- Hennepin County Environmental Services
- Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
- City of St. Francis

The draft EA was made available for public review for 30 days and the Notice of Availability (NOA) was be published in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune on February 27, 2011 and in the Brainerd Dispatch on February 25, 2011. The draft EA was also available electronically at http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/. In addition, the draft EA was available for review at Minneapolis Public Library, Business/Science/Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992. Comments on the draft EA were accepted from the public for a 30-day period following publication of the NOA.

Exhibit 6-1 is a copy of the NOA that was published in the newspapers for the draft EA. Certified copies of the published notices can be found in Appendix B. MSPARS provided copies of the draft EA to all coordinating local, state, and Federal agencies for review and comment. All public and external agency comments received during the public review period are provided in Appendix C.

Exhibit 6-1.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE BEDDOWN OF AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION AT THE MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION (MSPARS) MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared by MSPARS for the beddown of a new explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission at MSPARS. The location for the proposed action is at the MSPARS main base at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, a 1-acre site at MSPARS Area B, and explosives proficiency ranges at the ATK Proving Grounds and at Camp Ripley. The draft EA will be available at the Minneapolis Public Library, Business/Science/Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992. It is also available for download from the MSPARS Internet web page at the following URL address: http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/. The public comment period for the EA ends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Comments may be sent to: Douglas Yocum at 934th Airlift Wing, MSG/CEV Building 744, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100, by FAX at (612) 713-1950, or by email at douglas.yocum@us.af.mil.

A matrix of comments received on the draft EA and FONSI can be found in Appendix D. Comments were received from the following agencies and individuals:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Field Office and Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge

Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office

Metropolitan Council

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Regional Division, Environmental Review and Feedlot Section

Friends of the Minnesota Valley

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Dick Duerre, individual

David Minge, individual

Edward Crozier, individual

Most comments expressed concerns about impacts on the proposed Minnesota Valley Trail due to the location of the off-range training area in Area B near the Minnesota River. All comments were acknowledged and responses were incorporated into the Final EA and FONSI where apporopriate.

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SECTION 7.0
MITIGATION, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

7.0 MITIGATION, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

In order to minimize impacts on the human and biological environment due to the Proposed Action, the following practices and measures are proposed:

Mitigation – The Proposed Action would not impact any resources requiring permits or mitigation of impacts, so no mitigation measures are necessary.

Best Management Practices – No significant impacts on any resources are anticipated for the Proposed Action. In order to further minimize impacts on specific resources, the following best management practices are proposed:

- Silt fences, berms or trench boxes would be employed around Area B to prevent off-site migration of eroded soil from disturbed areas.
- Disturbed soil areas would be re-vegetated, where possible, to prevent erosion.
- Surveys for migratory bird nests would be conducted if construction or clearing and grubbing would take place during the nesting season. Any active nests found would be avoided, or disturbance activities would be rescheduled after young birds have fledged.

Preventative Measures – In order to minimize safety risks for EOD mission personnel, training activities would be conducted in accordance with the following instructions:

- Air Force Manual 91-201, Explosive Safety Standards
- Air Force Instruction 32-3001, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program
- Department of Defense Directive 6055.9, DoD Explosives Safety Board and DoD Component Explosives and Safety Responsibilities
- Camp Ripley Range Regulations, 2011
- ATK requirements for use of ATPG facilities

Off-range training operations will require access controls to ensure that non-EOD personnel remain clear of the site during training operations. A minimum 300-foot exclusion distance is required. Locked gates to restrict vehicle traffic, signs to restrict foot traffic, and audible signal prior to actuation are anticipated. In the event that a future recreational trail is developed through Area B, additional fencing along any future trail corridor could be a necessary condition to ensure that trail users remain exclusively on the trail

and away from Air Force training areas or the MAC retention basin. Periodic short-term closure of an the trail segment during military use of the EOD off-range training area and/or the active small arms range could also be a necessary condition. Adherence to these instructions would prevent significant human health impacts during EOD training activities.

Testing and proper disposal of any ACM discovered in Building 750 during construction would be implemented to comply with ACM regulations.

SECTION 8.0
REFERENCES

8.0 REFERENCES

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SECTION 9.0
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

9.0 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACM	Asbestos-containing materials
AFR	Air Force Reserve
AFRC	Air Force Reserve Command
ATK	Alliant Techsystems, Incorporated
ATPG	ATK Proving Grounds
bgs	below ground surface
BMP	best management practice
CDP	Census Designated Place
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CFC	chlorofluorocarbons
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	decibel, A-weighted
DNL	Day/Night Average Sound Level
DoD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOPAA	Description of Proposed Actions and Alternatives
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FR	Federal Register
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GHG	greenhouse gases
GSRC	Gulf South Research Corporation
HFC	hydrofluorocarbons
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICUZ	Installation Compatibility Use Zone
IED	improvised explosive device

INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IRP	Installation Restoration Plan
mg/m^3	milligrams per cubic meter
MAC	Metropolitan Airports Commission
MNARG	Minnesota Army National Guard
MNDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRCCA	Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area
MSPARS	Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFA	no further action
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHTSA	National Highway Safety Administration
NOA	Notice of Availability
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
O_3	ozone
OSHA	Office of Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
PFCs	perfluorocarbons
PCI	Per Capita Income
PL	Public Law
PM-2.5	particulate matter equal or less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM-10	particulate matter equal or less than 10 microns in diameter
ppm	parts per million
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SARL	Small Arms Range Landfill
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer (Minnesota Historical Society)
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SF_6	sulfur hexafluoride
SPCCP	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
$\mu g/m^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAPHC	U.S. Army Public Health Command
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USAFR	U.S. Air Force Reserve
U.S.C.	United States Code

USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	volatile organic compounds

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SECTION 10.0
LIST OF PREPARERS

10.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people were primarily responsible for preparing this Environmental Assessment.

Name	Agency/Organization	Discipline/Expertise	Experience	Role In Preparing EA
Annie Howard	Gulf South Research Corporation	Ecology	1 year environmental studies	Biological resources
Stephen Oivanki	Gulf South Research Corporation	Geology, NEPA	21 years environmental planning studies	Project Manager
Chris Ingram	Gulf South Research Corporation	Biology/Ecology	31 years EA/EIS studies	QA/QC
Chris Cothron	Gulf South Research Corporation	GIS/Graphics	3 years GIS analysis	GIS and graphics
Steve Kolian	Gulf South Research Corporation	Water/Air Quality/Noise	10 years environmental planning studies	Water, air quality, noise
Shanna McCarty	Gulf South Research Corporation	Forestry/Ecology	4 years in NEPA studies	Report revision and review
Doug Yocum	Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station	Geo-environmental Studies	19 years environmental compliance/management	MSPARS Environmental Project Manager

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APPENDIX A
DRAFT EA: PRE-RELEASE COORDINATION CORRESPONDENCE

Agency Coordination List

Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Unit
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mailstop B-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
4101 American Blvd. East.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Regulatory Functions Branch
190 Fifth St. E.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

National Park Service
Stewardship Team Manager
111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1288

State

Environmental Quality Board
Environmental Review Program
658 Cedar Street, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Env Review Unit
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Fort Snelling State Park
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111

Metropolitan Council
Review Coordinator
Local Planning Assistance
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

State Archaeologist
Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul, MN 55111-4061

Local
Hennepin County Environmental Services
417 N. 5th Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-3206

Metropolitan Airports Commission
Attn: Airside Project Managers
Lindbergh Terminal, Room 325
4300 Glumack Drive
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
St. Paul, MN 55111

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th St.
Chaska, MN 55318

City of St. Francis
Planning & Zoning Department
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Minnesota National Guard for EOD Beddown EA
Camp Ripley Environmental Office
15000 Highway 115,
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

14 December 2010

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Metropolitan Airports Commission
Attn: Airside Project Managers
Lindbergh Terminal, Room 325
4300 Glumack Drive
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
St. Paul, MN 55111

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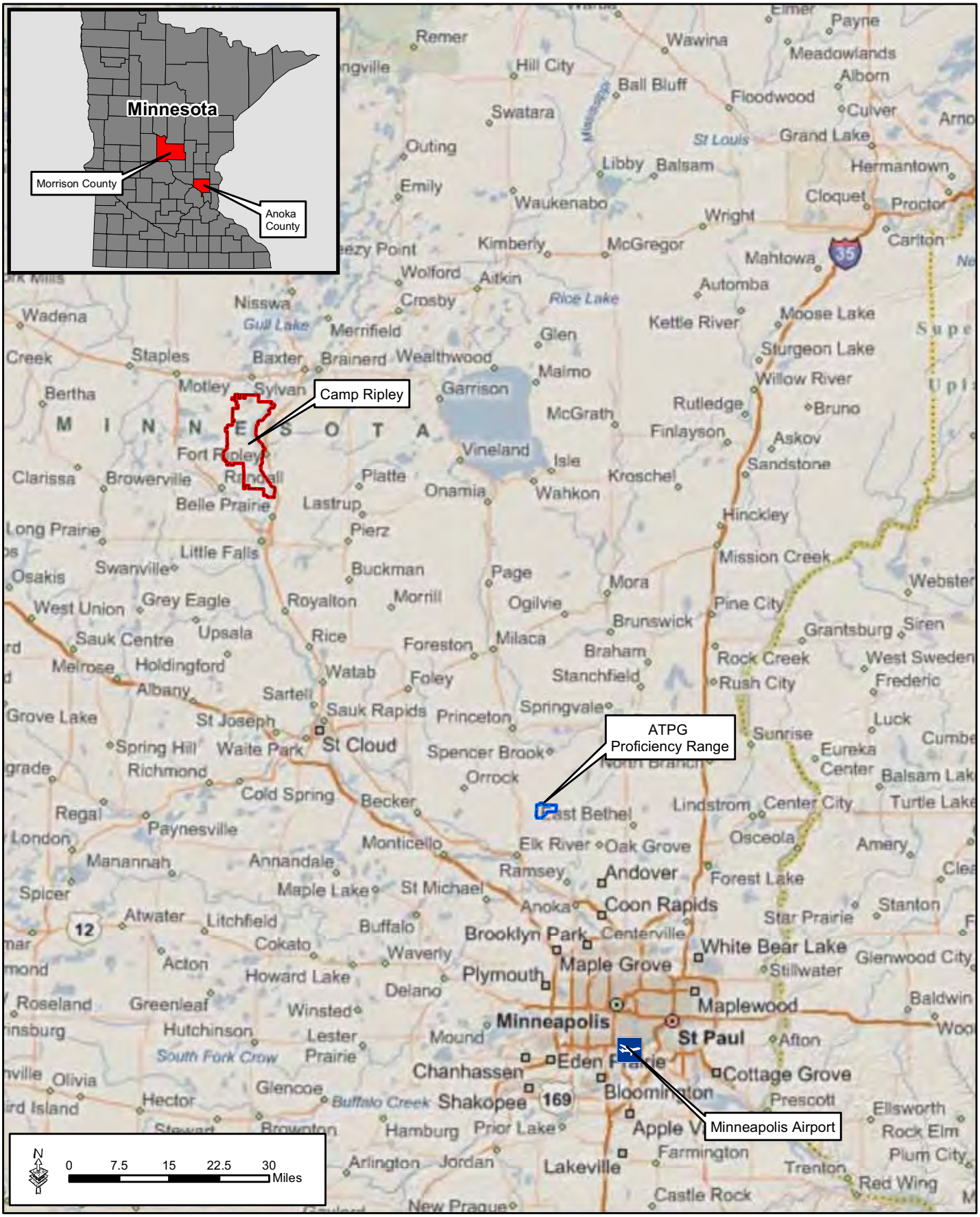

Figure 1-1: Vicinity Map

GSRC

November 2010

Figure 1-2: Location Map

November 2010

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934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
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U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Regulatory Functions Branch
190 Fifth St. E.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
4101 American Blvd. East.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

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111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1288

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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Environmental Quality Board
Environmental Review Program
658 Cedar Street, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

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934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Env Review Unit
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

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934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Fort Snelling State Park
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111

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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

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St. Paul, MN 55111-4061

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Little Falls, MN 56345-4173

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Metropolitan Council
Review Coordinator/Local Planning Assistance
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

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760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th St.
Chaska, MN 55318

Dear Sirs

The United States Air Force (USAF) Reserve is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We request your input in identifying general or specific areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EA.

The new EOD mission would be housed in Building 750 at MSPARS, and remote sites at the ATK Proving Grounds in St. Francis, Minnesota, and at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota, would be used for explosives detonation proficiency training (see Vicinity Map). An off-range training area would also be developed for non-explosive training on MSPARS property known as Area B, near the Minnesota River just south of the airport (see Location Map). The new EOD mission would employ six full-time USAF reservists and eight part-time traditional reservists.

Please forward any issues or concerns you may have to me at the address listed above. While we will consider comments received at any time during the environmental review process to the extent possible, we would appreciate comments by 30 January 2011. We will also send you a copy of the draft EA when it becomes available for public review.

Sincerely,

Douglas S Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachments:
1. Vicinity Map
2. Location Map

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

14 December 2010

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Hennepin County Environmental Services
417 N. 5th Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-3206

Dear Sirs

The United States Air Force (USAF) Reserve is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We request your input in identifying general or specific areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EA.

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Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachments:
1. Vicinity Map
2. Location Map

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

14 December 2010

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

City of St. Francis
Planning & Zoning Department
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Dear Sirs

The United States Air Force (USAF) Reserve is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We request your input in identifying general or specific areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EA.

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Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachments:
1. Vicinity Map
2. Location Map

Piotrowski, Robert W (DNR)

To: Mr Douglas S Yocum
Cc: Stedman, Joel L (DNR); Reger, Martha J (DNR); Bruns, Richard (DNR); Charles_Blair@fws.gov
Subject: Ft Snelling State Park

Mr. Yocum:
I have read your letter dated 12/14/2010 regarding the USAF Reserve's development of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal site. As you probably know MN DNR has been in contact with you over the years regarding the development of a recreational trail through the area labeled as AREA B on the map sent. In fact a few years ago we had a lease to occupy that area for the trail but were unable to develop the trail prior to the expiration of the lease. Also, I attended a meeting about a year ago with your consultants regarding the "clean up" of AREA B and the trail was again discussed.
Do you know if your project proceeds in AREA B if the trail alignment would still be a consideration?

Bob Piotrowski
Ft Snelling State Park Manager
101 Snelling Lake Rd
St Paul Mn 55111
612-725-2439

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 2 2 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
E-19J

Douglas Yocum, Chief
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

RE: USAF Reserve EOD Beddown Scoping Project, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station

Dear Mr. Yocum:

The NEPA Implementation Section has received the document listed above. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Typically, these reviews focus on Environmental Impact Statements, but we also have the discretion to review and comment on other environmental documents prepared under NEPA, if interest and resources permit.

The document was given a cursory review, and we determined that there were no significant concerns meriting comment. However, we recommend U.S. Air Force Reserve consider potential impacts to wetlands in the proposed Area B between Highway 5 and the Minnesota River. Additionally, Area B is located within the floodplain of the Minnesota River. EPA recommends any structures built in Area B be located above the 100-year flood zone. EPA also encourages the use of energy-efficient and environmentally concious building materials for any renovations to Building 750.

Please send us future NEPA documents on this project as they become available. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765 or e-mail him at sedlacek.michael@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV

From: Mosites, Pat [mailto:Pat.Mosites@mspmac.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2011 3:03 PM
To: YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV
Cc: Dye, Al; Rosenow, Mark; Fuhrmann, Roy; Rief, Bridget
Subject: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Environmental Assessment-MSP Air Reserve Station
Attachments: [Mississippi Critical Area Rules] MRCCA newsletter (890 KB)

Doug,

As we discussed over the phone, the Metropolitan Airports Commission has the folowing concerns/comments to be addressed in the EA for the new proposed EOD mission to be based at the MSO Air Reserve Station:

1. Confirmation that there will be no live ordinance training exercises/demonstration at the two facility locations adjacent to the MSP airport. I understand from our conversation that is the current plan.

2. Confirmation that access to the stormwater pond to the south of the firing range will be maintained.

3. Request coordination with the Minesota DNR in regards to the new MCCRA rules and procedures be evaluated to make sure there are no conflicts. I have attached the last newsletter from the rulemaking group for your information.

Please use me as your point of contact at the Metropolitan Airports Commission for review of future documents regarding this project.

Regards,

Pat

Patrick Mosites PE
Metropolitan Airports Commission
Airside Project Manager
Airport Development
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450
Email: pat.mosites@mspmac.org
PH: 612 713-7499
Fax: 612 794-4407
Check our website out at
http://www.mspairport.com/ <http://www.mspairport.com/>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1678

REPLY TO
ATTENTION

JAN 10 2010

Operations
Regulatory (2011-00059-MMJ)

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Building 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55450-2100

Dear Mr. Yocum:

We have received your letter dated December 14, 2011, notifying us of the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Please consider the following general information concerning our regulatory program that may apply to the proposed project.

If the proposal involves activity in navigable waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10). Section 10 prohibits the construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit.

If the proposal involves discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit under Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory.

The Corps' evaluation of a Section 10 and/or a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and (3) in the case of a Section 404 permit, determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic

ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps' decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

If an application for a Corps permit has not yet been submitted, you may request a pre-application consultation meeting with the Corps to obtain information regarding the data, studies or other information that will be necessary for the permit evaluation process. A pre-application consultation meeting is strongly recommended if the proposal has substantial impacts to waters of the United States, or if it is a large or controversial project.

For further information or to request a pre-application consultation meeting, please contact Melissa Jenny at 651-290-5363, the Corps' project manager for the County in which this proposal is located.

Sincerely,

Maria T. Valencia

for Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Minnesota Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

January 11, 2011

Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
700 Military Highway
Minneapolis MN 55450-2100

RE: Ordinance Disposal and Training Facilities
Minneapolis, Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 2011-0873

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

We have a number of concerns about this project. First, your letter of December 14 only mentions project review under NEPA. As you are certainly aware, this project also requires review under Sec. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. While the 106 review can be carried out concurrently with NEPA, all requirements of Sec. 106 must be met.

To start Sec. 106 review, the responsible Federal agency must initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office by providing:

- A full description of all aspects of the Federal undertaking, at all proposed locations. Your letter has not provided sufficient description to allow us to fully understand the undertaking
- A definition and map of the "Area of Potential Effect (APE)" for the proposed project. Project effects can be direct, like ground disturbance or construction; or indirect, such as visual or auditory impacts
- Identification of all historic properties within the APE; both known sites, and those presently unknown that may be identified by Federal agency survey efforts

If you have questions about Sec. 106 review requirements, I suggest you speak with the Air Force Federal Preservation Officer, who can be found at http://www.achp.gov/fpolist.html#USAF. We look forward to working with you as the Sec. 106 review progresses. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact me at (651) 259-3456. Thank you for your attention to historic resources in the planning of your project.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300 | 800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us

January 20, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
Chief, Environmental Flight
Department of the Air Force
934 MSG/CEV, Building 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Re: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission

Dear Mr. Yocum:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Environmental Review Unit has reviewed the information in the letter and attachment dated December 14, 2010, regarding the explosive ordnance disposal mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station in Minneapolis and the remote sites in St. Francis and Little Falls, Minnesota. Based on the limited information provided, and regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration.

- If the project will disturb a total of one acre or more of land, including clearing and grading for equipment staging areas, work pads, or even temporary roads, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Construction Stormwater Permit is required from the MPCA. The owner and operator (usually the general contractor) are jointly responsible for obtaining and complying with the conditions of the Permit. A detailed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), containing stormwater management requirements both during and post construction, as well as erosion control and sediment control requirements during construction must be prepared prior to submitting a permit application. Permit coverage is required prior to commencing land disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grading, filling, or excavating) relating to the project. For an overview of this permit and program, please refer to the following fact sheet: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-strm2-05.pdf. Questions regarding construction stormwater permit requirements should be directed to Larry Zdon at 651-757-2839.

- We recommend you check the current listing of impaired waters on the MPCA Draft 2010 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) list of impaired waters on the Web site located at: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html. Certain impairments will dictate additional increased stormwater treatment both during construction and require additional increased permanent treatment post construction. These requirements will be included in any NPDES/SDS Construction Stormwater Permit. The project proposer should determine that compliance with these increased stormwater water quality treatments can be achieved on the project site or elsewhere. Information regarding the MPCA's Construction Stormwater Program can be found on the MPCA's Web site at: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html.

  In addition, any project that will result in over 50 acres of disturbed area and has a discharge point within one mile of a special or impaired water is required to submit their SWPPP to the MPCA for review at least 30 days prior to the commencement of land disturbing activities. If the SWPPP is found to be out of compliance with the terms and conditions of the General Permit, further delay may occur. The MPCA encourages the project proposer to meet with staff at preliminary points to avoid this situation. Questions regarding SWPPPs should be directed to Todd Smith at 651-757-2732.

- Please be aware that if a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Section 404 Individual Permit is required for any project related wetland impacts, an MPCA Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver must also be obtained as part of the permitting process. The Section 401 Water Quality Certification ensures that the activity will comply with the state water quality standards. Any conditions required within the MPCA 401 Certificate are then incorporated into the Corps 404 Permit. You can find additional information about the MPCA's 401 Certification process at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/401.html. For further information about the 401 Water Quality Certification process, please contact Kevin Molloy at 651-757-2577 or Bill Wilde at 651-757-2825.

- It is not uncommon for projects to encounter contamination, especially petroleum-contaminated soil from storage tanks or spills. Efforts should be made prior to construction to determine if and where any petroleum or other contamination is likely to be encountered during the project. Utilization of the MPCA's database and mapping tool, *What's In My Neighborhood?* can be helpful in evaluating the project area or areas for potential contamination. This mapping tool can be found at: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/wimn/index.cfm. It is the responsibility of the project sponsor to complete the project safely through any areas of contamination and to properly manage any contaminated soil that is excavated during the project. If contamination is found, it must be reported immediately to the State Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this project, please contact me at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

Karen Kromar

Karen Kromar
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division

KK:mbo

cc: Craig Affeldt, MPCA, St. Paul
Larry Zdon, MPCA, St. Paul
Todd Smith, MPCA, St. Paul
Kevin Molloy, MPCA, St. Paul
Bill Wilde, MPCA, St. Paul
Doug Wetzstein, MPCA, St. Paul
Reed Larson, MPCA, Brainerd

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

IN REPLY REFER TO

FWS/MNV

January 24, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Thank you for the letter notifying the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) that the United States Air Force Reserve is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordinance Disposal mission. Our primary interest will be with the off-range training area known as Area B.

The Refuge, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, City of Bloomington, and many other residents and interested parties have been collaborating on a project that would connect Fort Snelling State Park and the Refuge via trail through Area B. It is my understanding that there have been ongoing discussions concerning the trail between representative from Fort Snelling State Park and the Unites States Air Force Reserve. I would ask that you consider the feasibility of a trail in the Environmental Assessment.

I would like to offer you an opportunity to discuss this project with "The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Group". This group is a collection of local federal, state, municipal, and community members that meet on a regular basis to coordinate, plan, and implement local and regional trail projects. The group meets here at the Refuge and would welcome your participation at a future meeting. Please let me know if you would have an interest.

Thank you for the notice and we will await the release of the Environmental Assessment for any further comment.

Sincerely,

Charles W Blair
Refuge Manager

FRIENDS of the MINNESOTA VALLEY
The River. The Land. The Future.

January 26, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Dear Mr. Yocum:

It has come to our attention that the United States Air Force (USAF) Reserve is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station. As a primary support group for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and as an advocate for natural resource conservation throughout the entire Minnesota River Valley, Friends of the Minnesota Valley is interested in and concerned about the proposed munitions disposal.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley supports completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail (Trail). The proposed Trail extends from Fort Snelling to Fort Ridgely. A portion of the proposed trail route encompasses the USAF project area. We are interested in learning more about how the proposed project could impact trail alignment, trail continuity, and Refuge visitor and trail user safety.

Our comments regarding the Trail echo the concerns of the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN). BikeMN is a leader on bicycle education and advocacy within Minnesota. Like Friends of the Minnesota Valley, BikeMN is a member of a diverse work group that is promoting re-opening of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge in Bloomington and completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail.

In addition, the Friends work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to restore and enhance wildlife habitat. We would be interested to learn more about the potential impacts that the proposed USAF project would have on wildlife within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Fort Snelling State Park.

A final concern is that the proposed USAF project may negatively impact the quality of groundwater and/or surface water in and around the project area, including the water quality of the Minnesota River. As one of three non-governmental organizations working to improve the water quality of the Minnesota River, we are interested in projects such as this that may impact the water quality of a river that is recognized as one of the nation's most impaired waterways. Water quality is also a key interest of the USFWS because it impacts the agency's ability to conserve wildlife habitat and manage other refuge resources.

Thank you. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and request that you add us to your mailing list for public communications during the environmental assessment process.

Sincerely,

Lori Nelson
Executive Director

cc: Charlie Blair, USFWS
Dorian Grilley, BikeMN

10800 Lyndale Ave. S., #120/ Bloomington, MN 55420/ Ph.: 952-881-9055/ Fax: 952-881-3174/www.friendsofmnvalley.org

APPENDIX B
DRAFT EA: RELEASE AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

(Published in the Brainerd Dispatch, February 25, 2011, 1t.)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE BEDDOWN OF AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION AT THE MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION (MSPARS) MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared by MSPARS for the beddown of a new explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission at MSPARS. The location for the proposed action is at the MSPARS main base at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, a 1-acre site at MSPARS Area B, and explosives proficiency ranges at the ATK Proving Grounds and at Camp Ripley. The draft EA will be available at the Minneapolis Public Library, Business/Science/Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992. It is also available for download from the MSPARS Internet web page at the following URL address: http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/. The public comment period for the EA ends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Comments may be sent to: Douglas Yocum at 934th Airlift Wing, MSG/CEV Building 744, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100, by FAX at (612) 713-1950, or by email at douglas.yocum@us.af.mil.

Affidavit of Publication

State of Minnesota)
ss.
County of Crow Wing)

Ann Windorski, being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as the Brainerd Dispatch, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed Notice Of Availability which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for 1 successive weeks; it was first published on Friday the 25th day of February, 2011, and was thereafter printed and published on every _____ to and including _____ the _____ day of _____, 2011; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

By: Ann Windorski

Title: Agent

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 25th day of February, 2011

Natasha Rosann Lockwood
Notary Public, Minnesota

(Notarial Seal)

My Commission Expires

NATASHA ROSANN LOCKWOOD
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2015

Publication Fee $62.55

RATE INFORMATION

(1)	Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space	$13.90 /column inch
(2)	Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter	$13.90 /column inch
(3)	Rate actually charged for the above matter	$13.90 /column inch

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Karen Greenhoe, being duly sworn, on oath says she is and during all times herein stated has been an employee of Star Tribune Media Company LLC, a Delaware limited liability company with offices at 425 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55488, publisher and printer of the *Star Tribune* newspaper (the "Newspaper"), published 7 days a week, and has full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows:

1. The Newspaper meets the following qualifications:
   (a) The Newspaper is printed in the English language in newspaper format and in column and sheet form equivalent in printed space to at least 1,000 square inches;
   (b) The Newspaper is printed daily and distributed at least five days each week;
   (c) In at least half of its issues each year, the Newspaper has no more than 75 percent of its printed space comprised of advertising material and paid public notices. In all of its issues each year, the Newspaper has not less than 25 percent of its news columns devoted to news of local interest to the community that it purports to serve. Not more than 25 percent of the Newspaper's non-advertising column inches in any issue duplicates any other publication;
   (d) The Newspaper is circulated in the local public corporation which it purports to serve, and has at least 500 copies regularly delivered to paying subscribers;
   (e) The Newspaper has its known office of issue established in either the county in which it lies, in whole or in part, the local public corporation which the Newspaper purports to serve, or in an adjoining county;
   (f) The Newspaper files a copy of each issue immediately with the state historical society;
   (g) The Newspaper is made available at single or subscription prices to any person, corporation, partnership, or other unincorporated association requesting the Newspaper and making the applicable payment;
   (h) The Newspaper has complied with all the foregoing conditions for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the notice publication which is the subject of the Affidavit; and
   (i) Between September 1 and December 31 of each year, the Newspaper publishes and submits to the secretary of state, along with a filing fee of $25, a sworn United States Post Office periodical class statement of ownership and circulation.
2. The printed copy of the matter attached hereto (the "Notice") was copied from the columns of the Newspaper and was printed and published in the English language on the following days and dates: **Sunday, February 27, 2011.**
3. Except as otherwise directed by a particular statute requiring publication of a public notice, the Notice was printed in a typeface no smaller than six point with a lowercase alphabet of 90 point.
4. The Newspaper's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for space comparable to the space in which the Notice was published is **$221.40.**

Karen Greenhoe

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 28, 2011

Notary Public

Steve Oivanki
Gulf South Research Corp
8081 GSRI Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

12954140
41 Lines
Class 203

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE BEDDOWN OF AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MISSION AT THE MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AIR RESERVE STATION (MSPARS) MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared by MSPARS for the beddown of a new explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission at MSPARS. The location for the proposed action is at the MSPARS main base at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, a 1-acre site at MSPARS Area B, and explosives proficiency ranges at the ATK Proving Grounds and at Camp Ripley. The draft EA will be available at the Minneapolis Public Library, Business/Science/Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992. It is also available for download from the MSPARS Internet web page at the following URL address: http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/. The public comment period for the EA ends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Comments may be sent to: Douglas Yasumi at 934th Airlift Wing, MSG/CEV Building 744, 7ôô Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100, by FAX at (612) 713-1950, or by email at douglas.yasumi@us.af.mil.

Distribution List - Draft EA; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA Implementation Section
Attn: Mike Sedlacek
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mailstop E-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
4101 American Blvd. East.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Attn: Charles Blair, Refuge Manager
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Regulatory Functions Branch
190 Fifth St. E.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

National Park Service
Stewardship Team Manager
111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1288

Environmental Quality Board
Environmental Review Program
658 Cedar Street, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Env Review Section, Attn: Karen Kromar
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Fort Snelling State Park
Attn: Robert Piotrowski
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111

Metropolitan Council
Review Coordinator
Local Planning Assistance
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

State Archaeologist
Fort Snelling History Center
200 Tower Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55111-4061

Hennepin County Environmental Services
417 N. 5th Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-3206

Metropolitan Airports Commission
Attn: Patrick Mosites/Airport Development
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th St.
Chaska, MN 55318

City of St. Francis
Planning & Zoning Department
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Camp Ripley Environmental Office
Attn: Sheldon Prozinski
15000 Highway 115,
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173

Edward Crozier

Burnsville, MN

Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Attn: Lori Nelson, Executive Director
10800 Lyndale Avenue South, #120
Bloomington MN 55420

Public Library:
Hennepin County Minneapolis Central Library
Business/Science/Government Documents
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA Implementation Section
Attn: Mike Sedlacek
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Mailstop E-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Mr. Sedlacek,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting analysis of potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Draft EA assesses potential impacts of proposed actions that would involve Air Force property at MSPARS, as well as private property in St. Francis, Minnesota, and Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. The Draft EA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

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Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
4101 American Blvd. East.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Dear Sirs,

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Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Attn: Charles Blair, Refuge Manager
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Mr. Blair,

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Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Regulatory Functions Branch
190 Fifth St. E.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

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DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

National Park Service
Stewardship Team Manager
111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1288

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Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Environmental Quality Board
Environmental Review Program
658 Cedar Street, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sirs,

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Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Env Review Section, Attn: Karen Kromar
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Ms. Kromar,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting analysis of potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Draft EA assesses potential impacts of proposed actions that would involve Air Force property at MSPARS, as well as private property in St. Francis, Minnesota, and Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. The Draft EA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

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Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

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Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Fort Snelling State Park
Attn: Robert Piotrowski
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111

Mr. Piotrowski,

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Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Metropolitan Council
Review Coordinator
Local Planning Assistance
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Mary Ann Heidemann
345 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Ms. Heidemann,

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

State Archaeologist
Fort Snelling History Center
200 Tower Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55111-4061

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Hennepin County Environmental Services
417 N. 5th Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-3206

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Metropolitan Airports Commission
Attn: Patrick Mosites/Airport Development
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Mr. Mosites,

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Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th St.
Chaska, MN 55318

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Enclosure:
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

City of St. Francis
Planning & Zoning Department
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Camp Ripley Environmental Office
Attn: Sheldon Prozinski
15000 Highway 115,
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173

Mr. Prozinksi,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting analysis of potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Draft EA assesses potential impacts of proposed actions that would involve Air Force property at MSPARS, as well as private property in St. Francis, Minnesota, and Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. The Draft EA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft EA/FONSI for your review. The Draft EA/FONSI is currently out for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning on February 27, 2011 and ending March 28, 2011. After review of the Draft EA/FONSI, written comments may be submitted to my attention at the return address listed above, or via fax number 612-713-1950, or via e-mail to douglas.yocum@us.af.mil. In order for your comments to be addressed in the final EA/FONSI, they must be received within the 30-day comment period.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Edward Crozier

Burnsville, MN

Mr. Crozier,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting analysis of potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Draft EA assesses potential impacts of proposed actions that would involve Air Force property at MSPARS, as well as private property in St. Francis, Minnesota, and Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. The Draft EA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft EA/FONSI for your review. The Draft EA/FONSI is currently out for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning on February 27, 2011 and ending March 28, 2011. After review of the Draft EA/FONSI, written comments may be submitted to my attention at the return address listed above, or via fax number 612-713-1950, or via e-mail to douglas.yocum@us.af.mil. In order for your comments to be addressed in the final EA/FONSI, they must be received within the 30-day comment period.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Attn: Lori Nelson, Executive Director
10800 Lyndale Avenue South, #120
Bloomington MN 55420

Ms. Nelson,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting analysis of potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located adjacent to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Draft EA assesses potential impacts of proposed actions that would involve Air Force property at MSPARS, as well as private property in St. Francis, Minnesota, and Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota. The Draft EA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft EA/FONSI for your review. The Draft EA/FONSI is currently out for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning on February 27, 2011 and ending March 28, 2011. After review of the Draft EA/FONSI, written comments may be submitted to my attention at the return address listed above, or via fax number 612-713-1950, or via e-mail to douglas.yocum@us.af.mil. In order for your comments to be addressed in the final EA/FONSI, they must be received within the 30-day comment period.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

18 February 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Hennepin County Minneapolis Central Library
Business/Science/Government Documents
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992

Dear Sir or Madam,

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, the United States Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of a proposed federal action. Enclosed is one copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment document. A public notice of availability will be published in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* and *Brainerd Dispatch* on February 27, 2011. This draft federal environmental assessment needs to be available for review by interested members of the general public for at least 30 days after the public notice (through March 28, 2011). I request that Minneapolis Central Library retain this document in the Business/Science/Government Document holdings during this 30-day review period, and allow the document to be reviewed in the library facility only; please do not allow it to be checked out. After the formal public review period ends on March 28, 2011, Minneapolis Central Library may keep the copy, discard it, or return it to me at the return address shown above. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Yocum

DOUGLAS S. YOCUM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota

APPENDIX C
DRAFT EA: PUBLIC AND EXTERNAL AGENCY COMMENTS

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 01 2011

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Douglas Yocum, Chief
Air Force Reserve Command
934th Airlift Wing
MSG/CEV Building 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55450-2100

Re: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Yocum:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed project involves installing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operational unit at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As part of the project, Building 750, a building currently being used by base janitorial staff, will be expanded to 11,000 square feet, and will also be remodeled to house the administrative offices of the EOD mission. Buildings 726 and 802, which are currently being used as training and storage facilities, will be used to house non-administrative staff, supplies, and other mission components. Additionally, the project sponsor, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), proposes to create an off-range training facility located in Area B at MSPARS. Construction activities at the off-range training site will include building a 60-square-foot cement pad for training exercises, and building an associated sand pit with an overhang structure. AFRC also intends to utilize two remote sites, Camp Ripley, and ATK Proving Grounds (ATK), referred to as proficiency sites, where the live ordnance training will occur.

Based on our review, we have identified issues relating to Area B usage and security/safety, water quality and wetlands, storm water retention, flooding, and soil contamination/RCRA remediation site, as stated below:

Area B Usage and Security/Safety

AFRC plans to utilize approximately one acre of the 27-acre Area B site as part of this project. Details regarding the specific use of the cement pad, the sandbox, and the overhang structure are unknown. EPA recommends explaining the purpose and need of the cement pad, sandbox, and overhang structure as they apply to the EOD mission, and whether or not the overall mission at Area B could pose hazards to people and wildlife in the vicinity, including on the Minnesota River (swimmers/boaters), on Interstate 494, and on Highway 5. EPA also concurs with AFRC that secure areas of Area B should be fenced and protected from trespassers and wildlife, including approach by hiking trail or water. Similarly, EPA recommends utilizing posted trespassing/mission warning signs, including the use of on-site military police during active EOD training at Area B. AFRC may consider consulting management at the two proficiency sites, ATK and Camp Ripley, as to whether or not the sites can be safely used to explode large amounts of ordnance.

The EA indicates a hiking trail may be built through Area B in the future. Letters from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), Fort Snelling State Park, and Friends of the Minnesota Valley all indicate interest in building the hiking trail through Area B, which borders the Minnesota River.

Water Quality and Wetlands

NEPAssist, an assessment tool used by EPA, determined the presence of an unknown area of wetland features in the southeast corner of Area B that consists of forested/shrub and riverine wetlands. The proposed project appears to be located immediately adjacent to those wetland features. EPA recommends AFRC consult with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as to any potential (indirect) impacts to those wetlands as a result of this project.

Stormwater Retention

The EA indicates that a stormwater retention pond separates Area B from the Minnesota River. The design and operation of this retention pond was not discussed, including whether all stormwater from Area B is drained into this retention pond. EPA recommends explaining the use of the retention pond as it applies to preventing wastewater from being discharged directly into the Minnesota River. Similarly, the EA does not specifically explain whether or not the retention pond has any contact with the surface waters of the Minnesota River.

Flooding

The EA states that Area B is within the Minnesota River's 100-year floodplain. As was suggested in scoping comments to AFRC, dated 12/22/2010, EPA recommended building any new structures above the 100-year-flood elevation line. EPA also recommends AFRC consider studying the affects of potential contamination by lead from bullets at the Area B rifle range, as well as any potential cumulative affects that may occur as a result of building over the former landfill.

Soil Contamination/RCRA Remediation Site

EPA recommends AFRC look into potential legacy contamination at Area B due to Area B's past use as a rifle range landfill. The landfill site, known as the Small Arms Range Landfill (SARL), is under current monitoring by U.S. EPA Region 5 RCRA Branch. Similarly, soil contamination by explosives is known to exist at Camp Ripley. EPA recommends AFRC adopt measures that will reduce and/or eliminate soil contamination at both Camp Ripley and the ATK proficiency sites, and work with management at those sites to ensure remediation measures are taken at those sites.

Best Management Practices

EPA recommends AFRC consider taking steps to utilize best management practices (BMP) in regard to safety, erosion control, surface water collection and treatment, rifle range maintenance and cleaning, and use of (or upgrade to) the most modern explosive pad designs.

EPA is available to discuss these comments to the draft EA at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 312-886-2910 or Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765 to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Gary Victorine, RCRA Branch
Tamara Cameron, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV

From: duerre dick[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:59 PM
To: YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV
Subject: Shooting range in Minn. River Valley

Mr. Yocum:

I am writing regarding the plans to alter the present small arms shooting range and add a Explosive Ordnance Disposal classroom the the facility that you now have in the Minn. River Valley between Ft.
Snelling State Park and the Minn. National Valley Wildlife Refuge.
There have been long time plans to build a bike and walking trail through that section of the valley. In fact some people hope to
extend that trail all the way to So. Dakota along the Minn. River.
At the present time there is a concentrated effort to build the trail in the metro area, through the exact area your facility is in.

I am e-mailing you with the hope that you will not do anything on your land that would close it off to building this trail through it.
PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PUBLIC DESIRE TO HAVE THIS TRAIL THROUGH YOUR LAND.
i think you can have your training facility and we can have a trail, side by side.

Please put me on your mailing list so that I get any public notices that are sent out regarding this project.

Dick Duerre
[redacted]

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

March 22, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-21000

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment – Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mission Beddown
Morrison, Anoka and Hennepin County, Minnesota
FWS TAILS #32410-2011-CPA-0055

Dear Mr. Yocum:

This letter is in reference to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) mission, and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Biologist Andrew Horton of my staff and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Manager Charles Blair have reviewed the Draft EA, and below we provide our consolidated comments with regard to the potential impacts of the beddown of a new Explosive Ordinance Disposal mission.

The EOD mission will be located in Anoka, Hennepin and Morrison Counties, Minnesota. The permitted activities will include construction and non-explosive ordinance training at Building 750 and Area B, located on the Minneapolis - St. Paul Air Reserve Station (MSPARS), as well as advanced training involving individual detonations of up to 5 pounds of C-4 explosives at existing ordinance testing and training ranges located at the Camp Ripley proficiency range or the Alliant Techsystems Proving Ground (ATPG).

Higgins eye pearlymussel (endangered) and gray wolf (threatened) are the only listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for Hennepin and Morrison County, respectively. Higgins eye pearlymussel occurs in the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and not in close proximity to the proposed action area. The gray wolf is present on Camp Ripley and is managed under the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. It is the determination of this EA that the EOD mission in Morrison County may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect gray wolf.

We concur with your determination that these permitted activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect gray wolf in the action area indicated in the materials provided. Our concurrence is based on the past disturbance and continued use of the proposed proficiency range at Camp Ripley and ATPG for high explosive detonations and artillery practice.

There is continued interest by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Bloomington and many local organizations and publics for the

development of the Minnesota Valley State Trail segment between Fort Snelling State Park and the Refuge crossing MSPARS property. We would like to again stress the importance of this trail segment and encourage the U.S. Air Force Reserve to approve the trail segment on their property and work cooperatively with the interested parties to locate it. It is our understanding that access would not be allowed during training operations and training operations are projected to be no more than one weekend per month and two days per week. We request that these periodic short-term closures be minimal so that this trail segment can remain a viable option.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please call Andrew Horton of the Twin Cities Field Office at (612) 725-3548 or Charlie Blair of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge at (952) 854-5900.

Sincerely,

for

Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor
Twin Cities ES Field Office

Charles Blair
Refuge Manager
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Metropolitan Council

March 23, 2011

Mr. Doug Yocum
934th Airlift Wing
MSG/CEV Building 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

RE: Environmental Assessment - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown
Minneapolis-Saint Paul Air Reserve Station, MSP Airport and
Alliant Techsystems Proving Ground, Saint Francis MN
Metropolitan Council Districts 5 & 9
Metropolitan Council Review File No. 20840-1

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Metropolitan Council staff has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mission located at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Air Reserve Station on and nearby the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport property, and at Alliant Techsystem's EOD proficiency range detonation site in Saint Francis. Staff finds that the project raises no major issues of consistency with Council policies and an Environmental Impact Statement should not be necessary for the proposed project, but the following comments are offered relative to the proposed project.

Recreation and Aesthetics
The EA is complete and accurate for regional parks review. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* proposes new regional parks system facilities in the general vicinity of two of the preferred alternative sites. A regional park search area and a regional trail search corridor are proposed in the general area of the ATK Proving Ground site in St. Francis. This area was selected for a new regional park and trail due to the presence of high quality natural resources and rolling topography. Additionally, this area has been designated and mapped as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area of Outstanding Quality by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A boundary for the regional park and the alignment of the regional trail will be determined by Anoka County through a future master planning process.

The Minnesota DNR has proposed to develop a segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail through Area B of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Air Reserve Station. The EA has addressed the proposed state trail as it relates to the off-range training area.

This will conclude the Metropolitan Council's review of the EA. Please note that the Council will take no formal action on the document. Please contact Jim Larsen PE, principal reviewer, at 651-602-1159 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Hanson, Manager
Local Planning Assistance

cc: Steve Elkins, Metropolitan Council District 5
Edward Reynoso, Metropolitan Council District 9
Denise Engen, Sector Representative
Susan Hoyt, Sector Representative
Judy Sventek, Watershed Coordinator
Cheryl Olsen, Reviews Coordinator

N:\CommDev\LPA\Agencies\MAC\Environmental Reviews\EA Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown.doc

Minnesota Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

March 23, 2011

Douglas Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
700 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

RE: EA – Explosive Ordnance Disposal - Mission Beddown,
Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station
Building 750, MSPARS main base campus
"Area B" tract owned by MSPARS, Hennepin County
ATPG spin-test site, Elk River
Engineer Demolition Range L at Camp Ripley
Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility at Camp Ripley
SHPO Number: 2011-0873

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment for the above referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

Based on available information, we conclude that **no properties** listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300 | 800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us

March 25, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Building 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Re: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission project (Project) in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Project includes the renovation and expansion of Building 750 and the development of off-range training areas. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the Draft EA and have no comments at this time.

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this Draft EA, please contact me at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

Karen Kromar

Karen Kromar
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division

KK:mbo

cc: Craig Affeldt, MPCA, St. Paul
Larry Zdon, MPCA, St. Paul

YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV

From: Edward Crozier[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 12:01 PM
To: YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV
Subject: Comments on the Draft EA/FONSI
Attachments: USAF EA Comment Letter 32711; ATT00001..htm

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum

934 MSG/CEV, Building 744

760 Military Highway

Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Dear Mr. Yocum

Please consider these written comments regarding the Draft EA/FONSI that assesses the potential impacts of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission proposed to be located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Reserve Station located between the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport and the Minnesota River.

The Minnesota Legislature authorized the Minnesota Valley State Trail in 1969. Much of the trail has been built further upstream, but the portion of the trail in Hennepin County, between Fort Snelling State Park and Shakopee, MN has not been built for a number of reasons, but now there is renewed public interest in seeing that the trail be completed. This critical "Missing Link" of the trail is proposed to be built adjacent to the Minnesota River. When built, this pedestrian and bicycle trail will be immensely popular because of its unique wild character and its proximity to a major metropolitan area. Without this link, the Minnesota Valley State Trail will be greatly diminished and will fail to meet its own mission.

The most important part of this trail is the section that links the State Park with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge just upstream. Because of the existing airport and highways, there is only a narrow strip of undeveloped land suitable for the trail and that is the land between the river bluff and the river itself owned by the US Air Force where the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Site is proposed. If this USAF proposal were to prohibit the construction of the trail it would prevent the achievement of a long-held dream of the public.

It is believed there is room on the USAF property for both the Ordnance Disposal site and the trail and that these projects can be compatible even when located in close proximity to each other. As the USAF proceeds with its Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission please ensure that it does not cripple the fulfillment of the trail. If it does impede the trail, it will disappoint a large number of citizens and diminish the image of the USAF consideration for the greater public interest.

Edward Crozier

[redacted]

[redacted]

YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV

From: David Minge[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:26 AM
To: YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV
Subject: Environmental Assessment/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Site

Mr Yocum & the Review Committee:
I have learned that the Air Force is considering the establishment of an ordinance-disposal-training facility on federal property adjacent to the Minnesota River near the Minneapolis/St Paul Airport. I write to express my position that such a use is incompatible with location and other uses.
The site is in the middle of an urban wilderness. To the east is the State of Minnesota's Fort Snelling State Park. To the west, the federally owned land is the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
A long planned (and hopefully soon built) pedestrian and bicycle trail is being established. It must pass through the site. Given the location of the highways, the river bluff, and the river; there is no possible alternate route for the trial.
Long term, the proximity of any ordinance disposal activity to the trail will result in conflict. The vast areas above the river bottoms provide alternate locations for the disposal program that would not pose any conflict. I urge that you not use this location for this disposal training activity.
I note that there are over three million people living in the Minneapolis/St Paul metropolitan area. This trail is part of a long-standing plan to establish a trail from Fort Snelling to Big Stone Lake on the South Dakota border. This location is a key link in making this trail a reality. The potential usage is heavy. Any activity that might shut down the trail for even a short time will leave trail users stranded and create significant conflict. Please help make the trail a success. Exercise has become a national priority and the Air Force can be a partner in that effort by being a cosponsor of the trail.
Respectfully submitted,
David Minge
[redacted]

March 28, 2011

Mr. Douglas S. Yocum
934 MSG/CEV, Bldg. 744
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Please accept these comments in reference to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) mission beddown, and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). We wish to reiterate our concerns as expressed in our letter dated January 26, 2011 and to expand upon those comments following review of the EA/ FONSI.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley supports the No Action Alternative. We are most concerned about the impact of the proposed ordnance disposal site upon the proposed Minnesota Valley State Trail. The FONSI language acknowledges that "possible recreation impacts at Area B would occur if a recreational river trail proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is impeded, but a recreational use would be negotiated with the MNDNR to reduce those impacts to less than significant. […].The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts." (FONSI, page 2).

The fact that the MNDNR currently has no plans or timelines for trail development should not be a determining factor in downplaying the impacts of the proposed ordnance site on the Minnesota Valley State Trail and its recreational users. The Minnesota Legislature and the U.S. Congress, dating back to as early as 1975, began creating authority for the establishment of, acquisition for, and management planning for the Minnesota Valley State Trail. In 1975, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the MNDNR to acquire land for the Minnesota Valley State Trail. When the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established by an Act of Congress in 1976, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the State of Minnesota were mandated to work together to include the Minnesota Valley State Trail as an integral component of the Refuge. In 1984, a comprehensive multi-agency effort culminated in the publication of the *Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail.* In 2001, the Minnesota Legislature approved the extension of the Minnesota Valley State Trail from Belle Plaine and Le Sueur all the way to Big Stone Lake and the MNDNR began trail planning by collaborating with local support groups. In 2003, the MNDNR published a draft management plan for the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area (MVSRA), which included provisions for the Minnesota Valley State Trail.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley is concerned that the USAF's expressed willingness to mitigate the impacts of periodic closure of the Trail, should it be completed, will be insufficient to meet the legislative intent for a continuous, publicly-accessible recreational trail. Even periodic short-term trail closures negatively impact the public use of the trail.

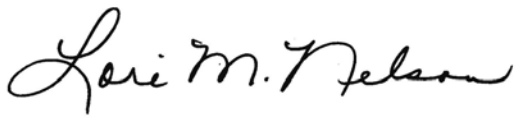
In the 2003 draft MNDNR management plan for the MVSRA, in the section pertaining to regional recreation and tourism activities, the MNDNR states the following:

"In a recreational sense, *connectivity is... important* (emphasis added). The Minnesota Valley Trail was originally envisioned as the core trail that connects the various city, county and regional trails in the area. As time as passed these local communities have designed and built their trails with the expectation that the Minnesota Valley Trail will be completed. As the trail is further defined and developed, this will be become more of a reality. In the Fort Snelling area, for example, the trail connects to the Minnehaha Trail System (Minneapolis), the Big Rivers Trail (Eagan), and the Bloomington Trail System." (MVSRA Draft Management Plan, p. 12).

For the past several years, there has been a group of public and private interests that has met regularly to promote the re-opening of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and to complete local and regional trails in and near the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, there is a dedicated core of individuals in the Le Sueur and Henderson area that are also actively promoting the completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail in their communities and as a whole entity. They recognize that the Minnesota Valley State Trail is a corridor that connects the various significant natural, recreational, and cultural resources in the Minnesota River Valley. The ordnance site project would interfere with unrestricted, continuous public access for the use and enjoyment of these resources.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact me at 952-881-9065 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lori Nelson
Executive Director

cc: Charlie Blair, USFWS

YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV

From: Doperalski, Melissa (DNR) [melissa.doperalski@state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 2:57 PM
To: YOCUM, DOUGLAS S GS-12 USAF AFRC 934 CE/CEV
Cc: Stedman, Joel L (DNR); Doll, Adam (DNR)
Subject: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown EA - DNR comments

Mr. Yocum,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments for the United States Air force Reserve Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Beddown Environmental Assessment (EA). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the following comments for your consideration.

As described in Section 3.3 Recreation and Aesthetics, the DNR has previously proposed development of a segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail through Area B. The DNR's interest in recreational trail development in this area remains consistent and encourages continued communication between the Air Force and the DNR's Division of Parks and Trails. The DNR supports with the Interagency Coordination Letters included in Appendix A from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

Section 3.8.3 Affected Environment – Sensitive Species, did not include a discussion on state-listed species. Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute requires the DNR to adopt rules designating species meeting the statutory definitions of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern. The resulting List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species is codified as Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6134. Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute and the associated Rules impose a variety of restrictions, a permit program, and several exemptions pertaining to species designated as endangered or threatened. Note that the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 - 1544), requires the U.S. Department of the Interior to identify species as endangered or threatened according to a separate set of definitions. It also imposes a separate set of restrictions pertaining to those species.

Minnesota's rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and other rare features are recorded in a collection of databases referred to as the DNR's Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) is a major source of this information. Three of the NHIS databases (MCBS Native Plant Communities, MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance, and MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies) are available as GIS shapefiles and can be downloaded at no cost from the DNR Data Deli at http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us. The locations of state-listed species and other rare features are maintained in the Rare Features Database. This information is considered sensitive and is protected under the Minnesota Data Practices Act; it is only available through a NHIS Data Request Form or a License Agreement. The NHIS search results should be included as part of the rare resources discussion representative of the state resources. This information is necessary in order to make an informed decision on the potential environmental impacts the proposed project will have on sensitive state resources. The database records indicate several rare features within 1 mile of the proposed project sites. Based on the information provided on the proposed project it does not appear that the project will affect these rare features. For future environmental documents the NHIS Data Request Form and Fee Schedule can be downloaded for the DNR website at the following webpage: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis.html#datarequest and submitted to Lisa Joyal at lisa.joyal@state.mn.us.

Cumulative Impacts is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as: …*The impact on the environment which results 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. (40 CFR §1508.7.) From this definition, cumulative effects to natural, cultural, historic resources and/or human communities are not just the result of the proposed project, but also other collective actions and projects that occur in the vicinity of the area over time. Other actions may include local or state projects, residential, commercial and industrial development plans and large-scale development such as a large subdivision or warehouse/distribution center and airport expansions. These actions/action types should be included in the cumulative impact discussion so as to provide a more accurate representation of the area land use or future land use.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,
Melissa Doperalski

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APPENDIX D
MATRIX OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

MSP EOD Beddown EA - Matrix of Comments and Responses

Commenter	Comment	Proponent Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*AFRC plans to utilize approximately one acre of the 27-acre Area B site as part of this project. Details regarding the specific use of the cement pad, the sandbox, and the overhang structure are unknown. EPA recommends explaining the purpose and need of the cement pad, sandbox, and overhang structure as they apply to the EOD mission.*	Additional detail will be incorporated into Section 2.1 (Proposed EOD Mission Components) to explain the purpose and need of the cement pad, sandbox, and overhang structure as they apply to the EOD mission.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*EPA recommends explaining…….whether or not the overall mission at Area B could pose hazards to people and wildlife in the vicinity, including on the Minnesota River (swimmers/boaters), on Interstate 494, and on Highway 5.*	Section 3.8.5 (Environmental Consequences – Wildlife) explains the basis for determining that potential impacts to wildlife at the Area B location are insignificant. Section 3.12 (Safety) addresses the potential for safety impacts. Additional text will be added to Section 3.12.2 (Environmental Consequences) to specifically address the basis for determining that training in Area B would not create safety concerns for the public, including swimmers and boaters on the Minnesota River and vehicular traffic on Interstate 494 and Highway 5.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*EPA recommends utilizing posted trespassing/mission warning signs, including the use of on-site military police during active EOD training at Area B.*	AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing concurs with use of warning signage for the off-range training site in Area B, as noted in Section 7.0 (Mitigation, Best Management Practices, and Preventive Measures). However, fencing and locked gates would be the primary means of restricting public access during training operations. Security Forces manpower is not likely to be sufficient to provide full-time presence at the training site during EOD training.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*AFRC may consider consulting management at the two proficiency sites, ATK and Camp Ripley, as to whether or not the sites can be safely used to explode large amounts of ordnance.*	AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing concurs, and consultation of management at the two proposed proficiency sites, ATK and Camp Ripley, has been completed to determine if the sites can be safely used to explode amounts of ordnance that would be used in EOD proficiency training.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*NEPAssist, an assessment tool used by EPA, determined the presence of an unknown area of wetland features in the southeast corner of Area B that consists of forested/shrub and riverine wetlands. The proposed project appears to be located immediately adjacent to those wetland features. EPA*	The wetlands identified in the southeast corner of Area B predominantly coincide with the Metropolitan Airports Commission's "South Retention Basin 3 (494 Pond)", which would not be encroached by the proposed Off-Range Training Area. Graphic output from the U.S. Fish

	recommends AFRC consult with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as to any potential (indirect) impacts to those wetlands as a result of this project.	& Wildlife Service's online Wetlands Mapper will be incorporated into the Final EA to depict the wetlands location. As noted in Section 3.7.3 (Environmental Consequences – Surface Water), the proposed action will not require construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over or under navigable waters, nor any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of navigable waters, nor does it involve discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States. USACE is one of the federal agencies to which the Draft EA was submitted for comment.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*The EA indicates that a stormwater retention pond separates Area B from the Minnesota River. The design and operation of this retention pond was not discussed, including whether all storm water from Area B is drained into this retention pond. EPA recommends explaining the use of the retention pond as it applies to preventing wastewater from being discharged directly into the Minnesota River. Similarly, the EA does not specifically explain whether or not the retention pond has any contact with the surface waters of the Minnesota River.*	Section 3.2.1 (Affected Environment; Land Use), explained that the retention basin is owned and maintained by Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and that it functions as a high flow bypass detention pond, receiving storm flow from MAC's MSP Pond 1 when runoff rates exceed 300 cubic feet per second. Section 3.7.1 (Affected Environment; Surface Water), explained that the retention basin receives excess surface stormwater runoff from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport prior to discharge into the Minnesota River. The retention basin is not used to receive nor discharge "wastewater." Section 3.7.3 (Environmental Consequences – Surface Water), explained that there is no direct discharge of stormwater from any part of Area B into the retention basin. The EA has been revised to clarify these points.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*The EA states that Area B is within the Minnesota River's 100-year floodplain. As was suggested in scoping comments to AFRC, dated 12/22/20 10, EPA recommended building any new structures above the 100-year-flood elevation line.*	AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing agrees with EPA's suggestion. Section 3.7.3 (Environmental Consequences – Surface Water) specified that no fill or structures would be introduced that would have an effect on the floodplain of the Minnesota River. Text within the document will be clarified to reflect that some, but not all, portions of the 27-acre Area B property lie below the 100-year flood elevation line. Any structures needed at the proposed

		Off-Range Training Area (e.g., cement pad, sandbox, and overhang structure) would be constructed above the 100-year flood elevation.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*EPA also recommends AFRC consider studying the effects of potential contamination by lead from bullets at the Area B rifle range, as well as any potential cumulative effects that may occur as a result of building over the former landfill.*	Section 3.11.2 (Environmental Consequences) explained that use of Area B for the EOD off-range training area would not involve excavation to the depth of the remaining waste in the closed landfill, so no impacts on hazardous or toxic materials would result from the Proposed Action. The only type of debris, scrap, waste material, or residue anticipated to be generated from off-range training operations is packaging material, which would be removed from the site for disposal following training operations. There would be no detonation of explosives at the off-range training area, and there would be no disposal of any munitions items at the off-range training area. The potential for cumulative environmental impacts that could result from implementing the proposed action was assessed in the preparation of the Draft Environmental Assessment.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*EPA recommends AFRC look into potential legacy contamination at Area B due to Area B's past use as a rifle range landfill. The landfill site, known as the Small Arms Range Landfill (SARL), is under current monitoring by U.S. EPA Region 5 RCRA Branch.*	Section 3.2.1 (Affected Environment; Land Use) explained that the "Small Arms Range Landfill" site has been investigated and addressed by the Air Force in coordination with USEPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Additional text will be added to indicate that investigations began in the 1980s; the most recent 5-year review for the site was conducted in 2007-2008; and that the Region 5 Superfund Division provides EPA's liaison for the site.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NEPA Implementation Section	*EPA recommends AFRC adopt measures that will reduce and/or eliminate soil contamination at both Camp Ripley and the ATK proficiency sites, and work with management at those sites to ensure remediation measures are taken at those sites.*	The proposed proficiency sites would remain under the ownership and full control of the property owners (Minnesota National Guard and ATK). Air Force EOD proficiency training operations at either Camp Ripley sites or the ATK site would be implemented with full adoption of all environmental requirements and protective management strategies prescribed by the property owners.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region	*EPA recommends AFRC consider taking steps to utilize best management practices (BMP) in regard to safety, erosion*	AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing concurs with use of best management practices in regard to safety and erosion

5, NEPA Implementation Section	*control, surface water collection and treatment, rifle range maintenance and cleaning, and use of (or upgrade to) the most modern explosive pad designs.*	control, as noted in Section 7.0 (Mitigation, Best Management Practices, and Preventive Measures). Any explosive pads necessary to implement proficiency training at either Camp Ripley or on ATK property would be designed to conform to the requirements of the property owner as well as Air Force Explosive Safety Standards. The proposed action does not include surface water collection and treatment, nor does it involve conducting activities on a rifle range.
Dick Duerre	*I am writing regarding the plans to alter the present small arms shooting range and add a Explosive Ordnance Disposal classroom the the facility that you now have in the Minn. River Valley between Ft. Snelling State Park and the Minn. National Valley Wildlife Refuge.*	The proposed action does not include any alteration of the present small arms range, nor addition of a classroom to the existing facility within the range. The proposed "Off-Range Training Area" would be sited on a separate 2-acre tract within the 27-acre Area B property.
Dick Duerre	*There have been long time plans to build a bike and walking trail through that section of the valley. In fact some people hope to extend that trail all the way to So. Dakota along the Minn. River. At the present time there is a concentrated effort to build the trail in the metro area, through the exact area your facility is in. I am e-mailing you with the hope that you will not do anything on your land that would close it off to building this trail through it. PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PUBLIC DESIRE TO HAVE THIS TRAIL THROUGH YOUR LAND.*	The assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action has considered public interest in a future recreational trail. AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing does not consider the proposed location of an EOD off-range training area in Area B to necessarily eliminate the future potential for a recreational trail segment through Area B. Section 3.3 (Recreation and Aesthetics) discusses previous state agency interest in future trail development, as well as restrictive measures and procedures that would potentially be necessary if both an EOD off-range training area and a recreational trail were co-located on Area B.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Twin Cities Field Office and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	*We concur with your determination that these permitted activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect gray wolf in the action area indicated in the materials provided. Our concurrence is based on the past disturbance and continued use of the proposed proficiency range at Camp Ripley and ATPG for high explosive detonations and artillery practice.*	Comment acknowledged.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Twin Cities Field Office and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	*There is continued interest by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Bloomington and many local organizations and publics for the development of the Minnesota Valley State Trail segment between Fort Snelling State Park and the Refuge crossing*	The assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action has considered public interest in a future recreational trail. AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing does not consider the proposed location of an EOD off-range training area in Area B to necessarily eliminate the future

	MSPARS property. We would like to again stress the importance of this trail segment and encourage the U.S. Air Force Reserve to approve the trail segment on their property and work cooperatively with the interested parties to locate it.	potential for a recreational trail segment through Area B. Section 3.3 (Recreation and Aesthetics) discusses previous state agency interest in future trail development, as well as restrictive measures and procedures that would potentially be necessary if both an EOD off-range training area and a recreational trail were co-located on Area B.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Twin Cities Field Office and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	*It is our understanding that access would not be allowed during training operations and training operations are projected to be no more than one weekend per month and two days per week. We request that these periodic short-term closures be minimal so that this trail segment can remain a viable option.*	Comment acknowledged.
Minnesota Historical Society; State Historic Preservation Office	*Based on available information, we conclude that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project.*	Comment acknowledged.
Metropolitan Council	*The 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan proposes new regional parks system facilities in the general vicinity of two of the preferred alternative sites. A regional park search area and a regional trail search corridor are proposed in the general area of the ATK Proving Ground site in St. Francis. This area was selected for a new regional park and trail due to the presence of high quality natural resources and rolling topography. Additionally, this area has been designated and mapped as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area of Outstanding Quality by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A boundary for the regional park and the alignment of the regional trail will be determined by Anoka County through a future master planning process.*	This information will be incorporated into Section 3.3 (Recreation and Aesthetics) for the Final EA. Potential establishment of an EOD Proficiency Range within the confines of the ATK Proving Ground site in St. Francis is entirely dependent on the willingness of ATK to enter into and maintain leasing or contractual arrangements with the Air Force. In the event that future development of regional parks and/or trails in the vicinity ATK's property lead to curtailment of ATK's operations on its property, the Air Force would seek alternate proficiency range sites at that time.
Metropolitan Council	*The Minnesota DNR has proposed to develop a segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail through Area B of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Air Reserve Station. The EA has addressed the proposed state trail as it relates to the off-range training area.*	Comment acknowledged.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Regional Division; Environmental Review and Feedlot Section	*Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the Draft EA and have no comments at this time. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the*	Comment acknowledged.

	purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions.	
David Minge	*I have learned that the Air Force is considering the establishment of an ordnance-disposal-training facility on federal property adjacent to the Minnesota River near the Minneapolis/St Paul Airport. I write to express my position that such a use is incompatible with location and other uses.*	Comment acknowledged.
David Minge	*The site is in the middle of an urban wilderness. To the east is the State of Minnesota's Fort Snelling State Park. To the west, the federally owned land is the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.*	Comment acknowledged.
David Minge	*A long planned (and hopefully soon built) pedestrian and bicycle trail is being established. It must pass through the site. Given the location of the highways, the river bluff, and the river; there is no possible alternate route for the trial. Long term, the proximity of any ordnance disposal activity to the trail will result in conflict. The vast areas above the river bottoms provide alternate locations for the disposal program that would not pose any conflict. I urge that you not use this location for this disposal training activity.*	The proposed use of the EOD off-range training area does not include actual ordnance disposal. Air Force Reserve personnel would use the site to train on procedures that are employed to safely destroy explosive devices discovered in other locations; however, such training would not involve actual detonation or disposal of ordnance in Area B. AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing does not concur that other river bottom areas provide suitable alternate locations for an off-range training area.
David Minge	*I note that there are over three million people living in the Minneapolis/St Paul metropolitan area. This trail is part of a long-standing plan to establish a trail from Fort Snelling to Big Stone Lake on the South Dakota border. This location is a key link in making this trail a reality. The potential usage is heavy. Any activity that might shut down the trail for even a short time will leave trail users stranded and create significant conflict. Please help make the trail a success. Exercise has become a national priority and the Air Force can be a partner in that effort by being a cosponsor of the trail.*	The assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action has considered public interest in a future recreational trail. AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing does not consider the proposed location of an EOD off-range training area in Area B to necessarily eliminate the future potential for a recreational trail segment through Area B. Section 3.3 (Recreation and Aesthetics) discusses previous state agency interest in future trail development, as well as restrictive measures and procedures that would potentially be necessary if both an EOD off-range training area and a recreational trail were co-located on Area B.
Edward Crozier	*The Minnesota Legislature authorized the Minnesota Valley State Trail in 1969. Much of the trail has been built further upstream, but the portion of the trail in Hennepin County, between Fort Snelling State Park and Shakopee, MN has not*	Comment acknowledged.

	been built for a number of reasons, but now there is renewed public interest in seeing that the trail be completed. This critical "Missing Link" of the trail is proposed to be built adjacent to the Minnesota River. When built, this pedestrian and bicycle trail will be immensely popular because of its unique wild character and its proximity to a major metropolitan area. Without this link, the Minnesota Valley State Trail will be greatly diminished and will fail to meet its own mission.	
Edward Crozier	*The most important part of this trail is the section that links the State Park with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge just upstream. Because of the existing airport and highways, there is only a narrow strip of undeveloped land suitable for the trail and that is the land between the river bluff and the river itself owned by the US Air Force where the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Site is proposed. If this USAF proposal were to prohibit the construction of the trail it would prevent the achievement of a long-held dream of the public.*	Comment acknowledged.
Edward Crozier	*It is believed there is room on the USAF property for both the Ordnance Disposal site and the trail and that these projects can be compatible even when located in close proximity to each other. As the USAF proceeds with its Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission please ensure that it does not cripple the fulfillment of the trail. If it does impede the trail, it will disappoint a large number of citizens and diminish the image of the USAF consideration for the greater public interest.*	The assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action has considered public interest in a future recreational trail. AFRC's 934th Airlift Wing does not consider the proposed location of an EOD off-range training area in Area B to necessarily eliminate the future potential for a recreational trail segment through Area B. Section 3.3 (Recreation and Aesthetics) discusses previous state agency interest in future trail development, as well as restrictive measures and procedures that would potentially be necessary if both an EOD off-range training area and a recreational trail were co-located on Area B.
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	*Friends of the Minnesota Valley supports the No Action Alternative. We are most concerned about the impact of the proposed ordnance disposal site upon the proposed Minnesota Valley State Trail.*	Comment acknowledged.
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	*The fact that the MNDNR currently has no plans or timelines for trail development should not be a determining factor in downplaying the impacts of the proposed ordnance site on the*	MNDNR's current lack of specific plans or timelines for development of a trail segment on Air Force property was not used as a basis for downplaying potential

	Minnesota Valley State Trail and its recreational users.	recreation impacts of the proposed off-range training area. Continued interest in possible future trail development through Air Force property was used as an assumption upon which potential recreation impacts were evaluated, despite the lack of specific plans or timelines.
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	*The Minnesota Legislature and the U.S. Congress, dating back to as early as 1975, began creating authority for the establishment of, acquisition for, and management planning for the Minnesota Valley State Trail. In 1975, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the MNDNR to acquire land for the Minnesota Valley State Trail. When the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established by an Act of Congress in 1976, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the State of Minnesota were mandated to work together to include the Minnesota Valley State Trail as an integral component of the Refuge. In 1984, a comprehensive multiagency effort culminated in the publication of the Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail. In 2001, the Minnesota Legislature approved the extension of the Minnesota Valley State Trail from Belle Plaine and Le Sueur all the way to Big Stone Lake and the MNDNR began trail planning by collaborating with local support groups. In 2003, the MNDNR published a draft management plan for the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area (MVSRA), which included provisions for the Minnesota Valley State Trail.*	The MNDNR-approved Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area Management Plan, dated 2006, references and describes segments of the Minnesota Valley Trail on both the north (Hennepin County) and south (Dakota County) sides of the Minnesota River. Legislative authorizations for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley Trail, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area did not mandate completion of a trail segment exclusively through the Snelling Small Arms Range Annex tract of property owned by the Air Force on the north side of the Minnesota River, between the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Fort Snelling State Park. The proposed action would not impact planning for, or current and future use of, the "Minnesota River Trail," between Big Stone Lake State Park and Le Sueur, Minnesota.
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	*Friends of the Minnesota Valley is concerned that the USAF's expressed willingness to mitigate the impacts of periodic closure of the Trail, should it be completed, will be insufficient to meet the legislative intent for a continuous, publicly-accessible recreational trail. Even periodic short-term trail closures negatively impact the public use of the trail.*	Comment acknowledged.
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	*For the past several years, there has been a group of public and private interests that has met regularly to promote the re-opening of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and to complete local and regional trails in and near the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, there is a dedicated core of individuals in the Le Sueur and Henderson area that*	Comment acknowledged.

	are also actively promoting the completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail in their communities and as a whole entity. They recognize that the Minnesota Valley State Trail is a corridor that connects the various significant natural, recreational, and cultural resources in the Minnesota River Valley. The ordnance site project would interfere with unrestricted, continuous public access for the use and enjoyment of these resources.	
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	*As described in Section 3.3 Recreation and Aesthetics, the DNR has previously proposed development of a segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail through Area B. The DNR's interest in recreational trail development in this area remains consistent and encourages continued communication between the Air Force and the DNR's Division of Parks and Trails. The DNR supports with the Interagency Coordination Letters included in Appendix A from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of the Minnesota Valley*	Comment acknowledged.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	*Minnesota's rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and other rare features are recorded in a collection of databases referred to as the DNR's Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) is a major source of this information. Three of the NHIS databases (MCBS Native Plant Communities, MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance, and MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies) are available as GIS shapefiles and can be downloaded at no cost from the DNR Data Deli at http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us. The locations of state-listed species and other rare features are maintained in the Rare Features Database. This information is considered sensitive and is protected under the Minnesota Data Practices Act; it is only available through a NHIS Data Request Form or a License Agreement. The NHIS search results should be included as part of the rare resources discussion representative of the state resources. This information is necessary in order to make an informed decision on the potential environmental impacts the proposed project will have on sensitive state resources. The database*	Comment acknowledged. A search was conducted for state-listed species, as indicated in the EA.

	records indicate several rare features within 1 mile of the proposed project sites. Based on the information provided on the proposed project it does not appear that the project will affect these rare features.	
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	*Cumulative Impacts is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as: …The impact on the environment which results 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. (40 CFR §1508.7.) From this definition, cumulative effects to natural, cultural, historic resources and/or human communities are not just the result of the proposed project, but also other collective actions and projects that occur in the vicinity of the area over time. Other actions may include local or state projects, residential, commercial and industrial development plans and large-scale development such as a large subdivision or warehouse/distribution center and airport expansions. These actions/action types should be included in the cumulative impact discussion so as to provide a more accurate representation of the area land use or future land use.*	Comment acknowledged. *De minimis* impacts on the MSPARS base and other private and state lands as a result of the Proposed Action would not contribute to a cumulative effect on any of the resources analyzed in the EA.