
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the high rate of violent crime, the continual damage to our Nation's health and economy, and strains on vital relationships with international allies, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy developed the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) and incorporated the Department of Defense (DoD) into this new plan. The Secretary of Defense established Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) to coordinate all DoD counter-drug support to Federal, state, and local law drug enforcement agencies (DLEAs) in an effort to curtail drug-related activities in the U.S. and protect national security. JTF-6 will assist DLEAs who have drug interdiction responsibilities in the U.S. by providing all or part of the mission-essential training elements for the military unit involved.

The purpose of the Proposed Action and Alternatives is to provide training to those DLEAs who work to decrease or eliminate illegal contraband (i.e. drugs, weapons, vehicles) from being transported through the area and to reduce associated crime. The goal of the proposed project is to maximize the effectiveness of local and state DLEAs, specifically the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), in their deterrent efforts. CLEET was created by statute in June 1963 and from its inception to 1988, CLEET's focus was entirely peace officer training. In 1988, CLEET was given responsibility for state-wide continuing education programs and private security licensing and regulation functions.

The Proposed Action involves the construction of the law enforcement training facility in the northwest portion of the City of Ada, OK. The proposed facility would include CLEET statewide headquarters and a training facility designed to encompass all aspects of counter-drug and law enforcement training. Current training facilities are inadequate, and do not include a driver training track, firing range, or gymnasium. Further, these training facilities are shared with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and existing classroom and administrative office space is not sufficient to house both agencies. Under circumstances that would prevent the assigned military engineers from participating in, or completing all phases of the proposed project, private contractors would be utilized to provide these services.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the law enforcement training facility located in Ada, Oklahoma. In addition to the Proposed Action, there were three other alternatives evaluated as part of this environmental impact analysis: 1) No-Action Alternative; 2) Alternative Construction Sites; and 3) Alternative Area Use. The No-Action Alternative was carried throughout the analysis, and are reflected in the baseline environmental conditions of the area. Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be continued socioeconomic concerns relating to illegal drug trafficking and criminal activity. The remaining two alternatives were eliminated from further consideration without analysis because they would be too costly, had land use conflicts, or had greater potential for environmental concerns.

Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of three levels: significant, insignificant (or negligible), and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in CEQ guidelines 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects that are most substantial, and therefore should receive the greatest attention in

the decision-making process. Insignificant impacts would be those impacts that result in changes to the existing environment that could not easily be detected. No-impact actions would not alter the existing environment.

Surveys for threatened or endangered species and cultural resources were performed as part of the Environmental Assessment. No protected species or their habitats were located in the vicinity of the proposed project. A 100 percent pedestrian survey for cultural resources was conducted for the entire 356 acres of the proposed project site and it was determined that the proposed project will not affect property listed or eligible for listing on the National Register. No significant adverse impacts to other natural or socioeconomic resources are expected.

There would be no significant areas of environmental concern associated with the Proposed Action. Possible insignificant environmental impacts are associated with the proposed project (i.e., air, water, geological resources, biological resources, cultural, aesthetics, and noise); however, short-term impacts would be only temporary in nature and both short and long-term impacts will be mitigated through sound engineering practices. Under the Proposed Action, there is a possible beneficial socioeconomic impact to the region in the form of a reduction in drug trafficking and related criminal activities.

Based on the results of the EA and the environmental design measures to be incorporated as part of the Proposed Action, it has been concluded that the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required for the implementation of the Proposed Action.