

Questions for the Record

Visit: Ft Lee, VA

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BRAC Team Members:

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1. How does Fort Lee plan to site the incoming activities? Specifically, is there sufficient land area to accommodate necessary construction of buildings, training devices, and ranges including safety fans?

Answer: Based on the current information available on incoming activities, Fort Lee has sufficient buildable acres to support the BRAC recommendations. The Fort Lee Site Plan has been updated to reflect the BRAC required construction of buildings and training devices. To the maximum extent possible, the construction plans include vertical accommodations for appropriate instructional facilities, administrative space, barracks, and housing. Fort Lee is still deconflicting facility requirements being driven by the possibility that the track vehicle maintenance (63H MOS) will be moved to Fort Benning instead of Fort Lee. Fort Pickett will support the ranges and safety fans for all large field training activities.

2. Are there sufficient existing utility systems to support incoming activities? Will it be necessary to augment existing water, sewage, electrical, communications (including broadband access), HVAC, or trash collection support?

Answer: The existing trunk utility systems servicing Fort Lee (water, electric, sewage) are of sufficient quantity and capacity to support the incoming activities. Development of site specific utilities will be necessary to connect to existing utility systems. Water and power utilities recently have been privatized and Fort Lee personnel plan to meet with respective representatives to determine the necessity of augmenting existing utility systems based on the increased capacity associated with the incoming missions. Fort Lee does not operate a landfill on the installation and currently has a contractual agreement for the collection of trash; a contractual change in the trash collection agreement will be required to accommodate the increased refuse associated with the incoming activities.

3. Will the increase in training activity and nature create any safety issues?

Answer: The increase in training activity will pose the normal risks of any training installation. Risk management principals will mitigate/minimize risks.

4. Will the increase in training activity and nature create any environmental issues?

Answer: The increase in training activity and nature will create the following environmental issues:

- a. Air issues. Currently have a synthetic minor permit. Air issues are closely scrutinized, especially generator usage, since we are at the upper limits of our permit. However, fully expect, due to cumulative impact, to have to obtain Title V permit due to the BRAC recommendations. When TABS data was submitted, Fort Lee was in an attainment area. The December 05 action by USEPA placed Fort Lee in a non-attainment area for ozone.
 - b. Wetlands. Siting of facilities may impact some wetlands. Mitigation requirements (2 for 1 requirement) and wetlands banking options may be required.
 - c. Hazardous waste. Increased motor pool operations will increase hazardous waste generation. Currently Fort Lee is a large quantity generator; therefore, no impact on permit requirements.
 - d. Archeological resources. Proposed sitings used constraints maps to avoid impacts (Fort Lee phase 1 and 2 activities being complete). However, if a site cannot be avoided, artifact recovery would be required in accordance with Federal law.
 - e. Noise. Existing ICUZ study (March 2002) indicates no significant impacts off base. Other than throughput on current weapons training, would expect no real changes in noise contours. Increases in automobile traffic would be evaluated by US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.
5. What other adjustments to Fort Lee base operations functions will be necessary to accommodate the incoming activities? Is there any shortfall in the existing base support structure?

Answer: Garrison will require additional facility space for mission support of soldier support center, household goods and passenger services, training aids, central issue, laundry, transportation motorpools, hazardous materials, fueling facility, communication, roadway improvements, engineer and logistical support, and family housing. Additional facility space will be required due to increased population and subsequent required community support services such as dental/medical clinic, fire station, chapel, library, physical fitness, youth activities, and recreation. As a result of these additional facilities, and expansion of current base operations functions to meet the needs of the increased population, additional manpower will be required, the specifics of which are still being analyzed and worked.

6. The explosives used in EOD training currently taught at Redstone Arsenal may exceed the capacity of Ft Lee both in terms of range safety fans and noise abatement issues. Please comment on mitigation issues. Will training be affected or degraded by these measures?

Answer: The explosives used in EOD training currently taught at Redstone Arsenal require 1,500 acres with a 25 pound total net explosive weight (NET) and a 1,250 foot distance required to support range safety fans to meet safety requirements. As a result of the Global War on Terrorism, the student numbers for EOD training in all of our courses continue to increase each year. We are currently teaching six major course in which the student composition consists of Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy. If this acreage is not available, some of these courses will have to be deleted and student enrollment will have to be decreased accordingly. In addition, the Hazardous Devices School (funded by the FBI, but is on OMEMS TDA) is structured under the EOD Department. This relationship includes mutual sharing of the most current explosives intelligence, personnel and equipment. Also, if the EOD Department is no longer at Redstone, then there will no longer be any EOD staff oversight available to the Hazardous Devices School.

7. Approximately 30% of the Transportation School training load is made up of water-training activities. These activities are heavily dependent on facilities at 3rd Port at Ft Eustis, including access to deep water. No such facility exists at Ft Lee nor is there sufficient water for deep draft vessels. What mitigation will be necessary to resolve this issue?

Answer: Fort Lee is recommending that the watercraft and watercraft-related training not relocate. Third Port at Fort Eustis, VA, is the Army's only deep-water port that provides direct access to the James River, Chesapeake Bay, and Atlantic Ocean. Fort Lee has no equivalent open ocean access or port infrastructure required for training watercraft and watercraft-related (such as cargo handling) students to standard. Additionally, the Fort Eustis based 7th Transportation Group supplies the Transportation School its vessels for training. Similarly, due to the low student load, high infrastructure costs and the fact that MOS 88P, Railway Equipment Repairer, trains on one of the same engines as the 88L, Watercraft Engineer, rail training at Fort Eustis should also not relocate. These elements combined equate to 30 percent of the Transportation School student load.

8. Request information on how the CSS School will conduct convoy training. Will such training include live fire? What site and safety fan will be available for such training?

Answer: Convoy Live Fire (CLF) will be trained using the crawl, walk and run methodology which includes live fire. The training will be conducted at Fort Pickett. CLF is currently conducted at Fort Pickett by the Quartermaster Center and School and the 49th Quartermaster Group on two sites, well within the safety parameters of Fort Pickett. Expansion of these facilities will also fall within these parameters.