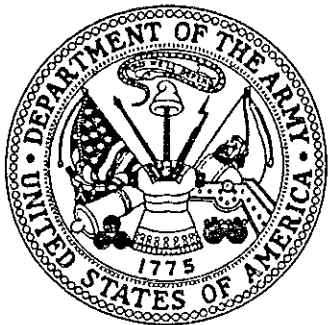


*Partial Closure of*  
**FORT DES MOINES, IOWA**



**FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT**

AUGUST 1991

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PARTIAL CLOSURE OF FORT DES MOINES, IOWA

The Secretary of Defense's Commission on Base Realignment and Closure recommended partial closure of Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act, Public Law 100-526, endorsed the recommendations of the Commission and required implementation of the Commission's recommendations. The proposed action at Fort Des Moines is to close approximately 50 acres of the remaining 90 acres of this inactive installation and to construct a new U.S. Army Reserve Center on the retained portion.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) disclosing possible impacts to the biological, historical, and socioeconomic environment of Fort Des Moines and the surrounding community has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the provisions of Army Regulation 200-2, which implements the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1500. The EA is incorporated herein by reference. The requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act have been addressed.

An Enhanced Preliminary Assessment prepared by the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency identified and characterized operations associated with the historic and current use of Fort Des Moines; identified and characterized possible impacts of the operations on the surrounding environment and identified additional environmental actions, if any, that should be implemented for the operations identified. No environmental conditions presenting an immediate, substantial threat to human health or the environment were observed on the property. The operations identified, however, do have the potential to impact public health and the environment.

The EA recognizes that partial closure would have some minor, positive impacts on the biological environment and that potential reuse could have some minor, negative impacts on that environment. In addition, there may be some possible negative impacts on historic properties, if certain precautions are not taken. There would be some positive impacts associated with closure because the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act requires cleanup of the site prior to disposal. None of these impacts, however, are expected to be significant.

It is my finding that the proposed action to close a portion of the remainder of Fort Des Moines and to construct a new Reserve center will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Comments or questions should be directed to Mr. Gerard E. Mick, Omaha District, Corps of Engineers, (402) 221-4604.

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE PARTIAL CLOSURE OF  
FORT DES MOINES, IOWA

Prepared by:  
Omaha District  
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13 Aug 91

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Major General, USA  
Chief of Staff

Final  
Environmental Assessment

Partial Closure  
of  
Fort Des Moines, Iowa

Prepared by:  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers  
Omaha District

August 1991

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed action is the partial closure and disposal of Fort Des Moines, Iowa, as recommended by the Secretary of Defense's Commission on Base Realignment and Closure and mandated by Public Law 100-526. The action includes construction of a new, 300-member U.S. Army Reserve Center on the retained property.

Fort Des Moines is a National Historic Landmark District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed site of the new Reserve center is located within the boundaries of this landmark district.

The relevant environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed action and the alternatives have been identified and analyzed for adverse impacts. The major issues affecting the proposed actions are the historic significance of the site and the contaminated areas. All other relevant issues identified were determined to have either no impact or little significance.

The U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency has documented the location and nature of contaminated areas and hazardous materials sites. Removal of stored chemicals and hazardous materials and remediation of the contaminated areas will not be an extraordinary effort and will follow well-established procedures. Even so, the process will be coordinated with Federal and State agencies to gain concurrence and obtain authority to implement the cleanup action. The remediation process will be coordinated with the public as well.

Asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, open dump sites, pesticides, lead, underground storage tanks, and chemical storage are areas of

concern, but hazardous materials will be disposed of and contaminated sites will be remediated in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

The civilian and military force structure remains unchanged, and no significant socioeconomic impacts, other than those associated with construction of the new Reserve center are anticipated.

Potential land reuses after closure have been identified and evaluated to inform decision makers and the concerned public of the current prospects to the extent of available knowledge.

The base closure statute (Public Law 100-526) exempted the Army from the requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act to consider the need for closure and the requirement to consider alternative installations. The actions evaluated include the proposed action of closure and disposal as directed by the base closure statute, the no action alternative, construction impacts, and reuse alternatives.

Environmental and socioeconomic analyses, along with coordination with responsible environmental agencies, have determined that the relevant impacts associated with the proposed action are insignificant.

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B	1986 Memorandum of Agreement
C	Revised Memorandum of Agreement Draft