

**Finding of No Significant Impact for the Ground-Based  
Midcourse Defense (GMD) Expanded Capability, Fort Greely,  
Alaska Environmental Assessment**

**Agency:** Missile Defense Agency

**Action:** Finding of No Significant Impact

**Background:** The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), in cooperation with the United States (U.S.) Army, prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of constructing and operating an additional Ground-based Interceptor (GBI) field with up to 20 additional silos with GBIs, associated support facilities, utilities, and infrastructure at U.S. Army Garrison Fort Greely, Alaska (FGA). The attached EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference, was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 1500-1508); and MDA NEPA Implementing Procedures (79 Federal Register 46410-46419).

Within the Department of Defense, the MDA is responsible for developing, testing, and fielding an integrated ballistic missile defense system to defend the U.S., its deployed forces, allies, and friends against all ranges of enemy ballistic missiles in all phases of flight.

If deployed, the additional Interceptor Field with GBIs would expand the existing Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System to support the defense of the Homeland. The existing GBI sites at FGA and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California provide the capability to protect the U.S. from the current and projected North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) threat, as well as a future Iranian ICBM threat should it emerge. Deployment of additional GBIs at FGA would provide the Warfighter additional interceptor capability.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The Proposed Action is to construct and operate up to 20 additional silos with GBIs in one Interceptor Field on approximately 245 acres directly east of the current Missile Defense Complex (MDC) on FGA. Additionally, support facilities and infrastructure would include a High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse protected Mechanical/Electrical Building (MEB), utilities and infrastructure. Portions of Landfill Road would be re-routed and the MDC security fence and MDC external boundary fence would be expanded to accommodate the new construction. An additional 40 acres would be required for contractor laydown areas to the south of the construction site. A temporary workers camp (TWC) for up to 140 construction workers may be required. The TWC would be located off FGA in the surrounding community on previously disturbed land or on already established TWC areas.

Construction activities at FGA will take approximately four years. Most ground-disturbing activities will occur during the first year. Construction and site activation personnel will average 155, with a maximum of 175 during peak construction activities.

Site operations will be similar to that as described in the 2000 National Missile Defense Deployment Final Environmental Impact Statement. Once placed, the interceptors would remain underground in the silos, except for removal for maintenance or upgrades/modifications to the silos. Launches would only occur in defense of the Nation. There would be no flight testing of the GBIs from FGA.

Current estimates of additional manpower required to operate the additional Interceptor Field would be approximately 70 personnel, including additional security forces and maintenance staff.

**Alternatives Considered:** The No Action Alternative would be not to construct and operate an additional Interceptor Field with 20 GBIs, a MEB, and associated infrastructure at FGA to enhance the defensive capabilities of the U.S. from a ballistic missile attack.

**Summary of Environmental Consequences:** In assessing environmental impacts of constructing and operating an additional Interceptor Field with the associated utilities and infrastructure, the MDA determined there would be no significant impacts from implementing the Proposed Action to the following environmental resources analyzed in detail in the EA: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, health and safety, water resources, and wetlands.

Cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action were also reviewed and evaluated for the same environment. Following a review of the Proposed Actions, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at FGA, no significant cumulative impacts would occur.

**Impact Minimization Measures:** To minimize impacts to the environmental, standard best management practices and impact reduction measures were identified in the EA. These include fugitive dust control, soil erosion minimization, establishing appropriate stormwater drainage patterns, post-construction ground vegetation restoration, pre-nesting season tree clearing initiation if possible, and working with the FGA DPW Environmental office on controlling moose within the MDC.

**Public Review and Comment:** A Notice of Availability of the Proposed Final EA and unsigned Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment was published in local newspapers. Copies of the documents were placed in local libraries and posted on the MDA public website at [https://www.mda.mil/news/environmental\\_reports.html](https://www.mda.mil/news/environmental_reports.html). The public comment period included 30 days and closed on March 20, 2018. Comments received were considered prior to a decision being made on whether or not to sign the FONSI.

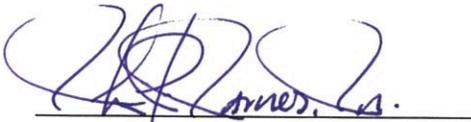
**Point of Contact:** The point of contact at MDA for questions, issues, and information relevant to the EA is:

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**Conclusion:** An analysis of the Proposed Action of constructing and operating an additional Interceptor Field with GBIs and associated utilities and infrastructure at FGA concluded that implementation would not have a significant environmental impact on the human and natural environment, either by itself or cumulatively with other actions. After thoroughly considering the facts herein, the undersigned finds that the Proposed Action is consistent with existing environmental policies and objectives set forth in NEPA and its implementing regulations. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**Approved:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. James, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN H. JAMES, JR.  
Executive Director

DATE: 8 April 2018