

consistent with current building codes and safety practices.

Based on the information gathered during the preparation of the EA for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, the Office of Job Corps finds that the location of a Job Corps Center at the former Verbeck Housing Complex on Ft. Devens, Massachusetts, will not cause any significant impact on the environment and, therefore, recommends that the project continue as proposed. This proposed action is not considered to be highly controversial.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 23rd day of December, 1994.

Peter E. Rell,

Director of Job Corps.

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Job Corps: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) For the New Job Corps Center in Homestead, FL

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Job Corps Center in Homestead, Florida.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500-08) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Job Corps, in accordance with 29 CFR 11.11(d), gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and the proposed plans for the establishment of a Job Corps Center at the Homestead Air Force Base, Homestead, Florida, will have no significant environment impact. Pursuant to 29 CFR 11.11(d)(1), this Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact will be made available for public review and comment for thirty (30) days.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by February 10, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Any comment(s) are to be submitted to Lynn Kotecki, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20210, (202) 219-5468.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the EA and additional information are available to interested parties by contracting Mr. Melvin R. Collins, Director, Region IV (Four), Office of Job Corps, 1371 Peachtree

Street, NE., room 405, Atlanta, Georgia, (404) 347-3178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this action is to add a Job Corps Center with 472 residential students to the Homestead area. The current buildings are adaptable for this purpose and offer the necessary facilities for the Job Corps program to provide basic education, vocational skills training, work experience, counseling, health care, and related support services. This new center will make constructive changes to existing Homestead Air Force Base facilities for dormitories, recreational, medical/dental, and administrative services, educational and vocational training, and storage space that is consistent with Job Corps guidelines and center needs.

The proposed sites, located in the former recreational area of the Homestead Air Force Base, is comprised of approximately thirty-five (35) acres in the center of the 2,900 acre Homestead Air Force Base. The proposed site is bisected by Bougainvillea Boulevard and bordered by St. Lo Boulevard to the south and east, and St. Mazaire Boulevard to the north. Twelve (12) buildings currently occupy the site. The propose site includes paved asphalt parking lots, concrete sidewalks, and grass areas.

The United States Air Force developed and utilized the Homestead Air Force Base from 1942-1945, and 1956-1992. During the course of World War II, the Homestead Air Force Base operated as a scheduled stopping point for air routes and a large training facility for fighter pilots. Due to a major hurricane that damaged much of the Homestead Air Force Base, it was unused by the military from 1946 through 1955. In 1955 many of the sections were rebuilt and the Homestead Air Force Base continued to operate as a training and tactical air force facility until August 24, 1992, when the Homestead Air Force Base was significantly damaged by the impact of Hurricane Andrew. The reuse of the Homestead Air Force Base, with a reduced military presence, has been proposed. Approximately one-third of the Homestead Air Force Base will be used for military reserve training. The remainder of the Homestead Air Force Base will be converted for other purposes, such as public parkland and projects like the Job Corps. Currently, the majority of the Homestead Air Force Base is unoccupied as a result of Hurricane Andrew. Having been used for military purposes only, the site is not currently zoned. As a direct transfer

to another Federal entity, rezoning will not be required.

The United States Air Force historically has used the proposed site for residential, recreational, and retail purposes. The majority of the buildings proposed for reuse were utilized for the same proposed purposes by the United States Air Force with the exception of Building 656, which was utilized for residential purposes; Building 902B, which was utilized for recreational purposes; and Building 914, which was utilized as the base exchange. Those buildings which are proposed for similar uses by the Job Corps include medical and dental offices for Building 656, administrative offices for Building 902B, and storage and vocational training for Building 914.

According to the 1990 census, 162,483 people resided in the South Dade area, including 26,866 in the city of Homestead and 5,806 in Florida City. The population in South Dade in 1990 was predominantly Caucasian (70%), with Hispanics representing the largest minority group (32%). The population of the South Dade area has decreased dramatically due to the impacts of Hurricane Andrew. Post-hurricane census information is not available at this time.

Ample community services are available in the South Dade area. Recreational facilities will be available at the site and a number of large parks are located within nine (9) miles of the Homestead Air Force Base. Power to the site is provided by the Florida Power & Light (FP&L) company. Telephone service is provided by Southern Bell Company.

The water and sewer is supplied by the Metro-Dade County Water and Sewer Authority. There is no solid waste disposal at the site. All non-hazardous solid waste is removed by contractors and taken off-site for disposal in the South Dade landfill. Police and fire protection, rescue and emergency services will be provided by Metro-Dade. The nearest hospital to the site is the SMH Homestead Hospital, located approximately three (3) miles to the west of the site. Because of abundant public, community, and emergency services in the Homestead area, the implementation of the Job Corps on the proposed site will not adversely impact the use of the above-mentioned services.

Natural resources in the South Florida area are abundant. Although wetlands are not present at the proposed Job Corps site, a number of Army Corps of Engineer jurisdiction wetlands are present within one-quarter mile of the site. However, the proposed reuse of the Homestead Air Force Base for Job Corps