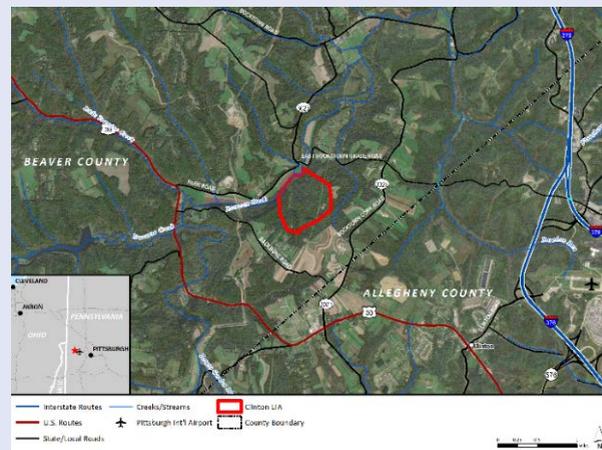




Environmental Assessment for a Marine Corps Reserve Training Center at the Clinton Local Training Area in Clinton, Pennsylvania

The Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a 50,000 square foot Marine Corps Reserve Training Center (MCRTC) at the Marine Corps owned Clinton Local Training Area (LTA) in Clinton, Pennsylvania (PA). MARFORRES ground units that currently train at the North Versailles MCRTC located approximately 35 miles northwest would meet their operational training requirements at the Clinton MCRTC.



Regional Location of Clinton LTA

The need for the proposed action is to ensure that Marine reservists meet current Marine Corps individual and/or unit level operational readiness training requirements in a training facility that meets the current criteria for security, functionality, sustainability, and energy efficiency.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide access to a range and training area that would meet MARFORRES training requirements in the Pittsburgh area.

The North Versailles MCRTC is unsafe, structurally deficient, and does not meet the training and operational requirements criteria of the MARFORRES ground units.

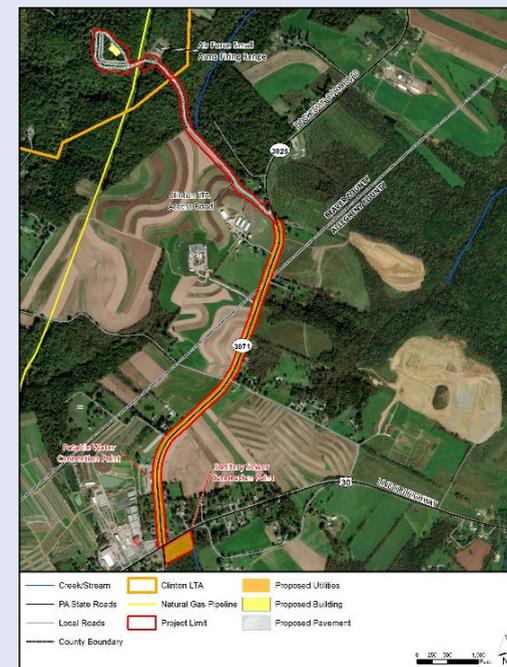
MCRTC Construction

The MCRTC would construct a single story training center west/northwest of the Air Force small arms firing range. The MCRTC would include a vehicle maintenance facility; tactical vehicle parking area; closed-loop vehicle wash rack system; an armory; drill hall; and offices. Parking areas to accommodate up to 206 privately owned vehicles would be constructed adjacent to the training center. Security fencing and signs would be placed around the perimeter of the property and an electronic security system with a remotely controlled sliding entrance gate would be installed. New utility infrastructure and service connections would be installed within the PA Department of Transportation right-of-way.

Several small structures within the Clinton LTA would be removed; two concrete and earthen bunkers would remain intact. In total, approximately 39 acres would be disturbed to implement the proposed action.



Proposed Site Layout



Proposed Project Area Limit



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MCRTC Operation

The MCRTC would be open weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and during drill weekends (one weekend a month on Saturday and Sunday) from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During weekdays, an average of 13 full time active duty personnel would be anticipated to be on-site at the MCRTC. An average of 235 reserve personnel would be expected to travel to and train at the MCRTC during drill weekends.

Marine Corps ground unit training activities would be conducted within the Clinton LTA. The ground unit training activities, conducted on foot would include: physical fitness; combat fitness; small unit maneuvers; and land navigation skills. No equipment would be used unless it could be carried by personnel. There would be occasional nighttime training activities; however, reservists would not remain at the Clinton LTA overnight.



Proposed Tactical Vehicles

A small fleet of tactical vehicles would be maintained and stored at the MCRTC. These vehicles would be driven from the Clinton LTA to another training venue; the vehicles would not be driven off road within the Clinton LTA. Tactical vehicles would be cleaned in a closed-loop vehicle wash rack system prior to being stored. Minor vehicle maintenance would occur in the designated facility. Waste products would be picked up each month by a licensed contractor. Petroleum storage tanks would not be located within the MCRTC; all vehicles would be fueled off site.

Scope of the MCRTC EA

The EA will present the existing conditions within the project area limit and evaluate the potential consequences of the proposed action on the natural and human environment. Specifically, the EA will assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the following resource areas: biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, infrastructure, transportation, hazardous materials and waste, air quality, and noise. No significant short- or long-term impact to any resource area from implementation of the proposed action would be anticipated.

The Marine Corps is consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the potential effects on biological and water resources and with the PA State Historic Preservation Office regarding the potential effects on cultural resources.

For more information on the proposed action, please contact:

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Your comments are requested by February 26, 2020.