

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

3.1 INTRODUCTION

NEPA and AR 200-2 require consideration of reasonable alternatives to accomplish the proposed action. Only alternatives that reasonably meet the defined need for the proposed action are analyzed in detail to determine potential environmental impacts.

The proposed action (Alternative I, the preferred alternative) and subject of this EA is to change the Area B Master Plan for Fort Detrick, Maryland. This change will alter the planned land use for Area B from an agricultural-dominated land use to recreation through the construction and operation of the six proposed projects discussed in Section 2.0. Two alternatives to the proposed action were identified:

- Implement the six proposed projects as indicated in Section 2.0; however, locate the Indoor Shooting Range directly west of the Nallin Farm Park in Area A;
- Do not implement the six proposed projects in Area B at Fort Detrick, Maryland (No Action Alternative as required by CEQ regulations).

After further consideration it was determined that locating the Indoor Shooting Range in Area A was not a feasible alternative (see Section 3.2.3 Alternative Eliminated from Further Consideration). As a result, the alternatives evaluated in this EA include: Alternative I – The Proposed Projects (as described in Section 2.0) and Alternative II – The No Action Alternative. Both alternatives are briefly discussed below. Environmental analyses of the two alternatives are comprised of detailed discussion of the affected environment (Section 4.0, *Affected Environment*) and review of the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the comparison of the two alternatives (Section 5.0, *Environmental Consequences*).

3.2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.2.1 Alternative I (The Proposed Projects)

Alternative I would modify the Area B Master Plan by constructing and operating the six proposed projects at Fort Detrick, as described in Section 2.0. This alternative would include the construction and operation of an 18-Hole Golf Course, Paintball Fields, an Indoor Shooting Range, a RV Park, the relocation of seven MARS antennas from Area A to Area B, and the security and safety enhancement of Area B's perimeter fence. The implementation of the proposed recreational projects would introduce new recreational and community services to Fort Detrick, which would improve the quality of life for military personnel and other MWR-eligible patrons and also allow the Directorate of Community Services at Fort Detrick to continue to meet requirements established by the MWR program (AR 251-1). The new Indoor Shooting Range will be a high quality range that will allow for training and annual required testing of small arms for the PMO, contracted security, military personnel, and other permitted participants. Relocation of the seven MARS antennas from Area A to Area B is necessary as a

result of projects and land use changes identified in the *EA for the Installation Master Plan for Fort Detrick, Maryland*. Additionally, Alternative I would provide security enhancements to the perimeter fence around Area B to ensure adequate force protection, land security, and safety measures.

3.2.2 Alternative II (No Action Alternative)

Under Alternative II, the No Action Alternative, the six proposed projects would not be implemented, and as a result the Installation Master Plan EA would not require modification. This alternative would avoid the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with Alternative I, but it would eliminate the beneficial impacts associated with recreation, communication, quality of life, security and other benefits discussed in Section 1.0 as a result of implementing the six projects.

This no action alternative is included in accordance with the CEQ regulations. Under this alternative only those environmental impacts already occurring on Area B at Fort Detrick would be measured. The no action alternative has been considered in detail in Sections 4.0 and 5.0 (*Affected Environment* and *Environmental Consequences*, respectively), to provide the baseline environmental analysis against which to measure the consequences of the proposed action.

3.2.3 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

One alternative was considered but eliminated from further consideration (i.e., detailed study). This alternative proposed the construction and operation of all six proposed projects as well; however, the Indoor Shooting Range would be located in Area A directly west of the Nallin Farm Park and not in Area B. The three other proposed recreational facilities (i.e., the golf course, Paintball Fields, and the RV Park) would be constructed at their proposed locations as identified in Section 2.0. Additionally, the seven MARS antennas would be relocated from Area A to Area B and the Area B perimeter fence would be enhanced.

Area A, consisting of approximately 728 acres, is almost twice the size of Area B; however, Area A is the most extensively developed section at Fort Detrick. Due the limitation of developable land in Area A and security concerns associated with authorized Indoor Shooting Range users bringing shot guns and other small fire arms onto Area A, it was determined that the construction and operation of an Indoor Shooting Range in Area A was not feasible. Consequently, this alternative was withdrawn from any further analysis.