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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RUNNING PATH SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Prepared by
50 CES/CEV

November 2003

Report Documentation Page

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14. ABSTRACT
The Department of the Air Force prepared a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based upon the results of research conducted during the tiered environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental issues and potential impacts associated with a proposal to construct a Running Path at Schriever Air Force Base in calendar year 2003. Alternatives evaluated were the Proposed Action, one alternative action and the No Action Alternative. Project-specific and cumulative environmental consequences were analyzed for 13 resource areas, including air quality, biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species), cultural resources land use, noise, occupational safety and health, pollution prevention socioeconomic conditions, soils, water resources, wetlands, irretrievable commitment of resources, and environmental justice as well as the cumulative effects of all the resources considered. The resource analysis determined that there would be no significant impacts to these resources because of the Proposed Action.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUNNING PATH, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for a Proposed Action and two alternatives to construct a Running Path at Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB), Colorado. The EA for this proposed project is attached. Construction for the path is proposed for the year 2003. This EA implements the tiering process outlined in 40 CFR 1502.20, which encourages agencies to tier environmental documents, eliminating repetitive discussions of the same issue. This EA will be tiered from the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for Falcon Air Force Station Land Acquisition Amended to include Analysis of Falcon Air Force Station Buffer Zone and the final environmental analysis for the Physical Fitness Center.

The EA analyzed the environmental effects from the proposed action to construct the facility on the northeast side of the Fitness Center, building 120, the alternate site for constructing the path is the north side of the existing Fitness Center Annex, building 502 (Alternative 2), and the no action alternative (Alternative 3). The locations are presented on pages 2-3 and 2-4 of the attached EA.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – PROPOSED ACTION – CONSTRUCT THE RUNNING PATH ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE FITNESS CENTER, BUILDING 120

The Running Path would be constructed on the northeast side of the new Fitness Center, building 120. The path would be located outside the secure area of the base, which would provide easy access by base personnel. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction. There would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the proposed action.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – CONSTRUCT RUNNING PATH ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE FITNESS CENTER ANNEX, BUILDING 502

The path would be constructed on the north side of the Fitness Center Annex, building 502. The path would be located inside the secure area of the base. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction. There would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the proposed action.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – NO ACTION

The Running Path would not be constructed. Personnel would run on existing base roads or on stationary equipment currently available.

CONCLUSION

No significant environmental effects were identified for construction of a Running Path at SAFB. Implementation of the proposed action will not constitute a major federal action requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted.

MICHAEL D. SELVA
Colonel, USAF
Chairperson, Environmental Protection Committee
Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado

11 Dec 2003
Date

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Environmental Resource	Environmental Impact
Air Quality	Fugitive dust and CO emissions during construction are *de minimus*.
Biological Resources	Minor changes to the unimproved land would not significantly effect wildlife, threatened or endangered species.
Cultural Resources	No cultural resources are known to occur on SAFB.
Land Use	No prime farmland or state-important farmland is present.
Noise	Temporary local construction noise increases; no effect to noise sensitive receptors. Noise during construction would not exceed permissible levels at property boundary.
Occupational Safety and Health	No short-term or long-term adverse safety and health effects are expected.
Pollution Prevention	Negligible hazardous materials generated during construction.
Socioeconomic Conditions	Short term benefit from construction jobs. No significant long-term change in SAFB work force, utilities service, or transportation
Soils	Water is expected to infiltrate into soils.
Water Resources	No changes in current conditions.
Wetlands	No risk or threat to wetlands.
Cumulative Effects	Incremental increase in unimproved land, surface and stormwater runoff.
Environmental Justice	This project would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources	Irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized during construction activities.

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COVER SHEET
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RUNNING PATH SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Responsible Agency

Department of the Air Force

Report Designation

Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Running Path, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado

Abstract

The Department of the Air Force prepared a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based upon the results of research conducted during the tiered environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental issues and potential impacts associated with a proposal to construct a Running Path at Schriever Air Force Base in calendar year 2003.

Alternatives evaluated were the Proposed Action, one alternative action, and the No Action Alternative.

Project-specific and cumulative environmental consequences were analyzed for 13 resource areas, including air quality, biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species), cultural resources, land use, noise, occupational safety and health, pollution prevention, socioeconomic conditions, soils, water resources, wetlands, irretrievable commitment of resources, and environmental justice as well as the cumulative effects of all the resources considered. The resource analysis determined that there would be no significant impacts to these resources because of the Proposed Action.

Public Comments

The Department of the Air Force encourages public participation in the FONSI and EA process. The draft FONSI and EA was distributed and was be available for public review between 10 Nov 2003 and 17 Nov 2003. The draft FONSI and EA were also distributed to the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, and Pikes Peak library district. No comments were received:

1st Lt MICHAELA HERRING
50th Space Wing Public Affairs Office
300 O'Malley Avenue, Suite 24
Schriever AFB, Colorado 80912-3024
Telephone: (719) 567-2145.

ACRONYMNS AND ABBREVIATIONS

50 CES/CEV	Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Flight
50 SW	50th Space Wing
AAFES	Army Air Force Exchange Service
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ac.	acre(s)
ADT	Average daily traffic counts
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFSPC	Air Force Space Command
AWDT	Average weekday daily traffic volumes
BHPO	Base Historic Preservation Officer
CAA	Clean Air Act
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CES	Civil Engineer Squadron
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide
CSR	Colorado State Regulations
dBA	A-weighted decibel to human hearing level
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPC	Environmental Protection Committee
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Finding
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
HAZMART	Hazardous Materials Pharmacy
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination Act for Environmental Planning
LOS	Level of Service
MDC	Medical – Dental Clinic
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act

NO_2	Nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O_3	Ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
P_2MAP	Pollution Prevention Management Action Plan
Pb	Lead
PM_{10}	Particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
PPACG	Pikes Peak Area Council of Government
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SAFB	Schriever Air Force Base
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	Sulfur dioxide
tpy	ton(s) per year
USAF	United States Air Force
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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SECTION 1
PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

This section describes the proposed action, need for the proposed action, related environmental documents, the decision to be made, scope of the environmental analysis process, and applicable regulatory requirements and required coordination.

1.1 Proposed Action

The 50th Space Wing (50 SW), Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB), CO, proposes to construct a Running Path on base to provide a location for safe cross country style running for military members, DoD civilians, and contractors located at Schriever AFB. The Running Path would be located outside the secure area, which is where non-mission essential facilities are to be sited. The proposed Running Path will be constructed northeast of the newly constructed Fitness Center, Building 120.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Action

Currently, there is no safe cross-country style Running Path at SAFB. There was once a running path within the secure area at SAFB, but it fell into disrepair and several portions of it were destroyed by a large storm event. Currently, personnel choosing to run are required to utilize paved and/or gravel base roads. Personnel currently run either in the secure area or outside the secure area; entering the secure area can often be quite time consuming. Currently, when personnel run outside the restricted area, heavy traffic can cause a safety concern. The proposed running path will provide a safe and convenient running path for personnel to utilize at Schriever AFB.

1.3 Related Environmental Documents

The effects of base development and operations on the existing environment have been evaluated in the following environmental assessments and natural resource and cultural resource management plans. These studies cover the developed portion of the base and its associated buffer and compatible-use zones. Analysis of the proposed action references these reports and they are available in the library of the Environmental Flight, 50 CES/CEV, and Building 500.

- *Environmental Impact Statement for the Falcon Air Force Station Land Acquisition Amended to include Analysis of the Falcon Air Force Station Buffer Zone.* (Environmental Science & Engineering, Inc., 1987)
- *Environmental Assessment for the Physical Fitness Center.* (Parsons ES, 1999)
- *Environmental Assessment for the Security Fence Around the Buffer Zone of the Installation.* (Labat-Anderson, 2003)

- *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.* (50 CES/CEV 2001)
- *Cultural Resources Management Plan.* (Parsons ES, 1997b)

1.4 Decision to be Made

The chairperson of the SAFB Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) must decide whether this Environmental Assessment (EA) results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or whether further study is necessary.

1.5 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for a Proposed Action and two alternatives to construct a Running Path at Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB), Colorado. Construction for the path is proposed for the year 2003. This EA implements the tiering process outlined in 40 CFR 1502.20, which encourages agencies to tier environmental documents, eliminating repetitive discussions of the same issue. This EA will be tiered from the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for Falcon Air Force Station Land Acquisition Amended to include Analysis of Falcon Air Force Station Buffer Zone and the final environmental analysis for the Physical Fitness Center.

An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper announcing the availability of the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

This EA was prepared in accordance with:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508);
- 32 CFR Part 989, 15 Jul 99, and amended 22 Apr 2003 (Air Force *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*; and
- AFI 32-7060, Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP)

SECTION 2
ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section names the three alternatives, describes the process used to formulate the alternatives, identifies the site selection criteria, and provides detailed descriptions of the alternatives. The three alternatives evaluated in this EA are:

- Alternative 1: Proposed action, to construct a running path northeast of the new Fitness Center, Building 120;
- Alternative 2: to construct a running path north of building 502; and,
- Alternative 3: No action alternative, personnel would be required to use existing methods and facilities.

Throughout the remainder of this document, Alternative 1 is referred to as the "proposed action," and Alternative 3 is referred to as the "no action" alternative.

2.1 Alternative Selection and Site Selection Criteria

The *Schriever Air Force Base General Plan* and *Vision 2020* are the principal documents guiding assessment and planning future installation growth and development at SAFB. Current SAFB policy dictates that new mission or mission support facilities will be constructed within the restricted area, and all non-mission functions will be sited outside of the restricted area. The restricted area is the central portion of the base enclosed by a security fence.

The following criteria were used to develop the alternatives.

- The location should be convenient to personnel working in the secure area and the non-secure area.
- The selected alternative must meet federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Site location should consider prevailing winds and avoid areas that would have environmental constraints.

2.2 Alternative 1 – Proposed Action

A running path would be constructed on the land northeast of Fitness Center, Building 120. This location is outside the secure area of the base. This site would provide easy access for personnel working in both the secure and non-secure areas of the base. This site location would allow for convenient access to for personnel in facilities that may be planned in the area according to the Schriever AFB Long Range Plan.

The construction design consists of a lighted all-weather running path constructed of a six-inch thick granite sand surface. The path includes a one-mile loop and a concurrent 1.5-mile loop sited to accommodate future base development. The combined path proceeds east across the major drainage, curving northward in a large loop (radius about 200 feet). A culvert and fill will be placed at each drainage crossing to provide adequate cover for the culvert and to provide smooth vertical curves along the profile of the path. The profile generally follows the existing terrain. The path continues north, where the 1.5-mile loop splits and follows the longer route northward. The one-mile loop continues back toward the Fitness Center and rejoins the longer route about 200 feet from the north end of the Fitness Center. A short loop of path will be placed around the northeast corner of the building to allow for multiple laps on either route.

2.3 Alternative 2 – Construct the Running Path North of Fitness Center Annex, Building 502

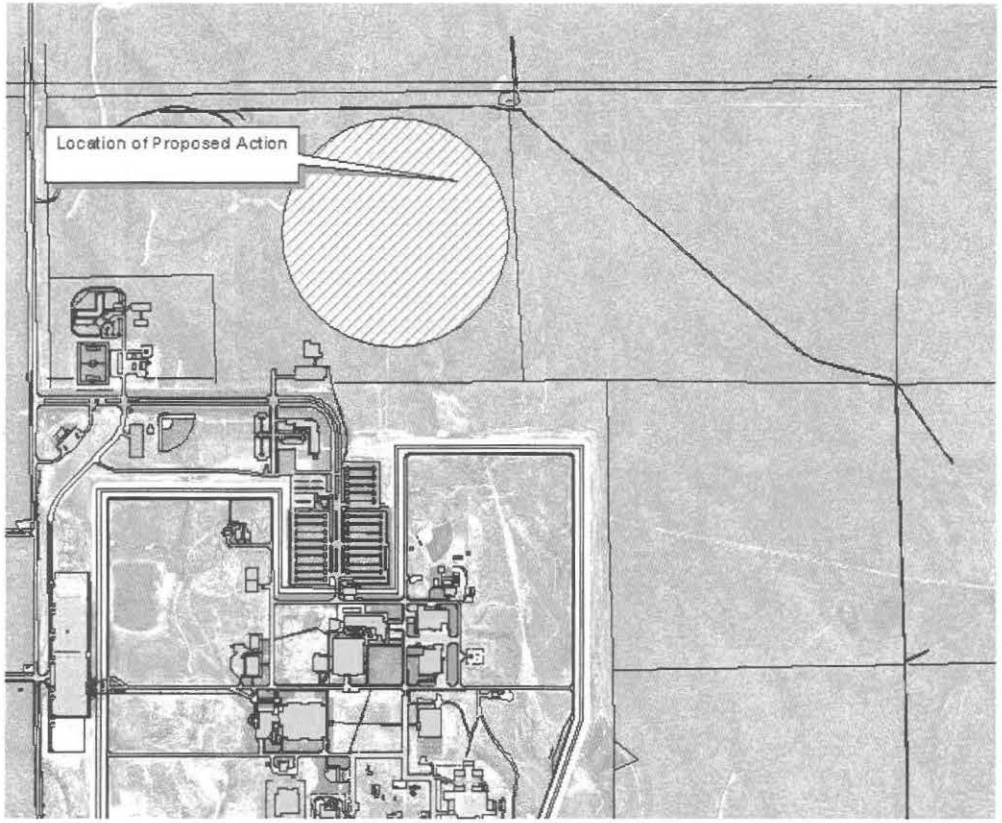
A running path would be constructed on the land north of the Fitness Center Annex, Building 502.

Currently, the location for alternative 2 is semi-improved grassland. There was once a running path at the proposed location of alternative 2, but it fell into disrepair and several portions of it were destroyed by a large storm event. This location is inside the secure area of the base. This site would provide easy access for personnel working only within the secure of the base. This site location would not allow for convenient access to for personnel in facilities that may be planned in the area according to the Schriever AFB Long Range Plan.

The running path design for alternative 2 consists of a lighted all-weather path. The layout would follow the previously installed path and utilize the existing two to four inches of breeze material currently in place. Additional breeze material would be added to provide appropriate thickness. The path would cross the East Drainage Channel in two places. Appropriate channel crossing structures would be required.

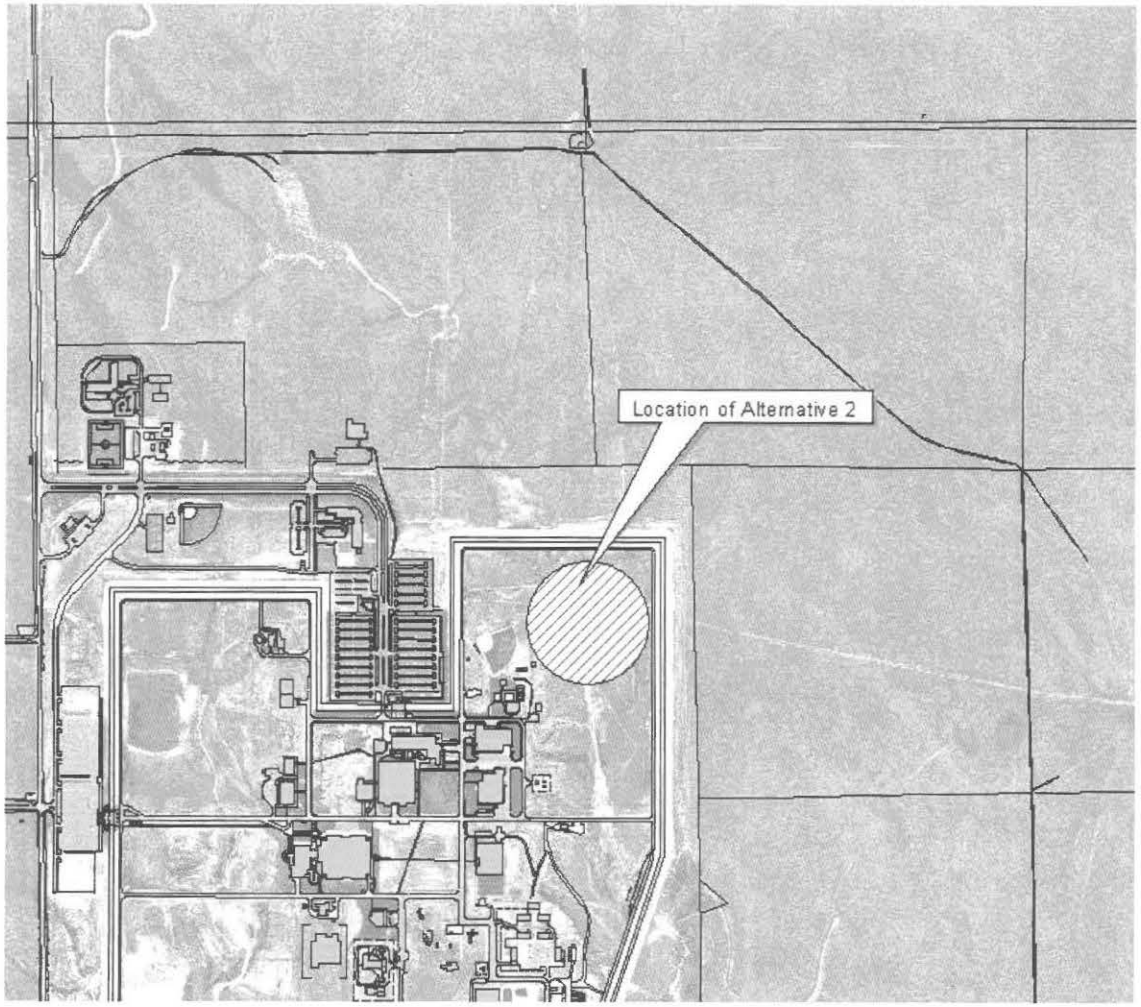
2.4 Alternative 3 – No Action

The running path would not be constructed at Schriever AFB. Personnel would be required to use existing methods.



Location of
Proposed Action

Figure 2-4
Schriever AFB Running Path EA



Location of Alternative 2

Figure 2-5
Schriever AFB Running Path EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUNNING PATH, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

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ALTERNATIVE 1 – PROPOSED ACTION – CONSTRUCT THE RUNNING PATH ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE FITNESS CENTER, BUILDING 120

The Running Path would be constructed on the northeast side of the new Fitness Center, building 120. The path would be located outside the secure area of the base, which would provide easy access by base personnel. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction. There would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the proposed action.

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The path would be constructed on the north side of the Fitness Center Annex, building 502. The path would be located inside the secure area of the base. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction. There would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the proposed action.

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CONCLUSION

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MICHAEL D. SELVA
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Chairperson, Environmental Protection Committee
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2.1 Alternative Selection and Site Selection Criteria

The *Schriever Air Force Base General Plan* and *Vision 2020* are the principal documents guiding assessment and planning future installation growth and development at SAFB. Current SAFB policy dictates that new mission or mission support facilities will be constructed within the restricted area, and all non-mission functions will be sited outside of the restricted area. The restricted area is the central portion of the base enclosed by a security fence.

The following criteria were used to develop the alternatives.

- The location should be convenient to personnel working in the secure area and the non-secure area.
- The selected alternative must meet federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Site location should consider prevailing winds and avoid areas that would have environmental constraints.

2.2 Alternative 1 – Proposed Action

A running path would be constructed on the land northeast of Fitness Center, Building 120. This location is outside the secure area of the base. This site would provide easy access for personnel working in both the secure and non-secure areas of the base. This site location would allow for convenient access to for personnel in facilities that may be planned in the area according to the Schriever AFB Long Range Plan.

The construction design consists of a lighted all-weather running path constructed of a six-inch thick granite sand surface. The path includes a one-mile loop and a concurrent 1.5-mile loop sited to accommodate future base development. The combined path proceeds east across the major drainage, curving northward in a large loop (radius about 200 feet). A culvert and fill will be placed at each drainage crossing to provide adequate cover for the culvert and to provide smooth vertical curves along the profile of the path. The profile generally follows the existing terrain. The path continues north, where the 1.5-mile loop splits and follows the longer route northward. The one-mile loop continues back toward the Fitness Center and rejoins the longer route about 200 feet from the north end of the Fitness Center. A short loop of path will be placed around the northeast corner of the building to allow for multiple laps on either route.

2.3 Alternative 2 – Construct the Running Path North of Fitness Center Annex, Building 502

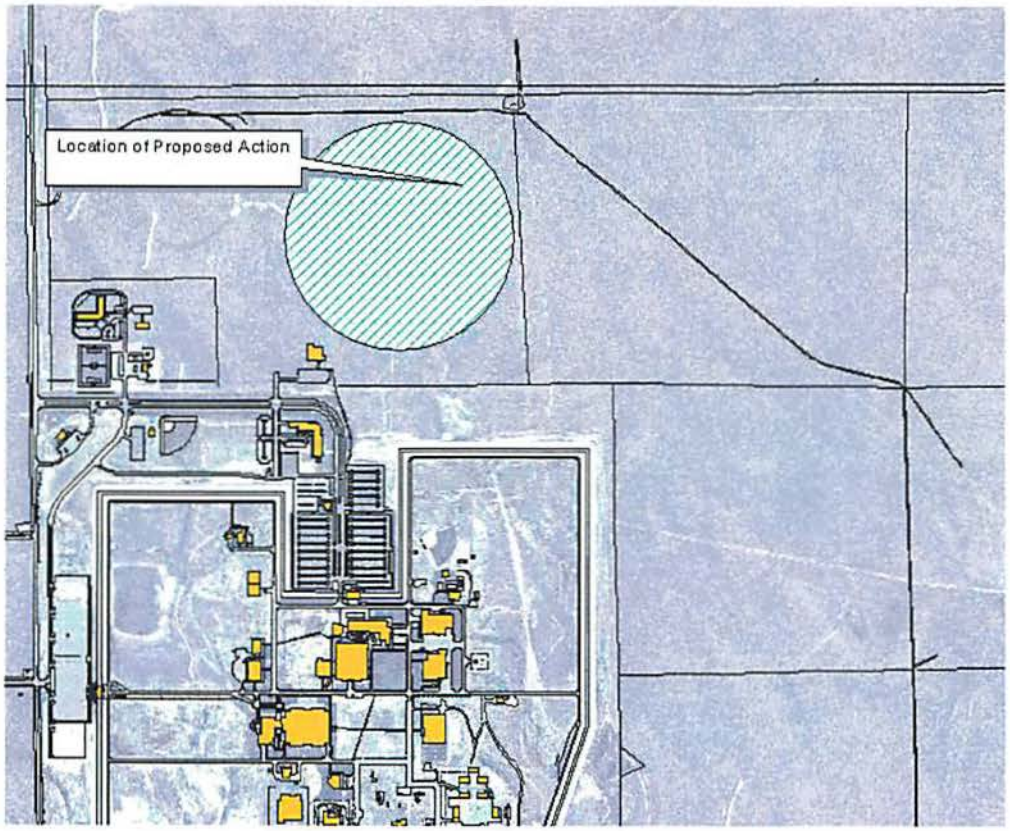
A running path would be constructed on the land north of the Fitness Center Annex, Building 502.

Currently, the location for alternative 2 is semi-improved grassland. There was once a running path at the proposed location of alternative 2, but it fell into disrepair and several portions of it were destroyed by a large storm event. This location is inside the secure area of the base. This site would provide easy access for personnel working only within the secure of the base. This site location would not allow for convenient access to for personnel in facilities that may be planned in the area according to the Schriever AFB Long Range Plan.

The running path design for alternative 2 consists of a lighted all-weather path. The layout would follow the previously installed path and utilize the existing two to four inches of breeze material currently in place. Additional breeze material would be added to provide appropriate thickness. The path would cross the East Drainage Channel in two places. Appropriate channel crossing structures would be required.

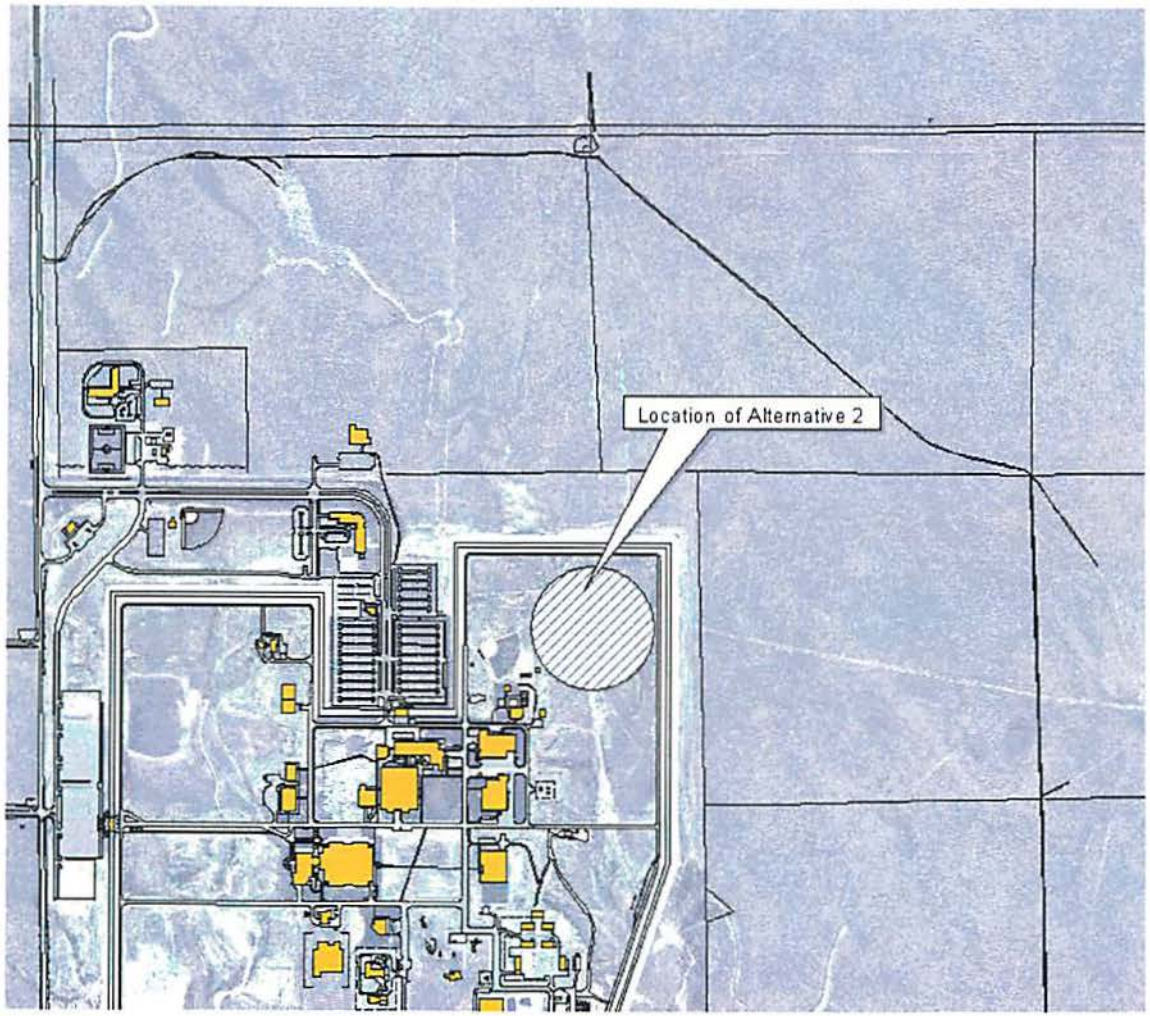
2.4 Alternative 3 – No Action

The running path would not be constructed at Schriever AFB. Personnel would be required to use existing methods.



Location of
Proposed Action

Figure 2-4
Schriever AFB Running Path EA



Location of Alternative 2

Figure 2-5
Schriever AFB Running Path EA

Agency coordination mailing list for Proposed Running Path at Schriever AFB

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202
Attn: Cynthia Cody, NEPA Unit Chief

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado Regional Office
Box 25486
Denver, CO 20590
Attn: Lee Carlson, State Supervisor

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
15 South 7th Street
Colorado Springs CO 80905

State Historic Preservation Office
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver CO 80203-2137

Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 South Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
Attn: Eliza Moore, Wildlife Manager

Ms. Melissa Trenchik
50 CES/CEV
300 O'Malley Ave Ste 19
Schriever AFB CO 80912-5019

Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 South Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
Attn: Eliza Moore, Wildlife Manager

SUBJECT: Proposed Construction of a Running Path at Schriever AFB

I am writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a Running Path outside the restricted area of Schriever AFB. I have attached a copy of the draft EA for your review and comment to ensure I adequately addressed environmental issues.

Your review will be greatly appreciated. Please call me at (719) 567-3360, or e-mail me at melissa.trenchik@schriever.af.mil, if I can answer any questions for you.

Sincerely

Melissa Trenchik
Environmental Biologist

Attachment
Draft Environmental Assessment

Ms. Melissa Trenchik
50 CES/CEV
300 O'Malley Ave Ste 19
Schriever AFB CO 80912-5019

State Historic Preservation Office
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver CO 80203-2137

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Schriever AFB CO 80912-5019

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
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Colorado Springs CO 80905

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