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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ARMY PREPARES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR NEW RESERVE CENTER**

**FORT A.P. HILL, Va.** – The U.S. Army Reserve is preparing an environmental assessment for the construction and operation of an estimated \$15.5 million USAR Center at Fort A.P. Hill.

The USAR Center would include a 33,170 square-foot training building, a 7,526 square-foot Organizational Maintenance Shop and a 1,065 square-foot unheated storage building. The training and administration building would provide a 200-member training facility with administrative, educational, assembly, library, vault, weapons simulator (indoor non-live fire simulator which provides realistic training using pneumatics and gaming technology), and physical fitness areas for one USAR unit.

Two sites on Fort A.P. Hill have been identified for the proposed action. The Army's preferred site is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of A.P. Hill Drive and Campbell Road. An alternative is located off Toombs Trail, northwest of Campbell Road and Archer Camp. Both sites are approximately 2.5 miles interior to the installation.

A brand new unit proposed to occupy the USAR Center is a Multi-Role Bridge Company that would bring 12 full-time personnel and 185 reservists to the installation. The full-time personnel would work five days a week and the reservists would train one weekend per month and two weeks in a row annually. The Multi-Role Bridge Company provides personnel and equipment required for the transportation, assembly, disassembly, maintenance and retrieval of U.S. Army bridging systems.

This initiative comes as part of the Grow the Army program which supports the Army's goal to sustain force readiness, match Army force capabilities with mission requirements, and preserve Soldier and family quality of life.

Requests for comments on the proposed action, as part of a general scoping process, were sent out May 24 to regulators, elected officials and others who signed up for the National Environmental Policy Act mailing list. The installation is requesting all responses to those letters in writing no later than June 24, allowing for a 30-day comment period from the date the letters were sent out.

Following the general scoping process, an EA will be made available on the Fort A.P. Hill website for the public to provide comments. The public will have 30 days to comment from the time the EA is posted.

After the comment period has closed and the Army has considered all comments and taken all appropriate actions, a final decision document in the form of Finding of No Significant or Notice of Intent to complete an EIS will be issued upon completion of the 30-day review period.