

MCHB-TS-RDE (40-5f)

7 September 2004

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Updated Visual Assessment of Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Airbase, Karshi, Uzbekistan

1. (U) ~~(S)~~ PURPOSE. To provide the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) Force Health Protection (FHP) Officer with additional feedback from a visual site inspection of K2 Airbase on 6 September 2004. The CFLCC FHP Officer will use this feedback, as well as the preliminary feedback provided on 4 September 2004, to support an upcoming K2 Airbase master planning meeting to be conducted on 9 September 2004. The emphasis of this master planning meeting is on potentially expanding the airbase to accommodate up to 8,000 personnel.

2. (U) BACKGROUND.

a. (U) The feedback provided in this information paper focuses on guidance provided by Mr. [REDACTED] of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in an e-mail message dated 3 September 2004, subject: K2 Map Areas of Possible Development. The map of K2 Airbase attached to his e-mail message serves as Appendix A of this information paper, and identifies six (6) areas of possible development:

(1) (U) The area currently within the boundaries of Camp Stronghold Freedom (referred to as Base Camp Area).

(2) (U) An undeveloped area located east of Camp Stronghold Freedom's Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) and south of the airbase's existing aircraft runway (referred to as South Area in this paper).

(3) (U) A partially developed area located east of Camp Stronghold Freedom and north of the airbase's existing aircraft runway (referred to as Northwest Area in this paper).

(4) (U) A partially developed area located east of the Northwest Area and north of the airbase's existing aircraft runway (referred to as Northeast Area in this paper).

(5) (U) A partially developed area located east of the airbase's existing emergency aircraft runway (referred to as East Runway Area in this paper). The USACE intends to construct a new runway parallel and south of the airbase's current runway (most likely in the same location as the airbase's existing emergency runway). As part of this new runway, the USACE will install a runway approach lighting system approximately 3000 feet from the landing threshold at each end of the new runway. Although US personnel are not intended to occupy this area, the USACE is interested in this area's potential occupational and environmental health threats to the construction crew.

(6) (U) A partially developed area located 1200 feet from the airbase's southern perimeter (referred to as Setback Area in this paper). The USACE may build unmanned facilities (defined as facilities containing 3 or less personnel for 6 hours/day or less) between the 600 foot setback

and 1200 foot setback; however, the Corps will not build any manned and high occupancy facilities within the Setback Area to meet Force Protection criteria.

b. (U) Per Mr. [REDACTED]'s guidance, the results of this visual assessment will include subjective descriptors of each of these potential expansion areas. The visual assessment team took direct reading measurements of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with ionization potentials less than or equal to 10.6 eV using a MultiRAE Plus[®] toxic gas monitor (equipped with a photoionization detector), as well as ionizing radiation using an Eberline E600[®] radiac set (equipped with an SPA-9 beta/gamma probe), at most of these sites and results are presented below. The team collected composite soil samples from many of these sites, as well; however, the analytical results of these samples are not expected until October or November 2004. As part of the visual assessment process, this information paper will place each of the six (6) areas identified above in one of three categories requested by Mr. [REDACTED]: can develop, can develop with some remediation, and cannot build without extensive remediation.

3. (U) (~~S~~) FACTS.

a. (U) Base Camp Area. The US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) surveyed this area for potential occupational and environmental health threats in November 2001 and June 2002, and is currently conducting a follow-up survey in September 2004. The findings from the previous two (2) surveys were included in the previous information paper dated 4 September 2004, subject: Visual Inspection of K2 Airbase, Karshi, Uzbekistan.

b. (U) (~~S~~) South Area. This area is mostly flat, rutted land covered with wild grass and populated by foxes, numerous rodents (most likely gerbils), and possibly snakes (see Appendix B, Figures 1 and 2). The area is intersected by some off-road vehicle trails and two (2) anti-wheeled vehicle trenches that run parallel to the airbase's existing aircraft runway. No waste disposal sites or previous industrial operations were noted in this area; however, the site does contain one (1) or more Uzbeki military guard posts (with armored personnel carriers) and a former US encampment (possibly a Patriot missile site), as noted by some discarded MRE pouches. The visual assessment team surveyed the area for potential radiological and VOC contamination, and no measurements above normal background concentrations were noted. The team collected three (3) composite soil samples and one (1) radiological soil sample during the assessment. Based on this visual assessment, the greatest potential environmental health threats in this area are infectious diseases transmitted by rodents, rabid foxes, and poisonous snakes.

c. (U) (~~S~~) Northwest Area. This area is an open field located between the Uzbeki Air Force's hardened aircraft shelters (HASs) and the airbase's existing aircraft runway. At the time of the assessment, all vegetation in this field was burned off and no wildlife was present (although the area contained a large number of rodent burrows) (see Appendix B, Figures 3 and 4). No waste disposal sites or previous industrial operations were noted in this area; however, this site contained a US military-operated radar system enclosed by earthen berms to support the airbase's flight operations. A member of the 253rd Engineer Detachment excavated a pit approximately 6 feet in depth at vic 41S QD 53444 02459 to identify any potential POL contamination from the airbase's adjacent POL farm (see Appendix B, Figures 5 and 6). No

visible POL contamination or VOC vapors were noted in this pit. The visual assessment team surveyed the area for potential radiological contamination, and no measurements above normal background concentrations were noted. The team collected one (1) composite and one (1) subsurface soil sample during the assessment. Based on this visual assessment, the greatest potential occupational and environmental health threats in this area are hazardous noise, as well as exhaust gases and fumes, from adjacent aircraft maintenance, taxiing, and takeoff/landing operations.

d. (U) (~~S~~) Northeast Area. This area is identical to the Northwest Area except that it is located on the eastern boundary of the Northwest Area. Once more, no waste disposal sites or previous industrial operations were noted in this area. A member of the 253rd Engineer Detachment excavated a pit approximately 6 feet in depth at vic 41S QD 54071 02674 to identify any potential POL contamination from the airbase's adjacent POL farm. No visible POL contamination or VOC vapors were noted in this pit. The visual assessment team surveyed the area for potential radiological contamination, and no measurements above normal background concentrations were noted. The team collected one (1) composite soil sample during the assessment. Based on this visual assessment, the greatest potential occupational and environmental health threats in this area are hazardous noise, as well as exhaust gases and fumes, from adjacent aircraft maintenance, taxiing, and takeoff/landing operations.

e. (U) (~~S~~) East Runway Area. This area is a former cultivated field (most likely cotton) containing two (2) parallel fence lines (one barbwire fence at the extreme end of the existing aircraft runway vic 41S QD 55220 02876 and one concrete fence along the airbase perimeter vic 41S QD 56054 03024) (see Appendix B, Figure 7). These fences are approximately 500 meters apart from one another and are perpendicular to the existing runway. A local village is located on the northeast corner of the airbase. No waste disposal sites or previous industrial operations were noted in this area; however, a number of Uzbeki military guard towers were noted along the interior of the airbase's perimeter. Based on this visual assessment, the greatest potential occupational and environmental health threats in this area are hazardous noise, as well as exhaust gases and fumes, from aircraft takeoff and landing operations.

f. (U) (~~S~~) Setback Area. This area is similar to the South Area except that it is located on the southern and southeastern boundary of the South Area. No previous industrial operations were noted in the area; however, a solid waste disposal site and numerous Uzbeki military guard towers were noted in this area (see Appendix B, Figure 8). The visual assessment team surveyed the area for potential radiological and VOC contamination, and no measurements above normal background concentrations were noted. Based on this visual assessment, the greatest potential environmental health threats in this area are infectious diseases transmitted by rodents, rabid foxes, and poisonous snakes.

4. (U) (~~S~~) RECOMMENDATIONS. These recommendations are based on visual inspections and some direct reading measurements. Results from more extensive laboratory analysis of samples collected during this survey may change the recommendations presented below.

a. (U) (~~S~~) Base Camp Area. Can build in all areas within the existing Camp Stronghold Freedom boundaries except at Site 1 and adjacent to the airbase's Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants

(POL) farm. Cannot build in Site 1 and areas adjacent to the airbase's POL farm without extensive remediation. Cannot conduct deep excavations between the POL farm and the Northwest corner of Stronghold Freedom without extensive remediation.

b. (U) South Area. Can build within this area; however, integrated pest management services may be required to control the rodent population. Once rodents are controlled, the foxes and poisonous snakes will not present a significant health threat due to the reduced food source.

c. (U) Northwest Area. Can build within this area; however, hazardous noise damping measures may be required to control aircraft maintenance, taxiing, and runway operation noise.

d. (U) Northeast Area. Can build within this area; however, hazardous noise damping measures may be required to control aircraft maintenance, taxiing, and runway operation noise.

e. (U) East Runway Area. Can build within this area; however, hearing protection may be required to reduce aircraft runway operation noise.

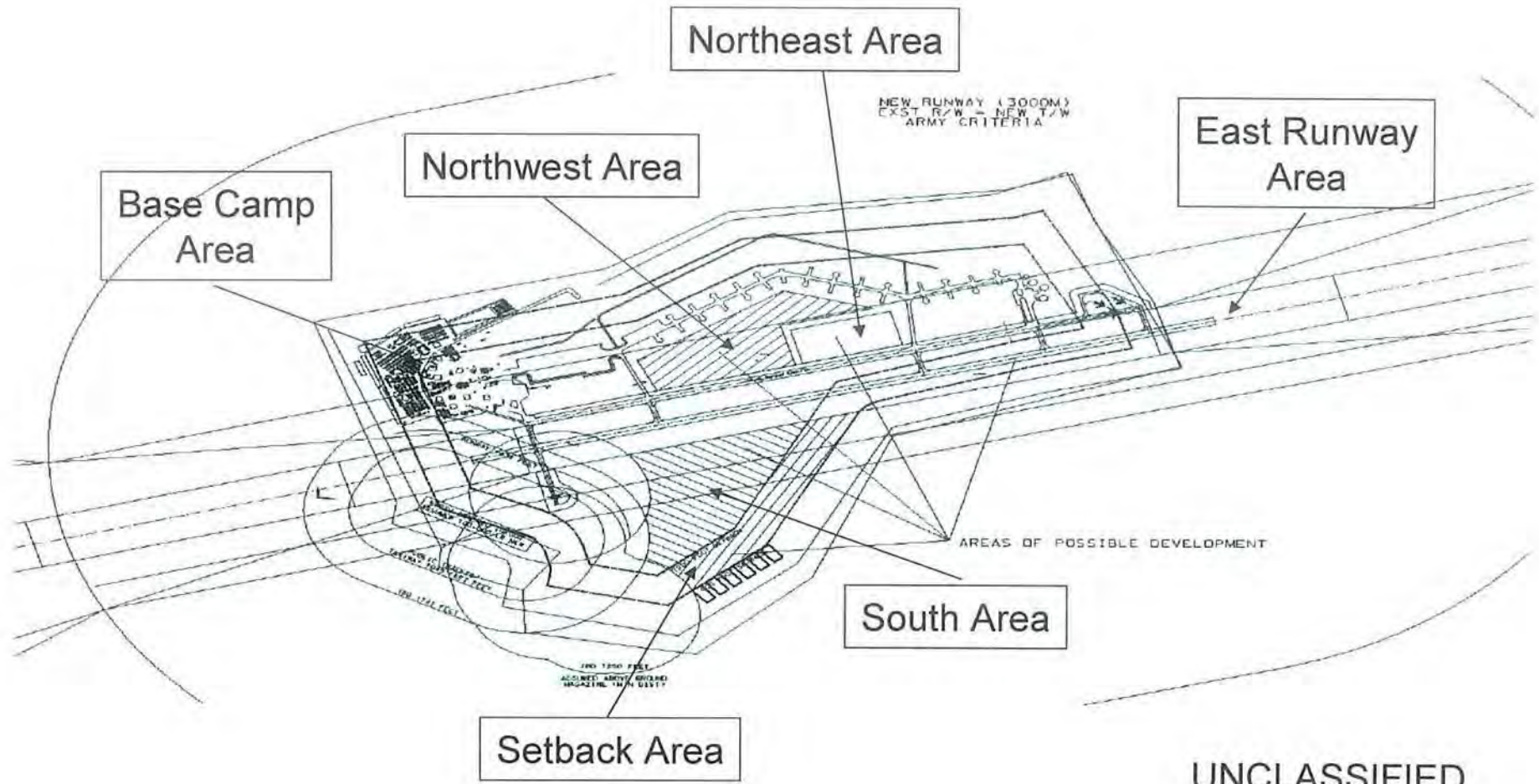
f. (U) Setback Area. Can build within this area with some remediation. The solid waste disposal site should be cleaned up, and integrated pest management services may be required to control the rodent population. Once rodents are controlled, the foxes and poisonous snakes will not present a significant health threat due to the reduced food source.

MAJ [REDACTED] /Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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APPENDIX A

K2 Airbase Proposed Expansion Areas



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APPENDIX B

Figure 1. East view of South Area with anti-wheeled vehicle trench in foreground.



Figure 2. Rodent burrow located in South Area.



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Figure 3. West view of Northwest Area with burned off vegetation in foreground.



Figure 4. View of rodent burrow in Northwest Area.



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Figure 5. View of POL farm located on Uzbeki Air Force portion of K2 Airbase.



Figure 6. View of 6-foot excavation pit dug in Northwest Area by 253rd Engineer Detachment.



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Figure 7. Southeast view of East Runway Area with barb wire fence in foreground.



Figure 8. Solid waste disposal area located in Setback Area.



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