



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: November 20, 2008
Comment Deadline: December 5, 2008
Corps Action ID #:2007-04036
Fort Bragg – Pope AFB ASP

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received a revision to the application from the **Department of the Army/Fort Bragg** seeking Department of the Army authorization to **discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States** associated with **construction of the New Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) at the existing Pope Air Force Base Munitions Supply Area in Cumberland County, North Carolina.**

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice with all attached plans is also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: Department of the Army
U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg
c/o Col. Gregory Bean (Ret), Director of Public Works
IMSE-BRG-PW
Reilly Road Stop A
Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 28310-5000

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Location

The affected area of the Pope ASP review area encompassed approximately 450 acres adjacent to the east side the Pope MSA facility. This area falls within the Cape Fear River Basin (HUC 003030004) in the NC Sandhills physiographic region of the state. The proposed ASP area encompassed approximately 450 acres and is located approximately 4 miles west of the intersection of Vass Road (NC 690) and NC 87, between Manchester Road and Vass Road in Cumberland County. The proposed project is located in adjacent wetlands and tributaries that are hydrologically connected to the Cape Fear River, Hydrologic Cataloging Unit 03030004.

Background

A Fort Bragg "Grow the Army" Environmental Assessment (EA) was signed on June 20, 2008 and on August 22, 2008 a Findings of No Significant Impact was signed by Fort Bragg. The social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with various proposals and their alternatives, including the No-build alternative, have been described in the above referenced environmental documents. The Fort Bragg "Grow the Army" EA is available for review at the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office of the Wilmington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403, or at Fort Bragg. Headquarters, United States Army Garrison, Department of Public Works, Fort Bragg, 2175 Reilly Road, Stop A, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The Purpose of the proposed project is to replace the existing deficient Fort Bragg ASP. The existing Bragg ASP facility provides processing and out-loading munitions for airdrop and air land forces as well as storage of training and basic load ammunition. That facility's capacity and current location is outdated and insufficient to provide for adequate safe, secure storage, and processing of ammunition. To continue to provide for the Army's state of readiness in a safe fashion, the existing ASP at Fort Bragg is no longer sufficient and must be replaced.

Existing Site Conditions

The affected area of the Pope ASP review area encompassed approximately 450 acres adjacent to the east side the Pope MSA facility. This area falls within the Cape Fear River Basin (HUC 003030004) in the NC Sandhills physiographic region of the state. The Sandhills encompasses parts of 8 counties and is situated in the south central part of NC. Most of the project area is vegetated with immature longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*) approximately 10 years old planted after timbering operations. The area surrounding the forest plantation is a mixture of 30-40 year old slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) stands and mature loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and longleaf pine stands, approximately 60-80 years of age. The forest cover in the stream and wetland areas was not impacted by the timber harvest and supported mature canopies of broadleaved deciduous species such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), and water oak (*Quercus nigra*). The shrub strata was very dense in most places with gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), red bay (*Persea borbonia*), and sapling growth of the upper canopy species. Giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) formed very dense patches throughout these areas. The wetlands were typical of streamhead pocosins, small stream swamps, and bottomland hardwood communities. Detailed descriptions of the wetlands in the project area are provided in the document titled Jurisdictional Waters Delineation, 108th ADA/ASP, Pope ASP Review Area, Pope AFB, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Project Description

The following description of the work is taken from data provided by the applicant. The Army proposes to construct a new ASP at the existing Pope AFB Munitions Supply Area (MSA) to accommodate the needs of Fort Bragg units. The proposed project action would be constructed on the east side of the existing Pope MSA. Entry to the facility will be by way of a new road connecting to Vass Road (NC 690) to the northeast from the existing facility. Operation of a sufficiently sized facility will require construction of a 150,800 square foot (s.f.) Vehicle Maintenance Shop, 26,500 s.f. of Deployment Equipment Storage, a 2,500 s.f. Oil Storage Building, and 161,200 square yards of Organizational Vehicle Parking as well as an ASP. The ASP facility itself will consist of eight 17,760 s.f. Navy Type "F" magazines and four 3,800 s.f. oval arch magazines. Access roads will be installed throughout the facility. Associated needs and infrastructure include water, sewer, gas, and electric utilities, storm water drainage, detention and bio-retention ponds, and secondary containment for oil storage facilities. Where structures are proposed to be constructed within jurisdictional wetland boundaries, clean fill will be installed and compacted to provide stability and raise the grade to the necessary height for the structure's foundation. Roads constructed to access the facility will be 22 feet wide and paved with asphalt. At locations where jurisdictional wetland areas are to be crossed, the roads will be constructed on compacted fill. Where jurisdictional streams are to be crossed, box culverts sized appropriately to accommodate stream flows will be placed perpendicular to the channel. Utilities will be installed as subsurface lines. These will be routed within the shoulder of the paved roads in most cases. In an effort to avoid and/or minimize impacts to jurisdictional waters, utility crossings will be routed so that stream or wetland crossings will be contained within the fill required for roadway crossings, thereby avoiding additional impacts. In one location, utility lines will cross a jurisdictional wetland independent of any new road construction and the utility will be trenched and the wetland restored to a pre-disturbed state. In all other instances where utilities cross stream channels independent of roadways, directional boring will be used to avoid impacts. The entire installation will be secured by chain link fencing on posts around the perimeter.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 4.62 acres of wetlands instead of 4.66 acres as originally stated and 964 linear feet of stream channel (Plates 1-5) instead of 310 linear feet as originally stated.

Table 1: Streams Identified in the Project Area

Stream Impact Number (indicate on map)	Stream Name	Stream Type	NCDWQ Score	USACE Score	Total Impact (Feet)
7	SD	Perennial	45.75	88	202
13	SE	Perennial	31	53	5
15	SD	Perennial	45.75	88	177
22	SC	Perennial	38.5	84	580
Total					964

Table 2: Wetlands Identified in the Project Area

Name	Cowardin Type	Total Impact (Acres)
WM	PFO1	1.09
WO	PFO1, PSS3	1.54
WP	PFO1, PSS3	0.46
WW	PFO1	1.53
Total		4.62

The project impact areas are located in the Cape Fear River Basin (Hydrologic Unit 03030004). The applicant proposes to utilize the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) to provide the necessary compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable wetland impacts associated with this project.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice combined with appropriate application fee at the North Carolina Division of Water Quality central office in Raleigh will constitute initial receipt of an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Ms. Cyndi Karoly by November 28, 2008.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. In addition, Fort Bragg archaeologist identified two archaeological sites determined eligible for the NRHP, site numbers 31CD218 and 31CD1035 which will be avoided or the adverse effects mitigated in accordance with 36 CFR 800.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Known populations of threatened and endangered species are monitored closely by Fort Bragg Environmental Division-Endangered Species Branch staff. Fort Bragg has populations of three Federally-listed endangered plants: Rough-leaved loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*); Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*); and American chaffseed

(*Schwalbea americana*). The 1997 Fort Bragg Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP) provides monitoring and management programs for all three species, with the primary emphasis aimed at reaching recovery. The three Federally-listed plant species and their associated habitats were assessed and evaluated using results of two comprehensive rare flora surveys conducted in 1991 through 1993 and 1998 through 1999, respectively. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis also determined no rare plant concerns. In addition, GIS analysis and field surveys in 2007 determined no individuals were present, however suitable habitat was found for Michaux's sumac and Rough-leaved loosestrife. Field surveys during the growing season determined the absence of any endangered plant species. The red cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (RCW) and the Saint Francis' Satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii francisci*) are the only Federally-listed animal species known to occur at Fort Bragg. The ESMP provides monitoring and management programs for the RCW and Saint Francis' Satyr, with the primary emphasis aimed at recovery. The Saint Francis' Satyr is not known to be located in any of the project/areas footprints. Additional field evaluations conducted in August 2007 determined no suitable habitat occurs in the Pope AFB ASP project site. The project footprint does encroach upon RCW forage habitat, although most of the impacted forest habitat is non suitable forage. A few surrounding known occupied RCW cluster's forage partitions will be minimally impacted from forage loss. In addition, several unoccupied RCW clusters will also be impacted from forage loss. The loss of habitat stemming from the project will not affect RCW recovery at Fort Bragg. Based on the results of a Biological Assessment in accordance with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), it concluded the project will have a "no effect" determination on four Federally endangered species (Saint Francis' Satyr, Rough-leaved loosestrife, American chaffseed, and Michaux's sumac) and a "not likely to adversely affect" determination for the Redcockaded woodpecker at Fort Bragg..

The District Engineer, based on available information, is not aware that the proposed activities requiring DA authorization will affect any other species not listed above, or their critical habitat, designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of

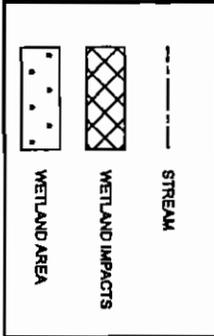
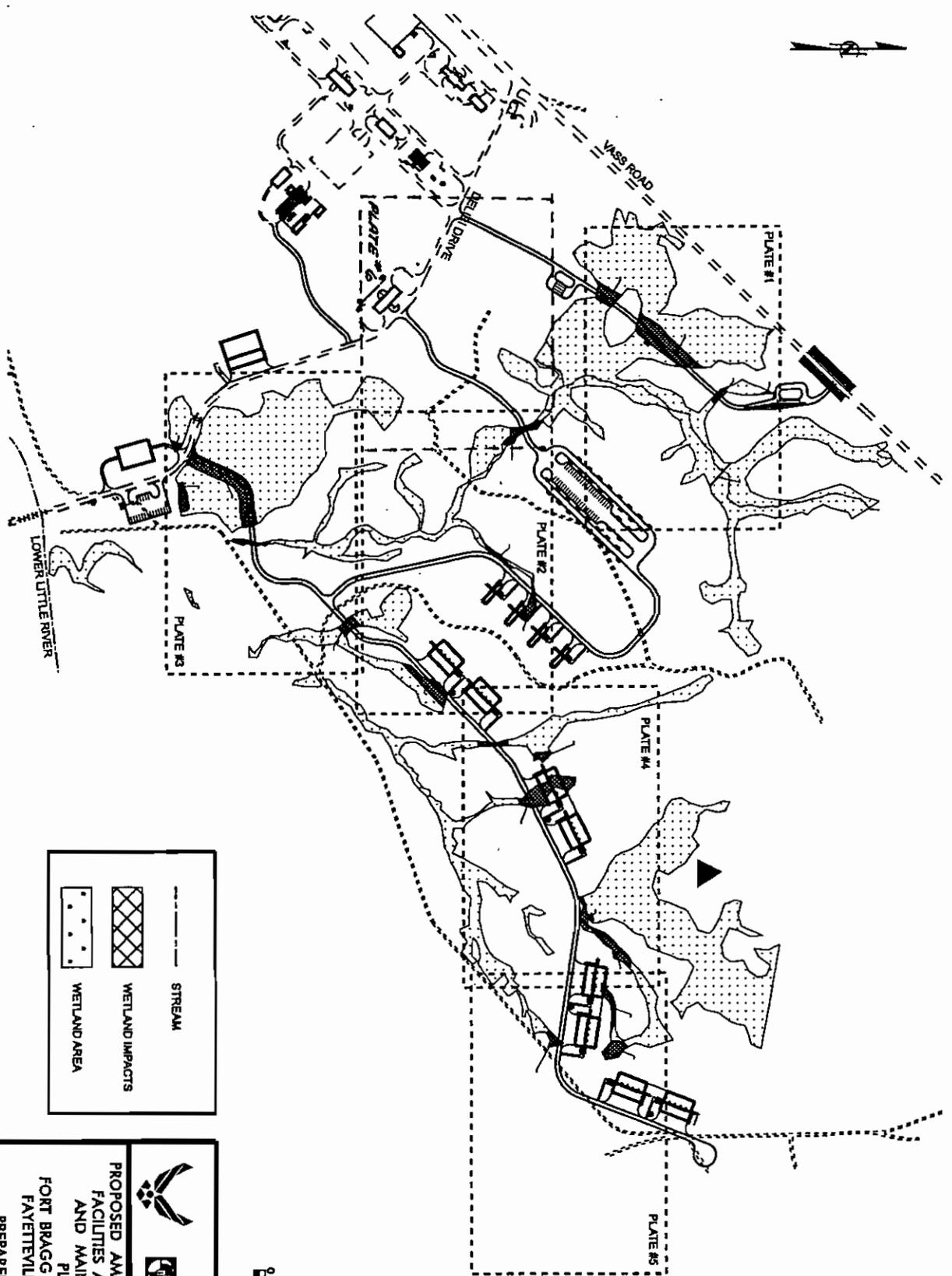
dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, December 5, 2008. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Richard K. Spencer, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343.



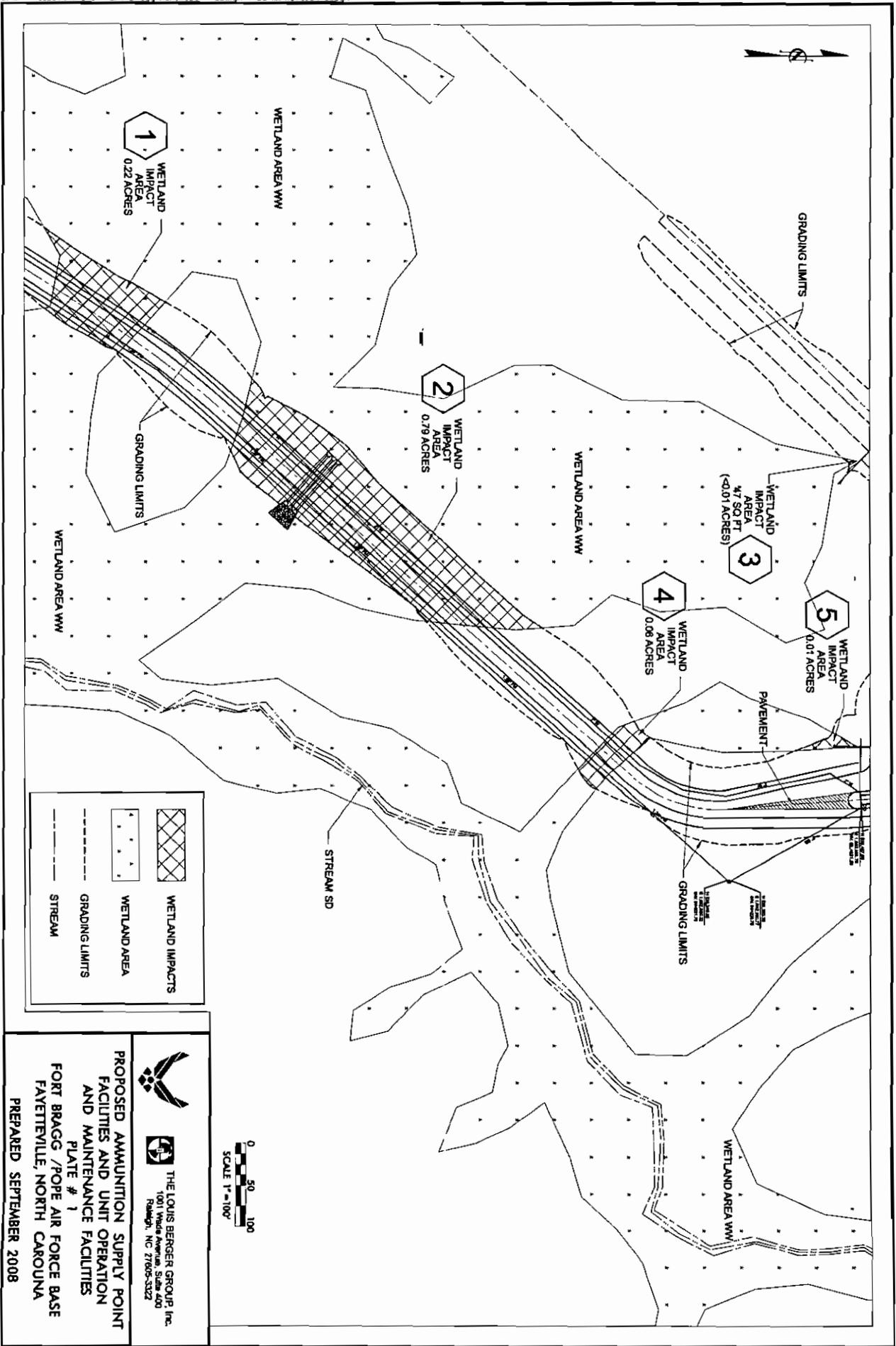

THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, Inc.
1001 Vista Avenue, Suite 400
Raleigh, NC 27605-3322

**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**

PLATE KEY

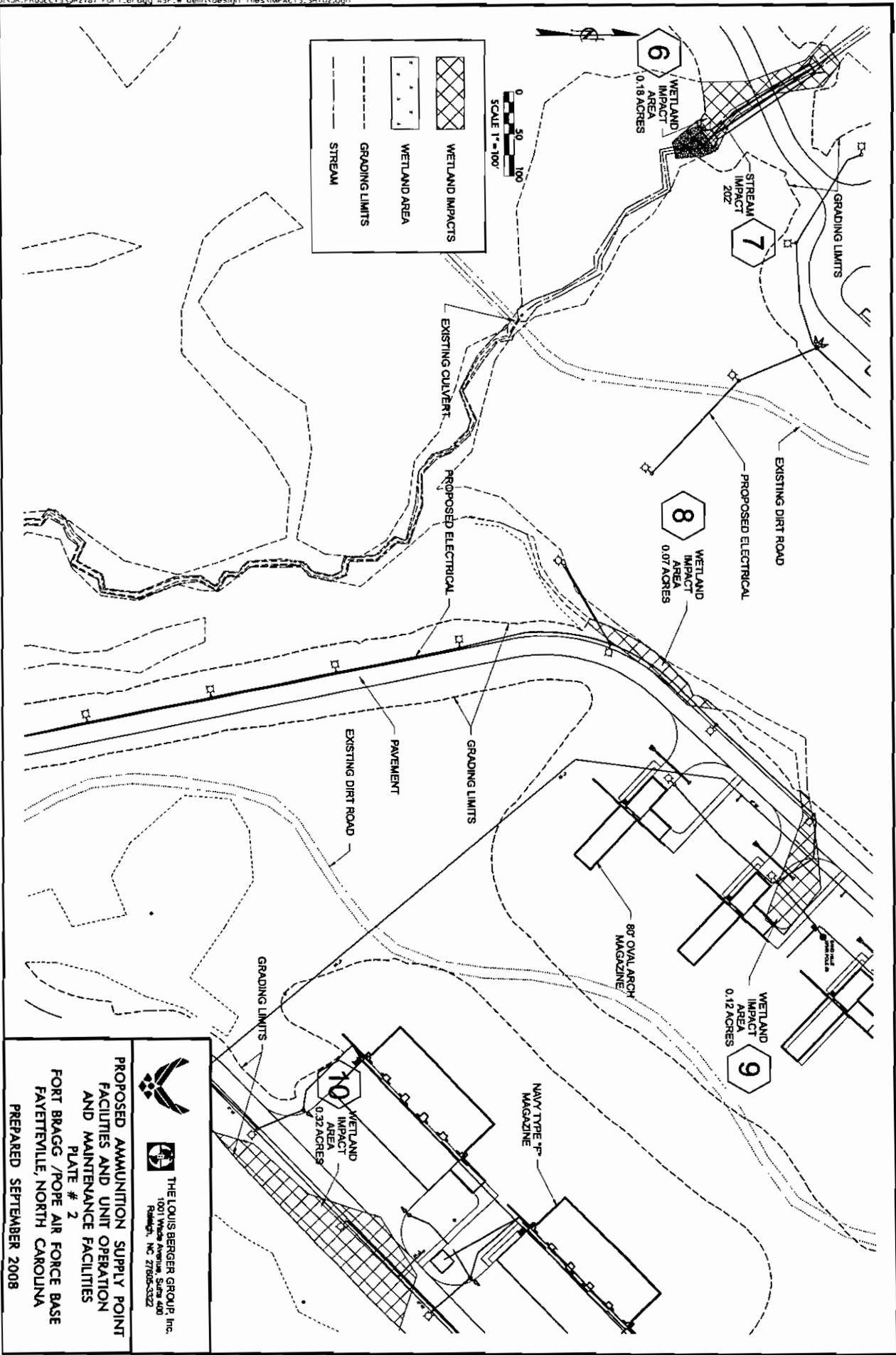
**FORT BRAGG / ROPE AIR FORCE BASE
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2008



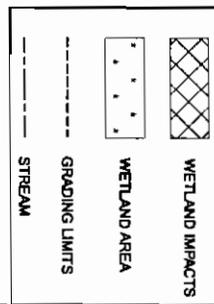
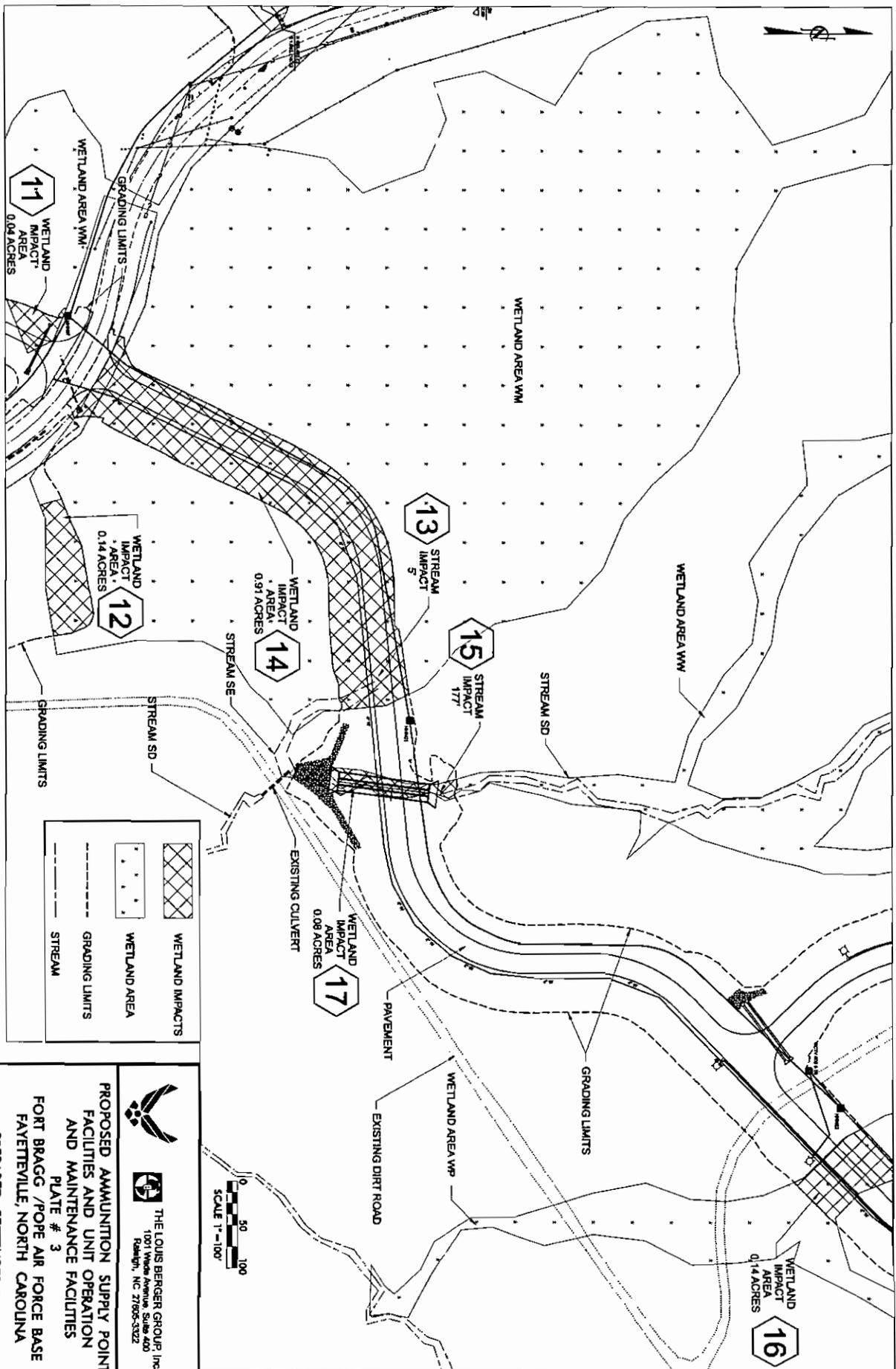

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**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
 FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
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 PLATE # 1
**FORT BRAGG / POPE AIR FORCE BASE
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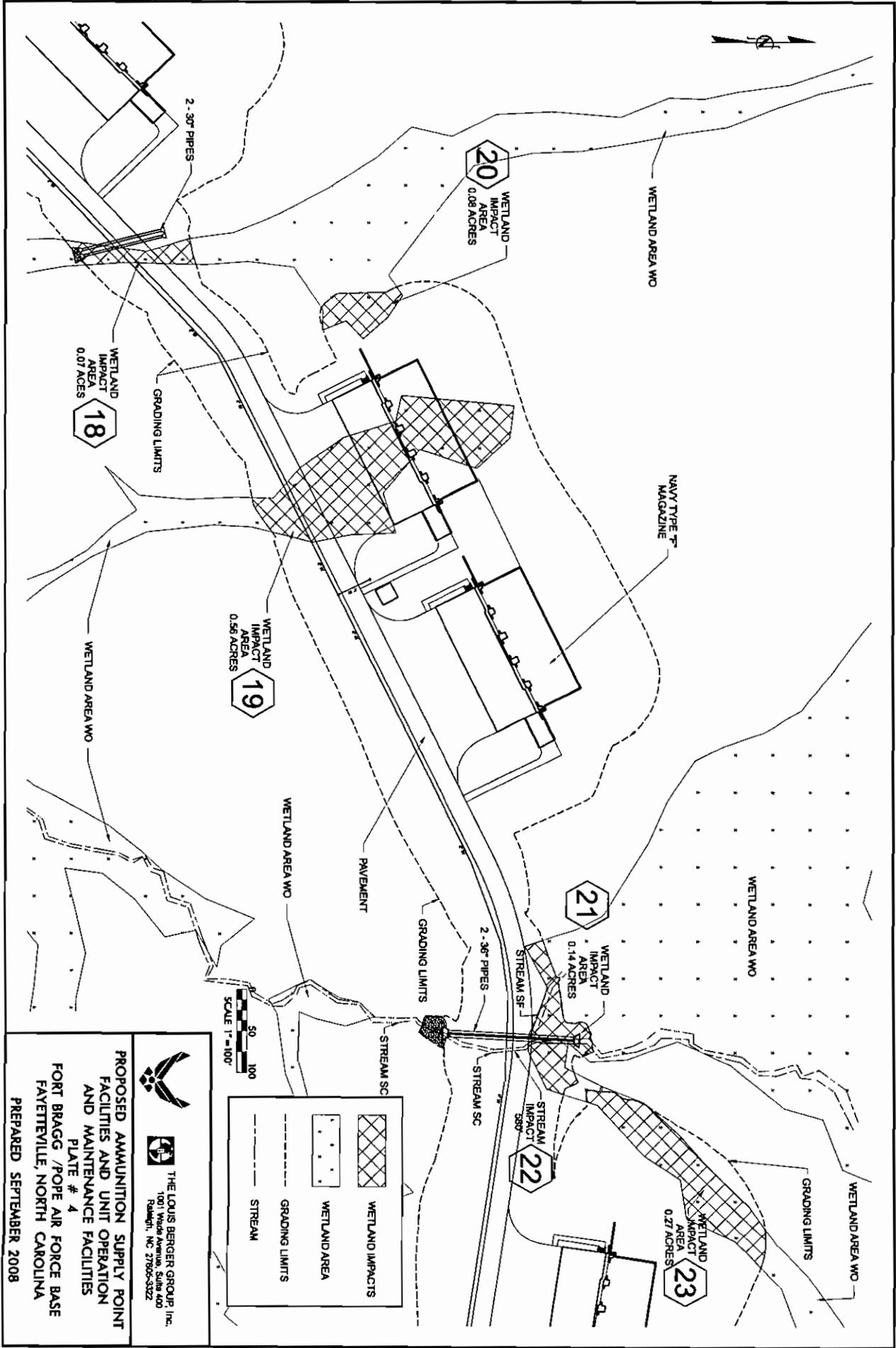
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FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES
PLATE # 2
FORT BRAGG / POPE AIR FORCE BASE
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
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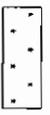
**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
 FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
 AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**
 PLATE # 3
 FORT BRAGG / POE AIR FORCE BASE
 FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

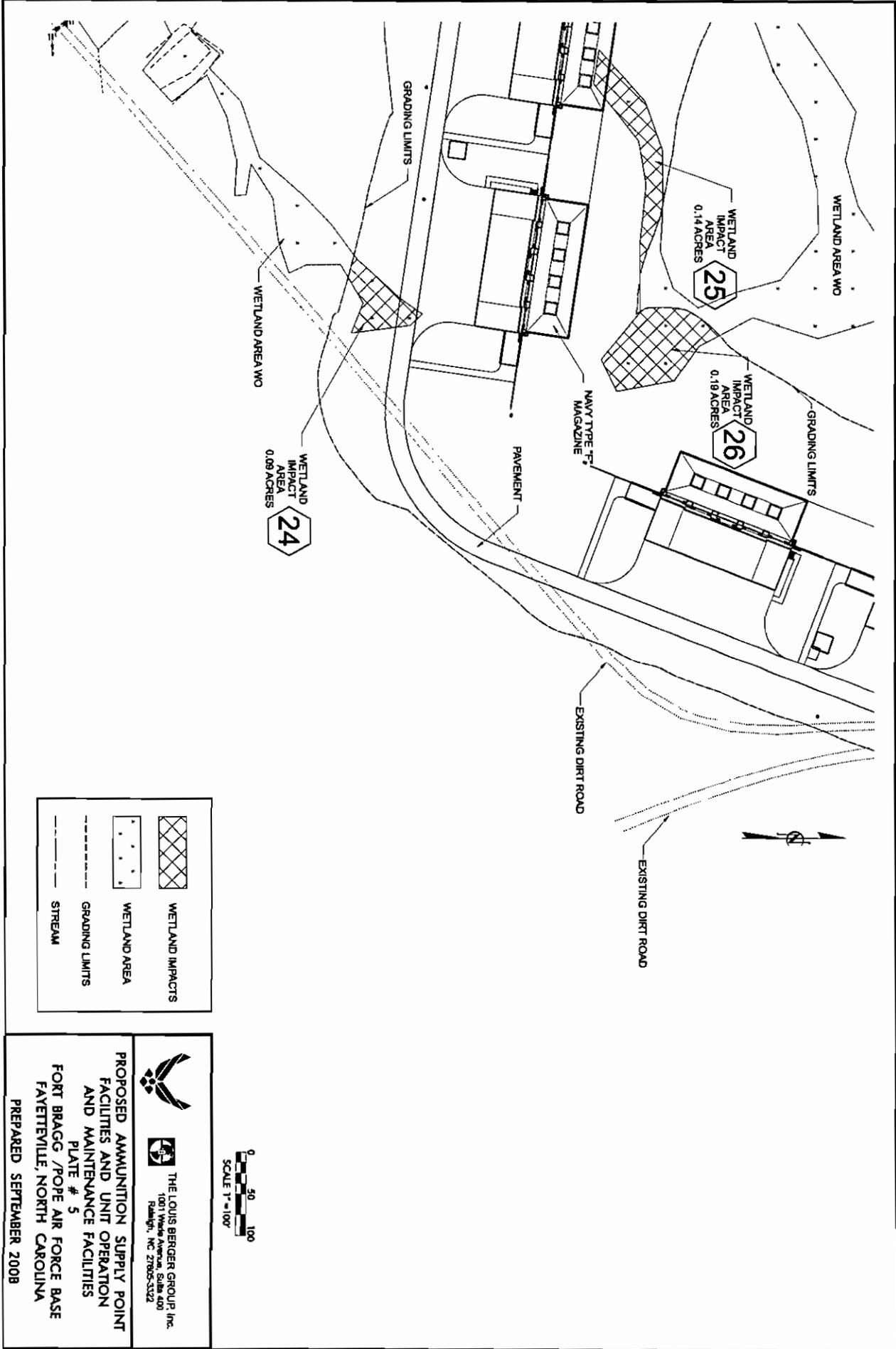
PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2008




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**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
 FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
 AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**
 PLATE # 4
 FORT BRAGG / POPE AIR FORCE BASE
 FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
 PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2008

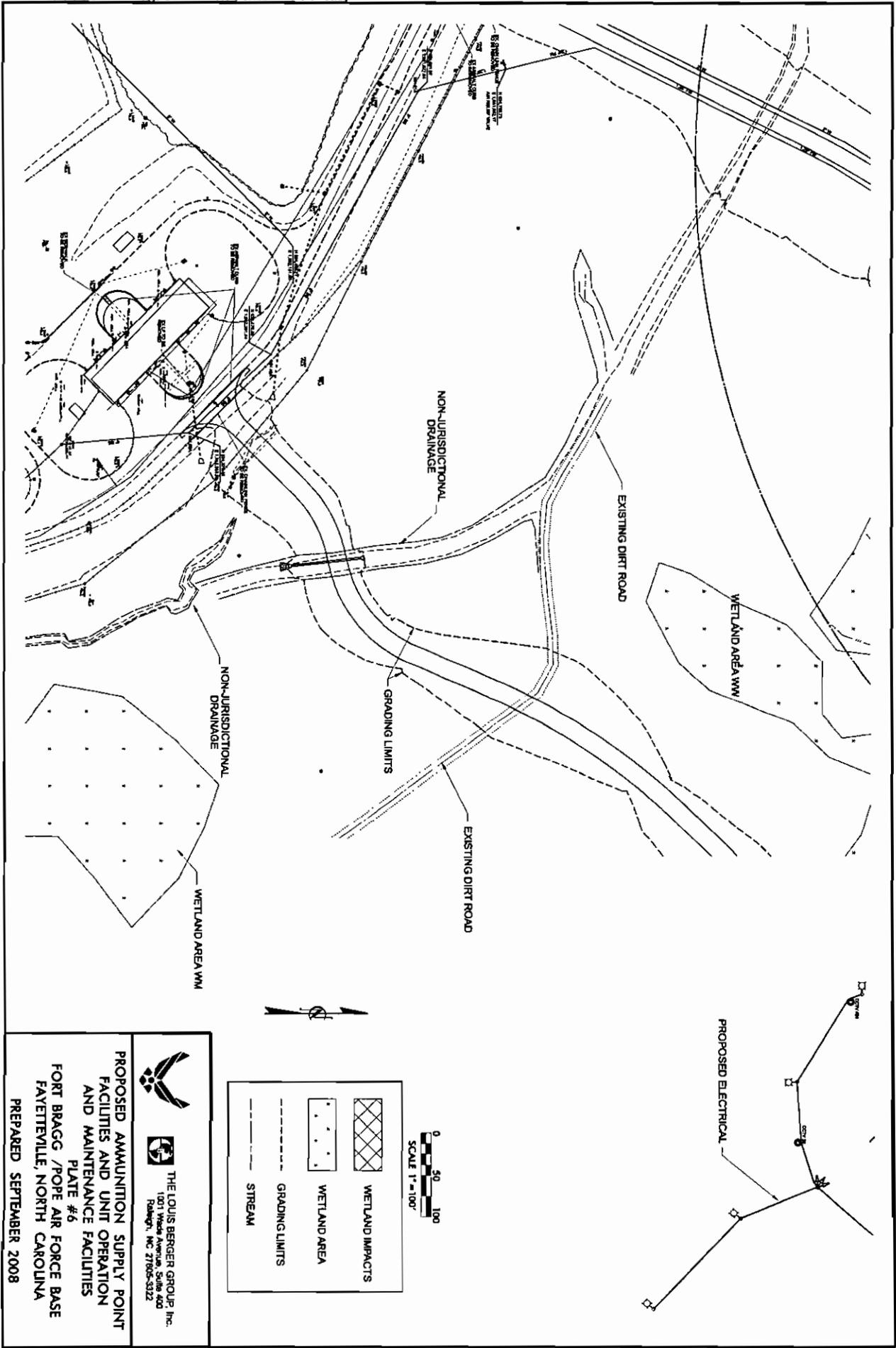
	WETLAND IMPACTS
	WETLAND AREA
	GRADING LIMITS
	STREAM





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**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
 FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
 AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**
 PLATE # 5
**FORT BRAGG /POPE AIR FORCE BASE
 FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**
 PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2008



	WETLAND IMPACTS
	WETLAND AREA
	GRADING LIMITS
	STREAM





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**PROPOSED AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT
 FACILITIES AND UNIT OPERATION
 AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES
 PLATE #6
 FORT BRAGG / POPE AIR FORCE BASE
 FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
 PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2008**