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## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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Acting Commissioner

February 2, 2009

Ms. Wanda Green  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
U.S. Army Fort Monmouth  
173 Riverside Drive  
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703

Dear Ms. Green:

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published with amendments in the Federal Register on 6 July 2004 (69 FR 40544-40555), I am providing **Consultation Comments** for the following proposed undertaking:

**Monmouth County, Eatontown Borough  
Suneagles Golf Course: Fort Monmouth Charles Wood Area  
Archaeological Survey Requirement Assessment  
United States Department of the Army**

#### 800.4 Identifying Historic Properties

The Suneagles Golf Course contains archaeological sites 28-Mo-131 (chert biface) and 28-Mo-132 (Woodland period triangular point) near the existing pond on Wampum Brook. This information is from the 1984 *An Archaeological Overview and Management Plan for Fort Monmouth (Main Post), Camp Charles Wood and the Evans Area* accessioned in the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) report collection as MON A52(1). Additional Native American archaeological sites have been identified to the east and west of the Suneagles Golf Course along the banks of Wampum Brook. Therefore, the presence of known archaeological sites and predictive archaeological models for New Jersey suggests a high potential for Native American archaeological deposits within 300 feet of the Wampum Brook.

The above-referenced 1984 report stated the construction of the 1920s golf course, built over probable plowed farm fields, suggested the top eight- to 12-inches of soil was mixed through farming/course construction (referred to as a plow zone level). However, a comparison of the 1931 and 2006 aerials suggests the course configuration has remaining predominantly unchanged from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast to the 1984 findings, the confinement of historic period grading to the plow zone level (top 12 inches of the soil) suggests intact archaeological deposits may exist within subsoil levels for areas of high archaeological potential. In addition, recent archaeological synthesis of plowzone archaeological sites demonstrated plow zone levels still retain important information on site function and spatial distribution

of archaeological deposits. Please refer to the following site for the significance of plow zone deposits:  
<http://www.chesapeakearchaeology.org/AboutTheProject/PZArchaeology.htm>.

In consequence, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4 a **Phase I archaeological survey, and as necessary Phase II archaeological survey, must be conducted within the area of potential effects (APE) within areas of high archaeological potential to identify the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.**

**Additional Comments:**

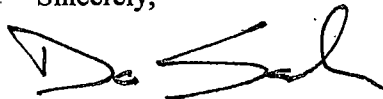
Phase I survey will allow identification of the presence or absence of archaeological historic properties within the APE. If identified, Phase II survey will provide for evaluation of the National Register eligibility of the site(s) and assessment of project impacts. For properties on or eligible for National Register inclusion, recommendations must be provided for avoidance of impacts. If impacts cannot be avoided, analyses must be provided exploring alternatives to minimize and/or mitigate impacts. Means to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to National Register eligible properties will need to be developed and undertaken prior to project implementation.

All phases of the archaeological survey and reporting will need to be in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, and the HPO's *Guidelines for Phase I Archaeological Investigations: Identification of Archaeological Resources and Guidelines for Preparing Cultural Resources Management Archaeological Reports Submitted to the Historic Preservation Office*. These guidelines can be obtained through the HPO's web page at: (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/survarkeo.htm>). If this project requires a Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) permit or Freshwater Wetlands permit issued through the NJDEP's Department of Land-Use Regulation, this undertaking will need to comply with the Phase I archaeological survey and reporting guidelines at N.J.A.C. 7:4-8.4 through 8.5. These guidelines can be obtained through the HPO's web page at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/2protection/njrreview.htm>. Reasoning and documentation for areas excluded from testing must be included in the technical report. Evaluations to determine the National Register eligibility of archaeological sites must be in keeping with the National Park Service's 2000 National Register Bulletin, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties*. The individual(s) conducting the work will need to meet the relevant National Park Service Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeological survey.

If potential human burials or human skeletal remains are encountered, all ground disturbing activities in the vicinity shall cease immediately and the Historic Preservation Office should be contacted, as well as any appropriate legal officials. ~~The potential burials shall be left in place unless imminently threatened~~ by human or natural displacement.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the potential for the above-referenced undertaking to affect historic properties. I look forward to receiving the requested Phase I archaeological survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vincent Maresca of my staff at (609) 633-2395 or [vincent.maresca@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:vincent.maresca@dep.state.nj.us).

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer