



U.S. Army Environmental Command

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 22, 2008

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Army Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Permanent Stationing of the 2/25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. --- The Department of the Army announced today the release of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the permanent stationing of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (2/25th) as a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). The notice of availability for the final EIS is published today in the *Federal Register*.

This final EIS identifies Schofield Barracks Military Reservation in Hawaii as the Army's preferred alternative for the stationing location of this brigade. A Record of Decision document will announce the final location decision no earlier than 30 days from today.

The 2/25th SBCT deployed in November 2007 from Hawaii to support ongoing operations in Iraq and will return to a home station in early 2009.

The final EIS examines several Army installations capable of supporting the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT. It provides the Army's senior leadership with a "hard look" at environmental impacts associated with the proposed action so their decision-making process for selecting the final stationing location will be fully informed. The EIS effort included analysis of all activities (training, facilities construction, and Soldier and Family support) required to permanently station the 2/25th SBCT. In addition, the final EIS identifies strategic deployment as a critical component of the need for the stationing action. Strategic deployment considerations

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for the stationing of the 2/25th SBCT will be evaluated further in the Army's decision-making process and justified in the record of decision.

The Army identified three alternatives for implementing the proposed stationing action as capable of meeting the Army's needs and screening criteria after reviewing the full range of potential Army stationing locations. The alternatives are: (1) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Schofield Barracks Military Reservation while conducting required training at military training sites in Hawaii; (2) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Richardson while conducting required training at military training sites in Alaska; and (3) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Carson while conducting required training at military training sites in Colorado. In addition to these alternatives, the "No Action" alternative was described and its environmental impacts fully assessed and considered.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed stationing action have been considered in the final EIS. The document identifies significant impacts at each of the three alternative locations that would occur as a result of implementing the proposed action. Impacts at alternative sites would result from construction and training activities. Significant impacts to resources would be direct and long term.

Additional concerns or impacts may be identified as a result of comments received on this final EIS. The Army invited full public participation in the environmental evaluation process to promote open communication and better decision making. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT were urged to participate. The public has provided input and comments at scoping meetings and public meetings held at all potential alternative stationing locations for the 2/25th.

Send all written comments and questions concerning this final EIS to: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attention: IMAE-PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401. Telephone: 410-436-2556. Facsimile: (410) 436-1693.

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E-mail comments should be sent to: PublicComments@aec.apgea.army.mil. For further information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-2556 during normal business hours Monday through Friday 9 AM – 5 PM eastern standard time.

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