



U.S. Army Environmental Command

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

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Army Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.--The Department of the Army announced today the availability of a draft programmatic environmental impact statement (DPEIS) that evaluates the potential environmental and socio-economic effects associated with alternatives for growing and realigning the Army's force structure.

The current global security environment has placed considerable demands on the nation's military and has highlighted the need for the Army to correct shortfalls in critical skills and to restructure its forces. The DPEIS examines major Army installations and their ability to support new unit stationing actions in connection with this growth and realignment. The DPEIS will provide the Army senior leadership with an assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with these actions as part of the decision-making process for selecting the final stationing locations for new units.

This effort includes analysis of specific actions which will need to be taken (such as the construction of housing and quality of life facilities, the construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, and changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges) to permanently station new units as part of the Army's overall efforts to grow and realign the force.

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After reviewing a full range of alternative sites, 17 installations capable of supporting the Army's growth and realignment have been evaluated for their ability to support three action alternatives. The installations carried forward for analysis include: Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; Yakima Training Center, Wash.; and Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. Each of these installations could receive 1,000 or more additional Soldiers as part of alternatives being examined.

The three alternatives to grow and realign the Army's force structure evaluated in the DPEIS include: implementing Army force structure modifications between fiscal year 2008 and 2013 to support the Army's modular transformation and Global Defense Posture Review (GDPR) decisions; executing those actions and, in addition, adding approximately 30,000 combat support and combat service support Soldiers to the Active and Reserve Components of the Army to address critical shortfalls in high-demand military skills; and executing both of those actions and, in addition, growing the Army by up to six active duty brigade combat teams. Additional brigade combat teams would be stationed at existing or newly established Army stationing locations within the continental United States. New stationing actions must take place at locations which, if selected, are capable of supporting strategic military and national security considerations.

Decisions from the PEIS will be carried into site-specific analysis at the installation level as required by the National Environmental Policy Act when specific stationing decisions are clearly defined and determined.

The Army invites full public participation to promote open communication and better decision making. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the growth and realignment of the Army's forces and associated stationing actions are urged to participate in this environmental evaluation process. Assistance will be provided upon request to anyone having difficulty understanding how to participate.

The initiation of the 45-day public comment period for the DPEIS will be announced in advance through notices and national and local media news releases. Information on the DPEIS will be posted on the U.S. Army Environmental Command's Web site, www.aec.army.mil, for public access during the public comment period.

Send all written comments and suggestions concerning this DPEIS 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. 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.

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This information is provided by USAEC. USAEC is the Army's point organization for supporting the implementation of environmental programs that facilitate sustainable Army training and operations while protecting the environment. We provide environmental program management and technical support products and services in support of Army training operations, acquisition and sound stewardship.

"Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future"

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