



U.S. Army Environmental Command

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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 supplemental programmatic environmental impact statement (DSPEIS) that evaluates the potential environmental and socio-economic effects associated with alternatives for growing and realigning the Army's force structure to support the operations in the Pacific Theater.

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 DSPEIS examines major Army installations and their ability to support new unit stationing actions in connection with this growth and realignment needed to support operations in the Pacific Theater. The DSPEIS 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 to support operational requirements of the Pacific Theater.

The Army has considered a full range of sites for implementing the Proposed Action. Alternative stationing locations include the major installations the Army considered in its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment (December 2007) as well as four additional installations in Hawaii and Alaska. Additional installations include Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (SBMR), HI; Fort Shafter, HI; Fort Richardson, AK; and Fort Wainwright, AK. Each of these installations could receive additional Soldiers as part of the alternatives being examined.

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The DSPEIS will consider three alternatives to grow, transform, and realign the Army to support operations in the Pacific Theater. These alternatives include: (1) implementing Army-wide modular force and transformation recommendations within US Army Pacific and station approximately 1,500 to 2,500 additional Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers in Alaska and Hawaii; (2) executing those actions and, in addition stationing approximately 1,500 to 2,500 additional Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers in locations capable of supporting Pacific Theater operations; (3) executing both of those actions as well as growing the Army by additional support brigades in locations capable of supporting Pacific Theater mission requirements. Support brigades could include the stationing of an additional Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (570 Soldiers), a Combat Aviation Brigade (2,800 Soldiers), or a Field Artillery Brigade (approximately 1,500 Soldiers). New stationing actions must take place at locations that, if selected, are capable of supporting strategic military and national security considerations.

Decisions resulting from the SPEIS process 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.

A 45-day public comment period begins today with the publication of the document's Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. Information on the DPEIS will be posted on the U.S. Army Environmental Command's web site, aec.army.mil, for public access during the public comment period.

Send all written comments and suggestions concerning this DEIS 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 APGR-USAECPublicComments@conus.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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