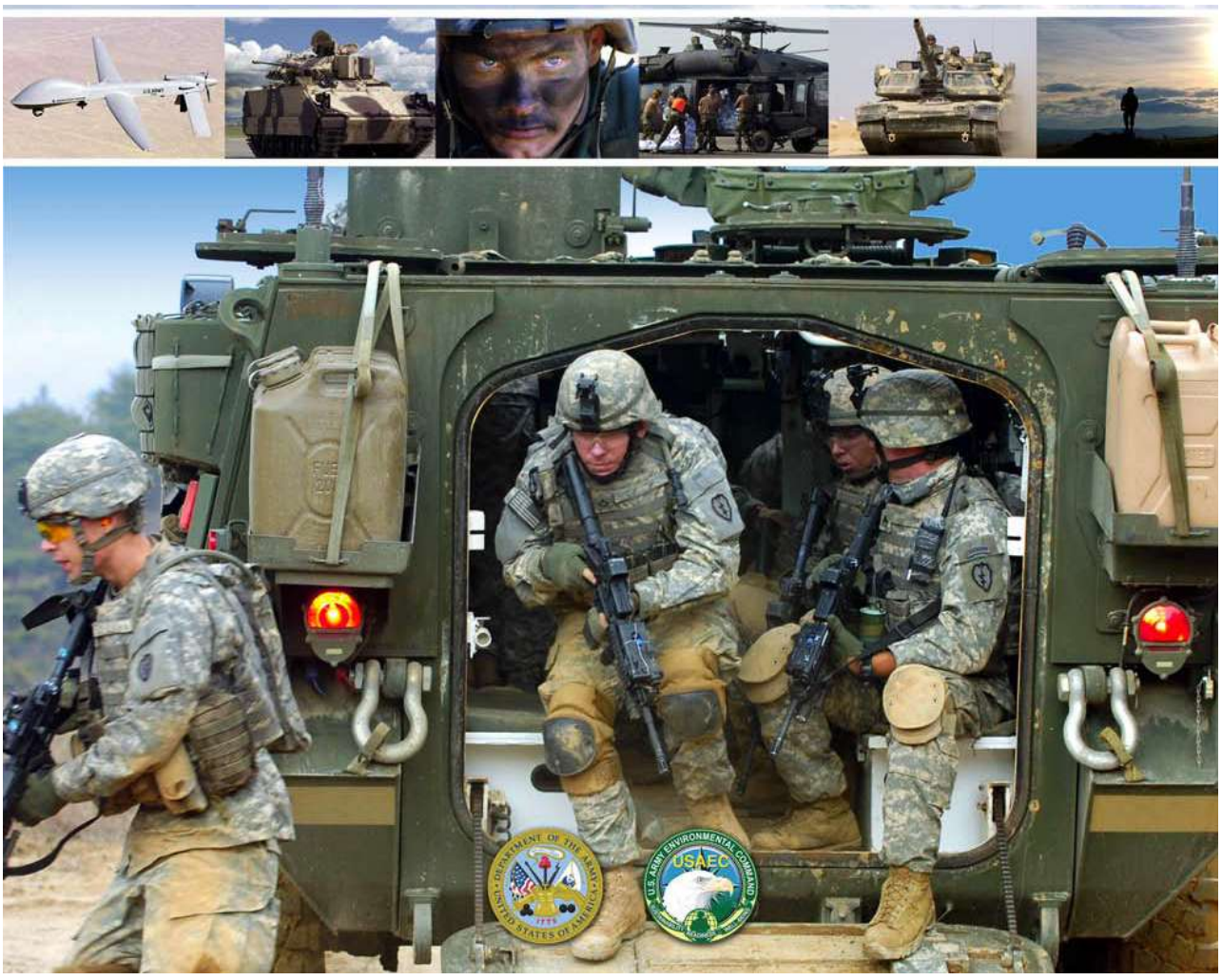
UPDATED RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) FOR ARMY GROWTH AND FORCE STRUCTURE REALIGNMENT

MAY 2010



UPDATED RECORD OF DECISION FOR ARMY GROWTH AND FORCE STRUCTURE REALIGNMENT

Table of Contents

UPDATED RECORD OF DECISION FOR ARMY GROWTH AND FORCE STRUCTURE REALIGNMENT

Executive Summary: As the Army's Director of Force Management, G-3/5/7, I have reviewed the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment. The PEIS adequately evaluates the potential environmental and socio-economic effects associated with the Army's decision to convert a Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) to better match Army force structure with current and future projected mission requirements. The Final PEIS, published on 26 October 2007, is incorporated by reference in this Record of Decision (ROD). Also incorporated by reference is the original ROD signed 19 December, 2007. This ROD explains that the Army will modify decisions made in 2007 to meet better the needs of the Army and adjust to constantly evolving mission requirements. On 6 April 2009, the Secretary of Defense announced that the Army will stop the growth of the Army Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) at 45 versus 48, as originally stated in the 2007 ROD. The Army will maintain the planned increase in end strength of 547,000. This will ensure that the Army continues to have available forces needed to complete its missions.

As part of the 6 April 2009 announcement, the Secretary of Defense announced that the Army would re-evaluate the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program and the ground vehicles associated with that modernization effort. The Army's strategic estimate remains, however, that it will need a robust multi-weight force, composed of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT) augmented with the protection and versatility of both SBCTs and Heavy BCTs. To address these

needs and provide the force with greater versatility, I am announcing the decision to convert an HBCT to an SBCT. The unit selected to convert to an SBCT will be the 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division, or 1/1 AD at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Stryker brigades have already proven their versatility as a medium weight combat vehicle during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Conversion of an additional HBCT to an SBCT will better support Army Transformation by allowing greater operational flexibility while improving the Army's ability to deploy.

1.0 Background

In January 2007, the President asked Congress for authority to increase the overall strength of the Army by 74,200 Soldiers over the next five years. This growth mitigates shortages in units, Soldiers, and time to train that would otherwise inhibit the Army from meeting readiness goals and supporting strategic requirements. In September 2007, the Secretary of Defense approved the Army's proposal to accelerate growth for the Active Component and Army National Guard and in December 2007 the Army issued a final Record of Decision (ROD) for Army growth and force structure realignment.

In 2007, the Army completed a PEIS to analyze the environmental and socio-economic impacts of various force management proposals and stationing alternatives as part of the Grow the Army initiative. The PEIS is of appropriate detail to inform stationing decisions included in this ROD. Further site-specific environmental analysis and planning will be conducted at installations affected by the decisions contained in this ROD. The PEIS and this Record of Decision comply with the requirements contained in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40

CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Army NEPA implementing procedures (32 CFR Part 651).

2.0 Proposed Action

As discussed in the October 2007 PEIS, the Army's Proposed Action is to realign its existing forces and increase its end strength in accordance with Congressional authorizations to a size and configuration that are capable of meeting national defense and security objectives, implementing Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) recommendations, sustaining unit equipment and training readiness, and easing the deployment burden on the Army's Soldiers and Families. This growth will allow the Army to adjust the composition of its forces in order to accomplish Transformation objectives and create additional unit capabilities in high demand military skill areas where current mission requirements exceed manning authorizations. The three major objectives of the Proposed Action and decisions to grow and realign Army forces include:

- **Matching Army Force Capabilities with Mission Requirements.** The Army must be able to meet the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and National Security Strategy (NSS) objectives while implementing recommendations of the QDR and Army Campaign Plan (ACP). The Army will address existing shortfalls and provide capabilities needed to sustain operations in a global security environment of persistent conflict.
- **Sustaining Force Readiness.** Sustaining the force means ensuring the Army consists of enough Soldiers to support operational deployment requirements and home-station training and equipment maintenance activities. Achieving the proper balance of deployments with training and

maintenance activities is critical to ensuring that a professional well-trained and well-equipped force can consistently meet unit readiness standards and successfully accomplish its national defense and security missions.

- **Preserving Soldier and Family Quality of Life and the All Volunteer Force.** The Army must maintain a long-term sustainable balance between operational requirements and Soldier and Family quality of life. A larger supply of available units and Soldiers will allow the Army to establish more sustainable ratios of home-station time versus time spent deployed abroad. This reduces stresses placed on Soldiers and their Families and supports a higher quality of life at home-station. Taking care of Soldiers and their Families is a non-negotiable Army commitment and is essential to the maintenance and preservation of today's high-quality all-volunteer force.

3.0 Alternatives

The Final PEIS evaluated four alternatives in detail: three implementing different levels of Army Growth and Realignment, and a no-action alternative.

Alternative One. Implement Realignments and associated activities between FY 2008-2013 to support the Army's Modular Transformation and GDPR decisions. As part of this alternative most Army installations would experience unit gains through stationing and transfer of units from other installations, unit activations to support modularity, unit losses through deactivations, and transfers of existing units to other installations. These actions are necessary to implement Army Transformation and modular force initiatives.

Alternative Two. Execute those actions discussed in Alternative One and, in addition, add approximately 30,000 Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers to the Active and Reserve components of the Army to address critical shortfalls in high demand military skills. In addition to the growth in Alternative One, the Army would add approximately 20,000 additional Active component and approximately 9,200 Reserve component Soldiers to areas of high demand and critical need. These additional CS/CSS Soldiers would enable high-demand units to achieve higher levels of training and operational readiness while increasing Soldier and Family quality of life. Alternative Two also included the possibility of stationing additional support brigades such as Maneuver Enhancement Brigades (MEBs), Sustainment Brigades, Battlefield Surveillance Brigades (BfSBs), Fires Brigades, and other Multi-functional Support Brigades identified in the PEIS. The impact of stationing these support units at different installations was analyzed under the rubric of CS/CSS units and Full Sustainment Brigades referred to in the PEIS as stationing scenarios 1 & 2. Appropriate impacts for combat support unit and support brigade stationing actions were assessed as belonging to scenario 1 or 2, depending on the total number of combat support Soldiers being stationed at an installation.

Alternative Three (Preferred Alternative). Execute those actions proposed in Alternatives One and Two and, in addition, grow the Army by up to six Active Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs). In addition to the growth and realignment discussed in Alternatives One and Two, the Active component would also add six additional BCTs to its operational combat forces. This would result in the growth of the Army by up to an additional 24,000 Soldiers. The implementation of this alternative would increase the Army's Active component end-strength to a total of 547,400 Soldiers.

No-Action Alternative. Under the No-Action Alternative, stationing moves, unit activations, unit conversions, and unit deactivations required to implement Army Growth and Realignment would not occur. The No-Action Alternative assumes that units will remain stationed where they are currently stationed at the end of Fiscal Year 2007, or where they are directed to be stationed pursuant to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 recommendations. No additional CS/CSS Soldiers or BCTs would be added to the Army.

4.0 PEIS Methodology

The PEIS analyzed the impacts to the human and natural environment attributable to four major activity groups associated with Army growth and realignment. These activity groups included:

- **Garrison Construction**. This activity involves all types of garrison construction activities, including new construction, repair and maintenance of existing facilities, and demolition of existing buildings and facilities.
- **Training Infrastructure Construction**. This activity involves training infrastructure construction activities needed to support unit training. Actions required at the installation include construction of firing ranges, battle command simulation facilities, and training support infrastructure.
- **Live-Fire Training**. This activity involves achieving and maintaining readiness to perform assigned missions through weapons qualification and coordinated live-fire activities.
- **Maneuver Training**. This activity involves conducting maneuver training events in accordance with Army doctrine for individual and collective (unit)

training tasks. Army Doctrine and Unit Commanders define the tasks and frequencies for conducting maneuver training.

Stationing Value Model Methodology. The Army conducted a stationing analysis by developing an objective modeling tool to assess the military value of each installation. The Army began its stationing analysis by utilizing attributes that had been developed to assess Military Value of installations for BRAC 2005. This model, the Military Value Installation Model (MV-I), consolidated important Army mission attributes of stationing locations and assigned numerical weightings to each attribute. The Army used subject matter experts to gather the most current data for each attribute and assess the impact of stationing a particular type of BCT at a specific installation.

The BRAC 2005 MV-I Model used 40 attributes supporting six capabilities to determine the value of an installation. Subject matter experts eliminated attributes not relevant to Army Growth and Realignment and developed additional attributes to assess desired features not captured in BRAC 05 analysis. The Army ultimately produced a list of 12 attributes organized into four capabilities. They are:

- **Training**
  - Maneuver Land
  - Range Sustainment
  - Training Facilities
- **Growth**
  - Buildable Acres
  - Urban Sprawl
  - Connectivity
- **Well Being**
  - Medical Care Availability
  - Family Housing Availability
  - Quality of Life Facilities
- **Power Projection**
  - Deployment Infrastructure
  - Sea Port of Embarkation (SPOE)
  - Air Port of Embarkation (APOE)

Training. Within this capability the Army analyzed and compared available maneuver land to maneuver training land requirements; estimated the operational acres for maneuver and live-fire training that would be restricted for future use; and measured the availability of training facilities to support training and their Army funding priority.

Well Being. Within this capability the Army evaluated on- and off-post medical facilities and their ability to handle growth; evaluated on- and off-post family housing and its ability to meet increased requirements; and evaluated the capacity of specific Soldier and Family support facilities (ex. child development centers and fitness centers).

Growth. Within this capability the Army estimated the amount of acreage available to build upon; projected population density adjacent to the installation; and evaluated the installation's digital communications capability for both hard wired connections and wireless connectivity now and into the near future.

Power Projection. Within this capability the Army analyzed the availability and capability of deployment infrastructure, and measured the installation's proximity to its primary Sea Port of Embarkation (SPOE) and Air Port of Embarkation (APOE).

Before an installation was considered as a BCT stationing alternative, it was given additional screening, which considered factors not used in the stationing analysis model. These factors included findings from the PEIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment which had captured projected social and environmental impacts of Army stationing. In addition, the Army included in its analysis cost factors, and other considerations which were not captured by the modified MV-I assessment.

The PEIS and the Stationing Value Model analysis together provided the Senior Army Leadership with information to evaluate BCT stationing alternatives. Senior Army leaders utilized this information along with their military judgment and knowledge of Army training and operational requirements to make final stationing selections.

Public Involvement. In accordance with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Army regulations (32 CFR Part 651), the Army provided the federal and state agency stakeholders, the public and other interested parties the following notifications and opportunities for involvement during the preparation of this PEIS:

- Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the PEIS was published in the Federal Register (FR) on 16 May, 2007. An announcement of the Army's intent was also published in the *USA Today* newspaper the same week and announced the public scoping period soliciting public feedback on the proposal. Public scoping was held from 16 May – 16 June 2007.
- The Notice of Availability for the Draft PEIS was published on 24 August 2007. An announcement of availability was published in the *USA Today* newspaper during the week of 24-31 August 2007.
- Public review and comment on the Draft PEIS occurred from 24 August - 9 October 2007. The Draft PEIS was available on the Army Environmental Command's website for download and review during this time. Hard copies or digital copies of the document were sent to those who requested copies. Several installations identified for potential growth placed notifications of release of the Draft PEIS in local newspapers and libraries to promote further response and public feedback.

- The Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS was published in the Federal Register on 26 October 2007. The Final PEIS was available on the Army Environmental Command's website beginning 26 October 2007.
- The Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision was published in the Federal Register on 7 January 2008.
- The Notice of Availability of this Record of Decision will be published in the Federal Register. Following its publication it will be electronically posted at www.aec.army.mil the Army Environmental Command's webpage for public access.

The Army used the 2007 GTA PEIS analysis which looked at various stationing scenarios to include SBCT stationing. In addition to the PEIS, the Army coordinated with installation environmental and engineering professionals at each potential SBCT conversion location to determine anticipated impacts from different stationing scenarios. The installation staff assessed the impacts of Army stationing actions for each of the Valued Environmental Components (VECs) listed below:

Valued Environmental Components

Air Quality	Air Space	Cultural Resources
Noise	Soil Erosion	Biological Resources
Wetlands	Water Resources	Facilities
Socio-economics	Energy	Land Use
Hazardous Waste & Materials	Traffic and Transportation	

A broader discussion of environmental impacts to VECs can be found in the Final Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment (October 2007). This Record of Decision summarizes impacts discussed in the PEIS. Not all VECs are discussed in this ROD, as some VECs would not be impacted or only slightly impacted by the SBCT conversions proposed in this ROD. Coordination with installation staff resulted in an update to the discussion;

however, there was not any significant new information to be considered to the decision maker.

5.0 Decision for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment

In the Final PEIS, the Army identified Alternative Three as the preferred alternative. This alternative included implementation of stationing actions needed to carry out Army Modularity and Global Defense Posture Realignment (GDPR), added units and Soldiers to the Army in high-demand Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) skills, and grew the Army by up to six Active component BCTs. Since the ROD was signed in 2007, the Army has reconsidered the results of the analysis described in the PEIS, the Army's stationing value model, supporting studies, and comments provided during formal comment and review periods. Based on this review, the Army has determined that a modified Alternative Three reflects the proper balance among initiatives for the protection of the environment and socio-economic conditions, appropriate mitigation, and actions to achieve Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment. This updated decision retains the growth of the three BCTs discussed in the December, 2007 ROD; one at Fort Carson, Colorado in fiscal year 2008 that had been previously identified for inactivation; one at Fort Bliss in fiscal year 2009; and the third at Fort Stewart in fiscal year 2009. However, this updated decision halts the growth of IBCTs 46, 47, and 48 planned for fiscal year 2011 at Fort Carson, Fort Bliss, and Fort Stewart, respectively. In addition, the Army no longer plans to relocate a brigade to White Sands Missile Range as part of the GDPR.

As part of the decision to modify previous GTA decisions, an HBCT, 1/1 AD, will convert to an SBCT beginning in FY 2011 at Fort Bliss. This decision is based

on an analysis of Army force management requirements and a review of environmental analysis associated with this decision. It is also based on the determination that the Army's needs are best met by transforming an HBCT at Fort Bliss. This is because the HBCT at Fort Bliss is a unit which will have maximum time to implement conversion and train up with new equipment prior to the need to re-deploy. In addition, Fort Bliss is an installation that is capable of providing the SBCT with fully modernized training infrastructure; and it has adequate maneuver space to accommodate SBCT training once the HBCT is converted to an SBCT. For those reasons and the high Soldier and Family quality of life afforded by Fort Bliss, this unit has been selected.

The decision is also based on the Army's strategic estimate that an unpredictable global security environment will require a robust multi-weight force, composed of Infantry BCTs augmented with the protection and versatility of the Stryker BCTs, and armored BCTs. The Army must maintain flexibility with a capacity to accomplish a broad range of tasks across the full spectrum of military operations, from peacetime engagement to major combat operations. The conversion of Heavy Armored Units to SBCTs provides the Army with greater versatility and flexibility to meet future mission requirements and respond better to future uncertainty.

As part of this decision, the Army reviewed and considered the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of this BCT conversion at all HBCT stationing locations with the exception of Fort Benning. Fort Benning was not carried forward for consideration as the HBCT there is needed to support Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE). The conversion of the HBCT at Fort Benning would not support BRAC or Army Transformation. Locations that were considered include: Forts Hood, Bliss, Riley, Carson, and Stewart. The first HBCT to begin conversion to an SBCT will be 1/1 AD at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Elimination of an HBCT at one installation and activation of an SBCT at a different, separate installation was also eliminated from full consideration as part of the Army's decision. For example, eliminating an HBCT at Fort Stewart and standing up an SBCT at Fort Carson or another installation was not considered. Conversion of a heavy armored unit (e.g. an HBCT) to an SBCT at the same location is beneficial because the Army can take advantage of personnel and equipment that is common between these units and a SBCT. The heavy armored unit's vacated facilities would provide most of the facilities required by the SBCT. Establishing an SBCT at another installation would involve building a new brigade set of facilities at that installation, which would greatly increase costs, environmental impacts, and time needed to complete this action. Additionally, due to tight deployment and redeployment cycles of Army combat units, the timing availability of unit deployments was also a critical element of the decision. Conversion of an HBCT to an SBCT at the same installation can be completed within a two year timeframe and allow the unit to be available for deployment again to support Army operational needs.

6.0 Environmental Consequences

Implementation of the Army's modified decision to grow and realign its forces is expected to result in direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment at those stationing locations where the conversion of heavy armored units to an SBCT is selected to occur. The potential for environmental effects at these stationing locations has been conducted by assessing the needs of units for facilities and training which are required for modular SBCT units.

Analysis in the PEIS supports informed decisions providing decision-makers with potential socio-economic and environmental impacts of actions taken to grow and

realign Army forces. The analysis does not provide the fidelity of environmental and socio-economic impact assessment to substitute for site-specific environmental analysis. Site-specific NEPA evaluations will be conducted at installations affected by the Army's implementation of this decision before actions take place to implement the decision at the installation. The projected environmental impacts of converting heavy armored units to SBCTs are based on information in the 2007 PEIS with updates from the installation environmental staff. The review of these updates shows that there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that would require supplementation of the 2007 EIS.

Effects of conversion of an HBCT at Fort Bliss to an SBCT include: an increase of approximately 450 Soldiers; an increase of approximately 110 combat vehicles; a decrease (by more than 200) of tracked vehicles—there will be no tracked vehicles in the SBCT; a decrease of approximately 70 wheeled vehicles and the replacement of approximately 150 120mm and 25mm tank and Bradley main gun weapon systems with 27 105mm Stryker Main Gun Systems. The conversion of the HBCT to SBCT may require some additional construction as SBCTs require additional company operations facilities and an additional battalion operations facility, but exact construction requirements would depend on the installation and unit being selected for conversion and its current facilities authorization. Appendix A outlines additional differences in equipment authorizations between an HBCT and an SBCT.

The anticipated significant and moderate impacts to valued environmental components (VECs) from heavy armored unit conversion to an SBCT are outlined below. VECs that are not outlined in the text below are considered to have no to minimal impacts.

Description of VEC Impact Ratings

None – No impact or minimal impacts are anticipated
Min – Minor impact anticipated
Mod – moderate impact anticipated (less than significant)
Sig – Significant impact anticipated (likely mitigable to less than significant)

VEC	Bliss	Hood	Riley	Carson	Stewart
Air Quality	Min	Min	None to Min	Mod	None to Min
Airspace	None	None	None	None	None
Cultural	Min	Min	Min	Min	Min
Noise	Min	None to Min	Min	Min	Min
Soil Erosion Impacts	Mod	Mod	Min	Mod	Mod
Biological Resources	Min	Min	None to Min	Min	Min
Wetlands	None	Min	None to Min	Min	Mod to Sig
Water Resources	Mod	Min	None to Min	Mod	None to Min
Facilities	None	None to Min	None	Mod	Mod
Socioeconomics	Mod	None to Min	Min	Min	Mod
Energy Demand/Generation	None to Min	None to Min	None to Min	None	None to Min
Land Use Conflict /Compatibility	None to Min	None to Min	Min	Mod	Mod
Hazardous Materials / Waste	None to Min	None to Min	None to Min	Min	Min
Traffic and Transportation	Mod	Min	Min	Mod	Min

Environmental Impacts for conversion of 1/1AD to an SBCT at Fort Bliss:

Fort Bliss

- Moderate impacts anticipated (less than significant)
  - **Soil Erosion** – The number, size, variety and impact of wheeled vehicle maneuver would increase. An SBCT has more combat vehicles which use roads and trails during training much more than HBCT's tracked vehicles. This increased training use would result in more wear and tear on trails and soil erosion coming from these areas. The existing installation road and trail network would require more maintenance and deteriorate more rapidly resulting in increased soil impacts and erosion problems; however, erosion resulting from off road vehicle use would decrease.
  - **Socioeconomics** – School capacity is a concern at Fort Bliss given the large influx of Soldiers expected from GTA and BRAC in addition to other Army actions that are underway. Stationing of the SBCT would involve the addition of approximately 450 additional Soldiers to Fort Bliss. Fort Bliss would continue to work with regional planners to address military growth concerns. While not projected to be a direct moderate impact, taken in concert with other recent Army stationing actions, the impact is projected to be moderate.
  - **Traffic and Transportation** – Off-post traffic would increase slightly but would add to the current traffic conditions and further decrease the level of service in the road network leading to the installation, particularly during peak morning and afternoon travel periods. There would also be minor direct impacts on traffic volume on the installation or off post road networks; however, cumulatively, impacts would be moderate.
  - **Water Resources** – A storm-water construction permit may be needed to identify mitigation strategies to reduce storm-water runoff during and after limited construction that would be needed to support SBCT training. Water conservation measures would continue to be incorporated at the installation to reduce water consumption.
- Minor impact anticipated
  - **Air Quality** – Increased air emissions from military vehicles and generators would be expected, as well as an increase in fugitive dust from SBCT movement on roads and trails; however, these would tend

to remain localized and produce no major impact to regional air quality. Construction and changes to facility operations to support the conversion of an HBCT to an SBCT would be limited as HBCT facilities would be used to support the SBCT with limited new construction the conversion is not expected to result in a sustained adverse impact to regional air quality. Fort Bliss recently conducted a fugitive dust study which demonstrated that on-road training activities do not significantly contribute to particulate matter emissions off post.

- **Cultural** – The conversion of an HBCT to an SBCT would result in a net reduction of impacts to archaeological resources. Observations of SBCT home-station training have shown that vehicles spend more than 90% of their time on roads and trails to take advantage of the vehicles' greater speed and maneuverability compared to less than 50% for HBCT tracked vehicles. This change in maneuver training would lead to a projected decrease in the potential for military training at Bliss to impact existing archaeological resources. Minor impacts would result from the fact that the SBCT would conduct more dismounted training in maneuver training areas than HBCTs, and there is an increased potential for Soldiers to disturb or remove cultural resources on foot.
- **Noise** – There would be minor and also some beneficial noise impacts when converting the HBCT to an SBCT, and in fact overall low frequency high energy noise from large caliber live fire would be expected to decrease. Some residential communities would continue to experience noise impacts from large caliber weapons fire from firing activities of the Stryker MGS and Fort Bliss' other resident units. Noise from gunnery of the approximately 150 HBCT tank and Bradley main guns would be replaced by noise from the firing of the 27 105mm mobile gun systems.
- **Biological Resources** – This scenario would have minor and in some cases beneficial vegetation impacts that could be mitigated by the installation's ITAM program. The SBCT would be conducting training maneuvers proportionately more on roads and trails than the units of the HBCT, reducing overall impacts of cross-country maneuvers on vegetation and soils. It is not anticipated that this level of increased Soldier activity would have an adverse impact on the four listed threatened or endangered species.

Environmental Impacts assessed for other locations considered for SBCT conversion:

Fort Hood

- Moderate impacts anticipated (less than significant)
  - **Soil erosion** – Soils impacts to include surface compaction, reduced infiltration and surface shear of soils and vegetation would likely be reduced with a reduction in off-road maneuver training for a net beneficial impact to soils resulting from the decision; however, more on-road and trail maneuvers of the SBCT would result in moderate impacts on roads and trails due to the increased frequency and percentage of use by SBCT vehicles. Increased use of roads and trails would make them more prone to gullying and subsequent water-based erosion requiring more maintenance to maintain the road and trail network.
- Minor impact anticipated
  - **Air Quality –** Increased air emissions from military vehicles and generators would be expected, as well as an increase in fugitive dust from SBCT movement on roads and trails; however, these would tend to remain localized and produce no major impact to regional air quality. Construction and changes to facility operations would be limited as existing facilities could be used to support the SBCT with limited new construction. The conversion is not expected to result in a long-term adverse impact to regional air quality.
  - **Bio Resources** – The threatened and endangered species recorded on the installation would continue to be managed in accordance with the installation's INRMP and ESMP. The installation would be required to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) either formally or informally, depending on whether a take is anticipated to occur. Fort Hood was able to reduce ESA training restrictions so that only 4.3% of the installation is now restricted for training and development.
  - **Water Resources** – Minor impacts to surface water could potentially result from the need to repair or establish new water crossings. The installation would pursue 404 permits and meet state requirements as identified.

- **Facilities** – The availability of existing facilities and buildable space at Fort Hood would support any limited construction that might be required to support the conversion of heavy armored units to an SBCT. The possibility of increased construction in previously undisturbed land is unlikely; because most facilities would be existing to support the SBCT, facilities impacts and requirements for additional Soldiers are anticipated to be minor.
- **Cultural** – The conversion would result in a projected minor impact to archaeological resources. Changes in maneuver training would lead to a projected decrease in the potential for military training at Hood to impact existing archaeological resources; however, the SBCT would conduct more dismounted training in maneuver training areas, and there is an increased potential for Soldiers to disturb or remove cultural resources on foot. Renovation and rebuilding required to accommodate the SBCT could occur in a historic district. Any such renovation would be coordinated with state SHPO prior to construction.
- **Traffic and Transportation** – Both on the installation and in the local communities, the increase in traffic congestion and accompanying decrease in level of service would be minor. Only minor additional traffic impacts are projected. Additional trail maintenance and trail system evaluation would be conducted to support SBCT maneuver training.

Fort Riley

- Minor impact anticipated
  - **Soil Erosion** – Minor impacts to roads and trails are projected. Impacts would result from the increased number, weight, and mobility characteristics of SBCT vehicles. Roads and trails would likely show the impacts from vehicle maneuvers, turns and traction. Roads and trails would be more prone to erosion and would require more maintenance to prevent gullying and water based erosion. Off-road maneuver training would decrease in training areas; however, there would be increasing persistence of vegetative cover and protection of soils in these areas.
  - **Cultural** – Any construction associated with this action would not likely require that historic buildings be modified. Any facilities

modifications are projected to occur in the Custer Hill area which consists predominately of modern construction. The increased foot traffic resulting from conversion of the HBCT to SBCT during training maneuvers could lead to disturbance or loss of archaeological resources. But, reductions in cross country maneuver associated with HBCT conversion to SBCT would reduce the overall risk of inadvertent damage to archaeological resources. Consultation with all appropriate stakeholders would occur in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act in order to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

- **Land Use** – Facilities and training areas are located in areas that would support compatible land use of an SBCT.
- **Noise** – There would be limited noise impacts and an overall net reduction in main gun firing activities could lead to some beneficial noise impacts. Overall low-frequency high-energy noise from large caliber live fire would be expected to decrease. Some residential communities, however, would continue to experience noise impacts from large caliber weapons fire. Noise from qualifications and gunnery of the 132 120mm M1 tank main gun and 25mm M2 Bradley fighting vehicle would be replaced by noise from the firing of the 27 105mm mobile gun systems.
- **Socioeconomics** – The addition of approximately 450 Soldiers and their Families is projected to have limited minor impacts at Fort Riley. **Traffic and Transportation** – Both on the installation and in the local communities, the increase in traffic congestion and accompanying decrease in level of transportation service would be minor.

Fort Carson

- Moderate impacts anticipated (less than significant)
  - **Air Quality** – Fort Carson is nearing the limits of its Clean Air Act Title V permit for the air pollutant emissions and must work with the state of Colorado to re-evaluate its air emission permit. The stationing of a SBCT in place of an HBCT at Fort Carson could result in more fugitive dust generation as the SBCT would conduct more of its training on roads and trails with a greater number of combat vehicles. Emissions of criteria air pollutants, however, would be reduced because of an overall decrease in use and combustion of fuels. In addition,

stationing of the SBCT's additional 450 Soldiers would be offset by the fact that the Army is no longer stationing the Grow the Army IBCT (approximately 3,450 Soldiers) at Fort Carson that was originally announced as part of GTA.

- **Soil Erosion** – There would be moderate soil erosion impacts on roads and trails and a projected beneficial impact to off-road maneuver areas due to the increased amount of on-road training conducted by the SBCT. Roads and trails would be projected to experience increased impacts over time from the increased ground pressure from the Stryker's maneuvers, turns, and traction. These areas could then be prone to wind and water erosion and gullying from the channeling of surface waters.
- **Water Resources** – Any new construction/land disturbance would require coordination with the storm-water program manager for identification and implementation of mitigation strategies to reduce impacts associated with storm-water runoff during and after construction. In the past few years, Fort Carson has experienced considerable development and increase in impermeable surface area in the cantonment area. Construction to increase the size of the motor pool and other facilities requirements would lead to additional storm water management challenges during peak rainfall events. Impacts are projected to be moderate.
- **Facilities** – Increased numbers of Soldiers and their Families would be reflected through increased facilities usage within the cantonment and training areas. Fort Carson facilities would be heavily utilized. There would be a shortage of Company-level facilities and an increased need for barracks. Fort Carson facilities would be heavily utilized in accommodating several thousand additional Soldiers stationed as a result of BRAC decisions. The Army is predicting moderate impacts.
- **Traffic and Transportation** – The increase in off-post traffic would have a cumulatively moderate impact on traffic in the community overall and would contribute slightly to a decrease in the level of service in the road network leading to the installation. The direct impact to traffic from this action would be minor.
- **Land use** – Building new facilities may require the installation to re-zone existing land uses, or re-use/remodel facilities in areas not

compatible with land uses associated with tactical units. Existing land and/or facilities may not be contiguous and located such that tactical vehicles would need to travel extensively within the cantonment to reach training ranges.

- Minor impact anticipated
  - **Cultural** – There is a potential to affect cultural resources due to the types of equipment, training, and limited construction activities to support the conversion of an HBCT to an SBCT. The increased foot traffic associated with the SBCT training activities could lead to some disturbance or loss of archeological resources; however, these projected impacts on archeological resources would be less than those that would be expected as a result of the off-road maneuvers associated with the HBCT activities. In the event that archeological resources are inadvertently discovered or if SBCT training activities are projected to occur in an area in which these resources are suspected, consultation with the Colorado SHPO, Native American Tribes, and all interested parties would occur as required by the National Historic Preservation Act.
  - **Biological Resources** – The installation would continue to manage its natural resources and potential habitat for the endangered species in accordance with the Installation Natural Resources Management Plan and any conservation measures identified in any Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation documents. No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated.
  - **Noise** – There would be limited anticipated change in noise impacts when converting the HBCT to an SBCT. Overall, low-frequency, high-energy noise from large caliber live fire would be expected to decrease; however, some residential communities would continue to experience noise impacts from large caliber weapons fire. Noise from qualifications and gunnery of approximately 150 120mm M1 tank main guns and 25mm M2 Bradley fighting vehicles would be replaced by noise from the firing of the 27 105mm mobile gun systems. Current noise contours would likely be reduced given the reduction in noise generating large caliber weapons qualification events.
  - **Wetlands** – Minor impacts are anticipated. The construction of additional facilities is not projected to affect wetlands areas and management of training activities would minimize impacts to wetlands.

- **Hazardous Materials/Waste** – Materials used, stored, and handled would not be effected by these decisions. Existing procedures, regulations, and facilities would be able to meet storage, use, and handling requirements. Waste management programs may be updated as needed. The demand for additional storage and disposal capacity would have to be met at the installation.
- **Socioeconomics** – Fort Carson impacts from BRAC actions are already underway, adding to Army-induced cumulative effects. Additional Soldiers from the SBCT would be projected to add to the considerable cumulative socio-economic effects of the implementation of BRAC 2005 at Fort Carson requiring additional coordination with local planning boards and city planners.

Fort Stewart

- Moderate to significant impact anticipated (mitigable to less than significant)
  - **Wetlands** – Construction and training activities necessary to accommodate an SBCT are predicted to result in moderate adverse impacts to wetlands. Impacts to wetlands would be minimized wherever possible, but new construction to support increased facilities requirements of the SBCT (expansion of motor pool, additional operations facilities, etc.) would require some fill and construction in wetlands areas. The Army would pursue the necessary 404 permits and meet state regulatory requirements. Fort Stewart will continue to maintain its specific land management practices to minimize wetland impacts from construction and training.
- Moderate impacts anticipated (less than significant)
  - **Soil Erosion** – The weight and mobility characteristics of Stryker vehicles could cause gullying of soils on trails and range courses making those areas more prone to wind and water erosion. The saturated nature of Fort Stewart's soils would make them more prone to rutting and surface disturbance leading to an increased potential for waterborne erosion. Range course trails and roadways may need to be improved or hardened to help control an increase in soil transport.
  - **Facilities** – There is currently a shortfall of installation facilities to convert HBCT to SBCT. Additional SBCT facilities would be

necessary in the cantonment area and could involve filling wetlands to provide the necessary space.

- **Socioeconomics** – Socioeconomic effects are projected to be moderate; and it is anticipated that the impacts of the conversion of an HBCT to an SBCT would have limited impact on the surrounding community.
- **Land Use** –Building new facilities may require the installation to re-zone existing land uses, or re-use/remodel facilities in areas not compatible with land uses associated with tactical units. Existing land and/or facilities may not be contiguous and may be located such that tactical vehicles would need to travel extensively within the cantonment to reach training ranges.

○ Minor impact anticipated

- **Traffic and Transportation** – Both on the installation and in the local communities, the increase in traffic congestion and accompanying decrease in level of service would be minor.
- **Cultural** –Increased foot traffic associated with the SBCT training activities could lead to some disturbance or loss of archeological resources; however, these projected impacts on archeological resources would be less than those that would be expected as a result of the off-road maneuvers associated with the HBCT activities. Consultation with all appropriate stakeholders would occur in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act in order to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.
- **Biological Resources** – This increase in Soldier strength and changes in training is projected to have only minor impact on the six listed species at Fort Stewart. Stryker vehicles would predominantly utilize existing roads and tank trails and would be predicted to have minimal biological impacts compared to tracked vehicles that go off-road. The installation would continue to manage its natural resources and potential habitat for the endangered species in accordance with the Installation Natural Resources Management Plan and any conservation measures identified in any Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation documents.
- **Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Waste** – The installation would not incur an additional demand for storage and disposal capacity that would have to be met at the local level. Installation guidelines would

need to be updated to reflect the change in mission at Fort Stewart and expanded training activities.

- **Noise** – There would be limited anticipated change in noise impacts when converting the HBCT to an SBCT. Overall, low frequency high energy noise from large caliber live fire would be expected to decrease. Current noise contours would likely be reduced but still have the potential to impact the public, though they could likely be reduced through internal management of training procedures.

7.0 Mitigation Commitments

The PEIS identified four activity groups that were likely to produce environmental and socio-economic impacts at the installations where Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment would occur. Those activity groups were: garrison construction, training infrastructure construction, live-fire training, and maneuver training. Because the estimated potential impacts from these activity groups will vary by installation, identification of specific mitigation measures is not practical. At present, the Army will consider three types of mitigation to minimize the impacts of Army Growth and Realignment.

- **Mitigation in conjunction with site-specific NEPA analyses.** Where appropriate, the Army will conduct site-specific NEPA analyses to evaluate effects of installation actions supporting the preferred alternative. Identification of site- or project-specific mitigation will occur though this process.
- **Adherence to the "sustainable environment" ethic.** The Army will continue to implement sustainability principles in both its extant and future infrastructure and environment and with respect to actions that affect natural resources.

- **Use of best management practices.** The Army will apply best management practices in site- and project-specific planning and execution in order to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the environment and socio-economic conditions.

The Army's decision presented in this ROD is based on national security requirements, strategic factors, mission related considerations, and environmental/socio-economic factors listed in the PEIS. The installations designated to receive new Soldiers and equipment as part of this decision will perform appropriate site-specific NEPA analysis.

Rodney O. Anderson

MG Rodney O. Anderson

12 May 2010

Date

Rodney O. Anderson
Major General, U.S. Army
Director, Force Management G-3/5/7

Appendix A. Unit Equipment and Manning

	SBCT	**HBCT**	**3rd ACR**
Soldiers	Approx. 4200	Approx. 3700	Approx. 3,800
Intelligence, Surveillance, & Reconnaissance			
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)	12	12	17
Vehicles			
Wheeled Support Vehicles	588	659	929
Combat Vehicles	317 STRYKERS (27 Mobile Gun System incl.)	58 M1 Tanks 88 Bradley Fighting Vehicles (M2) 62 other tracked vehicles	123 M1 Tanks 125 Bradley Fighting Vehicles 68 other tracked vehicles
Fires			
155 mm Howitzers	18 (towed)	16 (155 mm tracked vehicles)	18 (155mm tracked vehicles)
120 mm Mortars	36	14	18 (120 mm tracked vehicles)
105 mm Howitzer	**(27 with Mobile Gun System)**	0	

Appendix B. List of Acronyms.

ACP - Army Campaign Plan

ACR - Armored Cavalry Regiment

ACS - Air Cavalry Squadron

APOE - Air Port of Embarkation

ARFORGEN- Army Force Generation

BCT - Brigade Combat Team; H or I BCT refers to Heavy or Infantry BCT

BfSB - Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

BRAC - Base Realignment and Closure

CEQ - Council of Environmental Quality

CFR - Code of Federal Regulation

CONUS- Continental United States

CS - Combat Support (refers to unit function)

CSS - Combat Service Support (refers to unit function)

FCS - Future Combat System

FR - Federal Register

FY - Fiscal Year

GDPR - Global Defense Posture Realignment

GTA - Grow the Army

HBCT - Heavy Brigade Combat Team

IBCT - Infantry Brigade Combat Team

MCOE - Maneuver Center of Excellence

MEB - Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

MV-I - Military Value Installations Model

NDS - National Defense Strategy

NOI - Notice of Intent

NSS - National Security Strategy

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act

OCONUS- Outside of the Continental United States

PEIS - Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

QDR - Quadrennial Defense Review

ROD - Record of Decision

SBCT - Stryker Brigade Combat Team

SPOE - Sea Port of Embarkation

UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service

VEC - Valued Environmental Components