



U.S. Army Environmental Command

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

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Notice of Availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. --- The Department of the Army announced today the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with alternatives for growing and realigning the Army.

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 while restructuring its forces. The Final PEIS examines major Army installations and their ability to support new unit stationing actions in connection with this growth and realignment. It provides the Army's senior leadership with an assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with these actions as well as feedback on the concerns of the public.

This effort includes an analysis of specific actions that 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, the Army evaluated 17 installations for their ability to support three action alternatives identified in the PEIS. The installations carried forward for analysis included: Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; 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 Final PEIS included: (1) Implementing Army force structure modifications between fiscal years 2008 and 2013 to support the Army's modular transformation and Global Defense Posture Review decisions; (2) 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 (3) Executing both of those actions and, in addition, growing the Army by up to six active duty brigade combat teams (BCTs). Additional BCTs 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.

The Army's preferred alternative identified in the Final PEIS is to implement Alternative 3. This alternative allows for full support of the Army modularity initiative by adding the necessary combat support Soldiers to the Army's Active and Reserve components while increasing the size of the Army by six BCTs. Decisions from the Final PEIS will be carried into

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site-specific analysis at the installation level when specific stationing decisions are clearly defined and determined.

The Final PEIS can be accessed through the U. S. Army Environmental Command's Web site at www.aec.army.mil.

Questions on the Final PEIS may be sent 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 the U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC). USAEC manages environmental programs and provides expertise that enables Army training, operations, acquisition and sustainable military communities.

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