NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE STATIONING OF AND TRAINING BY THE
362ND MULTI-ROLE BRIDGE COMPANY AT
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

To Whom It May Concern:

Fort Benning, Georgia, hereby announces the public availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) concerning the establishment of the 362nd Multi-Role Bridge Company (362nd MRBC) at Fort Benning, Georgia. These documents were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Fort Benning proposes to establish facility and training support that would include the addition of 142 military personnel to the existing 36th Engineer Group, administrative and infrastructure improvements at existing facilities, maintenance and motor pool facilities to support an additional 200 pieces of bridge-assembly and rafting equipment, and training areas to support bridging and rafting operations. Proposed training would include assembly of temporary bridges over water and include practice with helicopter transport of bridge equipment and bridging protection training. This training would be accomplished within Fort Benning boundaries at existing training areas, ranges, and ponds; along previously disturbed sites on the Chattahoochee River; and helicopter transport training from Lawson Army Airfield to the landing sites along the Chattahoochee River.

Three alternatives were considered in the EA. Alternative A (the preferred alternative) would:

- use existing facilities at the 36th Engineer Group (ENG GRP) and Installation barracks and housing;
- share but upgrade and improve the current 36th ENG GRP wash rack and maintenance bays;
- construct two new maintenance bays;
- pave with concrete the existing gravel parking area at the rear of the 36th ENG GRP motor pool for equipment storage;
- conduct dry span and still water training within the existing ranges/training areas and at ponds within the training areas that meet the size and operational needs provided above;
- undertake fast water training at Engineer and Bradley Landings which also includes rafting and bridge protection training; and
- practice helicopter transport within Fort Benning boundaries at Lawson Army Airfield and at Engineer and Bradley Landings.

Alternative B would conduct all administrative tasks, maintenance, equipment storage, and dry span and still water training as presented under Preferred Alternative A. However, no fast water training (including bridge protection and helicopter transport) would occur at Fort Benning.

Alternative C (no action) would stand-up the MRBC at Fort Benning but no facilities (i.e., maintenance bays and concretized motor pool) would be constructed to support their stationing. All training (dry span, still water, fast water, and helicopter transport) would occur at other locations in the United States that have yet to be identified. If this alternative were chosen, the training locations will be identified and the appropriate environmental documentation conducted.

The EA evaluates the effects associated with each of the alternatives on soils; water quality (including wetlands); biological resources, including information on wildlife, vegetation, and protected species; land use; recreational resources; socioeconomics (including environmental justice); cultural resources;

hazardous materials and waste; air quality; transportation; public health and safety; noise; protection of children; and visual resources.

The EA and Draft FNSI for the proposed action will be available to the public for a review period of 30 days starting from the first day of publication in *The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.4(e)(1) and Army Regulation 200-2, "*Environmental Effects of Army Actions.*" These documents are available at the following locations, as well as the following website: http://www.benning.army.mil/EMd/_program_mgt legal index.htm.

- W.C. Bradley Memorial Library, located at 1120 Bradley Drive, Columbus, Georgia.
- South Lumpkin Library, located at 2034 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, Georgia.
- Fort Benning Main Post Library, located in Building 93, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed action or request additional information must write to the U.S. Army Infantry Center, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Programs Management Branch (Attention: Mr. John E. Brown), Building 6 (Meloy Hall) Room 310, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122, or call (706) 545-7549.

Sincerely

Craig Taylor
Acting Director of Public Works