PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN,
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA AND ALABAMA

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States Army Infantry Center, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Division, Fort Benning, Georgia, hereby announces the completion and public availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) concerning the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP) on Fort Benning, Georgia. These documents were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The Department of the Army, through regulation AR 200-5, requires all Army installations to prepare an integrated pest management plan (IPMP). An IPMP is an internal Army compliance and management document that integrates all of the installation pest management requirements with ongoing mission activities, allows for ready identification of potential conflicts between an installation's mission and pest management, and identifies the best management practices necessary to protect and maintain the availability of mission essential properties and acreage. After initial technical review and approval, the IPMP will be reviewed annually and revised at least every five years.

Precautions are taken during pesticide application to protect the public, on and off the Installation. Pesticides are not applied outdoors when the wind speed exceeds five miles per hour. No pesticides are applied directly to wetlands or water areas (lakes, rivers, etc.) unless use in such sites is specifically approved on the label and the proposed application is approved by the Environmental Management Division. Whenever pesticides are applied outdoors, whether by manual or aerial means, care is taken to make sure that any spray drift is kept away from individuals, including the applicator. Pesticide application indoors is accomplished by individuals wearing the proper personal protective clothing and utilizing the appropriate equipment.

The proposed action is, therefore, to implement a IPMP that uses an integrated approach to control pests on lands owned or controlled by Fort Benning via the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Environmental Management Division (EMD). The IPMP emphasizes identification, surveillance, education, and non-chemical control techniques. Pesticides are used only as a last resort. The IPMP defines roles and responsibilities for pest management at Fort Benning. It addresses applicable legal requirements and incorporates available "pest management policies" that are consistent with the needs, goals, and objectives of the Fort Benning military mission. The IPMP is a component of the Real Property Master Plan and will be coordinated with Fort Benning's Master Plan and other component plans (e.g., Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Integrated Cultural resources Management Plan).

The EA evaluates the effects associated with the proposed action on soils, vegetation, water quality, wetlands, wildlife, socioeconomics, land use, environmental justice, cultural resources, utilities, noise, air quality, hazardous materials containment/disposal, public health and safety, and the protection of children.

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 part 1501.4 (e)(1) of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Army Regulation 200-2. These documents are available at the following locations, in addition to the following website: www.benning.army.mil/EMD/Legal&PublicNotices.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: Ms. Melissa Kendrick), Building 6 (Meloy Hall) Room 309, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122, or call (706) 545-9878.

Sincerely

Craig Taylor
Deputy Director of Public Works