NOTICE OF
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR UCHEE CREEK CAMPGROUND EXPANSION IN RUSSELL COUNTY
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

To Whom It May Concern:

Fort Benning, Georgia, hereby announces the Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) concerning the Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted for the proposed expansion of Uchee Creek Campground at Fort Benning. The EA and FNSI were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Fort Benning would expand portions of Uchee Creek Campground. Currently, there is a high demand for overnight accommodations at Fort Benning, including camping sites and associated facilities. This demand arises from the growing needs of the Installation, retired and visiting military and their families. The main focus of the Uchee Creek Campground proposed expansion is to develop more recreational vehicle (RV) sites to accommodate the larger, ever more popular RVs, and chalets to help satisfy this demand. The proposed action would provide the facilities and campground areas to support recreational needs of Soldiers, civilians, and their families at Fort Benning and complement existing overnight options at Fort Benning.

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

- Construct 10 chalets, two of which would be completed with additional luxury amenities and are referred to as "honeymoon" chalets;
- Construct 29 RV pull-through sites, completed in two phases;
- Construct one new playground and renovate or refurbishment of others; and
- Operate and maintain RV sites and chalets in a manner consistent with current operating and maintenance procedures at existing campground.

Alternative B would be identical to Alternative A with the exception of an added amenity: a catfish pond would be created from the conversion of an existing 1-acre pond that was used for dredge spoils disposal from Uchee Creek.

For the no-action alternative (Alternative C), no additional recreational facilities would be constructed at Uchee Creek Recreational Area. The existing recreational facilities at Uchee Creek would continue to fail to meet the needs of Fort Benning personnel due to insufficient overnight accommodations.

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.

- Chattahoochee Valley Regional 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 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
Director of Public Works