NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE ARTILLERY FIRING POINT EXPANSIONS & MAINTENANCE OF THE OPEN FIELD TRAINING ENVIRONMENT AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

The United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Benning, Georgia, hereby announces the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed artillery firing point expansions and maintenance of the open field training environment at Fort Benning, Georgia. These documents focus on improvements and long-term maintenance activities to current training assets primarily needed to support the missions and Programs of Instruction of the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade, 75th Rangers, and the Field Artillery units of the Infantry School and the 1-28th Infantry Battalion Task Force, as well as other tenant and/or visiting units' training requirements. These assets include Drop Zones, Helicopter Landing Zones/Pick-up Zones, Observation Points, and Firing Points for Mortars and Howitzer guns, and are generally referred to as the "open field training environment".

The EA and Draft FNSI have been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (NEPA; 42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Army NEPA Regulation (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule, 32 CFR Part 651). Publication of this notice begins a 30-day public review period. The public is invited to review and comment on the EA and Draft FNSI from March 28 to April 27, 2019. Copies of the EA and Draft FNSI may be viewed at the following locations:

- 1. Columbus Public Library
- 2. Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library
- 3. Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Library (Fort Benning)
- 4. Phenix City-Russell County Library

In addition, the EA and Draft FNSI are also posted on Fort Benning's website at <u>http://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/dpw/emd/Legal.html</u>. Written comments concerning this Final EA and Draft FNSI are invited; the comments must be received by April 30, 2019 to ensure consideration prior to reaching any FNSI.

Written public comments should be addressed to:

Fort Benning Environmental Management Division

Written public comments should be addressed to:

Fort Benning Environmental Management Division Attn: NEPA Program Manager 6650 Meloy Drive Building 6, Room 309 Fort Benning, GA 31905-4500

Electronic comments should be submitted to the NEPA Program Manager: Mr. John Brown (john.e.brown12civ@mail.mil).

For further information or to request a copy of the documents, please contact the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Programs Management Branch (Attention: Mr. John E. Brown, NEPA Program Manager) or call (706) 545-7549.

Sincerely,

Craig Taylor

Director of Public Works Fort Benning, Georgia