

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT II FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOOTPRINT REDUCTION PROGRAM, U.S. ARMY INFANTRY CENTER, FORT BENNING CHATTAHOOCHEE AND MUSCOGEE COUNTIES, GEORGIA

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 Supplemental Environmental Assessment II (SEA II) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) concerning the amendment of the Infrastructure Footprint Reduction Program on Fort Benning, Georgia. These documents were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

A US Army Training and Doctrine Command memorandum dated 1 November 1996, directed Installations to support the "Winning the Infrastructure War" initiative via implementation of the Infrastructure Footprint Reduction Program. Rather than incur the expense of maintaining outdated or unusable buildings, these structures would be demolished and their various functions relocated. The directive was implemented on Fort Benning through the development of the Facility Reduction Program. The Facility Reduction Program is a dynamic initiative, with buildings being added to or deleted from the list in accordance with mission demands. An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Infrastructure Footprint Reduction Program on Fort Benning were completed by Environmental Management Division (EMD) in 1997, based on the best available information procurable by Directorate of Public Works (DPW) personnel. Alternative III was selected as the "preferred" action as a result of the EA and FNSI because it offered the most flexibility in disposal methods for demolition wastes generated. The EA analyzed the "No Action/Status Quo" alternative plus two action alternatives: one (Alternative II) involving the construction and utilization of an on-Post facility for the disposal of demolition wastes and one (Alternative III) involving the transport of demolition wastes to an off-Post commercial facility. No comments on this EA and FNSI were received from the public and it was determined that neither of the proposed alternatives would result in potentially significant environmental impacts if proper mitigation and monitoring efforts were followed. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) was prepared in 2002 to address two amendments to the original EA and FNSI. In the interim, some buildings originally identified as proposed for demolition had been deleted from the program list and other buildings not previously identified for demolition had been added to the list. Also, a proposal to reutilize the buildings on the list for firefighter training was evaluated. The demolition of buildings on the Facility Reduction Program list or their reutilization for firefighter training were determined to result in minor adverse effects that were readily mitigated or temporary in nature. The DPW, Master Planning Division revised the Fort Benning Facility Reduction Program list in September 2007, to reflect additions and deletions of buildings proposed for demolition. EMD has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment II (SEA II) to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the newly revised list of buildings proposed for demolition. For the purposes of this document, the proposed action will be referred to as "Revised Alternative III," since it consists of a similar off-Post demolition waste disposal

strategy, but with a different Facility Reduction Program list than the one analyzed in the 2002 SEA and FNSI.

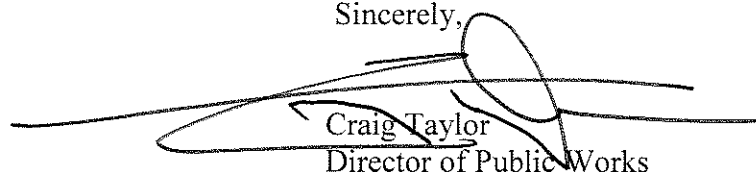
This SEA II is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and Army NEPA regulations (32 Code of Federal Regulations 651). This document consists of an objective appraisal of the potential effects, both negative and positive, of the proposed action and its alternatives on the natural and human environment, as well as an appraisal of the cumulative effects of said actions in a specifically defined region of influence. It also contains discussions of mitigation, monitoring, permit requirements, and findings and conclusions in accordance with NEPA guidelines. This SEA II evaluates the effects associated with the proposed action on soils, vegetation, water quality, wildlife, socioeconomics, land use, environmental justice, cultural resources, utilities, noise, air quality, unexploded ordnance, solid waste/pollution prevention, hazardous/toxic materials/waste containment/disposal, public health and safety, aesthetics, protection of children, and sustainable design and development. The SEA II concluded that implementation of Revised Alternative III would result in no potential for significant environmental impacts if proper mitigation and monitoring efforts were followed.

The SEA II and Draft FNSI for the proposed action have been completed and made 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 NEPA Regulations (32 CFR 651). These documents are available in electronic format on Fort Benning's publicly accessible website www.benning.army.mil/EMD/program/legal/index.htm and in hardcopy at the following local repositories:

- Columbus Public Library, located at 3000 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia. Open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday from 1:30 PM to 6:00 pm. (706) 243-2669
- South Lumpkin Library, located at 2034 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, Georgia. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. (706) 683-8805
- Fort Benning Sayers Memorial Library, located in Building 93, Fort Benning, Georgia. Open Monday through Thursday from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 pm to 6:00 pm. (706) 545-4911

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 Brent, Division Chief, Building 6 (Meloy Hall), Room 307, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122, or call (706) 545-2180.

Sincerely,



Craig Taylor
Director of Public Works