

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CORRECTED FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF A SHOPPING CENTER,
FORT BENNING, 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 Corrected Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) concerning the construction of a shopping center on Fort Benning, Georgia. These documents were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) propose to construct a new shopping center for use by authorized individuals at Fort Benning. The proposed action would consist of construction and operation of a shopping center containing a main store, MCSS and a food court including an Anthony's Pizza, Robin Hood Deli, Burger King, Taco Bell, Church's Chicken, Manchu Wok, Charley's Grilled Subs, A & W, and Baskin Robbins. Services would include a barber shop, beauty shop, pharmacy, alterations shop, optometrist/eye care office, flower shop, one-hour photo store, nutrition center, shoe store, amusement arcade, beauty supply, collectibles, roving concessions, category enhancer, and local artisan.

New construction would consist of reinforced concrete slab/foundation with masonry/metal stud exterior walls, steel structure and built-up partitions, AAFES-provided shelving, suspended ceilings and recessed energy-efficient lighting. Exterior support would include required utilities, communications, paving, walks, curbs, storm drainage, site improvements, electrical, mechanical, and fire protection for a complete and usable facility. Only AAFES-authorized patrons would use the facility. These patrons are primarily active duty and retired military personnel, their family members, and certain categories of reserve military personnel.

The EA evaluated the effects associated with the proposed action on soils, vegetation, water quality, 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.

An interim draft of the EA and FNSI for the proposed action were erroneously presented to the public for review from 12 January through 11 February 2005; a notice of availability (NOA) of these documents was also posted in "The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer" during this time, in accordance with part 1501.4 (e)(1) of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and 32 CFR part 651 (Army Regulation 200-2). The documents were available at the Columbus Public Library, South Lumpkin Library, Fort Benning Main Post Library, and on the Installation website. The NOA was also mailed to all agencies/individuals/organizations on the distribution (mailing) list for the proposed action. It should be noted that all comments received during the previous public review period were received and evaluated during the completion of this Corrected Final EA.

The corrected Final EA and draft FNSI are now available for public and stakeholder review and will be at the aforementioned libraries and on the Installation website (https://www-benning.army.mil/EMD/_program_mgt/legal/index.htm) starting 30 days from the first date of publication in "The Columbus Ledger Enquirer". The NOA will also be re-distributed to all parties on the distribution (mailing) list and, when final, the resulting comments will be incorporated into the Final FNSI.

At this time, 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 310, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122, or call (706) 545-9878.

Sincerely

Craig Taylor
Acting Director of Public Works