



ABOUT TONIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING

for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Analyzing the Potential Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss

Welcome! The U.S. Army has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of the Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment (GFS) at Fort Bliss. The GFS Draft EIS tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment (GTA PEIS), for which a Record of Decision was signed in December 2007. That Record of Decision called for stationing of two Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs) at Fort Bliss which, over the next five years, will leverage training infrastructure and the considerable range modernization that is taking place at Fort Bliss.

The GFS Draft EIS also analyzed the impacts of the May 11, 2009 Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) modernization plan, which would result in the stationing and training of up to two Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs) at Fort Bliss. Considering the four Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (HBCTs) that are already stationed at Fort Bliss as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), up to eight BCTs could be stationed at Fort Bliss. Over the long term, this would allow Fort Bliss to continue to support the evolving operations, infrastructure, training, and testing requirements of the Army.

The proposed action is to implement land use changes and training infrastructure improvements to support Army Transformation, Modularity, and the Army Campaign Plan initiatives. Alternatives to implement the proposed action were developed in internal scoping meetings with the Fort Bliss Garrison, Installation Management Command - West Region (IMCOM-W), and U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) staff. These alternatives were grouped into three categories: Category 1, stationing and training alternatives; Category 2, land use changes alternatives; and Category 3, training infrastructure improvement alternatives. All three categories include a No Action alternative.

The U.S. Army requests comments from the public and other interested parties regarding the GFS EIS analysis. All members of the Federal, state, and local agencies, general public, and Tribes are invited to take part in this process by commenting on the GFS Draft EIS. The comments received through public meetings and written comments will be used in the preparation of the GFS Final EIS.

Purpose of Tonight's Public Meeting

Tonight you will learn about the action alternatives considered at Fort Bliss that have the potential to impact the natural and human environment in and around Fort Bliss resulting due to the addition of military units, new facility construction, and different military uses of the Fort Bliss Training Complex.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the GFS Draft EIS, the impacts of the alternatives and to collect your comments on the draft document. You may provide comments regarding the potential impacts of training the two IBCTs and stationing and training of two SBCTs; but the impacts of up to six BCTs stationed and training at Fort Bliss were already analyzed in the 2007 Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico Mission Master Plan Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement or SEIS. The most valuable input you can provide today is on the potential impacts associated with the Stationing and Training, Land Use Changes, and Training Infrastructure Improvement categories of alternatives analyzed in detail within the GFS Draft EIS that is currently available for public review and comment.

AGENDA

6:00 – Welcome and Sign-In

6:30 – Presentation on Draft EIS

7:00 – Poster Session

7:30 – Verbal Public Comment Period



ABOUT TONIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING

for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Analyzing the Potential Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss

Meeting Format

This meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a brief presentation about the GFS Draft EIS. Following the presentation will be an informal poster session for approximately 30 minutes. We will then reconvene to receive verbal comments about the GFS Draft EIS. Poster stations are set up in the meeting area to provide you additional information. At each station, subject matter experts from the project team are available to answer your questions. The poster stations are: Welcome/Sign-In

- Description of Alternatives and Resources Analyzed
- Key Findings of the GFS Draft EIS
- Schedule for Completion of the GFS EIS

Providing Your Comments

Following the poster session, we encourage you to comment on the GFS draft EIS. There are several ways you can provide comments. All methods are equally considered, and all are included in the public record. In order for your comment to be part of the public record and considered in development of the GFS Final EIS document, you must submit your comment through one of these methods:

- **Written Comment Forms** – Comment forms are provided for you to write your comments today if you wish. If you prefer, you may take a comment form with you and return it by regular mail or email.
- **Verbal Comments Tonight** – If you prefer to provide oral comments tonight, we ask that you stay to do so after the poster session. A court recorder is available and will transcribe your verbal comment for inclusion in the public record just like a written comment.
- **Email** – If you would like to comment on the project via email, you may send comments to John Barrera at bliss.EIS@conus.army.mil.
- All comments must be postmarked or received no later than Tuesday, December 29, 2009.
- For further information, please contact Ms. Jean Offutt, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office; IMWE-BLS-PA; Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812; Tel: (915) 568-4505; email: jean.offutt@us.army.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to participate tonight!