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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY GARRISON COMMAND  
1733 PLEASANTON ROAD  
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916-6812

October 2006



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

IMSW-BLS-Z

Dear Interested Party:

The enclosed Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and separate cover sheet and signature page are provided for your review and comment. Please retain the cover sheet and signature page as a part of your DSEIS. This DSEIS supplements the *Final Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico, Mission and Master Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)* dated December 2000 and associated Record of Decision signed in 2001. This DSEIS identifies environmental effects that would result from modifying land and airspace use at Fort Bliss to continue supporting evolving changes in missions and units, associated facilities and infrastructure, and training activities and support Army Transformation, Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy, Base Closure And Realignment (BRAC), the Army Campaign Plan and other Army initiatives.

The Proposed Action would change land use in the Main Cantonment to support units assigned to Fort Bliss under BRAC and other initiatives, and in the Fort Bliss Training Complex to support construction of live-fire ranges and off-road maneuver space needed to train soldiers to doctrinal standards. In addition to the Proposed Action, the DSEIS analyzes the environmental affects of three other action alternatives and a no action alternative.

The action alternatives differ in the amount (216,000-352,000 acres) and location of land in the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range proposed for off road maneuver, resulting in varied abilities to meet the defined need for maneuver training, accommodate units and missions in addition to the BRAC package, and flexibility to meet future requirements. Those portions of McGregor Range outside the Tularosa basin, specifically Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountain foothills, will not experience changes in land use.

Changes in land use in the Main Cantonment are necessary to accommodate the increase in military personnel associated with BRAC decisions and other initiatives.

The public comment period for this Draft SEIS will end December 12, 2006. Public meetings for the purpose of receiving comments on this Draft SEIS will be in Alamogordo and Las Cruces, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. Additional details will follow in the media or you may contact the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office at (915) 568-4505. Public Comments received on the Draft SEIS will be addressed in the Final SEIS and considered by the Army in its Record of Decision.

Your written comments may be sent by mail to Mr. John F. Barrera; IMSW-BLS-Z; Fort Bliss, Texas, 79916-6812; or via fax: (915) 568-3548; or email: [SEIS@bliss.army.mil](mailto:SEIS@bliss.army.mil).

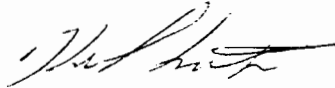
This Draft SEIS, the PEIS and other environmental documents are available on the Fort Bliss web site <https://www.bliss.army.mil>. A CD with the PEIS is included in the mailing. This SEIS is also available upon request to the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office or Mr. Barrera at the above addresses.

In addition, archeology and natural resources reports are available in Alamogordo, NM at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Avenue, in Las Cruces, NM, the New Mexico State University Zuhl Library at 2999 McFie Circle, and in El Paso, TX at the Clardy Fox Branch Library., 5515 Robert Alva

Fort Bliss will host a field trip to the areas in the Tularosa Basin proposed for off-road maneuver. Details of times and locations will also follow in the media or you can contact the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office at (915) 568-4505.

The Army appreciates your participation in the development of this Draft SEIS through the scoping and consultation process and looks forward to your continued participation in the development of the Final SEIS.

Sincerely,



Keith Landreth  
Director  
Directorate of Environment  
Fort Bliss Garrison Command

Enclosures

**Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement  
Draft SEIS**

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**COVER SHEET**

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Army, Installation Management Agency

**Title of Proposed Action:** Changes to the Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico, Mission and Master Plan

**Location:** Fort Bliss is located in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana and Otero Counties, New Mexico

**For Further Information Contact:**

Mr. John Barrera, NEPA Manager  
Directorate of Environment  
Bldg. 624, Pleasonton Road  
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812  
Telephone: (915) 568-3908

**Designation:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)

**Abstract:** This Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), addresses the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed land use changes on the Fort Bliss Training Complex and Main Cantonment Area to determine how Fort Bliss can accommodate U.S. Army initiatives such as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS). The initiatives seek to locate a Heavy Armor Division Headquarters comprised of four Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), a Combat Aviation Brigade, an Artillery Brigade and various other supporting units at Fort Bliss. To support these units, additional infrastructure and facilities including live-fire and qualification ranges will need to be constructed. The changes will also result in an increase of approximately 20,000 to 30,300 military personnel assigned to Fort Bliss. Five alternatives have been identified four of which involve expanding the Main Cantonment Area and providing off-road vehicle maneuver training on portions of McGregor Range in the Tularosa Basin. None of the alternatives permit off-road vehicle maneuver on Otero Mesa or in the Sacramento Mountains foothills on McGregor Range. The fifth alternative, the No Action Alternative, is not considered feasible because it would not adequately support the requirements of BRAC. Significant environmental impacts resulting from expanding off-road vehicle maneuver training into the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range and increasing maneuvers in the North and South Training Areas would likely include increased wind and water erosion and long-term changes in vegetation communities especially in the more intensely used training areas. Training related noise is also expected to increase in areas adjacent to Doña Ana Range and portions of McGregor Range. Additional impacts that could prove significant to the overall El Paso area include an increase in population growth and development which will affect air quality, increased traffic congestion, and increase in the demand for utilities and other public services.

**Comments can be submitted to the above contact address postmarked through:**

**12 December 2006**

**Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico  
Mission and Master Plan**

**Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

**PREPARED FOR:**

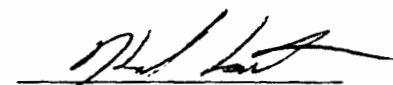


Robert T. Burns  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Garrison Commander  
Fort Bliss, Texas

SEP 22 2006

Date

**REVIEWED BY:**

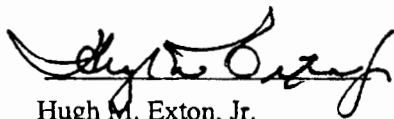


Keith Landreth  
Director of Environment  
Fort Bliss, Texas

Sept 22 2006

Date

**APPROVED BY:**



Hugh M. Exton, Jr.  
Director  
SWRO, Installation Management Agency

9/29/06

Date

**APPROVED BY:**



John A. Macdonald  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Director  
Installation Management Agency

5 Oct 06

Date