

**Barbara A. Carmichael,**

*Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Board of Visitors Meeting

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Board of Visitors will hold a meeting on June 4, 1998 at 8:00 a.m. on the First Floor Conference Room, 363 Training Squadron, Bldg. 1025, Missile Road, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The meeting will be open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss academic policies and issues relative to the operation of the CCAF. Agenda items include a review of the operations of the CCAF and an update on the activities of the CCAF Policy Council.

Members of the public who wish to make oral or written statements at the meeting should contact 1st Lt Cornel Taite, Designated Federal Officer for the Board, at the address below no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 25, 1998. Please mail or electronically mail all requests. Telephone requests will not be honored. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of the presentation materials must be given to 1st Lt Cornel Taite no later than three days prior to the time of the board meeting for distribution. Visual aids must be submitted to 1st Lt Cornel Taite on a 3 1/2" computer disc in Microsoft PowerPoint format no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 25, 1998 to allow sufficient time for virus scanning and formatting of the slides.

For further information, contact Lieutenant Cornel Taite, (334) 953-7322, Community College of the Air Force, 130 West Maxwell Boulevard, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 36112-6613, or through electronic mail at cotaite@max1.au.af.mil.

**Barbara A. Carmichael,**

*Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Environmental Assessment and Finding of no Significant Impact for the Realignment of Missions and Personnel at Fort Meade, Maryland

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Public Law 101-510, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended relocating the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) from Fort Holabird, Maryland, to a new facility to be built on Fort Meade, Maryland, and closing the leased space at Crown Ridge in Fairfax County, Virginia, and relocating the Information Systems Software Center (ISSC) to Fort Meade. ISSC has two component elements, the Software Development Center-Washington (SDC-W) and the Executive Software Systems Directorate (ESSD). The Commission also recommended realigning Fort Meade by eliminating inpatient services at Kimbrough Army Community Hospital (KACH) and reducing the facility to a clinic and outpatient surgical center.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) examined the proposed transfer of personnel and missions to 445 civilian and 67 military positions and Form 71 civilian and 57 military positions at Fort Meade, Maryland. Plans for relocation include construction of a new facility for the DIS in the Central Administrative Area and renovation of a portion of Pershing Hall to house the ISSC elements of SDC-W and ESSD. This allows for construction of DIS in a developed area and collocates the two ISSC functions in the same building, enhancing mission effectiveness.

No significant adverse impacts are anticipated from any of the alternatives analyzed in the EA. All of the alternatives, including the Army's preferred alternative, could result in some minor adverse impacts that can be avoided or minimized. Minor adverse impacts may occur in the areas of noise, stormwater, soil, traffic and transportation, and asbestos and lead-based paint management. Noise will be minimized by limiting construction hours. Stormwater and soil erosion control plans will minimize impacts to water resources. Asbestos and lead-based paint, if encountered during renovation, will be removed, encapsulated, or disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws. Additionally, the Fort Meade

Transportation Master Plan will reduce impacts on traffic. Unsuitable soil, wetlands and cultural resources are present only on the DIS Alternative B site and would be avoided if that site were selected. Section 106 consultation with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office has been completed for the preferred alternative sites.

Therefore, based on the analysis found in EA, which was incorporated into the Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), it has been determined that implementation of the proposed action will not have significant individual or cumulative impacts on the quality of the natural or the human environment. Because no significant environmental impacts will result from implementation of the proposed action, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

**DATES:** Public comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 1998. The Army will not initiate the proposed action for 30 days following completion of the EA and publication of this Notice of Availability.

**ADDRESSES:** Individuals wishing to review the EA may obtain a copy and may provide comments during this 30-day period by writing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Ms. Maria de la Torre (CENAB-PL-E), P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715 or by sending a telefax to (410) 962-4698. Individuals wishing to review the EA may examine a copy at the following locations: Fort George G. Meade Library, Building 4418, Fort Meade, Maryland; and the Provinces Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, Maryland.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I,L&E).*

[FR Doc. 98-13723 Filed 5-21-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Release of the Notice of Availability on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) on the Disposal and Reuse of Fort Ritchie, Maryland

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed action evaluated by this Final EIS is the disposal of Fort Ritchie, Maryland, in accordance with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510.

The EIS analyzes the environmental consequences of the disposal and subsequent reuse of the 638 acres comprising Fort Ritchie. Two disposal alternatives were analyzed: (1) The No Action Alternative, which entails maintaining the property in caretaker status after closure; and (2) the Encumbered Disposal Alternative, which entails transferring the property to future owners with Army-imposed limitations, or encumbrances, on the future use of the property. Additionally, the Final EIS analyzes the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of three reuse alternatives: (1) Low Intensity Reuse Alternative; (2) Low-Medium Intensity Reuse Alternative; and (3) Medium Intensity Reuse Alternative. Disposal alternatives were developed by the Army. Reuse alternatives were developed by the Fort Ritchie Local Redevelopment Authority. The resources areas evaluated for potential impacts by the proposed action (disposal) and the secondary action (reuse) include: Land Use; Climate; Air Quality; Noise; Geology, Soils, and Topography; Water Resources; Infrastructure; Hazardous and Toxic Substances; Biological Resources and Ecosystems; Cultural Resources; Legacy Resources; Sociological Environment; Economic Development; Quality of Life; Installation Agreement, and Permits and Regulatory Authorizations. The Army's preferred alternative for disposal of Fort Ritchie is disposal with encumbered title on all Fort Ritchie property transfers. An encumbrance is any Army-imposed or legal constraint on the future use or development of the property. Encumbrances support future Army interests, regulatory and statutory compliance, promote continued protection of sensitive resources to foster environmentally sustainable redevelopment, hasten availability of property, or provide mitigation requirements. Encumbrances determined relevant in the EIS to disposal of Fort Ritchie relate to wetlands, historical resources, threatened and endangered species, utilities easements, easements and rights-of-way, access easements, utility interdependencies, remedial activities, and lead-based paint. Property will be remediated as appropriate and retained in caretaker status until transfer by encumbered title.

The Army proposes to make the 638 acres available for conveyance to, and subsequent reuse by, the Fort Ritchie Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA). **COPIES:** Comments received on the Draft EIS have been considered and responses

included in a document dated January 1998. This document, together with the Draft EIS dated July 1997, constitute the Final EIS. Copies of the January 1998 document, along with the July 1997 Draft EIS, will be available for review at the following locations: Adams County Library, Gettysburg, PA; Alexander Hamilton Library, Waynesboro, PA; Blue Ridge Summit Library, Blue Ridge Summit, PA; C. Burr Artz Central Library, Frederick, MD; Robert F. Barrick Library, Fort Ritchie, MD; and the Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

**DATES:** Written public comments and suggestions received within 30 days of the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability for this action will be considered by the Army during final decision making.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the January 1998 document and the July 1997 Draft EIS, together which constitute the Final Impact Statement, may be obtained from, and comments provided to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Mr. Clifford Kidd (CENAB-PL-EM), Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, or by calling direct to (410) 962-3100.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I,L&E).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Availability and Public Hearings for Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Development/Northstar Project, Beaufort Sea, Alaska

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.), the Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Minerals Management Service (MMS); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); and the North Slope Borough as cooperating agencies, is issuing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

for oil and gas development activities within the Northstar Unit in the Beaufort Sea, Alaska.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS, draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, or draft 1422 Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit will be accepted during the public review period, beginning June 1, 1998 and ending July 30, 1998. All written comments on the DEIS and related federal permits and approvals should be sent to the Alaska District Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch no later than July 30, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the DEIS including appendices, or information on matters pertaining to this notice can be obtained on request from: Ms. Terry Carpenter, Project Manager, Alaska District Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898, fax (907) 753-5567.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 1. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) proposes to develop and produce oil and gas from the Northstar Unit, located between 2 and 8 miles offshore of Point Storkersen in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea. Oil and gas drilling, processing, and production is proposed to be located at Seal Island, a manmade gravel island built during the 1980s. BPXA's proposed project includes reconstructing and enlarging Seal Island and directionally drilling production, gas injection, and disposal wells from the island. Transportation of oil and gas would be by buried subsea pipelines from Seal Island to shore and above-ground pipelines from the shore to onshore facilities and the beginning of the TransAlaska Pipeline System (TAPS) at Pump Station 1.

2. Because this project represents the first development of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas resources in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea, the DEIS addresses a range of potentially applicable technologies and development/production options and provides useful information to evaluate future development proposals.

3. Analysis of these options for the Northstar reservoir resulted in identification of 4 action alternatives for development/production of oil and gas from the Northstar Unit. The DEIS evaluates the impacts of the 4 action alternatives and a no action alternative, and identifies an environmentally preferred alternative.

4. The DEIS consists of 4 volumes, with an additional 3 volumes of appendices (A-Project Description; B-Biological Assessment; C-J-other