

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Mission and Master Plan, Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS). The DPEIS assesses the potential environmental impacts of the approval of revisions to components of the Fort Bliss Real Property Master Plan and adoption of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, and the Training Area Development Concept, as well as modifies the general land use plan to increase the availability of controlled access field training sites in the Fort Bliss Training Complex.

DATES: The public comment period for the DPEIS will end 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the DPEIS, contact Vicki Hamilton, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Directorate of the Environment, ATTN: AZC-DOE-C (PEIS), Building 624 North, Pleasanton Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicki Hamilton at (915) 568-2774, or e-mail PEIS@emh10.bliss.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The alternatives to no action (continuation of current mission, land use and management) considered in this DPEIS are:

a. *Alternative 1:* Incorporates the current missions assigned to Fort Bliss as described in the no action alternative. Alternative 1 is to adopt recent updates to components of the Fort Bliss Real Property Master Plan (the Long-range Component, Short-range Component, and informal modifications to the Mobilization Component). In addition, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan and the supplement to the Long-range component with a definitive land use plan for the Fort Bliss Training Complex presented in Chapter 3.0 (Current Conditions) of the Training Area Development Concept would be adopted. Adoption of these plans would authorize the steps leading to program

and appropriate project implementation as described in the DPEIS.

b. *Alternative 2:* Adopts the general land use plan for increasing the availability of controlled access field training sites on the Fort Bliss Training Complex in addition to actions in Alternative 1. If adopted programatically, evaluation of proposed specific sites will be accomplished in a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) that may be tiered off of the Final PEIS that follows this DPEIS.

c. *Alternative 3:* Adopts the general land use plan for conceptual uses of the Fort Bliss Training Complex presented in Chapter 4.0 (Future Development Concept) of the Training Area Development Concept in addition to actions in Alternatives 1 and 2. If approved programatically, evaluation of specific projects proposed in the future will be accomplished under the NEPA. The document includes analyses of the environmental consequences each alternative may have on land use, infrastructure, airspace, earth resources, air quality, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, safety, hazardous materials and items of special concern, socioeconomic, and environmental justice. The findings indicate that potential environmental impacts from each alternative may include changes to land use, increased soil erosion, slight impacts to biological and cultural resources, and cumulative impacts to water resources. Improved management practices are anticipated under Alternatives 1, 2 and 3. The level of land use may increase under Alternatives 2 and 3.

A public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments on this DPEIS will be in El Paso, Texas; and Las Cruces and Alamogordo, New Mexico. Additional detail will follow in the media, or contact the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office at (915) 568-4505. Public comments received on the DPEIS will be addressed in the Final PEIS and considered by the Army in its Record of Decision.

The revised Long-range Component of the Fort Bliss Real Property master Plan, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, and the Training Area Development Concept are available for review in the following libraries: (1) El Paso Public Library main Library, 501 North Oregon Street, El Paso, TX 79901, (2) Irving Schwartz Branch, El Paso Public Library, 1865 Dean Martin Drive, El Paso, TX 79936; (3) Westside Branch, El Paso Public Library, 125 Belvidere Street, El Paso, TX 79912; (4) Library,

Dell City, TX 79837; (5) University of Texas at El Paso, Library, 500 West University Avenue, El Paso, TX 79968; (6) Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM 88001; (7) Library, 920 Oregon, Alamogordo, NM 88310; (8) New Mexico State University Branson Library, Frenger at Williams, Las Cruces, NM 88003; (9) New Mexico State University, Roswell, Library, 52 University Boulevard, Roswell, NM 88202-6000; (10) Library, 20 Curlew Place, Cloudcraft, NM 88317-9998.

Dated: August 12, 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****Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Changes to Utilization of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This notice of availability announces the public release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). The Draft EIS is programmatic in nature and discloses impacts associated with direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action under a range of alternatives. New missions and programs require land use changes and construction of new facilities and military ranges. Examples of changes to YPG's mission that may result in this action include: combat systems testing, troop training, and private sector use of facilities. Activities to support this action include modernization of outdated facilities, improvements to infrastructure, installation of utilities, and land use changes. An environmental assessment prepared to evaluate the effect of the Installation Master Plan determined that significant effects were likely to result from these changes.

DATES: Written public comments received within 45 days of the date of publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: To receive a copy of this Draft EIS, or to submit comments, contact: Directorate of Environmental Sciences, STEYP-ES-C (ATTN: Mr.