

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Name of the Proposed Action: Environmental Assessment for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle at Training Areas not Previously Analyzed, United States (U.S.) Army Garrison, Fort Bliss, Texas

Description of the Proposed Action: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bliss, Texas, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the operation of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) Family of Vehicles (FoV) in established training areas at Fort Bliss. The Army previously analyzed JLTVs in a Programmatic EA prepared in 2015 (U.S. Army, 2015) and analyzed other light vehicle operations within the Off-Road Light Vehicle Maneuver areas in the Grow the Force Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (U.S. Army, 2010). The Army currently operates the JLTV FoV at Fort Bliss but are unable to be operated on any Fort Bliss training complex (FBTC) light tactical maneuver areas.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide adequate training opportunities for the JLTV at Fort Bliss. The Proposed Action is needed to fulfill capability gaps identified by the Army at Fort Bliss.

Environmental Consequences: The Draft EA assessed potential environmental impacts on the following valued environmental components: land use; cultural resources; biological resources; geological and soil resources. Through implementation of best management practices there would be no significant impacts on the environment if the Proposed Action were implemented. Best management practices include coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management to coordinate relevant operation details to hunters and nearby residents; continuing to implement the Programmatic Agreement and its Standard Operating Procedures to minimize adverse effects to historic properties and continuing consultation with Tribes; taking measures to prevent potential damages to biological resources and implementing vehicle cleaning procedures to reduce invasive species; implementing appropriate surface water and erosion control measures and maintenance of access roads.

Public Review: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bliss, Texas, invited members of the public to comment on the Draft EA prior to document finalization from September 17 – October 17, 2022. Hard copies of the Draft EA were made available to the public at the following information repositories:

- Las Cruces: Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001;
- El Paso: El Paso Public Library Richard Burges Branch, 9600 Dyer St C, El Paso, Texas 79924; and
- Alamogordo: Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Avenue, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310.

This document was also made available electronically on the Fort Bliss environmental website: <https://home.army.mil/bliss/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental>

Following the 30-day review period, the Army addressed all relevant comments received. The EA did not identify significant impacts.

Conclusion: Based on the information and analysis presented in this EA and on the guidelines for determining the significance of proposed federal actions in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.27 and Army guidelines under 32 CFR 651, and review of public agency comments submitted during the 30-day comment period, Fort Bliss has concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts on the quality of human and natural environments. In addition, all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations would be followed. For these reasons, a Finding of No Significant Impact is made, thereby making the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement unwarranted.

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James A. Brady
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Date