

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Transformation of U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Record of Decision (ROD) at Forts Wainwright and Richardson, Alaska

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the ROD for the Transformation of U.S. Army Alaska. The ROD documents and explains the Army's decision to proceed with full transformation of USARAK forces at Fort Wainwright (FWA), Fort Richardson (FRA), and outlying training areas (e.g., Gerstle River Training Area and Black Rapids Training Site). This decision was based on the analysis described in the Final EIS, supporting studies, and comments provided during formal comment and review periods.

ADDRESSES: If you have questions regarding the ROD, or to request a copy of the document, please contact: Mr. Kevin Gardner, Directorate of Public Works, 730 Quartermaster Road, Attention: APVR-RPW-GS (Gardner), Fort Richardson, AK 99505-6500; or Mr. Calvin Bagley, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML), Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1490.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kevin Gardner; telephone (907) 384-3331; facsimile (907) 384-3028; email kevin.gardner@richardson.army.mil; or Mr. Calvin Bagley; telephone (970) 491-3324; facsimile (970) 491-2713; email cbagley@cemml.colostate.edu. The following website contains additional information, www.cemml.colostate.edu/alaskaeis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Army has decided to proceed with the full transformation of USARAK forces at Fort Wainwright (FWA), Fort Richardson (FRA), and outlying training areas (e.g., Gerstle River Training Area and Black Rapids Training Site). The decision includes: (1) transformation of the 172nd SIB to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT); (2) assignment of the 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment to USARAK and its subsequent expansion into an Airborne Task Force; (3) assignment of additional personnel to the newly created SBCT and the Airborne Task Force; (4) a significant increase in personnel and equipment in USARAK; (5) construction of four new SBCT-related facilities at USARAK; (6) increased use of existing USARAK ranges, facilities, and infrastructure; (7) implementation and budgeting of environmental and cultural management, monitoring and mitigation programs identified in the EIS.

Changes to force structure and stationing, and increased use of ranges, facilities, and infrastructure will occur. In addition, new systems will be acquired. The Stryker, an

eight-wheeled light armored vehicle designed to increase ground mobility and firepower, will be used on USARAK lands. In addition, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) will be utilized for reconnaissance or surveillance training missions. Training will be designed to support the missions of transformed USARAK organizations, and increased use of land and impact areas for live-fire and maneuver training is expected.

A copy of the ROD is available at the following website:

www.cemml.colostate.edu/alaskaeis

DATED:

Raymond J. Fatz
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(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)
OASA (I&E)