

(410) 671-4901. For more information, contact Ms. Cathy Stalcup, OPMCD, or Mr. Jeff Lindblad, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, at (410) 671-3629 and (501) 540-2429, respectively.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will also publish a Notice of Availability for the Final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

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

[FR Doc. 97-14348 Filed 6-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (WAATS) Proposed Expansion

LEAD AGENCIES: National Guard Bureau, Department of the Army; Department of the Air Force, DoD.

COOPERATING AGENCY: Federal Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Expansions to existing training areas and facilities at the WAATS are for the purpose of enhancing readiness and training of National Guard aviation units, improving training safety, constructing facilities to meet training demands, and complying with environmental requirements.

This document addresses the environmental impacts of the proposed actions, reasonable alternatives and the impact upon Guard readiness of taking no action. The proposed action and each alternative action consist of three essential components: (1) Increase the size of the original Tactical Flight Training Area (TFTA) to improve training, enhance training safety through reduced training congestion, allowing limited ground training support activities, and to reduce noise and environmental impacts through closing some parts of the existing TFTA; (2) increase the number of helicopter gunnery training operations through construction of new ranges or modification to existing ranges; and (3) construct new facilities for housing, training, maintenance and to comply with changing environmental requirements. A 45-day public review and comment period was provided for the Draft Environmental Impact

Statement (DEIS). The Arizona National Guard WAATS conducted six public hearings to discuss concerns and comments on the DEIS. Public hearings were held in locations throughout the project area. Specific locations, dates and times were announced through letters to those on the project mailing list and to others through notices, display advertisements and Legal Notices in general circulation newspapers. After the comments were compiled and reviewed, responses were prepared to all relevant environmental issues that were raised. These responses to comments and/or any new pertinent information were incorporated into the Draft EIS to constitute the FEIS. After a 30-day waiting period on the FEIS, a Record of Decision will be published.

COPIES: Copies of the FEIS Executive Summary will be mailed to individuals who participated in the public scoping process. Copies of the entire FEIS may be requested from the Project Officer listed below. Copies will also be sent to Federal, state, regional, and local agencies; interested organizations and agencies; and public libraries. Individuals not currently on the mailing list may obtain a copy on request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FEIS Project Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Murphy, Deputy Commander, Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, Building 145-500, Pinal Air Park, Marana, Arizona 85653-9598; (520) 682-4590.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Richard E. Newsome,
Acting 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

Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Design, Construction and Operation of a Facility To Pilot Test Neutralization (Hydrolysis) Process, Followed by Either On-Site or Off-Site Biotreatment, for Mustard Agent at the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This announces the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a site-specific EIS on the potential impacts of the design, construction, and operation of a facility to pilot test, as part of a research and development program, the

neutralization (hydrolysis) process, followed by either on-site or off-site biotreatment, as a potential disposal technology for mustard agent in bulk storage containers only. Potential environmental impacts will be examined for several alternative locations of the on-site pilot facility at APG. The "no action" alternative will also be examined. The "no action" alternative is considered to be deferral of research and development of the neutralization process as an alternative technology, which would cause continued storage of the mustard-filled ton containers at APG. This NOI rescinds the previous NOI announced in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 1991 (56 FR 2911).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1500-1508), the Army will prepare a site-specific EIS to assess the health and environmental impacts of the design, construction and operation of a pilot facility to demonstrate, as part of a research and development program, the feasibility of adopting the neutralization process, followed by either on-site or off-site biotreatment, for the mustard agent currently stored in ton containers at APG.

Scoping Meeting

The Army will hold a scoping meeting to aid in determining the significant issues related to the proposed action which will be addressed in the EIS. The scoping process will incorporate public participation, including Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as residents within the affected environment. The date, time, and location of the scoping meeting will be announced in the local news media at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-ME, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5401. Individuals desiring to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information on the public scoping process and copies of the draft and final EIS should contact the Program Manager at the above address.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

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

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