

convalescent center through the late 1970's.

Since that time, Walter Reed Army Medical Center has utilized the NPSHD for administrative and logistical purposes such as offices and storage. In 1991, WRAMC determined that the NPSHD was excess to its needs. A recent review by Walter Reed Army Medical Center has revealed that retention of the real property comprising Forest Glen Annex, in its entirety, is necessary to meet mission requirements.

Consistent with its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; the regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality, 40 CFR Part 1500-1508; and Army Regulation 200-2, the U.S. Army intends to prepare an EIS to assist it in deciding on a plan for the reuse and/or disposal of the NPSHD. The purpose of the statement is to ensure that the U.S. Army makes an informed decision, based on full and informed public participation. The EIS will identify all relevant direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the alternatives considered.

**Alternatives:** The range of alternatives will address a series of options for reuse and/or disposal of the land and the buildings, structures and facilities within the NPSHD. Alternatives to be considered include the following:

a. No Action. The property would remain in caretaker status with the Department of the Army. Minimal maintenance and repairs would be accomplished.

b. Complete demolition of buildings. The Army would document the historical significance of the structures through detailed photographs and drawings as required under a Memorandum of Agreement negotiated between the Army, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Upon completion of the required documentation, the buildings would be torn down and the land retained by Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

c. Partial demolition of buildings and reuse of remaining rehabilitated structures. The buildings that would be torn down would be documented as described above. Remaining buildings would be rehabilitated and reutilized as described in the EIS.

d. Complete rehabilitation of all structures. All structures located within the historic district will be rehabilitated for future use.

e. Excess, disposal, and sale at fair market value to a private entity.

**Scoping:** This notice shall initiate a period of public scoping that is intended to invite the participation of all interested members of the public as well as other public agencies. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to assist the Army in identifying significant issues of public concern regarding potential impacts on the quality of the human environment. The scoping period will be followed by development of a reasonable range of reuse alternatives to be incorporated in a draft EIS. The draft EIS will be published and made available for public review and comment prior to its finalization. After review of the draft EIS, the U.S. Army will address public comments in a final EIS that will be released for additional review prior to publication of a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will identify the action chosen for implementation. Interested members of the public may be precluded from challenging the adequacy of the final EIS if they fail to participate in the process in a meaningful manner.

The Army will arrange a public scoping meeting within 30 days of the publication of this Notice of Intent at a place and time to be announced in the legal sections of the "Washington Post," "Washington Times," and "Montgomery Journal" newspapers. Interested members of the public are invited to provide written comments to Mr. Ben Smith at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, ATTN: MCAT-PA (Ben Smith), 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20307-5001 no later than 15 days following the public scoping meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please contact Mr. Ben Smith, Public Affairs Officer, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, at (202) 782-7177.

**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

#### Availability of the Revised Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Chemical Agents and Munitions Stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal, AR

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This announces the availability of the Revised Final

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the construction and operation of the proposed chemical agent disposal facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas. The proposed facility will be used to demilitarize all stockpiled chemical agents and munitions currently stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. The Revised Final EIS examines the potential impacts of on-site incineration, alternative locations within the Pine Bluff Arsenal, and the "no action" alternative. The "no action" alternative is considered to be a deferral of the demilitarization with continued storage of agents and munitions at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In its Record of Decision (53 FR 5816-5817, dated February 26, 1988) for the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program, the Department of the Army selected on-site disposal by incineration at all eight chemical munition storage sites within the continental United States as the method by which it will destroy its lethal chemical stockpile. On March 29, 1989, the Department of the Army published a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** (54 FR 12944-12945) which provided notice that, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations, it would prepare a draft site-specific EIS for the proposed Pine Bluff chemical agent disposal facility. In 1995, the Department of the Army prepared a Draft EIS to assess the site-specific health and environmental impacts of on-site incineration of chemical agents and munitions stored at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. A Notice of Availability was published on June 9, 1995, in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 30537) which provided notice that the Draft EIS was available for comment. All comments from the Draft EIS were considered and responses included in the Final EIS. A Notice of Availability for the Final EIS was published on October 18, 1996, in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 54437). After publication, the Army revised the Final EIS by performing an additional review of the potential impacts. This Revised Final EIS includes a discussion of that review. After a 30-day waiting period the Army will publish a Record of Decision.

**WAITING PERIOD:** Comments will be accepted during this 30-day waiting period, which begins with the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of the notice of availability. **COPIES:** To obtain copies of the Revised Final EIS, contact the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization (PMCD), Data and Document Control Center, at

(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).*

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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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