

interagency, and multinational configurations. Today's Army force structure and supporting systems were designed for a different era and enemy. They lack the capability to operate optimally across the full range of likely future operations. The Army's superb heavy forces are unequalled in their ability to gain and hold terrain in the most intense, direct fire combat imaginable, and, once deployed, are the decisive element in major theater wars. The current heavy forces, however, are challenged to get to contingencies where we have not laid the deployment groundwork; and once deployed, these forces have a large logistical footprint. On the other hand, the Army's current light forces can strike quickly but lack survivability, lethality and tactical mobility once inserted. Therefore, to meet the defense challenges of the future and provide the National Command Authority the decisive land power forces necessary to support the National Security Strategy and National Military Strategy, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army have articulated a clear Army Vision that includes transforming the most respected Army in the world into a strategically responsive force that is dominant across the full spectrum of operations.

The Army proposes to implement transformation as rapidly as possible, while continually maintaining the warfighting readiness of its operational forces, improving its installations and business practices, and taking care of its people. The proposed program of Army transformation would be the mechanism used to integrate and synchronize the implementation of the Army Vision. To validate early transformation concepts, an initial force of two brigade combat teams at Fort Lewis, Washington, is receiving off-the-shelf equipment to support evaluation and refinement of new doctrinal organizational concepts. An interim force of six to eight brigade combat teams will follow in the future. The Interim Force would be a transition force—one that seeks the objective force state-of-the-art technology, but leverages today's technology together with modernized legacy forces as a bridge to the future. The objective force would be the force that achieves our transformation objective. It would be a future force that would be a strategically responsive Army capable of dominating at every point across the full spectrum of operations and rapidly transitioning across mission requirements without loss of momentum. It would be able to operate as an integral member of joint, multinational, interagency teams and

would be dominant against the asymmetric application of conventional, unconventional, and weapons of mass destruction threat capabilities.

The PEIS complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Implementation of the Army transformation, as envisioned, will be a major undertaking entailing a series of changes in equipment, force structure and training practices. As changes are proposed for specific sites and for equipment acquisition and testing, there will likely be a range of adverse and beneficial effects on the environment. The PEIS informs the public, regulators, concerned groups and Army decision-makers about potential environmental concerns that should be factored into all aspects of Army transition. Additionally, the PEIS provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to present their views to Army decision makers.

Alternatives: (1) No Action Alternative: Whereby Army transformation would not be implemented and needed changes to Army equipment, force structure and training practices would be separately analyzed on a piecemeal basis; (2) Action Alternative: Whereby Army transformation, as envisioned by Army decision-makers, would be implemented to better meet present and future national security requirements and fulfill the Army Vision.

Significant issues: The PEIS addresses issues including noise, impacts to wetlands and riparian areas, soil erosion, air and water quality, endangered species, and cultural resources.

Public Comment: Comments received as a result of the NOA will be used to assist the Army in final decision making. Individuals or organizations may participate in this process by written comment by mail or by facsimile through the Army Homepage web site www.army.mil/a-z.htm, scrolling to Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. To be considered in the final decision making process, comments and suggestions should be received no later than 30 days following the EPA announcement of the availability of the PEIS in the **Federal Register**. Questions regarding this PEIS may be directed to Headquarters, Department of the Army at the above address or by facsimile transmission to (703) 692-4735.

Dated: March 1, 2002.

Raymond J. Fatz,

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

[FR Doc. 02-5552 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Force Transformation and Mission Capability Enhancements, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, LA and Long Term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD; Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk (Army), and the Forest Service (USDA), Region 8, Kisatchie National Forest, as lead and cooperation agencies respectively, are initiating the preparation of an EIS pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. This EIS will evaluate potential impacts associated with the Army's proposal for implementing force transformation and mission capability enhancements at the JRTC and Fort Polk, Louisiana, along with long-term military training use of the Kisatchie National Forest. Based on the results of the EIS and consideration of all relevant factors, the Army will determine how best to provide for military training, readiness and facilities requirements. The Forest Service will determine what military activities and land uses may occur on national forest lands and how best to balance military and non-military uses. The EIS will also serve as a foundation for the Army's application to the Forest Service to renew its permit for continued use of portions of the Kisatchie National Forest. A range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered in the EIS. Action alternatives will include options for construction, siting and design of facilities and the types and intensities of maneuver and gunnery exercises to occur within the following areas: Army lands at Fort Polk and Peason Ridge Training Area; portions of the Vernon Unit and Kisatchie District of the Kisatchie National Forest designated as the

Intensive Use Area, Limited Use Area and Special Limited Use Area under the Army's current Special Use Permit; and at England Industrial Airpark, the Army's port of embarkation at Alexandria, Louisiana. Military use of surrounding private, non-residential lands under contractual lease or other agreement will also be evaluated.

DATES: All comments must be received or postmarked by May 7, 2002 to be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to: Dan Nance, Public Affairs Office, 7073 Radio Road, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5342; fax: (337) 531-6014; e-mail: eis@polk.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stacy Basham-Wagner, Joint Agency Liaison, Attention: AFZX-PW-E (Basham-Wagner), 1799 23rd Street, Fort Polk, LA 71459; telephone: (337) 531-7458, fax: (337) 531-2627; or Dan Nance, Public Affairs Office, 7073 Radio Road, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5342; telephone: (337) 531-7203, fax: (337) 531-6014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Kisatchie National Forest encompasses approximately 604,000 acres of national forest land in northwest and west-central Louisiana. The JRTC and Fort Polk is located in Vernon Parish, in west-central Louisiana. The main post consists of 107,024 acres that are divided between Army fee-owned land on the northern portion of the post (66,998 acres) and Forest Service fee-owned land on the southern portion (40,026 acres) referred to as the Intensive Use Area (IUA). The IUA is used intensively by the Army under the terms of a Special Use Permit (SUP) agreement between the Forest Service and Fort Polk. An area contiguous to and south of the main post is used for less intensive military training under the terms of the SUP and is known as the Limited Use Area (LUA). The LUA consists of 44,799 acres that are fee-owned and managed by the Forest Service. Peason Ridge is a non-contiguous training area north of the main post consisting of Army lands (33,011 acres) and Forest Service lands (480 acres). North of Peason Ridge is an area referred to as the Special Limited Use Area (SLUA) in the SUP, consisting of 12,820 acres. The SLUA is made available for limited training by JRTC and Fort Polk.

The JRTC, established at Fort Polk in 1993, is the only Combat Training Center devoted to and capable of supporting Army light infantry brigade-level training. JRTC training focuses on training light infantry with support from

armor, mechanized equipment, and aircraft. Ten JRTC rotations (extensive field training exercises for visiting Army brigade and supporting Air Force, Navy and Marine units) are normally conducted at Fort Polk each year, with an average of more than 5,000 troops involved in each training event.

Fort Polk also serves as an Army power projection platform from which forces deploy by air, rail and sea to areas of operation around the world. It is home to the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light) (2d ACR) and several other rapid deployment and combat service support units. In addition to the 2d ACR, active Army units assigned to Fort Polk include the 519th Military Police Battalion (519th MP Bn); the Warrior Brigade, consisting of the 46th Engineer Battalion, 83d Chemical Battalion, 115th Field Hospital, 142d Corps Support Battalion, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison; and the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry (1-509 IN), which portrays the Opposing Force during JRTC rotations. Fort Polk also provides training opportunities for the 256th Brigade (Mechanized) (Enhanced), Louisiana Army National Guard (LANG) and various reserve component units.

In October 1999, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army articulated a vision to posture the Army to meet the demands of the 21st century: The Army Vision is about people, readiness, and transformation. Transformation addresses the need for change based on emerging security challenges of the 21st century. Chief among these challenges is the need to be able to respond more rapidly to different types of operations requiring military action. Toward these ends, the Army will field an Interim Force to address strategic near-term capability gaps and to validate and develop operational concepts on which subsequent transformation planning and implementation activities can logically build. Ultimately, the Army will field an Objective Force designed to render the Army more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, and sustainable.

In support of Army initiatives to meet evolving security requirements, the Army has designated the 2d ACR to transform as an element of the Interim Force to the 2d Interim Cavalry Regiment (2d ICR), a medium-weight force that is strategically responsive and more rapidly deployable by air. In addition to transformation of the 2d ACR, other medium-weight, brigade-sized Interim Force elements—known as Interim Brigade Combat Teams

(IBCTs)—would participate in rotational exercises at JRTC and Fort Polk.

To these ends, the Army proposes to implement force transformation and mission capability enhancements at JRTC and Fort Polk with respect to home station training (maneuver and gunnery exercises for Army units assigned to Fort Polk), rotational unit exercises, and facilities construction. The purpose of the proposed action is to bring the Interim Force to operational capability and to support an ICR that will function as part of the Interim Force; to provide realistic, advanced field training, modernized weapons training, and performance evaluation opportunities for IBCTs and other Army brigades; and to provide training lands and supporting facilities for both rotational brigades and for forces assigned to Fort Polk. The need for the proposed action is to provide the Nation with capabilities that meet current and evolving national defense requirements.

The proposed action involves federal jurisdictions of the Army and Forest Service. The decision to be made by the Army, based on the results of the EIS and upon consideration of all relevant factors (including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations) is how best to provide for military training, readiness and facilities requirements while ensuring the sustained use of resources entrusted to the stewardship of the Army. The decision to be made by the Forest Service is what military activities and land uses may occur on national forest lands and how best to balance military and non-military uses while sustaining resources entrusted to Forest Service stewardship. In addition, the information compiled in the EIS will serve as a foundation for the Army's application to the Forest Service to renew its permit for continued use of Kisatchie National Forest lands.

The Army's proposed actions associated with force transformation and mission capability enhancements at JRTC and Fort Polk may be categorized into the following six activity groups:

(1) Systems Fielding. This activity group involves fielding of new and modernized vehicles, weapons systems and equipment for Interim Forces, including the Mobile Gun System and a family of interim armored vehicles (IAVs).

(2) Construction. This activity group includes construction, modernization and revitalization of buildings, training facilities (e.g., live fire ranges), and infrastructure. Proposed construction activities and infrastructure improvements are divided according to location in one of six areas: Fort Polk

cantonment areas; Fort Polk maneuver areas and ranges; Peason Ridge maneuver areas and ranges; Forest Service IUA; Forest Service LUA; and England Industrial Airpark, the Army's port of embarkation at Alexandria, Louisiana.

—*Fort Polk Cantonment Areas:*

Proposed construction activities within the Fort Polk cantonment areas include repair of the Fort Polk Army airfield and taxiway and construction of the following: (a) A new 77,500 square foot Mission Training Support Facility, (b) an aircraft maintenance hangar at the Fort Polk airfield, (c) a deployment storage facility, (d) an arms storage facility, (e) a battalion headquarters and materials maintenance center, (f) a company headquarters facility, (g) a consolidated rigging facility, and (h) a pre-positioned equipment and maintenance complex.

—*Fort Polk Maneuver Areas and Ranges.* Proposed construction activities in the Fort Polk maneuver areas and ranges include: (a) Digitization of the existing Multi-Purpose range Complex, (b) construction of a sniper range at an existing small arms range and a pallet processing facility, and (c) expansion of the existing alert holding area and the ammunition supply point.

—*Forest Service IUA:* Construction activities proposed in the IUA include: (a) Approximately 18 miles of new road construction and improvements, including stream crossings, and (b) modernization of existing firing ranges.

—*Forest Service LUA:* Proposed construction activities in the LUA include: (a) Stream crossing and road/trail improvements at up to 38 sites, (b) upgrade of existing roads and road segments, and (c) potential construction of new roads.

—*England Industrial Air Park.* Proposed construction activities at England Industrial Air Park include: (a) Construction of ammunition loading pads, (b) a passenger processing facility, and (c) upgrade of the north aircraft ramp.

(3) *Land Transaction.* This activity group involves Army use of lands through permit, lease or other agreement. Proposed land transactions include continued use of Kisatchie National Forest lands through Special Use Permit agreement between the Army and Forest Service and use of private, non-residential lands under contractual lease or other agreement. No acquisition of land through purchase or

withdrawal of public domain lands is proposed.

(4) *Deployment.* This activity group involves operational deployment of forces, as well as training that is specifically tied to deployment of forces. Deployment or training for deployment of Army units from Fort Polk would occur at England Industrial Airpark or by rail or seaport.

(5) *Training.* This activity group involves achieving and maintaining readiness to perform assigned missions, along with management of training ranges and maneuver areas. Proposed training includes both brigade-level training rotations at JRTC and training exercises for Army units assigned to Fort Polk.

—*JRTC Rotational Exercises:* Proposals related to JRTC rotational exercises pertain to (a) continuation of field training exercises involving conventional light infantry brigades (two battalions in the field), (b) expanded operations and larger field training exercises involving conventional light infantry brigades (three battalions in the field), (c) the use of new vehicles and tactics and expanded field training exercises involving IBCTs (three battalions in the field), (d) the use of additional tracked vehicles in armor and mechanized battalion rotations, (e) continuation of mission rehearsal exercises, and (f) changes in equipment and use of additional vehicles by Opposing Forces.

—*Home Station Training:* Proposals related to home station exercises (i.e., maneuver and gunnery training for Army units assigned to Fort Polk) pertain to (a) new training requirements for the 2d ACR as it transforms to become the 2d ICR, (b) continued training of the 519th MP Bn, (c) continued training of the Warrior Brigade, including designation of additional simulant release sites in support of biological detection system (BIDS) training, (d) continued training of the 1-509th IR in its role as Opposing Forces for rotational units and (e) continued training of the LANG.

(6) *Environmental Stewardship.* Proposed environmental stewardship activities include continuation of the following: (a) Implementation of approved Army and Forest Service management and monitoring requirements for the red-cockaded woodpecker and its habitat, (b) implementation of approved integrated natural and cultural resource management plans, (c) management of Exemplary Natural Areas, (d)

implementation of sustainable design and development principles, (e) development and implementation of adaptive ecosystem management strategies and practices, and (f) development and implementation of an Environmental Management System for JRTC and Fort Polk.

Scoping and Public Involvement: The scoping process begun by this notice of intent will help to clarify issues of major concern, may identify any information sources available to analyze and evaluate impacts, and obtain public input on the range and acceptability of alternatives. Based on the results of scoping the Army and Forest Service will develop a range of alternatives, including no action. Action alternatives will include options for construction, siting and design of facilities and the types and intensities of maneuver and gunnery exercises to occur within Army lands at Fort Polk and Peason Ridge; the IUA, LUA and SLUA of the Kisatchie National Forest; and at England Industrial Airpark in Alexandria, Louisiana. Military use of surrounding private, non-residential lands under contractual lease or other agreement will also be evaluated.

The Army and Forest Service recognize numerous issues of concern that will affect selection of alternatives and identification of issues to be addressed in the EIS. A representative listing of such issues includes: changes in operational training intensity, sustainability of training lands (maneuver areas and ranges), historic land uses and changes in land conditions, red-cockaded woodpecker status and recovery, status of Management Indicator Species and their habitats, rare and sensitive species, soil erosion, surface and groundwater resources, scenic streams and streamside management zones, air quality, energy consumption, pollution prevention, socioeconomic conditions, recreational opportunities and public access, noise, road conditions and other effects on LUA residents and surrounding communities, and cumulative effects. Additional issues of concern may be identified as a result of the scoping process.

The Army and Forest Service invite the general public, local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribes, other Federal agencies, and state agencies to submit written comments concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed, alternatives to be analyzed, and the environmental impacts and cultural impacts to be addressed in the DEIS. The Army and Forest Service will jointly conduct open houses/workshops to enable the submission of oral or

written comments by all interested parties. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the DEIS. The open house/workshops will be held in Shreveport, Leesville, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in March 2002. The dates, times, and specific locations of the open house/workshops will be announced at least 15 days before each session. Persons or organizations unable to attend the open house/workshop sessions are invited to submit written comments not later than 60 days from the date of this NOI to the individual and office shown in the addresses given above.

Dated: March 1, 2002.

Raymond J. Fatz,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Environment, Safety and Occupational
Health) OASA(I&E).*

[FR Doc. 02-5566 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice to amend a system of records.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army is amending a system of records notice in its existing inventory of records systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended.

The category of records entry is being amended to better define those individual pieces of data contained in the reports maintained in the system.

DATES: This proposed action will be effective without further notice on April 8, 2002, unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Records Management Division, U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency, ATTN: TAPC-PDD-RP, Stop 5603, 6000 6th Street, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-5603.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Janice Thornton at (703) 806-4390 or DSN 656-4390 or Ms. Christie King at (703) 806-3711 or DSN 656-3711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Army systems of records notices subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, have been published in the *Federal Register* and are available from the address above.

The specific changes to the records system being amended are set forth

below followed by the notice, as amended, published in its entirety. The proposed amendments are not within the purview of subsection (r) of the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, which requires the submission of a new or altered system report.

Dated: March 1, 2002.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

A0380-13 DAMO

SYSTEM NAME:

Local Criminal Intelligence Files
(February 22, 1993, 58 FR 10002).

CHANGES:

SYSTEM IDENTIFIER:

Delete entry and replace with 'A0190-45a DAMO'.

* * * * *

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Delete entry and replace with 'Any individual suspected or involved in criminal activity directed against or involving the United States Army.'

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Add to entry 'Information includes subject's name, aliases, addresses, phone number, date of birth, source of investigation, risk analysis, reports, threat assessments, retention control sheets, victims names, names of informants, names of law enforcement officers and investigators, and subject's group affiliations, if any.'

* * * * *

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Delete second paragraph. Any release of information from this system of records for law enforcement purposes is covered under the DoD 'Blanket Routine Use' for law enforcement.

* * * * *

RETRIEVABILITY:

Delete entry and replace with 'By individual's name, Social Security Number, and/or date of birth.'

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A0190-45a DAMO

SYSTEM NAME:

Local Criminal Intelligence Files.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

At all designated Army commands, installations and activities. Official mailing addresses are published as an appendix to the Army's compilation of systems of records notices.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Any individual suspected or involved in criminal activity directed against or involving the United States Army.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Reports and supporting documents of criminal activity directed against or involving the U.S. Army. Information includes subject's name, aliases, addresses, phone number, date of birth, source of investigation, risk analysis, reports, threat assessments, retention control sheets, victims names, names of informants, names of law enforcement officers and investigators, and subject's group affiliations, if any.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; Army Regulation 380-13, Acquisition and storage of Information Concerning Non-Affiliated Persons and Organizations; Army Regulation 190-45, Law Enforcement Reporting; Army Regulation 195-2, Criminal Investigation Activities; and E.O. 9397 (SSN).

PURPOSE(S):

To enable designated Army officials, commanders, or civil criminal justice agencies to meet their responsibilities maintaining law and order through investigation and possible judicial action. To identify individuals in an effort to anticipate, prevent or monitor possible criminal activity directed against or involving the U.S. Army.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, these records or information contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows:

The DoD 'Blanket Routine Uses' set forth at the beginning of the Army's compilation of systems of records notices also apply to this system.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records in file folders; magnetic tape/disc, and on electronic storage media.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By individual's name, Social Security Number, and/or date of birth.

SAFEGUARDS:

Only authorized personnel have access to files. Physical security