

implement the Proposed Action, new units with critical military skills must be stationed at locations that are capable of supporting strategic deployment and mobilization requirements to support operations in the Pacific Theater. These stationing locations must be capable of accommodating unit training, garrison operations, maintenance activities, and the needs of Soldiers and their Families.

The SPEIS supplements the Army's Final Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment (2007). The Final SPEIS evaluates installations that are capable of supporting operations in the Pacific Theater. The Final SPEIS includes analysis of actions that will need to be taken (such as the construction of housing and quality of life facilities, the construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, and changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges) to station new units as part of the Army's overall efforts to grow and realign the force in the Pacific Theater.

The Army has considered a full range of sites for implementing the Proposed Action. Alternative stationing locations that the Army has considered for supporting the Proposed Action include the major training installations the Army considered in its 2007 Programmatic EIS as well as four additional installations in Hawaii and Alaska. Additional installations include Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (SBMR), HI; Fort Shafter, HI; Fort Richardson, AK; and Fort Wainwright, AK. Each of these installations could receive additional Soldiers as part of alternatives being examined.

Alternatives in the Final SPEIS include stationing of additional Combat Support (CS) or Combat Service Support (CSS) units or new support brigades. The following alternatives were analyzed in the SPEIS: (1) Support operations in the Pacific Theater by implementing Army-wide modular force and transformation recommendations within U.S. Army Pacific. This alternative involves the stationing of approximately 1,500–2,000 Soldiers at Army installations in Hawaii and in Alaska; (2) In addition to Army growth under Alternative 1, Alternative 2 includes growth and transformation of Army forces to support operations in the Pacific Theater by stationing additional CS and CSS units in locations capable of supporting these operations. The Army would station approximately 1,500–2,500 additional CS and CSS Soldiers beyond Alternative 1; (3) In addition to Army 3 growth under Alternatives 1 and 2, as part of Alternative 3 the Army would grow,

transform, and realign forces by stationing additional support brigades in locations capable of supporting operations in the Pacific Theater. Support brigades could include the stationing of an additional Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (approximately 570 Soldiers), a Combat Aviation Brigade (approximately 2,800 Soldiers), and/or a Fires Brigade (approximately 1,600 Soldiers).

In addition to the above alternatives, the No Action Alternative was considered and used as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. It is not a viable means for meeting the current and future strategic security and defense requirements of the nation. The No Action Alternative would retain U.S. Army forces in their current end strength and force structure. The No Action Alternative includes the implementation of stationing actions directed by Base Realignment and Closure legislation in 2005, Army Global Defense Posture Realignment, Army Modular Forces initiatives, and Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment decisions published in January 2008.

The Army's preferred alternative identified in the Final SPEIS is to implement Alternative 3. This alternative allows for full support of those activities the Army may undertake from 2008 through 2013 to grow, realign, and transform its forces to support operations in the Pacific Theater. Under this alternative, the Army is projecting that it would station approximately 4,100 new Soldiers at locations that are capable of supporting the strategic and operational needs in the Pacific Theater. The implementation of the Proposed Action does not involve 4 the stationing of additional Army Brigade Combat Teams (BCT5). As part of the preferred alternative, the Army would station approximately 2,090 Soldiers in Alaska which includes an additional Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. In addition, the Army would station approximately 2,055 new Soldiers in Hawaii to implement Army-wide modularity and increase critical support capabilities in the Pacific Theater. No Fires Brigade or Aviation Brigade would be stationed to support the Proposed Action as part of the Preferred Alternative.

Analysis within the Final SPEIS covers those activities required to implement unit stationing actions associated with Army growth and force structure realignment to support operations in the Pacific Theater. Actions the Army will take to support unit stationing include the construction of housing and quality of life facilities

(i.e., gymnasiums, hospitals, shopping areas), the construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, and changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges associated with the increased frequency of training events.

The Final SPEIS identifies the environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with various unit stationing actions that could be implemented to support the Proposed Action. As the programmatic decision made at the Army Headquarters-level is implemented, follow-on NEPA documentation may be prepared to evaluate the specific environmental impacts likely to result from alternative means of carrying out the stationing actions, as well as identify any potential means for mitigating those impacts associated with the stationing decision.

A copy of the Final SPEIS can be accessed through the U.S. Army Environmental Command Web site at <http://www.aec.army.mil>.

Dated: July 18, 2008.

John E. Tesner, Jr.,

Assistant for Restoration, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health).

[FR Doc. E8–16842 Filed 7–23–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: Meeting

AGENCY: Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Education.

ACTION: Notice of Upcoming Teleconference Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the teleconference meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, and/or materials in alternative format) should notify the Advisory Committee no later than Monday, August 11, 2008, by contacting Ms. Tracy Jones at (202) 219–2099 or via e-mail at tracy.deanna.jones@ed.gov. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The teleconference site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. This notice also describes the functions of the Advisory Committee. Notice of this hearing is required under Section

10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 19, 2008, beginning at 3 p.m. and ending at approximately 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Room 412, Washington, DC 20202-7582.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William J. Goggin, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC 20202-7582, (202) 219-2099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance is established under Section 491 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by Public Law 100-50 (20 U.S.C. 1098). The Advisory Committee serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the Congress and the Secretary of Education on student financial aid policy. Since its inception, the Congressional mandate requires the Advisory Committee to conduct objective, nonpartisan, and independent analyses on important aspects of the student assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. In addition, Congress expanded the Advisory Committee's mission in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 to include several important areas: Access, Title IV modernization, distance education, and early information and needs assessment. Specifically, the Advisory Committee is to review, monitor and evaluate the Department of Education's progress in these areas and report recommended improvements to Congress and the Secretary.

The Advisory Committee has scheduled this teleconference to discuss the following issues: (1) Nomination and selection process for the Committee's officers and (2) the implications of HEA reauthorization for the Committee's activities and plans in FY2009.

Space for the teleconference meeting is limited and you are encouraged to register early if you plan to attend. You may register by sending an e-mail to the following addresses:

tracy.deanna.jones@ed.gov. Please include your name, title, affiliation, complete address (including Internet and e-mail, if available), and telephone and fax numbers. If you are unable to register electronically, you may fax your registration information to the Advisory Committee staff office at (202) 219-3032. You may also contact the

Advisory Committee staff directly at (202) 219-2099. The registration deadline is Thursday, August 14, 2008.

Records are kept for Advisory Committee proceedings, and are available for inspection at the Office of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Information regarding the Advisory Committee is available on the Committee's Web site, <http://www.ed.gov/ACSFA>.

William J. Goggin,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. E8-17000 Filed 7-23-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: Meeting

AGENCY: Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Education.

ACTION: Notice of Upcoming Teleconference Meeting.

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DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 10, 2008, beginning at 3 p.m. and ending at approximately 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Room 412, Washington, DC 20202-7582.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William J. Goggin, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC 20202-7582, (202) 219-2099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance is established under Section 491 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by Public Law 100-50 (20 U.S.C. 1098). The Advisory Committee serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the Congress and the Secretary of Education on student financial aid policy. Since its inception, the congressional mandate requires the Advisory Committee to conduct objective, nonpartisan, and independent analyses on important aspects of the student assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. In addition, Congress expanded the Advisory Committee's mission in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 to include several important areas: Access, Title IV modernization, distance education, and early information and needs assessment. Specifically, the Advisory Committee is to review, monitor and evaluate the Department of Education's progress in these areas and report recommended improvements to Congress and the Secretary.

The Advisory Committee has scheduled this teleconference solely to conduct the election of officers.

Space for the teleconference meeting is limited and you are encouraged to register early if you plan to attend. You may register by sending an e-mail to the following address:

tracy.deanna.jones@ed.gov. Please include your name, title, affiliation, complete address (including Internet and e-mail, if available), and telephone and fax numbers. If you are unable to register electronically, you may fax your registration information to the Advisory Committee staff office at (202) 219-3032. You may also contact the Advisory Committee staff directly at (202) 219-2099. The registration deadline is Monday, September 8, 2008.

Records are kept for Advisory Committee proceedings, and are available for inspection at the Office of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Information regarding the Advisory Committee is available on the