

Dated: September 15, 2008.

Donna Wieting,

Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-22570 Filed 9-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary ATPDEA Countries from Regional Country Fabric

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Publishing the New 12-Month Cap on Duty and Quota Free Benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Stetson, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002, P.L. 107-210; Title VII of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1830, 110th Cong. (2007) (H.R. 1830); Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002 (67 FR 67283, November 5, 2002).

Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002 amended the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) to provide for duty and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) beneficiary countries. Section 204(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the ATPA, as amended, provides duty- and quota-free treatment for certain apparel articles assembled in ATPDEA beneficiary countries from regional fabric and components. More specifically, this provision applies to apparel articles sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries from fabrics or from fabric components formed or from components knit-to-shape, in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries, from yarns wholly formed in the United States or one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 and 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and are formed in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries). Such apparel articles may also contain certain other

eligible fabrics, fabric components, or components knit-to-shape.

The TRHCA of 2006 extended the expiration of the ATPA to June 30, 2007. See section 7002(a) of the TRHCA 2006. H.R. 1830 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to February 29, 2008. H.R. 5264 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to December 31, 2008.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, preferential tariff treatment is limited under the regional fabric provision to imports of qualifying apparel articles in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. For the purpose of this notice, the 12-month period for which data are available is the 12-month period that ended July 31, 2008. In Presidential Proclamation 7616 (published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2002, 67 FR 67283), the President directed CITA to publish in the Federal Register the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each period.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under the regional fabric provision is 1,222,785,719 square meters equivalent. Apparel articles entered in excess of this quantity will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

This quantity is calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

Dated: September 22, 2008.

R. Matthew Priest,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E8-22575 Filed 9-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: This announces the intention of the U.S. Army to prepare an EIS analyzing the impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss. The Fort Bliss Army Growth EIS will tier from the Final Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment, for which a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in December 2007. That ROD directed stationing of two Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs) at Fort Bliss, and the stationing of Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (HBCTs) (returning from Germany) at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Army BCTs consist of approximately 3,500–4,000 soldiers. The HBCT at WSMR will leverage training infrastructure and range modernization that has taken place at Fort Bliss. These actions are scheduled over the next five years.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be forwarded to: Mr. Walter J. Christensen, Attention: FB GTA EIS; IMWE-BLS-PWE; Fort Bliss, TX 79916 6812; or faxed to (915) 568-3548.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Offutt, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office; IMWE-BLS-PA; Fort Bliss, Texas, 79916-6812; phone: (915) 568-4505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Actions proposed to be taken at Fort Bliss in support of Army growth have the potential to significantly impact the natural and human environment in and around Fort Bliss as a result of facility construction and new and different uses of the Fort Bliss Training Complex (FBTC). The study area for the environmental analysis will be the Fort Bliss installation and surrounding communities. The objective of this analysis is to provide a comprehensive EIS that will serve as a planning tool and public information source. Several categories of alternatives will be considered:

(1) *Stationing/Training:* Known and reasonably foreseeable stationing and training actions will be analyzed. This includes additional units and use of any element of the Army's equipment inventory (e.g., Stryker).

(2) *Land Use:* Various land use changes in support of the Fort Bliss

mission are proposed for analysis. Portions of the Sacramento Mountains and foothills are anticipated for infantry maneuver and training use, to include off-road vehicle maneuver where the terrain permits. Additional bivouac/logistics sites are proposed in grasslands on the FBTC, including southeast McGregor Range and Otero Mesa.

(3) *Facility Improvement*: New firing ranges necessary to support IBCTs will be analyzed as part of the proposed action. In addition, the proposed action contemplates construction of a rail line linking the cantonment area to the FBTC, expansion of range camps, and construction of Forward Operating Bases similar to those used in current operations. Cantonment area development to support the growth of personnel at Fort Bliss will also be analyzed.

Initial screening of the proposed action for potentially significant environmental impacts suggests the following eight resource areas receive the greatest scrutiny in this EIS: Land use, archaeological resources, Native American consultation, natural resources, water and wastewater, facility construction, population and housing, and public services.

Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribal governments and the public are invited to participate in the scoping process for this EIS through public meetings and submission of written comments. Notification of times and locations for the scoping meetings will be published in local newspapers. The scoping process will help identify alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and key issues of concern for analysis in the EIS. To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than 45 days following publication of this NOI.

Dated: September 18, 2008.

Addison D. Davis, IV,

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

[FR Doc. E8-22478 Filed 9-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Waivers for the Rehabilitation Training—Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP)

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of waivers for the Rehabilitation Training—Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP).

SUMMARY: The Secretary waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2) of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), respectively, that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. These waivers will enable the current RCEP grantees in Region II and in Region III to provide continuing education to employees of vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners and to continue to receive some additional Federal funding from October 1 through December 15, 2008.

DATES: *Effective Date:* These waivers are effective September 25, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Marschall. Telephone: (202) 245-7429 or via Internet: Christine.Marschall@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Supplementary Information

The RCEPs provide continuing education to employees of State VR agencies and their partners, as well as other rehabilitation services agencies. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the Department's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services is in the process of redesigning the RCEPs to create and support 10 regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) centers. To carry out this plan, the Department published a notice of final priority and a notice inviting applications in the **Federal Register** on June 5, 2008 (73 FR 32006.) Applications were due on July 31, 2008. The Department intends to make awards for the TACE centers so that grant activities can begin by October 1, 2008. However, the Department did not receive an eligible application for Region II and a fundable application for Region III and plans to re-announce the priority and notice inviting applications for these two regions as soon as possible.

The waivers announced in this notice are intended to ensure that services provided by the current RCEP grantees in Region II and in Region III are provided to the extent possible through December 15, 2008, the anticipated date that the Region II and Region III TACE centers will commence their project activities. The project period for the current RCEP grantee in Region II, The State University of New York at Buffalo, and in Region III, The George Washington University, ends on September 30, 2008. Because it would be contrary to the public interest to have a lapse in continuing education activities in Region II and in Region III before grants for RSA's new TACE centers for these two regions are awarded and implemented, the Secretary will provide some additional funding to the Region II and Region III RCEP grantees referenced in this paragraph to allow them to continue operating until December 15, 2008. In order to do so, the Secretary waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2), which generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and extensions of project periods that involve the obligation of additional Federal funds.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking and Delayed Effective Date

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) (APA) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on an extension of project period and waiver under 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2). The APA provides that an agency is not required to conduct notice and comment rulemaking when the agency for good cause finds that notice and public comment are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. We have determined that conducting rulemaking on the waivers of the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2) for the current RCEP grantees in Region II and Region III would be impracticable and therefore contrary to the public interest because there is not adequate time to conduct notice and comment rulemaking before September 30, 2008, when the funding for the current continuing education activities in Region II and in Region III will end. For this reason and to prevent a lapse in these continuing education activities, the Department waives the APA's proposed rulemaking requirements for the waivers of the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2) that will enable the Department to provide some additional funding to the current Region II and