

reexamination proceeding has been granted. Acceleration will proceed from that point forward. All submissions in the accelerated matter should be filed electronically, except in accelerated examinations where submissions must be filed electronically. Conducting more than one examiner interview during prosecution should be avoided. Responses to all Office actions should be submitted within one month of receiving the Office action. Petitions should be avoided as much as possible. Failure to meet these conditions may result in longer processing times by the USPTO than the goals given above, but the matter will continue to receive accelerated processing as described herein to the extent possible.

In all instances, certificate redemption is subject to available USPTO resources at the Director's discretion. If accelerating the matter would negatively impact other applicants, the USPTO may decline to redeem the certificate at that time.

Dated: February 6, 2012.

**David J. Kappos,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Notice of Availability of Ballistic Survivability, Lethality and Vulnerability Analyses

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The US Army Research Laboratory's (ARL's), Survivability, Lethality Analysis Directorate (SLAD) is a leader in ballistic survivability, lethality and vulnerability (SLV) analyses. ARL/SLAD conducts SLV analyses, using the MUVES-S2 vulnerability model, to quantify system, subsystem and/or component level vulnerabilities of ground and air vehicles. These analyses are used to support production, design, trade and evaluation decisions. These capabilities are being made available to qualified interested parties. Collaborations will be governed by Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (15 U.S.C. 3710) and fee-based testing services will be governed by Test Service Agreements (10 U.S.C. 2539b).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael D. Rausa, telephone (410) 278-5028. For further technical information,

please contact Denise Jordan, (410) 278-6322, [denise.a.jordan10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:denise.a.jordan10.civ@mail.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Environmental Impact Statement for the Implementation of Energy, Water, and Solid Waste Sustainability Initiatives at Fort Bliss, TX

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Army advises interested parties of its intent to conduct public scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act to gather information to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Energy, Water, and Solid Waste Initiatives at Fort Bliss. These initiatives will work to enhance the energy and water security of Fort Bliss, Texas, which is operationally necessary, financially prudent and essential to the installation's mission. Elements of the implementation of the initiative would occur in Texas and New Mexico. By implementing these initiatives at Fort Bliss, the installation can help ensure that it has access to energy from renewable sources and ample water supplies now and into the future.

The decision maker at Fort Bliss will use the analysis in the EIS to determine which alternative(s) to implement. Actions to be evaluated in the EIS include: (1) The aggressive implementation of waste reduction, and energy and water conservation policies and practices; (2) the construction of a new pipeline to transport reclaimed water for best uses on Fort Bliss; (3) the construction of a Waste-to-Energy plant with adjacent landfill in the Southern Training Area of Fort Bliss, or on land to be exchanged with the Texas General Land Office; (4) the development and construction of dry-cooled concentrating solar thermal arrays in Fort Bliss Southern Training Area; (5) the development of geothermal resources on Fort Bliss in New Mexico for power generation and heating; (6) the development of existing wind energy resources on the eastern central and northern portions of Fort Bliss in New Mexico; and (7) the development

of up to 20 MW of natural gas powered turbines as a complementary source of back-up power to renewable energy facilities to provide for Fort Bliss energy security. The EIS will also analyze a long-term program that considers the implementation of energy technologies on previously disturbed land, existing infrastructure, or other Army owned lands that would be compatible with Army mission and sustainability criteria. Alternatives include implementation of a combination of these projects and the no action alternative that will allow for a comparison of each of the possible actions to existing baseline environmental conditions. Other reasonable alternatives that are raised during the scoping process and capable of meeting the project purpose and need and criteria will be considered and included for evaluation in the EIS.

Environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed action at Fort Bliss could include significant impacts to airspace, biological resources and migratory birds, soils and vegetation, noise impacts, increased traffic impacts, cultural resources, air quality, and surface and ground water.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be forwarded to Dr. John Kipp, Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works, Attention: IMBL-PWE (Kipp), Building 624 Pleasonton Road, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916; email: [john.m.kipp6.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.m.kipp6.civ@mail.mil); fax: (915) 568-3548.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please contact Ms. Jean Offutt, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMBL-PA (Offutt), Building 15 Slater Road, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916; phone: (915) 568-4505; email: [thelma.g.offutt.civ@mail.mil](mailto:thelma.g.offutt.civ@mail.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The decisions to be made by the installation and cooperating agencies will be to determine whether and how best to implement energy, water, and solid waste technologies at Fort Bliss in both Texas and New Mexico. The EIS would assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with various proposed alternatives. Alternatives evaluated in the EIS include different sitings and technologies that will be evaluated.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Some of the proposed projects considered in the alternatives being evaluated could occur on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) military-withdrawn lands in New Mexico. The BLM Las Cruces District Office and the US Air Force Holloman