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Makua SDEIS Update

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – The Department of the Army will issue a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) this month for resumption of live fire training at the Makua Military Reservation in Hawaii. Public comments to this new draft will be considered in preparing a final statement and decision by the Army on Makua's future use.

The original DEIS was issued in 2005 but several developments over the past three years have necessitated a new draft. These include analyzing the cumulative impact of stationing additional Army units and Stryker combat vehicles in Hawaii; additional clearance of unexploded ordnance to expand safe cultural access at Makua; and Army responses to a 2007-08 biological opinion regarding Makua.

"Several changes were made to the initial draft Environmental Impact Statement in response to public comments," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason, senior commander of Army installations in Hawaii. "With the release of this supplemental draft EIS we look forward to receiving valuable input and concerns from the community."

The new draft will have a 45-day public comment period, and public meetings will be held on Oahu and the Big Island. The Army will take all public input and develop the final environmental impact statement.

The new draft's notice of availability is expected to be published in the Federal Register this Friday. The exact dates, times and locations of the public meetings are being finalized and will be announced as soon as possible. Information on how to submit public comments by e-mail, fax, on-line or by U.S. mail will also be provided at that time.

This new draft, when released, will show a thorough analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the Army's proposed use of MMR and follows the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as other regulations. The Supplemental Draft EIS addresses all comments to the original draft EIS.