

# Pōhakuloa Training Area Public Scoping Meeting

January 2011

*Aloha!*

Thank you for attending tonight's Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) public scoping meeting.

Tonight's scoping meeting will begin with a poster session from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. which allows you the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the current proposed modernization projects. We invite you to view our posters, maps and information we have displayed. Following the poster session, you are invited to present your thoughts, ideas and concerns during the open microphone session. The open microphone session will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and we ask that you please sign up at the front desk if you are interested in speaking. Each speaker's contributions will be documented by the court reporter in a 4 minute allotment so that all who wish to speak have an equal opportunity to provide comment. If you feel you need more time, we encourage you to provide your additional comments to the court recorder before the conclusion of the evening's events. You also have the opportunity to provide written comment tonight if you choose not to speak, as well as at any time during the 45-day scoping period.

We sincerely appreciate your interest and involvement in the PEIS process. Your input helps us to identify community concerns and environmental issues to be addressed in this PEIS. As always, we will consider all comments that are provided to us throughout this procedure.

We are currently at the beginning stage of this PEIS process and it is important for you to know this meeting is not the end of your opportunity to participate. There will be opportunities to interact with the Army on the preparation of this PEIS during this 45-day scoping period, and during the Draft PEIS comment period (TBD).

Once again, we appreciate your participation and note that there are a variety of ways to learn more about the PEIS and to provide comments:

- Submit written comments to: PTA PEIS, P.O. Box 514, Honolulu, HI 96809  
Or via fax at (808) 545-6808 or e-mail: [PTAPEIS@bah.com](mailto:PTAPEIS@bah.com).
- Submit a comment form that is available at the front desk.
- Provide a comment to the court reporter at tonight's scoping meeting.
- Visit our website at: <http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/PTAPEIS/>
- Attend a future public hearing – dates and times will be posted on the web site listed above.

**Written comments must be postmarked or received by February 7, 2011.**

*Mahalo!*

## **Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Modernization of Training Infrastructure and Construction and Operation of an Infantry Platoon Battle Area at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), Hawai‘i**

The U.S. Army is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential environmental effects associated with modernizing PTA to better support the readiness of the military.

Federal laws and regulations require the federal government to evaluate the effects of its actions on the environment and to consider alternative courses of action. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) specifies when an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared. NEPA regulations require, among other things, federal agencies to include discussion of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives in an EIS.

An EIS is a document prepared to describe the effects for proposed activities on the environment. "Environment," in this case, is defined as the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that the "environment" considered in an EIS includes land, water, air, structures, living organisms, environmental values at the site, and the social, cultural, and economic aspects. An "impact" is a change in consequence that results from an activity and can be positive, negative, or both. An EIS describes the existing environment and potential impacts, as well as potential mitigation measures to lessen or remove negative impacts. Sufficient information must be included in the EIS for reviewers to evaluate the relative merits of each alternative.

A PEIS provides a generalized description of projects under consideration that are numerous, repetitive, or closely linked. This PEIS will evaluate the proposed action to upgrade existing ranges to meet current standards or to construct new ranges, update or construct new facilities in the cantonment area and Bradshaw Army Airfield (BAAF), and improve or construct roads and utilities that support training ranges and the cantonment area and BAAF at PTA. The proposed action would maximize the use of facilities at PTA, and improve a current shortfall in collective (group) live-fire training capabilities for units stationed in Hawai‘i that is created by ranges that do not meet current design standards and that do not offer sufficient capacity for platoon and company-sized units when battalions and brigades are deployed to PTA. The PEIS will consider the No Action Alternative of not modernizing PTA and therefore, the Army would continue to use the existing infrastructure as efficiently as possible.

This PEIS would represent a tiered approach in addition to the programmatic evaluation, as the document will also offer a focused analysis and reasonable alternatives for the construction and operation of an Infantry Platoon Battle Area (IPBA) that would include an Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC), Live-fire Shoothouse, and Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) facility. The PEIS will present a range of alternative locations for the IPBA to include the Western Range Area of PTA, Charlie's Circle or along the southwest side of Range 20; and the No Action Alternative to not build and operate the IPBA at all.

The benefit of this approach is that it looks at near term projects but also includes the long term development plans.

Under this action, it is important to note that no expansion of PTA would occur; only modernization of existing infrastructure or ranges on land that the Army has managed for the last 65 years.