



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, HAWAII**  
**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-5000**



May 28, 2002

Office of the Garrison Commander

To: Scoping Participants

I would like to thank you for participating in our public scoping process for our proposal to transform the Second Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) into an Interim Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). This letter contains additional information about our proposal to help you in your further participation. We take our stewardship of the environment very seriously and use the public scoping part of the Environmental Impact Statement development process to help us involve the community and determine the concerns and significant issues of our proposed action.

We began this scoping process by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on March 4, 2002. I have included a copy of the NOI with this letter. We also held seven public scoping meetings to exchange information. Additionally, we have a web site (<http://www.ttsfo.com/ibcteis>) that contains up-to-date information on the proposed Transformation here in Hawaii.

I would like to thank those of you who attended the scoping meetings and made comments. To help you evaluate this additional information and provide further comments, I have extended the comment period until June 29, 2002.

In our NOI, we listed three proposed alternatives: 1) Transform the Second Brigade to an IBCT with a wide range of supporting projects, including new, additional, or modified ranges, facilities and infrastructure (we have provided a list of these projects with this letter); 2) transform the Second Brigade, using existing facilities and infrastructure and lands; and 3) take no action (the so-called No Action Alternative), in which the Army in Hawaii would not be transformed to an IBCT but would continue operating as it does now until future organizational changes are made. While we believe that transformation is critical to the future of the Army and our nation's security, we are committed to making sure that we understand the environmental consequences and impacts of transformation so that we can make informed decisions on whether or how it should proceed.

As we discussed at the scoping meetings, transforming the Second Brigade to an IBCT includes changing to a more rapidly deployable force with advanced computer capabilities. This would involve multiple projects, including constructing infrastructure and training ranges, improving and constructing military access roads, and acquiring land. These projects would be necessary to support the additional 480 soldiers and 400 vehicles required for the IBCT.

With your help we will be able to identify those potential adverse impacts that should be analyzed in our Environmental Impact Statement. We already know that we have to evaluate the impacts that construction might have on cultural and historical resources or on natural resources, such as plants and animals, including any temporary increase in noise and dust levels. If training ranges are constructed,

impacts could also include those to air, water and soil, natural and cultural resources, and socio-economics.

We also want to provide you with as much information as is possible at this time about our proposed acquisition of additional lands. I have enclosed the available maps depicting the general area where the Army proposes to acquire property. We are in initial discussions with landowners but formal negotiations cannot be initiated until we receive permission from the Department of Defense to proceed. For this reason more detailed maps and information on the proposed land acquisitions are not available at this time, but we will provide more detailed information as we progress.

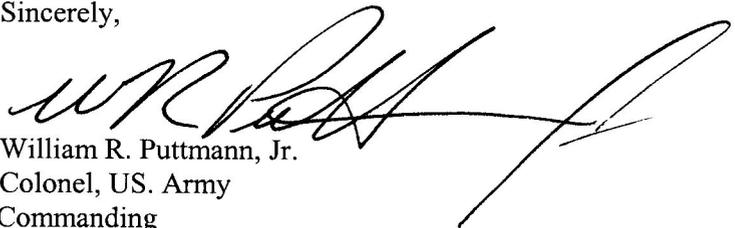
In addition to this IBCT EIS, we are preparing other Environmental Assessments for several projects that are essential to the Army's current mission. These projects include an upgrade Drum Road, acquisition of land south of Schofield Barracks for constructing two buildings, and improving the Installation Infrastructure Information Architecture. These projects are not specific to Army Transformation, however, to the extent that they may also be used for IBCT support and training, we plan to address these impacts in the IBCT EIS as well. As you may know, we are also preparing a separate EIS on live-fire training at Makua Military Reservation by our current units. The Makua EIS is specifically required by a settlement agreement we reached to resolve issues on an earlier Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Makua.

More information about the proposed action and the EIS process is posted on our website at <http://www.ttsfo.com/ibcteis> and at the following locations: on Oahu at Hawaii State University Library, Kahuku Public & School libraries, Mililani Public Library, Wahiawa Public Library, Waialua Public Library and Waianae Public Library and the University of Hawaii Environmental Center; and on the Big Island at the Hilo, Kailua-Kona and Thelma Parker Public libraries. We encourage you to check these resources regularly for the latest updated information. Additionally, we have included with this letter the briefing presented at the final scoping meeting.

We would like to continue two-way communications throughout the EIS process. I hope that extending the comment period will ensure that you have ample opportunity to communicate with us. We will accept written comments, whether mailed, e-mailed or faxed, until June 29, 2002. Mailed comments should be postmarked by June 29, 2002. Comments may be posted on the IBCT website or sent to Mr. Earl Nagasawa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District, Program and Project Management Division, Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Nagasawa), Building 252, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440; e-mail: [earl.nagasawa@usace.army.mil](mailto:earl.nagasawa@usace.army.mil); or fax (808) 438-7801. A blank comment sheet is included with this letter. We also will be available to participate in public workshops and discussion groups on Transformation until the end of the scoping period. These sessions can be arranged by contacting Mr. Nagasawa at (808) 438-0772.

Thank you for your valuable participation in the scoping process for the IBCT EIS. We appreciate your assistance in helping us prepare a comprehensive document.

Sincerely,

  
William R. Puttmann, Jr.  
Colonel, US. Army  
Commanding