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**CHAPTER 1**

**PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE**

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# CHAPTER 1

## PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

In October 1999, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army articulated a vision for the Army to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Army must become more strategically responsive and dominant at every point on the spectrum of military operations, ranging from intensive combat to peacekeeping duties and humanitarian missions. Hawai'i has been selected as the location for an Interim Force based on the Stryker vehicle, or a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT)<sup>1</sup>. As the Army transforms, the Interim Force will use available technology and weapons, select new equipment, such as the Stryker, and a modified training doctrine to train Soldiers to be able to meet the goals of a fast reacting light force. This will allow them to deploy more quickly, be more agile, lethal, highly mobile, and survivable than the current force. As shown in Figure 1-1 the interim force will

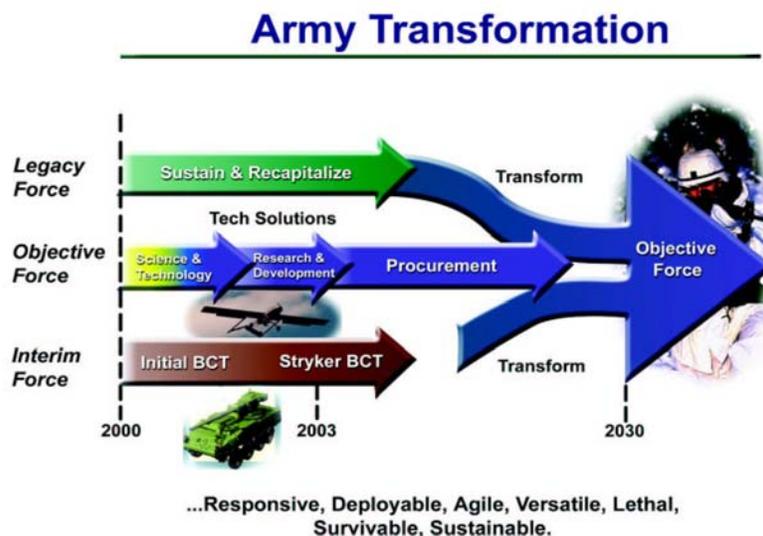


Figure 1-1 Army Transformation to the Objective Force

<sup>1</sup> SBCT is the new name for Interim Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), which was used during the public scoping process. This is a name change only: SBCT and IBCT are synonymous.

also serve as a “working model” to refine equipment, weapons, and training of the future force. During this process the current force will continue to fulfill the Army’s responsibility to fight and win decisively against any threat while the Army transforms. The future force would come out of the development and refinement of weapons, equipment, communications, and training that will occur during the interim phase over the next 30-years when the entire Army would be transformed.

The current force, those forces that have not undergone transformation, would continue to provide the strategic insurance policy for the Army’s responsibility to fight and win decisively against any threat while the Army transforms to the future force.

SBCT is a new concept that uses technology and information to improve the abilities of our Army units. This change will give the Army greater flexibility and will improve the variety of missions to which the Army can respond. The SBCT will use the lighter more efficient Stryker vehicle to transport Soldiers more quickly to areas of conflict. Because of its speed and maneuverability, the Stryker can transport Soldiers more quickly and closer to the areas where they are needed. Using improved weapons with greater accuracy, the Stryker can provide the force with protective cover as Soldiers dismount and move by foot to desired target areas. Once their task has been accomplished the Soldiers would again board the Stryker for transport back to their headquarters or another area for further operations. Soldiers are able to obtain time sensitive critical information or intelligence from their commanders, and they can remain in constant communication with each other, their commanders or other field units via refined satellite links and Internet connections that are filtered into the Stryker vehicle. This is a radical departure from the way Soldiers fight today and as such requires new ranges, training facilities, high tech communication facilities, and new training protocol. In addition, this technology gives the SBCT the ability to conduct combat operations faster and over far greater areas of land than can be achieved presently. Taken together, these requirements create a need for new training and maintenance facilities and expansion of maneuver lands to provide more realistic training conditions.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Department of the Army prepared a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with transformation of the entire Army. *The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Transformation* was issued in February 2002, the notice of availability was published on March 8, 2002, and the Army signed the record of decision (ROD) on April 11, 2002, indicating its decision to proceed with a program of transformation. (For the reader’s convenience, a copy of the PEIS ROD is provided in Appendix A.<sup>2</sup>) The PEIS and the ROD provide a concise public record of the Army-wide program for transformation.

The Army Headquarters (HQDA) designated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) (25<sup>th</sup> ID[L]) in Hawai‘i (referred to throughout this document as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade) and five other units across the US as part of the interim phase of transformation. These units would be converted to SBCT. This environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates the

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<sup>2</sup>The *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Transformation* is also available on the Army’s Web\_site home\_page at <http://www.army.mil>.

environmental impacts of the transformation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to an SBCT in Hawai'i. Figure 1-2 shows the chain of command for the US Army Pacific (USARPAC), US Army Hawai'i (USARHAW), and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division(Light) (25<sup>th</sup> ID(L)).

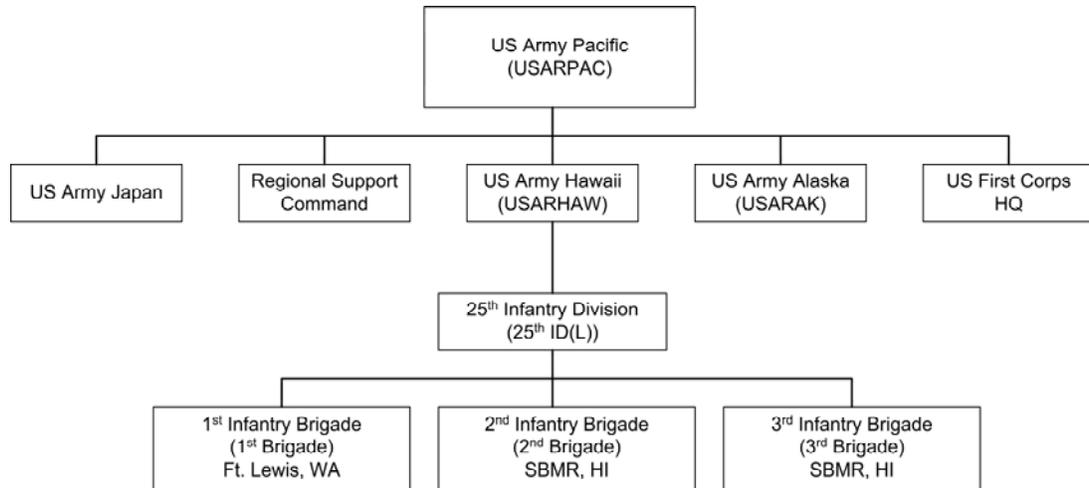


Figure 1-2 Chain of Command

The 25<sup>th</sup> ID(L) includes three light infantry brigades (two in Hawai'i and one at Fort Lewis, Washington). Principal units of the current force stationed in Hawai'i include the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> brigades, their aviation brigade, support command, separate battalions, and elements of First Corps (I Corps). I Corps is a contingency force with active, reserve, and National Guard units located throughout the US, and are designated as an early deploying corps for military actions in the Pacific region. The Proposed Action includes changes to training facilities, support facilities, and infrastructure at military installations in Hawai'i to support SBCT operation and training. All units, with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and its supporting units, will remain as current force units.

The change proposed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is one part of the Army's broad program of transformation. Aspects of doctrine, such as training, leadership, organizations, materiel (equipment and supplies), and Soldiers, within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in Hawai'i must evolve in synchronization with changes throughout the Army. The changes extend to such fundamental principles as how military forces are used on the battlefield, to force structure (how many Soldiers are in each type of unit), and to equipment, whether new or modernized.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND

Consistent with its PEIS and ROD on Army transformation, the Army is now engaged in the multi-year, phased, and synchronized program of transformation, which will occur in three phases over three decades. The initial phase involved creating two Initial Brigade Combat Teams (Initial BCTs) at Fort Lewis, Washington, to validate an organizational and operational model for SBCTs. The second phase of Army transformation, or "interim capability phase," which the Army has now entered, involves fielding SBCTs as part of the

Interim Force. The Army has designated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and five other units across the United States to become SBCTs and, as such, to serve as the key components of the Interim Force. Besides the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, active component units designated by the Army for transformation include the two Initial BCTs at Fort Lewis, Washington, one brigade at Forts Richardson and Wainwright, Alaska, and the armored cavalry regiment at Fort Polk, Louisiana. A National Guard brigade in Pennsylvania also has been designated to become an SBCT. The third phase of transformation is the objective capability phase, the major goal of which is to transform the SBCTs and the remaining Army forces to the future force.

Transformation will result in not just a modernized version of the current Army but will combine the best characteristics of current forces. The transformed Army will possess the lethality of the heavy force, the rapid deployment mentality and speed of the light forces, and the unmatched precision and close combat capabilities of the special operations forces. The light force uses lighter equipment and is more mobile than the heavy force. Transformation will field the most highly trained and combat effective Soldiers in the world. A key measure of transformed forces will be their strategic mobility. The Army plans to develop the capability to place a complete combat-ready brigade with all its supporting elements and materials anywhere in the world within 96 hours after deployment from Hawai'i, a division within five days, and five divisions within thirty days. A brigade consists of approximately 3,000 Soldiers and is led by a Colonel, and a division consists of approximately 15,000 Soldiers and is led by a Major General. For Hawai'i, transformation includes the need to implement and accommodate the changes that must occur to support the SBCT, while maintaining training facilities for continued support of the units not yet designated to become part of the Interim Force or the future force.

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

On April 11, 2002, the Army signed a ROD indicating its decision to proceed with transformation and designated Hawai'i as one of five locations for the initial transformation including enhancing training capabilities to support the nationwide transformed forces. This EIS provides an analysis of the potential environmental effects of converting the 2nd Brigade of the 25th ID(L) to a Stryker Brigade, in accordance with NEPA. The purpose of the Proposed Action therefore, is to assist in bringing the Army's Interim Force to operational capability and to provide realistic field training in Hawai'i. Twenty-eight projects are proposed for USARHAW that would improve on the existing support structure and training facilities to provide the necessary field training required for an SBCT. Reconfiguring maneuver areas, establishing combat training facilities more appropriate to the types of threats the Army expects to encounter, and strengthening infrastructure would ensure that an SBCT's leaders and Soldiers would be prepared for the full spectrum of military operations.

### **1.4 NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The need underlying transformation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is to provide the nation with capabilities that meet current and evolving national defense requirements. To carry out these tasks, the Army must adapt to changing world conditions and must improve its ability to respond. To achieve the skills appropriate to each member of the force, training must replicate, as closely as possible, the conditions that would arise in expected combat situations. Leaders and Soldiers must be prepared to deal with a wide range of situations.

As Army doctrine evolves, training and facilities must also change. The SBCT goal is to be able to deploy anywhere in the world and be prepared to carry out the Army's military mission within 96 hours of deployment from Hawai'i. While these units will retain the mobility and flexibility of traditional Army light forces, they will incorporate the lethality and survivability of traditional Army heavy forces. They will be equipped with new vehicles, equipment, and communications technology to achieve their missions. Training must include a greater emphasis on military operations in urban terrain (MOU) to prepare Soldiers for a variety of situations, such as resolving general urban unrest, infiltrating and clearing buildings, and fighting at close range. Training for these kinds of activities requires constructing new ranges and support facilities on O'ahu and the island of Hawai'i. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in Hawai'i was selected to transform to an SBCT in the PEIS based on the following three factors:

- Location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade within the Pacific Rim, a critical area of interest for the United States. Stationing an SBCT in Hawai'i allows the President to rapidly respond to events in an area of increasing importance to national security. The goal of the Hawai'i SBCT would be able to deploy a brigade anywhere within the Pacific Rim within 96 hours or to combine with other SBCT brigades or future forces to place a division anywhere in the Pacific Rim within five days or five divisions within thirty days. There are two other SBCTs on the Pacific coast of the continental United States (Alaska and Washington) to support deployment to the critically important Pacific Rim, while others will be in the eastern United States to support deployment to other geographic regions.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's composition and mission and the benefits of transforming to an SBCT. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is already a light infantry unit, which executes full spectrum military missions in complex terrain. Hawai'i provides the terrain and conditions most likely to be encountered in the Pacific Rim. The enhancement of this unit to an SBCT would allow this already light unit to be more mobile, lethal, and survivable under a greater variety of conditions.
- The ease of deploying the SBCT because of its proximity to multiple airbases and seaports of suitable size.

If the Army does not transform in Hawai'i it may not be able to respond rapidly enough in all areas of the world for operations requiring military action. The strategic significance of land forces continues to lie in their ability not only to fight and win the nation's wars but also to provide options that shape the global environment to benefit the United States and its allies.

## 1.5 SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

This EIS has been developed in accordance with NEPA and the Army's implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Army.<sup>3</sup> The

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<sup>3</sup> Council on Environmental Quality: Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and Army implementing regulations contained in 32 CFR Part 651.

purpose of the EIS is to inform Army decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives on transforming the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in Hawai'i. It focuses on site-specific issues of how to transform the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to an SBCT and the impacts on O'ahu and the island of Hawai'i. No SBCT activities will take place at Helemanō Military Reservation so no information on that installation is included in this report.

SBCT training requirements are not dependent on the use of Mākua Military Reservation (MMR). While the MMR is an integral part of USARHAW training capabilities and historically used by other services, SBCT units could perform dismounted CALFEX training at other ranges. SBCT may use MMR if the range were available and only after completion of the Makua EIS and ROD. The Makua EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with dismounted CALFEXs for both current forces and SBCT; therefore, this SBCT EIS does not analyze training impacts of SBCT at MMR.

This EIS analyzes the conversion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to an SBCT and enhancement of training capabilities to meet the training requirements of the transformed force. The conversion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to SBCT status would primarily involve changes in force structure (the number of personnel assigned to the unit), equipment and vehicles, and doctrine under which the unit would train for carrying out its assigned missions, as well as improvements to existing ranges and construction of new training facilities. Under transformation, the SBCT would have more personnel than the present 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. A principal change would involve putting the Stryker Vehicle into action, which would provide the SBCT with greater firepower and increased tactical mobility. Infrastructure projects would be needed to support this effort, including new vehicle washes and motor pools to park these vehicles. Construction of training facilities at various installations and land acquisitions would also be analyzed. See Table 2-5 for an overview of the proposed action.

If a substantial change to any specific project described in this EIS is made, as it moves forward, that may have a bearing on the Proposed Action or its impacts, additional appropriate NEPA documentation will be prepared, as required by NEPA.

Additional information concerning the scope of the EIS came to the Army's attention during the scoping process conducted in accordance with CEQ and Army regulations and guidance. That information is summarized in Section 1.9.

## 1.6 DECISION(S) TO BE MADE

The ROD for the Programmatic EIS directed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i to transform to an SBCT. The Commanding General of the 25<sup>th</sup> ID(L) is charged with deciding how best to achieve that directive and provide for military training, readiness, and facility requirements to meet SBCT transformation needs, while enabling the current forces to continue to carry out their missions and giving due consideration to environmental factors. This decision will be based on the results of this EIS, and on consideration of all relevant factors including mission, cost, technical factors, and environmental considerations. This EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives including several alternatives that involve transforming and/or training on the U.S. mainland.

As discussed in Section 2.6, the mainland alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. (Complete details on the proposed action are presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix D.)

### 1.7 COOPERATING AGENCIES

CEQ defines the rights and responsibilities of cooperating agencies in Section 1501.6 of the CEQ regulations (CEQ 1970) and in Question 14 of *The 40 Most Asked Questions* (about NEPA) (CEQ 1981). Upon request of the lead agency, any other federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or that has special expertise with respect to any environmental issue, shall be a cooperating agency. CEQ issued new guidance on cooperating agencies on February 5, 2002, which includes factors for determining whether to invite, decline, or end cooperating agency status (CEQ 2002). This guidance also urges federal agencies to set time limits, identify milestones, and specify the scope and detail of a cooperating agency's contributions. No federal agencies were formally requested to be cooperating agencies, nor have any federal or state agencies requested this status. Nonetheless, the Army is working closely with pertinent agencies on Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) coordination.

### 1.8 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The Army has also sought the input of several federal, state, and local agencies in preparing this EIS. Federal agencies that have been consulted include the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Biological assessments (BAs) have been prepared for both O'ahu and the island of Hawai'i, initiating formal consultation between the US Army Garrison, Hawai'i (USAG-HI) and the USFWS, as set forth in Section 7 of the ESA. The objectives of the BAs are to analyze how SBCT transformation could affect species listed by the USFWS as threatened, endangered, or proposed for threatened or endangered status. In addition, the BAs assess the impacts to designated critical habitat and determine how the Army would minimize any potential adverse effects to listed species or critical habitat and how it would offset these effects. The scope of the BAs includes all SBCT transformation activities on O'ahu and the island of Hawai'i. On October 23, 2003 and December 23, 2003, the USFWS issued biological opinions of "no jeopardy" for current force and SBCT activities on the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i, respectively. These biological opinions are available upon request.

In January 2003, USARHAW entered into consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), ACHP, Native Hawaiian organizations and interested parties in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA. In February 2004, the SHPO and ACHP signed a programmatic agreement (PA) with USAHAW for Section 106 consultations on SBCT projects. Native Hawaiian Organizations and interested parties were invited to sign the PA as concurring parties. The PA is included in Appendix J of this document.

State and local agencies that have been consulted include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the SHPO, Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC), Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and the Department of Health (DOH). The Army has considered the information and comments provided by these agencies.

## 1.9 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

By providing a means for open communication between the Army and the public, the procedural aspects of NEPA promote better decision-making. Those having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native Hawaiian groups, were notified and invited to participate in the scoping and environmental impact analysis process.

This EIS includes an analysis of environmental justice issues (See Chapter 10). The closeness of the Hawaiian community presented an opportunity for USARHAW to reach out to numerous organizations to gather input on the NEPA process. Civic organizations consulted included Rotary and Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Committee, veteran groups, retired military, state and city government officials, Congressional delegates, and Neighborhood Boards. Special interest groups, including Malu 'Āina Group and Waiki'i Ranch Homeowners, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Royal Order of Kamehameha, and The Hawaiian Civic Clubs were also asked for input into the NEPA process. A community relations plan has been implemented with an execution matrix. This matrix will include individuals and organizations in a three-tier notification matrix. Following the execution of the notification matrix, media releases and ads will be placed in newspapers, and public service announcements on radio and Public TV. Ongoing briefings will continue with individuals and organizations requesting information or updates on the progress of the EIS.

CEQ regulations and 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 651 guide public participation opportunities. These include issuing in the *Federal Register* a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare

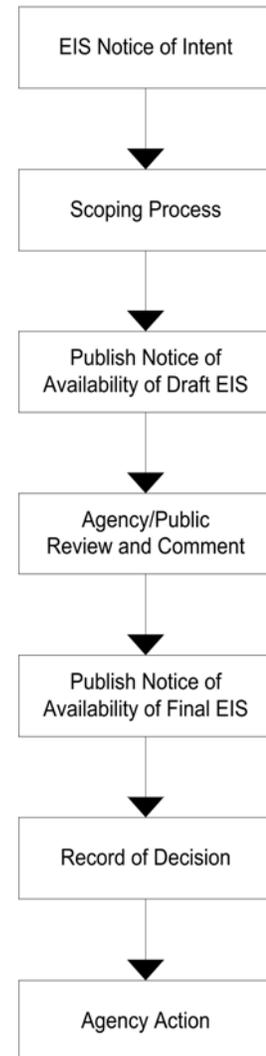


Figure 1-3  
EIS NEPA Process

an EIS<sup>4</sup>, a public scoping process, a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIS (DEIS), and publication of the Final EIS (FEIS), accompanied by a 30-day mandatory waiting period before a final decision is made and a ROD is issued. The NEPA process for an EIS is shown on Figure 1-3. Following publication of the NOI, public notices were published in the major newspapers on the island of Hawai'i and O'ahu announcing the time and location of seven public scoping meetings to solicit input and to obtain comments on the scope of the EIS. In addition the scoping meetings were announced in the April 8, 2002, issue of *The Environmental Notice*, published by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, OEQC. The 45 day scoping period began on April 8, 2002. Based on public comment, the scoping period was extended by 30 days and ended on June 15, 2002. Seven scoping meetings were held between April 16 and 30, 2002. For residents and groups interested in the Proposed Action at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the island of Hawai'i, public scoping meetings were held in Hilo and Waikoloa. For residents and groups interested in the Proposed Action at Schofield Barrack Military Reservation (SBMR) training areas and other training facilities on O'ahu, public scoping meetings were held in Wahiawā, Honolulu, Hale'iwa, Kahuku, and Wai'anae. The Army published early notices of the meeting times and locations. A total of 283 people attended the seven meetings.

At the public scoping meetings, 100 individuals and persons representing organizations provided oral comments for the Army's consideration. The Army also received written comments from 199 individuals and organizations in the form of e-mails, phone calls, faxes, and individual and form letters. The Army also received 21 comments to its World Wide Web site, 7 comments by telephone, and 77 comments at separate information meetings requested by groups and organizations. The Army compiled a scoping report, identifying and assessing the issues brought forth through the scoping process. The major concerns and issues expressed during the scoping process are as follows: Effects on threatened and endangered species, especially in Honouliuli Preserve, which contains a diversity of sensitive species, including Hawaiian tree snails; the potential for spread of nonnative species;

- Potential contamination of soil, water, and air; the need for clean-up of hazardous materials and waste caused by past military activities; cumulative impacts to natural resources; and potential for decreased groundwater quality beneath SBMR;
- Reduction in access to hunting, cultural sites, and open space, specifically, at Honouliuli Preserve;
- Impacts to cultural sites and traditional cultural practices; the need for additional cultural surveys to identify cultural sites and practices; collaboration with cultural practitioners and Hawaiian civic clubs to protect cultural resources;
- Increased traffic along the proposed military vehicle trails; traffic issues in the vicinity of SBMR and Saddle Road; traffic safety along Saddle Road;
- Wildfires caused by tracer rounds, pyrotechnics, indirect fire, and other sources;

<sup>4</sup> The notice of intent for this EIS was published in the *Federal Register*, March 4, 2002 (76 FR 9717) and is found in Appendix B.

- Changes in land use, such as conversion of agricultural and recreational lands to military uses; and
- Effects on the local economy, specifically, funding for land acquisition, costs for cleanup of hazardous materials and UXO, costs for providing housing and services for military personnel, and potential for increased revenue spent by military personnel.

The comments and concerns of the public and agencies were used to determine the focus of analysis and selection of alternatives. A summary of the comments received during the scoping process is included in Appendix B, organized by location, meeting date, and subject.

The Commanding General, 25th ID(L) and U.S. Army Hawai'i approved the July 2003 EIS for public review and it was distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public. The availability of this document was announced in the *Federal Register* on October 3, 2003, and for 45 days the public was provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the EIS. After the public comments are incorporated and the draft is revised the General will weigh appropriate information and will decide which alternative to implement. This decision will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Notification of publication of the EIS and the opening of the public comment period was announced as both legal and display advertisements in the *Hawaii Tribune-Herald*, *West Hawaii Today*, *The Honolulu Advertiser*, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, *Midweek*, and OEQC's *The Environmental Notice*. Publication dates were October 3, 5, and 8, 2003. Six public meetings to receive comments on the EIS were held, on each in Honolulu, Wahiawa, Waianae, Kahuku, Waikoloa, and Hilo.

During the scoping meetings, the administrators of the public facilities would not allow the meetings to extend beyond 10:00 PM. This time restriction required that members of the public keep their oral comments short. After many public comments about the length of the meetings, and in an attempt to allow for full participation of all people present, the Army decided to hold the EIS public meetings at private facilities that were open as long as the Army needed. The majority of the EIS public meetings did not conclude until after 12:00 AM.

At the first two meetings the Honolulu Police Department arrested a total of seven people for trespassing, when they attempted to enter the facilities with signs. All individuals were advised that they were welcome to enter the facilities without the signs.

It was not the intent of the Army to restrict the public through the format and location of the public meetings. We corrected the situation by working with the other facility locations to allow signs in the meeting rooms and provide tables for members of the public to display signs and information. In addition, we worked with the facilities and the City and County of Honolulu's prosecutor and all charges were dropped against individuals involved in the situation. All of the individuals who were arrested had the opportunity to participate in subsequent meetings and most of them attended and provided public comment.

Through public meetings, the opportunity to provide written comments, and the extension of the public comment period, we believe we allowed meaningful opportunity for public participation in the process.

The total number of meeting attendees was approximately 600 individuals, almost 300 of whom submitted oral or written comments. The Web site (www.sbcteis.com) was also available for the public to review the document and to make comments. On October 31, 2003, the Army decided to extend the public comment period on the EIS until January 3, 2004. A media release was issued announcing the extension and notices were also published in the Federal Register and in *The Environmental Notice*, published by OEQC.

Public comments on the EIS raised during the EIS public meetings were similar to those of the scoping process and included:

- Impacts to recreational access, primarily at Honouliuli Preserve;
- Impacts to air quality from potential fugitive dust emissions associated with proposed training activities;
- Impacts to noise from ordnance and aircraft associated with current force and proposed training activities;
- Impacts to water resources from a potential increase on demand for water and potential increased risk of contamination from the proposed action;
- Impacts to biological resources from the potential increased risk of wildland fires;
- Impacts to access to sacred sites and areas of traditional importance from training activities and need for more detailed discussion of areas of traditional importance;
- Impacts to cultural resources from the permanent loss of a resource through mitigation measures such as data recovery;
- Impacts to human health and safety from the potential increased risk of wildland fires; and
- Impacts to human health and safety from the potential increase of unexploded ordnance and future clean-up issues of Army lands.

Comments received during the public comment period included those from federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals. Over 600 individuals provided comments during the public comment period; these comments, and the Army's responses, are provided in Appendix P of this FEIS.

The Army will consider all comments collected on the EIS and the EIS (this document) in the decision making process. The Army's decision regarding this project will be documented in an ROD for the Proposed Action, and the ROD will be signed by the Commanding General, 25th ID(L) and US Army Hawai'i. The ROD will be issued after the NEPA-required 30-day waiting period associated with the publication of the EIS. The summary findings of the ROD will also be published in the *Federal Register*.

Individuals and organizations are invited to access information concerning the Proposed Action at the Army's Web site established for this EIS at [www.sbcteis.com](http://www.sbcteis.com). Comments can also be submitted by email to [sbct\\_eis@poh01.usace.army.mil](mailto:sbct_eis@poh01.usace.army.mil).