

July 2003
Abstract
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Army Transformation to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Hawaii

This environmental impact statement (EIS) addresses the Army's proposed transformation of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) in Hawai'i to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). This document has been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500 – 1508) and the Army (32 CFR 651). Its purpose is to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental and socioeconomic consequences of the proposed action and alternatives.

The Department of the Army prepared a programmatic environmental impact statement to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with transformation of the entire Army nationwide. The Army issued the Final PEIS and Record of Decision for Army Transformation in 2002. The PEIS designated the 2nd Brigade and five other units across the United States as part of the initial phase of transformation. These units would be converted to SBCTs.

Three alternatives are evaluated in this EIS, including the Proposed Action (the Army's Preferred Alternative), a Reduced Land Acquisition Alternative, and the No Action Alternative. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to assist in bringing the Army's Interim Force to operational capability and to provide realistic training in Hawai'i.

The Proposed Action includes training to be conducted at Schofield Barracks Military Reservation, Dillingham Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area and Kaiwaloa Training Area on O'ahu and at Pōhakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawai'i. Twenty-eight projects are proposed that would improve on the existing support structure and facilities to provide the necessary field training required for an SBCT. These projects include construction of ranges, airfield upgrades, land acquisition, and new equipment such as new and modernized vehicles (namely the Stryker, an eight-wheeled, 20-ton combat vehicle) and weapons systems (105mm cannon and 120mm mortar). The number of soldiers and vehicles stationed at SBMR also would increase. The Army would acquire land on O'ahu (approximately 1,400 acres) and on the island of Hawai'i (approximately 23,000 acres) for training areas and road construction.

The Reduced Land Acquisition Alternative is identical to the Proposed Action, with two exceptions, moving a proposed new training range from Schofield Barracks to Pōhakuloa Training Area and reducing land acquisition at Schofield Barracks from approximately 1,400 acres to approximately 100 acres.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not undertake the proposed conversion of the 2nd Brigade to an SBCT in Hawai'i. The 2nd Brigade would continue to train and operate as a conventional light infantry force.

There would be both adverse and beneficial impacts from all alternatives. Significant impacts to land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, biological resources, have been identified. Significant but mitigable to less than significant impacts have been identified to visual resources, water resources, cultural resources, human health and safety, and socioeconomics.

<p>The official closing date for the receipt of comments is 45 days from the date on which the Notice of Availability of this Draft EIS appears in the Federal Register.</p> <p>Individuals and organizations are invited to access information at the Army's Web site established for this EIS at www.sbcteis.com.</p>	<p>If you would like further information regarding this statement, please contact:</p> <p>Ms. Cindy Barger US Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu Engineer District, Building 230 Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5440 Commercial Telephone: 808-438-4812 E-mail: sbct_eis@usace.army.mil</p>
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