

HOW TO READ THIS EIS

Chapter 1 summarizes the proposed action by U.S. Army Alaska: transformation of the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate) (172nd SIB) into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). The proposed action would occur at Fort Wainwright Main Post, Tanana Flats, Yukon Training, Donnelly, Gerstle River, and Black Rapids Training Areas, and at Fort Richardson. This section also summarizes the purpose and need for transformation.

Chapter 2 provides a comparison of the alternatives considered, including no action (Alternative 1), transformation with new infrastructure (Alternative 3), and transformation with new infrastructure and airborne task force (Alternative 4). It provides detailed information on personnel requirements (stationing), construction activities, maneuver and weapons training requirements, acquisition of new equipment, deployments, and environmental programs (institutional matters). This also discusses alternatives considered and eliminated.

Important: *For a summary comparison of alternatives, see Table 2.3.a starting on page 2-45. For a summary of environmental impacts for each alternative see table 2.5.a starting on page 2-59.*

Chapter 3 describes the affected environment. This chapter summarizes the current state of knowledge of the physical, biological, and social environment on Army lands, and nearby communities. These resource categories and relevant issues were selected during the public scoping process in early 2002.

Chapter 4 compares the consequences of the three proposed alternatives to the physical, biological, and social environments that were described in Chapter 3. Each section provides a background and review of impacts to the resource/issue, a brief description of transformation activities that could affect the environment, and methodology for analysis. The analyses provide quantitative or qualitative comparison of alternatives for each major installation (Fort Wainwright, Donnelly Training Area, and Fort Richardson). At the end of each section a summary table of expected impacts for each alternative at each installation is provided.

The qualitative terms used in the tables are generally defined as:

- None – No measurable impact is expected to occur.
- Minor – Impacts are expected to occur; impacts would be measurable and may have slight impact to resource.
- Moderate – Impacts are expected to occur; impacts would be noticeable and would have a measurable effect on resource.
- Severe – Impacts are expected to occur; impacts would be obvious and would have serious consequences to resource.
- Beneficial – Only beneficial impacts are expected to occur.

Chapters 5-8 provide supplemental information.

Appendix A provides the maps cited in Chapters 1-4.

Appendices B-I provide information relating to public and agency scoping (Appendix B), Army training and construction requirements (Appendices C and D), the Alaska environment (Appendix E), environmental consequences (Appendix F), Federal statutes pertaining to this EIS (Appendix G), current Army management programs and existing mitigation (Appendix H), and a summary of public meetings (Appendix I).

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