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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473
VOICE: 573-563-4145
FAX: 573.563-4012
BY: Cathy Kropp
EMAIL: shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil

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Community listening session set for input on possible force reductions

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Fort Leonard Wood’s local community will have a chance to participate in a listening session to provide public input to the Finding to No Significant Impact for the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment.

The listening session is scheduled March 2 in Nutter Field House on post with the time yet to be determined.

A November statement by the Army announced the availability of the supplemental environmental assessment and that nearly all Army installations will be affected in some way by the reductions.

The Army evaluated the environmental impacts of potential reductions of active-component Soldiers and Army civilians (Army employees) at 30 installations.

The Army determined that there are no significant impacts, other than socioeconomic impacts, and that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

As a result of current budgetary projections, the Army must reduce its active component end strength to a level below that analyzed in the January 2013 Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

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The supplemental environmental assessment built on the 2013 assessment and analyzed the impacts of a potential reduction of an additional 70,000 Soldiers and associated Army civilians, down to an active component end-strength of 420,000.

These reductions are necessary to meet the spending levels required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The 2013 assessment evaluated 21 Army installations and joint bases where Army stationing changes could result in the inactivation and restructuring of brigade combat teams, or a combined loss of 1,000 or more Army employees during the fiscal year 2013-2020 timeframe.

With the deeper reductions now anticipated, the supplemental assessment evaluated the original 21 installations for greater cuts as well as nine additional installations.

The Army received more than 110,000 comments on the supplemental programmatic environmental assessment from members of the public, members of Congress, state and local officials, Tribal governments, regulators, state and local agencies and officials, special interest groups and non-profit organizations, civic groups, public service organizations, academia and private businesses.

Many of these comments emphasized the seriousness of potential economic impacts, which is consistent with the Army's conclusion that the impacts would be significant at most installations. Socioeconomic impacts are of particular concern to the Army because they affect communities around Army installations and joint bases.

The Army's decision and final supplemental assessment documents may be accessed at: www.aec.army.mil/Services/Support/NEPA/Documents.aspx.

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

(Information for this article came from Army News Service.)

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains more than 80,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender

integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.
