

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Disposal and Reuse of Fort Chaffee, Arkansas**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, the Army has prepared an FEIS for the Disposal and Reuse of Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. The approved 1995 base closure and realignment actions required by the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-510), and subsequent actions in compliance with this law, mandated the closure of Fort Chaffee. It is Department of Defense (DoD) policy to dispose of property no longer needed by DoD. Consequently, as a result of the mandated closure of Fort Chaffee, the Army is disposing of excess property at Fort Chaffee.

**DATES:** The review period will end December 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions and/or written comments regarding the FEIS, or a request for a copy of the document may be directed to Mr. Jim Ellis, Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ATTN: CESWL-ET-WD), P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jim Ellis at (501) 324-5033 or by telefax at (501) 324-5605.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FEIS analyzes three disposal alternatives: (1) The no action alternative, which entails maintaining the property in caretaker status after closure; (2) the encumbered disposal alternative, which entails transferring the property to future owners with Army-imposed limitations, or encumbrances, on the future use of the property; and (3) the unencumbered disposal alternative, which entails transferring the property to future owners with fewer or no Army-imposed restrictions on the future use of the property. The preferred action identified in this FEIS is encumbered disposal of excess property at Fort Chaffee. Based upon the analysis contained in the FEIS, encumbrances and deed restrictions associated with the Army's disposal actions for Fort Chaffee will be mitigation measures.

Planning for the reuse of the property to be disposed of is a secondary action resulting from closure. The local community has established the Fort

Chaffee Redevelopment Authority (FCRA) to produce a reuse development plan for the surplus property. The impacts of reuse are evaluated in terms of land use intensities. This reuse analysis is based upon implementing one of three reuse alternatives, all of which are based upon the FCRA reuse plan. The Army has not selected one of these three reuse alternatives as the preferred action. Selection of the preferred reuse plan will be made by the Fort Chaffee Public Trust, a follow-on organization to the FCRA.

Copies of the FEIS have been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other Federal, state and local agencies; public officials; and organizations and individuals who previously provided substantive comments to the DEIS. Copies of the FEIS are available for review at the following libraries: Arkansas River Valley Regional Library, 501 N Front Street, Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834; Charleston Public Library, 510 Main Street, Charleston, Arkansas 72933; Clarksville Public Library, 2 Taylor Circle, Clarksville, Arkansas 72830; Franklin County Library, 407 W. Market, Ozark, Arkansas 72949; Fort Smith Public Library, 61 S 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901; Gattis—Logan County Library, 100 E. Academy, Paris, Arkansas 72855; Logan County Library, 419 N. Kennedy Street, Booneville, Arkansas 72927; Sebastian County Library, 18 North Adair, Greenwood, Arkansas 72936; Van Buren Public Library, 111 N. 12th Street, Van Buren, Arkansas 72956; Yell County Library, 902 Atlanta Street, Danville, Arkansas 72833; and Little Rock District, Army Corps of Engineers, 700 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. Comments on the FEIS will be used in preparing the record of Decision for the Army action.

Dated: November 1, 1999.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I&E).*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Disposal of Utility Systems at Sierra Army Depot (SIAD), California**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Army announces the availability of the Supplemental EA and FNSI for the proposed action evaluated by this Supplemental EA to dispose of Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) utility systems and the child development center (CDC) (property made available by the realignment of SIAD) in accordance with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, as amended. The EA supplements the February 1998 EA for the Disposal and Reuse of the BRAC parcels at SIAD.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before November 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the EA or inquiries into the FNSI may be obtained by writing to Mr. Glen Coffee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, ATTN: CESAM-PD-E, 109 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Glen Coffee by facsimile at (334) 690-2721.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action is to dispose of SIAD's utility systems and the CDC (building P-172) by conveyance to the Lassen County Local Reuse Authority (LRA). The Army proposes to dispose of SIAD's utility systems for electrical power distribution, potable water production, treatment, and wastewater collection. The CDC lies within the Herlong Parcel. The Herlong Parcel was addressed in the February 1998 EA as excess property to be conveyed to the Lassen County LRA. The LRA may dispose of the utility systems to the Herlong Utilities Cooperative for operation and maintenance and transfer the CDC to the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

Alternatives examined in the Supplemental EA include conveyance, long-term lease, and no action. Under the conveyance alternative (preferred alternative) the Army would transfer its utility systems to the Lassen County LRA. The Army would retain ownership and responsibility only for those utility components located within retained buildings and facilities. Under the long-term lease alternative, the Army would retain ownership of the utility systems, but would transfer operation and maintenance responsibilities to a private entity. The no action alternative would consist of the Army's retention of all of its excess property.

Based on the analysis of the EA, it has been determined that implementation of the proposed action will have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the quality of the