

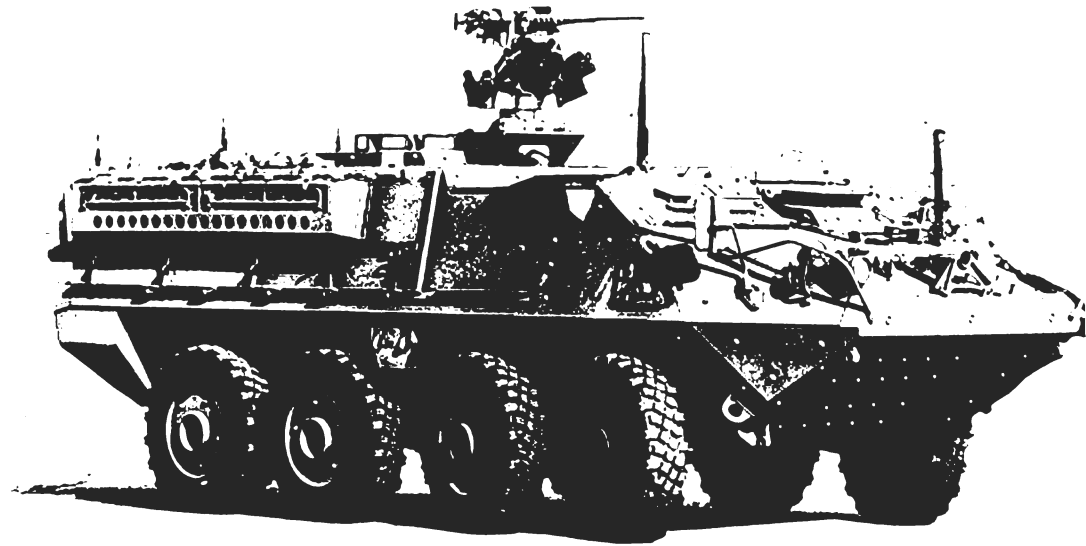
CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

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CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION



1.1 INTRODUCTION

In October 1999, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army articulated a vision about people, readiness, and transformation of the Army to meet the demands of the 21st century. According to this “Army Vision,” the transformed Army would need to be substantially more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, and sustainable than the current Army force structure. In December 2000, the Army proposed to undertake a synchronized program of transformation to occur in three phases over a 30-year period, as stated in the Army Transformation Campaign Plan, the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Transformation* (PEIS), and the PEIS Record of Decision (Figure 1.1.a). Transformation would affect most aspects of the Army’s doctrine, training, leader development, organizations, installations, materiel, and Soldiers.

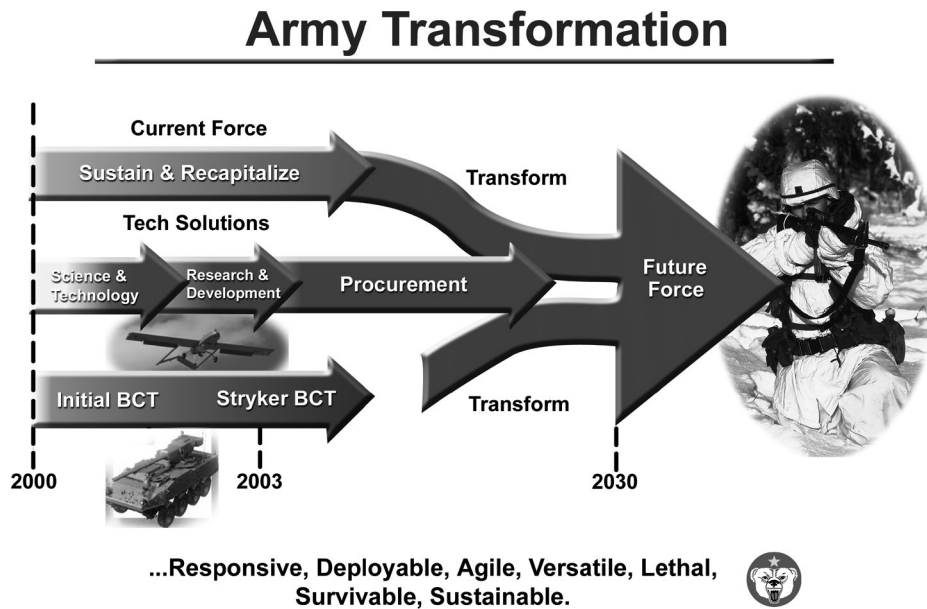


Figure 1.1.a Projected Transformation of Army from Current Forces to Stryker Brigade Combat Teams and Future Force.

The Army has three areas of focus as it strives to meet the transformation vision: first is to sustain and maintain the Current Force; second is the transformation of selected elements into Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs); and third is to develop the Future Force through science, technology, research and development.

In the initial phase of transformation, two Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) were established and furnished with trial equipment at Fort Lewis, Washington. These BCTs are being used to evaluate and refine the “Operations and Organization” concept for continued development of the BCTs and to validate tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The Army is now ready to commence the Stryker Force, or second phase, of transformation. Over the next five to ten years, the Army plans to transform existing brigade-sized units to SBCTs. According to the PEIS, the Stryker Force phase will begin with the fielding of wheeled, light armored vehicles called Strykers, and will end when all SBCTs are fully manned, equipped, and trained as described in the “Operations and Organization” concept for SBCTs (U.S. Army 2002).

The Future Force is the final stage of transformation. This phase would begin once the identified SBCTs are fully manned, equipped with their combat systems, and trained to achieve the desired combat capabilities. The Future Force is designed to be a Soldier-centered integration of ground, air, and space systems operating across the entire spectrum of combat operations. This phase would end when the Army has been fully transformed. The Army, once transformed, would be a strategically more responsive force capitalizing on technologies that would greatly enhance battlefield situational awareness and employ precision engagements with improved effectiveness.

The action proposed by the Army is to transform the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate) [172nd SIB] at Forts Wainwright and Richardson, Alaska, into an SBCT by May 2005. The 172nd SIB, presently stationed at Fort Wainwright and Fort Richardson, with additional major training facilities at Donnelly Training Area (formerly Fort Greely), has been proposed to transform into an SBCT as part of the Stryker Force of the overall Army transformation process.

The transformation of the 172nd SIB is a necessary step to fill a near-term capability shortfall on the path to the Future Force within 30 years. Various activities on U.S. Army Alaska's (USARAK) military and training lands would be altered to provide a baseline capability and foundation to support Army transformation requirements if the proposed action is implemented. Section 1.2 describes the purpose and need for the actions being proposed. Chapter 2, Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, describes in detail the actions proposed and analyzed in this document.

1.1.1 Location

U.S. Army Alaska is comprised of two posts: Forts Wainwright and Richardson. In this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), USARAK properties are divided into three areas for analysis: Fort Wainwright includes Main Post, Yukon and Tanana Flats training areas, Donnelly Training Area includes Gerstle River and Black Rapids training areas (as applicable), and Fort Richardson (Figure 1.1.b). USARAK lands encompass approximately 1,590,000 acres.

1.1.1.1 Fort Wainwright (FWA)

FWA lies 120 miles south of the Arctic Circle near Fairbanks and encompasses approximately 917,000 acres. The post is located in central Alaska, north of the Alaska Range in the Tanana River Valley. The Main Post consists of 13,700 acres, Tanana Flats Training Area (TFTA) is over 655,000 acres, and the Yukon Training Area (YTA) totals 247,952 acres.

The Main Post of FWA is situated on a flat alluvial plain. It is bordered on the west by the city of Fairbanks and on the other three sides by open space that is owned by the state of Alaska. TFTA is located south of Main Post. Its north and east boundaries are formed by the Tanana River, while the Wood River borders the western edge. YTA is located 16 miles east-southeast of Fairbanks, and the post is bound by the Chena River on the north and Salcha River to the south. Eielson Air Force Base is located on YTA's west border.

1.1.1.2 Donnelly Training Area (DTA)

DTA is located approximately 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks and lies within the Tanana River Valley. DTA encompasses approximately 624,000 acres. The southern portion of the post is within the foothills of the Alaska Range, and the northern part is bound by the Tanana River. The Main Post consists of 7,000 acres (after transfer of lands to the Space Missile Defense Command), DTA West is 531,000 acres, and DTA East is 93,000 acres (USARAK 2002e).

The Little Delta River borders the west boundary of DTA West, and the Delta River and portions of its floodplains form the eastern border. The southern border follows a straight diagonal line from MacArthur Mountain to the Delta River, approximately 26 miles from the intersection of the Alaska and Richardson highways. To the north, the boundary follows a diagonal line from the Little Delta River to the Main Post.

The Delta River and its floodplain form the west side of DTA East, and Granite Creek forms the eastern border. The northern boundary roughly parallels the Alaska Highway, and the southern boundary lies at the base of the Alaska Range's foothills. The Main Post is managed with DTA East, and it lies south of Delta Junction.

Two outlying land parcels are located near DTA. The Gerstle River Training Area is approximately 19,000 acres and is located about three miles south of the Alaska Highway and 30 miles southeast of Delta Junction. Gerstle River Training Area is a rectangular area, oriented

northwest to southeast, and measures about five miles, north to south, and nine miles, east to west. Black Rapids Training Area is a 2,780-acre site, located approximately 35 miles south of Delta Junction along the east side of the Richardson Highway.

1.1.1.3 Fort Richardson (FRA)

FRA encompasses 61,376 acres. The post is located in south-central Alaska adjacent to Anchorage, Eagle River, and Elmendorf Air Force Base. The Knik Arm of Cook Inlet borders the north side of the post, and Chugach State Park lies to the south and southeast. The town of Eagle River lies along the northeast border. Anchorage and Elmendorf Air Force Base form the western boundary.

The western boundary is approximately 11 miles long, from the Knik Arm to its terminus beside Anchorage and Chugach State Park. The eastern border is 21 miles, and also runs from the Knik Arm to Chugach State Park. FRA is approximately six miles across, from east to west.

The cantonment area is situated at the base of the Chugach foothills, on the alluvial floodplain between the Chugach Mountains and the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet. Located approximately seven miles from downtown Anchorage, the cantonment area is bordered on the west by Elmendorf Air Force Base, on the north by training areas, on the east by the Glenn Highway, and on the south by Ship Creek, recreational areas, and training areas.

1.1.2 Land Status

Most of USARAK lands are withdrawn from public use by stipulations that vary with each withdrawal document. Some stipulations are consistent throughout all withdrawals and executive orders. Withdrawn lands are not available for disposal, including state or native selection, sales under the Federal Land Planning and Management Act or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, or exchanges. In addition, no rights-of-way are allowed on withdrawn lands that are closed for public access. However, there is a process identified to determine the validity of rights-of-way claims for administrative purposes only.

1.1.3 History – Evolution of Combat Forces Stationed in Alaska 1956 to Present

While USARAK can trace its history back to the Army's arrival as an occupation force following the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, its emergence as a modern mechanized force comparable to the proposed SBCT began during the mid-1950s. From 1956 and through the late 1970s, USARAK was comprised of combat units that consisted of tracked combat vehicles such as armored personnel carriers and light tanks. Table 1.1a summarizes the approximate make-up of the major combat maneuver units (infantry and armor) that were stationed and trained at Forts Wainwright and Richardson since 1956. Under the proposed action, light armored wheeled vehicles would be fielded as part of the transformation of the 172nd SIB.

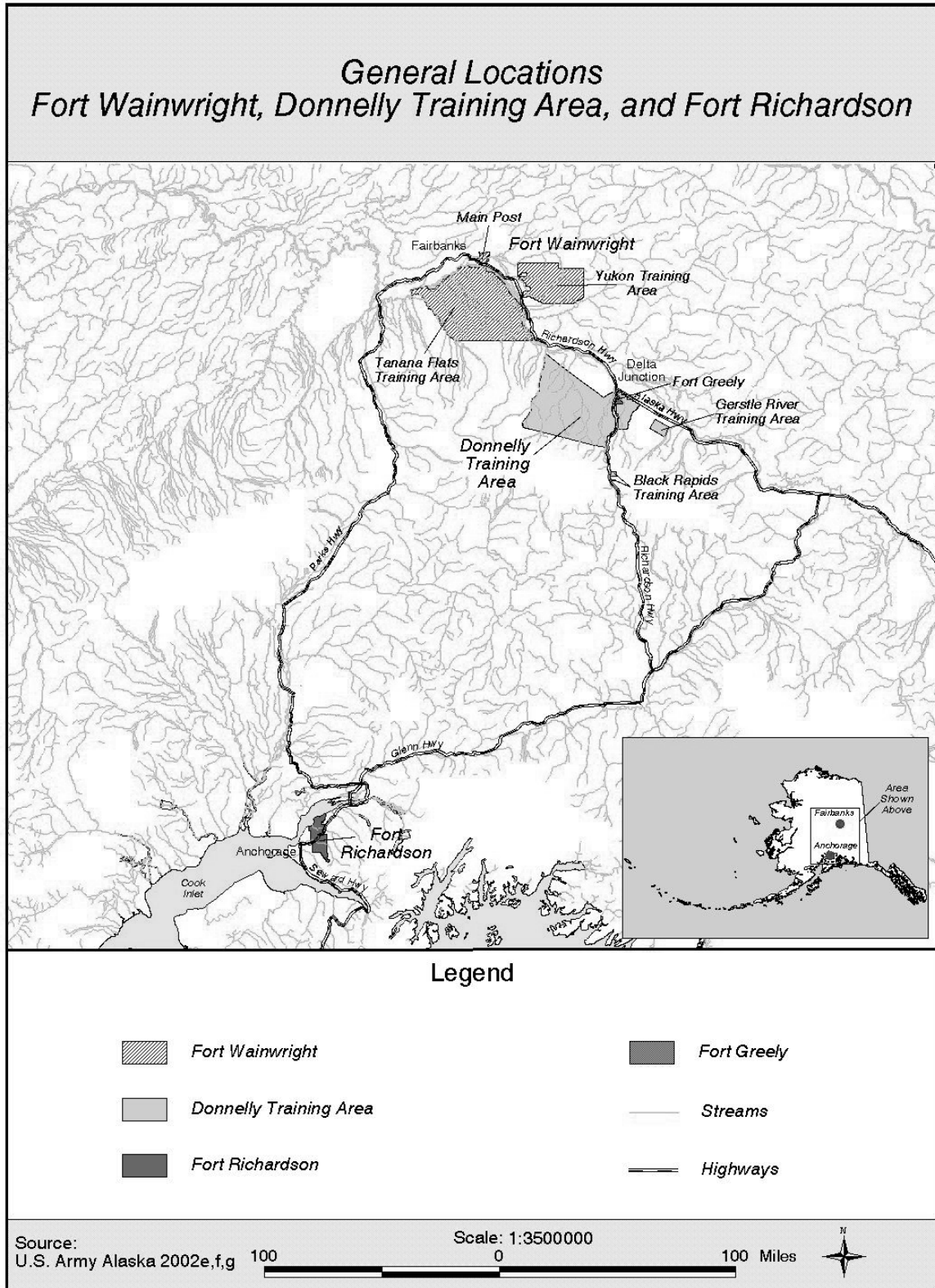


Figure 1.1.b General Locations of Fort Wainwright, Donnelly Training Area, and Fort Richardson.

Table 1.1.a Evolution of Combat Forces at USARAK.

Time Period	Organizations	Major Ground Maneuver Elements	Approximate Number of USARAK Tracked Vehicles	Approximate Total USARAK Military Personnel
1956-1963	9 th and 23 rd Infantry Regiments	FWA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion FRA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion	< 150	15,000 peak
1963-1973	171 st and 172 nd Infantry Brigades (Mechanized)	FWA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion FRA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion	240	12,500 peak
1973-1986	172 nd Infantry Brigade	FWA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion FRA: 2 Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion	0	8,000 peak
1986-1994	6 th Infantry Division	FWA: 2 Light Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion FRA: 2 Light Infantry Battalions 1 Field Artillery Battalion	0	8,000 peak
1994-present	172 nd Infantry Brigade (Separate)	FWA: 2 Light Infantry Battalions 2 Field Artillery Batteries FRA: 1 Light Infantry Battalion 1 Field Artillery Battery	0	5,400 peak

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR TRANSFORMATION

The *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA), CFR 1500-1508 and the *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule* [32 CFR Part 651 Fed. Reg. 29 Mar 02 (67FR15289-15332)] and its implementing regulations require the Army to assess the environmental impacts of transformation. To initiate the assessment process, the Department of the Army prepared a *Draft and Final PEIS for Army Transformation* (October 2001, March 2002). On April 11, 2002, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations signed the corresponding Record of Decision and declared the Army's decision to undertake a program of transformation.

The PEIS and the Record of Decision identified three brigades and an armored cavalry regiment for transformation into an SBCT during the next five to ten years. These units were the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), Forts Wainwright and Richardson, Alaska; the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light), Fort Polk, Louisiana; the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the 56th Brigade of the 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Pennsylvania National Guard. Before associated transformation decisions and actions occur, the environmental impacts need to be evaluated at the identified sites under the provisions of NEPA. USARAK, in response to the selection of the 172nd SIB to transform into an SBCT, is conducting an environmental analysis of the impacts of transformation.

The purpose of the proposed action is to transform the 172nd SIB in Alaska into an SBCT capable of greater lethality and survivability than the Current Force. This transformation is necessary to close Current Force capability gaps and to provide critical information for the long-term development of a Future Force. The Headquarters, Department of the Army has directed the proposed conversion of the 172nd SIB to an SBCT, with a planned initial operational capability date of May 2005. The proposed action also includes the transformation of USARAK to provide a foundation to support Army transformation requirements. It would occur as part of the overall Army transformation campaign as documented in the PEIS. The action considered for implementation must provide base support infrastructure, training support, Soldiers, and equipment configuration capable of meeting the established need.

The security challenges facing the Army during transformation dictate the need for the proposed action to balance risks by sustaining the Army's readiness to meet the nation's present war-fighting requirements. The fielding of the Stryker Force to fill current capability gaps and the ultimate design and fielding of the Future Force to meet future requirements is needed for the Army to become more strategically responsive and dominant when faced with any contingency.

The Army is developing and fielding SBCTs as a necessary interim effort to meet a near-term capability shortfall as it continues to transform the entire force. This effort would also provide an option for employing a force capable of early entry into a theater to deter potential adversaries. The SBCT is more lethal and survivable than the Army's Current Force and would continue to swiftly defeat the adversary.

1.3 SCOPE OF THIS EIS AND DECISION TO BE MADE

The proposed transformation of the 172nd SIB, located and trained at FWA, DTA and FRA, into an SBCT, and the transformation of USARAK to provide a baseline capability and foundation to support Army transformation requirements, are the focus of this EIS. The scope of this EIS

includes potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed action. Resource categories analyzed for the proposed action and alternatives include:

- Air Quality
- Geology Resources
- Soil Resources
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Wetlands
- Vegetation
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Threatened or Endangered Species and Species of Concern
- Fire Management
- Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Public Access and Recreation
- Subsistence
- Noise
- Human Health and Safety
- Environmental Justice
- Infrastructure

The discussion will include the environmental impacts of the alternatives; any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposed action be implemented including direct, indirect, long-term, and short-term impacts; any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources; and cumulative impacts. All of the evaluated alternatives are located within USARAK boundaries.

This EIS will provide the decision-maker, in this case, the Commanding General, USARAK, with the information necessary to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the alternatives as directed by NEPA. The selected alternative will take into account technical, economic and political feasibility; environmental and social issues; and the ability to meet objectives of the USARAK mission and the overall Army Vision. The following range of alternatives has been evaluated for presentation to the decision-maker:

- Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not transform the 172nd SIB into an SBCT.
- Alternative 2 (No New Infrastructure): Transform all organizations and elements of the 172nd SIB to an SBCT using existing USARAK support infrastructure.
- Alternative 3 (New Infrastructure): Transform all organizations and elements of the 172nd SIB, except for the 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), to an SBCT including the construction of five new facilities and the use of existing USARAK support infrastructure. The 1-501st PIR would be assigned to USARAK and forces would be added to the SBCT to replace the reassigned 1-501st PIR.
- Alternative 4 (New Infrastructure and Airborne Task Force): Transform all organizations and elements of the 172nd SIB, except for the 1-501st PIR, to an SBCT including the construction of five new facilities and the use of existing USARAK support infrastructure. The 1-501st PIR would be assigned to USARAK and subsequently would

expand to an Airborne Task Force. Additional forces would be added to the SBCT to replace the newly created Airborne Task Force.

1.4 COOPERATING AGENCIES

No federal or state agencies were identified as formal cooperating agencies in the development of this EIS.

1.5 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The Alaska Command has actively participated in the development and review of this document.

The state of Alaska was notified by USARAK of its intent to undergo transformation in Alaska. The Army has worked directly with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to define potential impacts of the proposed action and No Action Alternative on wildlife (Sections 3.9 and 4.9, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Appendix F).

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, USARAK has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine potential impacts of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat found on Army lands (Sections 3.10 and 4.10, Threatened or Endangered Species and Species of Concern, and Appendix F).

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office has been contacted regarding potential impacts of the proposed action on cultural resources and possible compliance requirements per Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* (Sections 3.12 and 4.12, Cultural Resources).

Since 1980, native and non-native subsistence uses on federal public lands in Alaska have been regulated by Title VIII of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA) (Public Law 96-487). Title VIII addresses the rights of customary and traditional subsistence users by giving “rural” Alaskans, those who actually depend upon subsistence uses, preference in the take of fish and wildlife on federal lands (Public Law 96-487, Sec. 801, Sec. 802). The Bureau of Land Management determined that the withdrawal of USARAK lands for military purposes does not significantly impact subsistence use (USARAK 1999a).

The U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Bureau of Land Management were also contacted.

1.6 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes enjoy a unique political relationship with the federal government that is based on the United States Constitution, treaties, and statutes. Tribes have been recognized as “domestic dependent nations” and retain a substantial degree of sovereignty over their own affairs. When federal actions have the potential to significantly affect tribal interests, consultation with tribal governments must be undertaken on a government-to-government basis. Tribal consultation must be considered separately from the public participation process mandated by statutes such as NEPA.

In accordance with USARAK’s responsibilities under NEPA, Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, government-to-government consultation regarding this EIS has been initiated with 59 Alaska Native tribal governments. In addition, USARAK has

included Native corporations, non-profit entities, and non-federally recognized Tribes on the contact list and has requested their participation as observers (Chapter 7).

Guided by regulations promulgated by the Council of Environmental Quality as well as Department of Defense policy, USARAK extended invitations to an informative meeting for all federally recognized Tribes and tribal organizations located within the vicinity of the FWA and FRA installations. Due to the importance of subsistence activities to the health and welfare of Tribes in Alaska, an inclusive approach was utilized to ensure that all potential interests would be addressed in the initial stages of consultation. In addition, tribal sovereignty requires that USARAK use tribal input to determine which Tribes have interests that may be “significantly affected” by the transformation process.

USARAK has solicited input from interested Tribes in order to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed action (transformation of the 172nd SIB into an SBCT) on tribal resources, rights and interests (Chapter 9). A point of contact within the Directorate of Public Works at FRA has been designated to work directly with tribal representatives.

1.7 SCOPING

1.7.1 Army Planning

On July 12, 2001, Headquarters, Department of the Army announced that the 172nd SIB would be considered for transformation. Based on this announcement, USARAK created a project planning team to begin the analysis required under NEPA. This NEPA planning effort was used to identify topics and areas of potential impact resulting from the proposed action. The NEPA project team participated in Department of Army and Major Command sponsored meetings with other prospective installation NEPA teams. Participants in the planning and development of transformation issues within Alaska included USARAK Environmental, Legal, Transformation, Training, and Alaskan Command staffs.

Topics that were deemed important and required inclusion and analysis in the proposed EIS were used to create what now constitutes the section headings in Chapters 3 and 4. Issues identified by the public through the scoping process are listed below and addressed within the appropriate sections in Chapters 3 and 4.

1.7.2 Public Scoping

NEPA requires an early and open process to inform the public of a proposed action and to identify significant issues related to the action. This process is termed “scoping.” USARAK invited and encouraged agency and public participation in the scoping process for this EIS. USARAK held public meetings regarding the Alaska transformation EIS in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Delta Junction. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit comments regarding transformation and what should be evaluated in the EIS.

The public meetings were held at the following locations:

Anchorage: Elks Lodge	February 26, 2002
Fairbanks: Carlson Center	February 27, 2002
Delta Junction: Community Center	February 28, 2002

The public meetings were announced during the month previous to the meetings in the following local and regional newspapers: *The Anchorage Daily News*, *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, and

The Delta Wind. These meetings were also announced in USARAK's *Environmental Resources Newsletter*, as well as on the USARAK conservation website (<http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/>).

Public meetings regarding the environmental impacts of transformation of the 172nd SIB into an SBCT followed an open house format. Attendees were offered a fact sheet, a comment sheet, and a newsletter (Appendix B). The open house included 16 poster displays that explained transformation, SBCTs, and the various resource values of USARAK lands. USARAK provided three briefings and slide show presentations (1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m.) at each of the public meetings. Three individuals in Anchorage, 35 in Fairbanks, and 23 in Delta Junction attended the meetings. Issues raised at the Delta Junction Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting (a separate meeting not sponsored by USARAK), held on February 27, 2002 in Delta Junction, and attended by USARAK representatives, have also been included as part of the public scoping process.

In addition, personnel from local, state, and federal government agencies were invited to participate in separate scoping meetings. Invitations were sent prior to the meetings. Dates and locations of the agency meetings are listed below:

Anchorage: Sheraton Inn	February 25, 2002
Delta Junction: Community Center	February 27, 2002
Fairbanks: Chena River Convention Center	March 1, 2002

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4, 2002. The 30-day scoping comment period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent and extended through April 3, 2002. During this period, verbal and written comments were accepted. All comments received have been compiled into a scoping summary, which is part of the Planning Record and is included in this EIS (Appendix B).

1.8 SCOPING ISSUES OF CONCERN

The verbal and written comments received during the scoping period from the public and the various agencies were used to help determine specific issues of concern. Potential issues were determined to be significant to the analysis of the proposed action if they fell within the scope of the proposed action, if they suggested different actions or mitigation, or if they influenced the decision on the proposed action. Impact analysis was completed for each significant issue to determine the consequences of the alternatives as presented in Chapter 4. Based on public and agency comments, the significant issues of concern analyzed in this EIS are:

1.8.1 Access (Issue A)

Impacts on access to fishing or hunting opportunities and recreational activities, especially wildlife viewing and airboating. The impacts of military activities on access to fishing areas were identified as public concerns. Issue A is evaluated in Section 4.14, Public Access and Recreation.

1.8.2 Traffic (Issue B)

Impacts of Army vehicle convoys on highway safety and potential risks of accidents, increased Army vehicle drive times on local highways, and the potential degradation of highways and unpaved roads from military vehicles. Issue B is evaluated in Section 4.17, Human Health and Safety.

1.8.3 Wildlife and Habitat (Issue C)

Potential impacts to wildlife, fish, and their habitats. The species of greatest concern were large game mammals, especially bison and moose. Issue C is evaluated in Section 4.7, Wetlands, Section 4.9, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Section 4.14, Public Access and Recreation.

1.8.4 Maneuver Impacts (Issue D)

Impacts of military vehicles to off-road areas. Issue D is evaluated in Section 4.4, Soil Resources, and Section 4.7, Wetlands.

1.8.5 Fire Management (Issue E)

Impacts of military training on forest fires and the ability to put out fires on military lands. Issue E is evaluated in Section 4.11, Fire Management.

1.8.6 Cultural Resources (Issue F)

Impacts of maneuvers and exploded ordnance on cultural resources. Issue F is evaluated in Section 4.12, Cultural Resources.

1.9 SCOPING ISSUES OUTSIDE THE EXTENT OF THIS EIS

All of the concerns and comments that were presented during the scoping process have been included in the scoping summary (Appendix B). Issues that fell outside of the proposed action of transformation of the 172nd SIB into an SBCT were eliminated from further review. The scoping summary identifies all issues eliminated from analysis with an explanation for their elimination.

1.10 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES RELEVANT TO THE ACTION

Previously prepared Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements that address ongoing actions, issues, or baseline data at USARAK are used as background information or are incorporated by reference into this EIS as appropriate. Examples of such NEPA documentation are:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Alaska Military Operations Areas, Vol. 1-3, 1995
- Northern Intertie Project (Golden Valley Electric Association) Environmental Impact Statement, 1998
- Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for Alaska Army Lands Withdrawal Renewal, Vol. 1-2, November 1999
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for National Missile Defense Deployment, Vol. 1-5, July 2000
- Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Transformation, March 2002
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, 2002
- Southern Intertie Project, Environmental Impact Statement, 2002

- Previous USARAK Construction Environmental Assessments, 2002-2003
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, Pogo Mine Project, Alaska, 2003

In addition to NEPA, other federal statutes, regulations, and directives that may apply to the proposed action are discussed in Appendix G.

1.11 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THIS EIS

This document was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and *Environmental Effects of Army Actions; Final Rule*. Where appropriate, the chapters are organized by presenting separate information for the Fort Wainwright Main Post, Tanana Flats Training Area, Yukon Training Area, Donnelly Training Area, Gerstle River Training Area, Black Rapids Training Area, and Fort Richardson. For areas with common information, sections are grouped as indicated in the section headings.

Tables and figures presented in each chapter are numbered by first identifying their corresponding chapter and, when applicable, section and are presented in alphabetical order. For example, Figure 3.2.a identifies the first map (a) in Chapter 3, Section 2. Volume I contains Chapters 1 through 9, as described below. Figures, appendices, and the scoping summary are located in Volume II.

Chapter 1: Purpose of and Need for Action

This chapter explains USARAK's underlying purpose and need for the proposed action and alternatives.

Chapter 2: Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

This chapter describes the proposed action, defines differences between the alternatives, and summarizes the environmental consequences of the alternatives.

Chapter 3: Affected Environment

In Chapter 3, the relevant resource components of the existing environment (or baseline environment) are presented.

Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences

This chapter analyzes the impacts of each alternative on the resource components described in Chapter 3. Potential impacts of the alternatives are described in terms of the activities that would take place under transformation. The transformation activities are grouped into six categories including stationing, construction, training, systems acquisition, deployment, and institutional matters. This chapter includes relevant and reasonable mitigation measures and a description of cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed action.

Chapter 5: List of Preparers and Contributors

In Chapter 5, the individuals who prepared this document, their qualifications, and contributions are identified.

Chapter 6: Bibliography

Sources referenced in this EIS are documented in this chapter.

Chapter 7: Agencies and Individuals Contacted

This chapter identifies local, state, and federal agencies; Tribes; and individuals contacted.

Chapter 8: Distribution List

In this chapter, all agencies, organizations, and individuals to whom copies of this EIS were sent are identified.

Chapter 9: Comments and Responses

This chapter contains the Army's responses to comments received on the Draft EIS.

Appendices

This section contains materials prepared for this EIS which are either relevant to the decision to be made or are the basis for the analysis completed in this document:

Appendix A – Maps

Appendix B – Scoping

Appendix C – SBCT Stationing Description

Appendix D – Construction

Appendix E – Affected Environment (Chapter 3)

Appendix F – Environmental Consequences (Chapter 4)

Appendix G – Federal Statutes

Appendix H – Current Army Management Programs and Existing Mitigation

Appendix I – Public Meetings