

## **Environmental Assessment for the Temporary Stationing of a Modular Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Unit of Action (UA) at Fort Polk, Louisiana.**

### **Proposed Action**

The Department of the Army announced on July 23, 2004 that a Modular Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Unit of Action (UA) will be temporarily stationed at Fort Polk in fiscal year 2005. The new BCT/UA will be designated as the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (4/10<sup>th</sup> MTN) and structured as a light infantry unit. As part of the decision, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment (2ACR) will move to Fort Lewis, Washington for transformation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment (2CR) as a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). The proposed action is to temporarily station a BCT/UA at Fort Polk, Louisiana and implement environmental stewardship measures to sustain training lands for long-term use.

Major Elements of the Proposed Action:

- Stand up the BCT/UA: man, train and equip the 4/10<sup>th</sup> MTN to execute operations in support of Combatant Commander Requirements.
- Provide temporary facilities to adequately accommodate the BCT/UA, including barracks, headquarters, support and administrative facilities, classrooms, and motor pools.
- Maintain environmental compliance and sound stewardship practices.

As a connected action, the Regimental Aviation Squadron, which was previously a part of the 2ACR, will be realigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps.

### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of this action is to assist the Army in bringing a BCT/UA to operational capability at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Major Elements for the Purpose of this Proposed Action:

- Assist the Army in establishing and training BCT/UA as a rapidly deployable force.
- Provide sustainable training lands and supporting facilities for forces training at the JRTC and Fort Polk.

The need for this proposed action is as follows:

- Support the Army's strategic commitments including ongoing operations in support of the Global War on Terror.
- Support the Army's transformation to a campaign-quality force with joint and expeditionary capabilities to meet the future demands of the Combatant Commanders.

- Sustain training lands, facilities, and natural resources for continued use and benefit.

### **Characteristics of the 4/10<sup>th</sup> MTN UA**

Although the exact configuration of units will vary, the Army has identified a basic Infantry UA design. Depending upon mission requirements, these units could be delivered by parachute or helicopter. The Infantry UAs will consist of approximately 3,000 soldiers and will be composed of the following subordinate units:

- One Brigade Troops Battalion including the UA staff, a military police (MP) platoon, a signal company, an intelligence company, an engineer company, and a fire support coordination cell.
- One Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RSTA) Battalion with both motorized and dismounted reconnaissance units; a surveillance unit including ground radars, sensors, and unmanned aerial vehicles; and a forward support company.
- Two Infantry Battalions consisting of three rifle companies and one combat support company each; and a forward support company, capable of moving one company by truck.
- One Strike Battalion consisting of a target acquisition platoon, an unmanned aerial vehicle unit, a forward support company, and two batteries of towed artillery.
- One Support Battalion consisting of a transport platoon capable of moving almost an entire infantry battalion by truck.

The Infantry UA will be equipped with a network battle command system and will receive augmentation from an Aviation UA when the mission dictates.

### **Decisions to Be Made**

- How to implement the stationing of the 4/10<sup>th</sup> MTN at the JRTC and Fort Polk, while ensuring sound environmental stewardship of training lands and natural resources at Fort Polk, Louisiana.
- The Commander of the JRTC and Fort Polk will make this decision upon completion of the EA.