

Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Restricted Airspace at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Louisiana

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk are seeking public input to help determine the appropriate scope of its Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will evaluate potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposal for expansion of Restricted Airspace.

The U.S. Army has proposed that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) establish additional Restricted Airspace within the existing Warrior Military Operations Area (MOA) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Establishment of additional Restricted Airspace would enable safe and realistic training by multi-service combat forces in preparation for deployment to global conflicts. The EA will consider four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The proposed action alternatives would: 1) expand an existing block of Restricted Airspace (R-3804B) overlying the Fort Polk Main Post and/or 2) establish a Restricted Airspace bridge between the Fort Polk Main Post and the Peason Ridge Training Area.

The Army encourages all federal, state, local agencies, federally recognized tribes, local residents, and other interested organizations or individuals to participate in the scoping process in order to aid the Army and FAA in identifying and evaluating potential issues and concerns regarding proposed project. The scoping process will include one public scoping meeting which is an opportunity for the public to receive information about the proposed action and alternatives and to assist the Army in determining issues related to the expansion of Restricted Airspace to be addressed in the EA. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2011 at the Leesville City Airport from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The public will also be invited to review and comment on the Draft EA when it is available for review. Comments from the public will be considered before any decision is made regarding implementing the proposed action.

Those unable to attend the public scoping meeting can submit written comments regarding the proposed project no later than 4 January 2012. Public comments received after this date may not be included or addressed in the EA. Please address questions or comments to: Public Affairs Office, 7033 Magnolia Drive, Building 4919, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5342; phone: (337) 531-7203; email: polk.public_response@conus.army.mil.

Additional information on the EA for the expansion of Restricted Airspace at the JRTC and Fort Polk, Louisiana will be available on the JRTC and Fort Polk web site at <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil/generalinfo.htm>.