



**Joint News Release**  
**US Army**  
**Joint Readiness Training Center and Ft Polk**  
**US Forest Service**  
**Kisatchie National Forest**



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**“Open House” Public Meetings scheduled for Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Fort Polk, the US Forest Service and the Federal Aviation Administration are holding public meetings throughout the state to receive public input regarding a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) being prepared by the three agencies.

Public meetings will be held as an “Open House” from 2:00pm to 6:30 pm on the following dates and at the following locations:

**August 25, 2003**

**AmeriSuites Hotel**  
**6080 Bluebonnet Blvd**  
**Baton Rouge, LA**

**August 26, 2003**

**England Airpark Community Center**  
**1718 Kegleman**  
**Alexandria, LA**

The public is invited to come and go anytime during these hours.

The Department of Army and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (as cooperating agencies) have announced the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to assess the potential impacts associated with implementing force transformation and installation mission support activities at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Louisiana, along with the long-term use of Kisatchie National Forest lands for military training. The DEIS was prepared to analyze the impacts of future training activities for transformed Army units and other units stationed at Fort Polk, as well as proposed Army activities needed to support transformation and ongoing installation missions.

The Army’s proposed action involves fielding of new vehicles and equipment; construction and improvement of firing ranges, roads, stream crossings, and support facilities; land use agreements and leases; training and deployment of Army troops; and continued environmental stewardship. In addition, the DEIS considers a Forest Service proposal to thin approximately 21,500 acres of upland pine stands on the Vernon Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest to improve habitat conditions for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The forest thinning would also support military training on the Vernon Unit. The FAA proposes to approve amendment of the Alexandria International Airport Layout Plan to incorporate proposed Army projects and activities at England Industrial Airpark. A range of alternatives, including no action, was identified in the DEIS.

The DEIS is available online at <http://notes.tetrattech-ffx.com/PolkEIS.nsf>. Comments on the DEIS or requests for copies of the document can be sent to:

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