

### **Land Acquisition Process**

The Department of Defense (DoD) has imposed a major land acquisition moratorium on the military services. By express DoD policy, a waiver of this moratorium is required before the Army can pursue any proposed land acquisition.

The Army has instituted a land acquisition process that takes a number of years. The process is initiated with an internal planning meeting and concludes with the purchase of land. The process includes the following steps:

- Step 1: Internal installation planning to determine training land requirements and alternatives.
- Step 2: Submission of a draft Army Major Land Acquisition Proposal (AMLAP) by the installation through the Army chain of command to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for concept approval.
- Step 3: Initiation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, after OSD approval of the concept, to determine, with the public, appropriate parcels for purchase, necessary mitigation, economic impacts, possible alternatives, and other issues and concerns.
- Step 4: Parallel to the NEPA process, development of real estate planning reports and baseline studies.
- Step 5: Submission of appropriate Military Construction Army (MCA) projects to the Congress. Congress will approve and fund the project, or not.
- Step 6: After completion of the above steps, and receiving funding, Headquarters, Department of the Army then authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to purchase land.

#### ***Where is Fort Carson in this process?***

- Planning to determine training land requirements and alternatives (Step 1) began just over one year ago at Fort Carson. The Army identified a 418,577 acre shortfall in land needed to support Soldier training at Fort Carson/PCMS.
- Fort Carson submitted the draft Land Acquisition Proposal through the Army chain of command for DoD review in the summer of 2006 (Step 2).
- Fort Carson has completed Step 2 in the land acquisition process outlined above. The Land Acquisition Proposal was approved by OSD with the granting of a waiver to its moratorium on major land purchase by the militaries.
- Before Step 3 can be initiated Fort Carson must answer congressionally mandated reporting requirements as well as use the one-year cooling off period to explore further, more alternatives to expansion and identify win-win solutions for Soldiers and civilian land owners within the area Fort Carson is interested in acquiring land.