

MAYOR

James Thomas, Jr.

CITY MANAGER

Billy Edwards

CITY CLERK

Sarah Lumpkin

CITY ATTORNEY

Linnie L. Darden, III



MAYOR PRO TEM

Charles Frasier

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jason Floyd

David Anderson, Sr.

Keith Jenkins

Kenneth Shaw

NEWS RELEASE

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Public response to proposed troop reductions needed

Hinesville, GA— In June 2014, the Army released the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) in response to additional cuts the Army is projecting. In June 2013, the Army announced it was cutting the active component by 70,000. As part of this reduction, the Army cut the 3ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) – a cut of roughly 1,370 soldiers from Fort Stewart. According to the plan announced in June 2013, soldiers assigned will dip to roughly 19,700 over the next 12 to 18 months.

The Army leadership has announced in several forums that any of its large posts, including Fort Stewart, could lose up to 16,000 soldiers. It also announced that virtually every post will be reduced in some capacity under the 420,000 scenario. Some senior Army officials have mentioned the Army is using the SPEA partly as a way to lead local communities to express their opposition to federal budget cuts that would force the reduction to the 420,000 level.

“We need to tell our story of how we’ve supported soldiers and their families – in our businesses, churches, schools, neighborhoods, etc.” said James Thomas, Hinesville Mayor. “The Army needs to know the effect that additional cuts will have on us before making any decisions about reduction of forces at Fort Stewart.”

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“Home for a Day or a Lifetime”

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The public comment period for the public to voice concern is Aug. 25. The Army Environmental Command at Fort Sam Houston, TX is responsible for receiving and compiling comments. The email is usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil and the toll free number is 1-855-846-3940.

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The City of Hinesville is the county seat and largest city in Liberty County. It is a progressive and pro business community that welcomes all. With a population of more than 30,000, Hinesville is also one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. For more information, please visit www.cityofhinesville.org.

For more information and interviews, contact Krystal Hart at (912) 876-3564 or khart@cityofhinesville.org.

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