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### **US Army Utilizes Feature Analyst® Technology to Study Urban Sprawl**

(MISSOULA, Montana) In a study released in September, the U.S. Army defined the perpetual increase in urban growth that is threatening its military installment in Fort Benning, Ga. The objective of the study was to identify the population increase and its negative impacts on military operations and natural ecosystems so that preventative measures could be established.

To pin down urban sprawl near and around Fort Benning, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) used satellite imagery collected in two-year intervals in combination with state-of-the-art computer software that allowed them to clearly identify features of interest, called Feature Analyst®.

The use of Feature Analyst® and its ability to recognize features effectively enabled the research team to produce “surprisingly accurate results at a fraction of the cost and time compared to traditional methods,” according to Sam S. Jackson of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC).

Jackson said, “The capability afforded by Feature Analyst offers the Army a refined, automated approach for detecting urban encroachment and proves to be a very efficient method.”

The success of the U.S. Army in its ability to quickly identify areas of concern demonstrates the advantages of using computer-assisted feature extraction software such as Feature Analyst® to resist the threat of urban sprawl.

“We are proud of the fact that our product offers such a unique benefit to our military operations and to the protection of the environment,” said Ian Carlson, Senior Software Engineer for Feature Analyst®.