

experimental sessions per day, up to seven days per week annually at Long Marine Laboratory. This research would improve knowledge of pinniped sensory adaptations, examine mechanisms for acquiring and processing sensory information, and develop procedures for rapidly and humanely studying marine mammal hearing and the effects of anthropogenic noise. These efforts would support research priorities for marine mammals that have been identified by the National Research Council. The permit has been requested for a 5-year period. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: October 19, 2004.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-23732 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Business Board; Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Business Board (DBB) will meet in open session on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at the Pentagon, Washington, DC from 1000 until 1145. The mission of the DBB is to advise the Senior Executive Council (SEC) and the Secretary of Defense on effective strategies for implementation of best business practices of interest to the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Board's Acquisition, Human Resources, and Financial Management related task groups will deliberate on their preliminary findings and recommendations related to tasks assigned earlier this year.

**DATES:** Wednesday, November 17, 2004, 1000 to 1145 hrs.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Members of the public who wish to

attend the meeting must contact the Defense Business Board no later than Wednesday, November 10th for further information about admission as seating is limited. Additionally, those who wish to make oral comments or deliver written comments should also request to be scheduled, and submit a written text of the comments by Wednesday, November 10th to allow time for distribution to the Board members prior to the meeting. Individual oral comments will be limited to five minutes, with the total oral comment period not exceeding thirty minutes.

The DBB may be contacted at: Defense Business Board, 1100 Defense Pentagon, room 2E314, Washington, DC 20301-1100, via e-mail at [DBB@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:DBB@osd.pentagon.mil), or via phone at (703) 614-8586.

**Jeannette Owings-Ballard,**

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 (DAPE-TT), DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of the Army announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by December 21, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Department of the Army, U.S.

Military Academy, Institutional Research & Analysis, Office of Policy, Planning & Analysis, ATTN: (Dr. William Burke), West Point, New York 10966-5000. Consideration will be given to all comments received within 60 days of the date of publication of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call Department of the Army Reports clearance officer at (703) 325-8433.

*Title and OMB Number:* West Point Engineering Graduates Surveys; OMB Control Number 0702-0116.

*Needs and Uses:* An assessment of perceptions of graduates on the effectiveness of the U.S. Military Academy programs and curricula is needed for periodic accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The information collected will be used to evaluate programs/curricula and make changes deemed advisable.

*Affected Public:* Individual or Households.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 218.

*Number of Respondents:* 519.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 25 minutes.

*Frequency:* On occasion (Every Three Years).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Summary of Information Collection

The information will be collected via seven surveys, each with content appropriate to graduates of engineering and engineering related courses of study at the U.S. Military Academy. The surveys will go to graduates currently serving as officers in the U.S. Army and to graduates not currently serving. Respondents will be allowed to choose between completing a mailed survey or an Internet-based survey.

Dated: October 15, 2004.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**