

of Environmental Resources will provide extensive information and assistance on the resources to be impacted, mitigation measures, and alternatives.

DEIS Preparation: It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public on or about August 15, 2003.

Dated: February 4, 2003.

George M. Strain,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 03-4406 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council; Meeting Cancellation

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice; cancellation.

SUMMARY: The public meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. published in the **Federal Register** on Monday, February 10, 2003 (68 FR 6725) has been cancelled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ellen Cummings, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000, (202) 761-4558; or Ms. Cynthia Garman-Squier, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Washington, DC, (703) 695-6791.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-4405 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Navy Air-To-Ground Training at Avon Park Air Force Range and To Announce Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare an

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of utilizing Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) as a location for high explosive air-to-ground ordnance training for East Coast Carrier-based strike/fighter aviation squadrons. Squadrons would use APAFR in combination with other available air-to-ground range assets to meet the operational requirements of its structured aircrew-training program called the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). IDTC air-to-ground training will encompass operations associated with Navy intermediate and advanced level training exercises and combat certification. The EIS will focus on air-to-ground training alternatives within APAFR. These alternatives will encompass varying mixtures of ordnance types among three different ranges within APAFR.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Three public scoping meetings will be held in Avon Park, Florida; Sebring, Florida; and in Frostproof, Florida to receive oral and written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS. Public scoping open houses will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

—Tuesday, March 18, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Frostproof High School Cafeteria, Frostproof, FL.

—Wednesday, March 19, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sebring Civic Center, Sebring, FL.

—March 20, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., The City of Avon Park Community Center, Avon Park, FL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Will Sloger, Southern Div., Naval Facilities Engineering Command, PO Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419-9010; telephone (843) 820-5797; facsimile (843) 820-7472.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet prepares Carrier Battlegroups (CVBGs) for deployment using a training process known as the "Inter-deployment Training Cycle (IDTC)." The IDTC prepares Navy personnel to function as a part of a coordinated fleet or joint fighting force with the capacity to accomplish multiple missions in a hostile environment. The IDTC is highly structured and features a three-phased building-block approach including basic, intermediate, and advanced phases. Mission activities conducted during the IDTC include integrated strike, close air support, combat search-and-rescue, unit level bombing, helicopter unit level terrain flight, and helicopter unit level air-to-ground training.

The Navy must deploy combat ready forces and considers training with live ordnance to be indispensable to achieving and maintaining combat readiness. The handling of live ordnance and the decision-making in the use of this ordnance provides Fleet sailors and airmen the greatest degree of combat training realism. Exposure to live ordnance is known to rivet the attention of those who manage, handle, and employ it with a combination of fear and respect that non-explosive ordnance cannot impart. Moreover, employment of explosive ordnance onboard an aircraft carrier involves the hazardous end-to-end weapons regime; to include breakout, build-up, and loading; to weapons release, impact, aircraft return and recovery, both day and night. On the ground, redundancy in the availability of disparate explosive targets helps reduce the likelihood of fratricide and collateral damage by ensuring a rigorous, combat-like training regimen prior to overseas deployment. In the end, tactical pilots and flight officers must have full confidence in their support personnel, their equipment and weapons systems, and in their ability to safely and effectively prosecute difficult target sets.

Explosive ordnance-capable ranges are limited to the Navy's Pinecastle Range and the Air Force's Eglin Air Force Base (Air Armament Center) on the East Coast of the United States. At these ranges, limitations exist with regard to range dimensions, run-in lines, the number of explosive ordnance target sets, fire index restrictions, and scheduling lead times, changes, and priorities. Consequently, explosive ordnance range capabilities must be expanded to a location proximate to planned Carrier Battlegroup Training in the Southeastern U.S. (Jacksonville and Gulf of Mexico Operational Areas) to reduce the potential for a single point of failure should the existing ranges be unavailable or unsuitable for a particular exercise. This location must have sufficient range area and suitably sized special use airspace to accommodate safe aircraft operations and ordnance delivery across the full spectrum of IDTC training.

The purpose of the proposed action, therefore, is to provide flexibility across the full spectrum of the IDTC for U.S. Atlantic Fleet aircrws. Navy use of APAFR as a location for explosive air-to-ground training would provide redundancy for explosive ordnance capabilities; increase combat realism, scheduling flexibility, and aimpoint variety; reduce undue operational impacts at any one location; and promote the benefits of multiple DOD,

Navy, and community partnerships. Navy will consider possible alternatives using a combination of ordinance target locations within the APAFR.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects associated with: Airspace; noise; range safety; earth resources; water resources; air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to implement any alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that will be addressed in the EIS. Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern that should be addressed in the EIS. Written comments must be postmarked by April 15, 2003, and should be mailed to: Avon Park Air-to-Ground Training EIS, c/o Commanding Officer, Southern Div., Naval Facilities Engineering Command, PO Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419-9010. Attn: Code ES12/WS (Will Sloger), telephone (843) 820-5797, facsimile (843) 820-7472.

Dated: February 20, 2003.

J.T. Baltimore,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-4411 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington,

DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren.Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

John D. Tressler, Leader,

Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) (KI).

Frequency: Other: one time.

Affected Public: Individuals or household (primary), State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 10800; Burden Hours: 28125.

Abstract: The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a new system of international assessments that focus on 15-year-olds' capabilities in reading literacy, mathematics literacy, and science literacy. PISA 2000 was the first cycle of PISA, which will be conducted every three years, with a primary focus on one area for each cycle. PISA 2000 focused on reading literacy; mathematics literacy will be the focus in 2003, and science literacy in 2006. In addition to assessment data, PISA provides

background information on school context and student demographics to benchmark performance and inform policy.

Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or directed to her e-mail address Vivian.Reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be faxed to 202-708-9346. *Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.*

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 03-4316 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Student Assistance General Provisions

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of implementation of electronic delivery of school cohort default rate data for institutions located in the United States.

SUMMARY: The Secretary gives notice of the implementation of electronic delivery of cohort default rate notification packages to institutions located in the United States (domestic institutions) that participate in the Federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. This notice concerns electronic processes related to cohort default rates calculated for institutions participating in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, or both. It does not apply to cohort default rates calculated for the Federal Perkins Loan Program.

Domestic schools must participate in this new electronic process by June 1, 2003. After that date, and except in the case of a technical problem caused by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) as described below, the electronic process will be the sole means by which the Secretary provides notice to domestic schools of their draft and official cohort default rates and underlying data. While participation in the electronic process by domestic schools is mandatory as of June 1, 2003,