

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in two open sessions to receive and discuss information on (1) the 2002 ICCAT meeting results and U.S. implementation of ICCAT decisions; (2) 2003 ICCAT and NMFS research and monitoring activities; (3) 2003 Commission activities; (4) results of the Committee's Species Working Group deliberations; and (5) Advisory Committee operational issues. The public will have access to the open sessions of the meeting, but there will be no opportunity for public comment.

The Advisory Committee will go into executive session during the afternoon of April 30, 2003, to discuss sensitive information relating to (1) post ICCAT 2002 discussions and negotiations, including upcoming ICCAT working group meetings on trade and on monitoring and compliance; (2) the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act required consultation on the identification of countries that are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT; and (3) other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species. In addition, the Committee will meet in its Species Working Groups for a portion of the afternoon of April 30 and part of the morning of May 1, 2003. These sessions are not open to the public, but the results of the deliberations of the Species Working Groups will be reported to the full Advisory Committee during the Committee's afternoon open session on May 1.

Special Accommodations

The meeting location is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kim Blankenbeker at (301) 713-2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 8, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Ballistic Missile Defense System

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is publishing this notice to announce its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations. This PEIS will assess environmental issues associated with the proposed action, foreseeable future actions, and their reasonable alternatives, including the no action alternative, and as appropriate, cumulative effects. This PEIS will support decisions to meet the fundamental objectives of the MDA's mission to test, develop, transfer to deployment, and to plan for decommissioning activities for a Ballistic Missile Defense System to defend the forces and territories of the United States (U.S.), its Allies, and friends against all classes of ballistic missile threats, in all phases of flight.

Scoping: Public scoping meetings will be conducted as a part of the PEIS process to ensure opportunity for all interested government and private organizations, and the general public to identify their issues of concern they believe should be addressed in the content of the PEIS. Schedule and location for the public scoping meetings are:

- April 30, 2003, 6 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Dr., Arlington, VA.
- May 06, 2003, 6 p.m., Sheraton Grand Hotel, 1230 J. St., Sacramento, CA.
- May 08, 2003, 6 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, 401 E. 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK.
- May 13, 2003, 6 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 1956 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI

For those that cannot attend the public scoping meetings, written comments via the U.S. mail, or e-mail are encouraged. Comments should clearly identify and describe the specific issue(s) or topics that the PEIS should address. Comments are welcomed anytime throughout the PEIS process. Formal opportunities for comment and participation include: (1) Public scoping meetings; (2) anytime during the process via mail, telephone, fax, or e-mail; (3) during review, public hearings, and comment on the Draft PEIS; and, (4) review of the Final PEIS. Interested parties may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of the PEIS.

To ensure sufficient time to consider issues identified during the public scoping meeting period, comments should be submitted to one of the addresses listed below no later than

June 12, 2003. Additional information regarding the development of the BMDS PEIS is available on the public participation Web site <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo>.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, statements, and/or questions regarding scoping issues should be addressed to: MDA BMDS PEIS, c/o ICF Consulting, 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031, Phone (Toll Free) 1-877-MDA-PEIS (1-877-632-7347), Fax (Toll Free) 1-877-851-5451, E-mail bmds.peis@mda.osd.mil, Web site <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo>.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board announces the 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: Considerations will be given to all comments received by June 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB), 8034 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132, USAF Academy, CO 80840-2200, Attention: CMSgt Jaime P. Bouchard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this