Location	Date	Place	Time (p.m.)
Lompoc, CA	4/3/02	Lompoc City Council Chambers 100 Civic Center Plaza	7:00
Albuquerque, NM	4/15/02	Albuquerque Marriott 2101 Louisiana Boulevard, NE	7:00
Las Cruces, NM	4/17/02	Holiday Inn de Las Cruces 201 E. University Avenue	7:00

Dated: March 25, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liason Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 02–7628 Filed 3–26–02; 1:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary; Preparation of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Extended Test Range Environmental Impact Statement

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In order to meet the requirement to increase the realism of GMD integrated flight testing, MDA proposes to enhance the current test capability that includes the missile launch sites and array of sensors and other test equipment associated with the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site (RTS) at Kwajalein Atoll, the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Hawaii and Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) in California. The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce the initiation and preparation of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Extended Test Range (ETR) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) per Council of Environmental Quality regulations.

Background

The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Joint Program Office of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) has been directed to conduct more operationally realistic testing of the GMD element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The BMDS being developed is intended to provide an effective defense to the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies from limited missile attack, during all segments of an attacking missile's flight. The GMD element of BMDS is being developed to protect the entire United States against limited ballistic missile threats during the midcourse segment of an attacking missile's flight. The extension of the GMD test range would increase the realism of GMD testing by using multiple engagement scenarios, trajectories, geometry, distances, speeds of targets and interceptors that closely resemble those in which an operational system would be required to provide an effective defense. The extension of the GMD test range is a separate effort, independent of the test bed that MDA proposes to develop in order to validate the operational concept of GMD. Both the validation of the GMD operational concept test bed and the extension of the GMD test range are intended to be interoperable parts of the multi-parted BMDS test bed, if MDA proceeds with both efforts.

Alternatives

Potential alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, that may meet some of the enhanced test objectives, may include launching target and/or interceptor missiles from Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) on Kodiak Island, Alaska, adding interceptor launches from Vandenberg AFB and launching target missiles from aircraft over the broad ocean area. Enhanced GMD testing may also include use of existing ship-borne radars, new land-based radars in southern Alaska and an early-warning radar at Beale AFB. The early-warning radar at Beale AFB may already have been upgraded to support the separate, validation of the GMD operational concept part of the BMDS test bed. If the early-warning radar at Beale AFB has not already been upgraded, new software and hardware will be installed that will enhance the radar's detection and discrimination capabilities as part of the extension of the GMD integrated flight test range. The target and interceptors may be launched in sets of two under some testing scenarios from either KLC or VAFB. Existing launch sites and test resources would continue to be used in enhanced test scenarios. Other reasonable alternatives identified during the scoping process would also be evaluated in the EIS. In addition, the EIS will analyze the No-Action Alternative, which would be a MDA decision not to enhance the capabilities of the existing test range but to continue testing within the existing range constraints to develop and improve the GMD system.

As with current testing, all missile intercepts from test activities would occur over the broad ocean area. The environmental impacts associated with these intercepts have been analyzed in previous NEPA documents. To the extent that enhanced testing would involve similar effects over the broad ocean area, those analyses will be incorporated by reference in the EIS.

The action alternatives could include construction of two interceptor launchers, one additional target launch pad and construction/alteration of launch support facilities at the KLC, construction of In-Flight Interceptor Communication System (IFICS) Data Terminals (IDT), military and commercial satellite communications (MIL/COMSATCOM) in the mid-Pacific and at KLC or VAFB, added range instrumentation (tracking and range safety radars) in the vicinity of sites, and use of either existing Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2) Facilities at RTS, or new BMC2 Facilities that may be developed at Fort Greely, AK and/or Shriever AFB or Cheyenne Mountain Complex, CO in the validation of the GMD operational concept part of the BMDS test bed.

The MDA will analyze the environmental issues associated with licenses or permits required to implement the proposed action at each of the potential extended test range sites. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) will be a cooperating agency in this Environmental Impact Analysis Process because of their regulatory authority in licensing the Kodiak Launch Complex. The term of the current Launch Operator License (LOL) held by the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation will expire in September 2003. Renewal or modification of the KLC LOL is considered a major federal action and will require environmental review of the proposed activities. The range of alternatives that the FAA may consider in its licensing decision may include but are not limited to (1) renewing the license in current status; (2) licensing with the addition of MDA's proposed activities in whole or part and (3) the No Action Alternative, not renewing the license. As a Cooperating Agency, the FAA may use the analysis contained in the Extended Test Range (ETR) EIS to support its licensing decision.

Scoping Process

This EIS will assess environmental issues associated with the proposed action; reasonable alternatives including the no-action alternative; foreseeable future actions; and cumulative effects.

Scoping will be conducted to identify environmental, safety and occupational health issues to be addressed in the EIS. Public scoping meetings will be held as a part of the process. The scoping meetings will be held in Kodiak and Anchorage, Alaska and Lompoc, CA. Exact dates, locations and times of the scoping meetings will be advertised at a later date.

Public input and comments are solicited concerning the environmental safety and occupational health issues related to the proposed action. To ensure the program office will have sufficient time to fully consider public input on issues, written comments should be mailed to ensure receipt no later than thirty days after public release.

As a part of the decision-making process, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) is managing the preparation of the EIS for flight-testing of GMD on behalf of the MDA. Comments concerning the public scoping process or the EIS process should be addressed to: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, ATTN: SMDC–EN–V (Mrs. Julia Hudson-Elliott), 106 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805, or by e-mail at *gmdetreis@smdc.army.mil*.

Dated: March 26, 2002.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 02–7629 Filed 3–26–02; 1:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary; Conference Meeting of the United States Strategic Command, Strategic Advisory Group

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) will meet in closed session on April 18 and 19, 2002.

The mission of the SAG is to provide timely advice on scientific, technical, intelligence, and policy-related issues to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strategic Command. The purpose of this meeting it to discuss strategic issues that relate to the development of the Single Integrated Operational Plan.

The meeting will involve classified information and access must be strictly limited to personnel having requisite clearances and specific need-to-know. In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC, App. 2), the meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: April 18 and 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Strategic Command, 901 SAC Boulevard, Suite 1F7, Offutt Air Force Base, NE 68113–6030.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Connie Druskis, USSTRATCOM SAG, (402) 294–4102.

Dated: March 22, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 02–7390 Filed 3–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability for Exclusive, Partially Exclusive, or Non-Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Patent Concerning Noise Abatement Technology

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces the general availability of exclusive, partially exclusive or non-exclusive licenses relative to a noise abatement technology as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,928,573, Fansler, et al., May 29, 1990, entitled ''Silencer for saboted projectiles.'' Licenses shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael D. Rausa, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Technology Applications, ATTN: AMSRL–DP–T/Bldg. 459, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005–5425, Telephone: (410) 278–5028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–7521 Filed 3–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed University of California at Merced and Associated Infrastructure Projects, Corps Permit Application Numbers 199900203 and 200100570

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The University of California and County of Merced propose to construct a major university campus and associated infrastructure in Merced County, California. The project as proposed would impact over 92 acres of waters of the United States, including vernal pools and other associated wetlands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by Ms. Nancy Haley, (916) 557–7772, *ucmerced@spk.usace.army.mil,* 1325 J Street, Room 1480, Sacramento, CA 95814–2922.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicants have applied for Department of the Army permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct a tenth University of California campus to support 25,000 full-time equivalent students and associated infrastructure. The proposed campus would be 2,000 acres in size, and comprised of a Main Campus (910 acres), Merced Irrigation District canals and easements (70 acres), a Campus Land Reserve (340 acres), and a Campus Natural Reserve (750 acres).

The Main Campus would consist of an academic core, student support services, student and faculty housing, campus support, on-campus research facilities, athletic and recreation facilities, and parking. The Campus Land Reserve is proposed for future growth of the University facility. The Campus Natural Reserve would be preserved and managed to maintain and enhance its natural environmental functions and values. Over 86 acres of waters of the United States would be directly impacted by this project. Additional indirect impacts to waters would likely occur; however those impacts have not yet been quantified.

Construction of the first phase of the UC Merced Campus is proposed to begin in 2002, on about 110 acres of the existing Merced Hills Golf Course located at the southern end of the proposed Main Campus. The applicant has stated that construction of the first phase will not involve any placement of dredged or fill material into any waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The proposed project is located east of Lake Road, and Yosemite Lake, approximately two miles northeast of the City of Merced, Merced County, California.

Alternatives to be examined for the campus include: Bellevue Ranch site, Castle Airport site, City of Merced in-fill sites, and various configurations on, and/or adjacent to, the proposed project site.