

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Education Mission to Central America;
March 16–19, 2015**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Amendment.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration is amending the Notice published at 79 FR 34287, June 16, 2014, for the education mission to El Salvador and Honduras, with an optional stop in Nicaragua, from March 16–19, 2015 to revise the mission description from executive-led to non-executive led.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Frank Spector,

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Guantanamo Bay to Dania Beach
Submarine Fiber Optic Cable System
(GTMO SFOC); Environmental
Assessment (EA)/Finding of No
Significant Impact (FONSI)**

AGENCY: U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is announcing that it has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) relating to DISA's evaluation of the Proposed Action and Alternatives to installing Submarine Fiber Optic Cable (SFOC) for communication purposes between the DISN Facilities at Miami FL and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba (GTMO) in order to supply high Bandwidth to DoD activities at GTMO. This SFOC will improve long-haul communications between the continental U.S. (CONUS) and GTMO. The FONSI reports the studies that prove that there will be no significant environmental impact from the installation of this SFOC. This notice announces the availability of the final EA and FONSI to concerned agencies and the public.

ADDRESSES: Requests to receive a copy of the EA or FONSI should be mailed to Defense Information Systems Agency, Public Affairs Officer, P.O. Box 549, Ft. Meade, MD 20755–0549. Arrangements must be made in advance to pick the documents, due to facility security requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

DISA Public Affairs at 301–225–8100 or disa.meade.SPI.mbx.disa-pao@disa.mil or DISA, P.O. box 549, Ft. Meade, MD 20755–0549.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508) and 32 CFR part 188, Environmental Effects in the United States of DoD Actions, the U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the installation of a submarine fiber optic cable connecting the Defense Information System Network (DISN) node located at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba to the DISN node located in Miami, FL. The DISA is a Department of Defense (DoD) combat support agency under the direction, authority and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (ASD [C31]).

The Guantanamo Bay to Dania Beach Submarine Fiber Optic Cable System involves two existing, shore-based U.S. naval facilities where the GTMO SFOC will be landed end-to-end. On the CONUS end, the cable will be landed at the U.S. Navy's South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility (SFOMF) at Dania Beach, Florida; from there, the GTMO SFOC will span the entirety of Florida's Territorial Waters (3 nautical miles [nm]), extending through the U.S. Territorial Sea (12 nm) and Contiguous Zone (24 nm), with the majority of the cable system passing through a combination of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the Bahamian EEZ, and the Cuban EEZ to the nearshore landing at the American

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NAVSTAGTMO). The DISA will lease commercial dark fiber to facilitate the terrestrial connection between SFOMF and the Network Access Point (NAP) of the Americas in Miami, Florida to provide DISN node-to-node connection.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve long-haul communications between the continental U.S. (CONUS) and GTMO. Long-haul communications requirements at GTMO are currently provided by commercial satellite services. A Submarine Fiber Optic Cable (SFOC) provides significantly more bandwidth than satellite services, exhibits very low latency, and is not subject to adverse atmospheric conditions, such as severe weather (for example, tropical rain storms and hurricanes). Therefore, the SFOC will increase the level and reliability of communication service between CONUS and GTMO. The attached EA and this FONSI were prepared in compliance with the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347), CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508), and 32 CFR part 188, Environmental Effects in the United States of DoD Actions. The attached EA considers all potential impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the DISA's evaluation of the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

Alternatives Considered: Dania Beach, Florida Nearshore Cable Route Alternatives—Two action alternatives were analyzed for the nearshore installation route proposed at Dania Beach, Florida within the 12 nm limit of NEPA applicability. Of these two alternatives, Alternative 2 (Preferred) involving the bundling of the GTMO SFOC to the existing CS–125 cable that has been installed through the nearshore coral reef tracks was selected. This alternative provides the greatest degree of natural resource protection as it is co-located through a corridor that has previously received environmental agency clearances.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Nearshore Cable Route Alternatives—Of the three alternatives considered, Alternative 3 (Glass Beach) was selected as the preferred landing site which contains an existing concrete landing station supporting two subaqueous utility lines and communication infrastructure coming ashore at this location. Co-locating the GTMO SFOC cable within this existing corridor provides the greatest degree of environmental impact

avoidance and minimization within the nearshore environment.

Deepwater Cable Route Alternatives—Three deepwater route alternatives with a common divergence point outside the U.S. were evaluated as part of the route planning process. These alternatives were not analyzed with respect to impacts on the human or natural environment because the DISA determined that the action of a one time, direct-laid SFOC system on the seabed has been demonstrated in past project actions at SFOMF and worldwide to ordinarily have only a minor, localized, and transient effect on the environment. Therefore, the action lacks the potential to cause significant harm to the environment outside the U.S. and meets the exemption requirement (E2.3.3.1.1) to prepare environmental documentation under Executive Order (E.O.) 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions.

No Action Alternative—The No Action Alternative would be not to proceed with the GTMO SFOC system project linking NAVSTAGTMO at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the SFOMF facility at Dania Beach, Florida. NAVSTAGTMO would continue to operate with existing satellite communication capabilities which would not meet the operational need for reliability and additional bandwidth.

Conclusion: The GTMO SFOC EA was prepared and evaluated pursuant to NEPA, CEQ regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508, and 32 CFR part 188. It has been concluded that, based on the analyses presented in the GTMO SFOC EA, the DISA has determined that no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, no further study under NEPA is required, and a FONSI is thus warranted. In addition, the Proposed Action lacks the potential to cause significant harm to the environment outside the U.S. and thus is exempt from further environmental analyses under Executive Order 12114. Accordingly, the DISA approved the installation and operation of the GTMO SFOC.

Dated: March 9, 2015.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2015–05638 Filed 3–11–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

[Docket Number 2015–0013]

Information Collection Requirement; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Requests for Equitable Adjustment

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection requirement and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. DoD invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the 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 the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved this information collection for use through August 31, 2015. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use for three additional years.

DATES: DoD will consider all comments received by May 11, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by OMB Control Number 0704–0397, using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: osd.dfars@mail.mil. Include OMB Control Number 0704–0397 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 571–372–6094.
- Mail: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Attn: Ms. Jennifer Hawes, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DARS), 3060 Defense Pentagon, Room 3B941, Washington, DC 20301–3060.

Comments received generally will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any

personal information provided. To confirm receipt of your comment, please check www.regulations.gov approximately two to three days after submission to verify posting, except allow 30 days for posting of comments submitted by mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jennifer Hawes, at (571) 372–6115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title and OMB Number: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) part 243, Contract Modifications, and the related clause at DFARS 252.243–7002; OMB Control Number 0704–0397.

Needs and Uses: The information collection required by the clause at DFARS 252.243–7002, Requests for Equitable Adjustment, implements 10 U.S.C. 2410(a). DoD contracting officers and auditors use this information to evaluate contractor requests for equitable adjustments to contracts.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 2,483.

Number of Respondents: 328.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.6, approximately.

Annual Responses: 520.

Average Burden Per Response: 4.8 hours, approximately.

Frequency: On occasion.

Summary of Information Collection

The clause at DFARS 252.243–7002, Requests for Equitable Adjustment, is prescribed at DFARS 243.205–71 for use in solicitations and contracts, including solicitations and contracts using FAR part 12 procedures for the acquisition of commercial items that are estimated to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold. The clause requires contractors to certify that requests for equitable adjustment that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold are made in good faith and that the supporting data are accurate and complete. The clause also requires contractors to fully disclose all facts relevant to the requests for adjustment.

Manuel Quinones,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

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