

involved. The loan repayments and the tax assistance payments are taxable income and will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The tax assistance payment will be paid to the IRS directly on the participant's behalf. LRP award recipients should be aware that the IRS may place them in a higher bracket than they would otherwise have been prior to their award.

### 3. Reporting

Any individual who enters this program and satisfactorily completes his or her obligated period of service may apply to extend his/her contract on a year-by-year basis, as determined by the IHS. Participants extending their contracts will receive up to the maximum amount of \$20,000 per year plus an additional 20 percent for Federal Withholding. Participants who were awarded loan repayment contracts prior to FY 2000 will be awarded extensions up to the amount of \$30,000 a year and 31 percent in tax subsidy if funds are available, and will not exceed the total of the individual's outstanding eligible health profession educational loans.

Any individual who owes an obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government, a State, or other entity is not eligible for the LRP unless the obligation will be completely satisfied before they begin service under this program.

### VII. Agency Contacts

Please address inquiries to Ms. Jacqueline K. Santiago, Chief, IHS Loan Repayment Program, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 120, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 (between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.)

### VIII. Other Information

The IHS Area Offices and Service Units are authorized to provide additional funding to make awards to applicants in the LRP, but must be in compliance with any limits in the appropriation and Section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act not to exceed the amount authorized in the IHS appropriation (up to \$27,000,000 for FY 2006).

Should an IHS Area Office contribute to the LRP, those funds will be used for only those sites located in that Area. Those sites will retain their relative ranking from the national site-ranking list. For example, the Albuquerque Area Office identifies supplemental monies for dentists. Only the dental positions within the Albuquerque Area will be funded with the supplemental monies

consistent with the national ranking and site index within that Area.

Should an IHS Service Unit contribute to the LRP, those funds will be used for only those sites located in that Service Unit. Those sites will retain their relative ranking from the national site-ranking list. For example, Chinle Service Unit identifies supplemental monies for pharmacists. The Chinle Service Unit consists of two facilities, namely the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility and the Tsaile PHS Indian Health Center. The national ranking will be used for the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility (Score = 44) and the Tsaile PHS Indian Health Center (Score = 46). With a score of 46, the Tsaile PHS Indian Health Center would receive priority over the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility.

Dated: December 12, 2005.

**Robert G. McSwain,**

*Deputy Director, Indian Health Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-24163 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4165-16-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DHS-2005-0044]

### Homeland Security Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Homeland Security Advisory Council will hold a meeting to receive reports and briefings and to hold member deliberations. This meeting will be partially closed to the public as authorized under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**DATES:** *Meeting date:* Tuesday, January 10, 2006.

*Comments date:* If you desire to submit comments, they must be submitted by January 3, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The open portions of the meeting for the purpose of receiving Task Force reports and updates will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 1330 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC in Grand Ballroom A from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The closed portions of the meeting for the purpose of receiving detailed critical infrastructure briefings will be held in a separate venue closed to the public at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 1330 Maryland Avenue Southwest,

Washington, DC from 8 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. and from 12:10 p.m. to 3 p.m.

You may submit comments, identified by DHS-2005-0044, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- *E-mail:* [HSAC@dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@dhs.gov). Include docket number in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* (202) 772-9718.
- *Mail:* Mike Miron, Homeland Security Advisory Council, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Department of Homeland Security and DHS-2005-0044, the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received by the DHS Data Privacy and Integrity Committee, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Miron, Homeland Security Advisory Council, Washington, DC 20528, (202) 692-4283, [HSAC@dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the upcoming meeting, the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) will receive reports from the Critical Infrastructure Task Force and the Prevention of the Entry of Weapons of Mass Effect on American Soil Task Force. It also will receive updates from the Private Sector Information Sharing and Fusion Center Task Forces. Additionally, the HSAC will receive detailed briefings covering specific critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, interdependencies, infrastructure resilience, and vulnerability mitigation. The HSAC will also hold roundtable deliberations and discussions among HSAC members, including discussions regarding administrative matters.

*Public Attendance:* A limited number of members of the public may register to attend the public session on a first-come, first-served basis. Security requires that any member of the public who wishes to attend the public session provide his or her name and date of birth, no later than 5 p.m. e.s.t., Tuesday, January 03, 2006, to Mike Miron or an Executive Staff Member of the HSAC via e-mail at [HSAC@dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@dhs.gov) or via phone at (202) 692-4283. Persons with disabilities who require special assistance should so indicate in their admittance request and are encouraged to indicate their desires to attend and anticipated special needs as early as

possible. Photo identification will be required for entry into the public session, and everyone in attendance must be present and seated by 9:45 a.m.

**Basis for Closure:** In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 1 *et seq.*), I have determined that portions of this HSAC meeting (referenced above as "closed") will concern matters excluded from Open Meetings requirements. At portions of the meeting where the committee will be addressing specific critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, interdependencies, infrastructure resilience and vulnerability mitigation, discussions may include: trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential; investigative techniques and procedures; and matters that for which disclosure would likely frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency actions. Accordingly, I have determined that these portions of the meeting must be kept closed as well, consistent with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (7)(E), and (9)(B).

Dated: December 12, 2005.

**Michael Chertoff,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 05-24190 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4410-10-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[DHS-2005-0051]

### Science and Technology Directorate, Office of Systems Engineering and Development; SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey

**AGENCY:** Office of Systems Engineering and Development, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is soliciting public comment on the Office of Systems Engineering and Development SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until February 17, 2006. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number DHS-2005-0051, by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- **E-mail:** [thomas.cody@dhs.gov](mailto:thomas.cody@dhs.gov). Include docket number DHS-2005-0051 in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Science and Technology Directorate, Office of Systems Engineering and Development (SED), 1120 Vermont Avenue NW. #8-104, Washington, DC 20528.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Cody 202-254-6084 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DHS, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondents' burden, invites the general public to take this opportunity to comment on this proposed information collection as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). The collection is the "SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey."

**Description:** SAFECOM was established as the overarching umbrella program within the Federal government that oversees all initiatives and projects pertaining to public safety communications and interoperability. The SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey is an essential step in a mission to provide public safety communications interoperability nationwide.

In developing SAFECOM, DHS has worked extensively with the public safety community to create a descriptive and measurable definition of public safety interoperability that takes into account issues of governance, procedure, technology, training, and usage. The SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey, which was developed from this definition, will allow DHS to measure the current state of public safety communications interoperability among state and local public safety practitioners. This will provide a baseline against which to track the future impact of Federal programs and provide a basis for identifying and executing specific projects to improve communications interoperability.

### Public Participation

Interested persons are invited to participate in this Information Collection Request by submitting written data, views, or arguments on all aspects of the proposed Information Collection Request. DHS also invites comments that relate to the economic, environmental, or federalism affects that might result from this Information Collection Request. Comments that will provide the most assistance to DHS in developing these procedures will reference a specific portion of the Information Collection Request, explain

the reason for any recommended change, and include data, information, or authority that support such recommended change.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and DHS-2005-0051 for this Information Collection Request. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

### Analysis

**Agency:** Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Office of Systems Engineering and Development.

**Title:** SAFECOM Interoperability Baseline Survey.

**OMB Control Number:** NEW.

**Frequency:** On Occasion.

**Affected Public:** State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 18,375.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 20 minutes per response.

**Total Burden Hours:** 6,125.

**Total Cost Burden:** None.

Dated: December 12, 2005.

**Scott Charbo,**

*Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-24180 Filed 12-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4410-10-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2005-23335]

### Natural Working Group on Small Passenger Vessel Access

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** On November 14, 2005, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) signed a charter establishing a Natural Working Group (NWG). The purpose of this NWG is to determine the acceptability and usefulness of a proposed risk matrix that was developed, by the Volpe Center, to assist small passenger vessel designers in meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) without compromising vessel safety. The USCG is seeking comments on this