

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the draft selection criteria that will be used by the Department of Defense to make closure and realignment recommendations that will be reviewed by the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

DATES: Comments should be submitted to the Department of Defense at the address shown below by January 28, 2004, to be considered in the formulation of the final criteria.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit written comments to: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment), ATTN: Mr. Peter Potochney, Director, Base Realignment and Closure, Room 3D814, the Pentagon, Washington DC, 20301-3300. Please cite this **Federal Register** announcement in all correspondence. Interested parties may also forward their comments via facsimile at 703-695-1496.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike McAndrew, Base Realignment and Closure Office, ODUSD(I&E), (703) 614-5356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended (the Act), establishes the authority by which the Secretary of Defense may close or realign military installations inside the United States. Section 2913(a) of the Act requires the Secretary of Defense to publish the selection criteria proposed to be used by the Secretary in making recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations inside the United States by December 31, 2003, for a 30-day public comment period. Section 2913(e) requires the Secretary of Defense to publish the final selection criteria no later than February 16, 2004. The final selection criteria are subject to Congressional disapproval by Act of Congress until March 15, 2004.

B. Relationship to Previous Criteria

Since the 1991 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round, the Department of Defense (DoD) has used the same, publicly accepted, selection criteria to make its closure and realignment recommendations. The Department first published these criteria for public comment in a November 30, 1990 (55 FR 49678), **Federal Register** notice. Based on comments received, the proposed criteria were appropriately amended. The February 15, 1991 (56 FR 6374), **Federal Register** notice contained

an analysis of public comments received and a description of the changes DoD made to the draft criteria. Having not been disapproved by Congress, the final criteria were used to make recommendations to the 1991 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Subsequently, the DoD, in a December 15, 1992 (57 FR 59334), and a December 9, 1994 (59 FR 63769), **Federal Register** notice, announced that it would use the same final criteria to make recommendations to the 1993 and 1995 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commissions, respectively.

The Act specifies that the selection criteria shall ensure that military value is the primary consideration in making closure and realignment recommendations. It also lists specific considerations that military value must include and special considerations that the selection criteria must address. The eight criteria proposed for this round were based on the accepted, tested, and proven criteria used in past BRAC rounds. These criteria now incorporate statutory requirements and stress the Department's capabilities based approach to performing missions.

C. Draft Selection Criteria

It is proposed that the Department of Defense use the following criteria in making recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations inside the United States:

- In recommending military installations for closure or realignment, the Department of Defense will, giving priority consideration to military value (criteria 1-4), consider:

Military Value

1. The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness.
2. The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.
3. The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.
4. The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other Considerations

5. The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

6. The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.

7. The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions, and personnel.

8. The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.

D. Previous Federal Register References

1. 55 FR 49678, November 30, 1990: Proposed selection criteria and request for comments.

2. 55 FR 53586, December 31, 1990: Extend comment period on proposed selection criteria.

3. 56 FR 6374, February 15, 1991: Published selection criteria and analysis of comments.

4. 57 FR 59334, December 15, 1992: Published selection criteria.

5. 59 FR 63769, December 9, 1994: Published selection criteria.

Dated: December 18, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03-31631 Filed 12-19-03; 10:00 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 23, 2004.

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 Information 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.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: New.

Title: Social and Character Development Research Program National Evaluation.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals or household.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 32,160.

Burden Hours: 13,868.

Abstract: The Social and Character Development (SACD) National Evaluation will evaluate the success of seven school-based interventions designed to promote positive social and character development among elementary school children. The research will determine, through randomized field trials, whether one or more program interventions produce meaningful effects. The study's three primary research questions are: (1) Do the SACD interventions affect social-

emotional competence, school climate, positive and negative behavior, and academic achievement? (2) For whom, and under what conditions, are the interventions effective? and (3) What is the process by which the interventions affect children's behavior? Data collection activities will include the administration of surveys to children, teachers, principals, and primary caregivers; school observations, and school record abstractions over a three year period: from 2004–05 to 2006–07. Results from the evaluation will provide education professionals with information they need to make informed choices about which intervention to adopt.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2428. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. 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 to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or 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 Kathy Axt at her e-mail address Kathy.Axt@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. 03–31513 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information 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 January 22, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Melanie Kadlic, 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 Melanie_Kadlic@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 Information 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: December 17, 2003.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Even Start Classroom Literacy Interventions and Outcomes (CLIO) Study.

Frequency: Semi-Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or household; State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden

Responses: 19,939.

Burden Hours: 8,766.

Abstract: CLIO will test the effectiveness for children and parents of promising early childhood education and parenting education interventions in a sample of Even Start projects to determine: (1) Whether enhanced interventions that focus on literacy and integrate early childhood and parenting