DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Record of Decision for Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment To Support Large-Scale Marine Air Ground Task Force Live-Fire and Maneuver Training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 United States Code 4321–4370h, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500–1508, the Department of Navy (DoN) NEPA regulations (32 CFR part 775), and Marine Corps Order P5090.2A (with Changes 1, 2) Marine Corps Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual, Chapter 12, the DoN, after carefully weighing the operational and environmental consequences of the proposed action in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), announces its decision to establish a large-scale Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) training facility at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California (“the Combat Center”) to accommodate a required new program of sustained, combined-arms, live-fire, and maneuver training for all elements of a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)-sized MAGTF, including full-scale MEB Exercises and associated MEB Building Block training. To accommodate the required MEB training activities, DoN, acting through the Combat Center, will: Purchase additional private and state lands adjacent to the Combat Center; request withdrawal by Act of Congress of additional public lands adjacent to the Combat Center; pursue through the Federal Aviation Administration the establishment and modification of military Special Use Airspace for proposed MEB-sized training range; and conduct the specified MEB training. Land withdrawal of more than 5,000 acres for the purposes of national defense may only be made by an Act of Congress. The DoN has selected Alternative 6, the Preferred Alternative, (with additional mitigation developed in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management [BLM]), for implementation and recommendation to Congress. Alternative 6 includes the withdrawal of public land and purchase of private and state lands collectively totaling approximately 167,971 acres west and south of the existing Combat Center. All practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the Preferred Alternative that were identified in the Final EIS have been adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The complete text of the Record of Decision is available for public viewing on the project Web site at www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G4InstallationsandLogistics/LandAcquisition.aspx along with the EIS. For further information, contact the 29Palms Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment Project Manager, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Bldg. 1354, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278–8104. Telephone: 760 830–3764.


C.K. Chiappetta, Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army


AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice; 30-day extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces a 30-day extension on the public comment period for the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Army 2020 force structure realignments that may occur from Fiscal Years (FYs) 2013–2020. The Army published the Notice of Availability of the draft FNSI and PEA in the Federal Register (78 FR 4134) on January 18, 2013. The comment period, originally set to end on February 19, 2013, is being extended by 30 days. The comment period will now run through March 21, 2013. An electronic version of the PEA and draft FNSI is available for download at: http://aec.army.mil/usace/nea/pea/topics00.html.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice


PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE OF MEETING AND HEARING: Session I: 1:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., March 14, 2013; Session II: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m., March 14, 2013.

CHANGES TO OPEN MEETING AND HEARING: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) published a notice in the Federal Register of January 22, 2013, (78 FR 4393), concerning a two-session public meeting and hearing on March 14, 2013, at the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan Street, Amarillo, Texas 79101. The Board changes that notice as follows: (1) Session I will end at 5:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.; (2) Session II will start at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m.; (3) the topic of safety culture at the Pantex Plant in Session I will also include testimony from the Department of Energy, Office of Health, Safety and Security, in addition to testimony from the National Nuclear Security Administration and its contractor organization; and (4) the topic of emergency preparedness at the Pantex Plant, to include plans and capabilities to respond to a site emergency, demonstrated performance in drills and exercises, and preparation for severe