

10 U.S.C. 1092 and section 716 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public L. 104-106).

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Marion Gosnell or Dr. John Sentell, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), telephone (703) 697-8975.

Dated: June 27, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 97-17457 Filed 7-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Active Duty Service Determination for Civilian or Contractual Groups

On June 2, 1997, the Secretary of the Air Force determined that the service of the group known as "Yugoslavians attached to Headquarters 2677th Regiment, Office of Strategic Services (Prov.), Bari, Italy, who served in a military capacity with the United States Armed Forces in German occupied Yugoslavia" shall not be considered "active duty" under the provisions of Public Law 95-202 for the purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).

Barbara A. Carmichael,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-17505 Filed 7-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Transfer of the Common-Use Ground Communication-Electronics Maintenance Workload From Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, California, to Tobyhanna Army Depot, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Public Law 101-510 (as amended), the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the 1995 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) recommended the transfer of the Common-Use Ground Communication-Electronics (GCE) maintenance from the Sacramento Air Logistics Center (SM-

ALC), McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, California, to Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD), Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts associated with the proposed transfer of the GCE maintenance and 982 associated civilian positions from SM-ALC to TYAD. This transfer includes upgrading and renovating existing facilities and transferring test facilities and equipment to support mission receipt at TYAD. No new major construction is necessary.

The EA, which is incorporated into the Finding of No Significant Impact, examines potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on 13 resource areas and areas of environmental concern: land use, air quality, noise, water resources, geology, infrastructure, training areas, hazardous and toxic materials, biological resources and ecosystems, cultural resources, the sociological environment, economic development, and quality of life.

As the workload being relocated largely offsets recently experienced and projected future reductions at TYAD, the analysis found in the EA determined that the potential impacts on the quality of the natural or human environment from these relocations and facilities renovations would be temporary and not significant and would be mitigated through the use of best management practices. Therefore, implementation of the proposed action, subject to public comment, will not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: Inquiries will be accepted until August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the EA or inquiries into the FNSI may be obtained by writing to the Commander, Tobyhanna Army Depot, ATTN: SIOTY-PA (Mr. Kevin Toolan), 11 Hap Arnold Blvd., Tobyhanna, PA 18466-5076, or calling (717) 895-7308.

Dated: June 30, 1997.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 97-17495 Filed 7-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Notice of Intent to Solicit National Industrial Competitiveness Through Energy, Environment and Economics (NICE³) Grants

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Issue a Solicitation.

SUMMARY: The Office of Industrial Technologies of the Department of Energy is funding a State Grant Program entitled National Industrial Competitiveness through Energy, Environment and Economics (NICE³). The goals of the NICE³ Program are to improve energy efficiency, promote cleaner production, and to improve competitiveness in industry. The intent of the NICE³ program is to fund innovative projects that have completed the research and development stage and are ready to demonstrate a fully integrated commercial unit. Some industrial technologies that the NICE³ program has funded follow: SO₃ Cleaning Process in the Manufacture of Semiconductors; Innovative Design of a Brick Kiln Using Low Thermal Mass Technology; Continuously Reform Electroless Nickel Plating Solutions; Fiber Loading for Paper Manufacture; and HCl Acid Recovery System. For the past seven years the NICE³ program has offered 78 grants (approximately \$25.3 million) to fund innovative industrial technologies. In 1997 the Department of Energy offered \$4.8 million in grants to 13 U.S. companies in 11 states.

Restricted Eligibility: Eligible applicants for purposes of funding under the program include any authorized agency of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States. For convenience, the term State in this notice refers to all eligible State agency applicants. Local governments, State and private universities, private non-profits, private businesses and individuals, who are not eligible as direct applicants, must work with the appropriate State agencies in developing projects and forming participation arrangements. DOE requires these types of cooperative arrangements in support of program goals. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to this program is 81.105. Cost sharing is required by all participants. The Federal Government will provide up to 45 percent of the funds for the project. The