

Dated: June 3, 1998.

Sharon A. Kiser,

FAR Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Department of Defense Wage Committee; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Public Law 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that closed meetings of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on July 7, 1998; July 14, 1998; July 21, 1998; and July 28, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in Room A105, The Nash Building, 1400 Key Boulevard, Rosslyn, Virginia.

Under the provisions of section 10(D) of Public Law 92-463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

Dated: June 3, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Record of Decision and General Conformity Determination for Realignment of E-2 Squadrons From Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, California

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy, after carefully weighing the operational, environmental, and cost implications of

relocating E-2 aircraft from MCAS Miramar to other Naval installations, announces its decision to realign four E-2 squadrons to Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) Point Mugu, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Kelly K. Knight, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Code 553.KK), 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132, telephone (619) 532-2456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the entire Record of Decision is provided as follows:

The Department of the Navy (DON), pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687), section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.), and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality that implement NEPA procedures (40 CFR part 1500-1508), hereby announces its decision to realign 16 E-2 aircraft, relocate 988 military and civilian personnel with their families, expand and construct facilities to support aircraft and personnel, and provide associated training functions at Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) Point Mugu, California. The realignment to NAWS Point Mugu was identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

To support the additional personnel and operation and maintenance of the E-2 aircraft, eight construction projects, primarily consisting of modification or expansion of existing facilities, are required at NAWS Point Mugu.

Realignment of the E-2 squadrons will increase aircraft operations at NAWS Point Mugu. However, as these E-2 squadrons will continue to use the E-2 training ranges, including the Southern California Operations Area, there will be no increase in aircraft operations on the ranges.

Pursuant to section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7476(c)), the DON has determined that the realignment of the E-2 aircraft to NAWS Point Mugu conforms to California's State Implementation Plan for Ventura County. There were no comments on the draft conformity determination published as Appendix D to the FEIS. The final conformity determination is being distributed concurrent with the ROD.

Realignment of the E-2 aircraft and operational functions will begin in July 1998 and should be completed in January 1999.

Background

The 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)

recommended the realignment of MCAS El Toro and MCAS Tustin to NAS Miramar. The Commission also recommended that the squadrons and related activities at NAS Miramar would move to other naval air stations, primarily NAS Lemoore and NAS Fallon in order to make room for the relocation of MCAS El Toro squadrons.

In 1995, the BRAC Commission revised the 1993 BRAC Commission recommendations as follows: "Change the receiving sites for squadrons and related activities at NAS Miramar specified by the 1993 Commission (BRAC Commission 1993) from NAS Lemoore and NAS Fallon to other naval air stations, primarily NAS Oceana, Virginia, NAS North Island, California, and NAS Fallon, Nevada."

As the 1995 BRAC Commission did not recommend realignment of NAS Miramar aircraft to a specific base, the DON conducted a multi-stage screening process to identify reasonable and feasible alternatives for realignment of Pacific Fleet E-2 aircraft to a west coast Naval air station. Other Navy aircraft stationed at NAS Miramar have already been realigned under separate NEPA actions.

Process

A Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on May 1, 1996, announcing that the DON would prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which would analyze the environmental effects of the E-2 realignment and associated facilities construction.

The DON published a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS (DEIS) in the **Federal Register** and local newspapers on November 21, 1997. Three public hearings were held in the cities of El Centro, Oxnard, and Lemoore, CA, between December 8, and December 10, 1997, to solicit comments on the DEIS. A total of 30 individuals, agencies, and organizations submitted written comments on the DEIS. The FEIS addressed all oral and written comments.

The DON published a Notice of Availability of the FEIS and a draft Final CAA Conformity Determination in the **Federal Register** and local newspapers on April 17, 1998. The DON received 13 comment letters during the 30-day public review period. Substantive comments are addressed later in this ROD.

Alternatives Considered

The DON conducted a screening process, based upon criteria set out in the DEIS, to identify a reasonable range of alternatives that would satisfy the