

from the CCS, an area close to Space Launch Complex (SLC)-6. While the CCS was identified in the 30th Space Wing's July 11, 1997, application for a small take authorization and in the U.S. Air Force's Programmatic Operations Environmental Assessment for small takes of marine mammals, because the CCS was under construction at the time, no rocket types were identified for launching at that time of the application to NMFS. As a result, an incidental take assessment could not be made for this location by either NMFS or the 30th Space Wing during the rulemaking. However, impacts to pinnipeds from launches at nearby SLC-6 by Lockheed Martin's family of Athena rockets was analyzed on July 21, 1998 (63 FR 39055) and previously (see 60 FR 24840, May 10, 1995).

Finally, because the Minotaur rocket's first stage solid-fuel booster is half the size of the first-stage booster of the Athena 1 launched from SLC-6, it can be expected to impact the nearby harbor seal haulouts to a lesser, but unknown, level than the Athena. NMFS estimated that the Athena rocket would, under typical conditions, result in a sound pressure level (SPL) of 127 dB (107 dBA) re 20 μ Pa at the harbor seal haulouts at Rocky Point, which are about 1.5 mi (2.4 km) to the south and southwest of SLC-6. This level is sufficient to cause harbor seals to leave the beach at Point Arguello, Rocky Point, and Boathouse Flats. However, because the CCS is only 1 mile (1.6 km) from the closest haulout at Rocky Point whereas SLC-6 is approximately 2.5 mi (4.0 km) away from the nearest haulout, NMFS expects that SPLs from the launch of the Minotaur will be similar to levels expected from the Athena rocket at the Rocky Point haulout.

Because the addition of the Minotaur rocket to the launch list at Vandenberg will not result in an increase in the number of launches authorized to take pinnipeds under the LOA, NMFS does not expect additional cumulative impacts to occur and therefore, NMFS has preliminarily determined that the takes will remain small and not have more than a negligible impact on seals and sea lions at Vandenberg.

Monitoring and Reporting

Under an amended LOA, if issued, the 30th Space Wing would be required to

monitor the impacts of the Minotaur launches at CCS. Because this is a new launch vehicle, the 30th Space Wing would be required under the LOA to measure the noise profiles from the rocket at the time of its first launch and to monitor impacts on marine mammals at nearby active, pinniped haulouts.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, and information, concerning this request (see ADDRESSES). Issuance of a modified LOA will be based on a finding that the total takings will have no more than a negligible impact on the seal and sea lion populations off the Vandenberg coast and on the Northern Channel Islands.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

Art Jeffers,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Facilities Available for the Construction or Repair of Ships; SF Form 17; OMB Number 0703-0006.

Type of Request: Reinstatement.

Number of Respondents: 151.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Response: 151.

Average Burden Per Response: 4.5 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 680.

Needs and Uses: This collection of information provides the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEASYS COM) and the maritime Administration with a list of facilities available for construction or repair of ships, and information utilized in a data base for assessing the production capacity of the

individual shipyards. Respondents are businesses involved in shipbuilding and/or repair.

Affected Public: Business or Other For-Profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Edward C.

Springer. Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Springer at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing. Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 99-26]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of P.L. 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/COMPT/RM, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 99-26 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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