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Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of the National Missile Defense Deployment Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) announces the availability of the National Missile Defense Deployment Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS assesses the potential impacts associated with the possible deployment of the NMD system. The NMD system would be a fixed, land-based, non-nuclear missile defense system with a land and space-based detection system capable of responding to limited strategic ballistic missile threats to the United States from a rogue nation. Potential deployment locations for the NMD elements include sites in Alaska and North Dakota. In addition, as the operational requirements are refined other regions may be identified.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: The alternatives considered in the EIS are the No-Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. A No-Action Alternative would be a DoD recommendation not to deploy an NMD system at the time a decision is made but to continue NMD system development to improve NMD system capabilities. With the Proposed Action Alternative, a decision would be made to deploy the NMD system and the NMD element locations would be selected from the range of locations studied in the EIS.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public hearing locations and dates are as follows: (1) October 26, 6-9 PM; Langdon Activity Center, 516 10th Avenue, Langdon, North Dakota; (2) October 27, 6-9 PM; Civic Auditorium, 615 1st Avenue North, Grand Forks, North Dakota; (3) November 1, 6-9 PM; Carlson Community Activity Center, 2010 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska; (4) November 2, 7-10 PM; Anderson School, 116 West 1st Street, Anderson, Alaska; (5) November 3, 6-9 PM; Delta High School, School Road, Delta Junction, Alaska; (6) November 4, 6-9

PM; WestCoast International Inn, 3333 W. International Airport Rd., Anchorage, Alaska; and (7) November 9, 6-9 PM; Days Inn, 2000 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia.

COMMENTS: Comments on the DEIS should be received by November 15, 1999. Written comments and inquiries of the DEIS should be directed to SMDC-EN-V (Ms. Julia Hudson), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, PO Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801, telephone (256) 955-4822. Public reading copies of the DEIS will be available for review at the public libraries within the communities where the public hearings will be held and at the BMDO internet site at www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/nmd.html.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of Secretary

Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, Scientific Advisory Board

ACTION: Notice of revised meeting times.

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Date of Meeting: October 19, 1999 from 0830 to 1710 and October 20, 1999 from 0800 to 1700.

Place: Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston, 4610 North Fairfax Drive, VA 22203.

Matters to be Considered: Research and Development proposals and continuing projects requesting Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program funds in excess of \$1M will be reviewed.

This meeting is open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the Scientific Advisory Board at the time and in the manner permitted by the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Kelly, SERDP Program Office, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 303, Arlington, VA or by telephone at (703) 696-2124.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD.

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BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Active Duty Service Determinations for Civilian or Contractual Groups

On August 27, 1999, the Secretary of the Air Force, acting as Executive Agent of the Secretary of Defense, determined that the service of the group known as "The Operational Analysis Group of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Office of Emergency Management, which served overseas with the U.S. Army Air Corps from December 7, 1941 through August 15, 1945" shall be considered "active duty" under the provisions of Public Law 95-202 for the purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

To be eligible for VA benefits, members of the group must establish each of the following:

1. He or she was employed as a civilian employee of the Office of Scientific Research and Development for a period of time during the period December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945; and

2. He or she was assigned as a civilian operations analyst or scientific consultant to duty with an operations analysis section or operational research section at a headquarters of an Army Air Force field force or command outside the continental limits of the United States; and

3. He or she served for a period of time outside the continental limits of the United States as a civilian operations analyst or scientific consultant at that field force or command between December 7, 1941 and August 15, 1945; and

4. He or she completed honorably the period for which the applicant contracted with the Office of Scientific Research and Development and completed honorably his or her obligations to the Army Air Force unit to which he or she was assigned outside the continental limits of the United States.

Qualifying periods of time are computed from the date of departure from the continental United States to the date of return to the continental United States.

Application Procedures

Before an individual can receive any VA benefits, the person must first apply for an Armed Forces Discharge Certificate (Department of Defense Form 214) by filling out a Department of Defense (DD) Form 2168, Application for Discharge of Member or Survivor of