

Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

10. *Lower Tier Certifications:* Recipients shall require applications/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DoC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DoC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

11. *False Statements:* A false statement on an application for Federal financial assistance is grounds for denial or termination of funds, and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

12. *Intergovernmental Review:* Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

13. *Executive Order 12866:* This Notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: August 14, 2000.

**Courtland Cox,**

*Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

**Juanita E. Berry,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.*

[FR Doc. 00-21859 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-21-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Announcing a Meeting of the; Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., notice is hereby given that the Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board (CSSPAB) will meet Tuesday, September 12, 2000, Wednesday, September 13, 2000, and Thursday, September 14, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. The Advisory Board was established by the Computer Security Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-235) to advise the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of NIST on security and privacy issues pertaining to federal computer systems. All sessions will be open to the public. Details regarding the Board's activities are available at <http://csrc.nist.gov/csspab/>.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on September 12-14, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Lecture Room D, Gaithersburg, MD.

#### Agenda

- Welcome and Overview
- Issues Update and Briefings
- Legislative Updates
- NIST Computer Security Updates
- Project Matrix Briefing
- Metrics Workshop Follow-on
- Pending Business/Discussion
- Public Participation
- Agenda Development for December 2000 meeting
- Wrap-Up

Note that agenda items may change without notice because of possible unexpected schedule conflicts of presenters.

#### Public Participation

The Board agenda will include a period of time, not to exceed thirty minutes, for oral comments and questions from the public. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes. Members of the public who are interested in speaking are asked to contact the Board Secretariat at the telephone number indicated below. In addition, written statements are invited and may be submitted to the Board at any time. Written statements should be directed to the CSSPAB Secretariat, Information Technology Laboratory, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930. It would be appreciated if 35 copies of written material were submitted for distribution to the Board and attendees no later than September 7, 2000. Approximately 15 seats will be available for the public and media.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Edward Roback, Board Secretariat, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930, telephone: (301) 975-3696.

Dated: August 17, 2000.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director, NIST.*

[FR Doc. 00-21890 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-CN-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 000712204-0204-01]

RIN: 0648-XA56

#### Office of Research and Applications Ocean Remote Sensing Program Notice of Financial Assistance

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Federal assistance.

**SUMMARY:** The NESDIS Office of Research and Applications (ORA) announces the availability of Federal assistance for fiscal year 2001 (FY 2001) in the Ocean Remote Sensing Program area. This announcement provides details on the technical program and includes detailed guidelines on proposal submission, evaluation criteria, and selection procedures. Selected recipients will either receive a grant, or enter into a cooperative agreement with ORA, depending upon the amount of the Office's involvement in the project. A grant will be awarded where the proposed work is considered substantially independent work. A cooperative agreement will be implemented where there is substantial involvement by ORA in the proposed work.

All applicants are required to submit a NOAA Grants Application Package and project proposal. The standard NOAA grants application forms can be obtained from the NOAA Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/index.html>. If Internet access is not available, forms can be obtained by mail by contacting the NOAA/NESDIS/ORA at (301) 763-8102. All Grants Application Packages must include Forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, and CD-511. If applicable, applicants must also include Anti-lobbying Disclosure Form SF-LLL, and Lower-Tier Certification Form CD-512. To determine SF-LLL and CD-512 applicability, applicants are directed to the "General Information for All Programs" section of this notice, Anti-lobbying Disclosures and Lower-Tier Certifications subheadings. FY 2001

funding for this program will be contingent upon the availability of funds but is anticipated to be approximately \$350,000. Individual awards for FY 2001 are expected to range from a minimum of \$50,000 to \$150,000. Successful proposals that are deemed to be exceptionally meritorious by the Selection Panel may be larger. There is no guarantee that all the areas of research interest identified in this Notice will be able to receive funding consideration.

Pursuant to Executive Orders 12876, 12900, and 13021, the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) in its educational and research programs. The DOC/NOAA vision, mission, and goals are to achieve full participation by Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the Nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and to increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in and benefit from Federal Financial Assistance programs. DOC/NOAA encourages all applicants to include meaningful participation of MSIs.

**DATES:** Proposals with completed Grants Applications Package must be received by ORA no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on November 28, 2000. Final selection is anticipated to be completed by approximately March 1, 2001. The earliest anticipated start date is July 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all proposals to the Office of Research and Applications; NOAA/NESDIS; 5200 Auth Road; Room 711; Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304. Proposals should cite this Notice and be sent to the attention of Dr. H. Lee Dantzler, Jr., Chief, Oceanic Research and Applications Division.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Administrative questions should be directed to Kathy LeFevre, (301) 763-8127 or [klefevre@nesdis.noaa.gov](mailto:klefevre@nesdis.noaa.gov). Technical point of contact is Dr. H. Lee Dantzler, Jr. at (301) 763-8184 or [ldantzler@nesdis.noaa.gov](mailto:ldantzler@nesdis.noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority:** Statutory authority for these programs is provided under 33 U.S.C. 1442 (Research program respecting possible long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and man-induced changes of ocean ecosystems); 15 U.S.C. 1540 (Cooperative Agreements); and 49 U.S.C. 44720 (Meteorological Services).

**Catalog of Federal Domestic**

**Assistance (CFDA):** This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 11.440 (Research in Remote Sensing of the Earth and Environment).

**General Information**

Environmental prediction, assessment, and the conservation and management of coastal and oceanic resources are primary functions of NOAA. NESDIS, one of the five principal offices within NOAA, is the world's largest civil, operational environmental space organization and operates the Nation's civil geostationary and polar-orbiting environmental satellites. NESDIS also facilitates the acquisition of non-U.S. environmental satellite data through international agreements. Satellite systems provide data and information that are critical to weather forecasting; natural disaster response and mitigation; climate change forecasts and research; living and non-living marine resources management; and coastal and open oceanographic research. ORA provides overall guidance and direction to the oceanic, atmospheric, and climate research and applications activities of NESDIS. The Ocean Remote Sensing Program, managed by ORA's Oceanic Research and Applications Division, has as its goal to help build capabilities nationwide to make expanded and improved use of earth-orbiting satellite data and information. The Program has particular interest in activities relating to sustaining healthy coasts, building sustainable fisheries, recovering protected species, providing improved environmental forecasts, and preparing for future NOAA operational satellite missions.

*Program Description*

The Ocean Remote Sensing Program seeks to expand the use of and improve access to operational satellite oceanographic data by state, Federal, regional governmental, and non-profit entity users. The program is seeking proposals in each of the following research areas listed in approximate priority order: (1) The application of satellite oceanographic data and information in coastal and oceanic marine (living and non-living) resources management; (2) The application of satellite oceanographic data to gain improved insight on regional oceanographic factors affecting important fisheries and critical ecosystems (e.g., marine protected areas, essential fish habitat, early life recruitment and survival, stock assessment, protected species,

important socio-economic interactions, and coral reefs); (3) Research leading to the development of innovative data archive and data management techniques that may significantly simplify and improve user access to satellite oceanographic data, especially by users employing Internet and geographic information systems (GIS) technologies; (4) Research to increase the accuracy, precision and quantitative use of satellite oceanographic data in coastal and ocean surface research investigations (e.g., sea surface temperature, ocean color, ocean surface winds, sea level and surface height, and sea surface roughness derived from spaceborne synthetic aperture radar); (5) Research supporting the development of future ocean sensing capable U.S. satellite systems (e.g., the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS)); and (6) Research leading to improved coastal and oceanic climatologies using satellite oceanographic data. All proposals will be evaluated in the context of the potential value of the proposed work to a targeted user community (to be identified in the proposal), and the relationship of the proposed work to the NOAA/NESDIS mission (as described in the "General Information" section of this Notice).

*Background*

ORA provides overall guidance and direction to the research and application activities of NESDIS. ORA provides expert service to other NESDIS Offices and Centers relating to satellite sensor development, instrument performance, and systems hardware components. It coordinates with other NESDIS Offices and Centers, appropriate NOAA units, and U.S. Government agencies in the implementation and evaluation of operational and research satellite data and products that result from research activities. It coordinates research activities of mutual interest with the academic community, NASA laboratories, and with foreign organizations, particularly those in satellite operating countries. ORA provides advice to the Assistant Administrator concerning interfaces among the Centers and Offices of NESDIS and among the major NOAA elements in relation to broad scale scientific projects. It also produces and provides specific programmatic studies, statistics, and scientific recommendations as needed.

*Project Proposals*

Project proposals, a signed original and two copies, must be received by

ORA by the time and date indicated in the **DATES** section of this Notice. Proposals received after that time and date will not receive consideration. In addition to the information requested below, the applicant must submit a complete NOAA grants application package (with signed originals), and curriculum vitae (CV) for the principal investigator(s). All project proposals must include the sections identified below and total no more than eight pages in double-spaced, 12-point font format. The title page, detailed budget, investigator(s) CV, and any appendices are not included in the eight page limit. Multiple year proposals, in annual increments up to a maximum of three years, will be considered; however, funding beyond the first year will be dependent upon satisfactory performance and the continued availability of funds.

1. *Title Page.* The title page shall provide the project title, the lead Principal Investigator (PI) name(s), Partner name(s) if any, the respective affiliations, complete addresses, telephone, FAX, and e-mail information. The title page will also present the total proposed cost, the proposed budget period, and a brief abstract of the proposed work. The title page shall also identify the specific research area of interest (from those listed by number in the "Program Description" in this Notice), and clearly identify that the proposal is in response to this Notice. The title page should be signed by the PI(s) and the institutional representative of the PI's organization.

2. *Goals and Objectives.* Identify broad project goals and quantifiable objectives.

3. *Background/Introduction.* State the problem and summarize existing efforts in the context of present knowledge and/or capabilities.

4. *User Application Audience.* Describe specifics of how the project will contribute to improving or resolving an issue with an identified primary target audience. The target audience must be explicitly stated.

5. *Project Description/Methodology.* Describe the specifics of the proposed project (4 pages maximum).

6. *Project Partners.* Identify any project partners, their respective roles, and their contributions/relationships to the proposed effort.

7. *Milestones and Outcomes.* List target milestones, time lines, and desired outcomes. The potential value of the proposed work to the identified target audience's needs should be identified in this section of the proposal.

8. *Project Budget.* Provide a detailed budget breakdown by category (and in multiple year proposed efforts, by year) and a brief narrative to provide the basis for the budget.

#### *Selection Process*

A project selection panel will be convened to review and to provide recommendations on selection using the criteria published in these guidelines. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three reviewers who are qualified to review the proposed work. These reviewers may include both Federal and non-Federal individuals. The Oceanic Research and Applications Division will be limited to no more than one individual (of the three) who will participate in the review process. Proposals will be ranked according to a score (explained below) and presented to the Selecting Official (the Chief, Oceanic Research and Applications Division) for final selection. In addition to the individual proposal rankings assigned by the panel, the Selecting Official may consider program policy factors such as balance among the prioritized research areas of programmatic interest described in the "Program Description" section of this Notice, and (for cooperative agreements that have substantial ORA involvement) geographic location in making a final decision.

#### *Selection Criteria (with weights)*

All proposals will be scored by the panel members according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance of the proposed research to NESDIS and NOAA missions (25 points)

Does the proposed project (directly or indirectly) address a critical need? Are the project goals and objectives clear and concise? Does the proposed project have a clearly defined user audience? Are there direct ties to relevant NESDIS, NOAA, Federal, regional, state or local activities?

2. Technical Merit (25 points)

Is the approach technically sound? Does the proposed project build on existing knowledge? Is the approach innovative?

3. Applicability and Effectiveness (20 points)

Does the proposed work have the potential of increasing the accessibility, usability (*i.e.*, easily understood and used), and relevance of satellite observed oceanographic data and information by the identified target user community? Does the proposed work provide for flexible, early and effective

opportunities for user involvement (*e.g.*, through cooperative experiments, demonstrations, or user evaluations)? Does the proposed work have the potential for long-term (lasting) value and widespread applicability? Does the proposed work include an effective mechanism by which the project's progress can be evaluated?

4. Cost Efficiency (15 points)

Is the budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs? Does the budget narrative justify the proposed expenditures?

5. Meaningful Participation of Minority Serving Institution(s) (10 points)

Is there meaningful participation by an MSI in the proposed work? Are there subgrants, subcontracts or other partnership arrangements proposed with MSIs?

6. Overall Qualifications (5 points)

Are the proposers capable of conducting a project of the scope and scale proposed (*i.e.*, scientific, professional, facility, and administrative resources/capabilities)? Are appropriate partnerships going to be employed to achieve the highest quality content and maximal efficiency?

#### *Selection Schedule*

Proposals submitted in response to this Notice will be reviewed once during the year according to the following schedule:

Proposals due—November 28, 2000  
Final Selection—Approximately March 1, 2001  
Grant start date—Approximately July 1, 2001

(**Note:** All deadlines are for receipt by ORA no later than 5 p.m. EST on the due date identified.)

#### *Funding Availability*

Specific funding available for awards in response to this Notice will be finalized after the NOAA budget for FY 2001 is authorized. Total funding available for this Notice is anticipated to be approximately \$350,000. Individual annual awards are expected to range from a minimum of \$50,000 to \$150,000. Successful proposals that are deemed by the selection panel to be exceptionally meritorious may be larger. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all approved projects, nor that all research areas of interest will be supported. Publication of this Notice does not obligate NOAA toward any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any parts of the available funds.

### *Cost Sharing*

There is no requirement for cost sharing in response to this program announcement and no additional weight will be given to proposals with cost sharing.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

Applications for grants or cooperative agreements under this program announcement may be submitted, in accordance with the procedures set forth in these specific guidelines, by any U.S. state, territory, commonwealth, local or regional resource management agency; college or university; private industry; nonprofit organization; or cooperative research unit. Applicants should carefully read the "General Information for All Programs" section for additional submission guidelines, paying special attention to indirect cost limitations. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this Notice, but may be included as a participating partner(s) in the proposed work.

### **General Information for All Programs**

#### *Indirect Costs*

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program notice must not exceed the current indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by the applicant's cognizant Federal agency (prior to the proposed effective date of the award), or 35 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

#### *Federal Policies and Procedures*

Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and DOC policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal assistance awards.

#### *Name Check Review*

All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the recipient have been convicted of, or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters that significantly reflect on the recipient's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

#### *Past Performance*

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

### *Pre-Award Activities*

If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of DOC to cover pre-award costs, should an award not be made or funded at a level less than requested.

### *No Obligation for Future Funding*

If the application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DOC.

### *Delinquent Federal Debts*

No award or Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

- (i) The delinquent account is paid in full,
- (ii) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or
- (iii) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

### *Primary Applicant Certifications*

All organizations or individuals preparing grant applications must submit a completed Form CD-511 "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying", and explanations are hereby provided:

### *Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension*

Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

### *Drug-Free Workplace*

Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, subpart f, "Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

### *Anti-Lobbying*

Persons (as defined at 15 CFR part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions",

and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to application/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000.

### *Anti-Lobbying Disclosures*

Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities", as required under 15 CFR part 28, Appendix B.

### *Lower-Tier Certifications*

Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for sub-grants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower-tier-covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities". Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or sub-recipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

### *False Statements*

A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

### *Intergovernmental Review*

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

### *Buy American-Made Equipment or Products*

Applicants are hereby notified that they will be encouraged, to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program in accordance with Congressional intent.

### *Classification*

Executive Order 12866

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to, a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that

collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. This notice contains a collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standards Forms 424, 424A, 424B, 424C, 424D, SF-LLL and the name check form have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0328-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0041, 0348-0042, 0348-0046 and 0651-0001.

Dated: August 16, 2000.

**Gregory W. Withee,**

*Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.*

[FR Doc. 00-21839 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-HR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Admissions announces the proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by October 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to United States Air Force Academy, Office of Admissions, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 236, USAFA, CO 80840.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposed and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call

the United States Air Force Academy, Office of Admissions, (719) 333-7291.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number:* Air Force Academy Candidate Activities Record, USAFA Form 147, OMB Number 0701-0063.

*Needs and Uses:* The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain data on candidate's background and aptitude in determining eligibility and selection to the Air Force Academy.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 5,258.

*Number of Respondents:* 7,010.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 45 Minutes.

*Frequency:* 1.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Summary of Information Collection**

The information collected on this form is required by 10 U.S.C. 9346. The respondents are students who are applying for admission to the United States Air Force Academy. Each student's background and aptitude is reviewed to determine eligibility. If the information on this form is not collected, the individual cannot be considered for admittance to the Air Force Academy.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-21829 Filed 8-25-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-05-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Transfer of Naval Ammunition Support Detachment Property, Vieques, Puerto Rico**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the transfer and subsequent redevelopment of the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) property on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. The United States Department of Interior (USDO I) is a

cooperating agency in the preparation of this draft EA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Ruth Diaz, Community Relations Office, U.S. Naval Forces South, at (787) 865-5691 or write to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces South, Federico Degetau Federal Building, Room 354, 150 Carlos Chardon Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 31, 2000, the President of the United States directed the Navy to submit legislation to Congress to transfer the western end of Vieques to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the benefit of the Municipality of Vieques. This directive was the culmination of a negotiated agreement between the President and the Governor of Puerto Rico concerning the Navy's continued use of the eastern end of Vieques as a training range. Draft legislation was submitted to Congress on February 25, 2000, but as of August 20, 2000, this legislation has not been enacted. The Navy cannot transfer the NASD property to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico without legislative authority. Although the draft legislation has not been enacted, this draft EA was prepared in anticipation of congressional direction to transfer the NASD property. The analyses contained in this draft EA are based on the legislation as submitted to Congress in February 2000. The legislation, if enacted by Congress, would require the Navy to transfer the land comprising the NASD to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by December 31, 2000. This conveyance would not include approximately 100 acres of land on NASD that comprise the Relocatable Over-the-Horizon Radar site, the Monte Pirata telecommunication site, and adjacent areas needed for access and operation of these facilities.

The proposed action is the transfer of approximately 7,900 acres comprising the NASD property to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Of the approximately 7,900 acres, approximately 3,900 acres has been designated in a draft Co-Management Agreement (CMA) developed between the Commonwealth and the USDO I as conservation areas. These conservation areas include the Conservation Zones designated pursuant to the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and the Navy. These conservation areas will be managed pursuant to a Conservation and Management Plan pursuant to the CMA to protect and preserve their natural and cultural resources in