

survey instrument is needed that will capture information regarding employee opinions of how well TRICARE supports them to provide patients with needed care. It will identify how administrative policies and practices of TRICARE health plans effect healthcare delivery. A second goal of this work is to collect information that indicates how the attitudes and opinions of employees differ by specialty, region, and degree of participation with TRICARE. The survey data shall provide information needed to better plan, deliver, and evaluate health care services provided in the military health system (MHS).

Affected Public: Individual households (TRICARE Employees CONUS-wide).

Annual Burden Hours: 333 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Response Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: .333 hrs.

Frequency: Once.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This request encompasses all activities required to conduct and develop a report of findings of a confidential survey of TRICARE employees CONUS-wide to assess their attitudes and opinions regarding their ability to provide high quality care.

Dated: November 16, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 02-32668 Filed 12-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(a), Public Law 92-463, as amended, notice is hereby given of a forthcoming of the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). The purpose of the Committee meeting is to provide further training to the incoming FY 2003 Committee members on issues they will review this year. The meeting is open to the public, subject to the availability of space.

DATES: January 16 & 17, 2003, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Courtyard Marriott, 2899 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant Commander Shannon Thaeler, USN, DACOWITS, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3D769, Washington, DC 20301-4000. Telephone (703) 697-2122.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the Committee and make an oral presentation of such. Persons desiring to make an oral presentation or submit a written statement to the Committee must notify the point of contact listed below no later than noon, January 10, 2003. Oral presentations by members of the public will be permitted only on Friday, January 17, 2003, from 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. before the full Committee. Presentations will be limited to two minutes. Number of oral presentations to be made will depend on the number of requests received from members of the public. Each person desiring to make an oral presentation must provide the point of contact listed below with one (1) copy of the presentation by noon, January 10, 2003 and bring 50 copies of any material that is intended for distribution at the meeting. Persons submitting a written statement only must submit one (1) copy of the statement to the DACOWITS staff by the close of the meeting on January 17, 2003.

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 16, 2003

Welcome, Administrative Remarks
Panel: National Guard Bureau, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard

Q & A Session

Army Transformation Briefing

Navy Transformation Briefing

Lunch (Invited Guests Only)

Air Force Transformation Briefing

Army Well-Being Briefing

Navy Family Summit Briefing

Coast Guard Temporary Separation

Program

Committee time

Friday, January 17, 2003

Readiness Panel (Participants TBD)

Defense Manpower Data Center Briefing

Health Care Briefing

Lunch (Invited Guests Only)

RAND Briefing

Navy Personnel Research, Study and

Technologies

Army Research Institute Briefing

Committee time

Public forum (5:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.)

Dated: December 19, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 02-32670 Filed 12-26-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Destruction of Chemical Agents and Munitions at Blue Grass Army Depot, KY

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the FEIS that assesses the potential environmental impacts of the design, construction, operation and closure of a facility to destroy the chemical agents and munitions currently stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). The FEIS examines the potential environmental impacts of the following destruction facility alternatives: (1) Baseline incineration facility; (2) neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation; (3) neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation and gas phase chemical reduction; (4) electrochemical oxidation; and (5) no action (i.e., continued storage of chemical munitions at BGAD). Although the no action alternative is not viable under Pub. L. 990145 (DoD Authorization Act of 1986), it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. The FEIS identifies pilot testing of neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the agency's preferred alternative for destruction of chemical munitions at BGAD.

DATES: The waiting period for the FEIS will end 30 days after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the FEIS, contact the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, Public Outreach and Information Office (ATTN: Mr. Gregory Mahall), Building E-4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-4005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gregory Mahall at 410-436-1093, by fax at 410-436-5122, by mail at the above listed address or by electronic mail at gregory.mahall@pmcd.apgea.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In its Record of Decision (ROD) on February 26, 1988 (53 FR 5816, February 26, 1988) for the Final Programmatic

Environmental Impact Statement on the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program (CSDP), the Army selected on-site disposal by incineration at all eight chemical munition storage sites located within the continental United States as the method by which it will destroy its lethal chemical stockpile. The Army published a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 20140-41, December 4, 2000) which provided notice that, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations, it was preparing a draft site-specific EIS for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The Army published a Draft EIS to assess the site-specific health and environmental impacts of on-site disposal of the chemical agents and munitions stored at the BGAD on May 31, 2002. All public comments received on the DEIS have been addressed in the FEIS.

The Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) prepared a separate EIS. The ACWA EIS is for follow-on pilot testing of the ACWA Program pursuant to the process established by Congress in Pub. L. 104-208 and 105-261. The ACWA EIS emphasizes the feasibility of pilot testing one or more of the ACWA technologies at one or more sites. One of the four sites evaluated in the ACWA EIS was the BGAD. Information provided by the ACWA Program concerning the neutralization technologies provided the basis for analysis of the neutralization technologies and comparison with incineration in this site-specific EIS for stockpile destruction at Blue Grass. This site-specific EIS and the ACWA EIS serve complementary purposes.

The decision for the technology to be implemented to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile at BGAD will be made by the DAE and a ROD will be signed following the end of the 30-day waiting period.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

Richard E. Newsome,

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

[FR Doc. 02-32669 Filed 12-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.116J]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition: European Community-United States of America Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education and vocational education and training or combinations of institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

Applications Available: December 20, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 30, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: \$700,000 in fiscal year 2003; \$2,370,000 over three years. The estimated amount of funds available for awards is based on the Administration's request for this program for FY 2003. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final Congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$25,000–\$200,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$25,000 for one-year preparatory projects; \$35,000 for one-year complementary activities projects; \$75,000 for two-year complementary activities projects; \$50,000 for year one of a three-year consortia implementation project with a \$200,000 three-year total.

Estimated Number of Awards: 13.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Special Focus Competition, we will award grants or enter into cooperative agreements that focus on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education. We have

included an invitational priority to encourage proposals designed to support the formation of educational consortia of institutions and organizations in the United States and the European Union to encourage cooperation in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students and the opening of educational opportunities between the United States and the European Union. The invitational priority is issued in cooperation with the European Union. European institutions participating in any consortium proposal responding to the invitational priority may apply to the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture for additional funding under a separate European competition.

Priority: The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However, an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority: Projects that support consortia of institutions of higher education that promote institutional cooperation and student mobility between the United States and the Member States of the European Union.

Methods for Applying Selection Criteria

The Secretary gives equal weight to the listed criteria. Within each of the criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the factors.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating applications for grants under this program competition, the Secretary uses selection criteria chosen from those listed in 34 CFR 75.210.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), PO Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398, Telephone (toll free) 1-877-433-7827, fax (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free) 1-877-576-7734. You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>. Or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.116J. You may also request application forms by calling (732) 544-2504 (fax on demand), or application guidelines by calling (202) 358-3041 (voice mail) or submitting the name of the competition and your name and postal address to FIPSE@ed.gov (e-mail).

Applications are also listed on the FIPSE Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/>