salmon occur in the salmon savings areas which provide ideal locations for conducting the experiment and ensuring the vessel encounters concentrations of salmon.

Because a large portion of the Chinook Salmon Savings Area and Chum Salmon Savings Area falls within the Steller Sea Lion Conservation Area (SCA), the EFP also allows for an exemption from the sector specific closure of the SCA (§ 679.22(a)(7)(vii)). This exemption applies only until the combined harvest of all sectors in the SCA exceeds the combined 28 percent of the annual TAC before April 1 (§ 679.20(a)(5)(i)(B). In 2003 nearly 80,000 mt of pollock SCA quota was not harvested. The experiment will harvest approximately 1,300 mt of groundfish (mostly pollock) during the spring. Catcher vessels over 99 ft (30.2 m) length overall (LOA) harvested all of the 2003 quota available to its sector. The vessel used for the research may be a catcher vessel over 99 ft (30.2 m) LOA, the sector that is likely to be closed out of the SCA based on reaching its quota. Because of the large amount of SCA pollock quota that will likely remain unharvested and limitations on the exemption if the combined sector SCA quota is reached, the exemption from the SCA sector specific closure will have no effect on Steller sea lions.

The EFP also exempts the permit holders from the closure of the Catcher Vessel Operating Area (CVOA) at 50 CFR 679.22(a)(5)(ii). All of the Chum Salmon Savings Area is in the CVOA because of the high rates of chum salmon bycatch that are known to occur in this area. The CVOA is closed to catcher/processors during the pollock B season, June 10 through November 1. If a catcher/processor is chosen to conduct the chum salmon portion of the research, it will need access to the CVOA during the pollock B season to ensure enough chum salmon is encountered to provide a sufficient sample size for the experiment.

The EFP authorizes harvests up to 2,270 mt of groundfish in the Bering Sea in the fall of 2003 and the spring of 2004. These groundfish harvests will not be applied toward the groundfish TAC limits in 2003 or 2004. Approximately 98 percent of the groundfish harvested will be pollock. The 2003 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,491,760 metric tons (mt) (68 FR 9907, March 3, 2003) and the 2004 TAC is likely to be over one million mt. The 2003 pollock acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the Bering Sea is 2.33 million mt, well above the TAC and additional harvest anticipated from the experiment. The vessel selected for participation will retain all pollock and may retain other groundfish species in accordance with the maximum retainable incidental catch amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f), using only pollock as the basis species.

Approximately 200 chum salmon and 30 chinook salmon are required to support the experiment, well below the BSAI limits of 33,000 chinook salmon in 2003, 29,000 chinook salmon in 2004, and the annual limit of 42,000 non-chinook salmon (§ 679.21(e)(1)(vii) and (viii)). The authorized salmon bycatch for this experiment is 2,183 non-chinook salmon and 217 chinook salmon. This is above the amount needed to support the experiment, but is necessary to ensure the experiment is not prematurely ended before a sufficient amount of data are collected under conditions of higher than expected rates of salmon bycatch. If the salmon is of acceptable quality, the salmon bycatch will be retained for the Prohibited Species Donation Program under § 679.26. Otherwise, the salmon will be discarded in accordance with § 679.21(b).

The Regional Administrator may terminate the experiment if the groundfish or salmon bycatch limits specified in the permit are exceeded. To ensure no likelihood of adverse effects on Steller sea lions, the experiment may not be conducted in Steller sea lion protection areas that are closed to pollock trawling (68 FR 204, January 2, 2003, corrected 68 FR 24615, May 8, 2003), except as provided for in the SCA. A final report of the result of the experiment will be made available to the public at the end of 2004.

Failure of the permittees to comply with the terms and conditions of the EFP and all applicable provisions of 50 CFR parts 600 and 679, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, or any regulations promulgated thereunder, or any other applicable laws, may be grounds for revocation, suspension, or modification of this permit as well as civil or criminal sanctions imposed under those laws.

Classification

This action is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The analytical requirements of the RFA are inapplicable because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this notification.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 25, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03–19520 Filed 7–30–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Extended Test Range Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Correction notice for the notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice published in the **Federal Register** on July 15, 2003, (68 FR 41784) on ''Ground-Based Midcourse Extended Test Range Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Availability (NOA).'' This notice revises the published closure date to reflect the original NOA publication date in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on July 11, 2003 (68 FR 41338). The corrected NOA closure date is August 11, 2003. All other information remains unchanged.

DATES: A Record of Decision will be issued no earlier than 30 days from July 11, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please call Mr. Rick Lehner, MDA Director of Communications at (703) 697–8997.

Dated: July 24, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03–19451 Filed 7–30–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Quarantining Guidance for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Epidemic will meet in open session September 15, 2003,

from 0930–1200 and from 1300–1500. The Task Force will meet at SAIC, 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA. The Task Force will review the impact quarantining may have on DoD planning and operations by preventing the flow of personnel and material to areas of concern, eroding relationships with host countries, and impacting our forces through anxieties about family members.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Defense Science Board Task Force will review and evaluate the Department's ability to provide information to integrate public health needs, on behalf of national security. Specifically, the Task Force will review: Existing doctrine and processes by which quarantine policy is generated; required cooperation with non-DoD agencies and non-U.S. government entities, including other countries; the capacity of local commanders to rapidly survey disease status, and establish need, ways and means for quarantine in relation to their assigned missions; methods, technologies and doctrine to allow safe transport of personnel through quarantine areas, and restriction of movement where needed; sample scenarios; coordination and allocation of DoD and non DoD resources to combat SARS; identification and tracking of individuals potentially exposed to SARS; and features of the SARS guidance which may be applicable to future infectious disease outbreaks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CDR David Waugh, USN, Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Room 3D865, Washington, DC 20301–3140, via e–mail at *david.waugh@osd.mil,* or via phone at (703) 695–4158.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must contact CDR Waugh no later than September 5, 2003, for further information about admission as seating is limited. Additionally, those who wish to make oral comments or deliver written comments should also request to be scheduled, and submit a written text of the comments by September 5, 2003, to allow time for distribution to Task Force members prior to the meeting. Individual oral comments will be limited to five minutes, with the total oral comment period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Dated: July 23, 2003.

Patricia Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03–19450 Filed 7–30–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Transformation of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) and Installation Mission Support, Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fork Polk, LA, and Long-Term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DOD; Forest Service, USDA; Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army, the USDA Forest Service, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announce the availability of the DEIS for the Transportation of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment and Installation Mission Support, Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Long-Term Military Training Use of Kisatchie National Forest Lands. The DEIS evaluates environmental impacts associated with the Army's proposal for implementation force transformation and mission capability enhancements at the installation and at England Industrial Airpark, along with long-term military training use of Kisatchie National Forest lands. The Army's proposed action involves fielding of new vehicles and equipment; construction and improvement of firing ranges, roads, stream crossings, and support facilities; land use agreements and leases; training and deployment of Army troops; and continued environmental stewardship. In addition, the DEIS considers a Forest Service proposal to thin approximately 21,500 acres of upland pine stands on the Vernon Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest to improve habitat conditions for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The FAA proposes to approve amendment of the Alexandria International Airport Layout Plan as influenced by proposed Army projects and activities at England Industrial Airpark.

DATES: The comment period for the DEIS will end 45 days after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or requests for copies of the DEIS may be submitted to: Dan Nance, Fort Polk Public Affairs Office, 7073 Radio Road, Fort Polk, LA 71459–5342; phone: (337) 531–7203; fax: (337) 531–6041; e-mail: *eis@polk.army.mil.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the DEIS may be directed to: Stacy Basham-Wagner, Joint Agency Liaison, Attention: AFZX–PW–E (Basham-Wagner), 1799 23rd Street, Fort Polk, LA 71459; telephone (337) 531–7458, fax: (337) 531–2627.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: In support of Army initiatives to meet evolving security requirements, the Army has designated the 2d ACR to transform as an element of the Interim Force to the 2d Cavalry Regiment, a medium-weight force that will be strategically responsive and more rapidly deployable by air. In addition to transformation of the 2d ACR, other Interim Force units stationed at other Army installations would participate in exercises at JRTC and Fort Polk on a rotational basis. To these ends, the Army proposes to implement force transformation and installation mission support activities at the JRTC and Fort Polk with respect to home station training (maneuver and gunnery exercises for Army units assigned to Fort Polk), rotational unit exercises, and facilities construction. The Army also proposes renewal of a Special Use Permit agreement with the Forest Service for continued use of Kisatchie National Forest lands to support military training. The areas of the Kisatchie National Forest proposed for Army use are known as the Intensive Use Area and Limited Use Area of the Vernon Unit, Calcasieu Ranger District and the Special Limited Use Area (also known as Horse's Head) of the Kisatchie Ranger District.

Proposals for installation mission support involve 20 construction projects that would occur on Army lands, national forest lands, and at England Industrial Airpark in Alexandria, Louisiana. The projects include 13 facilities in the Fort Polk cantonment area, digitization and expansion of the Multi-Purpose Range Complex on Fort Polk's main post, road construction/