### Defense Science Board FY04 Summer Studies are Held June 1-2, 2004

The Defense Science Board FY04 Summer Studies are held June 1–2, 2004. The meetings will be held at the Crystal City Sheraton in Arlington, VA and will begin at 0800 hrs on the 1st and will end at approximately 1700 hrs on the 2nd. For further information on the FCS Urban Operations Study, please contact MAJ Al Visconti at (865) 574–8798 or e-mail at viscontiaj@ornl.gov. For the Force Balance Study, please contact MAJ Al Klee at (703) 604–2212 or e-mail at alvin.klee@hqda.army.mil.

Wayne Joyner, Program Support Specialist, Army Science Board.

[FR Doc. 04–6766 Filed 3–25–04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5001–06–M

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Bennett, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE Management Activity, telephone (303) 676–3494.


L.M. Bynum, Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04–6761 Filed 3–25–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–M

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### 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 (DSB) Task Force on Strategic Strike Skills will meet in closed session on April 14, 2004, in Arlington, VA. The Task Force will assess the future strategic strike force skills needs of the Department of Defense (DoD).

The mission of the DSB 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. Last summer the DSB assessed DoD needs for future strategic strike forces. Assessed was the application of technology for non-nuclear weapons systems, communications, planning systems, and intelligence as well as the integration of strategic strike with active defenses as part of the new triad. This “skills” study will complement the previous strategic forces study by focusing on the people and the skills necessary to develop, maintain, plan, and successfully execute future strategic strike forces. At this meeting, the Task Force will: Assess current skills available, both nuclear and non-nuclear of current long-range strike forces; identify, assess and recommend new/modified/enhanced skill sets necessary for successful future strike force development, planning, and operations; and recommend a strategy for the successful evolution of the current skills to those required by future strike forces.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92–804, as amended (5 U.S.C. app. II), it has been determined that this Defense Science Board Task Force meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(1) and that, accordingly, the meeting will be closed to the public.


L.M. Bynum, Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04–6766 Filed 3–25–04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5001–06–M

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### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

**Defense Logistics Agency**

**Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Defense National Stockpile Center, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announces the availability of its Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). This announcement is pursuant to

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### Table: Healthcare Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T-Nex region/contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>Start healthcare delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South (Humana Military Healthcare Services)</td>
<td>Oklahoma, Arkansas and major portions of Texas and Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Eastern Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, small area of Arkansas, New Orleans area.</td>
<td>1 November 2004.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DLA’s regulation (DLAR 1000.22) that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) inventory of elemental mercury (approximately 4,436 metric tons) is currently stored in enclosed warehouses at four sites in the United States: Near New Haven, Indiana; in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; in Hillsborough, New Jersey; and near Warren, Ohio. Because the mercury has been declared in excess of national defense needs, DNSC must decide on a strategy for the long-term management of this excess commodity. The Final EIS analyzes in detail three alternatives for managing the National Defense Stockpile inventory of excess mercury: (1) Consolidated storage of the mercury stockpile at one site, (2) no-action, i.e., leave the mercury at the existing storage locations, and (3) sale of the stockpile. DNSC’s preferred alternative is consolidated storage. The Final EIS evaluates a range of locations that would be environmentally acceptable consolidation sites.

The Final EIS reflects changes made in response to comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS. No sooner than 30 days after the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Notice of Availability for DNSC’s Final Mercury Management EIS is published in the Federal Register, the DLA intends to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) which will announce the selection of the alternative that will be implemented. DLA will publish its ROD in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Bound copies of the Final EIS (about 1000 pages) and Executive Summary (about 20 pages) are available by writing to: Attention: Project Manager, Mercury Management EIS; DNSC–E, Defense National Stockpile Center, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 3229, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060–6223, or calling toll free at 1–888–306–6682. Electronic versions of the Executive Summary and the Final EIS are found on the Internet at http://www.mercuryeis.com. Copies of the Final EIS may also be reviewed at the information repository locations listed in the Supplementary Information section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for information can be made by: Leaving a voice message at 1–888–306–818; e-mailing a request to information@mercuryeis.com; or accessing the Mercury Management EIS Web site at http://www.mercuryeis.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DNSC is responsible for the disposition of stockpiled materials declared in excess of national defense needs. The United States Congress has determined that the U.S. Department of Defense no longer needs to maintain a stockpile of commodity grade mercury because of the increased use of mercury substitutes and because of increases in the nation’s secondary mercury production through recovery and recycling. The DNSC excess mercury was offered for sale in open competitions until 1994 when concerns over mercury accumulation in the environment prompted DNSC to suspend sales. The DNSC inventory of mercury (approximately 4,436 metric tons) is stored in enclosed warehouses at four sites in the United States: New Haven, Indiana (557 metric tons); Oak Ridge, Tennessee (699 metric tons); Hillsborough, New Jersey (2,617 metric tons); and Warren, Ohio (564 metric tons).

As custodian of the mercury, DNSC must decide on a strategy for long-term management of this material. In compliance with NEPA and DLA Regulation 1000.22, “Environmental Considerations in DLA Actions in the United States,” DNSC prepared the EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives for long-term management (i.e., 40 years) of the excess mercury. The alternatives are: (1) No action, i.e., maintaining storage at the four existing sites; (2) consolidation and storage at one of three current DNSC mercury storage sites or at another location; and (3) sale of the mercury inventory. Three other candidate locations (i.e., Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, Nevada; PEZ Lake Development, Rumulus, New York; and Utah Industrial Depot, Tooele, Utah) were evaluated as possible consolidation sites and to analyze the environmental acceptability of a wider range of sites. The PEZ Lake Development site is included in the EIS to broaden the range of environmental and socioeconomic settings analyzed; however, the site is no longer under consideration as a consolidated storage site. The company which manages the site, withdrew it from consideration based on business development plans. The Final EIS describes the potential environmental, human health, and socioeconomic impacts of these alternatives, together with cost considerations. Several treatment technologies were considered as possible alternatives for mercury management. Based on the immaturity of bulk mercury treatment technologies and the lack of an EPA-approved path forward, bulk treatment and disposal of elemental mercury is not considered viable at this time and is not evaluated in detail in the Final EIS.

The DLA’s preferred alternative is consolidated storage at one location. Managing the mercury at one site rather than at multiple sites would simplify storage operations and result in economies of scale (fewer resources would be required to maintain the mercury inventory). Consolidating the excess DNSC mercury inventory at one site does not result in significant environmental impacts at any site analyzed and would slightly improve environmental conditions at the sites where the mercury would be removed. The preferred alternative is also compatible with DNSC’s long-term depot closure plans. The EIS evaluates a range of locations that would be acceptable consolidation sites. If a site other than one of those analyzed in the Final EIS is selected, additional environmental documentation would be prepared as needed.

The Department of Energy (DOE) and EPA are Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of this Final EIS. DOE is recognized because of their special expertise and because some of the DNSC excess mercury is stored at its Y–12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. EPA is recognized because of its special expertise in the areas of mercury fate and effects in the environment, mercury stabilization and disposal technologies, and the regulation of hazardous material.

The public comment period for the Draft EIS began with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on April 11, 2003, and continued until July 18, 2003. In response to public requests to extend the comment period, the deadline for submittal of comments was extended informally until September 2, 2003. The Draft EIS or the Executive Summary was distributed to more than 830 individuals and organizations.

During the comment period, DNSC held seven meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS. The meetings were held in the communities that could be affected by the proposed actions, as well as in Washington, DC. Approximately 230 people attended the public meetings. The transcript of each meeting is available at a nearby information repository. Locations of these repositories are listed below:

- Allen County Public Library, 435 Ann Street, New Haven, Indiana 46774.

- Lake Land College, 1200 South乏力d Street, Mattoon, Illinois 61938.

- Muncie Public Library, 200 South Walnut Street, Muncie, Indiana 47305.

- National Security Education Center, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 3229, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060–6223.

- Oak Ridge Public Library, 2502 Emory East, PO Box 200860, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831–0860.

- Presentation at DOE headquarters, Washington, DC.

- Presentation to U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.

- Presentation to communities affected by the proposed actions.

The Final EIS reflects changes made in response to comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS. No sooner than 30 days after the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Notice of Availability for DNSC’s Final Mercury Management EIS is published in the Federal Register, the DLA intends to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) which will announce the selection of the alternative that will be implemented. DLA will publish its ROD in the Federal Register.
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 25, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency’s ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing information on the program and to analyze the impact of the program on the academic progress of participating students.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from http://edicsweb.ed.gov, by selecting the “Browse Pending Collections” link and by clicking on link number 2482. When you access the information collection, click on “Download Attachments” to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651 or to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.