

to assign patients to PreMDC DRGs 480, 103 and 495 before assignment to MDC 15 DRGs and the neonatal DRGs. For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2001, DRGs 512 and 513 were added to the PreMDC DRGs, between DRGs 480 and 103 in the TRICARE grouper hierarchy logic. For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2004, DRG 483 was deleted and replaced with DRGs 541 and 542, splitting the assignment of cases on the basis of the performance of a major operating room procedure. The description for DRG 480 was changed to "Liver Transplant and/or Intestinal Transplant," and the description for DRG 103 was changed to "Heart/Heart Lung Transplant or Implant of Heart Assist System."

B. Wage Index and Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board Guidelines

TRICARE will continue to use the same wage index amounts used for the Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS). TRICARE will also duplicate all changes with regard to the wage index for specific hospitals that are redesignated by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. In addition, TRICARE will continue to utilize the out commuting wage index adjustment.

C. Revision of the Labor-Related Share of the Wage Index

TRICARE is adopting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) percentage of labor related share of the standardized amount. For wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the Adjusted Standardized Amount (ASA) shall equal 69.7 percent. For wage index values less than or equal to 1.0 the labor related portion of the ASA shall continue to equal 62 percent.

D. Hospital Market Basket

TRICARE will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare PPS for all hospitals subject to the TRICARE DRG-based payment system according to CMS's August 22, 2007, final rule.

E. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments (TRICARE reimburses hospitals for their capital costs as reported annually to the contractor on a passthrough basis), we will use the FY 2007 (published in CMS' August 18, 2006) fixed loss cost outlier threshold calculated by CMS for paying cost outliers in the absence of capital

prospective payments. For TRICARE's FY 2008 update, the fixed loss cost outlier threshold is based on the sum of the applicable DRG-based payment rate plus any amounts payable for IDME plus a fixed dollar amount. Thus, for FY 2008, in order for a case to qualify for cost outlier payments, the costs must exceed the TRICARE DRG base payment rate (wage adjusted) for the DRG plus the IDME payment plus \$22,649 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

F. National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs

The FY 2008 TRICARE National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs (NOSCASTC) used in calculating the cost outlier threshold is 0.925. TRICARE uses the same methodology as CMS for calculating the NOSCASTC; however, the variables are different because TRICARE uses national cost-to-charge ratios while CMS uses hospital specific cost-to-charge ratios.

G. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

Passage of the MMA of 2003 modified the formula multipliers to be used in the calculation of the indirect medical education IDME adjustment factor. Since the IDME formula used by TRICARE does not include disproportionate share hospitals (DSHs), the variables in the formula are different than Medicare's, however; the percentage reductions that will be applied to Medicare's formula will also be applied to the TRICARE IDME formula. The new multiplier for the IDME adjustment factor for TRICARE for FY 2008 is 1.02.

H. Expansion of the Post-Acute Care Transfer Policy

For FY 2008, TRICARE continues to use the post-acute care transfer policy that was published in CMS' final rule on August 18, 2006.

I. Blood Clotting Factor

For FY 2008, TRICARE is adopting CMS' payment methodology for blood clotting factor according to CMS' final rule published August 18, 2006.

II. Cost-to-Charge Ratio

While CMS uses hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratios, TRICARE uses a national cost-to-charge ratio. For FY 2008, the cost-to-charge ratio used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system for acute care hospitals and neonates will be 0.3818 which is increased to 0.3888 to account for bad debts. This shall be used to calculate the

adjusted standardized amounts and to calculate cost outlier payments, except for children's hospitals. For children's hospital cost outliers, the cost-to-charge ratio used is 0.4198.

III. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> under the sequential headings TRICARE Provider Information, Rates and Reimbursements, and DRG Information. Table 1 provides the ASA rates and Table 2 provides the DRG weights to be used under the TRICARE DRG-based payment system during FY 2008 and which is a result of the changes described above. The implementing regulations for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system are in 32 CFR Part 199.

Dated: October 19, 2007.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. E7-21014 Filed 10-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of closed meeting

AGENCY: Defense Intelligence Agency, National Defense Intelligence College.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (d) of section 10 of Public Law 92-463, as amended by section 5 of Public Law 94-409, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the DIA National Defense Intelligence College Board of Visitors has been scheduled as follows:

DATES: Tuesday, 8 January 2008, 0800 to 1700; and Wednesday, 9 January 2008, 0800 to 1200.

ADDRESSES: National Defense Intelligence College, Washington, DC 20340-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. A. Denis Clift, President, DIA National Defense Intelligence College, Washington, DC 20340-5100 (202/231-3344).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The entire meeting is devoted to the discussion of classified information as defined in section 552b(c)(1), Title 5 of the U.S. Code and therefore will be closed. The Board will discuss several current critical intelligence issues and advise the Director, DIA, as to the successful accomplishment of the mission assigned to the National Defense Intelligence College.

Dated: October 19, 2007.

L.M. Bynum,

OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, DOD.

[FR Doc. 07-5275 Filed 10-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of availability (NOA).

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces the availability of the Final PEIS for the growth and realignment of the U.S. Army. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Army has prepared a PEIS that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with alternatives for growing and realigning the Army's force structure. The Army's preferred alternative identified in the Final PEIS is Alternative 3 which will allow the Army to grow and restructure its forces to accommodate modular forces initiatives and critical shortfalls, while adding six Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) to the Army's end strength. Potential impacts have been analyzed at installations that are being considered for the stationing of 1,000 or more additional Soldiers.

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

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the Final PEIS contact: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Building E4460, Attention: IMAE-PA 5179 Hoadley Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401. Questions may also be sent to:
PublicComments@aec.apgea.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-2556; facsimile at (410) 436-1693 (during normal business hours Monday through Friday).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed Action and analysis within the Final PEIS covers those activities needed to increase the Army's end strength and realign its force structure from Fiscal Year 2008 through Fiscal Year 2013 to a size and composition that is better able to meet national security and defense requirements. The

Proposed Action involves stationing decisions to align Army forces in support of military transformation, unit equipment and training readiness, and Soldier and Family quality of life needs. To implement the Proposed Action, new units must be stationed at locations that are able to accommodate unit training, garrison operations, maintenance activities, and Soldiers and their Families. In addition, final stationing locations must support the strategic deployment and mobilization requirements of the nation's Combatant Commanders to ensure they will have the forces necessary to support regional contingency operations and planning requirements.

The Final PEIS examines major Army training installations and their ability to support new unit stationing actions in connection with the growth and realignment of the U.S. Army. The Final PEIS provides the Army senior leadership with a hard look at environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Proposed Action and informs the decision-making process for selecting the final stationing locations for new units. This effort includes analysis of specific actions that will need to be taken (such as the construction of housing and quality of life facilities, the construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, and changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges) to station new units as part of the Army's overall efforts to grow and realign the force.

After reviewing a full range of alternative sites, 17 installations capable of supporting the Army's growth and realignment have been evaluated for their ability to support three action alternatives. The installations carried forward for analysis included: Georgia: Fort Benning and Fort Stewart; Texas: Fort Bliss and Fort Hood; North Carolina: Fort Bragg; Kentucky: Fort Campbell and Fort Knox; Colorado: Fort Carson; New York: Fort Drum; California: Fort Hunter-Liggett and Fort Irwin; Washington: Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center; Louisiana: Fort Polk; Kansas: Fort Riley; New Mexico: White Sands Missile Range; Arizona: Yuma Proving Ground. Each of these installations could receive 1,000 or more additional soldiers as part of alternatives being examined.

Alternatives carried forward for analysis in the Final PEIS included: (1) Implementing Army force structure modifications between Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2013 to support the Army's Modular Transformation and Global Defense Posture Review (GDPR) decisions; (2) Executing those actions

discussed as part of Alternative 1 and, in addition, adding approximately 30,000 Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) soldiers to the Army to address critical shortfalls in high demand military skills in both Active Army and Reserve components; (3) Executing those actions proposed in Alternatives 1 and 2 and, in addition, grow the Army by up to six Active Duty BCTs. Additional BCTs would be stationed at existing or newly established Army stationing locations within the continental United States. In addition to these alternatives, the No Action Alternative is described and its impacts are fully assessed and considered.

The Army's preferred alternative identified in the Final PEIS is to implement Alternative 3. This alternative allows for full support of Army modularity initiatives by adding necessary CS Soldiers to the Army's Active and Reserve components while increasing the size of the Army by six BCTs. Analysis within the Final PEIS covers those activities required to implement unit stationing actions associated with Army growth and realignment.

Site-specific action that will need to be taken to support the preferred alternative include the construction of housing and quality of life facilities (i.e., gymnasiums, hospitals, shopping areas), the construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, and changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges associated with the increased frequency of training events. Stationing decisions made as part of this effort will also consider strategic military and national security considerations. New stationing actions must take place at locations that, if selected, are capable of supporting the National Security Strategy (2006), the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR 2006), National Military Strategy, and the Army Campaign Plan (ACP).

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action have been considered in the Final PEIS and identification of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with various unit stationing actions at each of the 17 installations was carried forward for analysis. Impacts at sites would result from construction and training activities related to the growth and realignment of Army forces. Significant impacts to resources could be direct and long term. Decisions from the PEIS will be tiered into site-specific NEPA analyses at the installation level, as specific stationing decisions are determined. The Final PEIS provides Army planners and decision makers