DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

In Accordance With Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App 2), Announcement Is Made of the Following Committee Meeting: Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation Board of Visitors; Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and summary agenda for the annual meeting of the Board of Visitors (BoV) for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463). The Board’s charter was renewed on March 18, 2010 in compliance with the requirements set forth in Title 10 U.S.C. 2166.

DATES: Tuesday–Wednesday, September 27–28, 2011.

Time: Tuesday—8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday—8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: 7161 Richardson Circle, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Proposed Agenda: The WHINSEC BoV will be briefed on activities at the Institute since the last Board meeting on December 3rd, 2010, as well as receive other information appropriate to its interests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WHINSEC Board of Visitors Secretariat at (703) 614–8721.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 and 41 CFR 102–3.140(c), members of the public or interested groups may submit written statements to the advisory committee for consideration by the committee members. Written statements should be no longer than two typewritten pages and sent via fax to (703) 614–8920 by 5 p.m. E.S.T. on Monday, September 19th, 2011, for consideration at this meeting.

In addition, public comments by individuals and organizations may be made from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. during the meeting on 27 September. Public comments will be limited to three minutes each. Anyone desiring to make an oral statement must register by sending a fax to (703) 614–8920 with his/her name, phone number, email address, and the full text of his/her comments (no longer than two typewritten pages) by 5 p.m. E.S.T. on Monday, September 19th, 2011. The first five requestors will be notified by 5 p.m. E.S.T. on Friday, September 23rd, 2011, of their time to address the Board during the public comment forum. All other comments will be retained for the record. Public seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scott P. Caldwell,
Executive Secretary, Department of the Army Civilian, WHINSEC Board of Visitors.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for Renewal of the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Public Land Withdrawal, California and To Announce Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508), the Department of the Navy (DoN), with the cooperation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/LEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the continued withdrawal of approximately 1.1 million acres of public land in Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties, California. This public land withdrawal comprises the current North and South ranges at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWSCL). The proposed land withdrawal extension will allow the DoN to continue defense-related research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) and training missions at NAWSCL, in addition to other land uses.

The California Military Lands Withdrawal and Overflights Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–433, part of the California Desert Protection Act) withdrew and reserved the lands known then as the China Lake Naval Weapons Center (subsequently renamed NAWSCL) for defense-related purposes for a period of 20 years (until October 14, 2014). The Act provided that the DoN may seek extension of the withdrawal of such lands. As a part of the withdrawal process, the Secretary of the Navy is required to publish a draft EIS addressing the effects of continued withdrawal and hold public hearings in order to receive public comments on the proposal by October 12, 2012. The NAWSCL EIS/LEIS will examine current and proposed land uses in support of the DoN’s military mission. The EIS/LEIS will specifically focus on those military land uses granted to the DoN under Public Law 103–433 that include: (1) Use as an RDT&E laboratory; (2) use as a range for air warfare weapons and weapons systems; (3) use as a high hazard training area for aerial gunnery, rocketry, electronic warfare and countermeasures, and tactical maneuvering and air support; (4) geothermal leasing and development, and related power production activities; and, (5) other defense-related purposes. The environmental analysis in the EIS/LEIS will be incorporated in an update to the May 2005 NAWSCL Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan (CLUMP). The CLUMP facilitates NAWSCL in planning for and managing land use and environmental resources on the withdrawn public lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701). The updated CLUMP will include an examination of both military land uses authorized under Public Law 103–433 and those mission-compatible non-military land uses authorized in the 2005 CLUMP.

Dates and Addresses: The DoN is initiating a 90-day public scoping process to identify community interests and specific issues to be addressed in the EIS/LEIS. This public scoping process starts with the publication of this Notice of Intent. Three public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral and/or written comments on issues to be addressed in the EIS/LEIS:

1. Tuesday, July 19, 2011, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Historic USO Building, 230 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California 93555;
2. Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Statham Hall, 138 Jackson Street, Lone Pine, California 93555; and
3. Thursday, July 21, 2011, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Trona Community Senior Center, 13187 Market Street, Trona, California 93562.

Additional information concerning meeting times and locations is available on the NAWSCL EIS/LEIS Web site at http://www.ChinalakeLEIS.com. Public scoping meeting schedules and locations will also be announced in local newspapers.

Each of the public scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with information stations staffed...
by DoN and BLM representatives. Comments, both written and oral, will be collected at each of the three public scoping meetings and on the project Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NAWSCL North and South ranges are located in the western Mojave Desert, approximately 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles, California. These ranges encompass approximately 1.1 million acres and are located in portions of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties. The DoN has been operating the NAWSCL land ranges for nearly 70 years.

The California Military Lands Withdrawal and Overflights Act of 1994 authorized the withdrawal of the public lands associated with the NAWSCL ranges for a period of 20 years (until October 14, 2014). The military land uses specifically allowed under the Act included: (1) Use as an RDT&E laboratory; (2) use as a range for air warfare weapons and weapons systems; (3) use as a high hazard training area for aerial gunnery, rocketry, electronic warfare and countermeasures, and tactical maneuvering and air support; (4) use for geothermal leasing and development, and related power production activities; and, (5) use for other defense-related purposes.

In May 2005, pursuant to the requirements of Public Law 103–433 and FLPMA, NAWSCL completed and endorsed a comprehensive land use management plan for the public lands. This land use management plan is referred to as the NAWSCL CLUMP. In addition to the military land uses granted to the DoN in Public Law 103–433, the 2005 CLUMP authorized the following non-military, but mission-compatible land uses, on the ranges: (1) Native American access; (2) education and research projects; (3) limited recreation; and (4) limited commercial uses, including geothermal leasing and development, and related power production activities.

The military land uses authorized by Public Law 103–433 and the non-military uses authorized by the 2005 CLUMP are consistent with the mission of NAWSCL, which is to conduct weapons RDT&E for weapon systems associated with air warfare, aircraft weaponization, missions, missiles and missile subsystems, and assigned airborne electronic warfare systems and related training within a safe, secure, and operationally diverse range test environment. Combat relevant test and evaluation, as well as training for operational compatibility, is the primary means to ensure readiness and prepare our military to fight and win in combat. To be effective in its mission, the NAWSCL ranges must provide sufficient land and airspace to conduct test and evaluation at distances and scenarios with fidelity to combat uses. Access to a variety of conditions (e.g., simulated threats, operational space, topographic relief, and safety constraints) and scheduling availability are important characteristics that must be preserved and enhanced. The DoN’s continuing need for RDT&E and training range capability balances maximum use of the range with maintaining stewardship responsibilities for the lands and their resources.

In accordance with the Engle Act of 1958 (Pub. L. 85–337) and FLPMA, the DoN is required to file an application with BLM requesting the Secretary of the Interior process a proposed legislative withdrawal and reservation of public land to continue military RDT&E and training activities on the NAWSCL ranges. The proposed action would continue the existing withdrawal of 1.1 million acres of public land for military use. The public land would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including surface entry, mining, mineral leasing, and the Materials Act of 1947.

Purpose and Need: Given the primary mission of the NAWSCL land ranges, to provide a safe, secure, and highly instrumented volume of land and airspace in which to conduct controlled tests, operations and training with fidelity to combat uses, the purpose of the proposed action is to retain a military range for RDT&E and training activities for a period of 25 years. The proposed action will meet the need to support the application of current and evolving technology to solve theatre-relevant problems for the warfighter and ensure necessary training readiness, while ensuring appropriate management of land use and environmental resources; revise and implement the installation’s CLUMP; and, maintain DoN readiness by accommodating current and evolving state-of-the-art RDT&E and training requirements at NAWSCL.

Alternatives: The EIS/LEIS addresses three alternatives, including the no action alternative:

1. Alternative 1 (Withdrawal with Baseline Tempo) consists of: (1) Congressional renewal of the current land withdrawal of approximately 1.1 million acres of public land for continued military use; (2) revision to and implementation of the NAWSCL CLUMP to reflect current and future land uses, both military and non-military; and (3) an increase of up to 25% in the tempo of military RDT&E, training activities (including ground and air training by DoN special operations forces and other Services), and expansion of unmanned aerial and surface systems, as well as the expansion of existing and the introduction of evolving directed energy weapons development at NAWSCL.

2. Alternative 2 (Withdrawal with Baseline Tempo) consists of: (1) Renewing (through Congressional action) the land withdrawal; (2) revising and implementing the NAWSCL CLUMP; and, (3) maintaining current levels of RDT&E and training use (type, tempo, location).

3. Alternative 3 (No Action Alternative) would allow the public land withdrawal to expire, with administrative control of the withdrawn land returning to the BLM. Withdrawn lands would comprise 92% of all NAWSCL lands. Limited RDT&E and training activities at NAWSCL would continue on 8% of remaining NAWSCL fee-owned/leased land and within managed airspace.

Environmental Issues and Resources To Be Examined: Environmental issues that will be addressed in the EIS/LEIS include, but are not limited to, the following: Air quality; biological resources (including threatened and endangered species); cultural resources; geology and soils; hazardous materials and hazardous waste management; health and safety; noise; socioeconomics (including environmental justice); transportation; and water resources.

Relevant and reasonable measures that would avoid or mitigate environmental effects will also be analyzed. Additionally, the DoN will undertake any consultations required by the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and any other applicable law or regulation.

Submitting Comments: The DoN encourages interested persons to submit comments concerning the proposed extension of the public land withdrawal, the alternatives proposed for study, and environmental impacts to be analyzed, Federal, state, and local agencies, Native Americans and Federally Recognized Tribes, and interested persons are encouraged to send their comments to the DoN to identify specific environmental issues or topics of
environmental concern that the DoN should consider. The DoN will prepare the draft LEIS incorporating issues identified by the commenting public. All comments on the EIS/LEIS, whether provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings, or provided to the DoN during the public commenting period, will receive the same consideration during EIS/LEIS preparation.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/LEIS should be postmarked no later than September 8, 2011. Comments may be mailed to NAWSCCL Land Withdrawal EIS/LEIS Project Manager (Attn: Ms. Jo Ellen Anderson), NAVFAC Southwest, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92132–5178. Comments may also be submitted via the EIS/LEIS Web site located at http://www.ChinalakeLEIS.com.

Dated: June 3, 2011.

D.J. Werner,
Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities

AGENCY: U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting via conference call.

SUMMARY: The notice sets forth the schedule and agenda of the meeting of the Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities. The notice also describes the functions of the Commission. Notice of the meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of its opportunity to attend.

DATES: June 24, 2011.

Time: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The Commission will meet via conference call on June 24, 2011. Members of the public have the option of participating in the open meeting remotely. Remote access will be provided via an Internet webinar service utilizing VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). The login address for members of the public is https://aimpsc-ilinc.com/join/wwfvyhk. This login information is also provided via the Commission’s public listserv at pscpublic@lists.cast.org and posted at the following site: http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/aim/index.html.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities (the Commission) is established under Section 772 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, Public Law 110–315, dated August 14, 2008. The Commission is established to (a) Conduct a comprehensive study, which will—(I) Assess the barriers and systemic issues that may affect, and technical solutions available that may improve, the timely delivery and quality of accessible instructional materials for postsecondary students with print disabilities, as well as the effective use of such materials by faculty and staff; and (II) make recommendations related to the development of a comprehensive approach to improve the opportunities for postsecondary students with print disabilities to access instructional materials in specialized formats in a time frame comparable to the availability of instructional materials for postsecondary nondisabled students.

In making recommendations for the study, the Commission shall consider—(I) How students with print disabilities may obtain instructional materials in accessible formats within a time frame comparable to the availability of instructional materials for nondisabled students; and to the maximum extent practicable, at costs comparable to the costs of such materials for nondisabled students; (II) the feasibility and technical parameters of establishing standardized electronic file formats, such as the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard as defined in Section 674(e)(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to be provided by publishers of instructional materials to producers of materials in specialized formats, institutions of higher education, and eligible students; (III) the feasibility of establishing a national clearinghouse, repository, or file-sharing network for electronic files in specialized formats and files used in producing instructional materials in specialized formats, and a list of possible entities qualified to administer such clearinghouse, repository, or network; (IV) the feasibility of establishing market-based solutions involving collaborations among publishers of instructional materials, producers of materials in specialized formats, and institutions of higher education; (V) solutions utilizing universal design; and (VI) solutions for low-incidence, high-cost requests for instructional materials in specialized formats.

During the meeting, the Commission will discuss the first draft of the final report. In particular, the Commission will discuss its proposed recommendations and identify issues for further discussion at the next in-person meeting on July 11–12, 2011 in Seattle, Washington.

Dated: June 3, 2011.

D.J. Werner,
Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.