collected legally from any species of cetaceans and pinnipeds, except walrus, for the purposes of scientific research including studies on taxonomy, genetic diversity, population structure, abundance and individual movement of cetaceans and pinnipeds. No takes of live animals, direct or indirect, are authorized by the permit. The permit expires on February 28, 2019.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 8, 2014.

Tammy C. Adams, Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) is hosting a forum to receive public feedback from organizations and individuals on its guidance memorandum titled, “Guidance For Determining Subject Matter Eligibility of Claims Reciting or Involving Laws of Nature, Natural Phenomena, and Natural Products” (Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance),” issued on March 4, 2014 and available at www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp. The Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance implemented a new procedure to address changes in the law relating to subject matter eligibility under 35 U.S.C. 101 in view of recent Supreme Court precedent. The forum will be open for any member of the public to participate. The forum will provide an opportunity for participants to present their interpretation of the impact of Supreme Court precedent on the complex legal and technical issues involved in subject matter eligibility analyses during patent examination. Participants who believe that the Supreme Court decisions could be implemented in an alternative manner from the approach taken in the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance should use the forum to present their alternative approach and the legal rationale for the alternative. The forum also can be used by participants to suggest additional examples for use by the Office to create a more complete picture of the impact of Supreme Court precedent on subject matter eligibility.
DATES: Event: The forum will be held on May 9, 2014, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), and ending at 4:00 p.m. EDT.

Registration: Registration is required to attend the forum in person or via webcast. Additionally, members of the public who wish to participate in the forum as a speaker must do so by request in writing no later than April 25, 2014. See the “Registration Information” section of this notice for additional details on how to register.

ADDRESSES: Event: The forum will be held in the Madison Auditorium North on the concourse level of the Madison Building, which is located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Comments: Any member of the public, whether attending the forum or not, may submit written comments for consideration by the Office. There is no deadline for receipt of written comments. Persons submitting written comments should note that the Office will not necessarily provide a response. Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to myriad-mayo_2014@uspto.gov. Comments also may be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Raul Tamayo. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the Office prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

Comments will be available via the Office’s Internet Web site at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp. Because comments will be available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

Event Registration Information: There is no fee to register for the forum, and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public who would like to be considered to participate in the forum as a speaker must do so by request in writing no later than April 25, 2014. Registration on the day of the forum will be permitted for members of the public who wish solely to observe on a space-available basis beginning 30 minutes before the forum.

To register, please send an email message to myriad-mayo_2014@uspto.gov and provide the following information: (1) Your name, title, and if applicable, company or organization, address, phone number, and email address; (2) whether you wish to attend in person or via webcast; and (3) if you wish to make an oral presentation at the forum, the specific topic you intend to address, and the approximate desired length of your presentation. Each attendee, even if from the same organization, must register separately.

Due to time constraints, there is the potential that not all persons who wish to make a presentation will be accommodated. After reviewing the list of potential speakers and the information regarding the presentations provided in the registration, the Office plans to select speakers in a manner that ensures that the Office is receiving a balanced array of views. The Office will contact each selected speaker prior to the event with the amount of time available and the approximate time that the speaker’s presentation is scheduled to begin. The amount of time available for each presentation may be limited to ensure that all persons selected to speak will have a meaningful chance to do so. Speakers must send the final electronic copies of their presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint or Microsoft Word to myriad-mayo_2014@uspto.gov by April 25, 2014, so that the presentation can be displayed at the forum. If time permits, the Office will provide an opportunity for persons in the audience not previously selected as speakers to speak at the forum without a formal presentation.

The Office plans to make the forum available via webcast. Webcast information, as well as a list of forum participants and their associations, will be available on the Office’s Internet Web site before the forum at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp.

If special accommodations due to a disability are needed, please inform the contact person(s) identified below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information regarding the forum should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, by telephone at 571–272–7728, or by email to raul.tamayo@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office issued the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance on March 4, 2014 and made it available via the Office’s Internet Web site at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp. The Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance states that it is for use in subject matter eligibility determinations of all claims (i.e., machine, composition, manufacture, and process claims) reciting or involving laws of nature/natural phenomena, and/or natural products. The Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance addresses the impact of Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics, Inc.¹ (Myriad) on the Supreme Court’s long-standing “rule against patents on naturally occurring things,” as expressed in its earlier precedent including Diamond v. Chakrabarty² (Chakrabarty), and Mayo Collaborative Services v. Prometheus Laboratories, Inc.³ (Mayo). Links to copies of these Supreme Court decisions, as well as a link to the Supreme Court’s decision in Funk Brothers Seed Co. v. Kalo Inoculant Co.,⁴ are available at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp.

Since releasing the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance, the Office has provided a first round of training for the examiners in Technology Centers (TCs) most likely to be impacted by the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance (e.g., TC 1600 and 1700). The slides used to train the examiners are available at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/announce/myriad-mayo.jsp. The Office is currently working on developing a second round of more in-depth examiner training. In addition, the Office established an email box (myriad-mayo_2014@uspto.gov) for members of the public to provide feedback on any aspect of the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance rollout, including the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance document itself and the training slides.

The forum will provide a more direct opportunity for members of the public to present their interpretation of the impact of the Supreme Court’s decisions and, in, e.g., Myriad, Mayo, Chakrabarty, and Funk on the complex legal and technical issues involved in subject matter eligibility analyses during patent examination. The Office would like for members of the public who believe that the Supreme Court decisions could be implemented in an alternative manner from the approach taken in the Laws of Nature/Natural Products Guidance to use the forum to present their alternative approach and the legal rationale for the alternative. The forum also can be used by the public to suggest additional examples for use by the Office to create a more complete picture of the impact of Supreme Court precedent on subject matter eligibility. The Office will carefully consider all feedback it receives.

⁴ 333 U.S. 127 (1948).
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Office of the Secretary
[DOCKET ID DoD–2012–HA–0145]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 16, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:
• Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
• Mail: Federal Docket Management System Office, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02G09, Alexandria, VA 22350–3100.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this Federal Register document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the TRICARE Management Activity Program, Policy and Benefits Branch, ATTN: Mr. Mark Ellis, Defense Health Agency (DHA), 7700 Arlington Blvd., Suite 5101, Falls Church, VA 22042–5101, Phone: 703–681–0063.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Continued Health Care Benefit Program, DD Form 2837; OMB Control Number: 0720–TBD: Previously cleared under 0704–0364.

Needs and Uses: The continuing information collection requirement is necessary for individuals to apply for enrollment in the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). The CHCBP is a program of temporary health care benefit coverage that is made available to eligible individuals who lose health care coverage under the Military Health System (MHS).

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Annual Burden Hours: 625.

Number of Respondents: 2500.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Total Annual Responses: 2500.

Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondents are individuals who are or were beneficiaries of the Military Health System (MHS) and who desire to enroll in the CHCBP following their loss of eligibility or entitlement to health care coverage in the MHS. These beneficiaries include any person formerly eligible for care from the MHS according to Chapter 55 or Section 1145a of Title 10, United States Code. In order to be eligible for health care coverage under CHCBP, an individual must first enroll in CHCBP. DD Form 2837 is used as the information collection vehicle for that enrollment. The CHCBP is a legislatively mandated program and it is anticipated that the program will continue indefinitely. As such, the DoD is publishing this formal notice.

Dated: April 14, 2014.

Aaron Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P