

completion of the activity. Although this precludes the applicability of monitoring under a single IHA for determining long-term cumulative effects, in those cases where holders of IHAs request continuing authorizations, monitoring, over time and in conjunction with other measurements of population trends and abundances, provides information sufficient to make the necessary negligible impact determinations under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA. This is what was done for the negligible impact determination for this authorization.

Recognizing that short-term monitoring leaves unanswered the effect from cumulative impacts, the U.S. Air Force is designing research to investigate this concern. This research will use launches of Titan IVs (the rocket presumed to be having the greatest impact since it is the largest rocket launched from Vandenberg) to provide information vital for assessing long-term impacts on the physiology, behavior and survival of pinnipeds from launch noise and sonic booms. This research, which will be conducted under an MMPA section 104 research permit, is expected to begin within a year.

Therefore, while no long-term studies are currently underway on the effects on pinnipeds from launch noises or sonic booms, monitoring at Vandenberg for Titan IV and other rocket launches in the past has provided the baseline information on long-term and cumulative impacts. This information and the fact that the haul-outs along the Vandenberg coast remain active indicate that there are no immediately evident long-term, cumulative impacts. Launch noises are infrequent enough and divided between North and South Vandenberg so that these impacts are presumed to be less significant, cumulatively, than human, wildlife and pet disturbances including motorized vessels.

**Comment 3:** The MMC states that it should be made clear that the authorization is automatically rescinded if a marine mammal is killed as a result of the authorized activity.

**Response:** No marine mammals are anticipated to be killed or seriously injured as a result of launchings of Taurus SLV rockets. However, while section 101(a)(5)(D)(iv) of the MMPA provides NMFS authority to modify, suspend, or revoke an authorization if it is found that the provisions of the section are not being met, for IHA suspensions, NMFS follows procedures established for suspension of LOAs under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA. In that regard, an IHA may be

suspended without notice and comment if emergency conditions exist that pose a significant risk to the well-being of the marine mammal stock, or if holder of an IHA is not in compliance with the conditions of the IHA. However, prior to revocation of an IHA, NMFS must satisfy the statutory notice and comment requirement. Therefore, section 101(a)(5)(B) allows NMFS to withdraw (revoke) or "suspend for a time certain" an LOA, subsequent to notice and comment, while section 101(a)(5)(C) allows a waiver of the notice and comment requirement for emergency suspensions, but not for revocations. Conditions for suspension or withdrawal of an LOA or IHA are described in 50 CFR 216.106 and 216.107.

#### Conclusion

Based upon the information provided in the proposed authorization, NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of the launching of Taurus SLV rockets is expected to result at worst, in a minor, temporary reduction in utilization of the haulout as seals or sea lions leave the beach for the safety of the water. These launchings are not expected to result in any reduction in the number of pinnipeds and they are expected to continue to occupy the same area. In addition, there will not be any impact on the habitat itself. Based upon studies conducted for previous space vehicle launches at Vandenberg, significant long-term impacts on pinnipeds at Vandenberg and the northern Channel Islands are unlikely.

Therefore, since NMFS is assured that the taking will not result in more than the harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of a small number of harbor seals, California sea lions, and northern elephant seals; would have only a negligible impact on the species, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stock, NMFS determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) had been met and the incidental harassment authorization was issued.

Dated: December 27, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-180 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Finance Deputate.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions concerning the proposed Personal Check Cashing Agreement Form. 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 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 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 on or before March 7, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Finance Deputate, ATTN: Ms. Patricia Cristiano, 1931 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22240-5291.

**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 above address, or call Ms. Patricia J. Cristiano, at (703) 607-5039.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number:* Personal Check Cashing Agreement Form.

*Needs and Uses:* The collection of information is necessary to meet the Department of Defense's (DoD) requirement for cashing personal checks overseas and afloat by DoD disbursing activities, as provided in 31 U.S.C. 3342. The DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 5, provides guidance to DoD Disbursing Officers in the performance of this information collection. This allows the DoD disbursing officer or authorized agent the authority to offset the pay, without

prior notification, in cases where this form has been signed subject to conditions specified within the approved procedure.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 225,000.

*Number of Respondents:* 450,000.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Summary of Information Collection**

The Personal Check Cashing Agreement Form is designed exclusively to help the DoD disbursing offices expedite the collection process of dishonored checks. The front of the form will be completed and signed by the authorized individual requesting check cashing privileges. By signing the form, the individual is freely and voluntarily consenting to the immediate collection from their current pay, without prior notice, for the face value of any check cashed, plus any charges assessed against the government by a financial institution, in the event the check is dishonored. In the event the check is dishonored, the disbursing office will complete and certify the reverse side of the form and forward the form to the applicable payroll office for collection from the individual's current pay.

Dated: December 30, 1996.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 97-00102 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

*Needs and Uses:* This collection of information is necessary to meet the requirements of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1997. Section 826 thereof required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress the results of a study of the effectiveness of defense mergers and acquisitions in eliminating excess capacity, and their effect on contractor dependence on defense-related contracts, defense employment, and competition for defense contracts. The information collected hereby, will provide the necessary data to conduct the study and compile the report to Congress.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Frequency:* One time.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*DOD Action Officer:* Mr. William M. Pegram.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Pegram, at DUSD(IA&I)/FEA, Room 2A318, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3330, or via facsimile at (703) 693-7038.

*DOD Clearance Officer:* Mr. William Pearce.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Pearce, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302 or via facsimile at (703) 604-6270.

Dated: December 30, 1996.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 97-162 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Commission (NRC) are announcing for public comment the availability of a draft document, entitled the "Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual" (MARSSIM). MARSSIM provides information on planning, conducting, evaluating, and documenting environmental radiological surveys for demonstrating compliance with dose-based regulations. The MARSSIM, when finalized, will be a multi-agency consensus document. The agencies are seeking public comment in order to receive feedback from the widest range of interested parties and to ensure that all information relevant to developing the document is received. The agencies will review public comments received on the draft MARSSIM as well as comments from a concurrent, independent, scientific peer review. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in response to those comments.

**DATES:** Comments received by July 7, 1997 will be considered. Comments received after that date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but no assurance can be given for consideration of late comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Members of the public are invited to submit written comments to EITHER the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ATTN: Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Stop 6102, Air Docket No. A-96-44, Room M1500, First Floor Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20460 or the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001. Copies of all comments received by one agency will be periodically copied and sent to the others. Copies of the draft MARSSIM and all comments received may be examined or copied for a fee at the EPA Docket Room M1500, Docket No. A-96-44, First Floor Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20460; and the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington DC 20555-0001. The EPA docket may be inspected from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays in Room M1500 at the address above. A free single copy of the draft MARSSIM may be requested by writing to: the Distribution and Mail Services Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001 or by fax to (301) 415-2260. The document is also available through the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/cleanup> and through the National Technical

#### **Submission for OMB review; comment request**

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Title and OMB Control Number:* Effectiveness of Defense Mergers.

*Type of Request:* New collection; Emergency Processing requested with a shortened public comment period ending January 21, 1997. An approval date of February 4, 1997 is requested.

*Number of Respondents:* 50.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 50.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 4 hours.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 200.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

##### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

##### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. A-96-44]

##### **Draft Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability with request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory