

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 782-1355, issued on July 15, 1997 (62 FR 39826) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 782-1355 authorizes the permit holder to take Pacific Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in the following manner: harass during census flights; capture, restrain, measure (weight length, girth), sample (flipper punch, vibrissa, blood, blubber/muscle biopsy, ultra sound, enema), radio tag, flipper tag, and release 500 animals; and incidentally harass up to 2500 during the conduct of these activities, and during collection of scat samples from haulouts. The permit holder requests authorization to: conduct the above activities on ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*); and harass ringed seals, bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*), ribbon seals (*Phoca fasciata*), and spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) during aerial stock assessments.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically

excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 16, 1999.

**Jeannie Drevenak,**

*Acting Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-6926 Filed 3-19-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### 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, Associated Form, and OMB Number:* Industrial Capabilities Questionnaire; DD Form 2737; OMB Number 0704-0377.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement.

*Number of Respondents:* 12,800.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 12,800.

*Average Burden per Response:* 12 hours.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 153,600.

*Needs and Uses:* As part of its responsibilities to facilitate a diverse, responsive, and competitive industrial base, the Department of Defense (DoD) requires accurate, pertinent, and up to date information as to industry's ability to satisfy defense needs. The Industrial Capabilities Questionnaire will be used by all Services and the Defense Logistics Agency to gather business, industrial capability (employment, skills, facilities, equipment, processes, and technologies), and manufactured end item information to conduct required industrial assessments and to support DoD strategic planning and decisions. Respondents are industry professionals who provide information to the requesting DoD agency on the industrial capabilities associated with the subject facility being reviewed. The DoD agencies are directed to solicit only those data elements within this form necessary to conduct the particular planing or assessment task at hand. This

approach is used to minimize the burden for data requests on industry and limit the retention of in-house data to that essential to supporting defense decisions and plans. A significant portion of this information will be collected electronically and, with appropriate measures to protect sensitive data, will be made available to authorized users in the Department to support a wide variety of industrial capability analysis. These analyses are used to support cost effective acquisition of defense systems and key troop support/consumable items, assess the implications of changes in defense spending on industry, development of responsive logistics support efforts, and industrial preparedness planning and readiness analysis. The lack of accurate, current, and relevant industry capability information will adversely impact the integrity of the Department's decision and planning efforts.

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

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Mr. Peter N. Weiss.

Written comments and recommendations of the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Weiss at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

*DOD Clearance Officer:* Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: March 16, 1999.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 5000-04-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Army Invites Public Submissions for Medal of Honor Award Recommendation for Theodore Roosevelt

**AGENCY:** Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice (Request for Public Comments).

**SUMMARY:** Beginning on April 1 and ending on May 31, 1999, the U.S. Army invites the public to submit information about Theodore Roosevelt's battlefield courage in the attack on San Juan

Heights during the Spanish-American War.

**DATES:** Comments must reach the Center of Military History no later than May 31, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons interested in providing their written comments may submit them to: Roosevelt MOH Panel, U.S. Army Center of Military History, 103 Third Avenue, Building 35, Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5058. Public submissions received after May 31, 1999 will not be considered.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Graham A. Cosmas, (202) 685-2065, or e-mail to [cosmaga@hqda.army.mil](mailto:cosmaga@hqda.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This announces the invitation of public submissions of information about Theodore Roosevelt's battlefield courage in the attack on San Juan Heights during the Spanish-American War. Public comment will be accepted by the U.S. Army Center of Military History beginning on April 1, 1999 and ending on May 31, 1999.

The U.S. Army is reviewing then-Colonel Roosevelt's record of valor in the Spanish-American War at the request of Congress. The 60-day public comment period is part of the Army's effort to comply with congressional intent with regard to Pub. L. 105-371, which is a bill authorizing and requesting the President to award the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore Roosevelt.

An independent panel of historians will review the public submissions and then provide a formal report of Roosevelt's valor. Following the review process, the Army will advise the President on whether Roosevelt should be awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 3710-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Corps of Engineers; Scoping Meetings for Nationwide Permit Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Corps is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the entire Nationwide Permit Program (NWP) to be completed by December 2000. The overall purpose of the PEIS is to review

and evaluate the NWP program as a whole, to ensure that the NWP program authorizes only those activities with minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects on the aquatic environment. This notice is intended to provide other Federal agencies, States, Tribes and the public the opportunity to participate in the scoping of the PEIS. The Corps will hold three meetings to solicit comments on the scope of the PEIS. Comments may be submitted in person at the meeting or in writing to the address given below.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before June 4, 1999.

The meeting dates are:

1. May 4, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
2. May 6, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m., Fort Worth, TX.
3. May 24, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m., Washington, D.C.

#### ADDRESSES:

The meeting locations are:

1. Sacramento—Clarion Hotel, 700 Sixteenth Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
2. Fort Worth (downtown)—Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building (Taylor Street Entrance, 1st floor), 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
3. Washington, DC—National Guard Association Building, One Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Send written comments to Mr. Robert Brumbaugh, CEWRC-IWR-P, Casey Building, 7701 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22315-3868.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Brumbaugh, CEWRC-IWR-P, at (703) 428-6370.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 1, 1998, the Corps published a Notice document (63 FR 36040, July 1, 1998) containing a proposal to issue 6 new NWPs and modify 6 existing NWPs to replace NWP 26. Further modifications were proposed on October 14, 1998 (63 FR 55095, October 14, 1998) which included withdrawing one of the proposed NWPs, the addition of restrictions on the use of certain NWPs, and extending the NWP process and the expiration of NWP 26 to September 15, 1999. On June 23, 1998, the Corps issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the NWP program which states that the NWP program does not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment and therefore the preparation of an EIS is not required by NEPA.

Although the Corps determined that an EIS was not required by NEPA, it announced in the July 1, 1998 Notice document (63 FR 36040, July 1, 1998) that it would prepare a PEIS for the

entire NWP program. The overall purpose of the PEIS is to review and evaluate the NWP program as a whole, to ensure that the NWP program authorizes only those activities with minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment. The PEIS will provide a programmatic comprehensive and structured review of the effects of the NWP program on the environment. The intent of the PEIS is to evaluate the procedures and process associated with the NWP program and not to examine impacts associated with individual NWP authorizations.

Some of the issues to be addressed in the PEIS include the following: programmatic and procedural alternatives to be evaluated; procedures to evaluate and ensure minimal effects; procedures to ensure protection of endangered species and historic and cultural resources; and evaluation and analysis of costs to the regulated public (including administrative, opportunity and delay costs) and benefits to the public (including navigation, water quality, wetlands, and other public interest benefits).

The scoping meeting will focus on identifying programmatic and procedural alternatives (e.g., combination of Regional General Permits and NWPs), methods of collecting and analyzing NWP data, and other substantial environmental issues to be addressed in the PEIS.

The Corps expects to complete preparation of the Draft PEIS by August 2000. The Final PEIS will be completed by December 2000. Public meetings to present preliminary study findings are planned to be held prior to publication of the Draft PEIS.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

**Charles M. Hess,**

*Chief, Operations Division, Directorate of Civil Works.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB)

**AGENCY:** Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting: