agency.[7] The Commission has now determined, in accordance with its authority under Section 8a(10) of the Act, to authorize NFA to maintain, and to serve as official custodian of, the Commission's registration records with respect to adverse actions against ATOMs, their APs and applicants for registration in either category from this time forward. This determination is based upon NFA's representations regarding the implementation of rules and procedures for maintaining and safeguarding all such records.

In maintaining the Commission's registration records pursuant to this Order, NFA shall be subject to all other requirements and obligations imposed upon it by the Commission in existing or future orders or regulations. In this regard, NFA shall also implement such additional procedures (or modify existing procedures) as are necessary and acceptable to the Commission to ensure the security and integrity of the ATOM, ATOM AP or applicant records in NFA's custody; to facilitate prompt access to those records by the Commission and its staff, particularly as described in other Commission orders or rules; to facilitate disclosure of public or nonpublic information in those records when permitted by Commission orders or rules and to keep logs as required by the Commission concerning disclosure of nonpublic information; and otherwise to safeguard the confidentiality of the records.

II. Conclusion and Order

The Commission has determined, in accordance with the provisions of Section 8a(10) of the Act, to authorize NFA, effective November 17, 1998, to perform the following registration functions:

(1) To deny, condition, suspend, modify, restrict or revoke registration under the Commodity Exchange Act as an agricultural trade option merchant, an associated person of an agricultural trade option merchant or an applicant for registration in either category; and

(2) To establish and to maintain a system of records regarding such adverse actions involving agricultural trade option merchants, associated persons of agricultural trade option merchants and applicants for registration in either category and to serve as the official custodian of those Commission records. NFA shall perform these functions in accordance with the standards established by the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

These determinations are based upon the Congressional intent expressed in Sections 8a(10) and 17(o) of the Act that the Commission be allowed to authorize NFA to perform any portion of the Commission's registration responsibilities under the Act for purposes of carrying out these responsibilities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner and upon NFA's representations concerning standards and procedures to be followed in administering these functions.

This Order does not, however, authorize NFA to accept or act upon requests for exemption from registration or to render ''no-action'' opinions or interpretations with respect to applicable registration requirements.

Nothing in this Order or in Section 8a(10) or 17 of the Act shall affect the Commission's authority to review the granting of a registration application by NFA in the performance of Commission registration functions or to review any adverse registration action taken by NFA. See also Sections 17(o) (3) and (4) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. 21(o) (3) and (4) (1994), and 17 CFR Part 171.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 10, 1998 by the Commission.

Catherine D. Dixon,

Assistant Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–30647 Filed 11–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–M

[7] 49 FR 39593 (October 9, 1984); 50 FR 34885 (August 28, 1985); 51 FR 25929 (July 7, 1986); 54 FR 19594 (May 8, 1989); 54 FR 41133 (October 5, 1989); 58 FR 19657 (April 15, 1993); and 59 FR 38957 (August 1, 1994).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Ballistic Missile Defense Organization; Preparation of the National Missile Defense Deployment Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This notifies the public that the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a potential National Missile Defense (NMD) deployment, should the U.S. Government make such a decision. In 1996, at the direction of the Secretary of Defense, NMD was designated a Major Defense Acquisition Program. Concurrently, BMDO was tasked with developing an NMD system that could be deployed within three years. This three-year development period is to culminate in the year 2000. In the year 2000, a Department of Defense (DoD) Deployment Readiness Review will be held to review the technical readiness of NMD elements. Thereafter, the United States government will determine whether the threat, developed capability, and other pertinent factors justify deploying an operational NMD system by the year 2003. BMDO is preparing an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of deployment of an NMD system.

Because the three-year development period is combined with an additional three-year deployment option, the total effort is referred to as the NMD ''3+3'' program. Should the deployment option not be exercised in the year 2000, improvements in NMD system element technology would continue, while an ability to deploy a system within three years of a decision would be maintained.

The EIS is intended to support BMDO's planning for a potential deployment of an NMD system. The decision to be made is whether to deploy such a system. This decision will be based on an analysis of the potential limited strategic ballistic missile threat to the United States from a rogue nation, technical readiness of the NMD system for deployment, and other factors including potential environmental impacts. If the decision is to deploy, then sites would be selected from the range of locations studied in the EIS. The EIS will provide the U.S. Government with the information necessary to properly account for the environmental impacts of this decision.

The NMD system would be a fixed, land-based, non-nuclear, hit-to-kill missile defense system with land and space-based sensor support capable of responding to a limited strategic ballistic missile threat to the United States by a rogue nation. The NMD system would consist of five elements: Ground-based Interceptors (GBIs); Battle Management Command, Control, and Communications, which includes the Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2), communication lines, and the In-Flight Interceptor Communications System (IFICS) as subelements; X-Band Radar (XBR); Upgraded Early Warning Radar (UEWR); and Defense Support Program (DSP) satellites/Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) satellites. All elements of the NMD system would work together to protect the 50 United States against a limited strategic ballistic missile attack by a rogue nation.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The alternatives to be considered in this EIS are the No-Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. A No-Action Alternative would be a DoD recommendation not to deploy an NMD

system but to continue NMD system development to improve NMD system capabilities. With the Proposed Action Alternative, NMD elements and element locations would be selected from the range of locations studied in the EIS. The potential NMD element deployment locations would made maximum use of existing DoD land. The following paragraphs detail potential regions and locations that the U.S. Government would consider as possible sites for each element.

Under the current Proposed Action an initial GBI missile field of 20 missiles could be located at one of the following locations: Clear Air Station (AS), Alaska; Eielson AFB, Alaska; Fort Greely, Alaska; Yukon Maneuver Area (Fort Wainwright), Alaska; Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota; or Stanley R. Mickelsen Safeguard Complex (SRMSC) Missile Site Radar Site, North Dakota (the SRMSC is centered around the town of Langdon). Wherever the GBIs may be deployed, they would not be fired from their deployment site except in the Nation's defense.

A BMC2 site could be located at one of the following locations: Clear AS, Alaska; Eielson AFB, Alaska; Fort Greely, Alaska; Yukon Maneuver Area (Fort Wainwright), Alaska; Cavalier AS, North Dakota; Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota; or SRMSC Missile Site Radar Site, North Dakota. Also, additional BMC2 facilities would be retrofitted into the existing United States Space Command communication and control facilities at Colorado Springs and other DoD command centers in the United States.

Approximately 14 IFICS could be located at geographically separated locations in the general vicinity of other NMD elements and in the New England states. Identification of potential locations for IFICS is still in progress and will be based on operational requirements. When possible, the IFICS would be located on or near existing DOD installations. Locations tentatively identified to date include: Clear AS, Alaska; Eareckson AS (Shemya Island), Alaska; Eielson AFB, Alaska; Fort Greely, Alaska; Yukon Maneuver Area (Fort Wainwright), Alaska; Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota; Minot AFB, North Dakota, Missile Alert Facility ECHO (near the town of Hampden), North Dakota; SRMSC Missile Site Radar Site, North Dakota; and the Western Aleutians. Studies for potential locations for IFICS sites are still in their early stages. As the studies progress the North Dakota and Alaska locations listed above may be refined and potential locations identified in the New England states. This updated information will be announced in the **Federal Register** and additional scoping will be conducted to obtain public input regarding the potential environmental effects of deploying an IFICS at those locations.

One XBR would be deployed and the following locations are under consideration: Eareckson AS (Shemya Island), Alaska; Cavalier AS, North Dakota; SRMSC Missile Site Radar Site, North Dakota; SRMSC Remote Sprint Launch Site 1, North Dakota; SRMSC Remote Sprint Launch Site 2, North Dakota; and SRMSC Remote Sprint Launch Site 4, North Dakota.

Any deployment may require elements of the system to utilize existing fiber-optic lines, power lines, and other utilities. Some existing lines used to support the deployed system may require modifications. Deployment of elements to some locations may require the acquisition of new rights-of-way and installation of new utility and fiber optic cable. Potential new fiber optic cable locations include North Dakota and Alaska and an oceanic fiber optic cable along the Aleutian Islands from Seward or Whittier, Alaska, to Eareckson AS (Shemya Island), Alaska.

Scoping Process

This EIS will assess environmental issues associated with deployment alternatives. Scoping will be conducted to identify environmental concerns and issues to be addressed in the EIS. Public scoping meetings will be held as part of the process. The schedule for the scoping meetings is as follows: (1) 1 December from 5–8 p.m. at the Cavalier County Courthouse Meeting Room, 901 3rd Street, Langdon, North Dakota; (2) 2 December from 5–8 p.m. at the Grand Forks Civic Auditorium, 615 1st Avenue, North, Grand Forks, North Dakota; (3) 7 December from 5–8 p.m. at the Carlson Community Activity Center, 2010 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska; (4) 8 December from 5–8 p.m. at Anderson School, Main Street, Anderson, Alaska; (5) 9 December from 5–8 p.m. at the Delta Junction Community Center, 2288 Deborah Street, Delta Junction, Alaska; (6) 10 December from 5–8 p.m. at Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska; and (7) 16 December from 3–8 p.m. at the Days Inn, 2000 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia.

Public input and comments are solicited concerning the deployment alternatives and environmental issues related to the proposed NMD deployment program. To ensure the program office will have sufficient time to fully consider public input on issues, written comments should be mailed to ensure receipt no later than January 15, 1999.

Comments concerning the EIS should be addressed to: SMDC–EN–V (Julia Hudson), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, 106 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805, telephone (256) 955–4822.

Dated: November 10, 1998.

L.M. Byrum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–30627 Filed 11–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Board of Visitors Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense Acquisition University.

ACTION: Board of Visitors Meeting.

SUMMARY: The next meeting of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Board of Visitors (BoV) will be held at the Packard Conference Center, Building 184, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia on Tuesday, December 1, 1998 from 0900 until 1600. The purpose of this meeting is to report back to the BoV on continuing items of interest. The agenda will also include further discussion and an update on efforts directed toward consolidation of the DAU structure into a unified educational institute.

The meeting is open to the public, however, because of space limitations, allocation of seating will be made on a first-come, first served basis. Persons desiring to attend the meeting should call Mr. John Michel at 703–845–6756.

Dated: November 10, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–30623 Filed 11–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Intelligence Agency, Science and Technology Advisory Board Closed Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

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