

development of maneuver corridors. These corridors, if proposed for addition in the future, will be the subject of a supplemental National Environmental Policy Act document. The MPTR will be located in the southwest sector of the installation and will be used for training by armor, attack helicopter, Infantry Fighting Vehicles, and dismounted infantry units. The MPTR would include a support area, firing area and a target area. The firing area would include stationary, moving and defilade firing positions. The target area would contain stationary and moving targets. Firing points would be oriented to provide northeasterly trajectories into the existing impact area. The MPTR itself would occupy approximately 80 hectares (200 acres) and, including the safety fan, the area involved would total 4,550 hectares (11,250 acres).

Three alternatives in addition to the proposed action were considered—the first (Alternative 2A) includes the construction of the MPTR and two maneuver corridors, another alternative with less development (Alternative 2B), and the no action alternative. Alternative 2B involves the MPTR being located in the northwest sector of Camp Atterbury, with firing points oriented to provide southeasterly trajectories into the impact area, and would involve the development of only the eastern maneuver corridor. The no action alternative considers the continued use of Camp Atterbury without the proposed upgrade.

Two public meetings were conducted near Camp Atterbury, Indiana, on the DEIS after the Notice of Availability was published. After all the comments were compiled and reviewed, responses were prepared to all relevant environmental issues that were raised. These responses to comments and/or any new pertinent information were incorporated into the DEIS to constitute the FEIS.

The ROD was published after the 30-day waiting period on the FEIS that was completed on October 13, 1998.

Copies of the ROD will be mailed to individuals who participated in the public scoping process. Copies will also be sent to Federal, state, regional, and local agencies; interested organizations and agencies; and public libraries. Individuals not currently on the mailing list may obtain a copy by request.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 99-1343 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board; Notice of Open Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB)

Date of Meeting: 19 & 20 January 1999

Time of Meeting: 0830-1600

Place: 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

Agenda: The Army Science Board's (ASB) Summer Study Panel on "Enabling Rapid and Decisive Strategic Maneuver for the Army After 2010" will meet for discussions. These meetings will be open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee. For further information, please call Jacqueline Ladd at (703) 604-7479.

Wayne Joyner,

Program Support Specialist, Army Science Board.

[FR Doc. 99-1283 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Record of Decision for Shock Testing the Seawolf Submarine

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (Navy), pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; the regulations implementing NEPA issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; Navy regulations implementing NEPA procedures (31 CFR 775); and Executive Order 12114, "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions"; hereby announces its selection of the area of the Atlantic Ocean offshore of Mayport Naval Station, Jacksonville, Florida for the SEAWOLF submarine shock test. NEPA sets out the procedures Federal agencies must follow in analyzing environmental impacts of major Federal actions within U.S. territory. Executive Order 12114 sets out the procedures Federal agencies must follow in analyzing environmental impacts of major Federal actions occurring outside U.S. territory in the global commons or within the territory of another nation. The Department of the Navy was the lead agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service

(NMFS) was a cooperating agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The SEAWOLF submarine would be shock tested in a manner consistent with the alternative "Shock Testing The SEAWOLF At An Offshore Location", described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as the proposed action. The FEIS analyzed in detail two alternative areas offshore of Mayport, Florida and Norfolk, Virginia. The submarine would be subjected to a series of five 10,000 pound explosive charge detonations sometime between April 1, 2000 and September 30, 2000. Testing offshore of Mayport would be conducted between May 1 and September 30, 2000 to minimize the risk to sea turtles which may be more abundant in the Mayport area during April. The series of five detonations would be conducted at a rate of one detonation per week to allow time to perform detailed inspections of the submarine's systems prior to the next detonation.

The two areas were evaluated with respect to operational criteria and environmental impacts. Both were determined to meet all of the Navy's operational requirements. In choosing the Mayport area, Navy determined that while most environmental impacts of shock testing would be similar at both locations, the risk of mortality and injury to marine mammals is about five to seven times lower at Mayport.

The Navy has determined that shock testing in the Mayport area will have the least environmental impact. This Record of Decision leaves the selection of a single primary and two secondary test sites within the Mayport test area to be made based on aerial surveys of marine mammals and turtles done three weeks prior to the shock test. One of these three sites will be selected as the final test site based on marine mammal and turtle surveys performed two to three days before each detonation.

Background

The USS SEAWOLF is the first of a new class of submarines being acquired by the Navy. The class consists of three submarines, with the second and third currently under construction. SEAWOLF class submarines are the largest and most capable fast attack submarines in the fleet. Features include reduced acoustic and electromagnetic signatures, improved speed, greater maximum operating depth, greater ordnance capacity, and other technological improvements reflecting the state-of-the-art in submarine design.