

**DATES:** The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on May 22, 2000. The Office of the Secretary must receive written comments and requests from members of the public desiring to make oral presentations not later than May 8, 2000. Persons desiring to make oral presentations at this hearing must submit a written text of their presentations not later than May 15, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be in room 420 of the East-West Towers Building, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Written comments, requests to make oral presentations, and texts of oral presentations should be captioned "Agenda, Priorities and Strategic Plan" and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Comments, requests, and texts of oral presentations may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail to [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about the hearing, a copy of the strategic plan, or to request an opportunity to make an oral presentation, call or write Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800; telefacsimile (301) 504-0127; or by e-mail to [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov). The strategic plan can also be obtained from the CPSC website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 4(j) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) (15 U.S.C. 2053(j)) requires the Commission to establish an agenda for action under the laws it administers, and, to the extent feasible, to select priorities for action at least 30 days before the beginning of each fiscal year. Section 4(j) of the CPSA provides further that before establishing its agenda and priorities, the Commission shall conduct a public hearing and provide an opportunity for the submission of comments. In addition, section 306(d) of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) (5 U.S.C. 306(d)) requires the Commission to seek comments from interested parties on the agency's strategic plan. The plan provides an overall guide to the formulation of future agency actions and budget requests. A revised strategic plan will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and Congress not later than September 30, 2000.

The Office of Management and Budget requires all Federal agencies to submit their budget requests 13 months before the beginning of each fiscal year. The

Commission is formulating its budget request for fiscal year 2002, which begins on October 1, 2001. This budget request must reflect the contents of the agency's strategic plan developed under GPRA.

Accordingly, the Commission will conduct a public hearing on May 22, 2000, to receive comments from the public concerning its GPRA strategic plan, and agenda and priorities for fiscal year 2002. The Commissioners desire to obtain the views of a wide range of interested persons including consumers; manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products; members of the academic community; consumer advocates; and health and safety officers of state and local governments.

The Commission is charged by Congress with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products. The Commission enforces and administers the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.*); the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1261 *et seq.*); the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*); the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (15 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*); and the Refrigerator Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 1211 *et seq.*). Standards and regulations issued under provisions of those statutes are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 16, chapter II.

While the Commission has broad jurisdiction over products used by consumers, its staff and budget are limited. Section 4(j) of the CPSA expresses Congressional direction to the Commission to establish an agenda for action each fiscal year and, if feasible, to select from that agenda some of those projects for priority attention. These priorities are reflected in the current strategic plan developed under GPRA.

Persons who desire to make oral presentations at the hearing on May 22, 2000, should call or write Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, telefax (301) 504-0127, or e-mail, [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov), no later than May 8, 2000. Persons who desire a copy of the current strategic plan may call or write Rockelle Hammond, office of the Secretary, CPSC, Washington DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, (301) 504-0127, or may obtain it from the Commission's website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Presentations should be limited to approximately ten minutes. Persons desiring to make presentations must submit the written text of their presentations to the Office of the Secretary not later than May 15, 2000.

The Commission reserves the right to impose further time limitations on all presentations and further restrictions to avoid duplication of presentations. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on May 22, 2000 and will conclude the same day.

The Office of the Secretary should receive written comments on the Commission's strategic plan, and agenda and priorities for fiscal year 2002, not later than May 8, 2000.

Dated: April 5, 2000.

**Sadye E. Dunn,**

*Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.*

[FR Doc. 00-9012 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6355-01-P**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics)/Office of the Director, International Cooperation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Director, International Cooperation, announces the proposed extension of a 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 12, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Director, International Cooperation, Attention: Mr. Roger Golden, 3070 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3070.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request further 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 Mr. Roger Golden, Office of the Director, International Cooperation, (703) 695-0271.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number:* Defense Export Loan Guarantee (DELG) Application, DD Form 2747, OMB Control Number 0704-0391.

*Needs and Uses:* The collection of information is necessary to review and process applications for loan guarantees issued under 10 U.S.C. 2540 for defense exports.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for profit, Small businesses or organizations.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 20.

*Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Responses to Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 1 Hour.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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

Respondents are defense suppliers or exporters, lenders or nations, who are requesting a DoD guarantee of a private sector loan in support of the sale or long term lease, to certain eligible countries, of U.S. defense articles, services or design and construction services. The completed form will enable the department to determine whether the proposed transaction meets statutory guidance for program implementation.

Dated: April 6, 2000.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-9062 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-10-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

### **Office of the Secretary**

#### **New Challenge Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Section 812 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Pub. L. 106-65) requires DoD to implement "a plan to provide for increased innovative technology for acquisition programs of the Department of Defense from commercial private sector entities, including small-business concerns." To accomplish this, DoD will implement at new "Challenge" program on a pilot basis in at least 20 Acquisition Category 1 or 2 programs, starting in fiscal year 2001. A full

description of the new program is discussed under Supplementary Information. DoD seeks comments on the program, particularly on such issues as: (i) Program implementation during the pilot period; (ii) criteria for evaluating the pilot program; and (iii) consideration in deciding whether and how to continue the program after the pilot period.

**DATES:** Comments are due no later than May 12, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jon Baron, OUSD(AT&L)/SADBU, 1777 North Kent Street, Suite 9100, Arlington, VA 22209; telephone (703) 588-8636; facsimile (703) 588-7561; email baronj@acq.osd.mil.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics has approved the recommendation of an Integrated Product Team that DoD implement a new "Challenge" program on a pilot basis in at least 20 Acquisition Category (ACAT) 1 or 2 programs. A summary of the Team's main findings; the provision it has developed for inclusion in the solicitations of participating acquisition programs; and the procedures for acquisition program office implementation of the Challenge program follow.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics will request that each Military Department nominate for participation in the pilot (i) by June 1, 2000, at least four ACAT 1 or 2 programs that will initiate a contracting action for a new phase of the program in FY 2001; and (ii) by June 1, 2001, at least 3 other ACAT 1 or 2 programs that will initiate a contracting action for a new phase of the program in FY 2002. The Military Departments will be asked to include among their nominations competitive and sole-source development programs and production programs (especially production programs involving significant modifications) and, if desired, a maintenance program. In order to facilitate a systematic evaluation of the pilot effort, the Military Departments will be asked to identify, for each nominated program, an acquisition program of similar size, scope, and phase of acquisition to participate in a control group.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics asked the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) to coordinate this initiative and report on its implementation on a semi-annual basis. The Military Departments will be asked to provide their Department's nominated programs

to Jon Baron (tel. 703/588-8636; fax 703/588-7561; email baronj@acq.osd.mil) by the designated dates. For each nominee, the Military Departments will be asked to identify both the acquisition program manager and a point of contact in the responsible Program Executive Office.

In addition, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics asked the Director, SADBU, in consultation with the Military Departments, to develop metrics of the effectiveness of the pilot program and to arrange for an independent evaluation of the program. The evaluation should include a preliminary report by May 1, 2002 addressing (i) whether the program appears to be accomplishing its goals, and (ii) whether and how the program should be continued after the pilot period.

#### **Summary of the Team's Main Findings and Goals**

*Main findings:* After the competition in an acquisition program has ended and a prime contractor is selected for contract award, that prime contractor generally faces little competitive pressure to bring innovative new technologies from commercial firms into the program.

Indeed, the Team found that, in some cases, the prime contractors resist the adoption of outside technologies or seek to bring subsystem work-in-house, even when there are more capable and innovative sources outside the firm. This finding is consistent with the results of a 1997 Defense Science Board study, which found that DoD's vertically-integrated prime contractors have economic incentives to use in-house suppliers in ways that are at odds with DoD's interest in fostering competition and innovation at the subsystem level.

In this respect, defense procurement markets differ significantly from competitive commercial markets, where there are competitive pressures to bring innovative new technologies into a program throughout development and production, and to outsource when stronger capabilities exist outside the firm.

Based on its findings, the Team developed a set of recommendations designed to:

(i) Foster competition among alternative technological approaches and suppliers wherever possible in the development of subsystems of DoD acquisition programs. The rationale is that such competition is needed to create the incentives for the development and rapid insertion into