

disposal procedures other than the FPMR's prescriptions.

In Section 2901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, Public Law 103-160, Congress recognized the economic hardship occasioned by base closures, the Federal interest in facilitating economic recovery of base closure communities, and the need to identify and implement reuse and redevelopment of property at closing installations. In Section 2903(c) of Pub. L. 103-160, Congress directed the Military Departments to consider each base closure community's economic needs and priorities in the property disposal process. Under Section 2905(b)(2)(E) of DBCRA, Navy must consult with local communities before it disposes of base closure property and must consider local plans developed for reuse and redevelopment of the surplus Federal property.

The Department of Defense's goal, as set forth in Section 90.4 of the DoD Rule, is to help base closure communities achieve rapid economic recovery through expeditious reuse and redevelopment of the assets at closing bases, taking into consideration local market conditions and locally developed reuse plans. Thus, the Department has adopted a consultative approach with each community to ensure that property disposal decisions consider the Local Redevelopment Authority's reuse plan and encourage job creation. As a part of this cooperative approach, the base closure community's interests, *e.g.*, reflected in its zoning for the area, play a significant role in determining the range of alternatives considered in the environmental analysis for property disposal. Furthermore, Section 91.7(d)(3) of the DoD Rule provides that the Local Redevelopment Authority's plan generally will be used as the basis for the proposed disposal action.

The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, 40 U.S.C. 484, as implemented by the FPMR, identifies several mechanisms for disposing of surplus base closure property: by public benefit conveyance (FPMR Sec. 101-47.303-2); by negotiated sale (FPMR Sec. 101-47.304-9); and by competitive sale (FPMR Sec. 101-47.304-7). Additionally, in Section 2905(b)(4), the DBCRA established economic development conveyances as a means of disposing of surplus base closure property. The selection of any particular method of conveyance merely implements the Federal agency's decision to dispose of the property. Decisions concerning whether to undertake a public benefit conveyance

or an economic development conveyance, or to sell property by negotiation or by competitive bid are committed by law to agency discretion. Selecting a method of disposal implicates a broad range of factors and rests solely within the Secretary of the Navy's discretion.

Conclusion

The City of Seattle's proposed reuse of the Sand Point property, which consists of the City's 1993 Reuse Plan and its 1997 Options and is embodied in the Preferred Alternative, is consistent with the prescriptions of the FPMR and Section 90.4 of the DoD Rule. The LRA has determined in its Reuse Plan that the property should be used for several purposes, including educational and community facilities, arts and cultural facilities, open space and recreational areas, residential areas, and institutional land uses. The property's location, physical characteristics, and existing infrastructure as well as the current uses of adjacent property make it appropriate for the proposed uses.

Although the "No action" alternative has less potential for causing adverse environmental impacts, this alternative would not take advantage of the property's location, physical characteristics and infrastructure or the current uses of adjacent property. Additionally, it would not foster local redevelopment of the Sand Point property.

The acquiring entity, under the direction of Federal, State and local agencies with regulatory authority over protected resources, will be responsible for implementing necessary mitigation measures.

Accordingly, Navy will dispose of Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point in a manner that is consistent with the City of Seattle's 1993 and 1997 plans for the property.

Dated: December 8, 1997.

William J. Cassidy, Jr.,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Conversion And Redevelopment).*

[FR Doc. 97-32938 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Public Hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Development of Facilities to Support Basing U.S. Pacific Fleet F/A-18E/F Aircraft on the West Coast of the United States

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Announcement of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for development of facilities to support basing U.S. Pacific Fleet F/A-18E/F aircraft on the West Coast of the United States. Two public hearings will be held for the purpose to receive oral and written comment on the DEIS. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearing.

DATES: Hearing dates are as follows:

1. January 7, 1998, 7:00 p.m., Lemoore, CA.
2. January 8, 1998, 7:00 p.m., El Centro, CA.

ADDRESSES: Hearing locations are:

1. Lemoore—Lemoore City Council Chamber, 429 C Street, Lemoore, California.
2. El Centro—Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 940 West Main Street, El Centro, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Surinder Sikand, (650) 244-3020.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for development of facilities to support basing U.S. Pacific Fleet F/A-18E/F aircraft on the West Coast of the United States.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on 7 April 1997 (62 FR 16563). Public scoping meetings for the proposed project were held on Monday, April 28, 1997, at the Lemoore High School Cafeteria, Lemoore, California; on Tuesday, April 29, 1997, at the Imperial County Board of Supervisors Office, El Centro, California; and on Wednesday, April 30, 1997, in the Bougainvillea Room, Orchid Professional Building, Camarillo, California.

The proposed action includes siting 164 F/A-18E/F aircraft, locating associated military personnel and family members, and providing associated training functions at the receiving installation. The two installations considered in detail for the West Coast base are Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore and Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro. NAS Lemoore is the preferred alternative evaluated in the

EIS. For NAS Lemoore, where F/A-18C/D strike fighter squadrons are currently based, the proposed action would result in an increase of 92 aircraft because 72 of the 164 aircraft would replace existing F/A-18 aircraft. Basing the aircraft at NAF El Centro, which does not have existing strike fighter squadrons, would result in an increase of 164 aircraft at the installation.

The DEIS analyzes potential environmental impacts to land use and airspace, visual resources, socioeconomic, cultural resources, traffic and circulation, air quality, noise, biological resources, water resources, utilities and services, public health and safety, and hazardous materials and waste. Potentially significant, but mitigable, environmental impacts include impacts to land use and airspace and biological resources at NAF El Centro, schools (socioeconomics) at NAS Lemoore, and traffic, air quality, and hazardous materials and storage at both installations. Significant, and not mitigable, impacts related to noise have been identified at NAF El Centro.

No decision on the proposed action will be made until the National Environmental Policy Act process has been completed.

The DEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, local groups, elected official, special interest groups, and individuals. The DEIS is also available for review at the following public libraries: Lemoore, Hanford, Fresno, Avenol, El Centro, and Brawley.

The 2 public hearings will be held for the purpose to receive oral and written comment on the DEIS. The first hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 1998, at 7:00 p.m., at the Lemoore City Council Chamber, 429 C Street, Lemoore, California. The second hearing will be held on Thursday, January 8, 1998, at 7:00 p.m., at the Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 940 West Main Street, El Centro, California. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearing. Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a court recorder. To assure accuracy of the record, all comments should be submitted in writing. All comments, both oral and written, will become part of the public record in the study. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to three minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to Mr. Surinder Sikand (Code 70311), Engineering Field

Activity West, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 900 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California 94066, FAX (650) 244-3206. Written comments are requested not later than January 26, 1998.

Electronic Filing Address—comments and data may be submitted by electronic mail (e-mail) to:

sssikand@efawest.navfac.navy.mil.

Dated: December 12, 1997.

Michael I. Quinn,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-32939 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Availability of Government Owned Invention for Licensing

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Government Owned Invention for Licensing.

SUMMARY: U.S. Patent Number 4,906,879, entitled "Terbium-Dysprosium Magnetostrictive High Power Transducers," is assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and is available for licensing by the Department of the Navy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for copies of the patent cited or further information should be directed to Mr. Dick Bloomquist, Director, Technology Transfer, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Code 0117, 9500 MacArthur Blvd., West Bethesda, MD 20817-5700, telephone number: (301) 227-4299.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207; 37 CFR part 404; 32 CFR part 746)

Michael I. Quinn,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-32908 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of the Navy.

ACTION: Notice to Alter a System of Records.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy proposes to alter a record system in its inventory of system of records notices subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended. The alteration consists of adding a routine use to permit the disclosure of personnel information to private organizations under government contract to perform random analytical research into specific aspects of military personnel management and administrative procedures.

DATES: The action will be effective without further notice on January 16, 1998 unless comments are received that would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Department of the Navy, PA/FOIA Policy Branch, Chief of Naval Operations (N09B30), 2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Doris Lama at (202) 685-6545 or DSN 325-6545.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The complete inventory of the Department of the Navy's record system notices for records systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, have been published in the **Federal Register** and are available from the address above.

The proposed system report, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, was submitted on December 9, 1997, to the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to paragraph 4c of Appendix I to OMB Circular No. A-130, 'Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals,' dated February 8, 1996 (February 20, 1996, 61 FR 6427).

The specific changes to the record system being altered are set forth below followed by the notice, as altered, published in its entirety.

Dated: December 11, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

N01070-3

SYSTEM NAME:

Navy Personnel Records System
(September 9, 1996, 61 FR 47483).

CHANGES:

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