

Dated: September 19, 2013.

**Dean Swanson,**

*Acting Director, Office of International  
Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-23203 Filed 9-23-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-BD69

#### **Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries  
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),  
Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for  
letter of authorization; request for  
comments and information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request  
from the U.S. Navy (Navy) for  
authorization to take marine mammals  
incidental to the training and testing  
activities conducted in the Mariana  
Islands Training and Testing (MITT)  
Study Area from July 2015 through July  
2020. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal  
Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is  
announcing our receipt of the Navy's  
request for the development and  
implementation of regulations  
governing the incidental taking of  
marine mammals and inviting  
information, suggestions, and comments  
on the Navy's application and request.

**DATES:** Comments and information must  
be received no later than October 24,  
2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the  
application should be addressed to  
Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and  
Conservation Division, Office of  
Protected Resources, National Marine  
Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West  
Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-  
3225. The mailbox address for providing  
email comments is  
[ITP.Magliocca@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Magliocca@noaa.gov). NMFS is not  
responsible for email comments sent to  
addresses other than the one provided  
here. Comments sent via email,  
including all attachments, must not  
exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received  
are a part of the public record and will  
generally be posted to [http://  
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/  
incidental.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm) without change. All  
Personal Identifying Information (for

example, name, address, etc.)  
voluntarily submitted by the commenter  
may be publicly accessible. Do not  
submit Confidential Business  
Information or otherwise sensitive or  
protected information.

A copy of the Navy's application may  
be obtained by visiting the internet at:  
[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/  
incidental.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm). The Navy's Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)  
for MITT was made available to the  
public on September 13, 2013. A 60-day  
public comment period is open through  
November 12, 2013. Documents cited in  
this notice may also be viewed, by  
appointment, during regular business  
hours, at the aforementioned address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Michelle Magliocca, Office of Protected  
Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the  
MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct  
the Secretary of Commerce to allow,  
upon request, the incidental, but not  
intentional, taking of small numbers of  
marine mammals by United States  
citizens who engage in a specified  
activity (other than commercial fishing)  
within a specific geographical region if  
certain findings are made and either  
regulations are issued or, if the taking is  
limited to harassment, a notice of a  
proposed authorization is provided to  
the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings  
shall be granted if NMFS finds that the  
taking will have a negligible impact on  
the species or stock(s), will not have an  
unmitigable adverse impact on the  
availability of the species or stock(s) for  
subsistence uses (where relevant), and if  
the permissible methods of taking and  
requirements pertaining to the  
mitigation, monitoring and reporting of  
such takings are set forth. NMFS has  
defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR  
216.103 as "\* \* \*an impact resulting  
from the specified activity that cannot  
be reasonably expected to, and is not  
reasonably likely to, adversely affect the  
species or stock through effects on  
annual rates of recruitment or survival."

With respect to military readiness  
activities, the MMPA defines  
"harassment" as: "(i) any act that  
injures or has the significant potential to  
injure a marine mammal stock in the  
wild [Level A Harassment]; or (ii) any  
act that disturbs or is likely to disturb  
a marine mammal or marine mammal  
stock in the wild by causing disruption  
of natural behavioral patterns,  
including, but not limited to, migration,  
surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or

sheltering, to a point where such  
behavioral patterns are abandoned or  
significantly altered [Level B  
Harassment]."

#### **Summary of Request**

On April 22, 2013, NMFS received an  
application from the Navy requesting a  
Letters of Authorization (LOA) for the  
take of 26 species of marine mammals  
incidental to Navy training and testing  
activities to be conducted in the MITT  
Study Area over 5 years. The Navy is  
requesting a 5-year LOA for training and  
testing activities to be conducted from  
2015 through 2020. The Study Area  
includes the existing Mariana Islands  
Range Complex, a transit corridor  
between the Mariana Islands and the  
Hawaii Range Complex, and Navy  
pierside locations where sonar  
maintenance or testing may occur (see  
Figure 2-1 of the Navy's application for  
a map of the MITT Study Area). The  
activities conducted within the MITT  
Study Area are classified as military  
readiness activities. The Navy states that  
these activities may expose some of the  
marine mammals present within the  
MITT Study Area to sound from  
underwater acoustic sources and  
explosives. In addition, incidental takes  
of marine mammals may occur from  
ship strike. The Navy is requesting  
authorization to take 26 marine mammal  
species by Level B (behavioral)  
harassment; 15 of those marine mammal  
species may be taken by injury or  
mortality.

#### **Description of the Specified Activity**

In the application submitted to  
NMFS, the Navy requests authorization  
to take marine mammals incidental to  
conducting the following training and  
testing activities: anti-surface warfare;  
anti-submarine warfare; mine warfare;  
naval special warfare; major training  
activities; Naval Air Systems Command  
(NAVAIR) testing; anti-surface warfare  
testing; anti-submarine warfare testing;  
Naval Sea Systems Command  
(NAVSEA) testing; and Office of Naval  
Research (ONR) and Naval Research  
Laboratory (NRL) testing. Detailed  
descriptions of these activities,  
including duration, location, and  
equipment involved, are provided in the  
Navy's application. The Navy has also  
prepared a Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement (DEIS) analyzing the effects  
on the human environment of  
implementing their preferred alternative  
(among others).

#### **Information Solicited**

Interested persons may submit  
information, suggestions, and comments  
concerning the Navy's request (see

**ADDRESSES).** All input related to the Navy's MITT request and NMFS' role in governing the incidental taking of marine mammals will be considered by NMFS when developing, if appropriate, the most effective regulations governing the issuance of a Letter of Authorization.

Dated: September 12, 2013.

**Perry Gayaldo,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2013-23105 Filed 9-23-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2013-OS-0197]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics announces a proposed 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 November 25, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Federal Docket Management System Office, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02G09, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal**

**Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, 3010 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3010, or call at (703)602-4353.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number:* Application for Homeowners Assistance; DD form 1607; OMB Control Number 0704-0463.

*Needs and Uses:* The Department plans to expand its Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP), with \$555 million in Recovery Act funds dedicated to helping military families and DoD civilians who recently sold their homes at a loss. The expanded program will assist families forced to relocate due to base closures or normal assignment rotations. But, the most important aspect is that priority access to the funds will go to survivors of those killed during deployment, and those who were wounded, ill or injured during deployment.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households

*Annual Burden Hours:* 17,000 hours

*Number of Respondents:* 17,000

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1

*Average Burden per Response:* 1 hour

*Frequency:* On Occasion

The Secretary of Defense is authorized to provide financial help to eligible homeowners serving or employed at or near military installations which were ordered closed or partially closed, realigned or were ordered to reduce the scope of operations. The Department of the Army acts as executive agent for DoD in administering the program for all military departments. Before benefits can be paid, certain conditions must be met. Eligible homeowners use the DD Form 1607, "Application for Homeowners

Assistance" to apply. The application is reviewed by a department personnel office, military or civilian, for verification of service or employment and mailed to the appropriate office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which administers the program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will notify the applicant.

It is the objective of the Department of Defense to assure that all applications for assistance under this program are given full consideration and that benefits under the program are extended to all homeowners who are entitled to assistance in accordance with applicable policies and procedures. This request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency approval. Any comments received on this notice will be addressed in a subsequent information collection package to be submitted to OMB under regular processing timeframes.

Dated: September 19, 2013,

**Aaron Siegel,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-23196 Filed 9-23-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Meeting of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force

**AGENCY:** Director of Administration and Management, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee closed meeting of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force ("the Commission") will take place.

**DATES:** *Dates of Closed Meeting, including Hearing and Commission Discussion:* Thursday, September 26, 2013, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** 2521 South Clark Street, Suite 525, Crystal City, VA 22202 and a secure video teleconferencing line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Marcia Moore, Designated Federal Officer, National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, 1950 Defense Pentagon, Room 3A874, Washington, DC 20301-1950. Email: [marcia.l.moore12.civ@mail.mil](mailto:marcia.l.moore12.civ@mail.mil). Desk (703) 545-9113. Facsimile (703) 692-5625.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of Meeting:* The members of the Commission will hear testimony from General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr, the Commander of the U.S. Northern Command, in the form of a question and answer session and then will discuss the information presented at the hearing.