

occurred from May 2, 2011, to May 1, 2012. The Navy conducted zero SINKEXs and all other exercise types conducted (classified data) fell within the amount indicated in the LOA.

### 2011 Monitoring

The Navy conducted the monitoring required by the 2011 LOA and described in the Monitoring Plan, which included passive acoustic monitoring utilizing high-frequency acoustic recording packages (HARPs) and marine mammal tagging and tracking. The Navy submitted their 2011 Monitoring Report, which is posted on NMFS' Web site (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>), within the required timeframe. Because data is gathered through May 1 and the report is due in July, some of the data analysis will occur in the subsequent year's report. Navy-funded marine mammal monitoring accomplishments within NWTRC for the past year consisted of the following:

#### Passive Acoustic Monitoring

Two high-frequency acoustic monitoring packages (HARP) have been deployed by Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) within the NWTRC. The first HARP was deployed in January 2011 approximately 25 nm from the coast in the southern part of NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. SIO has had HARPs in the same approximate location periodically since 2004. A second HARP was deployed in May 2011 near the edge of an underwater canyon west of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary boundary. Both HARPs were field serviced in early December 2011. Over 10,617 hours of passive acoustic data have been recorded. Subsequent analysis confirmed detection of the following marine mammals: blue whale, fin whale, humpback whale, nine toothed whale species, and sounds dominated by shipping noise.

#### Tagging

Under the 2011 LOA, the Navy purchased a total of 10 satellite tracking tags suitable for deployment on a number of marine mammal species within the NWTRC. Field deployment for tagging marine mammals commenced 2011 as part of a three-year joint project between the Navy, NMFS, Cascadia Research Collective, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. During the May 2011 to May 2012 reporting period, three fin whales and one humpback whale were tagged off the Washington Coast. Approximately 43 days of animal

movement data was obtained. More information detailing the results of the tagging study can be found in the Navy's Year 2 Northwest Training Range Complex Monitoring Report (2012), which is posted on the NMFS permits Web site: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>.

In conclusion, the Navy successfully implemented the monitoring requirements for the NWTRC by the end of the second monitoring period. Over the next three years, the Navy will continue to maintain the two HARPs that are currently in the water, while analyzing and presenting results from previously recorded data. Furthermore, the Navy will continue to report tagging results within the NWTRC from tags the Navy purchased in 2010, which have not yet been deployed.

### Adaptive Management

The Navy's adaptive management of the NWTRC monitoring program involves close coordination with NMFS to align marine mammal monitoring with the overall objectives of the monitoring plan. Monitoring under the 2011 LOA only represents the second year of a planned five-year effort. Therefore, it would be premature to draw detailed conclusions or initiate comprehensive monitoring changes before more monitoring and data analysis is complete.

### Authorization

The Navy complied with the requirements of the 2011 LOA. Based on our review of the record, NMFS has determined that the marine mammal take resulting from the 2011 military readiness training and research activities falls within the levels previously anticipated, analyzed, and authorized. Further, the level of taking authorized from 2012 to 2015 for the Navy's NWTRC activities is consistent with our previous findings made for the total taking allowed under the NWTRC regulations. Finally, the record supports NMFS' conclusion that the total number of marine mammals taken by the 2012 to 2015 activities in the NWTRC will have no more than a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these species or stocks for taking for subsistence uses. Accordingly, NMFS has issued an LOA for Navy training and research activities conducted in the NWTRC from November 12, 2012, through November 9, 2015.

Dated: October 16, 2012.

**Helen M. Golde,**

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Office of the Secretary of the Air Force Acceptance of Group Application Under Public Law 95-202 and Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1000.20

**AGENCY:** The United States Air Force, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Section 401, Public Law 95-202 and DoD Directive 1000.20, the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board has accepted an application on behalf of a group known as: "Lycoming AVCO Vietnam Tech Reps." Persons with information or documentation pertinent to the determination of whether the service of this group should be considered active military service to the Armed Forces of the United States are encouraged to submit such information or documentation within 60 days to the DoD Civilian/Military Service Review Board (DoD C/MSRB), 1500 West Perimeter Road, Suite 3700 Joint Base Andrews NAF, MD 20762-7002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bruce T. Brown, Executive Secretary, DoD C/MSRB, at 240-612-5364, [bruce.brown@afncr.af.mil](mailto:bruce.brown@afncr.af.mil). Copies of documents or other materials submitted cannot be returned.

**Henry Williams, Jr.,**

*Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

**ACTION:** Announcement of the time and location of the December 11-12, 2012 National Advisory Committee on