

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1114(b), the MERHC BoA reports annually to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense on the actuarial status of the Fund and shall furnish its advice and opinion on matters referred to it by the Secretary of Defense. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1114(c), the MERHC BoA reviews valuations of the Fund under 10 U.S.C. 1115(c) and reports periodically, not less than once every four years to the President and Congress on the status of the Fund. The MERHC BoA shall include in such reports recommendations for such changes as in the MERHC BoA's judgment are necessary to protect the public interest and maintain the Fund on a sound actuarial basis.

The MERHC BoA, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1114(a)(1) and (2), shall consist of three members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among qualified professional actuaries who are members of the Society of Actuaries. MERHC BoA members will serve for a term of 15-years, except that a MERHC BoA member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the end of the term of which the predecessor was appointed shall serve only until the end of such term. A MERHC BoA member may serve after the end of the term until a successor has taken office. Of the members of the Board, one each shall be appointed for terms ending five, ten, and 15 years respectively, after the date of appointment, as designated by the Secretary of Defense at the time of appointment.

MERHC BoA members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal civilian officers or employees, or active-duty members of the Uniformed Services, shall be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109 to serve as special government employee members and are entitled, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1114(a)(3), to receive pay at the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay of the highest rate of basic pay under the General Schedule of subchapter 53 of title 5 U.S.C., for each day the member is engaged in the performance of duties vested in the MERHC BoA. MERHC BoA members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal civilian officers or employees, or members of the uniformed Services, shall be appointed pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee members.

Each MERHC BoA member is appointed to exercise their own judgment on behalf of the DoD, without representing any particular point of view, and to discuss and deliberate in

a manner that is free from conflict of interest.

The public or interested organizations may submit written statements to the MERHC BoA membership about its mission and functions. Written statements may be submitted at any time or in response to the stated agenda of planned meeting of the MERHC BoA. All written statements shall be submitted to the DFO for the MERHC BoA, and this individual will ensure that the written statements are provided to the membership for their consideration.

Dated: December 9, 2024.

**Aaron T. Siegel,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–29338 Filed 12–12–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Notice of Public Meetings for Hawaii-California Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (ID# EISX–007–17–USN–1724283453)**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy (DoN), Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations, and Presidential Executive Order 12114, the DoN (including both the United States [U.S.] Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps [USMC]), as the lead agency, jointly with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force, has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) activities. The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of the potential environmental effects associated with conducting at-sea training and testing activities, and modernization and sustainment of ranges (collectively referred to as “military readiness activities”) within the HCTT Study Area.

**DATES:** The 60-day public comment period begins December 13, 2024, and ends February 11, 2025. The comment period includes an additional 15 calendar days (from the required 45 days) to allow the public more time to

review and comment during the holiday season. In support of NEPA requirements, in-person public meetings in California and Hawaii and a virtual public meeting will be held in January 2025 to provide an overview of the Draft EIS/OEIS and answer questions from the public. Each meeting will also provide an opportunity to learn about how the military services are complying with the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and to comment on potential effects on historic properties. The public can submit comments during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period at one of the in-person public meetings, electronically via the project website ([www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/](http://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/)), or via U.S. postal mail. Public comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS must be postmarked or received online by 11:59 p.m. Hawaii standard time (HST) Tuesday, February 11, 2025, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

Three in-person public meetings will be held as follows:

1. January 13, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Pacific standard time (PST) at Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA;

2. January 15, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m.

HST at Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial, Weinberg Hall, 2685 N Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, HI;

3. January 16, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m.

HST at Kauai Veterans Center, 3215 Kauai Veterans Memorial Highway, Lihue, HI.

One virtual public meeting will be held on January 22, 2025, from 3 to 4 p.m. HST/5 to 6 p.m. PST/8 to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS may be provided at the in-person public meetings, electronically through the project website at:

[www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/](http://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/), or by U.S. postal mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific; Attention: HCTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager; 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860–3134.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** U.S. Pacific Fleet Command, Attention: Ms. Heather Paynter, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist, 808–474–8441, [CPF-Environmental-PA@us.navy.mil](mailto:CPF-Environmental-PA@us.navy.mil), or visit the project website: [www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/](http://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet is the DoN's lead action proponent. Additional DoN action proponents include Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, Office of Naval Research, Naval

Facilities Engineering Expeditionary Warfare Center, and the USMC. In addition, the EIS/OEIS includes certain activities by the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force when those activities are similar to DoN or USMC activities and are scheduled on DoN-controlled at-sea ranges.

Proposed military readiness activities are similar to those analyzed in the 2018 Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) EIS/OEIS and the at-sea activities in the 2022 Point Mugu Sea Range (PMSR) EIS/OEIS and are consistent with activities that have been conducted off Hawaii and California for more than 80 years.

The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of military readiness activities using new information, including an updated acoustic analysis, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science.

The HCTT Study Area (hereafter referred to as the "Study Area") consists primarily of the Hawaii Study Area, the California Study Area, and the transit corridor connecting the two. The Study Area includes the at-sea components of the range complexes (Hawaii Range Complex, Southern California [SOCAL] Range Complex, PMSR, Northern California [NOCAL] Range Complex), DoN pierside locations and port transit channels, bays, harbors, inshore waterways, amphibious approach lanes, and civilian ports where training and testing activities occur. The HCTT Study Area differs from the HSTT Study Area in that HCTT includes an expanded SOCAL Range Complex; special use airspace (Proposed Warning Area [W]-293 and Proposed W-294) corresponding to the expanded SOCAL Range Complex; new testing sea space between Proposed W-293 and PMSR; two existing training and testing ranges, the PMSR and NOCAL Range Complex; areas along the Southern California coastline from approximately Dana Point to Port Hueneme; and four amphibious approach lanes providing land access from the NOCAL Range Complex and PMSR. While the overall boundaries of the Hawaii portion of the Study Area have not changed from the 2018 HSTT EIS/OEIS, nearshore areas, such as Kaneohe Bay or Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, are proposed to be used more frequently or for new training or testing activities, such as mine warfare training.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct military readiness activities, comprised of training, testing, and modernization and sustainment of ranges, within the Study Area to ensure U.S. military services are able to

organize, train, and equip service members and personnel, needed to meet their respective national defense missions in accordance with their Congressionally mandated requirements.<sup>1</sup> Training and testing activities that include the use of active sonar, explosives, or other sources of underwater sound would employ mitigation measures to potentially reduce or avoid adverse effects on marine species. Range modernization and sustainment activities include new special use airspace in Southern California, installation and maintenance of underwater ranges in Southern California and Hawaii, deployment of seafloor cables and connected instrumentation south and west of San Clemente Island in the California Study Area and northeast of Oahu and west of Kauai in the Hawaii Study Area, installation and maintenance of mine warfare and other training areas offshore of Hawaii and Southern California, and installation and maintenance of underwater platforms in Hawaii and Southern California.

Potential effects on environmental resources resulting from activities included in the two Action Alternatives and the No Action Alternative were evaluated in accordance with 40 CFR 1502.16. Resources evaluated include, but are not limited to, biological (including marine mammals, reptiles, fishes, vegetation, invertebrates, habitats, birds, and other protected species), sediments and water quality, air quality, cultural, socioeconomic and environmental justice, and public health and safety. The Draft EIS/OEIS also includes an analysis of measures that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects potentially resulting from military readiness activities. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on these resource areas are analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The DoN, as the lead action proponent, is coordinating and consulting with appropriate Federal agencies as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NHPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Air Act, and other laws and regulations determined to be applicable to the project. As part of this process, the military services are seeking the

issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under MMPA and ESA to support at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area, beginning in December 2025. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS/OEIS. In the rule-making process, NMFS will consider the potential effects of the Proposed Action on the marine environment. The EIS/OEIS will support NMFS' rule-making process to issue MMPA authorizations.

The military services distributed the Draft EIS/OEIS to government agencies they are consulting with and to federally recognized Tribes and other stakeholders. The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public review on the project website at [www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/](http://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/) and at these public libraries:

1. Billie Jean King Main Library, 200 W Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802.
  2. City of San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101.
  3. Coast Community Branch of Mendocino County Library, 225 Main St., Point Arena, CA 95468.
  4. Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118.
  5. E.P. Foster Library, 651 E Main St., Ventura, CA 93001.
  6. Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071.
  7. Monterey Public Library, 625 Pacific St., Monterey, CA 93940.
  8. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93403.
  9. Hawaii State Library, 478 S King St., Honolulu, HI 96813.
  10. Hilo Public Library, 300 Waiuanue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720.
  11. Kahului Public Library, 90 School St., Kahului, HI 96732.
  12. Kailua-Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.
  13. Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766.
  14. Molokai Public Library, 15 Ala Malama Ave., Kaunakakai, HI 96748.
- The public involvement process is helpful in identifying public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the EIS/OEIS and encouraging comments on the environmental analysis. Federal, State, and local agencies; federally recognized Tribes and Tribal groups; Native Hawaiian Organizations; nongovernmental organizations; and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments on the Proposed Action and the environmental analysis, as well as the project's potential to affect historic properties as it relates to Section 106 of the NHPA. All comments provided at the in-person public meetings, electronically via the

<sup>1</sup> 10 United States Code (U.S.C.), sections 8062 (Navy), 8063 (USMC), 7062 (U.S. Army), 9062 (U.S. Air Force) and 14 U.S.C. 101 and 102 (USCG).

project website, or mailed to the address provided in the **ADDRESSES** section will be considered during the development of the Final EIS/OEIS.

In-person public meetings will include an open-house information session, a short presentation by DoN representatives, and a public oral comment session. The presentation will begin at approximately 5 p.m. local time. DoN representatives will be available during the open-house information sessions to answer questions and clarify information related to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Attendees will be able to submit oral and written comments during the in-person public meetings. Oral comments from the public will be recorded by a court reporter and each speaker's comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Equal weight will be given to oral and written statements.

During the virtual public meeting, DoN representatives will provide a short presentation and answer questions submitted by the public. Questions concerning the Draft EIS/OEIS will be accepted in advance through January 15, 2025, via the question form on the project website. Questions may also be submitted in writing during the meeting. Please note that questions submitted as part of the question-and-answer session are not official public comments; public comments should be submitted at the in-person public meetings, electronically via the project website ([www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/](http://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/)), or via U.S. postal mail. An audio-only option will be available for the virtual public meeting. The project website has more information on attending the virtual public meeting.

A virtual open house presentation will also be available on the project website to provide more information about the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, potential effects on environmental resource areas from the Proposed Action, the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes, and public involvement opportunities. The public can view the virtual open house presentation at the project website anytime during the Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period.

Dated: December 6, 2024.

**A.J. Gioiello,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-29123 Filed 12-12-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0108]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; School Pulse Panel 2024-25 Data Collection**

**AGENCY:** Institute of Education Sciences (IES), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 13, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain) to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. [Reginfo.gov](http://Reginfo.gov) provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Carrie Clarady, (202) 245-6347.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* School Pulse Panel 2024-25 Data Collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 1850-0969.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 53,955.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 10,175.

*Abstract:* The School Pulse Panel is an ongoing study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), within the United States Department of Education, to collect extensive data on current and emerging issues concerning students and staff in U.S. public primary, middle, high, and combined-grade schools. Specifically, the survey will ask school leaders about topics such as staffing, college and career readiness, artificial intelligence, tutoring, summer and after-school programs, facilities, and learning strategies and recovery, among other topics. The SPP has become one of the nation's main sources of timely and reliable data on issues concerning the education environment, as reported by principals in U.S. public schools.

The preliminary activities for the 2024-25 data collection was formally cleared in January 2024 (OMB# 1850-0969 v.12) and the SPP monthly data collection package was formally cleared in June 2024 (OMB# 1850-0969 v.13). A change request (v.14) was cleared in June 2024 to make changes to the 2024-25 preliminary activities package in order to modify the July 2024 communication materials and screener survey. A change request (v.15) was cleared in August 2024 to make changes to the August 2024, September 2024, and October 2024 instruments, informed by cognitive testing results with school staff. A 30-day public comment period package (v.16) was cleared in October 2024 that included new items (within the scope of the research domains previously established) to be collected on the November 2024, December 2024, and January 2025 instruments, as well as planned items for the rest of the study year, through June 2025. A change request (v.17) was cleared in November 2024 to make changes to the December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 instruments, informed by cognitive testing results with school staff.

The new revision (v.18) is focused on a 30-day public comment period on new items (within the scope of the research domains previously established) to be collected on the March 2025-June 2025 School Pulse Panels. These items are considered very close to final and will go through minimal testing with school personnel to examine any