

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*), as amended in 2006, and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The proposed collection for scientific research involves activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The applicant requires authorization to harvest and possess snapper and grouper using a prohibited gear type for scientific research activities during the period May through December 2008. Specimens would be collected from Federal waters off the coast of North Carolina.

The applicant's EFP application responds to a NMFS call for development of new, advanced technologies to assess fish stocks, and is the second phase of a two-pronged research endeavor funded by the Fishery Resource Grant Program. Phase one of the pilot survey included the collection of acoustic data using sonar, as well as CPUE (hook-and-line) data within a proposed MPA known as the Snowy Wreck MPA off North Carolina. That data collection was completed October 16, 2007, and indicates the use of high-end sonar gear shows promise of being able to predict relative abundance of deepwater snapper-grouper species from a much larger number of fish aggregations where acoustic data were collected but the area was not fished.

Phase two of the project (current proposal) proposes to use a novel census technique for deepwater snapper-grouper and lay the framework for a Before-After Control Impact (BACI) sampling design, by sampling inside the proposed Snowy Wreck MPA (experimental site), and two adjacent control sites, before NMFS establishes the MPA through the rulemaking process. It is expected that sampling

within the experimental site and within the control site, before the MPA is implemented, will allow future comparisons of CPUE and acoustic backscatter once NMFS has implemented the MPA for some years. The overall intent of this project is to develop models to the extent that fishery managers may use acoustic data to reliably predict the abundance of important deepwater snapper-grouper species.

Phase two of this project proposes to use acoustic sonar, along with chevron traps, to develop a predictive model to estimate abundance of deepwater snapper-grouper species. Hook-and-line data would be collected opportunistically and would be used to augment existing models created using hook-and-line data from phase one. Those models would be compared to models created using chevron trap data from phase two of the project. Any live fish collected will be tagged and released. Dead or non-viable fish will be provided to the NMFS Beaufort Lab for further study. Estimates of acoustic data collected in the proposed Snowy Wreck MPA would be compared to those collected at the adjacent control site.

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration. Based on a preliminary review, NMFS intends to issue an EFP. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is indeed granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition of conducting research within other MPAs, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones, without additional authorization. Additionally, NMFS may prohibit the possession of Nassau or goliath grouper, and require any sea turtles taken incidentally during the course of fishing or scientific research activities to be handled with due care to prevent injury to live specimens, observed for activity, and returned to the water. A final

decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected state, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 24, 2008.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal Nos. 08-67]

#### 36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. B. English, DSCA/DBO/CFM, (703) 601-3740.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittals 08-67 with attached transmittal, and policy justification.

July 22, 2008.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

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

**BILLING CODE 5001-6-M**



DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY  
2800 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

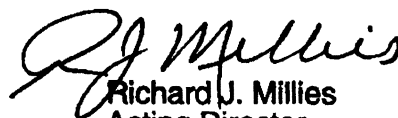
JUL 18 2008  
In reply refer to:  
USP006270-08

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6501**

**Dear Madam Speaker:**

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 08-67, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.8 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a press statement to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

  
Richard J. Millies  
Acting Director

**Enclosures:**

- 1. Transmittal**
- 2. Policy Justification**

**Same ltr to:**

**House**

**Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
**Committee on Armed Services**  
**Committee on Appropriations**

**Senate**

**Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Committee on Armed Services**  
**Committee on Appropriations**

**Transmittal No. 08-67**

**Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer  
Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1)  
of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended**

- (i) **Prospective Purchaser:** Saudi Arabia
- (ii) **Total Estimated Value:**
- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Major Defense Equipment* | \$ 0 billion         |
| Other                    | <u>\$1.8 billion</u> |
| TOTAL                    | \$1.8 billion        |
- (iii) **Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:** for the continuation of the United States supported effort to modernize the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) by providing the following defense services: training, professional military advice and assistance, management assistance, contract administration, construction oversight, transportation of equipment, personnel training and training equipment, light armored vehicle training, spare and repair parts, management of repair and return of components, automation program support, and other related elements of logistics support. These support services would be for the period 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2013.
- (iv) **Military Department:** Army (ZAC, Amendment 39)
- (v) **Prior Related Cases, if any:** numerous cases dating back to 1973
- (vi) **Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid:** none
- (vii) **Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold:** none
- (viii) **Date Report Delivered to Congress:** JUL 18 2008

\* as defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

## **POLICY JUSTIFICATION**

### **Saudi Arabia - Continued Assistance in the Modernization of the SANG**

**The Government of Saudi Arabia has requested a possible sale for the continuation of the United States supported effort to modernize the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) by providing the following defense services: training, professional military advice and assistance, management assistance, contract administration, construction oversight, transportation of equipment, personnel training and training equipment, light armored vehicle training, spare and repair parts, management of repair and return of components, automation program support, and other related elements of logistics support. These support services would be for the period 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2013. The estimated cost is \$1.8 billion.**

**This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.**

**The continuation of services under the SANG Modernization Program is an evolution of the SANG as an effective defensive force with the advice, assistance, and training of the U.S. Army. The Modernization Program ensures necessary training, logistics, support, doctrine development and force integration for the continuing expansion and use of their weapon systems. These services will remain the cornerstone of an effort to upgrade and enhance the infrastructure of the SANG organization.**

**The proposed sale of this support will not affect the basic military balance in the region.**

**The principal contractor will be Vinnell Arabia Corporation of Herndon, VA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.**

**At present, there are approximately 215 U.S. Government personnel and 500 contractor representatives in country supporting the SANG Modernization Program.**

**There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.**

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BILLING CODE 5001-06-C

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

##### **Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Correction notice.

**SUMMARY:** On July 22, 2008, a 30-day notice (Vol. 73, Number 141, page 42552) was published for the

information collection, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Regulatory Requirements. In that notice 1,666,013 responses were provided. This correction notice provides the correct number of responses as 19,958,860. The burden hours remain the same at approximately 1,666,014 hours.

The Acting IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, hereby issues a correction notice as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Dated: July 25, 2008.

**Kate Mullan,**

*Acting Leader, Information Policy and Standards Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.*  
[FR Doc. E8-17453 Filed 7-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P