

invited witnesses on their views on the interrelationship between the trade deficit and the topics of the hearing. There will be a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses.

Public participation is invited and there will be an open-mike session for public comments at the conclusion of the afternoon session. Sign-up for the open-mike session will take place in the afternoon and will be on a first come first served basis. Each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of 3 minutes. Because of time constraints, parties with common interests are encouraged to designate a single speaker to represent their views.

Dates and Time: Friday, October 29, 1999, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM Eastern Time inclusive.

Location of Hearing: The hearing will be held at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Museum of Art Theater, located at 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213. Public seating is limited to about 180 seats and will be on a first come first served basis. Public parking is available and will cost \$3 when parking ticket is validated by the Museum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the hearing or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Kathy Michels, Administrative Officer for the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 706, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202-624-1407; fax 202-624-1406; or via e-mail at: tdrc@sso.org.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at the Pittsburgh Hearing

Copies of the draft meeting agenda, when available, may be obtained from the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission by going to the Commission's website at ustdrc.gov. The commission requests that written public statements submitted for the record be brief and concise and limited to two pages in length. Written comments (at least 35 copies) must be received in the USTDRC Headquarters Office in Washington, DC by Friday, October 15, 1999. Comments received too close to the hearing date will normally be provided to the Commission Members at its hearing. Written comments may be provided up until the time of the hearing.

Authority: The Trade Deficit Review Commission Act, Pub. L. No. 105277, Div. A, section 127, 112 Stat. 2681-547 (1998), established the Commission to study the nature, causes, and consequences of the

United States merchandise trade and current accounts deficits and report its findings to the President and the Congress. By statute, the Commission must hold at least 4 regional field hearings and 1 hearing in Washington, DC. This is the first in a series of field hearings to be conducted. The schedule of hearings is available at the ustdrc.gov website.

For the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC October 12, 1999.

Allan I. Mendelowitz,

Executive Director, U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA National Research Advisory Council, Notice of Establishment

As required by section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. (App. 1), VA hereby gives notice of the establishment of the National Research Advisory Council (NRAC). VA has determined that establishing this Council is in the public interest.

The purview of the NRAC includes the policies and programs of the VA Research and Development Office for carrying out a Congressionally-mandated research program. NRAC will provide advice and make recommendations to the VA Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), the Under Secretary for Health, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the nature and scope of research sponsored and/or conducted by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Council will consist of 12 members and a Chairperson. Selection criteria will be based on expertise in the following areas: (i) Basic biomedical research; (ii) rehabilitation research and development; (iii) health services research and development; (iv) cooperative studies research (multi-center trials in patients); (v) geriatric care; (vi) primary care; (vii) special veterans population health issues; (viii) occupational and environmental health research; (ix) mental health and behavioral research; and (x) surgery.

Close attention will be given to equitable geographic distribution and to ethnic and gender representation. In addition, NRAC will include at least one veteran as a member in order to assure that important perspective on the health problems of veterans. Because the NRAC performs an ongoing service

unrestricted by time, its functions will be needed for the foreseeable future.

The Designated Federal Official for the NRAC is James F. Burris, M.D., Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer, phone number: 202-273-8284.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

By direction of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-27018 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War will be held on October 25th through 27th, 1999, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Carl T. Hayden Va Medical Center, 650 East Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012. The meeting will be held in the Ambulatory Care Clinic, Basement Level, NW Quadrant. Each day the meeting will convene at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under Title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war, and to make recommendations on the needs of such veterans for compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

The agenda for October 25 will begin with an introduction of committee members and dignitaries, a review of Committee reports, an update of activities since the last meeting, and a period for POW veterans and/or the public to address the committee. The Committee will also review the Secretary's response to the November 1998 report of meeting, and receive presentations on the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration activities. The agenda on October 26 will include updates on the Center for POW Studies, continuing learning education seminars and final report from the medical follow-up agency (on Mortality/Morbidity Study). On October 27, the Committee's Medical and Administrative subcommittees will break out to discuss their activities and report back to the Committee.

Additionally, the Committee will review and analyze the comments