

Draft



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Joint Military Training
Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**



Cooperating Agencies:

Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs

Federal Aviation Administration

International Broadcasting Bureau

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District

U.S. Air Force

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	I
	ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	II
1.1	INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.2	WHY AND HOW THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINS	1-4
1.3	PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION	1-8
1.4	THE MARIANA ISLANDS.....	1-11
1.5	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	1-16

List of Figures

1.1-1	U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility	1-2
1.1-2	Mariana Islands Regional Map	1-3
1.2-1	Building Block Approach to Military Training.....	1-7
1.4-1	Mariana Islands Range Complex Extent	1-14
1.5-1	NEPA Public Involvement Process.....	1-16

List of Tables

1.5-1	Dates of Newspaper Notification Announcements for Scoping Meetings	1-17
1.5-2	Federal Aviation Administration Resource Impact Categories	1-20

Acronyms and Abbreviations

%	percent	EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
CJMT	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training	OEA	Overseas EA
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	OEIS	Overseas EIS
DoN	Department of the Navy	QDR	Quadrennial Defense Review
EA	Environmental Assessment	RTA	Range and Training Area
		U.S.	United States

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to examine the potential effects of their proposed actions on the human environment.¹ The human environment includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed public document that complies with the requirements of NEPA by assessing the potential effects that a major federal action may have on the human environment.

The proposed action is to establish a series of live-fire ranges, training courses, and maneuver areas within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet the United States (U.S.) Pacific Command Service Components' unfilled unit level and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific. The Western Pacific stretches over a vast area, from China in the north and west, to New Zealand in the south, and French Polynesia in the east. Under the proposed action, unit level training would occur on the island of Tinian and combined level training would occur on the island of Pagan. Use of both islands is required to meet the purpose and need for the proposed action. The proposed action includes: construction of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses, and maneuver areas; range management; expanded training and operations (to include combined arms, live-fire, and maneuver training at the unit and combined level); establishment of danger zones; designation of Special Use Airspace; and interest in land to support simultaneous and integrated training.

An Overseas EIS (OEIS) is required per Executive Order 12114 when a proposed action has the potential to significantly harm the environment of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, the global commons, or a foreign nation's Exclusive Economic Zone, territorial sea, or land mass. An OEIS is warranted for the proposed action described in this document because of proposed changes to international airspace past 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers). To reduce duplication the EIS and OEIS are combined into one document. This EIS/OEIS identifies the proposed action, along with a preferred alternative, and evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with a variety of reasonable alternatives. Each of the action alternatives, as well as the no-action alternative, is described in Chapter 2. Several studies, reports, assessments, and international agreements have documented the need for additional training capabilities in the U.S. Pacific Command's Area of Responsibility in the Western Pacific ([Figure 1.1-1](#)). Relevant documents are summarized in [Section 1.3, Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action](#). Within the Western Pacific, the greatest need and potential opportunity for increased training capacity and capability occurs in the Mariana Islands, specifically the CNMI which is comprised of 14 islands north of Guam ([Figure 1.1-2](#)).

¹In accordance with the NEPA of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321, as amended), as implemented by Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508).

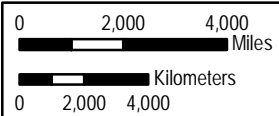


Figure 1.1-1
U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility





Figure 1.1-2
Mariana Islands Regional Map



The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific is the Executive Agent overseeing preparation of this EIS/OEIS on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command; the action proponent. This EIS/OEIS is a joint services document that addresses existing joint services training deficiencies for all U.S. Pacific Command's Service Components: the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Special Operations Command.

This proposed action has independent utility from the relocation of Marines from Japan to Guam (i.e., the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation EIS and Supplemental EIS); the Pacific Air Force's proposal to improve existing airport(s) for periodic divert landings, joint military exercises, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief efforts (i.e., the Divert Activities and Exercises EIS); and the Navy's ongoing and projected training needs in the CNMI (i.e., the Mariana Islands Training and Testing EIS/OEIS).

1.2 WHY AND HOW THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINS

1.2.1 Statutory Mission

The U.S. military has a statutory mission under U.S. Code Title 10 to organize, train, and equip the Service Components to be capable of multiple functions. These functions include:

1. Preserve the peace and security, and provide for the defense of the U.S., the Commonwealths and possessions, and any areas occupied by the U.S.
2. Support the national policies
3. Implement the national objectives
4. Overcome any nations responsible for aggressive acts that imperil the peace and security of the U.S.

Fulfillment of this mission requires ranges, training areas, airspace, and sea space to accommodate continual training opportunities for all the major elements of the U.S. military. Modern military actions require teamwork and simultaneous coordination of these elements to successfully accomplish the combat mission. Major elements of the U.S. military Service Components include:

- *Command and control* – provides the leadership, intelligence, communications, and coordination necessary for effective planning and execution of force operations.
- *Ground combat* – conducts offensive and defensive ground operations to support the overall combat mission that include, but are not limited to, infantry, tanks, combat engineers, amphibious, reconnaissance, mortar, and artillery units.
- *Aviation combat* – performs offensive and defensive air operations required to support air-to-ground and air-to-air combat missions that include fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, as well as unmanned aerial systems of various types.
- *Naval combat* – performs offensive and defensive sea operations to support naval and ship-to-shore combat missions that include aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships, cruisers, littoral combat ships, destroyers, amphibious assault vehicles, and various types of landing craft.
- *Logistics* – provides the full array of functions that include, but are not limited to, communications, engineers, motor transport, medical, supply, and maintenance support.

Realistic and integrated training is the only effective approach to allow these elements to exercise simultaneous coordination. The ability of the U.S. Pacific Command and its Service Components to train for missions in the Western Pacific is a key component to U.S. military readiness to support international commitments. These training capabilities must be able to support ongoing operational requirements, adapt to changing U.S. force structure and geographic positioning of forces, support our training relationships with allied nations, and be available on an exclusive, continuous, and uninterrupted schedule.

1.2.2 Why the U.S. Military Trains

Modern warfare and security operations are complex, multidisciplinary events that rely on increasingly complicated maneuvers and actions while using sophisticated weapons and techniques. The only way military personnel can gain the level of experience needed to succeed in this sophisticated combat environment is through high quality, realistic training. The Service Components follow a “come as you are” and “train as you fight” philosophy placing high value on training that closely replicates real-world battle conditions. Essential to achieving this is:

- *Live-Fire Weaponry* – to provide realistic training by replicating combat
- *Combined Arms Training* – integrating ground, air, and naval forces in a maneuver environment
- *Joint Services Training* – training with multiple units within the same, or across Service Components
- *Bilateral/Multilateral Training* – training with allied foreign nations

This training serves to teach core competencies and test unit capabilities. It also allows individuals and units to learn collectively from the experiences of battlefield events, high tempo of operations, limited resources, long distances, complex communications, and challenging decision situations. Simulation and/or virtual training methods are useful in early training phases; however, they are not a substitute for live-fire field training.

Realistic training requires: sufficient land to support tactical maneuvering (i.e., moving from point “a” to point “b” via aircraft, tracked or wheeled vehicles [mounted], or on foot [dismounted] in a tactical formation to gain advantage over an enemy); realistic targets and objectives to hone firing skills; opposition that creates a realistic enemy and threat environment; and range instrumentation to help simulate integrated realistic training to assess effectiveness of the units and weapons systems, simulating responses to actions taken, and tracking activity and results for after action report debriefing (i.e., range control). Integrated live-fire training means having enough land (both coastal and interior), airspace, and sea space to support simultaneous maneuver of ground personnel to achieve their combat objectives with aircraft and naval vessels to achieve their air-to-ground and ship-to-shore operations, respectively.

Land-based training assets include a variety of ranges, convoy and tracked vehicle courses (or training courses), mounted and dismounted maneuver areas, as well as associated surface danger zones over land, Special Use Airspace, and danger zones over sea space. Coastal training assets involve beaches and adjacent waters capable of supporting amphibious landings and ship-to-shore operations. Surface danger zones are assigned in these land areas and adjacent waters to ensure safe ship-to-shore operation, safe air and ground training, and to protect both military personnel and the public from

hazardous activities. Airspace training assets include designated Special Use Airspace, including restricted airspace and warning areas where hazardous operations, such as air-to-ground weapons employment, can be achieved. Other Special Use Airspace includes military operations areas where aircraft can fly and train for defensive and counter-defensive air-to-air maneuvering tactics.

1.2.3 How Training is Conducted

Military training progresses along a crawl-walk-run continuum ([Figure 1.2-1](#)). This starts with teaching basic and specialized individual military skills (i.e., crawl); progresses to intermediate skills or small unit training (i.e., walk); and advances to integrated training events that culminate in joint exercises or pre-combat deployment certification (i.e., run). In unit level training, generally only one unit type trains together towards a single training objective, whereas combined level training allows various units or unit types to train simultaneously towards an objective. Military training at both the unit and combined level is conducted in a group of ranges, training courses and maneuver areas, airspace, and sea space. This group is referred to collectively as a Range and Training Area (RTA). A unit or combined level RTA includes designated land, airspace, and/or sea space, as well as support facilities set aside, managed, and used to train military personnel. An RTA varies in size depending on the type of training desired and the number of personnel undertaking the training. Under the proposed action, both a unit level RTA and a combined level RTA are proposed.

In general, an RTA consists of the following:

- *Ranges.* Ranges are areas reserved or normally equipped for weapons firing at various targets. Examples include: combat pistol range, field artillery fire range, anti-armor tracking range, mortar range, grenade launcher range, battle sight zero range (used for calibrating rifles), and close air support range (used for training the integration of ground and air forces in close proximity to one another). Live-fire munitions that may produce dudded ordnance (e.g., a mortar round that fails to detonate properly) are expended within a range area called a High Hazard Impact Area.
- *Training Courses and Maneuver Areas.* Training courses and maneuver areas are areas for tactical maneuver training on foot or in vehicles, including: aerial drop and landing zones, tracked and wheeled vehicle driving courses, movement and firing areas, and amphibious training beaches.
- *Danger Zones, Special Use Airspace, Surface Danger Zones.* Many RTAs have additional safety zones designated to further separate hazardous military activities from non-participating military personnel and the public for maximum safety. Danger zones coincide with sea space being used for live-fire training. Special Use Airspace contains hazardous activities generated by ground-based, air-to-ground, and ship-to-shore munitions, as well as to encompass aircraft air-to-air and flight activities. Surface danger zones are three-dimensional areas that delineate portions of the earth's surface and the overlying airspace in which personnel and/or equipment may be endangered by ground weapons firing or detonation activities because of ricochet or fragmentation hazard.

- **Support Facilities.** These facilities provide various mission support functions and include Observation Posts to monitor training events and provide scoring feedback; buildings for range maintenance equipment and vehicles; storage for munitions, bulk fuel, vehicles, and equipment; and a base camp, airfield, port, utilities, and infrastructure for logistical support.

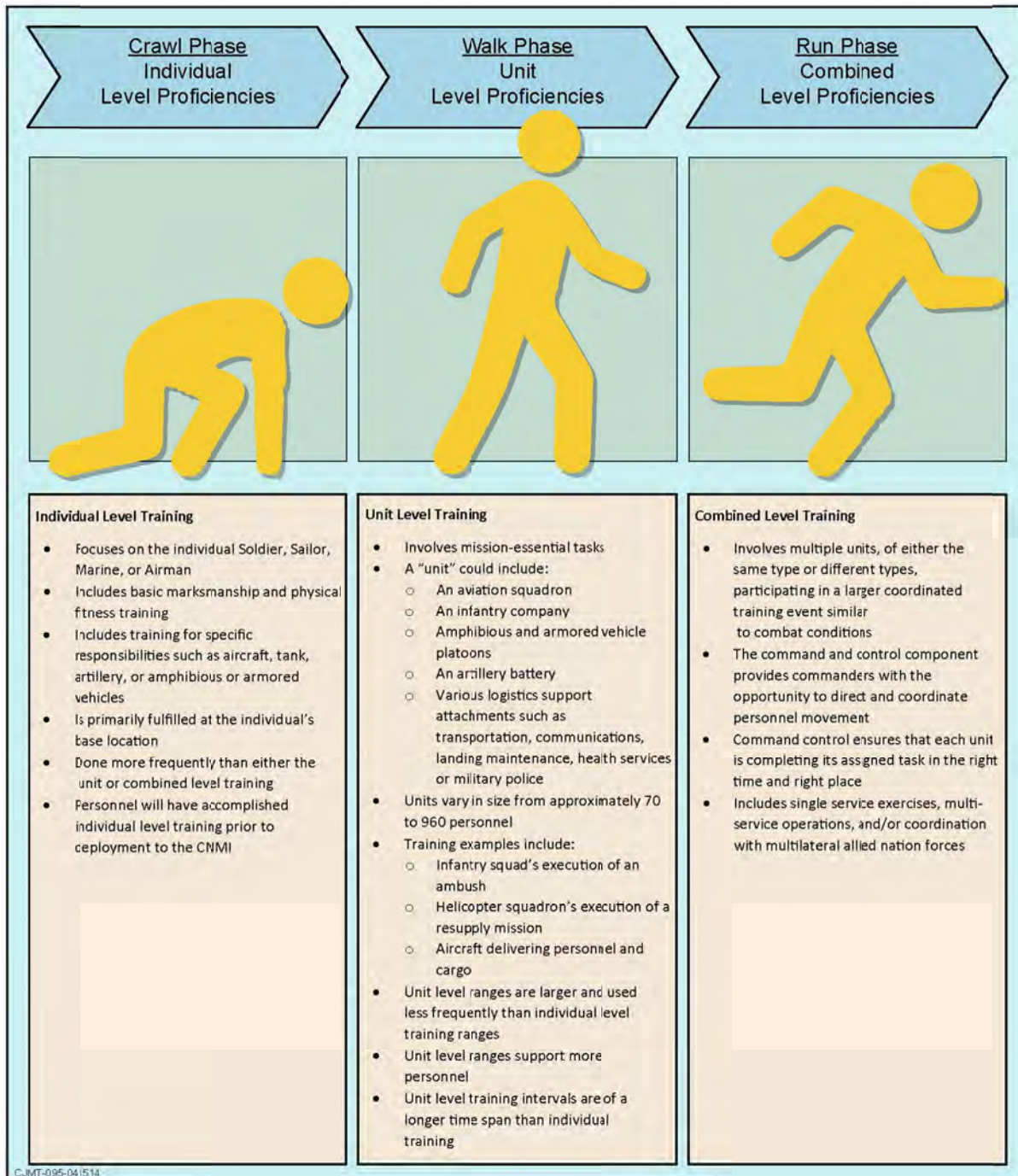


Figure 1.2-1 Building Block Approach to Military Training

1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce joint training deficiencies for military services in the Western Pacific. Existing U.S. military live-fire, unit and combined level training ranges, training areas, and support facilities are insufficient to support U.S. Pacific Command Service Components' training requirements in the Western Pacific, specifically in the Mariana Islands. The proposed action is needed to enable U.S. Pacific Command forces to meet their U.S. Code Title 10 requirements to maintain, equip, and train combat and humanitarian forces in the Western Pacific. The proposed action assists in correcting these training deficiencies by establishing live-fire unit and combined level RTAs in the CNMI. Establishing unit and combined level RTAs in the CNMI would support ongoing operational requirements, changes to U.S. force structure, geographic repositioning of forces, and U.S. training relationships with allied nations.

The following studies, reports, assessments, and international statements and agreements summarized in [Sections 1.3.1](#), *Institute for Defense Analyses Study*, through [1.3.7](#), *2014 Quadrennial Defense Review*, document the need for additional training capabilities in the Western Pacific, and specifically in the CNMI.

1.3.1 Institute for Defense Analyses Study

The 2009 *Institute for Defense Analyses Study* assessed the ability of the Service Components to meet training requirements in the U.S. Pacific Command's Area of Responsibility (Institute for Defense Analysis 2009). This area extends from Hawaii in the east to India in the west, north to Mongolia and south to New Zealand (see [Figure 1.1-1](#)). The study analyzed several potential solutions to meet specific training deficiencies in the Western Pacific. The conclusion was that CNMI's and Guam's strategic location made them a prime location to support forces throughout the region, particularly those forces on the Western Pacific Rim that are most reliant on access to foreign nations' RTAs. The study also found that the greatest number of training deficiencies were in the Mariana Islands. Accordingly, to meet Service Component-identified deficiencies, the study recommended that an EIS be prepared to analyze the environmental impact of constructing new or expanding existing ranges and training areas in the Mariana Islands.²

1.3.2 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review

In 2010, the *Quadrennial Defense Review* (hereafter "2010 QDR") evaluated global U.S. military strategy and priorities (Department of Defense 2010, www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com). The 2010 QDR recognized that historical treaty alliances provide the foundation for the U.S. military presence in the

²Existing and proposed training on Guam is discussed in the 2006 *Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Strike EIS* (Pacific Air Forces 2006); the 2010 *Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS/OEIS* (DoN 2010a); the 2010 *Guam and CNMI Marine Relocation EIS* (DoN 2010b); and the April 2014 *Guam and the CNMI Military Relocation Draft Supplemental EIS* (DoN 2014).

Pacific and that “these alliances have helped maintain peace and stability for more than 60 years, particularly through the continued presence of capable U.S. forces in the region.” The 2010 QDR further acknowledged that the current regional and global security environments are more complex.

The 2010 QDR discussed how the presence of U.S. Services in the Western Pacific could be adapted or augmented to sustain and strengthen Asia-Pacific alliances and partnerships to ensure regional peace and security. It concluded that this emerging security landscape requires a more widely distributed U.S. presence in Asia. As such, forward-stationed and forward-deployed forces are highly valuable, particularly when considering the Western Pacific’s vast distances and the low regional density of U.S. basing and infrastructure.

The 2010 QDR called for development of additional training capabilities for unit, combined, and joint forces in the Western Pacific. This would assure readiness of U.S. forces to carry out military operations as well as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security to maintain regional stability. It would also provide opportunities for U.S. and allied forces to jointly train together, build security relationships, and develop operational capacity among allied nations’ forces.

1.3.3 Re-balance to the Pacific

In November 2011, President Obama underlined the Asia Pacific’s regional importance in his speech to the Australian parliament. In it he recognized that “... the U.S. is turning our attention to the vast potential of the Asia Pacific region ... As President, I have, therefore, made a deliberate and strategic decision- [that] as a Pacific nation, the U.S. will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future, by upholding core principles and in close partnership with our allies and friends” (Obama 2011). President Obama’s November 2014 speech at the University of Queensland reiterated the importance of the region: “The United States will continue to modernize our defense posture across the region. We’ll deploy more of our most advanced military capabilities to keep the peace and deter aggression. Our presence will be more distributed, including in Southeast Asia with partners like Singapore. And we increase military training and education, including working with the military partners we have in this region around the respect for human rights by military and police. And by the end of this decade, a majority of our Navy and Air Force Fleets will be based out of the Pacific, because the United States is, and will always be, a Pacific Power (Obama 2014).”

1.3.4 The 2+2 Statements of April 2012 and Oct 2013

The bilateral *Realignment Roadmap* agreement between the U.S. and Japan calls for transforming Guam and the CNMI into a hub for security activities in the region (Security Consultative Committee 2012, see www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com). This important relationship was further reinforced by a joint statement (known as the *2+2 U.S. Japan Joint Statement*, hereafter the “2012 Statement”) reaffirming the indispensable role the two countries play in maintaining international peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region (Security Consultative Committee 2013). Additionally, both countries agreed in the 2013 Statement that facilities to be constructed jointly by U.S. and Japan “may include training ranges in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

1.3.5 Training Needs Assessment

In 2013, the *Training Needs Assessment: An Assessment of Current Training Ranges and Supporting Facilities in the U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility* (hereafter the “Assessment”) identified and validated unfilled training requirements for units/commands in the U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility (Department of the Navy [DoN] 2013a, see www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com). Based on established design criteria, each of the U.S. Pacific Command Service Components identified current conditions of ranges, training areas, and facilities used by U.S. forces in the Western Pacific. This process provided an initial list of 62 unfilled training requirements, with all Service Components identifying unfilled training needs in the Western Pacific. The Assessment established that the greatest number of training deficiencies existed in the Mariana Islands (i.e., Guam and the CNMI). The Assessment was based on existing force posture, but accounted for contemplated changes in force posture throughout the U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. Another criterion considered in the identification of the Mariana Islands to meet unfilled training requirements was that of assured access. Assured access would provide use of a permanent system of ranges to address training requirements without undue restrictions. Unrestricted access to foreign nations’ training areas is not guaranteed. The Marianas hub has a relatively unencumbered area on U.S. territory for potential training activities that would meet the U.S. Pacific Command’s need for assured access.

1.3.6 Training Requirements and Siting Study

The 2013 *CNMI Joint Military Training Requirements and Siting Study* (DoN 2013b, see www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com) (hereafter referred to as “the Siting Study”) refined the analysis of unfilled training requirements in the Mariana Islands that was identified in the 2013 Training Needs Assessment. The Siting Study concluded that within the Mariana Islands, Guam training opportunities are limited to the existing activities plus future individual skills training for the Marine Corps forces relocating from Japan and that there is no additional capacity to address the U.S. Pacific Command’s unfilled training requirements. Therefore, land, sea, and airspace on and around Guam were excluded from further consideration in meeting the identified unfilled training requirements. The initial 62 requirements were refined by the Executive Agent (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) working collaboratively with each of the Service Components to review previously identified Pacific-wide unfilled training requirements for those that could potentially be filled in the CNMI. In addition, it was determined that some of the 62 requirements were being met through other planning efforts. This resulted in reducing the number of unfilled training requirements carried forward into this Siting Study from 62 to 42. The study identified that these 42 unfilled training requirements could be achieved at the unit and combined levels in the CNMI. Operational siting criteria (see Section 2.3, *Alternatives Development*) were applied to screen the 14 CNMI islands. Of the 14 CNMI islands, only a combination of Tinian and Pagan met unit level and combined level screening criteria, and could satisfy the majority of unfilled training requirements. Further detail on the 42 unfilled training requirements is provided in Section 2.2, *Unit and Combined Level Training Requirements, Representative Training, Weapons, Equipment, Participants, and Training Scenarios*. These 42 unfilled training requirements served as the basis for developing the proposed action and alternatives in this EIS/OEIS.

1.3.7 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review

In 2014, the *Quadrennial Defense Review* (hereafter “2014 QDR”) re-evaluated global U.S. military strategy and priorities (Department of Defense 2014, www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com). The 2014 QDR confirmed the U.S. military’s continued commitment to rebalance the Asia-Pacific region, which is increasingly central to U.S. political, economic and security interests.

The 2014 QDR stated that the Department of Defense’s engagements in the Asia-Pacific region will continue to promote regional peace and security through expansion of multilateral organizational networks, including support of trilateral engagements and exercises. By 2020, the U.S. Navy plans to have 60 percent (%) of its assets stationed in the Pacific. Other plans in the region include increasing military presence in Guam (Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force) and creating a rotational presence of Marine Corps forces in Darwin, Australia.

The 2014 QDR further states that many of the U.S. forces returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan will return to assigned home stations in the Asia-Pacific region, rebalancing the forces and providing readiness to support other missions. These forces will resume bilateral and multilateral training exercises and pursue increased training opportunities, among other efforts, to support the stability of the region.

1.4 THE MARIANA ISLANDS

1.4.1 Background

The Mariana Islands include Guam and the CNMI (see [Figure 1.1-2](#)), both of which are sovereign (self-governing) territories of the U.S., pursuant to Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution. Guam was annexed to the U.S. as a result of the 1898 Treaty of Paris and since then has been administered as a U.S. territory. Fourteen islands (including Tinian and Pagan) and the territorial waters immediately north of Guam comprise the CNMI. The CNMI was administered by the U.S. as part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1945 to 1972. In 1972, negotiations with the U.S. began for territorial status of the CNMI. In 1975, a covenant establishing a commonwealth was approved by Mariana Islands residents, and in 1976 they entered into a union with the U.S. This union resulted in *The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America* (hereinafter “the 1976 Covenant”), which was approved and became effective on March 24, 1976 (Northern Mariana Islands 1975a). The CNMI Government adopted its own constitution in 1977, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

1.4.2 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Lease Areas

The 1976 Covenant defined the relationship between the CNMI and the U.S. and recognized U.S. sovereignty and applicability of U.S. federal law (48 U.S. Code Chapter 17). Article VIII of the 1976 Covenant specifies certain property rights and addresses property leases between the CNMI and the U.S. Government. Section 802 of the 1976 Covenant makes areas in the CNMI available to the U.S. via lease to carry out its defense responsibilities. These original leased areas include approximately 17,799

acres (7,203 hectares) of land and the waters immediately adjacent on Tinian, 177 acres (72 hectares) at Tanapag Harbor on Saipan, and 206 acres (83 hectares) encompassing the entirety of Farallon de Medinilla and the waters immediately adjacent. Signed in 1983 for an initial term of 50 years, the U.S. retains the option of renewing these leases for all or part of such property for another term of 50 years (Section 803(a)). Additionally, according to Section 806(a) of the 1976 Covenant:

The United States will continue to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Mariana Islands. If the United States must acquire any interest in real property not transferred to it under this Covenant, it will follow the policy of seeking to acquire only the minimum area necessary to accomplish the public purpose for which the real property is required, of seeking only the minimum interest in real property necessary to support such public purpose, acquiring title only if the public purpose cannot be accomplished if a lesser interest is obtained, and of seeking first to satisfy its requirement by acquiring an interest in public rather than private real property.

In this context, the intent of the proposed action is to maximize use of U.S. government-controlled lands before acquiring an interest in the CNMI public or private lands for potential military training. Below are descriptions of the military leases held by the U.S. military in the CNMI.

Tinian. Nearly two-thirds of northern Tinian is leased by the U.S. military and is known as the Military Lease Area (see [Figure 1.1-2](#)). It currently comprises approximately 15,353 acres (6,213 hectares) because 2,446 acres (990 hectares) of the original 17,799 acres (7,203 hectares) were returned to Tinian between 1994 and 1999.

Within the Military Lease Area, the U.S. has sublet land back to the CNMI in an area called the Lease Back Area. The Lease Back Area, originally leased for agricultural use and cattle grazing, now primarily supports cattle grazing. Current military activities in the Lease Back Area are typically troop movements and maneuvers, which are more compatible with cattle grazing than with farming.

Another 777 acres (314 hectares) of the Military Lease Area are used by the International Broadcasting Bureau under a separate agreement (see [Figure 1.1-2](#)). This area has an administrative facility and broadcasting equipment. The Bureau is an independent U.S. government agency that supports day-to-day operations of the Voice of America and provides transmission and technical support to non-military U.S. broadcasting services.

The remaining portion of the Military Lease Area is set aside as an exclusive use area for military activities; however, the North Field National Historic Landmark is contained within the exclusive military use area and military training activities occur there in accordance with a Programmatic Agreement.

A separate Technical Agreement, implemented by the 1984 lease agreement and its amendments, contains terms relating to the shared use of Tinian's harbor and airport, use of the CNMI property by the U.S. and the principles that govern the real property relations between the U.S. military and the CNMI authorities. The lease agreement has been amended to contain terms relating to the use of Tinian's harbor and airport most recently in 1993 and 1999 respectively (*Technical Agreement Regarding Use of Land to Be Leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands*) (Northern Mariana Islands 1975b). See Appendix K, *Summary of Historical Land Use Agreements between the U.S. and the CNMI*, for more information regarding historical land use agreements between the U.S. and the CNMI.

Saipan. The U.S. military leases 177 acres (72 hectares) on Saipan, which includes wharf space at Tanapag Harbor, to support U.S. military training activities (see Appendix K, *Summary of Historical Land Use Agreements between the U.S. and the CNMI*).

Farallon de Medinilla. The island and waters immediately adjacent are U.S. military-controlled and used for live-fire ship-to-shore naval gunfire and air-to-ground aircraft munitions training per the lease dated January 6, 1983.

1.4.3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Training

The U.S. military has transited through and trained within the CNMI, utilizing the islands' strategic Pacific location, intermittently for over 100 years. Since 1999, the U.S. military has evaluated use and training within the CNMI in several different NEPA documents. The following is a brief description of the NEPA documentation and the associated actions.

- *Military Training in the Marianas Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (Department of Defense 1999). Published June 1999, the EIS addressed the continued use of suitable Department of Defense-controlled lands in the Mariana Islands to support the training activities of multi-service forces. The Record of Decision was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1999. The EIS and Record of Decision identified continued use of Farallon De Medinilla for naval and aerial bombardment, Navy and Air Force Bases on Guam, and the Military Lease Area on Tinian. On Tinian, there would be continued use of beaches for landing craft, North Field runways for airborne exercises, and Tinian airport and harbor for support activities. Live-fire training on Tinian would be limited to training in the urban environment using World War II structures.
- *Mariana Islands Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement* (DoN 2010a). Published May 2010, the EIS evaluated impacts associated with the military services conducting training in the Mariana Islands (inclusive of Guam and the CNMI). The Record of Decision supports conducting current, emerging, and future military training and Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation activities in the Mariana Islands Range Complex, while enhancing training resources through investment in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (DoN 2010a). Training, including non-live-fire, within the Mariana Islands Range Complex involves ranges, training areas, facilities, and Special Use Airspace over Tinian, Saipan, Farallon de Medinilla, and Rota, as well as Guam ([Figure 1.4-1](#)).
- *Guam and CNMI Military Relocation Final Environmental Impact Statement: Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force Volume 3* (DoN 2010b). The EIS was published in July 2010 and the Record of Decision was signed in September 2010. The EIS addressed impacts of relocating Marines from Okinawa to Guam, the construction of four ranges (three small arms ranges and an infantry platoon battle course) on Tinian, and conducting training operations on Tinian.

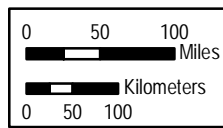
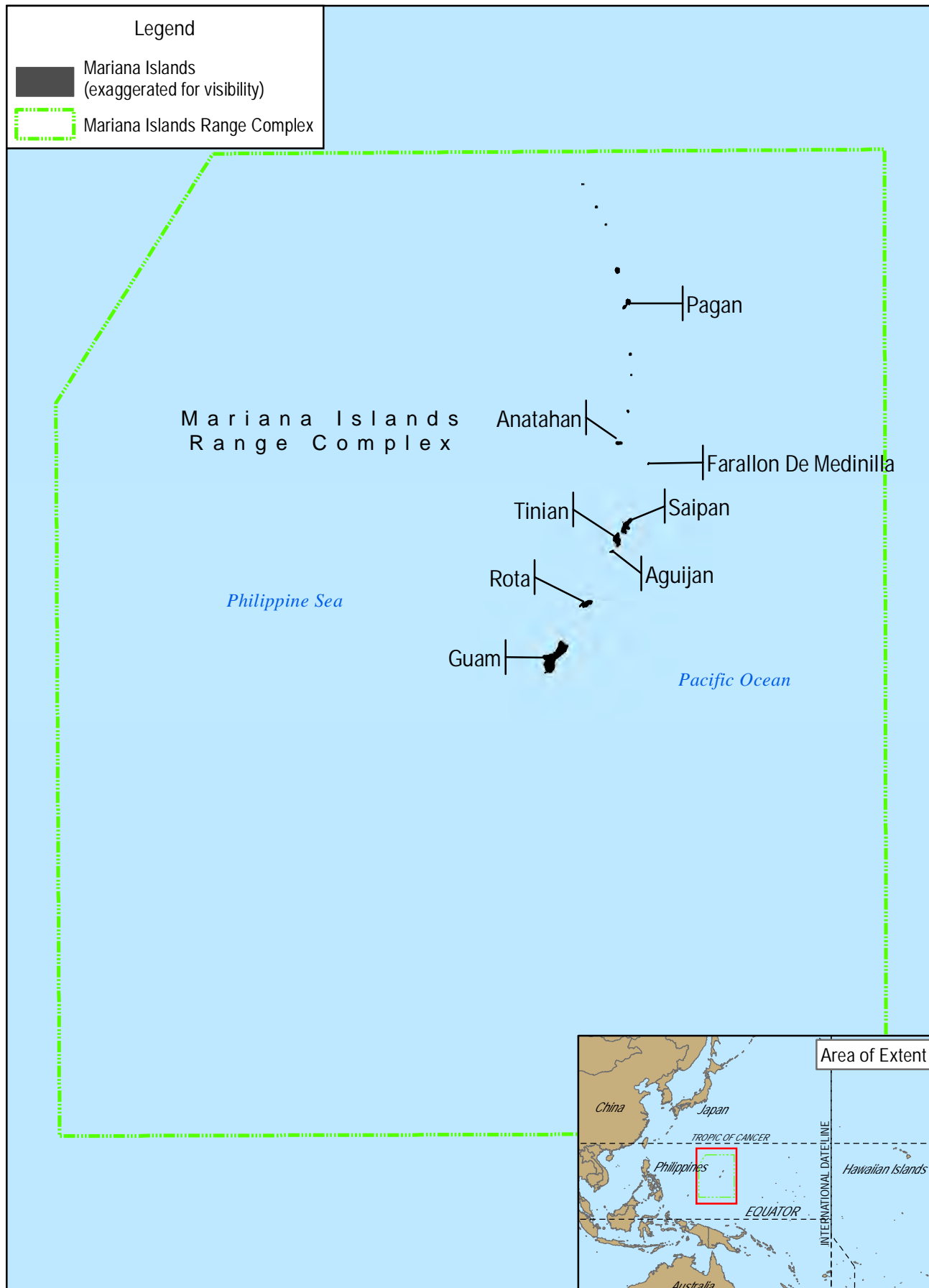


Figure 1.4-1
 Mariana Islands Range Complex Extent



- *Mariana Islands Range Complex Airspace Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment* (DoN 2013c). Published in June 2013, the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Overseas EA (OEA) analyzed potential environmental impacts relevant to the proposed modifications to training airspace and sea space in the Mariana Islands Range Complex. The proposed action is to maximize public awareness of hazardous military training activities, and to optimize safety and training efficiency through the establishment of new Special Use Airspace throughout the Mariana Islands Range Complex and the modification of existing Special Use Airspace and the establishment of a new surface Danger Zone at Farallon de Medinilla.

The following is a brief description of U.S. military training that is currently undertaken and approved in the CNMI.

Tinian. Training in the Military Lease Area on Tinian currently includes ground-based surveillance and reconnaissance, military operations in urban terrain, evacuation operations, command and control, logistics, bivouac, land navigation, convoy training, non-combatant evacuation operations, administrative amphibious landings, and other non-live-fire field activities. Aviation training on Tinian includes rotary- and tilt-wing operations at North Field. North Field is also used for command and control, air traffic control, logistics, temporary fuel and armament replenishing points, rapid runway repair, and other expeditionary airfield related training. Military activities in the Lease Back Area include troop movements and maneuvers. Live-fire training within the Military Lease Area is limited to sniper fire into bullet traps.

Saipan. Military training assets on Saipan include several facilities. The Army Reserve Center supports armory, classrooms, administrative areas, maintenance facilities, bivouac, and headquarters activities. On the east side of northern Saipan, the Army Reserve conducts land navigation training on non-U.S. leased lands. The Army Reserve can also practice with small-caliber weapons at the CNMI Department of Public Safety firing range. The Commonwealth Ports Authority allows the Navy access to wharf space in accordance with the 1983 Technical Agreement.

Farallon de Medinilla. Farallon de Medinilla (see [Figure 1.1-2](#)) and the nearshore waters are leased to the U.S. military for naval and air strike live-fire training. The island, nearshore waters, and overlying airspace are off-limits to the public because of the hazardous conditions. Very limited ground-based training is allowed on portions of the island. These activities include tactical air controllers and naval shore bombardment observers as well as ground-based units firing small arms and crew-served weapons into impact areas on the island. Ground-based units can, and do, fire small arms and crew served weapons into Farallon de Medinilla impact areas.

Other Islands of the CNMI. The Navy uses Angyuta Island (a small island off the coast of Rota, see [Figure 1.1-2](#)) for forward staging, an overnight bivouac site, and for boat refueling and maintenance. On Rota, the West Harbor and Rota airfield support night-vision goggle operations for rotary-wing aircraft, and ground, marine, and air special warfare training activities with local law enforcement. Other types of special warfare training are conducted with local law enforcement and include hostage rescue, evacuation operations, and military operations in urban terrain. With prior approval from the CNMI Department of Public Lands, temporary U.S. military training such as aircraft landings and search and rescue missions has occurred on other islands (e.g., Pagan and Anatahan) and places outside specifically leased lands.

1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

1.5.1 Environmental Review Process

When preparing an EIS/OEIS, a federal agency is required to invite review and involvement from other federal, state, and local agencies and the public per Council on Environmental Quality regulations. Environmental review is the process by which an agency identifies potential environmental impacts that may result from a proposed action as well as alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. Identification of project alternatives is an important part of the EIS process. According to NEPA, an EIS must explore and objectively evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including a “no-action alternative.” A thorough discussion of the environmental consequences of each alternative is provided in the EIS so decision makers have a clear basis for choosing the “preferred alternative” among the options (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1502.14). Stages of the NEPA public involvement process are summarized in [Figure 1.5-1](#).

1.5.2 Public Involvement

According to Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500.1(b)), public scrutiny is essential to implementing NEPA. For this reason, federal agencies encourage and facilitate public participation in agency decisions that affect the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1500.2(d)) and in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures (40 CFR 1506.6(a)). [Sections 1.5.2.1](#), *Notice of Intent*, through [1.5.2.5](#), *Record of Decision*, describe the public involvement process associated with this EIS/OEIS.

1.5.2.1 Notice of Intent

A Notice of Intent announces the agency’s intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS. The notice is published in the Federal Register and local newspapers in the area affected by the proposed action, and formally initiates the public scoping process. For this EIS/OEIS, the notice was published in the Federal Register on March 14, 2013 (Volume 78, Number 50, pages 16257-16259). Prior to the publication of the Notice of Intent, 25 letters were sent on February 27, 2013 to elected and government officials, federal agency representatives, and one non-governmental organization informing them of the upcoming Notice of Intent announcement.

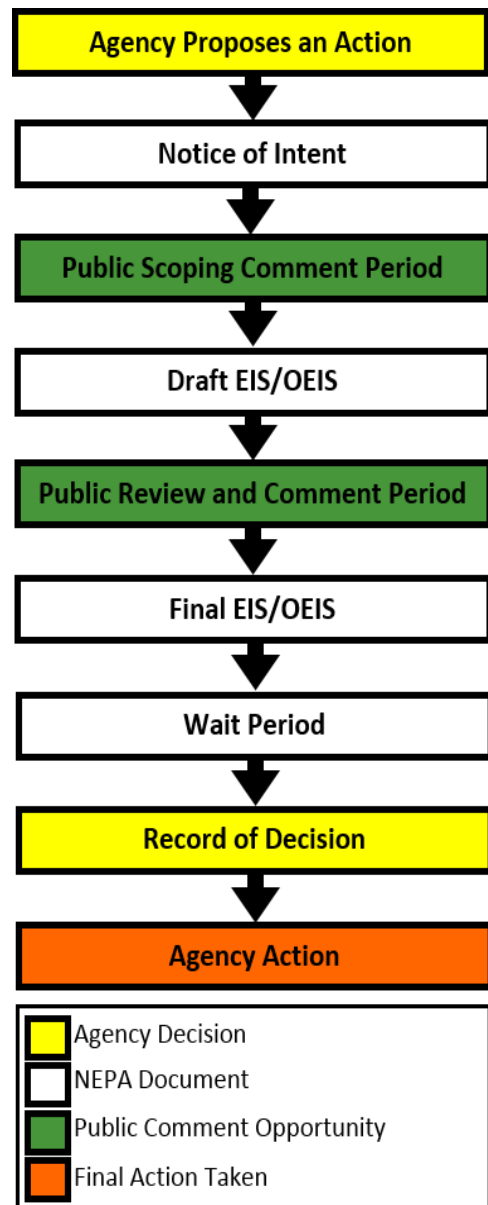


Figure 1.5-1. NEPA Public Involvement Process

Three local newspapers were used to notify the public of the public scoping meetings: (1) *Pacific Daily News*, (2) *Marianas Variety*, and (3) *Saipan Tribune*. As indicated in [Table 1.5-1](#), the announcements were first published in print and then posted online the same week that the Notice of Intent appeared in the Federal Register. The second round of announcements ran the week of the public scoping meetings in the *Marianas Variety* and *Saipan Tribune*.

Table 1.5-1. Dates of Newspaper Notification Announcements for Public Scoping Meetings

<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>Notice of Intent Announcement Date Print Version</i>	<i>Notice of Intent Announcement Date Online Version</i>	<i>Scoping Period Extension Announcement Date Print Version</i>	<i>Scoping Period Extension Announcement Date Online Version</i>
Pacific Daily News	March 15 and 16, 2013 (Friday and Saturday)	March 15-21, 2013 (Friday-Thursday)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Marianas Variety	March 15 and 18, 2013 (Friday and Monday) and April 9, 2013 (Tuesday)	March 15-21, 2013 (Friday-Thursday) and April 5-12, 2013 (Friday-Friday)	April 23, 2013 (Tuesday)	April 23-29, 2013 (Tuesday-Monday)
Saipan Tribune	March 15 and 18, 2013 (Friday and Monday) and April 9, 2013 (Tuesday)	March 18-24, 2013 (Monday-Sunday) and April 5-12, 2013 (Friday-Friday)	April 23, 2013 (Tuesday)	April 23-29, 2013 (Tuesday-Monday)

The public was notified of the scoping period extension in the *Marianas Variety* and *Saipan Tribune*. Announcements were published in print on the same day that the Notice of Extension appeared in the Federal Register and posted to the two newspapers' websites the same week.

The letter and newspaper notices provided the dates, locations, and times of the public scoping meetings, as well as the multiple venues through which to submit comments: in writing at the meetings, electronically through the project website (www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com), and by written comments through the mail. Contact information and the 45-day scoping period closing date were also identified.

1.5.2.2 Public Scoping Comment Period

The public scoping comment period is an early and open process for assisting the action proponent in determining the scope of environmental issues and alternatives related to the proposed action. This process informs the public and provides opportunities for them to comment on the proposed action and alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS/OEIS analysis. Prior to the Notice of Intent and Public scoping meetings, the Executive Agent for this EIS/OEIS (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) met with federal, regional, and local agency representatives with the goal of sharing information about the Notice of Intent and the public scoping meetings. The 45-day public scoping comment period began with publication of the Notice of Intent. On April 23, 2013, a 14-day scoping comment period extension was announced in the Federal Register (Volume 78, Number 78, page 23920), and the official scoping comment period ended on May 13, 2013. Three public scoping meetings were held April 10-12, 2013 in Dandan, Saipan; San Jose, Tinian; and Garapan, Saipan, respectively. The public scoping process and

results are briefly described below. For more detail, the *Final Scoping Summary Report* is included as Appendix B and can be found on the project website: www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com.

During the public scoping comment period, 198 unique comment submittals were received from the CNMI and federal government agencies, elected officials, business and commercial entities, interest groups, and individual citizens. A single comment submittal often touched on multiple topics, such as the proposed action, marine biology, and historic properties. Collectively, 1,363 comments on 24 topics were submitted. The six topics that received the most comments (more than half of all comments) were the proposed use of Tinian and Pagan (198), socioeconomics (119), land use (109), indirect/cumulative impacts (95), environmental justice (93), and biological effects (91). Additionally, comments questioned the need for live-fire training given computer simulation and the availability of existing training ranges on Farallon de Medinilla, Guam, and Hawaii (DoN 2013d).

1.5.2.3 Draft EIS/OEIS

The Draft EIS/OEIS takes into consideration comments made during scoping and other public outreach and presents baseline conditions and potential environmental consequences of implementing the proposed action and alternatives. The Draft EIS/OEIS is supported by detailed technical studies (e.g., noise, utilities, and socioeconomics). Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public are invited to provide comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS. Copies were sent to regulatory agencies, municipalities, elected officials, and to individuals who requested copies during scoping.

The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS was published in the Federal Register, local newspapers, and on the project website on April 3, 2015. The Notice provided locations (e.g., public libraries) where the Draft EIS/OEIS can be reviewed, the dates of the 60-day public review and comment period, how comments can be submitted (i.e., mailing address, website submittal), and the date, time and location of the public meetings. This information is also provided in the inset box. The public meetings provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the content of this Draft EIS/OEIS and provide new information that will inform the Final EIS/OEIS. Oral comments made at public meetings are recorded by a stenographer. Written and electronically submitted comments are also accepted throughout this period. Community accessible public meeting locations were chosen to encourage public participation.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND COMMENT ON THIS DRAFT EIS/OEIS?

There are several ways you can learn more about the project and submit your comments on this EIS/OEIS:

- **Attend public meetings:** You are invited to attend the meetings listed below.

Meeting 1

Date April 29, 2015
Location Saipan Southern High School, Saipan
Time 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meeting 2

Date April 30, 2015
Location Tinian Junior Senior High School, Tinian
Time 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meeting 3

Date May 1, 2015
Location Garapan Elementary School, Saipan
Time 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

- **Submit comments:** You may submit your comments on this document electronically, in writing, or in person at the public meetings.

Electronically:

www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com

In Writing:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Attn: O9PA, Public Affairs Office
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134

Your comments on the EIS/OEIS must be postmarked by June 2, 2015 HST (June 3, 2015 ChST). Additional information can be found online at:

www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com.

1.5.2.4 Final EIS/OEIS

The Final EIS/OEIS will include the comments received on the Draft EIS/OEIS and a response to all comments. The Final EIS/OEIS may include modified alternatives, changes to the analysis, or factual and typographical corrections. The Final EIS/OEIS is circulated in the same manner as this Draft EIS/OEIS. A formal notice is published in the Federal Register by the Executive Agent (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) and advertisements placed in local newspapers to announce that the Final EIS/OEIS is available for public review. This is followed by a 30-day wait period on the Final EIS/OEIS.

1.5.2.5 Record of Decision

After issuance of the Final EIS/OEIS and the 30-day wait period, a Record of Decision will be released reflecting the final decision on the proposed action, the rationale behind that decision, and any commitments to monitoring and mitigation. A formal notice is published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and advertisements are placed in local newspapers to announce that the Record of Decision is available to the public.

If the Record of Decision reflects the decision to select an alternative that includes a federal interest in land, funding to purchase or acquire an interest in the lands at fair market value would be requested and the required steps taken to prepare the property. If the Record of Decision reflects the determination that Special Use Airspace should be established, the Federal Aviation Administration will conduct their rulemaking procedures (pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.2) establishing new Special Use Airspace (Federal Aviation Administration 2012). Additionally, if the Record of Decision determines that maritime danger zones are required along the coastlines adjacent to U.S. military-controlled property, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will undertake their rulemaking procedures to create danger zones.

The Federal Aviation Administration would also need to prepare a Record of Decision for approval of federal actions under its jurisdiction. A formal notice of the availability of the Lead Agency's decision will be placed in the Federal Register and in local newspapers for where the Final EIS/OEIS was published. The Federal Aviation Administration and the DoN will issue their own separate Record of Decision, as appropriate, pending the decision of the DoN for the proposed project.

1.5.3 Agency and Stakeholder Coordination

1.5.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

As defined by 40 CFR § 1508.5, a cooperating agency is "any federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." A cooperating agency's responsibilities include participating in the NEPA process; assuming responsibility, upon request, for developing information and preparing analyses on issues for which they have special expertise; and making staff available for interdisciplinary reviews. Under 40 CFR § 1501.6, federal agencies with jurisdiction by law shall be cooperating agencies if requested by the lead agency. Numerous agencies were invited to serve as cooperating agencies for this EIS/OEIS. The following agencies agreed to be cooperating agencies: Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs; Federal Aviation Administration; International Broadcasting Bureau; National Marine

Fisheries Service; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; and the U.S. Air Force. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to serve as a cooperating agency due to staffing and workload constraints, but they agreed to work collaboratively with the Executive Agent (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) throughout the EIS/OEIS process. In addition, the Executive Agent signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the following Pacific Command Service Components: U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Special Operations Command. These Service Components operate in the same capacity as cooperating agencies.

As a Cooperating Agency on this EIS/OEIS, the Federal Aviation Administration will use this EIS/OEIS documentation to comply with its own requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS/OEIS will include information that addresses resource impacts per Federal Aviation Administration Order 1050.1E – Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures and Federal Aviation Administration Order 5050.4B – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions (Federal Aviation Administration 2006a, 2006b). [Table 1.5-2](#) provides the resource impact categories required for analysis by the Federal Aviation Administration and the corresponding sections of this EIS/OEIS that discuss that specific resource. Additional supporting analysis is presented in Sections 3.6 and 4.6, *Airspace*; Appendix I, *Airspace Technical Memo*; and Appendix O, *Transportation Study*.

Table 1.5-2. Federal Aviation Administration Resource Impact Categories

<i>Impact Category</i>	<i>EIS/OEIS Section</i>
Air Quality	3.4/4.4
Coastal Resources	3.11/4.11
Compatible Land Use	3.7/4.7
Construction Impacts	Each Section
Department of Transportation Act: Sec. 4(f)	4.19
Farmlands	3.2/4.2
Fish, Wildlife, and Plants (Terrestrial)	3.9/4.9
Fish, Wildlife, and Plants (Marine)	3.10/4.10
Floodplains	3.3/4.3
Hazardous Materials, Pollution Prevention, and Solid Waste	3.16/4.16
Historical, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources	3.11/4.11
Light Emissions and Visual Impacts	3.12/4.12
Natural Resources and Energy Supply	3.2/4.2
Noise	3.5/4.5
Secondary (Induced) Impacts	Each Section
Socioeconomic Impacts and Environmental Justice	3.15/4.15
Children’s Environmental Health and Safety Risks	3.17/4.17
Water Quality	3.3/4.3
Wetlands	3.3/4.3
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not Applicable*

Source: Federal Aviation Administration 2006a.

Note: *There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers located on Tinian and Pagan.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority owns and manages the civilian airports in the CNMI and the Marine Corps has worked closely with Commonwealth Ports Authority regarding the proposed airport development at Tinian International Airport. The Commonwealth Ports Authority shows the proposed military airport changes on their official Airport Layout Plan for Tinian International Airport (see Appendix S, *Draft Engineering Drawing of Airport Layout Plan*), which must undergo Federal Aviation

Administration review, because the Federal Aviation Administration has statutory authority for review and approval of proposed development at civilian airports. The Federal Aviation Administration must also comply with NEPA, prior to making a decision regarding the changes to the Airport Layout Plan. Once the Federal Aviation Administration determines that the EIS adequately addresses the proposed airport development, it may adopt the EIS/OEIS for its own NEPA compliance purposes pursuant to 40 CFR §1506.3. The Federal Aviation Administration may also decide to supplement the EIS with additional information that may be needed to address Federal Aviation Administration requirements.

1.5.3.2 Agency Consultation

The proposed action is subject to federal and CNMI regulatory requirements in addition to NEPA. Agency reviews must be conducted and procedures followed before starting construction activities or initiating operations. Appropriate consultations with regulatory entities will be completed as part of the EIS/OEIS process, and relevant information will be included in the EIS/OEIS as applicable. A list of Executive Orders, Federal Regulations and CNMI Regulations is provided in Appendix E, *Applicable Federal and Local Regulations*. Various agency consultations are underway as part of this EIS/OEIS process and as applicable will be summarized in the Final EIS/OEIS. Agency consultations include:

- Endangered Species Act, Section 7: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service
- Marine Mammal Protection Act: National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the CNMI Historic Preservation Office
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: National Marine Fisheries Service
- Coastal Zone Management Act: CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1.5.3.3 Collaborative Stakeholder Coordination

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500.1 (b)) provide that public input and scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA. For this reason, the Executive Agent (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) has implemented a collaborative coordination approach with the CNMI government agencies, local organizations, and individual stakeholders for this EIS/OEIS including but not limited to:

- The CNMI Governor's Office
- The CNMI agencies: Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Capital Improvements Projects Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Military Integration Management Committee, Department of Public Works
- Tinian Mayor's Office
- Tinian Cattlemen's Association and other cattle ranchers
- Northern Islands Mayor's Office representatives
- Federal agencies: Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resource Conservation Service), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific has implemented proactive discussions of key issues and ensuring regular communication with stakeholders about the CNMI Joint Military Training (CJMT) project. Specifically, this communication has developed and shaped the alternatives presented in the Draft EIS/OEIS, proposed solutions to perplexing issues, and developed collaborative mitigations for potential environmental issues. In particular, the collaborative coordination with stakeholders has helped minimize potential effects to the economic affects to local farmers and ranchers, has minimized effects on commercial air traffic, has minimized the effects to vehicular traffic on Tinian, and has promoted improved environmental awareness to the local community while improving the community involvement with the NEPA process. This is an ongoing process. The Executive Agent (U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific) will continue to dialogue with the CNMI agencies and local organizations to discuss a variety of issues associated with the proposed action, including those identified during and after public scoping. Information obtained during these meetings will be included in preparation of this EIS/OEIS as appropriate.

1.5.3.4 Federal Actions

This section discusses agencies and their decision-making responsibilities associated with the proposed action of this EIS/OEIS. The Pacific Command Service Components may use all or portions of this document to support any decisions the components may need to make on actions within the scope of the analysis contained in this EIS/OEIS.

Federal Aviation Administration

1. Unconditional approval of an Airport Layout Plan to depict the proposed construction and operation of the associated development pursuant to 49 U.S. Code § 40103(b) and 47107(a)(16).
2. Determination of the effects of the proposed airport project upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace pursuant to 14 CFR Part 77, *Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace*. The Federal Aviation Administration must determine if the proposed development is consistent with the existing airspace utilization and procedures.
3. Determination under 49 U.S. Code § 44502(b) that the airport development is reasonably necessary for use in air commerce or in the interests of national defense.
4. Approval of construction of the new taxiways, aircraft parking aprons, and other associated development that meet Federal Aviation Administration Design Standards.
5. Development of air traffic control and airspace management procedures designed to ensure the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.
6. Approval of an airport certification manual, to maintain aviation and airfield safety during construction pursuant to 14 CFR Part 139 (49 U.S. Code § 44706).
7. Approval of the proposed establishment of Special Use Airspace at Tinian and Pagan in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration Joint Order 7400.2.
8. Approval of a reduction in the exclusionary airspace surrounding Tinian International Airport.

Army Corp of Engineers

1. 33 CFR, Section 10 and Section 404 permit authorization for in-water construction and dredge/fill in waters of the U.S. for in-water construction.
2. Rulemaking for over water safety danger zones from Tinian and Pagan.

National Marine Fisheries Service

1. Consultation under the Marine Mammal Protection Act related in-water construction and amphibious landing training on Tinian.
2. Consultation under Section 7 of Endangered Species Act for potential effects on special-status marine species.
3. Consultation under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act related to marine fisheries management.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Consultation under Section 7 of Endangered Species Act for potential adverse effects on special-status terrestrial species.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1. Delegated authority from Clean Water Act to the CNMI agencies for permits related to water quality impacts; stormwater management; and wastewater discharge.

The CNMI State Historic Preservation Office

1. Responsibility and coordination with relevant federal agencies related to protection of cultural resources on Tinian and Pagan per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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