

# MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING

**Supplement to the  
2015 Final Mariana Islands Training and  
Testing Environmental Impact Statement/  
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**



**Project Information  
[www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com)**



## **The U.S. Navy announces its intent to prepare a supplement to the 2015 Final Mariana Islands Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.**

The Navy announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter referred to as the “Study Area”). Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation (hereafter referred to as “training and testing”).

The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in May 2015 for training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of activities the military has conducted in the Study Area for decades.

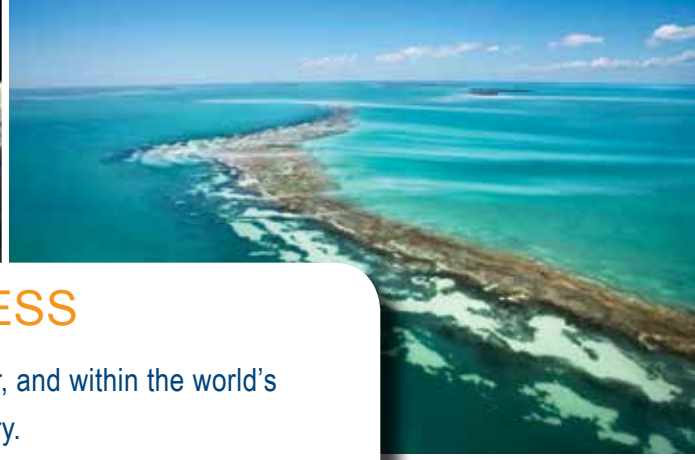


The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act to support military readiness requirements within the Study Area beyond 2020. The Navy will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to renew these authorizations.

“Scoping” is a process where the public is encouraged to participate in the development of an environmental impact statement by identifying the “scope” of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives. Comments received during scoping are used to improve the analyses, and to ensure that impacts are adequately determined.

**The Navy invites the public to participate in the scoping process.**

**Written comments will be accepted via the project website or by mail throughout the scoping period from Aug. 1, 2017 to Sept. 15, 2017. See page 15 for more information.**



## IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY READINESS

For more than 240 years, the U.S. military has been operating on, over, and within the world's oceans. These waters are the home and workplace of America's military.

The mission of the U.S. military is to provide the forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of the United States, its territories, and its interests. To that end, the military services must maintain, train, and equip forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom.

Military personnel must be ready to respond to many different situations, in varied settings, often under crisis conditions. From large-scale conflict to maritime security to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, military personnel must be fully trained and ready to perform these various and demanding duties at a moment's notice.

The land, air, and sea areas of the Mariana Islands are important to members of the military and their families who call the islands their home. The U.S. military, including the Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, along with the Coast Guard, conducts military readiness activities in designated areas of the Mariana Islands. These areas collectively comprise the military's Mariana Islands Range Complex.

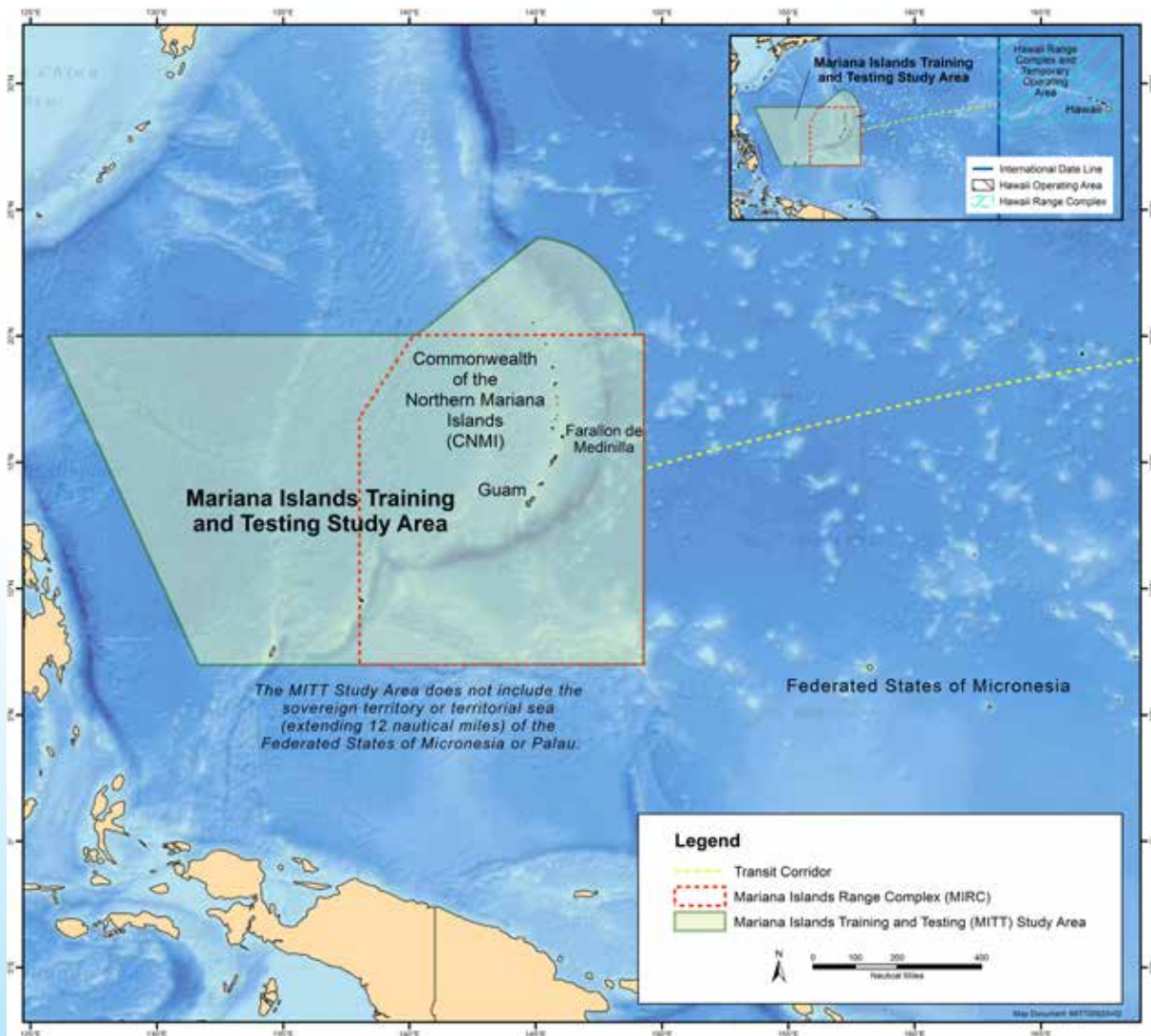
For decades, the Mariana Islands have provided an ideal location in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region for the military to maintain a global and strategic presence. Every day, the military strives to reduce its effects on the islands while ensuring the United States and its territories are protected and safe.



# MILITARY TRAINING AND TESTING IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS

Military personnel must be ready to respond to many different situations when called upon. The skills needed to achieve readiness are challenging to master and require constant practice. Training and testing activities must be diverse and as realistic as possible to prepare military personnel for what they will experience in real-world situations and ensure their success and survival.

The Study Area (Figure 1) provides a range of realistic training and testing environments and sufficient air and sea space necessary for safety, mission success, and to ensure military personnel are equipped and ready to fight. While simulators provide early skill repetition at the basic operator level and enhance teamwork, there is no substitute for live training and testing in a realistic environment.



**Figure 1: The Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS Study Area includes:**

- Existing Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC)
- Areas on the high seas to the north and west of the MIRC
- A transit corridor between the MIRC and the Hawaii Range Complex, starting at the International Date Line
- Apra Harbor and select Navy pierside and harbor locations

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea and on FDM within the Study Area. Other activities and land components associated with the MIRC are not included in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS and remain covered under the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and associated federal regulatory authorizations and opinions.

**The U.S. military must train personnel and test new technologies to defend the United States, its territories, and its interests.**



## Training in the Study Area

The Study Area supports the Navy's 7th Fleet, the largest of the Navy's forward-deployed fleets. The required training that occurs in the Study Area encompasses all levels of training, from basic to advanced, including integrated and joint events and exercises involving all military services, in addition to coalition and partner nations.

Training in the Mariana Islands is vital to the continued readiness of military personnel. Without access to the training areas within the Study Area, forward-deployed military units on Guam and Japan would be unable to train and maintain the skills needed to respond to crises.

The Study Area provides forward-deployed and transiting military personnel with regional resources and the opportunity to practice skills and build experience through a progression of training in the operation of aircraft, ships, and submarines. Military personnel train in the following fields:

- Air Warfare
- Amphibious Warfare
- Surface Warfare
- Anti-Submarine Warfare
- Mine Warfare
- Strike Warfare
- Electronic Combat
- Expeditionary Warfare



The Study Area also supports annual exercises that directly support the military's ability to respond in times of crisis. Examples of exercises include:

- Cope North, which is designed to increase readiness and interoperability of the U.S. military, Japan Air Self-Defense Forces, and Royal Australian Air Force in aerial missions, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

- Valiant Shield, which focuses on cooperation between the U.S. military services on the detection, tracking, and engagement of units at sea, in the air, and on land in response to a broad range of mission requirements. Forces practice skills including maritime interdiction; defense counter-air; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and command and control.
- Tri-Crab, which is a multi-national, joint service explosive ordnance disposal training exercise designed to hone interoperability among U.S., Australian, and Singaporean forces.

## Testing in the Study Area

Testing activities conducted in the Study Area are critical for maintaining readiness. In order to maintain an edge over adversaries, military personnel must have access to technologically advanced vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems.

The Department of Defense continually researches and develops new technologies to ensure military personnel can counter new and emerging threats. These technologies must be tested and evaluated before use by military personnel during deployment. Testing may include:

- Basic and applied scientific research and technology development
- Testing, evaluation, and maintenance of sensors and systems, such as missiles, torpedoes, radar, active and passive sonar systems, vessels, submarines, and aircraft
- Purchasing of cutting-edge ships, aircraft, weapons, and equipment





## MEETING FUTURE TRAINING AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct at-sea training and testing activities at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020; and
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

At-sea training and testing activities include the use of active sound navigation and ranging (sonar) and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. Proposed activities are similar to activities that have been occurring in the Study Area for decades and are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and earlier environmental planning documents. The type and level of activities included in the Proposed Action account for fluctuations in training and testing to meet evolving or emergent requirements.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to provide the forces needed to deter war and protect the security of the United States, its territories, and its interests. This mission is achieved in part by training and testing in the Mariana Islands within the Study Area.

### Alternatives

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to achieve the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. The Navy will consider a no action alternative as well as action alternatives that support the required military readiness activities into the reasonably foreseeable future. Additional action alternatives will be informed by input received during the scoping process and will be presented in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.



**Training military personnel and testing vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems are necessary to achieve and maintain military readiness and personnel safety.**



## Development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS

Through the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will:

- Update the environmental analyses of military readiness activities contained in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS
- Adjust training and testing activities from current levels to the level needed to support military requirements beyond 2020
- Update the 2015 environmental impact analyses to account for changes to military requirements resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels and weapons systems that will become operational by 2025
- Update environmental analyses with the best available science and most current analytical methods to re-evaluate the potential effects of military readiness activities on the marine environment

## Key Updates to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS Resulting in the Need for a Supplemental EIS/OEIS

Training and testing activities proposed in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS are generally consistent with those activities analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and earlier environmental planning documents. Below are some key updates to be made.

In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will:

- Include a No Action Alternative in which proposed training and testing activities would not be conducted and Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization would not be issued by NMFS
- Include analyses of increases in testing of some new vessels and weapons systems, and decreases in other testing activities
- Include analyses of increases in the annual occurrence of, and ordnance used in, certain activities
- Recategorize or rename some testing activities to be consistent with Navy testing activity categories
- Include improved acoustic models, updated marine mammal and sea turtle densities, and updated marine species criteria and thresholds based on NMFS's 2016 guidance
- Use the most current and best available science and analytical methods
- Revise procedural mitigations where appropriate, and consider geographic mitigation where applicable



# IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING AND TESTING WITH ACTIVE SONAR AND EXPLOSIVES

## Need for Sonar Training and Testing

Defense against enemy submarines is a top priority for the Navy. To detect and counter hostile submarines, the Navy uses both passive and active sonar. Torpedoes, in-water mines, and quieter submarines are true threats to global commerce, national security, and the safety of military personnel. Active sonar is the most effective method of detecting these threats.

## Sonar Training

Sonar uses sound energy waves to detect and locate submerged objects, such as submarines and in-water mines. Sonar proficiency is a complex and perishable skill that requires regular, hands-on training in realistic and diverse conditions, such as those provided in the Study Area. The military uses simulators and other advanced technologies for some training; however, simulation cannot completely replace training in a live environment. Lack of realistic training will jeopardize the lives of military personnel in real-life combat situations.

## Sonar Systems Testing

The Navy needs to research, test, and maintain sonar systems both at sea and pierside to ensure their reliability and availability. As other nations' submarine technology evolves and improves, scientific research and testing of new sonar systems and technologies ensures our forces are combat ready and equipped with the most up-to-date technology. Maintaining and upgrading existing sonar systems requires periodic testing and evaluation to ensure systems are functioning properly.

## Need for Training and Testing With Explosives

Training in a high-stress environment, including the use of and exposure to explosive ordnance, is necessary for military personnel to be fully prepared to respond to emergencies, national security threats, and to ensure their safety.

Testing with explosive ordnance is essential for ensuring systems function properly in the type of environment they will be used. To the extent possible, military personnel train and conduct tests using inert (non-explosive) practice munitions. Non-explosives, however, cannot completely replace training and testing in a live environment. Limited training and testing with in-water explosives occurs only in established operating areas, and the Navy issues notices to mariners and pilots to ensure public safety.

**Training and testing at sea with explosives significantly enhances the safety of U.S. forces in combat and improves readiness and equipment reliability.**





Torpedoes, in-water mines, and quieter submarines are true threats to global commerce, national security, and the safety of military personnel. Active sonar is the most effective method of detecting these threats.



### Sonar: Then and Now

The Navy began using sonar in response to devastating Allied shipping and human losses from U-boat attacks during World War II. Today, sonar is used to identify, track, and target submarines; detect in-water mines; and navigate safely.

With advances in warfare technology, newer-generation submarines pose a challenge for the Navy because they are extremely quiet and hard to detect in the noisy ocean environment. Advances in technology and increases in the number of quiet submarines have made it necessary for the Navy to use active sonar, as passive sonar is no longer adequate for detecting them (Figure 2).

Submarines of the previous generation were noisy and could be detected with passive sonar before they came close enough to deploy short-range weapons against a vessel.

Extremely quiet, difficult-to-detect, diesel-electric submarines can approach close enough to deploy long-range weapons before entering the passive sonar detection range of U.S. vessels. Active sonar has a longer detection range that is needed to allow Navy Sailors to detect, identify, and track quieter, modern submarines before they are close enough to attack.

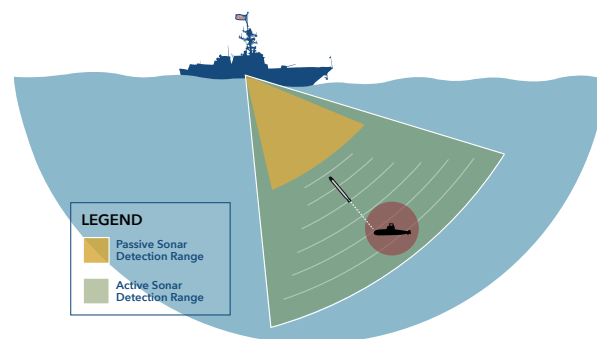


Figure 2: Passive and Active Sonar Detection Range



## MARINE RESOURCE PROTECTION

### Supporting Independent Research

The Navy is a world leader in marine species research and monitoring, having funded marine research programs, surveys, and data collection efforts since 2006. The Navy partners with state and federal agencies, universities, research institutions, federal laboratories, and private researchers around the world to better understand marine species occurrence and behavior. This scientific research helps environmental regulators, scientists, and the Navy to:

- Better understand the abundance, distribution, foraging, reproduction, physiology, hearing and sound production, behavior, and ecology of marine mammals and sea turtles, which is needed to assess the effects on species from military activities
- Assess behavioral responses of marine species to sonar and explosives
- Develop and improve models that better predict potential effects of underwater sound and explosives on marine mammals and marine species
- Develop effective protective measures



### Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Surveys in the Mariana Islands

Navy-funded biologists conduct visual surveys to identify species of beaked whales, dolphins, and baleen whales that occur in the Mariana Islands. Biologists monitor marine mammal and sea turtle presence, distribution, and diversity in nearshore waters during key seasons (summer and winter). The data help develop a better understanding of distribution and movement patterns, habitat use, population levels, and abundance, and how these factors may overlap in areas where naval activities occur.

### Marine Species Monitoring

As part of its Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program, the Navy works closely with NMFS to coordinate monitoring efforts across all ocean regions where the Navy trains and conducts tests. In the Mariana Islands, the Navy monitors marine species to better understand species occurrence and provides annual reports of training and testing activities and monitoring studies to NMFS.

This body of scientific research has provided several indicators that Navy at-sea training and testing activities are unlikely to have long-term consequences on marine mammal populations. Some species have displayed short-term behavioral responses following certain activities. However, the indicators below demonstrate that current protective measures are successful.

- Continued presence of species and long-term residence by individual animals in high-use areas, including species thought to be sensitive to sound
- Lack of observable negative effects on marine mammal stocks or populations over more than 10 years of comprehensive monitoring and data collection

Visit [www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us](http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us) for more information on the Navy's marine species monitoring program.



**The Navy will use the most current and best available science and analytical methods to re-evaluate protective measures to minimize impacts on the marine environment.**



## Mitigation Measures at Sea

The coastal and sea areas of the Mariana Islands are important for recreation and commercial activities, and are home to a variety of marine plants and animals, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, corals, invertebrates, sea birds, and multiple fish species.

Avoiding impacts from at-sea training and testing activities on the marine environment is an important goal for the military. In its commitment to environmental protection, and in compliance with existing laws, permits, and authorizations, the military follows strict guidelines and employs measures to reduce potential effects on marine species while training and testing. The measures listed in this fact sheet include some, but not all, existing at-sea mitigation measures.

### Posting qualified Lookouts

Navy personnel undertake extensive training to qualify as Lookouts in accordance with the Navy's Lookout Training Handbook. All Lookouts must complete Marine Species Awareness Training ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKo3r1yVBBA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKo3r1yVBBA)) approved by NMFS. Navy Lookouts visually observe for the presence of marine species within mitigation zones.

### Observing the area prior to activities

Marine mammals and sea turtles can only be detected visually while at the surface, and marine mammals can only be detected acoustically while vocalizing underwater. Therefore, before certain activities are conducted, the area is scanned visually and, when possible, monitored acoustically.

### Establishing mitigation zones for marine species

A mitigation zone is designed to reduce potential impacts on marine species from certain training and testing activities. The size of a mitigation zone is unique for each activity. The Navy visually observes each zone. If a marine mammal or sea turtle is detected within the mitigation zone, the activity will cease until the animal exits the zone.



## Navigating safely

While in transit, Navy vessel operators are alert at all times for objects in their path. Operators follow Coast Guard navigation rules, operate at a speed consistent with mission and safety, and take proper action if there is a risk of collision. Vessels avoid approaching marine mammals head on and maneuver to maintain a mitigation zone of 500 yards around whales and 200 yards around other marine mammals.

**The military is committed to being a good steward of the environment.**





## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

### Environmental Protection at Sea

The military is deeply committed to protecting the environment and actively strives to minimize potential effects of training and testing. The Navy continues to implement and improve programs to reduce a vessel's environmental footprint at sea by:

- Ensuring no plastic waste is discharged at sea
- Managing solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner
- Conserving energy, installing energy-efficient technologies, and using energy from alternative sources
- Using ballast water management practices to aid in preventing the introduction of non-native species

### Environmental Protection in the Mariana Islands

The military is committed to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Mariana Islands. Programs have been established to care for and protect threatened and endangered plants and wildlife, and cultural and historic buildings and sites on military ranges.

### Coral Reef Protection

The Mariana Islands are home to several types of coral reefs, both close to the islands and farther offshore. Coral reefs are considered among the world's most diverse and complex ecosystems. Many of the coral reefs in the Mariana Islands are well developed, support a wide range of recreation and commercial activities, and provide natural shoreline protection.



**The military's environmental stewardship programs contribute both to the success of the military mission and the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Mariana Islands.**

The Navy strives to limit its impact on coral reefs and conducts the following activities:

- Regular surveys since 1999 to study the condition of coral reefs and other plants and animals around FDM. Based on these surveys, there is no evidence that training activities have had significant impacts on marine resources.
- Participates in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, a group of government agencies that works to protect coral reefs around the world.

### Sea Turtle Monitoring and Avoidance

Endangered green and hawksbill sea turtles spend time on the shores and in the ocean areas of the Mariana Islands. The Navy works with other agencies and local governments to study, monitor, and protect these long-lived species. State-of-the-art scientific methods and technologies are used to monitor and track sea turtles in the Mariana Islands to learn more and have a better understanding of sea turtles, including their population levels, home ranges, and habitat use.



The Navy also follows rules to not disturb sea turtles or their nesting areas, such as:

- Checking training and testing areas before starting activities to avoid turtle nesting and foraging areas
- Moving vehicles and people away from turtle nesting areas and minimizing use of foraging areas
- Monitoring known nesting areas during nighttime training
- Stopping activities if turtles or their nests are seen, and delaying the activity until turtles have left the area
- Reporting to NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service any impacts on sea turtles or their nests from training and testing activities



## Wildlife and Habitat Protection

The military has developed natural resource management plans to protect wildlife and sensitive habitat present in areas managed by the Department of Defense. Some measures include:

- Monitoring endangered and threatened species, documenting species' activity, and evaluating the size and quality of their habitat
- Training civilian and military personnel so they fully understand endangered species issues and the measures taken to protect them
- Observing training and testing areas for the presence of endangered species or their nests prior to beginning an activity
- Minimizing or avoiding activities around nesting areas during nesting and breeding periods, or moving activities to areas not used by endangered species
- Restricting certain types of activities, such as those that would cause too much noise or physical disturbance
- Halting activities if protected species are encountered, and resuming the exercise only when the area is clear of these species

## Partnering for Sustainability

The military has developed partnerships and built coalitions with other government agencies, organizations, and communities to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources.

### Protection of Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

The Mariana Islands have a diverse mix of cultural resources and historic properties. Some of these resources include ancient Chamorro, Spanish era, and World War II buildings, structures, and sites. Since many cultural resources are located on land managed by the military, cultural resources management plans have been developed to facilitate and guide the responsible stewardship of these sensitive resources.

Coordination with local and federal agencies, interested parties, and the public are vital to successful cultural resources management. The military engages with these entities through the consultation processes under NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act. Military officials frequently meet with village mayors and senators to discuss potential cultural, economic, social, and environmental issues. The military also works with local government agencies, such as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Historic Preservation Office, the Guam Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to help manage cultural resources found on military lands. Military participation on several community boards has strengthened relationships with local communities.



# PUBLIC ACCESS AND SAFETY

## Sharing the Sea

Many people in the Mariana Islands use and depend on the coast and ocean for commercial and recreational purposes, such as tourism, fishing, and diving. The ocean areas of the Mariana Islands also support other important activities related to shipping, scientific, cultural, and institutional functions.

Guam and the CNMI are designated as fishing communities because of the number of people who are dependent on fishing for subsistence; the economic importance of fishery resources to the islands; and the geographic, demographic, and cultural attributes of the communities.

The safety of the public and military personnel is of utmost importance. The military shares these areas with the community and recognizes the importance of public access to ocean and coastal areas. Therefore, the military has designated airspace and marine areas to indicate where and when it may not be safe for civilian activities to take place. The Navy works with local communities to improve communication, provides notice of where and when ocean areas will be open for extended periods, and attempts to avoid popular fishing areas.

## Public Safety Measures

The military strives to be good neighbors by minimizing access restrictions and limiting the extent and duration of closures of public areas whenever possible while ensuring safety at all times. When certain training and testing activities are scheduled, notices to mariners are published for public awareness and safety, helping mariners plan accordingly to avoid temporarily restricted areas.

**The military trains and tests in a manner that is compatible with civilian activity at sea.**

Because dangerous military activities are conducted on FDM (an active military training area), restrictions have been established. Restricted areas are intended to keep airmen, fishermen, and other people safe. However, when FDM is not in use by the military, civilian vessels have access up to the 3-nautical mile radius around the island.

The Navy observes every precaution when planning and conducting at-sea training and testing activities. Some precautionary measures include:

- Ensuring impact areas and targets are unpopulated prior to potentially dangerous activities
- Canceling or delaying activities if public or personnel safety is a concern
- Notifying the public of the location, date, time, and duration of potentially dangerous activities
- Implementing temporary access restrictions to training and testing areas when appropriate to ensure public safety

These measures, along with the cooperation of the public, enable safe at-sea training and testing. The Coast Guard publishes and broadcasts notices to mariners with location, activity, and duration information. Mariners are requested to read and adhere to the published notices.

**The Navy strives to maintain access to ocean areas whenever possible while ensuring safety at all times. Some access restrictions must occur, however, for public safety.**



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

NEPA is a U.S. law that requires federal agencies to identify and analyze the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action before deciding whether to proceed with that action. The law encourages and facilitates public involvement to inform decision-makers on actions that may affect the community or the environment.

Public involvement is an important part of the NEPA process, and a number of opportunities are available for the public to participate throughout the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The purpose of this scoping period is to receive comments from the public on environmental resources and issue areas to be considered in the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Public and agency input allows decision makers to benefit from local knowledge and consider community issues and concerns. The public participates in the NEPA process during the following stages:

- **Scoping Period:** Helping to identify the “scope” of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives
- **Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period:** Evaluating and providing substantive comments on the draft analysis
- **Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS Wait Period:** Reviewing the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS and Navy responses to substantive comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS



**Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of the environmental analysis process.**

## Marine Mammal Protection Act and Public Involvement Opportunities

Due to the use of active sonar and explosives during some training and testing activities, the Navy is required to apply for permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act with NMFS. The Navy will request authorization for the unintentional take of marine mammals incidental to the training and testing activities conducted in the Study Area. NMFS will request public comments on its proposal to issue regulations and subsequent Letter of Authorization to the Navy. After the NEPA process is complete, NMFS would decide whether to issue the Navy a Final Rule and Letter of Authorization.

## How to Submit Scoping Comments on the Supplemental EIS/OEIS

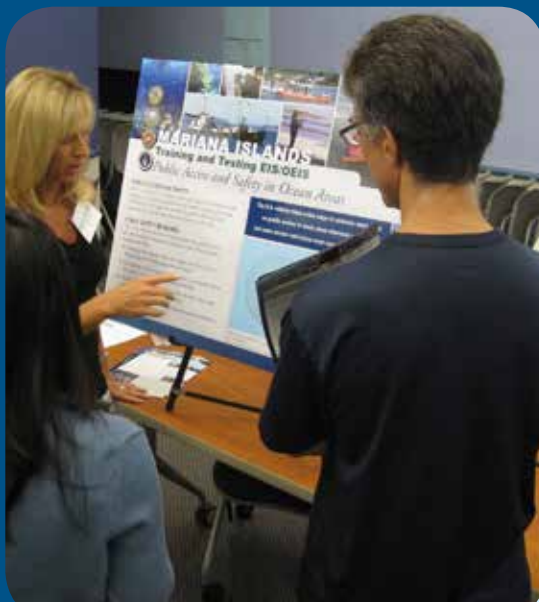
The Navy encourages the public, government agencies, elected officials, and organizations to participate and comment in the following ways:

- Submit comments via the project website at: [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com)
- Mail comments to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific  
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100  
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Scoping comments must be postmarked or received online by **Sept. 15, 2017**, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**The Navy welcomes and appreciates your comments. For more information about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and to submit comments, visit [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com).**



## National Environmental Policy Act Process and Timeline

| MILESTONE  | DESCRIPTION  | CURRENT SCHEDULE  |
|--|--|---|
| Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts the public involvement phase of the NEPA process</li> </ul>  | Aug. 1, 2017  |
| ▶ Scoping Period   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides an early and open public process for identifying potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be evaluated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS</li> <li>Please visit <a href="http://www.MITT-EIS.com">www.MITT-EIS.com</a> to comment online</li> </ul> | <b>Scoping Period:</b><br>Aug. 1, 2017 – Sept. 15, 2017   |
| Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents the analysis of potential environmental impacts for each identified alternative</li> </ul>   | Fall 2018   |
| ▶ Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides 45 days for the public to comment on the analysis presented in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS</li> <li>Includes public meetings and other opportunities to learn more and submit comments</li> </ul>  | <b>Comment Period:</b><br>Fall 2018 – Winter 2018<br><br><b>Public Meetings:</b><br>Winter 2018 |
| Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes revisions to the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS based on substantive comments received during the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS comment period</li> </ul>   | Spring 2020   |
| 30-Day Wait Period   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a 30-day wait period after the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action</li> </ul>   | Spring 2020   |
| Record of Decision   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the 30-day wait period, and includes selection of an alternative by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment)</li> </ul>   | Summer 2020   |

▶ Opportunities for Public Review and Comment    ■ Complete    ■ In Progress     Next Steps

