
8 Public Involvement and Distribution

**Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
Mariana Islands Training and Testing**

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8 Public Involvement and Distribution

This chapter describes the efforts to involve the public in preparing the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT).

8.1 Project Website

A public website was established for this project: <https://www.mitt-eis.com>. The website address was included in the *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement* (Figure 8-1). It was also included in newspaper advertisements, agency letters, and postcards for the Notice of Intent. The scoping fact sheet booklet, public notifications, maps, technical reports, informational videos, and various other materials are available on the project website and will be made available throughout the course of the project.

8.2 Scoping Period

The public scoping period began with issuance of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on July 28, 2017, originally announcing the scoping period to end September 11, 2017, but was delayed slightly by the publication authority. However, the *Federal Register* notice was published on August 1, 2017, with a September 15, 2017, scoping period end date. Comments on the scope of the analysis were provided by mail and through the SEIS/OEIS website at: <https://www.mitt-eis.com>.

8.2.1 Public Scoping Notification

The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

8.2.1.1 Notification Letters

Notification letters were mailed on July 27, 2017, to 291 federal and local elected officials and government agencies. Entities that received the scoping notification letter can be found in Table 8-1, and an example of the letter can be found in Figure 8-2.



SIDCO/SUBPART C DCO REGULATIONS—RECORDKEEPING COLLECTION—Continued

	Estimated number of recordkeepers per year	Records to be kept annually by each	Total annual responses	Estimated average number of hours per record	Estimated total number of hours of annual burden in fiscal year
Liquidity Resource Due Diligence and Testing	7	4	28	10	280
Financial and Liquidity Resources, Excluding Due Diligence	7	4	28	10	280
Generally	7	28	196	10	1960
Totals		118	662	31	4570

[FR Doc. 2017-16019 Filed 7-31-17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9351-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Meeting of the Board of Visitors of Marine Corps University

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.
ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Board of Visitors of the Marine Corps University (BOV MCU) will meet to review, develop and provide recommendations on all aspects of the academic and administrative policies of the University; examine all aspects of professional military education operations; and provide such oversight and advice, as is necessary, to facilitate high educational standards and cost effective operations. The Board will be focusing primarily on the internal procedures of Marine Corps University. All sessions of the meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, September 15, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time Zone.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia. The address is: 2076 South St., Quantico, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kim Florich, Director of Faculty Development and Outreach, Marine Corps University Board of Visitors, 2076 South Street, Quantico, Virginia 22134, telephone number 703-432-4682.

Dated: July 24, 2017.

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

[FR Doc. 2017-16150 Filed 7-31-17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Mariana Islands Training and Testing

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare a supplement to the 2015 Final Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

DATES: Public scoping meetings will not be held, but public comments will be accepted during the scoping period from August 1, 2017 to September 15, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The DoN invites scoping comments on the MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS from all interested parties. Substantive comments may be provided by mail to the address below and through the project Web site at <http://mitt-eis.com/>. Comments must be postmarked or received by September 15, 2017, for consideration during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Navy will assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing and proposed military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter known as 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. Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation (hereafter known as "testing"). The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and other best available science. Proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS and are representative of training and testing activities the DoN has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS. The Study Area includes the 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; and Apra Harbor and select DoN pierside and harbor locations. The Study Area includes only the in-water components of the range complex and FDM; land components associated with the range complex are not included in the Study Area.

As part of this process the DoN will seek the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act to support training and testing requirements within the Study Area, beyond 2020, thereby ensuring critical Department of Defense requirements are met.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, the DoN will invite the National Marine Fisheries Service to be a cooperating agency in preparation of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Figure 8-1: Notice of Intent

35768

Federal Register / Vol. 82, No. 146 / Tuesday, August 1, 2017 / Notices

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

The DoN's Proposed Action is to conduct military training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing appropriate marine species protective mitigation measures. The Proposed Action does not alter the DoN's original purpose and need as presented in the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code. A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is considered the appropriate document, as there is recent scientific information including revised acoustic criteria to consider, in furtherance of NEPA, relevant to the environmental effects of the DoN's Proposed Action, and the analysis will support Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization requests.

Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent to those analyzed in the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will propose changes to the tempo and types of training and testing activities, accounting for the introduction of new technologies, the evolving nature of international events, advances in war fighting doctrine and procedures, and changes in the organization of vessels, aircraft, weapon systems, and military personnel. The MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS will reflect the compilation of training and testing activities required to fulfill the DoN's military readiness requirements beyond 2020, and therefore includes the analysis of newly proposed activities and changes to previously analyzed activities.

In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a No Action Alternative and action alternatives. Resources to be evaluated include, but are not limited to, marine mammals, sea turtles, essential fish habitat, and threatened and endangered species.

The scoping process is used to identify public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Federal agencies, local agencies, the public, and interested

persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern the commenter believes the DoN should consider.

Comments must be postmarked or received online by September 15, 2017, for consideration during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments can be mailed to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100, Pearl Harbor, HI, 96869-3134. Comments can be submitted online via the project Web site at <http://mitt-eis.com/>.

Dated: July 20, 2017.

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

[FR Doc. 2017-15939 Filed 7-31-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Final Waiver and Extension of the Project Period for the Native American Career and Technical Education Program

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.101A]

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Final waiver and extension of the project period.

SUMMARY: For the 24-month projects originally funded in fiscal year (FY) 2013 and extended for an additional 24-months in FY 2015 under the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP), the Secretary: Waives the requirements in Education Department regulations that generally prohibit project extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds; and extends the project period for the current 30 NACTEP grantees for an additional 12 months under the existing program authority. This waiver and extension will allow the 30 current NACTEP grantees to seek FY 2017 continuation awards for the project period through FY 2018.

DATES: As of August 1, 2017, the waiver and extension of the project period are finalized.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gwen Washington by telephone at (202) 245-7790 or by email at gwen.washington@ed.gov. You may also contact Linda Mayo by telephone at (202) 245-7792 or by email at

linda.mayo@ed.gov. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 26, 2017, we published a notice in the Federal Register (82 FR 19240) proposing to waive the requirements of 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (c)(2) that generally prohibit project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. In that notice, the Secretary also proposed to extend the NACTEP project period for up to an additional 12 months. The proposed waiver and extension of project period would enable the Secretary to provide continuation awards to the current NACTEP grantees through FY 2018 under the existing program authority.

That notice contained background information and our reasons for proposing the waiver and extension of the project period. This notice makes the waiver and extension of the project period final. Any activities carried out during the period of a NACTEP continuation award must be consistent with, or a logical extension of, the scope, goals, and objectives of the grantee's application as approved in the FY 2013 NACTEP competition. The requirements applicable to continuation awards for this competition set forth in the 2013 notice inviting applications and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.253 will apply to any continuation awards sought by the current NACTEP grantees.

We will make decisions regarding the continuation awards based on grantee program narratives, budgets and budget narratives, program performance reports, and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.253. We will not announce a new competition or make new awards in FY 2017.

The final waiver and project period extension will not exempt the current NACTEP grantees from the appropriation account closing provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1552(a), nor will it extend the availability of funds previously awarded to current NACTEP grantees. As a result of 31 U.S.C. 1552(a), appropriations available for a limited period may be used for payment of valid obligations for only five years after the expiration of their period of availability for Federal obligation. After that time, the unexpended balance of those funds is canceled and returned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and is unavailable for restoration for any purpose (31 U.S.C. 1552(b)).

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the proposed waiver and extension, we received 85 comments.

Figure 8-1: Notice of Intent (continued)

Table 8-1: Federal and Local Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter

Guam
<i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies</i>
U.S. Congress National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Division, Guam Office U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Guam National Wildlife Refuge U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, West Area Office Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services National Park Service War in the Pacific National Historic Park Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Guam Education & Outreach Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration
<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies</i>
Office of the Governor Office of the Senator 34th Guam Legislature Mayors' Council of Guam Office of the Mayor Village of Agana Heights Village of Agat Village of Asan-Maina Village of Barrigada Village of Chalan Pago-Ordot Village of Dededo Village of Hagåtña Village of Inarajan Village of Mangilao Village of Merizo Village of Mongmong-Toto-Maite Village of Piti Village of Santa Rita Village of Sinajana Village of Talofofu Village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon Village of Umatac Village of Yigo Village of Yona A.B. Won Pat International Airport Consolidated Utility Services Department of Labor Guam Ancestral Lands Commission Guam Army National Guard Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans Coastal Management Program Guam Chamorro Land Trust Commission

Guam Consolidated Commission on Utilities
Guam Department of Agriculture
 Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Guam Department of Education
Guam Department of Land Management
Guam Department of Parks and Recreation
 Historic Preservation Office
Guam Department of Public Works
Guam Economic Development and Commerce Authority
Guam Environmental Protection Agency
 Water Resources Management Program
Guam Homeland Security
 Office of Civil Defense
Guam Land Use Commission
Guam Visitors Bureau
Guam Waterworks Authority
Northern Guam Pacific Islands Area Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Port Authority of Guam
U.S. Marshals Service, District of Guam
University of Guam
 Water and Environmental Research Institute
 Marine Laboratory
 Cooperative Extension Service

Saipan

Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies

U.S. Congress
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Field Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
 Office of Insular Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Saipan Service Center
 Tinian & Aguiguan Service Center
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies

Office of the Governor
CNMI Senate
CNMI House of Representatives
CNMI Office of the Mayor
CNMI Public Information and Protocol Office
CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
 Division of Environmental Quality
 Division of Coastal Resources Management
 Marine Monitoring
CNMI Coastal Resources Management Program
CNMI Department of Commerce
 Military Integration Management Committee
CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
 Historic Preservation Office
CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources

Division of Fish and Wildlife Division of Agriculture Division of Parks and Recreation Soil and Water Conservation District CNMI Department of Public Lands CNMI Department of Public Safety Office of the Commissioner Tinian Fire Division CNMI Military and Veteran Affairs CNMI Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension and Education Service CNMI Office of Veteran Affairs CNMI Zoning Office Commonwealth Ports Authority Marianas Visitors Authority Saipan International Airport Port of Saipan
<i>Tinian</i>
<i>Federal Elected Officials</i>
U.S. Congress
<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies</i>
Office of the Mayor Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan CNMI Department of Public Lands CNMI Department of Commerce CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources
<i>Rota</i>
<i>Federal Elected Officials</i>
U.S. Congress
<i>Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies</i>
Office of the Mayor 15th Rota Municipal Council CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Commonwealth Ports Authority Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife Department of Public Lands, Rota Office Rota Gaming Commission Rota Health Center Rota Municipal Treasury
<i>Federal Agencies outside of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota</i>
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation U.S. Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX Pacific Islands Contact Office, Honolulu Communities and Ecosystems Division Enforcement Division Office of Federal Activities National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Division Council on Environmental Quality Department of the Interior

Environmental Policy & Compliance
Office of Insular Affairs
Federal Aviation Administration
Air Traffic Division, Western Pacific Region (AWP-532)
Military Program
Western Pacific Region
Bureau of Certification and Licensing
Federal Maritime Commission
Office of the Secretary
Marianas Trench Marine National Monument
Marine Mammal Commission
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Law Enforcement, Honolulu District
National Marine Fisheries Service
Headquarters
Habitat Division
Protected Resources Division
Office for Coastal Management
Office of Protected Resources
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Islands Regional Office
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
Office of Environmental Management (CG-47)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Office of Insular Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Office
Pacific Region
U.S. Geological Survey
Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center
Pacific Islands Water Science Center
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region 5
Pacific Southwest Research Station
Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Office of the Chief
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090
Ser N465/0822
July 19, 2017

Name
Organization
Address 1
Address 2

Dear Name:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a supplement to the 2015 Final Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the 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 is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues or viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

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 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 supplement to the 2015 Final 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 the Endangered Species Act.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS (Enclosure 1). The Study Area includes the 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

Figure 8-2: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter

5090
Ser N465/0822
July 19, 2017

Range Complex, starting at the International Date Line; and Apra Harbor and select Navy pierside and harbor locations. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS 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 will not be included in the supplement.

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces, consistent with Congressional direction in Section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

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.

Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day scoping period beginning July 28, 2017 through September 11, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **September 11, 2017**, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at www.MITT-EIS.com, or by mail to:

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

If you would like additional information or to receive a project briefing, please contact Mr. John Van Name at 808-471-1714 or john.vanname@navy.mil.

Please help the Navy inform the community about the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS for at-sea training and testing by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,


L. M. FOSTER
By direction

Enclosure: 1. Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area

Enclosure: 1. Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area

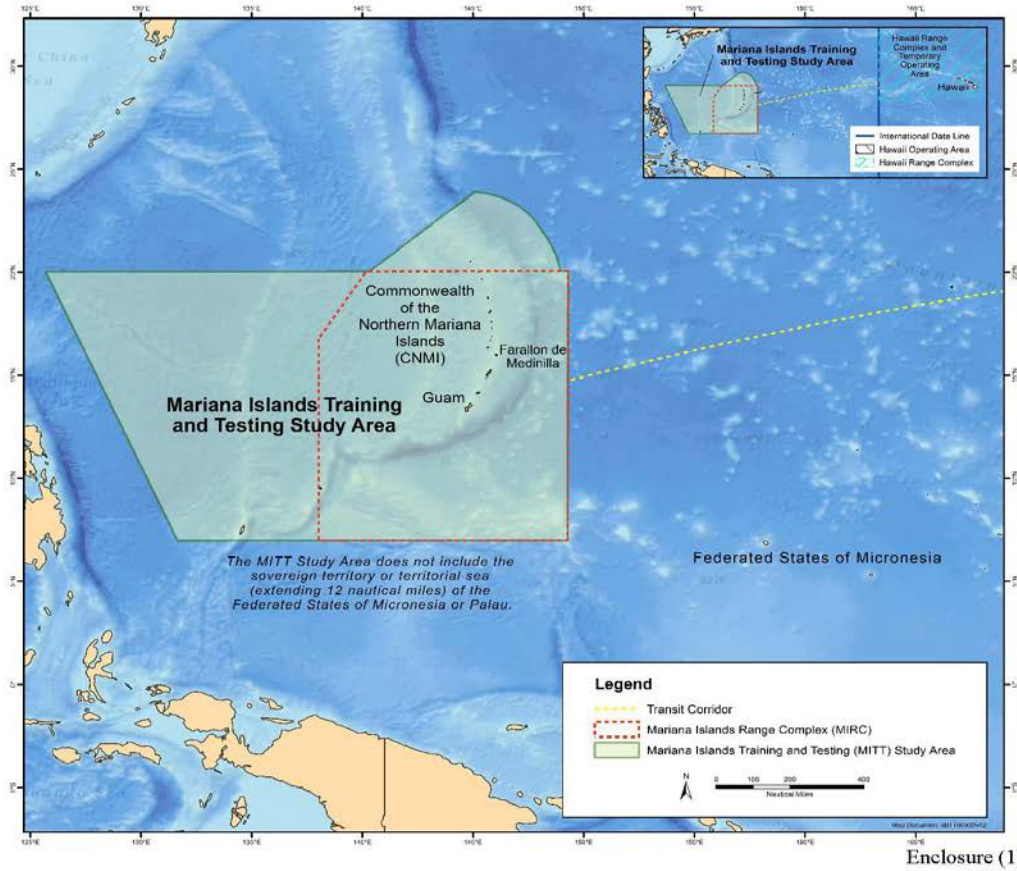


Figure 8-2: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

8.2.1.2 Postcard Mailers

A postcard was mailed first-class to 341 individuals, community groups, and nongovernmental organizations on July 27, 2017. The postcard provided information about the Proposed Action, the website address, and how to submit public comments. An example of the postcard is shown in Figure 8-3.



MARIANA ISLANDS

TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/OEIS FOR MILITARY READINESS ACTIVITIES BEYOND 2020



THE NAVY WELCOMES YOUR INPUT!



The U.S. Navy invites you to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).



The Navy is preparing a Supplemental EIS/OEIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS 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.



The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis to be considered during the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

You can participate in the public involvement process in the following ways:

- Visit www.MITT-EIS.com to learn more about the project and submit comments online.
- Mail written comments to:
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS
Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134



Comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 11, 2017, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Figure 8-3: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Front)

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. 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.



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

**For more information or to submit comments online,
visit www.MITT-EIS.com.**

Figure 8-3: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Back)

8.2.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

Display advertisements were placed in local newspapers to advertise the public’s opportunity to comment on the scope of the analysis. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, the address of the project website, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. The newspapers and publication dates are indicated in Table 8-2. An example of the advertisement is shown in Figure 8-4.

Table 8-2: Newspaper Publications

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Pacific Daily News	Hagåtña, Guam; and neighboring islands	Friday, July 28, 2017 Saturday, July 29, 2017 Sunday, July 30, 2017
Marianas Variety	Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Federated States of Micronesia	Friday, July 28, 2017 Monday, July 31, 2017 Tuesday, August 1, 2017
Saipan Tribune	Saipan, Tinian, Rota	Friday, July 28, 2017 Monday, July 31, 2017 Tuesday, August 1, 2017



Figure 8-4: Newspaper Announcement of Scoping

8.2.1.4 Press Release

A press release to announce the Notice of Intent and request public input was distributed to local and regional media outlets on July 28, 2017. The press release provided information on the Proposed Action, address of the project website, duration of the comment period, and how to submit comments. The press release from the Commander, Joint Region Marianas is shown in Figure 8-5.

COMMANDER, JOINT REGION MARIANAS
Public Affairs Office
Main: (671) 349-4055/3209
Fax: (671) 349-1201
E-Mail: CJRMPAO@fe.navy.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release 17-063

U.S. Navy Seeks Public Input on Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Analysis

ASAN, Guam (July 28, 2017) –The U.S. Navy is preparing 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 is requesting public comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in May 2015 for at-sea 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 represent 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 the Endangered Species Act.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. At-sea training and testing activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures.

-more-

Figure 8-5: Commander, Joint Region Marianas Press Release

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces, consistent with Congressional direction in Section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

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.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and includes the 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; and Apra Harbor and select Navy pierside and harbor locations. 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 the supplement.

Scoping Comment Period for the Supplemental EIS/OEIS:

The 45-day scoping comment period is July 28-Sept. 11. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **Sept. 11, 2017**, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the 45-day public comment period will become part of the public record. Comments may be submitted online at: www.MITT-EIS.com, or by mail to:

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

For additional project information, please visit the project website at www.MITT-EIS.com.

Please help inform your community by sharing the information in this press release.

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For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office
at (671) 349-4055/3209.

Figure 8-5: Commander, Joint Region Marianas Press Release (continued)

8.2.2 Public Scoping Comments

Scoping comments were submitted in two ways:

- Written letters (received any time during the public comment period)
- Comments submitted directly on the project website (received any time during the public comment period)

The Navy received a total of 36 written and electronic comments from federal agencies, state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and community groups. Thirty website comments were submitted using the electronic comment form on the project website. Six written comments were mailed. A sampling of some of the specific concerns follows.

8.2.2.1 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Comments stated that the description of the action and proposed activities is vague in the SEIS/OEIS and that it should include an explanation of the differences between the 2015 Record of Decision and the action proposed in this SEIS/OEIS. Comments included a request that a range of alternatives be considered, including time or seasonal restrictions, restrictions in biologically sensitive areas, reduced training and testing tempo, and mitigated alternatives.

8.2.2.2 National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement

Comments stated that there is a lack of detail regarding the scope of the Proposed Action presented to the public. It was suggested the website include the updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS. The scoping period was thought to be too short and should be extended.

8.2.2.3 Location of Activities

Comments stated that military training should not be conducted in the CNMI.

8.2.2.4 Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

Comments included requests that all Department of Defense actions in the Mariana Islands be analyzed for cumulative effects. Comments also included requests to analyze indirect and cumulative impacts as they relate to seagrass, coral reefs, invertebrates, sea turtles, fish populations, and loss of habitat, as well as the ocean as an ecosystem. Comments also included recommendations that recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and transport be analyzed from a cumulative perspective. Comments in this category expressed concern about the overall impact of military activity in Guam and the overall MITT Study Area.

8.2.2.5 Sediments and Water Quality Impacts

Comments stated that there was a lack of studies regarding impacts on the waters around Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) and documentation of the loss of land at FDM in regard to erosion. Requests were made to provide a detailed analysis of the residence times of constituents, effects of deposition, bioaccumulation of metals and other pollutants, and concentration of explosives and unexploded ordnance in the ocean environment, due to concerns about military expended materials becoming marine debris.

8.2.2.6 Socioeconomic Resources

Comments stated that military training activities are disturbing economically important fishing areas, restricting access to prime fishing grounds, and resulting in contamination in the local food supply. Issues raised in regard to socioeconomic impacts included increased transit times around restricted areas and associated loss of revenue due to transit times and restricted access to fishing areas.

8.2.2.7 Terrestrial Species and Habitats/Marine Birds

Comments included requests for the reevaluation of booby populations and to address impacts on the great frigate bird, red-tailed tropicbird, white-tailed tropicbird, brown noddy, and black noddy on FDM.

8.2.2.8 Marine Resources

Comments stated concerns regarding direct and cumulative impacts from military expended material and debris on the marine environment. Comments included suggestions to analyze sonar, chemical pollutants, and marine debris associated with training activities on all marine species. Monitoring results should be made available and integrated into the analysis. Impacts should also be analyzed in regard to invasive species and marine biosecurity threats. Impacts on coastal resources should be substantively analyzed under a range of alternatives and specific mitigation. Impacts on Habitat Area of Concern for Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Unit Species and Bottomfish Management Units Species should also be analyzed. Commenters stated that there were a lack of studies documenting the amount of ordnance debris and unexploded ordnance in the water and impacts on and around FDM, including coral reefs.

8.2.2.9 Marine Mammal Impacts/Sea Turtles

Comments in this category included concerns regarding the health and safety effects on marine mammals from training activities. Commenters expressed concern regarding impacts on marine mammals from sonar and explosives as well as impacts on humpback whale calving grounds.

8.2.2.10 Fish/Marine Habitat

Comments stated that training activities are disturbing pelagic and economically important fishing areas and causing fish to leave the Study Area. There were also concerns regarding acoustic disturbance to fish.

8.2.2.11 Cultural Resources

Comments stated the U.S. Navy has not consulted with indigenous people for conducting military training in the Mariana Islands. Direct and cumulative impacts need to be identified due to the loss of access to FDM for cultural use.

8.2.2.12 Public Health and Safety

Comments included concerns regarding overall impacts and risks to public health and safety in regard to unexploded ordnance, water contamination, and proper safety measures.

8.2.2.13 Mitigation Measures

Comments included requests to provide details associated with the actions the Navy will take to avoid harming protected marine mammals and coral reefs as well as the effectiveness of past mitigation measures. Comments stated that the public needs a better understanding of how mitigation measures avoid impacts on marine mammals and the effectiveness of those measures.

8.2.2.14 Other

This category includes comments that were considered to be outside the scope of this analysis or not considered applicable to the analysis. For example, there were comments related to the potential dangers posed by North Korea, direct compensation for loss of fishing grounds or the development of fishery infrastructure, the militarization of the Mariana Islands, lack of specific surveys, and third-party assessments of impacts and surveys.

8.3 Notification of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft SEIS/OEIS public review and comment period will begin with issuance of the Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meetings in the *Federal Register*. The *Federal Register* notices will include notification of the availability of the Draft SEIS/OEIS and where it can be accessed; an overview of the Proposed Action and its purpose and need; public commenting information; and the locations, dates, and times of public meetings. The purpose of the public meetings is to inform the public about the Proposed Action and to solicit public comments on the environmental issues addressed and analyzed in the Draft SEIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted by mail, through the SEIS/OEIS website at <https://www.mitt-eis.com>, and at the public meetings.

8.3.1 Notification of Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Public Meetings

The Navy will make significant efforts to facilitate maximum public participation during the Draft SEIS/OEIS public review and comment period. A summary of these efforts follows.

8.3.1.1 Notification Letters

Stakeholder letters will be mailed to interested federal and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and persons expressing an interest in the Proposed Action and the Draft SEIS/OEIS.

8.3.1.2 Postcards

Postcards will be mailed to recipients on the project mailing list, including individuals; nongovernmental organizations; community and business groups; fishing, aviation, and recreation groups; and private companies. The postcards will include the dates, locations, and times of the public meetings, as well as the website address for more information, commenting information, and a brief summary of the Proposed Action.

8.3.1.3 Press Releases

Press releases to announce the availability of the Draft SEIS/OEIS and public meetings will be distributed. Press releases will provide a description of the Proposed Action, project website, duration of the comment period and commenting methods, information repositories, and location, dates, and times of the public meetings. The press releases will also provide information on the availability of the Navy to meet with the media in advance of the meetings.

8.3.1.4 Newspaper Advertisements

To announce the availability of the Draft SEIS/OEIS and public meetings, advertisements will be placed in area newspapers as shown in Table 8-3. The advertisements will include a description of the Proposed Action, the project website, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments.

Table 8-3: Newspaper Announcements of Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and Public Meetings

Newspaper	Area Covered
Pacific Daily News	Hagatna, Guam and neighboring islands
Marianas Variety	Saipan, Tinian, Rota, FSM
Saipan Tribune	Saipan, Tinian, Rota

8.3.2 Public Meetings

The Navy will hold public meetings to inform the public about the Proposed Action and to solicit public comments on the Draft SEIS/OEIS. The public meetings will include informational poster stations staffed by Navy representatives. Members of the public may arrive at any time during the public meetings.

8.4 Distribution of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

All of the parties being notified of the availability of the Draft SEIS/OEIS will be directed to access the document electronically on the project website (<https://www.mitt-eis.com>), or to access hard copies as available at the information repositories discussed in Section 8.4.2 (Information Repositories).

8.4.1 Federal Agencies

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will receive a hard copy and electronic version of the Draft SEIS/OEIS. Regional offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will receive electronic versions of the Draft SEIS/OEIS. The National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office will receive a hard copy and electronic copy of the Draft SEIS/OEIS.

8.4.2 Information Repositories

The Draft SEIS/OEIS will be mailed in hard copy form along with an electronic CD/DVD to the information repository locations shown in Table 8-4.

Table 8-4: Information Repositories

Repository Name	Mailing Address	Phone
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library University of Guam	UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923	(671) 735-2331
Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library	254 Martyr St. Hagatna, Guam 96910	(671) 475-4751
Tinian Public Library	P.O. Box 520704, San Jose Village Tinian, MP 96952	(670) 433-0504/433-0647
Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library (Rota Public Library)	P.O. Box 537 Rota, MP 96951	(670) 532-0120
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library	P.O. Box 501092 Beach Road and Insatto Street Saipan, MP 96950-1092	(670) 235-7322