



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Vicente (Ben) Diaz Gumataotao

January 28, 2010

JGPO c/o NAVFAC Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
Attention: GPMO

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am Vicente Diaz Gumataotao, the Mayor of Piti, Guam. I thank you in advance for accepting and heeding my comments on the Draft Environmental Statement.

It is my esteemed pleasure to be the mayor of a municipality that serves approximately 2600 Guam residents, many of whom serve the Military in various capacities as active duty personnel, civil service workers and Military contract workers. The village of Piti boasts a variably large land mass that is owned by the United States Government and the local Government. A majority of this property has been reserved for the particular needs of both Governments including those parcels with existing infrastructure and buildings.

H-001-001

For over fifteen years, the village of Piti has been without modernized adult and youth recreational equipment and facilities, a safe and secure Government-owned facility to house the Mayor's Office and a public building for residents to gather and foster goodwill and fellowship with the hopes of building a positive and peaceful culture of life.

The foreseeable future promises an increased number of residents to the island and our community. The human premise of give and take is the forefront of my request. In order to suitably accommodate the needs of our community and our new residents, a facility large enough to assure the resident's needs for recreation and an equipped billet to effectively fulfill the operations of the Mayor's office is necessary. The property and buildings currently occupied by the United Seamen's Service at the intersection of Marine Corps Drive and Cabras Highway is the prime location for such an endeavor. The turnover of this property to the Piti Mayor's Office for the aforementioned use is humbly requested to accommodate the needs of the entire community.

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H-001-001

Thank you for your comment. A response letter from U.S. Naval Base Guam was signed March 3, 2010 and mailed to you. A copy of that response letter is included in the Final EIS Appendix C.

H-001-001

Moreover, vacant Federal property is available within the district to construct a sufficient facility for the United Seamen's Service. The creation of a new facility will certainly prove to be more advantageous to the promulgation and effectiveness of the Seamen's Service organization and its members.

As a servant of this community, it behooves me to advocate for the needs and desires of this small, but powerful population. This modest request of a piece of property and its facility will give the community of Piti what we have so desired for many years, and will with much confidence, be a catalyst to creating a diplomatic relationship with the Military.

Si Yu'os ma'ase for your time and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



VICENTE D. GUMATAOTAO
Mayor of Piti, Guam

Cc: Guam Delegate to Congress
Commander, Joint Region Marianas
Commanding Officer, Naval Station Guam
Guam Legislative Chairperson, Committee on Federal Affairs
Secretary of the Navy

Thank you for your comment.

H-002-001

1 COMMENTS BY MR. BEN GUMATAOTAO
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3 MR. GUMATAOTAO: Good evening. I'm Ben
4 Gumataotao, Piti Mayor. I'm here to let you
5 know that I was born before the war, I was born
6 in Sumay, I was 14 years old when World War II
7 happened, and I experienced the entire 26
8 months that the Japanese was here. I was beat
9 up, because I was like, a lot of people from
10 Guam were beat up by Japanese. The experience
11 that I have and these people that are coming
12 here occupy, let me let you know, they're not
13 here to create war, they're here to defend the
14 United States just like us here in Guam.
15 Remember that; okay?
16 The life that I experienced, I've been
17 beat up, borrowed my own machete, I eat worm,
18 with 50 percent worm and rice because I was
19 camped down in Sumay building the Japanese
20 base, the air base for the Japanese. But yet
21 the life that I have now, my mother told me,
22 "My son let's give everything to the United
23 States because they liberate us, whether
24 they're here to defend the country or just to
25 defend the island." That is very important, we

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H-002-001

1 have to understand this, if you're ever going
2 to my life, you're going to be very happy to
3 see that the Marines are here because they're
4 going to give us the economy, defend it, let's
5 get the complete picture here. The biggest
6 picture we got here is National Defense.
7 That's why they're here, it's a National
8 Defense. Not for the good of any individual,
9 it's for everybody, that's the best that you're
10 going to experience.

11 So, we don't want to have a communist
12 country in this world. If we become a third
13 world, believe me, you will not be up here
14 speaking. We're now, we're the best country in
15 the world because is the United States, you
16 have the freedom of everything, remember that.
17 Don't be fooled by all these little things that
18 we, give me this, give me that. Remember, the
19 most important thing you don't want this to be
20 a third country, the country that we have now.
21 Let's face it, Communist China will be the
22 strongest nation of the world. If we don't opt
23 to be allied with them, we got to be allied
24 with them because if we don't, we're going to
25 be a third world, believe me. Let's not that

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H-002-001

1 happen. You think when you under Japanese or
2 any other communist county, you will not be
3 talking here, none of us here, they're not
4 allowed you; okay? So, the best freedom we
5 ever have is the United States country that we
6 ever have; okay? And I thank you.

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Thank you for your comment.

1 COMMENTS BY MS. CAROL TAYAMA

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3 MS. TAYAMA: Good evening. Once again,
 4 I am Carol Tayama, the Mayor of Agat. Tonight
 5 I come here not just as the leader of Guam, of
 6 Guam's most beautiful villages, but also as one
 7 of the villages that have a direct consequence
 8 for whatever this military buildup has to bring
 9 to our island. Almost exactly a year ago, I
 10 testified at the Guam Legislature on Bill 43,
 11 relative to the leasing of government land to
 12 the federal government for this military
 13 buildup. My testimony then is still very
 14 appropriate for tonight and I would like to ask
 15 for your indulgence to read it one more time.
 16 I think it will bring home the message to all
 17 of us tonight that this is our island, and we
 18 need to demand that the United States
 19 Government be upfront with us and most
 20 importantly, to be honest.

H-003-001

21 In 1948, a few years after the war and
 22 our liberation, a little girl was born to a
 23 Chamorro couple. Of course the parents of that
 24 little girl were ever so grateful to the United
 25 States of America and to the military for

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1 ensuring that this island and her people will
 2 live in peace and freedom and to perpetuate the
 3 customs, beliefs and traditions of the Chamorro
 4 people. The little Chamorro girl, her parents
 5 and family were soon to be made a part of the
 6 United States of America by giving them
 7 citizenship through the enactment of the
 8 Organic Act of Guam in 1950. That little girl
 9 grew up loving and accepting the fact that the
 10 members of the United States military were the
 11 ones responsible for our freedom. Her parents
 12 did not object to the fact that the United
 13 States military settled in Guam, took whatever
 14 prime land and beach area they needed, because
 15 after all they were our friends and protectors.
 16 The little girl did not question her parents
 17 either. As the years went by however, that
 18 same little girl began to wonder about some
 19 things. Why are the best locations of island
 20 encircled by fences that have signs saying, "US
 21 Property?" How did they get these lands? Who
 22 did they ask to take these lands? Where did
 23 the people go that used to own these lands?
 24 The girl grew up never getting an answer. All
 25 she was told was that the Chamorro people are a

H-003-002

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H-003-002

Thank you for your comment. DoD acknowledges that the issue of land acquisition is a complex and sensitive issue, particularly related to prior acquisition of land in Guam by the federal government. Prior land acquisition policies and procedures are not reflective of current land acquisition laws and DoD policy.

DoD was required to determine whether military relocation requirements could be met by excess, underutilized or otherwise available property held by DoD on Guam. Early development plans attempted to keep all activities on existing DoD lands. However, as discussed in the FEIS (Volume 2, Chapter 2), after applying operational and environmental screening criteria, no contiguous DoD area on Guam was identified that could support all the land use and operational requirements of the action.

DoD property is secured primarily to protect military assets, protect the public from military activities, and for security reasons. This is the case with military bases in the U.S. and elsewhere.

H-003-002

1 grateful people who gave what they had for the
2 freedom they received. She accepted that
3 because it seemed everyone else accepted it.
4 But now in 2009 some 61 years later, the United
5 States of America and the military seem to want
6 more Chamorro property and again, the best
7 property that our island has. That little girl
8 whose parents really gave what they had, so
9 that she and her brother and sisters may live
10 in a peaceful Guam is now herself a parent.
11 She is the proud mom of a son in the United
12 States Air Force and she is proud to be under
13 the American flag. She is patriotic and she
14 supports the United States of America. But
15 unlike her parents and many others who gave so
16 freely without question to the needs and plans
17 of the United States military of the 1950's,
18 this time she wants the United States of
19 America and its military to be upfront with the
20 people of Guam. She wants the military to tell
21 our leaders what they need, she wants the
22 military to tell their leaders what they have
23 planned. She wants the United States military
24 to respect the needs and plans of the people of
25 Guam too. The little girl born in 1948 and

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H-003-002

1 herself is now a parent is me.

H-003-003

2 I support the United States and the
 3 military, but I also support the need for them
 4 to be open and transparent with the people of
 5 Guam. This legislation should not be necessary
 6 but unfortunately we as leaders cannot continue
 7 to be taken down the road blindfolded. We must
 8 know of their plans, we must know what they
 9 want to do. I owe it to my parents, to my
 10 people and to my children to make sure that the
 11 Guam that was, will continue to be a place
 12 where all Chamorros will continue to live with
 13 pride. We will continue to support, we will
 14 continue to give, we will continue to be
 15 patriotic. We just need to be asked because
 16 after all, the greatest effect of this military
 17 buildup is not what happens in other countries,
 18 the greatest effects is what happens to the
 19 people of Guam.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, this testimony
 21 was in January of 2009. Today, a year later, I
 22 still want the US military to listen to us.
 23 Once again, the greatest effect of this
 24 military buildup is not what happens in other
 25 countries, the greatest effect is what will

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H-003-003

Thank you for your comment. The DoD has kept the public informed as required by NEPA, which includes holding public scoping meetings and public hearings and allowing the public to comment on the DEIS. DoD has had ongoing discussions with Cooperating Agencies (those federal and local agencies with special expertise or regulatory oversight) throughout the preparation of the DEIS and will continue these discussions with agencies through the completion of the FEIS. As part of the engagement with Cooperating Agencies, they were asked to conduct an early technical review of the partially completed DEIS in late July 2009. The DoD has also met extensively with elected officials and other community stakeholders on the progress of the EIS and notional/preliminary relocation plans.

1 happen to the people of Guam. Si Yu'us Ma'ase
2 for allowing me the time to speak, and let me -
3 - and hear my voice, thank you.

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1 **COMMENTS BY MR. BOB LIZAMA**

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3 MR. LIZAMA: Thank you and good evening
4 to all. [speaks in the Chamorro language; good
5 evening to all of you who are here tonight.
6 God bless you for visiting here, people of
7 Guam. God bless you and the people of Yigo for
8 being here to listen at this meeting. God
9 bless you and your family because it helps to
10 give your input and what you have to say about
11 this military buildup.]

12 Good evening to each and every one of
13 you from around the island and most especially
14 to the people of Yigo allowing you all to be
15 here at the Yigo gymnasium. Thank you for
16 coming and listening to the important and
17 providing the testimony for the committee to
18 hear what is happening in terms of the military
19 buildup.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before
21 you as the Mayor of Yigo, although it's 11,000-
22 plus pages and you're going to ask me, one
23 person asked me out there, "What page are you
24 on?" The page I'm on is at the pulse of the
25 people that has followed these meetings around

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H-004-001

1 the island since last week. I've also read
 2 some areas, but I'm going to speak on the
 3 concern that comes to the office, the concern
 4 that the people of Yigo has brought about.

5 Right here, ladies and gentlemen, is
 6 one prime example. Is our leaders of Guam and
 7 is JGPO communicating with the mayor's offices?
 8 This is a very prime example that I was visited
 9 by a neighborhood association asking me if I
 10 know anything about the haul road. Now, of
 11 course, I sat there in my desk blinded, not
 12 knowing what the association was trying to
 13 present to me.

14 Now, what I have here, ladies and
 15 gentlemen, is a document that I couldn't find
 16 in the Draft Environmental Impact Study. Now,
 17 what I have here is a proposed alignment of
 18 Route 15. Also here it says, Option 2. Now, I
 19 don't even know what Option 1 is. Now, if
 20 we're going to talk about Option 2, that's why
 21 I have a problem on behalf of the people of
 22 Yigo, and those that are going to be impacted
 23 with Option 2. If they are going to, I'll use
 24 the word condemn, and I apologize to the
 25 General on behalf of myself and the people of

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H-004-001

Thank you for your comment. DoD acknowledges that the issue of land acquisition is a complex and sensitive one with both historical and contemporary contexts. Should DoD determine that additional land is necessary to meet its requirements, DoD policy requires that it negotiate with affected public and private land owners in good faith, seek agreements to acquire desired lands interests and pay fair market value.

DoD is confident that all parties can reach agreement on any potential land acquisition. Further, any proposed major DoD land acquisition, such as those associated with the preferred alternatives for the main cantonment and live fire ranges, must be approved by the Congressional defense committees.

Specific areas being considered for acquisition are identified in the Final EIS.

H-004-001

1 Guam that uses the word condemn, because a year
2 ago here at the Yigo gymnasium, we had about
3 80, maybe close to 90 people that were here to
4 talk about or to be presented with the updates
5 of this whole military buildup. And in this
6 gymnasium, ladies and gentlemen, we had a map.
7 We had a map that identified the possible sites
8 that are being looked at for a firing range.
9 But, nevertheless, in this Option 2, should
10 they condemn or take the property or however
11 you want to define it, that's going to relocate
12 Route 15? And, as I see this from the back
13 entrance of Andy South, they're going into Andy
14 South, they're going to give you a tour into
15 Andy South that we are not even able to access
16 up to this time.

17 They're going to then make their way up
18 north and they're going to make their way back
19 out to Chalan Peskadot, right next to Chalan
20 Jessie Dydasco Perez Street. And they'll make
21 their way up to Route 15 and then into Chalan
22 Lajuna. Now, that's where the concern is at
23 when it involves haul, hauling. Transport all
24 these heavy materials from back road to the
25 site where the development is going to be

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1 taking place.

2 Now, this is an example, do we as
3 community leaders have the necessary documents
4 that we need or are we involved in the process?
5 I will say, maybe perhaps 60-70%. I invited a
6 gentleman because -- let's go back to January
7 09's meeting, where we only had less than 100
8 people here. And with that, tonight is an
9 example of why you are out here. It's because
10 the possibility of condemning lands or taking
11 lands for the use of the military buildup.

12 Now we're impacted, many of you that
13 are here, of course, are impacted should this
14 happen and should the decision go through the
15 cracks and the holes and then next thing you
16 know lands are condemned or taken away for
17 military purpose.

18 Now, they asked, well, why they were so
19 much, not they, meaning the JGPO people,
20 there's a lot tonight. And back then, the
21 issue of condemnation perhaps was not addressed
22 or talked about. It's just in recent months
23 that the people of Guam now are hollering
24 [speaks in the Chamorro language; all the
25 Chamorros that are here] everyone now that are

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H-004-001

1 going to be impacted not only in Yigo but
2 around the island where the Draft EIS
3 identifies the possible sites. That's why we
4 hear your concern and that's why you're here to
5 voice your concern.

6 I hope and I've offered General Bice,
7 the gentleman that owns the property outside
8 the Andersen front gate, to perhaps look at
9 that as a possible solution rather than taking
10 care of what we already have and what the
11 taotao Guam, the people of Guam, are doing, and
12 that is taking all the drag racing out of the
13 island highways and putting it out on the back
14 road.

15 Initially, there was problems, but now
16 we see the reality of what the Guam Raising
17 Federation is doing for our land under the
18 Chamorro Land Trust that is helping and
19 providing pleasure and racing in a controlled
20 environment. Don't you agree that the Chamorro
21 Land Trust should tell -- our people should
22 tell Chamorro Land Trust to keep the property
23 in place? In that way, the families don't get
24 impacted. Let's not, like I said in January
25 2009, let's not allow this for convenience, for

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1 military operations because Andy South is under
2 the military and they have the possible site or
3 the preferred alternative or the preferred
4 site. Let's not take it away, leave it to what
5 it's -- to the people that are utilizing it and
6 leave it to the original landowners. They
7 deserve their lands and no more taking of
8 lands.

9 Thank you. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. God
10 bless you all. God bless Guam and the
11 Chamorros.

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