

# CHAPTER 1.

## PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTIONS

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### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Volume 3 focuses on development of live-fire training ranges to support training and operations that would occur on Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) associated with the proposed United States (U.S.) Marine Corps relocation to Guam. Training is proposed to occur on Guam but not all training can be accommodated there. The existing training capabilities on Tinian would be expanded to support up to two companies (200-400 personnel). The training activities, alternatives, affected environment, and environmental consequences presented in this Volume are distinct from those described on Guam. The main components of the proposed action in Volume 3 are as follows:

- *Development of Live-Fire Training Ranges:* a Platoon (42 personnel) Battle Course, Automated Combat Pistol/Military Police (MP) Firearms Qualification Course, Rifle Known Distance (KD) range, and Field Firing Range.
- *Airspace use:* there is no requirement for Special Use Airspace (SUA) associated with the proposed firing ranges and there would be no changes to designated airspace overlying the proposed firing.

These proposed training components complement the existing ground training practices undertaken on Tinian and in the CNMI as described in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) (DoN 2010).

This Volume is organized as follows:

- *Chapter 1:* Purpose of and Need for Actions. States the purpose of and need for the proposed action and presents background information about the proposed action.
- *Chapter 2:* Proposed Action and Alternatives. Describes the siting criteria and the screening process to evaluate and identify the reasonable alternatives, the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, and the no-action alternative.
- *Chapters 3-19:* Resource Sections. Describes existing conditions and identifies potential impacts to the respective resources:
  - *Chapter 3:* Geological and Soil Resources
  - *Chapter 4:* Water Resources
  - *Chapter 5:* Air Quality
  - *Chapter 6:* Noise
  - *Chapter 7:* Airspace
  - *Chapter 8:* Land and Submerged Lands Use
  - *Chapter 9:* Recreational Resources
  - *Chapter 10:* Terrestrial Biological Resources
  - *Chapter 11:* Marine Biological Resources
  - *Chapter 12:* Cultural Resources

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- *Chapter 13: Visual Resources*
- *Chapter 14: Transportation* This chapter covers marine transportation. Volume 6 covers roadway transportation.
- *Chapter 15: Utilities*
- *Chapter 16: Socioeconomics and General Services*
- *Chapter 17: Hazardous Materials and Waste*
- *Chapter 18: Public Health and Safety*
- *Chapter 19: Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children*
- *Chapter 20: References*

## 1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

As discussed in Volume 1, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.1, the overarching purpose for the proposed actions is to locate U.S. military forces to meet international agreement and treaty requirements and to fulfill U.S. national security policy requirements to provide mutual defense, deter aggression, and dissuade coercion in the Western Pacific Region. The need for the proposed actions is to meet the following criteria based on U.S. policy, international agreements, and treaties:

- Position U.S. forces to defend the homeland, including the U.S. Pacific territories
- Location within a timely response range
- Maintain regional stability, peace, and security
- Maintain flexibility to respond to regional threats
- Provide powerful U.S. presence in the Pacific region
- Increase aircraft carrier presence in the Western Pacific
- Defend U.S., Japan, and other allies' interests
- Provide capabilities that enhance global mobility to meet contingencies around the world
- Have a strong local command and control structure

Volume 1 provides detailed information regarding the international context for the purpose and need for the proposed action. Volume 2 describes the purpose and need for basing and training of Marines on Guam. The need for Marine training and operations is closely dependent on the relocation. Marines can only be “readily and rapidly deployable” if they are able to meet training and readiness requirements. Units require reliable access and maximum opportunity to realistically train with their weapons and equipment while minimizing “down time” lost when travelling to training locations. The purpose of increasing training and operational capabilities on Guam would be to provide the most efficient means to support present training requirements for the Marine forces relocating from Okinawa to Guam pursuant to the Roadmap Agreement with Japan.

The following outlines the process that evaluated potential training locations, including Tinian. The key reasons that Tinian is the proposed location for the proposed training are:

- Department of Defense (DoD) property is available for access to these training resources because of the existing land lease agreement between the CNMI and the DoD
- Proximity to U.S. military forces on Guam

### 1.2.1 Availability

As the U.S. analyzed where the Marine relocation would be, it also studied where the Marines would be able to train and maintain their readiness. Emphasis was placed on maximizing use of existing DoD properties. Guam and Tinian possessed the most available DoD properties for exclusive military use within the Marianas, and therefore were considered for maximum utilization. Other islands in the Marianas such as Pagan, Saipan, and Rota do not have existing DoD properties of sufficient size. Not all Marine Corps' training requirements could be met on Guam. The DoD then considered whether additional training could occur on the northern two-thirds of Tinian that is leased to the DoD. Company and battalion level non live-fire training areas exist within the lease area. However, this land could be developed to also accommodate live-fire ranges.

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### 1.2.2 Proximity

Tinian would provide a training range approximately 100 miles (160 kilometers [km]) from Guam and would be the largest (approximately 15,400 acres [ac], 6,232 hectares [ha]) range located completely on DoD-leased property within the MIRC (discussed in Section 1.2.4). Guam-based Marines and other military personnel transiting from Guam would be able to quickly and routinely access these training capabilities through use of both tactical aviation and surface transportation assets and facilities.

A training range on Tinian would be required in addition to training ranges on Guam. Marine Corps training is built along a continuum that is well-defined and structured to provide combat-ready Marines, Marine Corps units, and Marine Air Ground Task Forces. The training continuum begins at the individual level and progresses to common skills, skills progression, and finally unit collective training. The ranges planned on Guam support individual and common skills live-fire training. For skills progression and unit collective training, ranges of greater complexity and size than those found on Guam are required. These advanced live-fire ranges would be located on Tinian and would allow Marines to meet the higher level requirements of the training continuum.

Table 1.2-1 presents potentially available lift (air and sea) options and their corresponding speed and range capabilities. With the relatively short travel times to Tinian, the required training would be accomplished for 200-400 Marines within a 1-week period, 12 times per year. A similar level of training at any other location would require more than a 1-week training evolution, and time spent in travel is not available for meeting other training requirements such as classroom training. Loss of time due to travel would impact the overall ability to achieve training requirements.

**Table 1.2-1. U.S. Lift Options and Corresponding Capacities**

<i>Potential Lift (Rotary and Fixed Wing)</i>	<i>Speed (knots [kph])</i>	<i>Distance Capacity (nm [km])</i>
CH-53 (Tactical)	170 (315)	312 (579)
MV-22 (Tactical)	278 (515)	751 (1,392)
C/KC-130 (Tactical)	278 (515)	2,172 (4,023)
C-17 (Strategic)	448 (829)	2,420 (4,482)
C-5 (Strategic)	470 (871)	5,161 (9,560)
Commercial	478 (885)	N/A
<i>Potential Lift (Ocean Vessels)</i>	<i>Speed</i>	<i>Distance Capacity</i>
Amphibious Ships (Strategic)	20 (39)	4,344 (8,047)
Commercial	20 (39)	4,344 (8,047)

*Legend:* kph = kilometers per hour, nm=nautical miles, knots = nautical miles per hour.

*Sources:* Navy 2001, 2004; Air Force 2008.

### 1.2.3 Reliability of Access to Training Resources

The northern two-thirds of Tinian contain two adjacent and connected training ranges within the DoD Military Lease Area (MLA): the Exclusive Military Use Area (EMUA) and the Leaseback Area (LBA). The EMUA includes landing beaches, expeditionary airfield, bivouac areas (i.e., temporary camps set up during training), maneuver areas, live-fire sniper areas, and areas designated for pyrotechnics and hazardous activities. The LBA, a joint military and civilian use area, is used primarily for logistics, maneuver and other nonintrusive training requirements compatible with its joint civilian agricultural uses. Time spent on coordination and scheduling with local authorities limits timely accessibility to the LBA for some activities. Termination of the LBA agreement, which provides full unfettered access to the LBA for military training, is possible with appropriate notification to the CNMI government. The military use of this area, subject to other applicable laws and agreements, is (by conditions of the lease) flexible and

assured within specified limits. Tinian is the only island within the CNMI that the DoD has a training use agreement that would allow the weapons range development that would meet the purpose and need for training of the relocated Marines.

Accordingly, Tinian, with its availability of land, proximity to Guam, and reliability of access makes it the only suitable location for this training for Marines based on Guam.

#### **1.2.4 Additional Considerations**

The proposed action would increase training capabilities in the CNMI by building on the existing training infrastructure contained within the MIRC. The MIRC is a joint training complex consisting of service ranges utilized in a coordinated joint manner. The proposed action would continue development of training capabilities in the region by developing ranges on Tinian. All services have contributed to the training capabilities in the Marianas. The development of the training range complex has been a phased development starting with the Marianas Training Plan in 1999. Each successive range or range enhancement has added additional capabilities to the overall range complex. Over time, the inclusion of new capabilities has resulted in the existing MIRC 2009. Under the proposed action, the development of training capabilities in the region would continue with the addition of live-fire small arms ranges and other capabilities in the CNMI to the MIRC. The proposed action would complement the existing non live-fire capabilities by adding live-fire training ranges. By supplementing existing non live-fire training with limited live-fire ranges, the proposed action assures mission readiness training availability for Marine Corps units on Guam while enhancing the overall training infrastructure in the region. The proposed action would involve changes to the operations and training activities presently conducted on Tinian through development of ranges required to support the proposed Marine Corps relocation. The development, operation, and ongoing periodic use of these ranges is necessary to maintain the state of readiness required for Marine Corps forces relocated to Guam pursuant to the Roadmap Agreement with Japan. This progression of development of range capabilities would continue as technology, weapon systems, and operational requirements continue to evolve.

The 1999 Marianas Training Plan, the subsequent MIRC Management Plan, and the associated MIRC EIS/OEIS establish the baseline for training facilities and operations in the Mariana Islands, including Guam and CNMI. The planning approach and methodology for key elements of the proposed action are documented in Volume 9, Appendix G, and include:

- Range Complex Management Plan 2006
- Training Concept Plan, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific 2008 (Marine Forces Pacific 2008)
- Guam Joint Military Master Plan, Joint Guam Program Office (in progress)
- CNMI Military Training Master Plan (in progress)

These four documents represent the next phases of the master planning effort for Guam and the CNMI. The Range Complex Management Plan identified specific range deficiencies, including lack of live-fire ranges in the Marianas. The Training Concept Plan provided an “unconstrained” view of training possibilities on Guam and the CNMI. Present planning efforts for Guam and CNMI that have occurred coincident with the development of this EIS, have identified proposed training actions for Guam and CNMI. Together, these planning efforts have identified the specific weapons training needed on Tinian for the additional forces moving from Okinawa (Japan) to Guam.

### **1.2.5 Training Activities**

Training operations proposed on Tinian would support individual up to company level sustainment training for the relocated Marines. Sustainment training is training that enables Marine Corps forces to maintain combat readiness. The individual and crew-served weapons qualification ranges are proposed for Guam (refer to Volume 2, Chapter 2, Section 2.3). The training that would take place on Tinian is essential to the end-state of sustaining combat readiness of Guam-based Marines. The proposed Tinian ranges are for training Marines with use of weapons similar to the Guam ranges (5.65 mm and below) but in tactical scenarios. Individual-level training would occur on Guam as travel distances and logistics to Tinian would not be practical for individual-level training. Training in tactical scenarios requires larger areas than is available on Guam. Training units would include ground elements that would enable three of the four components of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (Command, Ground, Air, and Logistics) to accomplish weapons training tasks according to Mission Essential Task List, as designated by appropriate commanders.