

**Script for Person Providing Overview of Proposed Action and Impacts at Formal Part of  
Public Hearing**

**This would be read (along with showing a PowerPoint) by the Proposed Action speaker (Col Pond) after the moderator gives a short introduction.**

SLIDE 1:

Good evening, and thank you for coming tonight. My name is Colonel Paul Pond, US Marine Corps, Chief of Staff of the Joint Guam Program Office in Washington D.C. I hope you all had a chance to visit the display stations and talk with our representatives during the open house today/tonight, and to pick up one of the handouts.

I want to take a few minutes to present a brief overview of what we propose for the military relocation on Guam and the CNMI, and discuss some of what is contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that is currently out for public comment. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement discusses how the military relocation would affect the people and resources of Guam and CNMI

SLIDE 2:

The relocation to Guam involves the Marine Corps, the Navy and the Army.

- § The Marine Corps proposes to relocate approximately 8,600 Marines, as well as 9,000 of their family members, to Guam where they would live and work alongside of you.
- § The Navy proposes to build facilities at Apra Harbor to support visiting aircraft carriers. This does not involve permanently relocating Sailors to Guam but it will allow for aircraft carriers and associated personnel to visit Guam for longer periods of time.
- § And finally, the Army proposes to place an Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force on Guam, which would permanently relocate approximately 630 Soldiers and their families to Guam.

SLIDE 3:

United States forces are being realigned in the Pacific to better protect U.S. interests. This realignment affects both Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Guam is a key piece of this alignment because of its strategic location in the Pacific. All together, these realignments within the Pacific, to include Guam, would bring a more complete, robust U.S. national security presence to the region.

SLIDE 4:

The Joint Guam Program Office was established to coordinate the planning efforts for the Guam and CNMI military realignment, to include the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to assess impacts from this military realignment. An Environmental Impact Statement is a study that identifies potential impacts to the natural environment, such as plants, animals and water; and impacts that may occur to the human environment, such as utilities and the local economy. This study is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (or NEPA), and will be used by Department of Defense decision-makers to inform them of the environmental consequences that may result from the military relocation. Further, the EIS will examine alternatives that may lessen or relieve these impacts. Ultimately, the Environmental Impact Statement will support better decision making related to the military relocation.

SLIDE 5:

A key element in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement is public involvement. In the spring of 2007, we hosted a number of open house public scoping meetings to explain to the public our thoughts at that time about the military relocation, and find out what environmental, social and economic issues were important to the people of Guam and CNMI. We used the comments gathered during this scoping phase to help shape what was analyzed in the draft document.

Since then, we have continued to work with the community, local agencies, and your elected officials to help us identify areas where impacts on the public could be lessened, and to keep them informed about the progress of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The focus tonight is to discuss the draft document and accept your input on the document. All of the comments that we receive during this 90-day comment period will be considered in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement. After completion of this document, a Record of Decision outlining the final decisions regarding the proposed actions will be issued.

SLIDE 6:

Relocating the Marines to Guam will require construction of administrative offices, housing, and support facilities proposed for the Finegayan area. Support facilities include commissary, exchange, education, child care, recreational and medical facilities. The Finegayan area would also be known as the “main cantonment” area. This slide shows the preferred area where the main cantonment is proposed on Guam.

SLIDE 7:

Marines require continuous training to maintain their individual and small unit readiness. Live fire training is essential to prepare Marines to perform in combat by developing confidence with their weapons. Construction of training facilities and ranges are proposed at Andersen South and an area adjacent to Route 15 on the eastern side of Guam, as shown on this slide. The live-fire

ranges will be limited to pistol and rifle ranges and a machine range. No mortar or artillery firing, or air to ground bombing will take place on these Guam ranges.

SLIDE 8:

The Marines are also proposing training ranges for larger units and more complex scenarios on the island of Tinian to enable our military to remain ready, as shown on this slide. This training area will have more rifle ranges and will allow for limited small unit maneuvers.

SLIDE 9:

The Navy plans to construct facilities in Apra Harbor to accommodate a visiting aircraft carrier. This slide shows where the aircraft carrier turning basin is proposed, and where waterfront improvements would occur to support berthing of visiting aircraft carriers.

SLIDE 10:

Placement of the Army Air and Missile Defense Task force on Guam would primarily involve constructing operational facilities and housing in northern Guam to support their personnel and families. This slide shows the areas where these facilities are proposed.

SLIDE 11:

As mentioned earlier, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifies how the military relocation could affect the people and resources of Guam and CNMI. There are both positive and negative impacts from the various components of the relocation. We are actively working to minimize negative impacts, and are also consulting and cooperating with various federal agencies, and local Guam and CNMI agencies in this effort.

SLIDE 12:

Without question the population on Guam will increase. However, the projected population increase noted in the DEIS represents the maximum increase. The actual peak population increase will depend upon the pace of construction and funding. With this increase in population there will be economic opportunities such as more jobs, more skilled professionals available to work on Guam, more opportunities for local businesses, and increased tax revenues. Some impacts may be unavoidable, such as a shift in demographics. For our part, we can help minimize negative aspects of this by providing cultural sensitivity orientation and awareness programs for military personnel.

SLIDE 13:

Our goal is to utilize Department of Defense and federal lands as much as possible to accommodate this military relocation. A final decision on whether or not land will need to be acquired will not be made until a Record of Decision is signed, because it is still too soon to know exactly what is needed. Though no decisions have been made, we will continue to engage in discussions with the Government of Guam, the Guam Legislature, and with potentially affected private citizens. No matter the outcome, we share Guam's desire to negotiate in good faith and will follow all federal laws and regulations related to land acquisition. The public is encouraged to submit comments about land so that they can be considered in the final decision-making process.

SLIDE 14:

Positive impacts are anticipated on Guam through improvements to roadways, bridges, and intersections.

We are working with the Federal Highway Administration to provide off-base road, bridge and intersection improvements across much of Guam to help alleviate the expected increase in traffic.

We also anticipate improvements to Guam's utility infrastructure through upgrades to water, wastewater, solid waste disposal and electrical power facilities and distributions lines. We are working with Guam's utility providers, Guam Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify cost effective utility solutions that benefit both the Department of Defense and Guam.

SLIDE 15:

We will minimize loss of habitat for endangered and threatened species by avoiding biologically sensitive areas as much as possible, protecting and enhancing remaining habitat, and establishing conservation measures to protect native species. We are consulting with federal and local agencies to develop these measures for habitat and species protection, including developing a plan to enhance control of invasive species such as the brown tree snake.

The dredging of Apra Harbor is necessary to accommodate visiting aircraft carriers, and would result in the removal of coral. We propose to locate the carrier turning basin within the Harbor in an area that results in the least amount of coral removal, and are working with federal agencies to mitigate or compensate for the coral loss.

SLIDE 16:

Today/tonight I've only touched on what is analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We encourage the public to consult the handout and the document for the details of our impact analysis. We also invite you to provide verbal and written comments tonight/today... or by mail or our project website at any time during the comment period, which ends at midnight, February 17, 2010 Eastern Standard Time.

The comments you provide will help us finalize the Environmental Impact Statement, which is due to be published in the summer of 2010. Implementation of the relocation will only occur after a Record of Decision is signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy some time after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published.

Thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting tonight/today. We welcome and appreciate your input.