

Appendix C
Press Releases and Media



The Source for Navy News

Update to the 2012 Guam and CNMI Relocation Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Story Number: NNS121011-04
10/11/2012

From Joint Guam Program Office

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- In May 2012, Department of Defense announced that because of the adjustments to the 2006 Realignment Roadmap Agreement relocating U.S. Marine Corps forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, the Department of the Navy (the Navy) was expanding the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the live-fire training range complex (LFTRC) on Guam to include an assessment of changes to the number and composition of Marines relocating to Guam.

The adjustments included reducing the originally planned relocation of 8,600 Marines to a force of approximately 5,000 Marines on Guam and will therefore require an assessment of potential environmental impacts related to the force reduction, base and family housing, and training requirements.

Since the May 2012 announcement, the Navy has been conducting site assessments of preliminary alternatives in preparation for the Notice of Intent (NOI) and scoping period for the SEIS. The NOI was published on Oct. 11 (EDT) and Oct. 12 (ChST), and provides information on the SEIS and upcoming public scoping meetings to be held on Guam Nov. 8-10.

The Navy encourages public participation in the SEIS process and looks forward to receiving comments at the scoping meetings.

The NOI and details regarding public scoping meetings can be found online at <http://guambuildupeis.us> and in the local media.

Legislative buildup committee to get new leader

Nov. 13, 2012

Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News

A process to bring a smaller military buildup to Guam has begun, but soon the buildup will move on with a new local lawmaker leading the way in the Legislature.

Buildup committee Chairwoman Sen. Judith Guthertz was not re-elected in the general election last week. When the 32nd Legislature takes over in January, a new senator will have to take the helm of the buildup committee.

It is a "very busy" position, the outgoing senator said Friday.

Guthertz said the new chairperson must, in addition to understanding the plans for a buildup on Guam, stay tuned to the tense military situation in Okinawa, the overall military strategy in the Asia-Pacific region and the spending battles in Congress. The position also requires regular contact with highly placed officials in the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior and other government agencies, Guthertz said.

Homework

And finally, whoever takes over the committee has a lot of reading to catch up on.

Guthertz said she has read and re-read more than 11,000 pages of military planning documents in recent years.

In 2010, the military released an environmental impact study, which analyzed how the buildup could change the island, but now a supplemental study is already in the works. The new chairperson must be familiar with both the old study and the new one, Guthertz said.

"In order to know what the military is doing, you have to have a real sharp eye, and you have to be willing to read everything and look for everything," Guthertz said, adding later: "Chairing

the committee is risky. You are not going to make everybody happy. But when you evaluate options and make recommendations ... that is part of your job. Your job is to look out for the best interest of the community."

The military buildup is expected to bring 5,000 Marines and 1,300 family members to Guam sometime after 2015.

The military currently is under-going a massive environmental study project to determine the location of the Marine base and a firing range. Regardless of where the base is placed, the buildup is expected to have heavy implications for Guam, potentially spurring the economy while increasing the demand on island infrastructure.

In recent years, Guam's primary input on the buildup has come through three sources -- the governor's buildup office, the Legislature's buildup committee and directly from the public, which has been able to submit comments to the military.

Praise for Guthertz

These groups coordinate with the Joint Guam Program Office, which is the island's direct link to buildup planners. On Thursday, Joe Ludovici, who leads the Joint Guam Program Office, said Guthertz had been a "strong advocate" for the island in buildup discussions, but that he also was looking forward to working with the new committee chairperson.

Guthertz had always kept "Guam's interests at heart" when dealing with buildup issues, he said.

"She was a strong advocate from the beginning in terms of trying to find things that were win-win situations," Ludovici said.

"She held no punches on things she felt were good opportunities for Guam or when she felt the military was being too aggressive."

<http://www.guampdn.com/article/20121113/NEWS01/211130307>

Final military buildup scoping meeting held on Guam

Tuesday, November 13 2012

Joy White - Variety News Staff



Residents watch an informational film about the proposed locations for the Marines' firing range, cantonment, and housing at the final Joint Guam Program Office scoping meeting held Saturday. Photo by Joy White

HAGATÑA – The final military buildup scoping meeting at the University of Guam Field House saw about 100 visitors throughout the three-hour period, the best turnout of the three meetings held by the Joint Guam Program Office on Saturday, Friday, and Thursday.

Residents could submit their comments at the open house-style event. Experts were also on-hand to answer questions. Comments will still be accepted via email and regular mail until Dec. 10.

Comments can be submitted online at guambuildupeis.us or mailed to Joint Guam Program Office Forward, PO 153246 Santa Rita, Guam 96915.

The comments will be posted on the JGPO website.

During the scoping meeting, some local residents still expressed concerns over the location of military facilities, as well as the realignment itself.

Yona resident Graciela Jimenez-Cartagena said there should be no realignment at all. "But when it comes down to it, we don't have much of a say," Jimenez-Cartagena stated.

Although she said the experts were very approachable, she still has so many questions.

In her opinion, she said the best choice for the firing range would be a location that uses the least amount of private land, which is at Naval Magazine.

At Saturday's scoping meeting, Sen. Judith Guthertz, chairwoman of the buildup committee, said she hopes the local business community will also submit comments, particularly the realtors. Guthertz is hopeful that a partnership between local civilian companies and the military can be made and the military can subcontract the construction and maintenance of facilities and housing units.

Speaker Judith Won Pat, for her part, said she has some concerns about the cantonment and family housing, which will be within existing bases. "This may not be beneficial to outside realtors," she stated.

At this time, there are no preferred sites for military facilities. After the scoping period, the preferred sites will be released in the draft environmental impact statement, which is expected to come out in early 2014.

When the new DEIS is released in early 2014, the public will also get the opportunity to comment on the DEIS. Communications Director Todd Sptiler has confirmed that the format for the DEIS comment period will be similar to the previous DEIS comment period, including spoken and written comments.

Maj. Darren Alvarez said that by 2014, the final environmental impact statement will come out. By early the following year, 2015, the Record of Decision will be released by the Department of Defense.

<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/51201-final-military-buildup-scoping-meeting-held-on-guam>

VIDEO: One Firing Range Alternative Could **Affect Public** Access to Ritidian Wildlife Refuge

Monday, 12 November 2012

Clynt Ridgell

Guam News - Guam News

Guam - One of the alternatives being looked at by DOD for a firing range complex for the marines could impact public access to the Ritidian wildlife refuge. Joint Guam Program Office Executive Director Joe Ludovici spoke with members of the media last week about the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement scoping meetings that took place on Thursday Friday and Saturday of last week.

The SEIS will take a look at several alternatives for a firing range complex. One of those alternatives is at the Northwest Field on Andersen Air Force base. One of the graphs at the scoping meetings showed that the surface danger zone at the Northwest Field would extend onto the Ritidian wildlife refuge.

This property is owned and operated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife who in turn allows for public access to the refuge. Ludovici confirmed during a press conference last week that this could affect some public access to the area.

So why exactly is DOD looking at these alternatives for a firing range complex was it prompted by the Pagat lawsuit filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation the Guam Preservation Trust and We Are Guahan. "I'm gonna tell you no it did not have an effect I think what had more effect is when the governor said I'm not gonna allow you to affect Pagat cave and Pagat village and the marine corps went back and said okay how do we accomplish our training mission and still be able to fit on this footprint and they did the probabilistic method and we said well we just changed the process we studied these I'm gonna continue to say that that's what caused us to study the alternative," said Ludovici.

Nevertheless this has resulted in the military taking a closer look at alternative sites for a firing range complex sites which include areas on the naval magazine, areas on NCTAMS, and on

Andersen Air Force base. The most important factor for DOD when looking at these alternatives is the military's mission. "We're gonna get down to the ones that first meet the military mission so if some of them don't meet the military mission and second if there's conflicts that just won't work at all from the airspace or from the environmental thing from threatened and endangered species they start to drop off and the ones that float to the top are the ones that primarily meet the mission and have the least impact environmentally infrastructure wise etc.," said Ludovici.

Part of the reason for the Supplemental EIS is the scaled down version of the buildup. Originally 8 thousand marines were to be stationed on Guam with an additional 2,000 rotational marines. This number has been brought down to about 5,000 marines.

Ludovici is confident that DOD will be able to accomplish this second effort at a placing a marine component on Guam. "We are gonna have some challenges but I don't want to understate as we look at this on Guam we are gonna have a number of issues that we are gonna talk about at the scoping meetings traffic, environmental cultural issues we're going to continue to have to address this it's not going to be an easy fix every one of them are gonna have their challenges particularly in the firing ranges," said Ludovici. Now that the scoping meetings are done the next step is for a series of public hearings. The entire process will take a few years as the record of decision is not expected until 2015.

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28945:video-one-firing-range-alternative-could-affect-public-access-to-ritidian-wildlife-refuge&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

Tinian Forum Nov. 16th; Webb, Bordallo to Speak, Via Video, on "Status of the Marianas Build Up"

Friday, 09 November 2012

News Release

Guam News - Guam News

Guam -The US Military Contracting Forum II - "Opportunities in the Marianas", scheduled for November 16th, 2012 on the Pacific US Island of Tinian is attracting major US Congressional policy and US Military administrative speakers.

The forum, sponsored by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, has lined up US Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), who will be addressing the audience via video, US Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) who will be addresssing the audience via audio and US Congressman Gregorio Sablan (I-MP) who will be speaking in person. It is expected that these speakers will address the current funding and policy changes as it relates to the US military build up on Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEE the Tinian Chamber of Commerce's list of Speakers at the Military Contracting Forum II [HERE](#)

In addition to the members from US Congress, speakers from the military such as RDML Payne who is the US Defense Representative to Micronesia, Col Scott Loch who is the Commander of US Marine Corps Activity-Guam, LtCol Thomas Frederick who is the Executive Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 12 - Iwakuni Japan and Capt John Heckmann Jr. who is the Commanding Officer of NAVFAC Marianas will also making presentations at the Military Contracing Forum.

Backing up the policy and administrative presenters will be representatives from the Federal Government such as General Services Administration - Federal Acquisition Service, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, the Defense Logistics Agency, USDA - Rural Development and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center.

For more information and to register for the event please visit: <http://www.tinianchamber.com/milconfor2012.asp>

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28912:tinian-forum-nov-16th-webb-bordallo-to-speak-via-video-on-qstatus-of-the-marianas-build-upq-&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

Ritidian an option for firing range

November 10, 2012

Brett Kelman
Pacific Daily News

If the military chooses to build a Marine firing range on Northwest Field at Andersen Air Force Base, more than 200 acres of the Ritidian wildlife refuge would be absorbed into a military safety zone.

The Guam National Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian is controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but some of the refuge is accessible to the public. The refuge boasts one of the island's most pristine and undisturbed beaches.

However, if the military were to place the Marine firing range at Northwest Field, the military would have to acquire 239 acres of refuge property, according to the Joint Guam Program Office.

This firing range plan also would require development of a large section of the Air Force Overlay, which is a parcel of military property that is used to foster endangered species near the Ritidian refuge.

"The fight there is going to be primarily between the Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," said Sen. Judith Guthertz, chairwoman of the Legislature's buildup committee. "They will be very reluctant to give up that land for the firing range."

Guthertz said a Northwest Field firing range also would anger some private citizens who once owned the land that became the Ritidian reserve. Those families believe the land should be

theirs, but they will have to watch as the federal agencies argue over who should control the land, the senator said.

Northwest Field is just one of seven options, in four locations, that the military is considering for a Marine firing range. Other options are a west-coast range at Finegayan, two configurations on the east edge of Route 15 and three configurations on Naval Magazine.

The final firing range decision will be made after comments by military experts, scientists and the public whittle down the options over the next three years. A scoping meeting, which allows the public to comment on these options and other plans, is being held at the University of Guam field house in Mangilao today.

During a scoping meeting on Thursday evening, Bryan Wood, a policy director at Marine Corps Pacific, said he believed that the Northwest Field firing range would have only minimal impact on the public access areas of the Ritidian refuge.

Everything encompassed by the safety zone would be to the right of the Ritidian visitor's center, Wood said. Almost all of the public access areas, including the popular beach areas, are to the left of the visitors center.

"We think it won't cover the visitors center," Wood said. "But as you go down the road and you turn right, where their buildings are, right now the (surface danger zone) would cover those."

However, maps provided by the military suggest otherwise. At this point, the military has released only notional estimates of the safety zone layouts, but a military map of the Northwest Field option places the Ritidian visitors center and some of the public parking inside the off-limits safety zone. These safety zones could change as the military studies the firing range options over the next few years.

Wood said the safety zone "absolutely" doesn't encompass any of the private land in the area. This is verified by maps provided by the military and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Even in the Ritidian areas that would be encompassed in the safety zone, the military doesn't plan to actually build anything, Wood said. All of the firing points and earth berms needed for the range would be built above the cliff line, on military property, and the Ritidian areas would be off limits but left untouched.

"We are not doing anything below the cliff line," Wood said. "The cliff line is really the barrier. Fish and Wildlife controls below the cliff line. Once you get up to the top of the plateau, it's Northwest Field -- that is the Air Force there."

The fact that the Northwest Field firing range option would include portions of the Ritidian wildlife refuge is just more evidence that no firing range option is without controversy.

The military is considering two Route 15 ranges, but these options have sparked protests because of their proximity to the ancient Pagat village site. The west-coast firing range proposal has prompted objections from fisherman, dive companies and the Guam Visitors Bureau. The three Naval Magazine options would require the acquisition of privately owned land, and extensive earthwork could threaten the southern watershed.

In the end, any issue that involves land on island is a sensitive one, said Guthertz. No firing range option will be without controversy, although some will spark more than others, she said. "The military has to think carefully when it moves towards its final record of decision on these issues," Guthertz said. "It must carefully consult with the leadership of the island, ... and try to sit down and work with them to perhaps come up with the most desirable site with the least impact on those resources, and possibly getting the most reasonable support from the people. I think consultation is the key here."

<http://www.guampdn.com/article/20121110/NEWS01/211100319/Ritidian-an-option-firing-range?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

For story comments go to:

<http://www.guampdn.com/comments/article/20121110/NEWS01/211100319/Ritidian-an-option-firing-range>

Navy upbeat on Congress support for buildup

MARIANAS VARIETY

FRIDAY, 09 NOV 2012

MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN



WITH a modified military buildup plan for Guam, the Department of Navy is optimistic the U.S. Congress will support the troop realignment program this time, a Navy official said yesterday.

"We've answered their concerns; we've done the study; we have this process for environmental impact study completed with some pretty good detailed information," Joseph Ludovici, Navy principal deputy assistant secretary, told a media briefing that kicked off the public scoping meeting at the old McCool School in Santa Rita.

"We are finding more support from senior members of Congress," Ludovici said, noting the congressional members' earlier refusal to approve the proposed defense budget for Guam, due to a hazy force layout under the original plan to relocate 9,000 Marines and their families from Okinawa.

Last year, the U.S. Congress pumped the brakes on the multi-billion-dollar troop realignment plan and froze the funding for Guam, prompting the Navy to cancel the so-called "Mamizu projects" funded by Japan government.

The Navy has since amended the program, reducing to 5,000 the number of Marines to be deployed to Guam.

"We have to see how this year's budget comes out. I think they will agree that this is the right force structure and the right size of program for Guam," Ludovici said.

More alternative sites

Besides the force reduction, the revised plan also includes the expansion of the list of alternative sites for the proposed firing range complex and cantonment base.

The new list, which now includes defense-owned properties, is anticipated to ease the tension between the military and local community triggered by the Navy's original plan to build the firing range on Route 15 near the ancient village of Pãgat.

Although Pãgat remains on the table, other alternative sites now include the Northwest Field on Andersen Air Force Base, the northern and southern portions of the Naval Magazine in Apra, NCTS Finagayen and South Finagayen, and Navy Barrigada.

Although the preferred site has yet to be determined, Ludovici said the Navy found it worth considering to study the possibility of using defense properties considering that the Navy now requires a much smaller area to build the proposed firing range facility and cantonment area for a much smaller force to be stationed on Guam.

He noted that Finagayen wasn't included in the original draft environmental impact study because there are residential communities in the area.

"We thought we didn't have an alternative for a firing range, so we didn't bring that up as a potential alternative," he said. "In retrospect, that would have been good to bring it forward for public discussion. We were criticized for not having that in a public forum."

Timelines

Ludovici said the preferred site will eventually be selected based on a number of factors including the project costs,

environmental impact and compatibility with the military's mission.

The supplemental environmental impact statement is anticipated to be completed in 2014.

By then, Ludovoci said, the preferred site will have been identified. The Record of Decision, the final step in the SEIS process, is expected to be released in 2015, he added.

Meanwhile, the Joint Guam Program Office last night launched the first of three public scoping meetings at the Old McCool School in Santa Rita. Another meeting will be held at 5 p.m. today at Okkodo High School in Dededo. The last scoping meeting will be held tomorrow from noon to 3 p.m. at the University of Guam Field House.

Considering that the new plan consists of a "more manageable size of the force," Ludovici said JGPO anticipates support from local officials and the local community.

"I think we don't see as many conflicts but we are going to have some challenges," he said. "We have a number of issues that we're going to talk about during the scoping meetings."

<http://mvguam.com/local/news/26774-navy-upbeat-on-congress-support-for-buildup.html>

Scoping meetings today, tomorrow

November 9, 2012

Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News

Dozens of residents attended the first of three military buildup scoping meetings last night, and two more meetings are set for tonight and tomorrow.

The scoping meetings will present preliminary details and maps on each buildup option, and military experts will be on hand to address individual questions from the public.

"The purpose of this is to have the opportunity for one-on-one with the experts from the Marines to the environmental planners to the facility planners, and to look at the alternatives for the main cantonment for the firing range," said Joe Ludovici, the acting principal deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy Installations and Environment. Ludovici is also the head of the Joint Guam Program Office.

The other scoping meetings are tonight at Okkodo High School from 5 to 8, and tomorrow from noon to 3 p.m. at the University of Guam field house.

You can comment on the buildup proposal at either meeting, or send comments through the mail or email.

These meetings are the beginning of a new supplemental environmental impact statement process, which will shape the military's plan for a Marine base and a firing range somewhere on Guam. The final decision won't be made until early 2015.

The military is considering five locations for a Marine base and seven options in four locations for the firing range. Both the base and the firing range are smaller than what was proposed a few years ago, so smaller locations are now on the table.

The original buildup plan would have brought 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents to Guam. The revised plan includes only 5,000 Marines and 1,300 dependents.

Ludovici said the old buildup plan could have been accomplished, but the smaller buildup plan had more support from Congress, elected officials and the people of Guam.

"It's a more manageable size of a force," Ludovici said yesterday. "And the Department of Defense -- from the Pacific Command to the commandant of the Marine Corps to secretary of defense and the Department of the Navy -- I think we are all aligned. This is the right mix for the Pacific lay down, not just on Guam, but also what we have in Okinawa, Australia and Hawaii. So we don't see as many conflicts."

None of the options for the Marine base would require the military to absorb any civilian land. The firing range options require between 47 and 1,634 civilian acres. The military has vowed that for every acre of civilian land that is absorbed in the buildup it will release an acre of military property.

<http://www.guampdn.com/article/20121109/NEWS01/211090304/Scoping-meetings-today-tomorrow?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

Let's keep after that win-win military buildup!

THURSDAY, 08 NOV 2012

JUDI GUTHERTZ

Editor's note: Weekly columns written by candidates were suspended by Marianas Variety-Guam from the filing deadline in July. Now that the election is over, those columns may resume at the discretion of the columnists. This is the first.

IT ISN'T easy to write this column without some passion and pain after suffering a political loss, but it's the least I can do to convey both my thanks and hopes for the future to the people I love, the people of Guam.

Guam has given me so much since I came here as an infant. It was here that I gained the foundation of my education and the gift of growing up in a very special and unique part of the United States, the island that we share.

Guam is the place where I began and continue a long and fruitful career as an educator at both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College. It is where I was confronted with the notion that those who presume to teach others about how to administer government should take a personal hand in doing it themselves. I learned some hard lessons during my tenure at the Department of Public Safety, but gained invaluable experience which I've been able to convey to my students in the years since.

I'll be forever grateful to the voters who presented me with the

opportunity to serve three terms in the Guam Legislature. I've gained so much knowledge and understanding as an office-holder and I hope that I've repaid the citizens for their trust. I know that I tried my utmost to do so with my best efforts every day at the Legislature.

In any undertaking, including politics, we must accept that change will always come. No one, especially voters, will accept that present office-holders are the ultimate answer to the problems that we confront every day. That new faces and new ideas will make things better in the future is the hope on which our politics is founded.

I accept Tuesday's verdict by the voters and I'll do everything I can to smooth the transition to a positive and productive 32nd Guam Legislature.

One concern that I have is that this electoral outcome might be viewed as a rejection of the need to ensure that the Guam Military Buildup be anything other than a "win-win" for both the civilian and military communities. Those who served in the 30th and 31st Guam Legislatures, regardless of party, unanimously took this view and it is reflected in the records and resolutions of these bodies.

In part due to this history, all of us, military and civilian, are enjoying the blessings of a "do-over" in which the buildup fits in with the needs of both communities. From what I am hearing, there is a quiet consensus that the original plans that set many major deadlines in 2014 would have been 'too much too soon,' overrunning everything that makes Guam special and livable, including functioning utilities and transportation.

Tonight, in meetings organized by the Joint Guam Program Office, you will have your first chance to comment on proposed locations for the live fire training range, a Marine cantonment which will include family housing, and how these developments will affect Guam's local infrastructure. There will also be 'scoping' meetings on Friday and Saturday.

Tonight's meeting is from 5 to 8 p.m. at the old McCool School

gym/cafeteria (outside the main gate, Naval Base, Building 4175); the second meeting is Friday, Nov. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m., Okkodo High School, Dededo; and the third meeting, Friday, Nov. 10 from noon to 3 p.m. at the University of Guam Field House, Mangilao.

I hope I'll see you at these meetings. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who supported me during my tenure as a senator. Again, Guam is a very special place and its people are truly exceptional when it comes to optimism, friendship, energy and enthusiasm. I am so grateful to live here and to have had the privilege of serving them. I will continue to help our island move forward in other ways.

Send feedback to senatorjudiguthertz@gmail.com.

Series of community meetings on SEIS launch

KUAM News

Nov 08, 2012

Ken Quintanilla

Guam - Tonight, the first in a series of public scoping meetings kicks off in Santa Rita at the old McCool School on the expanded Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the live-fire training range complex alternatives along with locations for the main cantonment and family housing for the Marine Corps relocation.

Joint Guam Program Office director Joe Ludovici says the series of scoping meetings on the expanded SEIS will be similar to one held this past spring featuring a more open house-style for the community to meet with subject matter experts and provide comments on the proposed alternatives being considered. "The purpose of this is to have a one on one with the experts, the Marines and the environmental planners and facility planners to look at the alternatives of the main cantonment and the firing range," he said.

He says no question will go unanswered tonight and all comments will help define the scope of what is studied in the SEIS. As we reported, there are now seven preliminary alternatives for a live fire training range which include Route 15a and Route 15b, three alternative locations either on or adjacent to Naval Magazine, with the two new ones at Andersen Air Force Base's Northwest Field and NCTS Finegayan on the northwest coast of Guam. Additionally, the SEIS will also cover five preliminary alternatives identified for the main cantonment and family housing.

"I think this is a good opportunity for the people of Guam to have a good discussion about how they can help us shape this for what they think is a good long-term strategic benefit for Guam," said Ludovici.

Ludovici says this time around, he's more optimistic this time due to more support from Congress, along with elected officials and the people of Guam. However, he doesn't want to underestimate the challenges that may arise. He explained, "We're going to have a number of issues we're going to talk about at these scoping meetings-traffic, environmental and cultural issues, we're going to continue to have to address this. It's not going to be an easy fix."

He adds the laydown adjustment of the Marine relocation is a more manageable size. He adds the lower number along with the change of method on the proposed action is the reason behind this expanded SEIS. Meanwhile, according to JGPO environmental director Dan Cecchini, in addition to the comments he hopes as all the comments come in the process, hopefully it will be clear what alternatives are proffered over others and can be featured in the Draft SEIS set for early 2014.

He said, "For a variety of reasons maybe costs, environmental issues to include the full gamut to include cultural resources, natural resources, endangered species, traffic, socioeconomics."

Ludovici meanwhile adds the alternatives that best meet the military mission will be the priority. Another scoping meeting will be held Friday, November 9 from 5pm to 8pm at Okkodo High School and on Saturday, November 10 at the University of Guam Field House from 12pm to 3pm.

<http://www.kuam.com/story/20037672/2012/11/08/series-of-community-meetings-on-seis-launch>

VIDEO: SEIS Scooping Meetings Underway

08 November 2012

Kevin Kerrigan

Guam News

Guam - The Joint Guam Program office overseeing the military buildup held the first of its 3 scooping meetings on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Thursday night.

The meeting took place at the Old McCool gym in Santa Rita. JGPO Director Joe Ludovici held a news conference there Thursday afternoon.

He said these scooping meetings are a chance for the public to help shape the outcome of the proposed firing range complex and the new Marine housing which are planned for the down-sized military buildup.

The other 2 scooping meetings are being held Friday night at Okkodo High School from 5pm until 8pm and on Saturday from 12-noon until 3 pm at the UOG Field House.

<http://www.k57.com/main.htm>

US restarts efforts to move Okinawa Marines to Guam

Travis Tritten

Stars and Stripes

November 8, 2012

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa - The U.S. military restarted efforts this week to build up Guam for the planned relocation of about 5,000 Okinawa Marines, a key piece in the stalled plan to realign forces in the Pacific region and reduce tensions in Japan.

The Navy was showing Guamanians proposed locations for controversial Marine live-fire training ranges and housing during town hall-style meetings and said it will make a final decision on the laydown of the new facilities after a two- to three-year environmental study.

Guam was chosen in 2006 as a relocation site, after the U.S. and Japan finally bent to Okinawa demands and agreed to reduce the large troop presence here. But the needed improvements on Guam have been slow to materialize and some earlier relocation work was recently scrapped due to public opposition and shifting U.S.-Japan plans.

"We are trying to receive comments and see what may work" for the Marines on the island, said Maj. Darren Alvarez, local deputy director of the Joint Guam Program Office, which is handling the buildup for the Navy.

The Navy originally proposed using an ancient ancestral burial ground, called Pagat, as a location for the Marines to train with machine guns and grenades. It was strongly opposed by many citizens groups, sparking a lawsuit against the service and the Department of Defense.

The military eventually agreed to conduct another study of sites.

In the meantime, the U.S. and Japan signed a revised agreement in April that reduced the number of Marines slated to move to Guam. The island is now set to become one of several key locations in a new Marine Corps presence that will arc across the Pacific, from joint bases in Australia to domestic bases in Hawaii.

The Guam move would significantly reduce the 19,000 Marines on Okinawa, who have remained since World War II and caused resentment due to sporadic crime, air traffic and noise. Over the last two months, Okinawans have waged numerous protests over the arrival of Osprey aircraft and the U.S. military called a Japan-wide curfew after two sailors were charged with gang-raping and robbing an Okinawa woman.

But little progress has been made recently on Guam. The amended U.S. Japan agreement in April reduced the relocation from 9,000 to 5,000 and meant the Navy had to discard months of work.

Alvarez said the Navy has started fresh with an expanded list of seven potential sites for the firing ranges and housing. They include Pagat.

"We have no preferred alternative at this point," he said.

The service is now asking the public to weigh in on the sites and will use that information to eventually make its decision, expected in 2015.

If training ranges are built in the Pagat area, the Navy has pledged to allow Guamanians unfettered year-round access to the land, Alvarez said.

Sen. Judy Guthertz, chairwoman of the Guam legislature's military buildup committee, said many on Guam support the military buildup as an economic opportunity and eagerly anticipate progress toward relocating the Marines.

Guthertz has pressed for local businesses to have access to construction contracting and she has also asked Congress to expedite the environmental studies and release of federal funding for the buildup.

However, the military's continued pursuit of the Pagat site could be a potential snag, Guthertz said.

"It is still something they are seriously looking at," she said. "It may be contentious and it could be controversial still."

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us-restarts-efforts-to-move-okinawa-marines-to-guam-1.196367>

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary To Attend 2012 Guam And
CNMI Relocation SEIS Public Scoping Meetings

Navy News Service

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Joint Guam Program Office

SANTA RITA, Guam (NNS) -- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) Joseph Ludovici will address the media Nov. 8, to begin the first of three public scoping meetings for the 2012 Guam and CNMI Relocation Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

The event will take place at Old McCool School, Nov. 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ChST), Bldg. 4175 (Old McCool School) Gym/Cafeteria, Santa Rita, Guam.

There will be three public scoping meetings: Nov. 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ChST), Old McCool School, Bldg. 4175 (Old McCool School) Gym/Cafeteria, Santa Rita, Guam; Nov. 9, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (ChST), Okkodo High School, Dededo, Guam; and Nov. 10, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (ChST), University of Guam Field House, Mangilao, Guam.

The Navy encourages public participation in the SEIS process and looks forward to receiving comments at the scoping meetings and online at <http://guambuildupeis.us>.

The deadline to submit public comments is Dec. 10.

Ludovici's availability will be open to correspondents, print, radio, video and still photographers. All media must RSVP to JGPO staff: Maj. Darren Alvarez at 671-777-1453 or by e-mail at darren.alvarez@fe.navy.mil or Ms. Jean Chabanne at 671-482-3687 or by e-mail at jean.chabanne@fe.navy.mil by Nov. 8 at noon ChST.

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=70523 and at

http://www.navy.mil/search/print.asp?story_id=70523&VIRIN=&image_type=0&page=0



Update to the 2012 Guam and CNMI Relocation Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Story Number: NNS121211-04
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From Joint Guam Program Office

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of the Navy (Navy) announced that the public scoping period for the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation (2012 Roadmap Adjustments) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has ended and preparation of the draft SEIS is underway.

In October 2012, Navy announced that because of April 2012 adjustments to the 2006 Realignment Roadmap Agreement relocating U.S. Marine Corps forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, the SEIS for the live-fire training range complex (LFTRC) on Guam was being expanded to include an assessment of changes to the number and composition of Marines relocating to Guam.

The roadmap adjustments included reducing the originally planned relocation of approximately 8,000 Marines (and 9,000 dependents) to a force of approximately 5,000 Marines (and 1,300 dependents) on Guam and will therefore require an assessment of potential environmental impacts related to the force reduction, base and family housing, and training requirements.

Since the April 2012 Roadmap Adjustments, Navy has been conducting site assessments of preliminary alternatives in preparation for the public scoping period for the SEIS, which commenced Oct. 11, 2012 (EDT). The Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO) held three public scoping meetings on Guam Nov. 8-10 and met with more than 240 members of the public, including interest groups, representatives from the Guam Legislature, various Federal and local agencies, and the Office of Governor of Guam.

"The SEIS public scoping meetings provided everyone who participated a forum to learn, engage and be heard," said Joe Ludovici, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment (Acting). "The public scoping meetings served an important purpose in providing project details and maintaining transparency in what we are doing in support of the Asia-Pacific rebalance, but also provided us with a tremendous opportunity to strengthen relationships between Navy and the people of Guam."

Over the course of the next couple of months, Navy representatives will review scoping input, finish field work on Guam, and start preparing the draft SEIS. The Navy sincerely appreciates the public's participation during the SEIS public scoping period, open house meetings, and encourages everyone to continue to track SEIS progress online at <http://guambuildupeis.us>.