

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

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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://quambuildupeis.us.