

FOREWORD

The United States (U.S.) Marine Corps (USMC) prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support land-based training for ongoing and evolving joint expeditionary warfare tactics, specifically, distributed operations on the island of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Distributed operations training relies on the use of small, dispersed land, sea, air, space, and cyber detachments conducting stealthy, coordinated, and independent actions from minimally developed and advanced island positions. The Proposed Action would accommodate U.S. Armed Forces forward-deployed to the Western Pacific and U.S. allies and partners.

To accommodate the proposed training, new training infrastructure would create a physical and virtual training environment to include two live-fire ranges, two surface radar towers, improvements to North Field, the development of Landing Zones, an expeditionary Base Camp at the former U.S. Agency for Global Media site, and biosecurity facilities. A communications system to support training would be established through the reuse of existing communications towers located on Tinian and Saipan, with portable sensors and emitters in the Military Lease Area. To ensure training unit and public safety during training, an on-island Training Area and Range Operations Command (Range Control) would be established. Range Control would schedule training and coordinate with local officials and the public. Two action alternatives (Alternatives 1 and 2) and a No Action Alternative are analyzed in this Final EIS. The nature and purpose of training under either action alternative would remain consistent with previously approved training activities, while incorporating updated tactics, techniques, and procedures utilizing new training infrastructure. Both alternatives include the same infrastructure but have different training tempos.

The USMC released a Revised Draft EIS on June 6, 2025, and solicited comments on the Proposed Action. This Final EIS considered and addressed, as appropriate, comments received on the Revised Draft EIS (see Appendix L). Many of the changes in the Final EIS reflect feedback from public comment received on the Revised Draft EIS as well as refinements to the Proposed Action and analysis made by the USMC.

In addition to modifications to improve clarity, notable changes made to the Final EIS are summarized below.

- **Chapter 2 (Proposed Action and Alternatives)**
 - Section 1.5.1 (Federal Cooperating Agencies): Removed the Federal Aviation Administration as a cooperating agency (per their request); however, coordination between the Federal Aviation Administration and the USMC will continue as noted in Section 1.5.2.
 - Section 2.1.12 (Phased Implementation of Construction and Training): This section and other sections of the Final EIS were updated to clarify that the proposed construction activities would be intermittent over 10-15 years.
 - Table 2.3-1 (Proposed Management Measures): Updated the table with two new management measures: 1) The Department of Defense (DoD) would conduct soil sampling at the two live-fire ranges prior to range certification and 2) The DoD would work with the CNMI to identify federal programs or funding sources to support the

siting and installation of fish aggregating devices to offset the potential impacts to subsistence fishers. Table 2.3-1 was also updated to clarify that the DoD would install up to four groundwater monitoring wells at each of the two live-fire ranges, establish a water monitoring plan, and include one year of baseline monitoring before ranges would become operational.

- **Chapter 3 (Affected Environment)**

- Section 3.10.6.1 (Wildfire): Added additional background information regarding fire history on Tinian, contributing factors to fire risk such as fuels, vegetation and weather, and discussed existing fire management and response capability.
- Section 3.11 (Utilities): Several clarifying edits were made throughout this section to include the most updated information, such as in Section 3.11.1 (Potable, Non-Potable, and Groundwater Water Supply).

- **Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences)**

- Section 4.10.3.1 (Public Health and Safety – Alternative 1 – Ground Training): Added language about the Operational Range Assessment Program/Range Environmental Vulnerability Assessment Program.
- Section 4.10.3.4 (Public Health and Safety – Alternative 1 – Natural Hazards): Expanded the discussion of potential wildfire risk including risk reduction and management processes.
- Section 4.11 (Utilities): Several clarifying edits were made throughout the section to include the most updated information, such as in Section 4.11.3.1 (Utilities – Alternative 1 – Potable Water Supply).
- Section 4.15 (Cumulative Impacts): Included additional projects to the list that are still being planned, including the CNMI lease modification and U.S. Air Force Fighter operations in the CNMI. Also updated Table 4.15-1 (Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions).

- **Appendices**

- Appendix F (EIS Public Involvement Materials): This appendix was added since the release of the Revised Draft EIS and includes the notifications that announced the public review and comment period and public meetings, along with the materials made available at the public meetings.
- Appendix L (EIS Public Comment Responses): This appendix was added since the release of the Revised Draft EIS and includes an explanation of the public comment process for the Revised Draft EIS, a list of agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders that provided comments, the comment submissions received, and the USMC's corresponding responses to substantive comments.
- Appendix M (Utilities Studies): Several updates were made based on updated utility information, and reflect edits made in the main text of the Final EIS.

The USMC would like to thank elected officials, federal regulatory and local resource agencies, business and community leaders, organizations, and individuals for reviewing the CNMI Joint Military Training Revised Draft EIS, attending the public meetings, and submitting comments on the document. Appendix L of the Final EIS includes comments received on the Revised Draft EIS as well as USMC responses, as appropriate.

Finally, the terms “DoD” and “USMC” are used throughout the Final EIS. It is important to note that any proposed commitments that are listed in the Final EIS are the responsibility of the DoD and would be implemented by one of its military departments.

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