

## 1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

### 1.1 Introduction

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support land-based training for ongoing and evolving joint expeditionary warfare tactics on the island of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (Figure 1.1-1). The Proposed Action would accommodate U.S. Armed Forces forward-deployed to the Western Pacific and U.S. allies and partners.

To support the proposed training, the Proposed Action would create a physical and virtual training environment within the lands leased by the military on Tinian 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 (USAGM) 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,<sup>1</sup> 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. The locations where the Proposed Action would occur on Tinian and Saipan are depicted on Figure 1.1-2. Two training alternatives and a No Action Alternative on Tinian are analyzed in this Final EIS.

The location of the CNMI supports the Department of Defense's (DoD) strategic posture in the Indo-Pacific area of operations and, pursuant to agreements between the U.S. and CNMI governments, U.S. Armed Forces have transited through and trained within the CNMI for many decades. The island of Tinian has played an important role in national security since World War II when runways were constructed to enable 24-hour bomber operations in support of Pacific operations. In recent decades, U.S. Armed Forces and our allies and partners have conducted ground, aviation, amphibious, and other non-live-fire training in the Military Lease Area on the northern two-thirds of the island.

The Military Lease Area on Tinian was established in a 1983 lease agreement pursuant to the *Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America* (hereinafter "The Covenant"). The Military Lease Area comprises 15,353 acres, separated into an Exclusive Military Use Area (7,574 acres) and a Lease Back Area (7,779 acres). Military training may be conducted throughout the Military Lease Area but has been concentrated within the Exclusive Military Use Area. The Lease Back Area contains grazing areas used by local ranchers. The USAGM, previously known as the International Broadcasting Bureau, formerly operated the Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station within the Military Lease Area under a separate agreement with the DoD. Additional information on The Covenant and leases is included in Section 1.3.

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to repurposing the towers on the former USAGM Saipan site, the DoD would need to establish a new lease for the property with the CNMI.

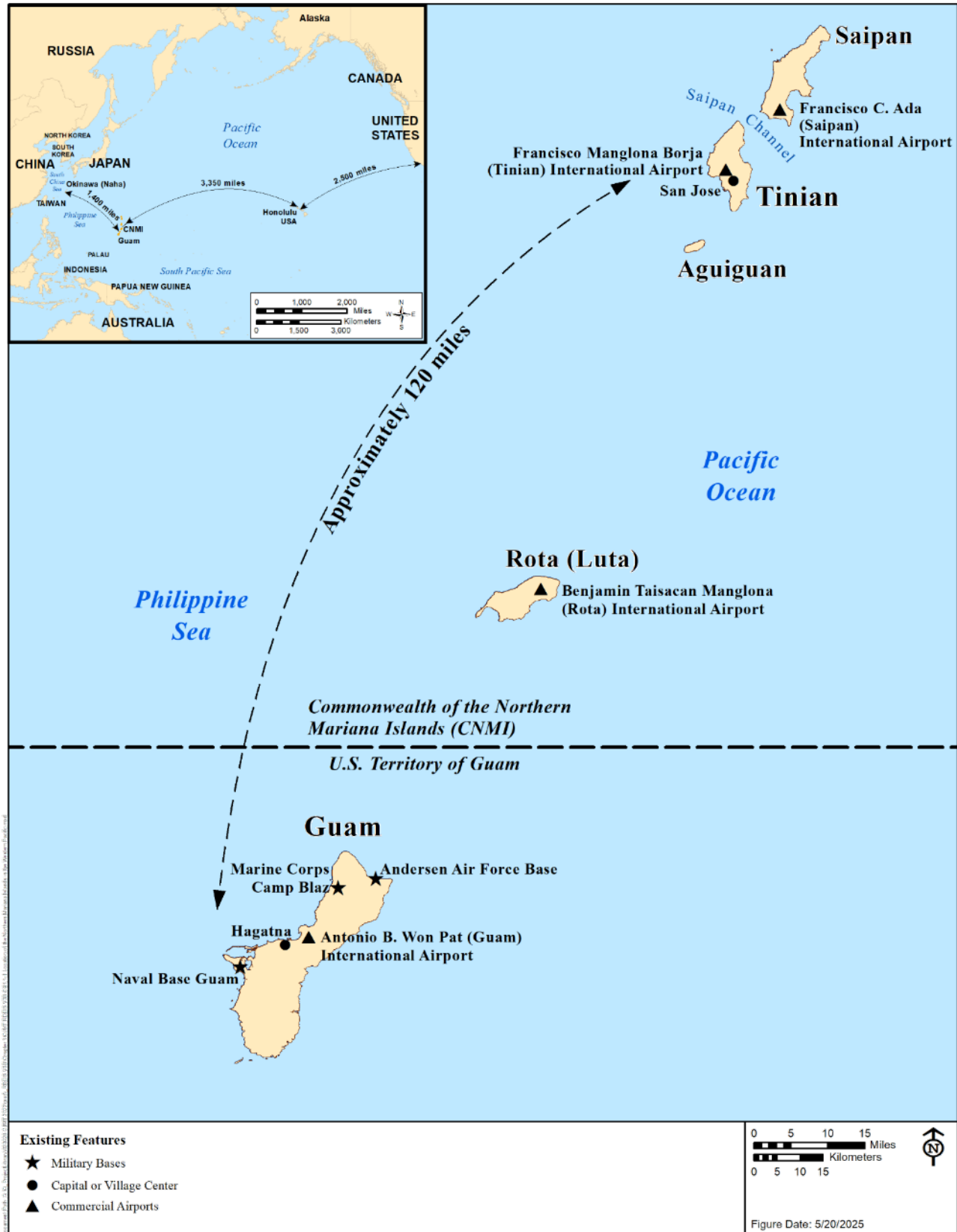


Figure 1.1-1 Location of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific



Figure 1.1-2 Proposed Action Location

On March 14, 2013, the Department of the Navy (DON) published a Notice of Intent to prepare the CNMI Joint Military Training (CJMT) EIS/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS). In 2015, a Draft EIS/OEIS was published that evaluated a Proposed Action that significantly expanded the scope of military training within the CNMI for use by forward-deployed U.S. Armed Forces and our allies and partners in the Western Pacific by proposing to establish a series of 14 permanent live-fire and maneuver ranges on the islands of Tinian and Pagan along with supporting infrastructure. Numerous comments were received on the Draft EIS/OEIS from citizens, government officials, and regulatory agencies expressing concern about the scope and potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. On February 18, 2016, in response to the concerns raised on the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS, the USMC announced its intention to issue a Revised Draft EIS for proposed training in the CNMI.<sup>2</sup> Since that time, threats posed by U.S. geo-political and military competitors in the Western Pacific have led to changes in the way U.S. Armed Forces prepare for future conflicts. As a result, the USMC re-evaluated the extent to which the joint training deficiencies identified in the Mariana Islands (that informed the initial CJMT proposal) remain relevant to the emerging international security environment and should be assessed in a Revised Draft EIS.

To counter the defensive and offensive strategies of its military competitors in the Western Pacific, the U.S. is implementing the concept of distributed operations. Distributed operations rely on the use of small, agile, and highly capable dispersed land, sea, air, space, and cyber detachments conducting stealthy, coordinated, and independent actions from minimally developed and advanced island positions within the arc of an opponent's long-range weapons. Each "island position" would successively serve as a launching point to obtain a foothold on the next island in a "leapfrog movement." With each subsequent advance, these detachments secure more island footholds, threatening an opponent's freedom of movement along key sea and air lanes, and providing the time needed to assemble a larger task force for a broader response. The distributed operations training on Tinian, described further in Chapter 2, would be representative of such an initial "island position."

Both the 2022 National Defense Strategy and Global Posture Review acknowledge the emerging challenges to national security in the Indo-Pacific and have informed the next version of military training requirements for forward-deployed U.S. Armed Forces in the region. In recognition of the importance of the region to U.S. national security interests, the U.S. Government has invested in improving force posture, increasing readiness and presence, and building the capabilities of our allies and partners at various Western Pacific locations, including the Marianas. Thus, while training requirements have changed, the continuing need for sustainment training for forward-deployed U.S. Armed Forces in the Mariana Islands has not.

Under the Proposed Action evaluated in this Final EIS, the USMC would develop a realistic, one-of-one training environment within the Military Lease Area on Tinian. This location, west of the International Dateline and one of the farthest western DoD-controlled properties in the U.S., would provide an accessible and secure location for U.S. Armed Forces and our allies and partners to

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<sup>2</sup> Per Executive Order 12114, an "Overseas Environmental Impact Statement" is an environmental impact analysis that is required when a Proposed Action has the potential to significantly harm the environment outside of the U.S. and its territories and possessions. The Proposed Action analyzed in this Final EIS is limited to on-land training on Tinian and thus does not require analysis under Executive Order 12114 and this document is not an EIS/OEIS.

conduct training in distributed operations and other tactics. To leverage the capabilities of modern technology, the USMC would create an instrumented training environment within the Military Lease Area, integrating physical and virtual training, to replicate possible combat scenarios and teach particular skills and techniques. This would allow U.S. Armed Forces and allied forces to rapidly adapt to changing battlefield conditions in an island environment and build experience without the time and cost of an exclusively live exercise.

Many of the training events included in this Proposed Action would remain consistent with previously approved training activities, while incorporating updated tactics, techniques, and procedures utilizing new training infrastructure. Current land-based training events, meaning those that occur inland on Tinian from the mean high-water mark on the beach, are described in the 2010 *Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS/OEIS* (DON 2010a) and the 2015 *Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS* (DON 2015a). This Final EIS addresses land-based training only. Environmental planning and permitting for other training in the CNMI, including in-water training occurring seaward from the high-water mark on Tinian within the Mariana Islands Range Complex, would continue to be addressed in the MITT EIS/OEISs.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is the action proponent for the Proposed Action and designated the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific to be the Executive Agent overseeing preparation of this Final EIS. The USMC prepared this Final EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] sections 4321-4347) and Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5090.2, *Environmental Compliance and Protection Program*.

## **1.2 Purpose and Need**

### **1.2.1 Purpose of the Proposed Action**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce joint training deficiencies for U.S. Armed Forces in the Indo-Pacific area of operations. The development and operation of a realistic and instrumented training environment on Tinian, sized to accommodate combined joint and allied forces training and readily available for scheduling, is necessary to enable forward-deployed U.S. Armed Forces to meet evolving operational training requirements and support U.S. training with allied nations, changes in U.S. force structure, and geographic repositioning of forces.

Existing military training ranges, training areas, and support facilities used by the U.S. Armed Forces in the Indo-Pacific area of operations are widely dispersed with most located in foreign nations. As a result, scheduling these training areas is not always assured. Moreover, foreign-owned training areas do not provide the necessary level of security U.S. Armed Forces require when training in advanced tactics and with advanced weapons systems, nor are they capable of supporting combined joint and allied forces training “at scale” in a fully-instrumented network environment.

What makes the CNMI, and Tinian in particular, unique and valuable as a training area is its location as a U.S. Commonwealth within the Western Pacific, and its natural coastline, dense vegetation, and rugged terrain, all of which are representative of areas where U.S. Armed Forces and our allies and partners could deploy throughout the Pacific and Asia. The Proposed Action would allow an integrated force of multiple units to simultaneously react and respond to a single scenario as if in an actual combat situation. As the DoD faces a growing threat and increased

competition from non-allied nations in the Western Pacific, training on Tinian would allow the DoD to develop and preserve critical capabilities for protecting and defending the U.S. and the Marianas, ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region through training in a military-controlled and secure environment within a Commonwealth of the United States.

### **1.2.2 Need for the Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is needed to enable U.S. Armed Forces to meet their individual mandates in Title 10 to be trained and equipped to protect U.S. national security by being ready to effectively prosecute war and defend the nation (e.g., 10 U.S.C. sections 167, 7013, 7062, 8013, 8062, 8063, 9013, 9062). Responsibilities include building, sustaining, and improving readiness capabilities. The preparedness and readiness of forward-deployed U.S. Armed Forces (rotational, transient, and permanently stationed forces outside the continental U.S.) are key to a robust U.S. defense strategy. In the Indo-Pacific region, U.S. forward-deployed Armed Forces need to exercise evolving tactics, training, and procedures that will enable them to deter adversary aggression. The availability of the Military Lease Area to conduct sustainment training events would result in ready forces prepared to act immediately to respond to a threat to national security.

The Proposed Action would support ongoing and evolving distributed operational training requirements, changes to U.S. force structure, geographic repositioning of forces, and U.S. training with allied nations and partners.

## **1.3 Location and Current Military Training**

### **1.3.1 The CNMI**

The CNMI is composed of 14 islands and their territorial waters in the Mariana Archipelago. The archipelago stretches about 400 nautical miles from north to south along critical sea lanes between the U.S. West Coast, Hawaii, and East Asia. Positioned west of the International Date Line, the CNMI is one of the westernmost points of U.S. territory.

From 1945 to 1972, the U.S. administered the Mariana Islands as part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In 1972, negotiations with the U.S. began for new political status for the people of the CNMI. In 1975, a Covenant establishing a commonwealth was approved by Northern Mariana Islands residents, and, on March 24, 1976, this union with the U.S. became effective as memorialized in The Covenant. The CNMI government adopted its own constitution in 1977, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

The Covenant defines the relationship between the CNMI and the U.S. and recognizes U.S. sovereignty and the applicability of U.S. federal law (48 U.S.C. Chapter 17). Article VIII of The Covenant specifies certain property rights and addresses property leases between the CNMI and the U.S. Government. Section 802 of The Covenant makes areas in the CNMI available to the U.S. via lease to carry out its defense responsibilities.

Military training in the Northern Mariana Islands has been analyzed in a series of environmental planning documents prepared by the DON between 1999 and 2020. The first document, *Military Training in the Marianas EIS*, was completed in 1999, followed by the 2010 *Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS/OEIS*, the 2015 *MITT EIS/OEIS*, and a Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the MITT Study Area in 2020 (DON 1999, 2010a, 2015a, 2020). The Mariana Islands Range Complex

A **Range Complex** is a geographically integrated set of ranges, maneuver areas, and associated special use airspace, designated and equipped with a command and control system (i.e., Range Control) and supporting infrastructure.

encompasses land, ocean surface and undersea areas, and airspace surrounding the CNMI and Guam. This includes land training areas on Tinian, Rota, Saipan, Farallon de Medinilla, and Guam, along with 501,873 square nautical miles of open ocean and littorals (coastal areas) for in-water training (DON 2010a). The MITT Study Area includes the Mariana Islands Range Complex, additional areas on the high seas, and a transit corridor where training and testing activities may occur (DON 2015a, 2020).<sup>3</sup> The 2010 *Guam and CNMI Military Relocation EIS* and the 2015 *Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Roadmap Adjustments) Supplemental EIS* provided additional analysis (DON 2010c, 2015).

### 1.3.2 The Island of Tinian

Agreements made between the U.S. and the CNMI, including The Covenant and *Technical Agreement Regarding Use of Land to Be Leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands* (hereinafter “Technical Agreement”), and the 1983 lease agreement, subsequently amended in 1994, 1999, and 2023, provide for the northern two-thirds of Tinian to be used for military training. The Military Lease Area (15,353 acres) on Tinian is leased by the U.S. Government (Figure 1.1-2). The 1983 lease originally included approximately 177 acres at Tanapag Harbor on Saipan, 206 acres encompassing the entirety of Farallon de Medinilla and the waters immediately adjacent, and 17,799 acres of land and the waters immediately adjacent on Tinian. The 1983 lease was for an initial term of 50 years and includes a pre-paid option for an additional 50 years (Section 803(a)). Between 1994 and 1999, 2,446 acres of the original 17,799 leased acres were returned to Tinian. The U.S. Navy is the federal agency responsible for management of the lease, with delegated authority to Joint Region Marianas. Under this Proposed Action, the USMC, on behalf of Joint Region Marianas, would be responsible for the day-to-day management and scheduling of training in the Military Lease Area, which would be designated as a USMC Range Complex. The U.S. Air Force holds a separate lease with the Commonwealth Ports Authority for infrastructure improvements at Francisco Manglona Borja / Tinian International Airport (TNI) and the Honorable Jose Pangelinan San Nicolas Commercial Port of Tinian (Port of

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<sup>3</sup> At sea training and testing activities in the MITT Study Area are authorized through 2027 under environmental documents or permits issued to the DON, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, including the 2020 Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS (DON 2020), 2020 Marine Mammal Protection Act Letter of Authorization (National Marine Fisheries Service 2020a), and 2020 Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion (National Marine Fisheries Service 2020b). Future at sea training activities beyond 2027 would require regulatory consultations and a request for a letter of authorization by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and incidental take statements under the Endangered Species Act.

Tinian) to support divert (i.e., contingency) airfield operations. This lease was established in 2019 and amended in 2023.

Another federal agency, USAGM, signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 1993 with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs on behalf of the DoD to use a portion of the Military Lease Area for a transmitting station in support of Voice of America operations. The Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station is situated along the northwestern coast of the island approximately 3 miles north of TNI, bordered by 8th Avenue to the east. The site consists of 834 acres, with 300 acres surrounded by three-strand barbed wire fence and government property signs. Since 1999, the fenced portion has not been used for military training due to its existing federal use, although the DoD was able to use the remainder of the site for training purposes. The USAGM operations on Tinian were supported by a second transmitter station on an approximately 8-acre site located on the southwestern tip of Saipan. USAGM leased the Saipan property from the CNMI Department of Public Lands. The transmitting stations on Tinian and Saipan broadcasted until August 2024, when the USAGM announced operations had ceased and closure process had begun for the facilities on both Tinian and Saipan (Marianas Variety 2024).

U.S. Armed Forces training currently occurs within the Military Lease Area. As described above in Section 1.3.1, the existing land-based training in the Military Lease Area on Tinian has been analyzed in a series of environmental planning documents (DON 2010a, 2015a) and includes activities such as observing enemy forces, using electronic warfare to disrupt communication, airfield and logistics operations, and rehearsing attacks and defense strategies. The Proposed Action would increase the tempo and scope of current land-based training on Tinian and provide for more consistent engagement with the CNMI government and the Tinian municipality.

#### **1.4 NEPA Environmental Review Process and Public Involvement**

Figure 1.4-1 illustrates the NEPA environmental review process, including opportunities for public and agency input. The following sections summarize this NEPA process, including the events that occurred leading up to this Final EIS and the steps that follow.

##### **1.4.1 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS NEPA Process**

On March 14, 2013, the DON published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS for the construction and operation of training ranges on Tinian and Pagan in the Federal Register (78 FR 16257). The Notice of Intent announced a 45-day public scoping period; the dates, times, and locations for public scoping meetings; and the various methods available for submitting comments on the Proposed Action. In addition, the Notice of Intent stated the public scoping process would be used to satisfy National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 public engagement requirements in accordance with 36 C.F.R. section 800.8(c). The public scoping period was extended an additional 14 days on April 23, 2013 (78 FR 23920) and ended on May 12, 2013. Three public scoping meetings were held in the CNMI on April 10–12, 2013.

Collectively, the scoping comment submittals from government agencies, elected officials, business and commercial entities, interest groups, and individual citizens included 1,363 comments on 24 different topics. The six topics that received the most comments were the proposed use of Tinian and Pagan for military training, socioeconomics, land use,

indirect/cumulative impacts, environmental justice, and biological effects. Commenters also questioned the need for live-fire training given the availability of computer simulation and existing training ranges on Farallon de Medinilla, Guam, and Hawaii.

On April 6, 2015, the DON published a Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS/OEIS (80 FR 18385). The Notice of Availability announced a 60-day public review and comment period and identified locations where the Draft EIS/OEIS could be reviewed; the dates, times, and locations for public meetings; and indicated the NEPA process, including the Draft EIS/OEIS public meetings, would also satisfy National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 requirements. Advertisements containing similar information concerning the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS were also placed in local newspapers. With three announced extensions, the public comment period lasted approximately six months, from April 6 through October 1, 2015. Three public meetings were held, two on Saipan and one on Tinian.

During the Draft EIS/OEIS public comment period, 28,527 comments were received. Commenters included the CNMI and federal government agencies, elected officials, business and commercial entities, interest groups, and individual citizens. Of the total number of comments received, 2,748 comments were unique, with the remaining comments consisting of petition signatures and form letters. The Proposed Action analyzed in the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS included 14 live-fire ranges, an airfield, amphibious landings, permanent housing, and a High Hazard Impact Area on Tinian, and a combined arms training with aerial and ship bombardment with a High Hazard Impact Area on the island of Pagan. The comments received on the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS were critical of the Proposed Action. Information can be found in Appendix B and on the project's website: <https://www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com/>.

### 1.4.2 Revised Draft EIS and CNMI Coordination

In developing the revised Proposed Action described in Chapter 2, the USMC evaluated the changes in the way U.S. Armed Forces currently prepares for future conflicts and carefully considered the comments and suggestions submitted on the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS by elected officials and government agencies of the CNMI, federal agencies, the public, and collaborative interagency coordination (described further in Section 1.5). The various meetings, collaborative exercises, and comments from the prior NEPA effort, along with the changes in training requirements since 2015 (refer to Section 1.1), all helped inform the current Proposed Action, which, among other changes, eliminated training on Pagan, removed the High Hazard Impact Area on Tinian, and reduced the number of live-fire ranges from 14 to 2. The USMC then engaged the CNMI government in a series of virtual and in-person discussions on this revised training concept

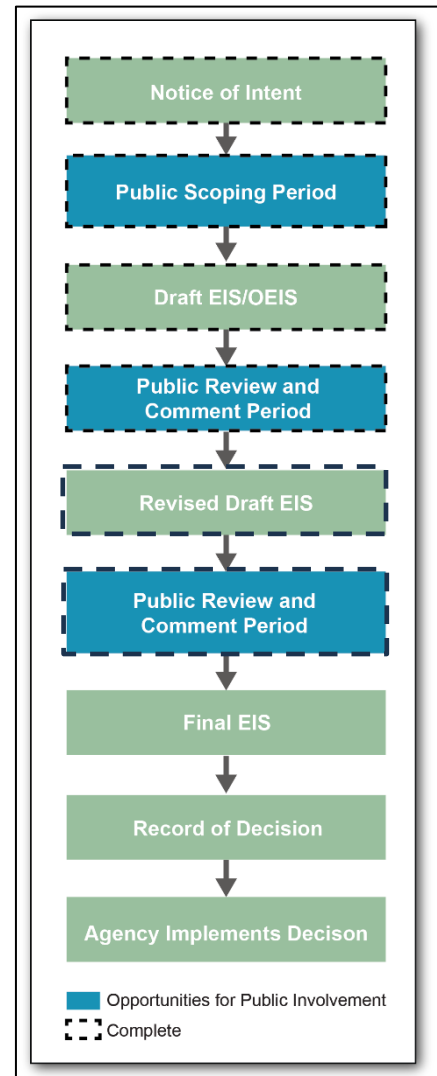


Figure 1.4-1 NEPA Process

and the revised environmental analysis between January 2020 and September 2024. Additionally in August 2023, the USMC held public information sharing sessions on the islands of Tinian, Saipan, and Rota to inform the public at large of the revised training concept that would be evaluated in a Revised Draft EIS.

The USMC further considered if the revised scope of the Proposed Action, along with new or modified laws and regulations, circumstances, and available information since the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS was published, required additional data collection or studies to evaluate potential impacts. As a result, further technical studies for natural resources, cultural resources, and utilities have been performed to inform the impact analysis, and areas of analysis have been modified to reflect these changes. The updated utilities studies focused on electrical power, potable water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste disposal. The analysis factored in the anticipated population increases related to construction, training, and operations and maintenance of the proposed Range Complex on Tinian, including direct, indirect, and induced growth (refer to Table C.1-2 in Appendix C, *Training and Construction Assumptions*). The utilities studies identified any needed utility upgrades, technical solutions for upgrades, and options for implementation, as appropriate (refer to Appendix M, *Utilities Studies*). Other resources have changed more gradually over time, such as topography, geology, and soils, and thus references cited in the 2015 Draft EIS/OEIS are still valid and did not require updated data collection or technical analysis to be performed. The Revised Draft EIS presented updated environmental baseline conditions and the potential environmental effects of implementing the revised Proposed Action and alternatives.

The Notice of Availability/Notice of Public Meetings for the Revised Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register, local newspapers, and on the project website on June 6, 2025. The notice identified locations where the revised draft document was available for review; the timing of the 75-day public review and comment period; the allowable methods for submitting new comments; and the dates, times, and locations of public meetings for the Revised Draft EIS. The USMC provided a 15-day extension of the public comment period for a total of 90 days, ending on September 4, 2025. Public comment meetings for the Revised Draft EIS were held on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota as noted below:

- Tinian: Monday June 23, 2025, and Tuesday June 24, 2025, at Tinian Junior/Senior High School Cafeteria, Canal Street, San Jose
- Saipan: Wednesday June 25, 2025, and Thursday June 26, 2025, at Crowne Plaza (Hibiscus Hall), Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan
- Rota: Friday June 27, 2025, at Rota Mayor's Office

The public meetings were conducted in an open house format to encourage the sharing of information and discussion. Open house meetings provided increased flexibility for attendees, allowed for one-on-one interaction with experts and provided a casual atmosphere that encouraged more direct and comfortable participation and feedback. Each poster station presented the analysis of a key resource, and a representative was available to answer questions and direct the public to tables where individuals could submit written or oral comments. Public comments could be submitted in writing, by mail, on the website or through a court reporter at public meetings. Comments could be submitted in any language, and Chamorro and Carolinian translators were available at the public meetings. Chamorro and Carolinian version translations of the fact sheet

were available at the public meetings and on the project website. The Executive Summary in these languages was also made available to download from the project website and printed copies were available for review at the local libraries on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota. In addition, the USMC held office hours at the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Tinian Field Office for additional public engagement in August 2025 prior to the end of the public comment period.

### **1.4.3 Final EIS**

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. A total of 83 comment submittals were received from individuals, community organizations, and local and federal government that contained 215 individual comments. The publication of the Final EIS was announced, and the document circulated in the same manner as the Revised Draft EIS, including publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and advertisements in local newspapers.

### **1.4.4 Record of Decision**

No sooner than 30 days following the issuance of the Final EIS, a decision document, called a Record of Decision, would be signed. The Record of Decision sets out the decision made, explains the reasons for the decision, and details any commitments to monitoring or mitigation. When the decision document is final, the USMC will issue notices in local newspapers and other publications and post the decision on the project website.

### **1.5 Interagency Coordination**

The USMC has actively involved other federal agencies and the CNMI government, its agencies, and local organizations (Table 1.5-1) as part of the NEPA process for this Final EIS. Additional information on interagency coordination is provided in Appendix A.

**Table 1.5-1 Interagency Coordination: Agencies and Organizations**

| <i>Federal</i>  | <i>CNMI</i>   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States Navy</li> <li>• Joint Region Marianas</li> <li>• United States Air Force</li> <li>• United States Army</li> <li>• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation</li> <li>• Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs</li> <li>• DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (formerly known as Office of Economic Adjustment)</li> <li>• National Marine Fisheries Service</li> <li>• National Park Service</li> <li>• U.S. Agency for Global Media</li> <li>• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• U.S. Federal Aviation Administration</li> <li>• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CNMI Governor’s Office</li> <li>• The CNMI Legislature</li> <li>• Tinian Mayor’s Office, Municipal Council</li> <li>• Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs/CNMI Military Integration Office</li> <li>• Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality</li> <li>• Commonwealth Ports Authority</li> <li>• Commonwealth Utilities Corporation</li> <li>• Department of Commerce</li> <li>• Department of Finance Customs and Biosecurity Division</li> <li>• Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services</li> <li>• Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife</li> <li>• Department of Labor</li> <li>• Department of Public Works</li> <li>• Department of Public Lands</li> <li>• Department of Public Safety</li> <li>• Historic Preservation Office</li> <li>• Mariana Visitors Authority</li> <li>• Office of Planning and Development</li> <li>• Tinian Cattleman’s Association and other cattle ranchers</li> </ul> |

*Legend:* CNMI = Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; DoD = Department of Defense; U.S. = United States.

**1.5.1 Federal Cooperating Agencies**

The following agencies are cooperating agencies for the development of this Final EIS:

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Marine Fisheries Service

**1.5.2 Airspace and Aviation**

In order to execute the Proposed Action, the USMC would coordinate with the Commonwealth Ports Authority as the agency responsible for operating all airports and seaports on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota. The USMC and Commonwealth Ports Authority would site needed infrastructure on TNI, coordinate access arrangements, and deconflict air operations to ensure continuing and uninterrupted civil aviation activity. The USMC intends to discuss its proposed airspace safety protocol for the Multi-Purpose Maneuver Range and Explosives Training Range with the FAA. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would advise USMC whether there is a need to establish a controlled firing area airspace designation over either or both proposed live-fire ranges in the Military Lease Area.

### **1.5.3 Cultural Resources**

In accordance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the USMC is consulting with the CNMI Historic Preservation Officer, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian on potential effects to historic properties.

### **1.5.4 Biological Resources**

The USMC is consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on potential impacts to endangered species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and with National Marine Fisheries Service under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act on potential impacts to essential fish habitat. In addition, the USMC has prepared a federal consistency determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act (Appendix N).

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