



Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training

Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences

Chapter 5: Additional Considerations Required by NEPA

Chapter 6: References

Chapter 7: List of Preparers

Chapter 8: Distribution List



June 2025

EISX-007-17-XMC-1747255459



**Revised Draft Environmental Impact
Statement
in Support of the
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Joint Military Training Environmental
Impact Statement**

CHAPTER 4	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES
CHAPTER 5	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY NEPA
CHAPTER 6	REFERENCES
CHAPTER 7	LIST OF PREPARERS
CHAPTER 8	DISTRIBUTION LIST

June 2025

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4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental consequences associated with the No Action, and Proposed Action Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. This chapter is divided into 14 resource areas as discussed in Chapter 3. Management measures are described as appropriate in each and how they serve to lessen impacts. Management measures include avoidance and minimization measures, best management practices, and standard operating procedures. Management measures would be incorporated into the Proposed Action and are common to all alternatives (refer to Appendix D).

4.1 Public Access

Public access to the Military Lease Area on Tinian has been identified as an economic issue of importance to the local community, as it supports subsistence activities, tourism, recreation, ranching, and cultural traditions. The Proposed Action would involve conducting training events in the Military Lease Area throughout the year that vary in size, frequency, and duration (Table 2.1-1) and that take place in different training areas (Figure 2.1-2). In general, small events would occur most frequently throughout the year and have a relatively short duration (approximately one to two weeks or less), medium events would occur less frequently (approximately once per quarter) and also last approximately one to two weeks, and large events would be the least frequent (approximately 2 to 4 times per year) but have a longer duration of approximately two to four weeks. Small, medium, and large training events may overlap, with up to 1,000 service members participating in training on Tinian at any one time. While training events would necessitate temporary and controlled access restrictions for public safety, these limitations would be intermittent, and efforts would be made to minimize disruptions. This chapter examines the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on public access and outlines measures designed to reduce disruptions while supporting military training objectives.

4.1.1 Approach to Analysis

This analysis focuses on the effects of military training on public access within the Military Lease Area and offshore surface danger zones associated with training at the Multi-Purpose Maneuver Range. This analysis of public access considers the potential impacts of temporary access controls on fishing, boating, subsistence, tourism and recreation, ranching, and cultural activities given training frequency, duration, and geographic extent.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the type, frequency, or duration of ground and aviation training within the Military Lease Area. The public would be able to access the Military Lease Area with current restrictions, and training events would be conducted with the same advanced notice provided to the public as currently occurs. Subsistence activities, tourism, recreation, ranching, and cultural practices could continue to be conducted as needed with no change to the existing availability of the Military Lease Area for public access.