

# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training



## Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meetings



# WELCOME

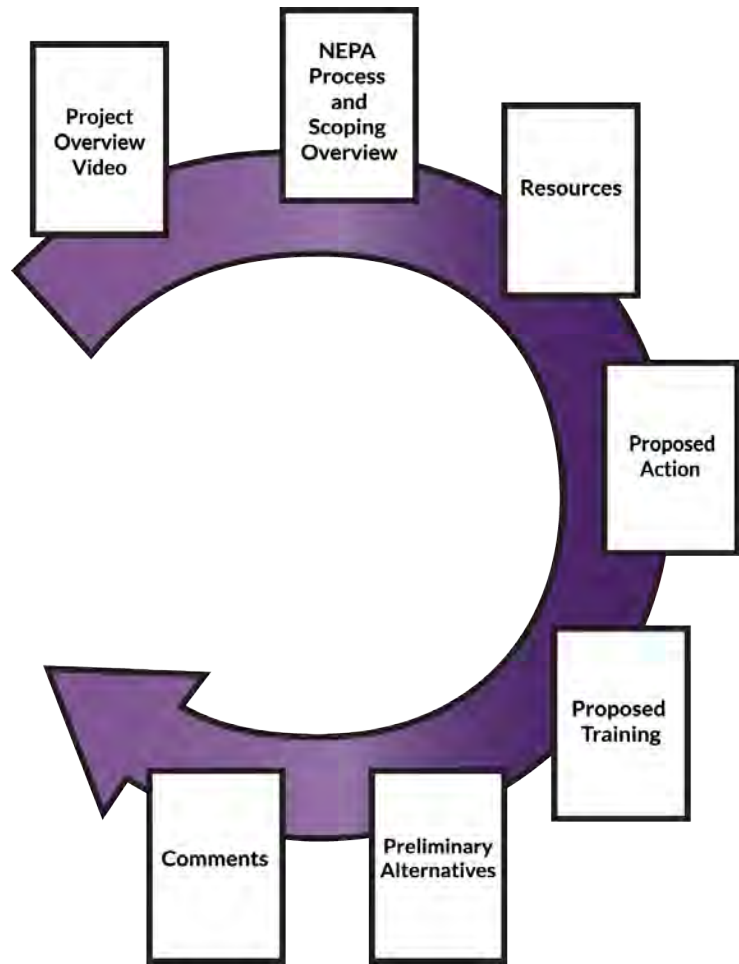
## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) Open House Scoping Meetings

### *What to Expect at Public Scoping Meetings*

The scoping meetings are being conducted in an open house format to encourage one-on-one discussion with United States (U.S.) military representatives who are available at the scoping meetings to answer your questions. We want your feedback on this proposed action. This is an opportunity for you to provide input in the EIS process.

At the scoping meetings you are encouraged to:

- View a slide presentation about the proposed action
- Learn about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and review posters and handouts on the proposed action
- Ask questions and discuss the proposed action with U.S. military representatives
- Submit comments and provide feedback on the proposed action



### *Project Overview*

The U.S. is rebalancing forces in the Asia-Pacific region. In support of this, the U.S. military is proposing to increase joint military training capabilities by developing live-fire ranges and training areas on the islands of Tinian and Pagan. The U.S. Marine Corps is leading this joint service initiative on behalf of the U.S. Pacific Command. Analysis of this proposed action, which involves land, air, and sea space, follows NEPA. NEPA provides the public with opportunities to give input and assists the decision maker in making an informed decision.

***Your comments are welcome and important to us.***

## NEPA Process, Scoping Overview, and Resources

### NEPA Process and Scoping Overview

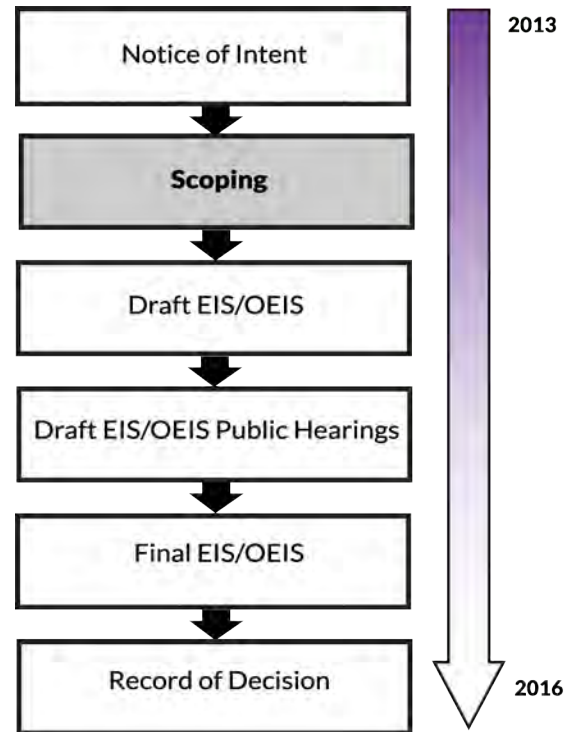
#### What is NEPA?

NEPA requires each federal agency to take into consideration the environmental effects of major federal actions. One of the primary goals of NEPA is to encourage meaningful public input and involvement throughout the NEPA process. An EIS is prepared when a proposed federal action may have the potential to have a significant effect on the natural or human environment and analyzes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action. Scoping gives the public an opportunity to provide early input on environmental effects and key issues requiring analysis in the EIS.

#### What is scoping?

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping is one of the many opportunities for public involvement in the EIS decision making process. Public participation throughout the NEPA process, including the scoping meetings, helps the U.S. military make informed decisions, which will ensure a successful project.

#### NEPA Process



*There are multiple opportunities for public review and input throughout the NEPA process.*

### Why is this document also an Overseas EIS?

An OEIS is required when a proposed action and alternatives have the potential to have significant effect on the environment of the global commons. The global commons are defined as geographical areas outside the jurisdiction of any nation and include the oceans outside the territorial limits (i.e., more than 12 nautical miles [nm] from the coast) and Antarctica, but do not include contiguous zones and fisheries zones of foreign nations.

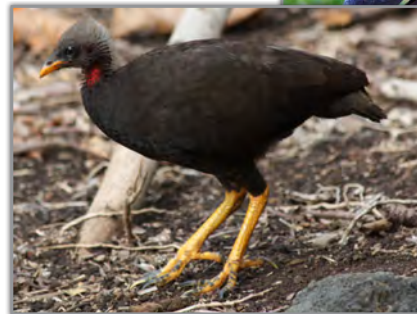
*This document will be an OEIS as some aviation aspects of the proposed training are envisioned to travel outside of the 12-nm limits of the territory of the U.S.*



## Resources

The U.S. military strives to be good stewards of the environment and through the NEPA process will analyze the potential effects of the proposed action on the natural and human environment. Scoping gives the public an opportunity to provide early input on aspects of the environment that should be analyzed in the EIS. The U.S. military will collaborate with federal and local resource agencies as part of the NEPA process.

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (marine, terrestrial)
- Cultural Resources (archaeological resources, historic resources)
- Environmental Justice
- Geology and Soils
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Infrastructure (utilities, transportation)
- Land Use (real estate, visual resources)
- Noise
- Public Health and Safety
- Recreation (fishing, boating, diving)
- Socioeconomics (tourism, agriculture, fishing)
- Water Resources



## Biological and Cultural Resources

### Biological Resources

Protecting the biological resources of the CNMI is important to the U.S. military. Categories of biological resources that will be analyzed as part of the EIS include:

- Threatened and endangered species
- Native forests
- Wetlands
- Migratory birds
- Fish/essential fish habitat
- Corals
- Near-shore marine mammals



### Cultural Resources

Protecting the cultural resources of the CNMI is important to the U.S. military. Categories of cultural resources that will be analyzed as part of the EIS include:

- Archaeological sites
- Historic buildings and structures
- Traditional cultural properties
- National historic landmarks
- National historic register districts



*Your input will help identify potential resources requiring detailed analysis in the EIS.*



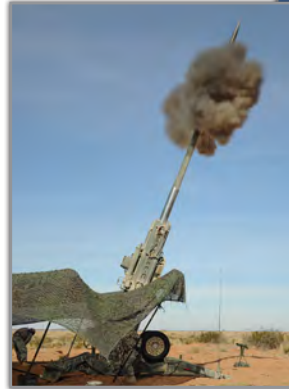
## Background

### *Why does the U.S. military need to train?*

The U.S. military is required by law to maintain, equip, and train forces for combat. The U.S. military commonly structures training following a “building block” approach using three broad levels with increasing complexity:

- (1) individual;
- (2) unit; and
- (3) combined.

Military units are made up of individual Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, or Airmen. Training for combat requires range and training areas that provide realistic land, sea, and airspace for the development and sustainment of the necessary military skills an individual, unit, and/or combination of units needs to be prepared for combat.



### *Why is the U.S. military proposing to utilize the islands of Tinian and Pagan?*

A large number of U.S. military training deficiencies exist in the Western Pacific. Military units are permanently assigned to the Mariana Islands or are deployed to the region on a rotational basis. In both cases, the retention of military skills of the individuals and the units diminish over time; therefore, range and training areas must be available to sustain those skills on a regular basis. Because current and planned land use for the U.S. military in the Mariana Islands has maximized use of land on Guam for individual level training and other activities, unit level and combined level training deficiencies must be met in the CNMI. The islands of the CNMI were studied for suitable locations for unit level and combined level training. It has been determined that, together, the military-leased land on Tinian and the island of Pagan best support the needed range and training areas for both unit level and combined level training.

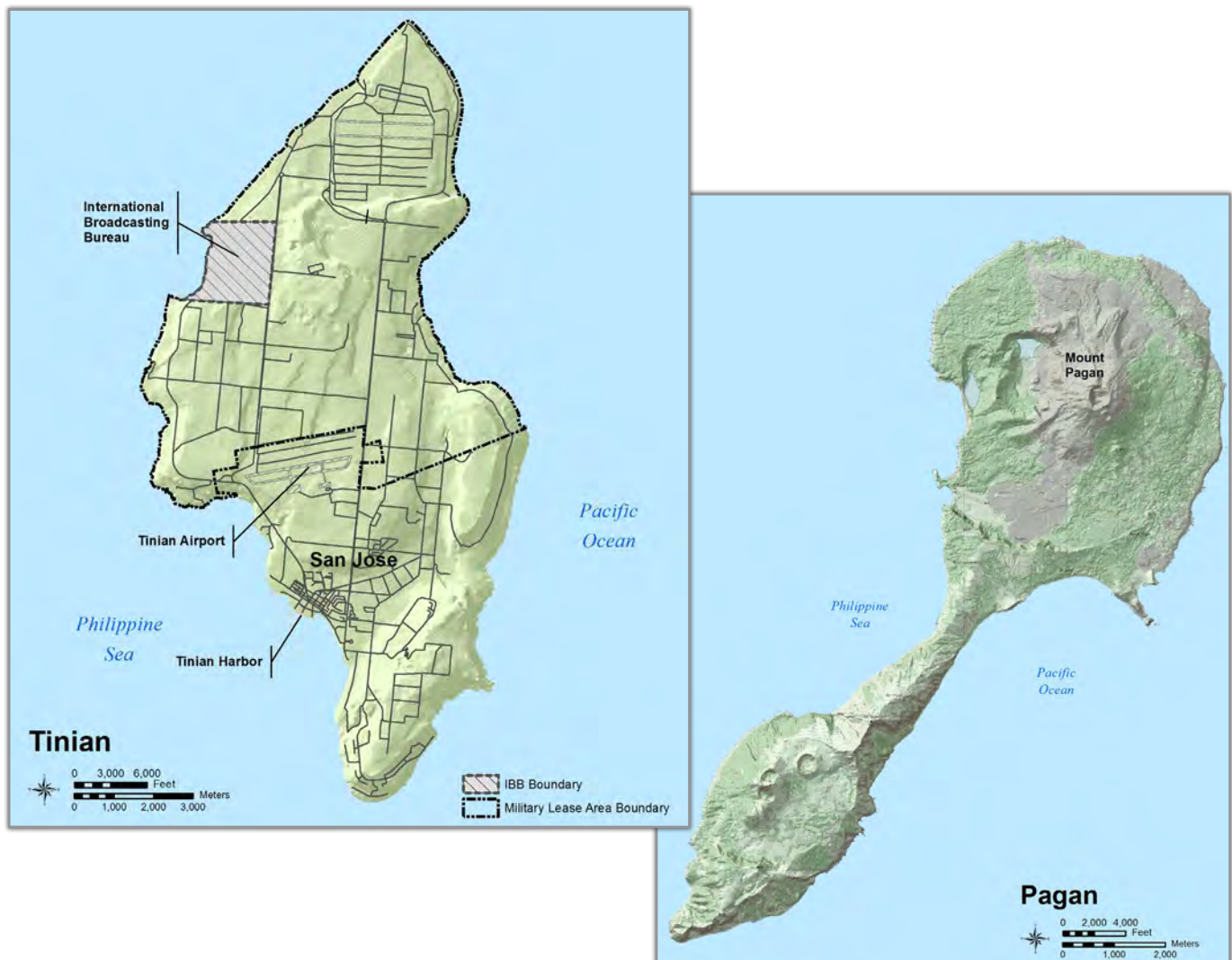


## Background Continued

### *What is the purpose and need for the proposed action?*

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce joint training deficiencies for the military services in the Western Pacific. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed to ensure that the U.S. military services fulfill their responsibility to maintain, equip, and train combat-ready forces in the Western Pacific.

### *What is the Proposed Action?*



The U.S. military proposes to improve existing and develop new live-fire military training areas on Tinian and Pagan.

The U.S. military is proposing to develop range and training areas to meet the above identified purpose and need. Currently there is no live-fire training in the CNMI (with the exception of Farallon de Medinilla). The proposed action would introduce live-fire training on military-leased lands on Tinian and on the island of Pagan. The proposed action would maximize use of military-leased land on Tinian; however, additional land may be required.

## Safety is Paramount

*Safety measures would be instituted at each Range and Training Area (RTA) and would include the following:*

- RTAs manned by specifically trained and highly qualified personnel to ensure safe operation
- Range Safety Program with standard operating procedures to ensure public and training personnel safety
- A fire management plan
- Range safety briefings for all personnel prior to training
- Published public notices of scheduled training times and locations
- Large safety areas or surface danger zones (SDZs) established to maintain public safety
- Physical barriers established on roads into SDZs
- Visual indicators that the RTAs are in use (e.g., large red flags, barbers' poles, road blocks, and signs)
- Controlled access to RTAs prior to and during training with sentries/guards at road entrances
- Manned and unmanned traffic control devices
- Manned observation towers and electronic surveillance measures (cameras, air search radars) to view the RTAs and areas surrounding the RTAs for unauthorized personnel, aircraft, and boats
- Visual sweep of all RTAs for unauthorized personnel prior to training
- Establishment and maintenance of direct radio communication between range control and training units
- RTA operations would cease if established RTA boundaries are crossed
- Post-training visual sweep of RTAs to ensure no hazardous residual material is present
- Medical support during RTA operations





## Proposed Unit Level Training Tinian

### *What is Unit Level Training?*

Unit level training involves the instruction of a group of military personnel having the same specialty or skills, training together as a cohesive unit (infantry, artillery, tanks). Unit level training meets the mission of the unit on a particular range and uses both live-fire and non-live-fire to sustain combat readiness. Unit level training must be completed prior to combined level training. To protect the public, safety measures are mandated when conducting unit level training. Safety measures would include establishing, publishing, and scheduling danger and restricted zones.

### *Examples of Unit Level Training*

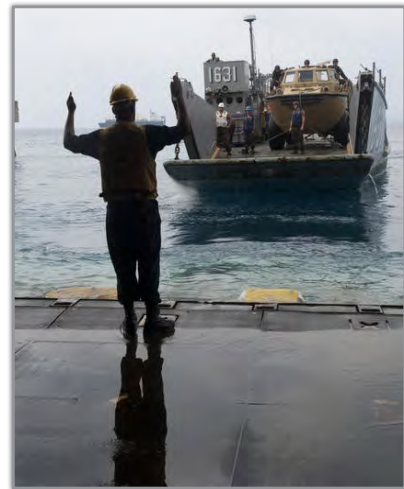
- An artillery or infantry unit fires at a simulated enemy position (target)
- An amphibious vehicle unit lands on a beach and moves to a live-fire range for weapons training
- An infantry unit practices convoy operations on a live-fire training course



# Preliminary Unit Alternatives and Tinian Alternative 1

## What are the Preliminary Unit Level Training Alternatives?

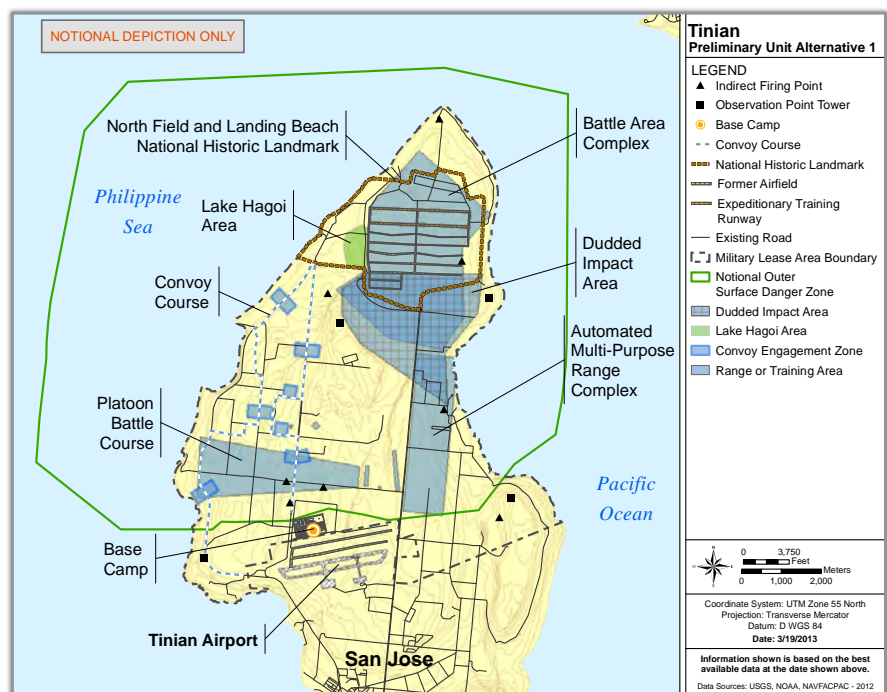
The preliminary unit level training alternatives for Tinian would maximize the use of military-leased lands on Tinian. Each of the action alternatives would introduce live-fire ranges. The three alternatives proposed for Tinian represent different training capabilities and capacities with Tinian Alternative 1 representing full capability; Tinian Alternative 2 representing reduced capability; and Tinian Alternative 3 representing reduced capability and capacity.



## What features are included in Tinian Alternative 1?

Tinian Alternative 1 represents the full capability and capacity of unit level training. Defining features include:

- Separate company-sized and platoon-sized training areas
- Designated impact area for live ordnance
- Fixed small arms ranges (pistol, rifle, machine gun)
- Amphibious training at the Military Lease Area beaches
- Relocation of the International Broadcasting Bureau



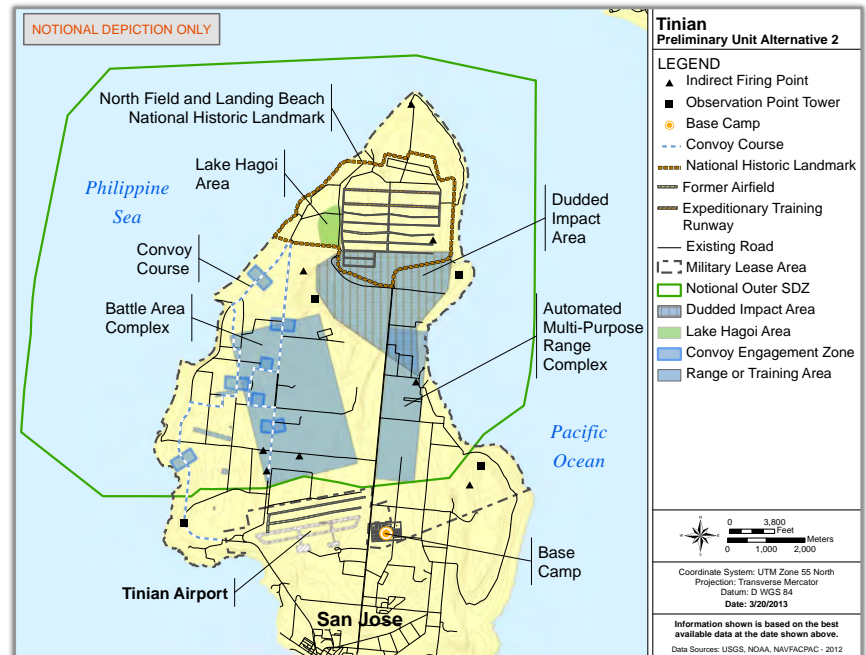


## Tinian Alternative 2 and Tinian Alternative 3

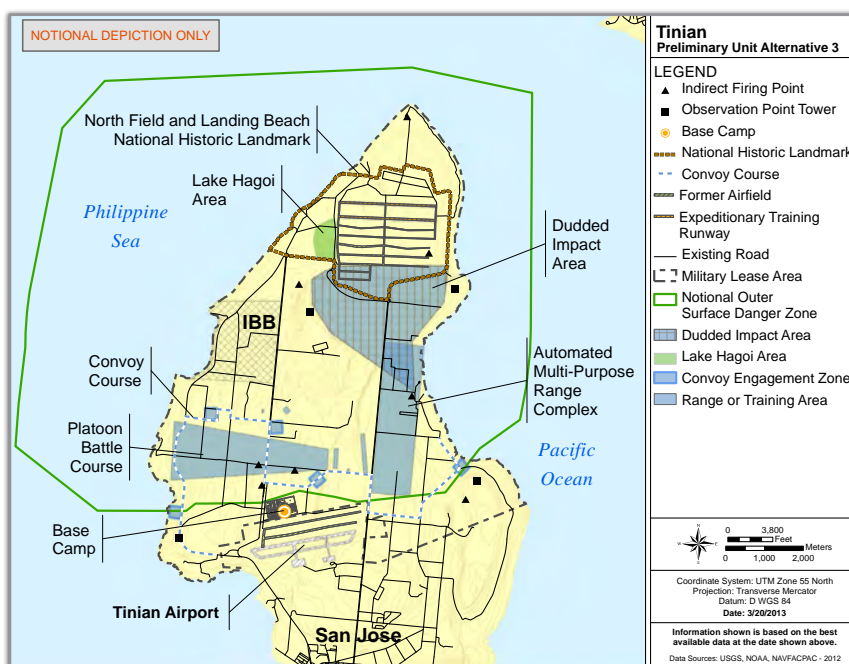
### What features are included in Tinian Alternative 2?

Tinian Alternative 2 represents a reduced capability compared to Tinian Alternative 1 (i.e., no platoon-sized training area). Defining features include:

- Company-sized training area
- No separate platoon-sized training complex
- Designated impact area for live ordnance
- Fixed small arms ranges (pistol, rifle, machine gun)
- Amphibious training in the Military Lease Area beaches
- Relocation of the International Broadcasting Bureau



### What features are included in Tinian Alternative 3?



Tinian Alternative 3 represents a reduced capability and capacity compared to Tinian Alternative 1 and Tinian Alternative 2. Defining features include:

- Platoon -sized training area
- No separate company-sized training
- Designated impact area for live-fire ordnance
- Fixed small arms ranges (pistol, rifle, machine gun)
- Amphibious training in the Military Lease Area beaches
- International Broadcasting Bureau is not relocated



## Proposed Combined Level Training Pagan

### *What is Combined Level Training ?*

Combined level training involves multiple units (ground, aviation, sea) training together toward a single objective, within the same training area. Combined level training is more complex than unit level training as it requires the close coordination of multiple units. To protect the public, safety measures are mandated when conducting combined level training.

### *Examples of Combined Level Training*

- A reconnaissance unit lands near a simulated enemy position, and directs naval gunfire to various targets ashore
- An infantry unit lands on a beach in amphibious assault vehicles and attacks a simulated enemy position
- Under the control of ground units, jet aircraft and helicopters support a beach landing by attacking the simulated enemy positions located on land



## Preliminary Combined Alternatives & Pagan Alternatives 1 and 2

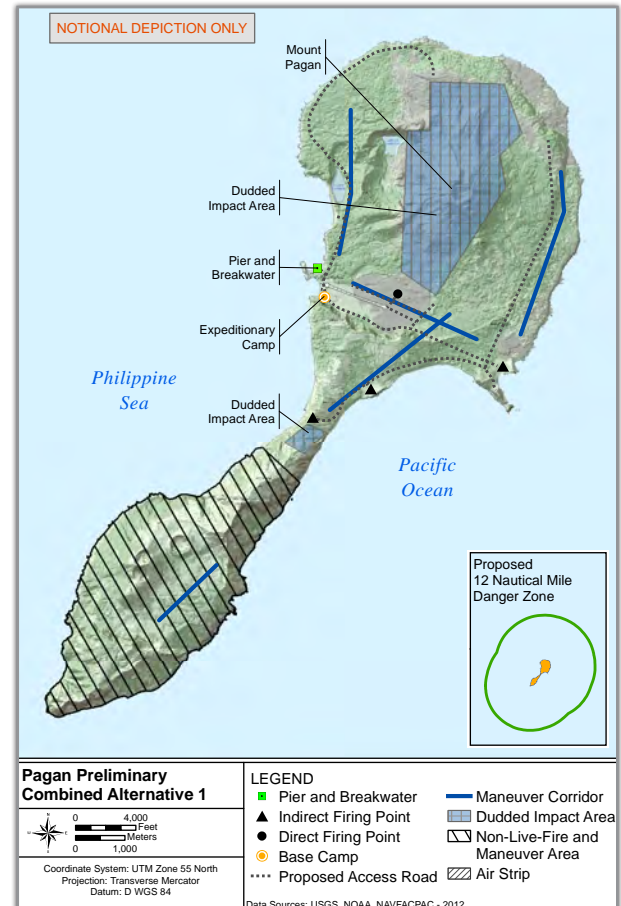
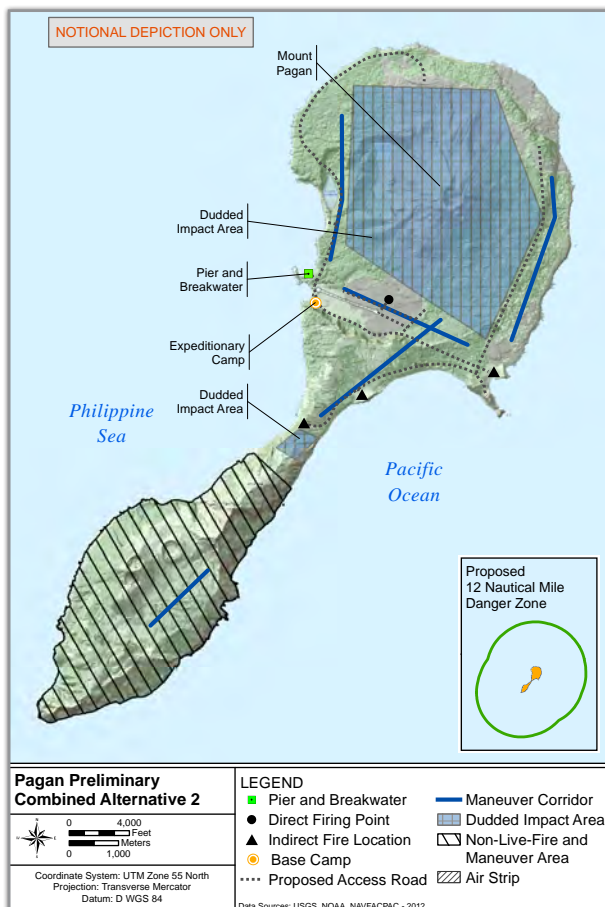
### What are the Preliminary Combined Level Training Alternatives?

There are two preliminary combined level training alternatives proposed for Pagan. All activities would be expeditionary which requires minimal facilities. Pagan Alternative 1 maximizes the potential maneuver area and Pagan Alternative 2 maximizes the potential combined arms training area. The U.S. military intends to use the entire island with a full spectrum of weapons and joint training activities. Danger and restricted zones would be published and scheduled.

### What features are included in Pagan Alternative 1?

Pagan Alternative 1 maximizes the potential maneuver space. Defining features include:

- Smaller designated impact area for live ordnance
- Maximizes the potential maneuver area
- Utilizes the entire island for military training
- Limits access due to safety considerations



### What features are included in Pagan Alternative 2?

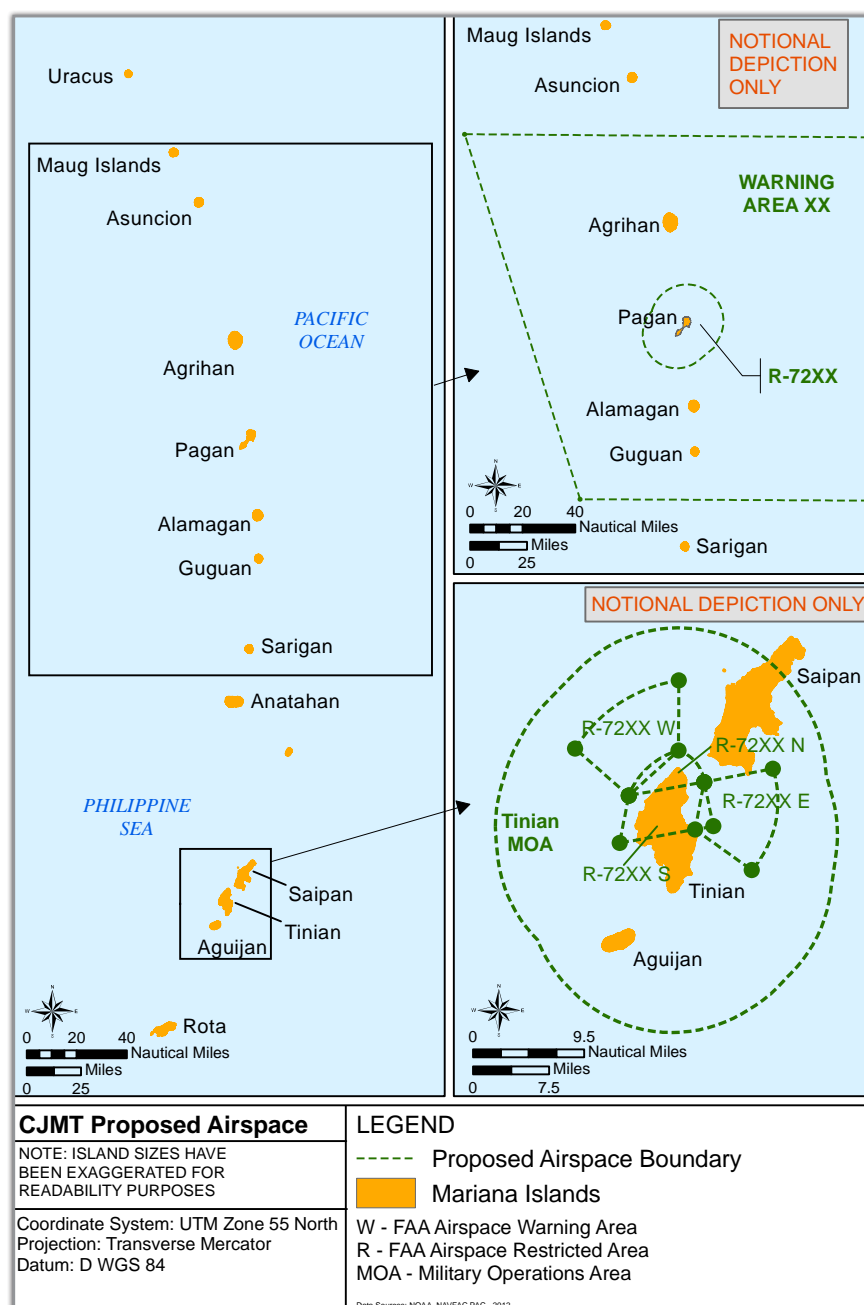
Pagan Alternative 2 maximizes the potential combined arms training area. Defining features include:

- Larger designated impact area for live ordnance
- Maximizes potential combined arms training area
- Utilizes the entire island for military training
- Limits access due to safety considerations

## Proposed Special Use Air and Sea Space

### What is Designated Special Use Air and Sea Space?

The purpose of special use airspace and sea space is to ensure safety during military training by providing a safe separation between military and civilian air and sea activities during military training. These proposed air and sea spaces are designed to support the preliminary Tinian and Pagan alternatives. They provide for safe separation of civilian and military air and sea activities. The Federal Aviation Administration will design the airspace boundaries with U.S. military input. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be the final decision maker for sea space. Air and sea space restrictions would be scheduled and published. Civilian traffic would be re-routed when special use airspace or sea space is active.





## Notes

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## How to Comment

*Your comments are important and welcome. Your comments will be used to help identify potential environmental effects on resources and key issues requiring analysis in the EIS.*

### How Can I Provide Scoping Comments?

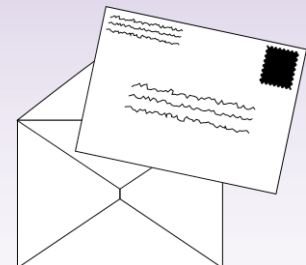
**There are several ways to comment:**

- At the scoping meeting
  - > Fill out a comment form and return it before the end of the meeting



- After this meeting
  - > Mail comments to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific  
ATTN EV21 CNMI Joint Military Training EIS/OEIS  
Project Manager  
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100  
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134



- > Submit comments electronically at:

[www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com](http://www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com)



Your comments must be received or postmarked on or before **April 29, 2013** to be considered in the Draft EIS.