



Hafa Adai



Supplement to the 2015 Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

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Bottom Line Up Front



This supplement will reanalyze military readiness activities conducted at-sea and on FDM

- The Navy will prepare a supplement to the 2015 MITT EIS/OEIS
 - Current at-sea MMPA authorization and ESA Biological Opinion expire AUG 2020
 - Terrestrial ESA Biological Opinion has no expiration date
 - Terrestrial activities and findings in the 2015 MITT EIS/OEIS do not require reanalysis
 - Scoping period began 28 JUL and ends 15 SEPT
 - Public helps to identify the “scope” of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives
 - Requesting Scoping comments @ www.mitt-eis.com

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MITT Team



- Commander Pacific Fleet (CPF)
- Joint Region Marianas (JRM)
- Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)
- Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)
- Office of Naval Research (ONR)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Stakeholders and Public
- Other military services

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2015 MITT Status



- Active public outreach and information sharing with stakeholders (e.g. fishermen notification) based on public feedback and engagement
- Maximize public access and safety
- Fully complied with MMPA and ESA obligations
 - Implemented mitigations
 - Annual reporting @ www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us
 - Annual marine mammal and sea turtle surveys (ongoing)
 - FDM coral survey (scheduled)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Programmatic Agreement reporting
- Environmental Stewardship
 - Natural Resources Surveys on Guam, Tinian, and FDM
 - Wildlife and Habitat Protection
 - Partnering for Sustainability

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Importance of Realistic Training and Testing



Mission of the U.S. Military:

To provide the forces needed to deter war and protect the security of the United States, its territories, and interests. To that end, the military services must maintain, train, and equip forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom.

- Crucial for military readiness, personnel safety, and national defense
- Training military personnel to respond to a range of situations:
 - Large-scale conflict
 - Homeland defense
 - Maritime security
 - Anti-piracy operations
 - Humanitarian assistance
 - Disaster relief
- Testing and evaluating new and emerging technologies

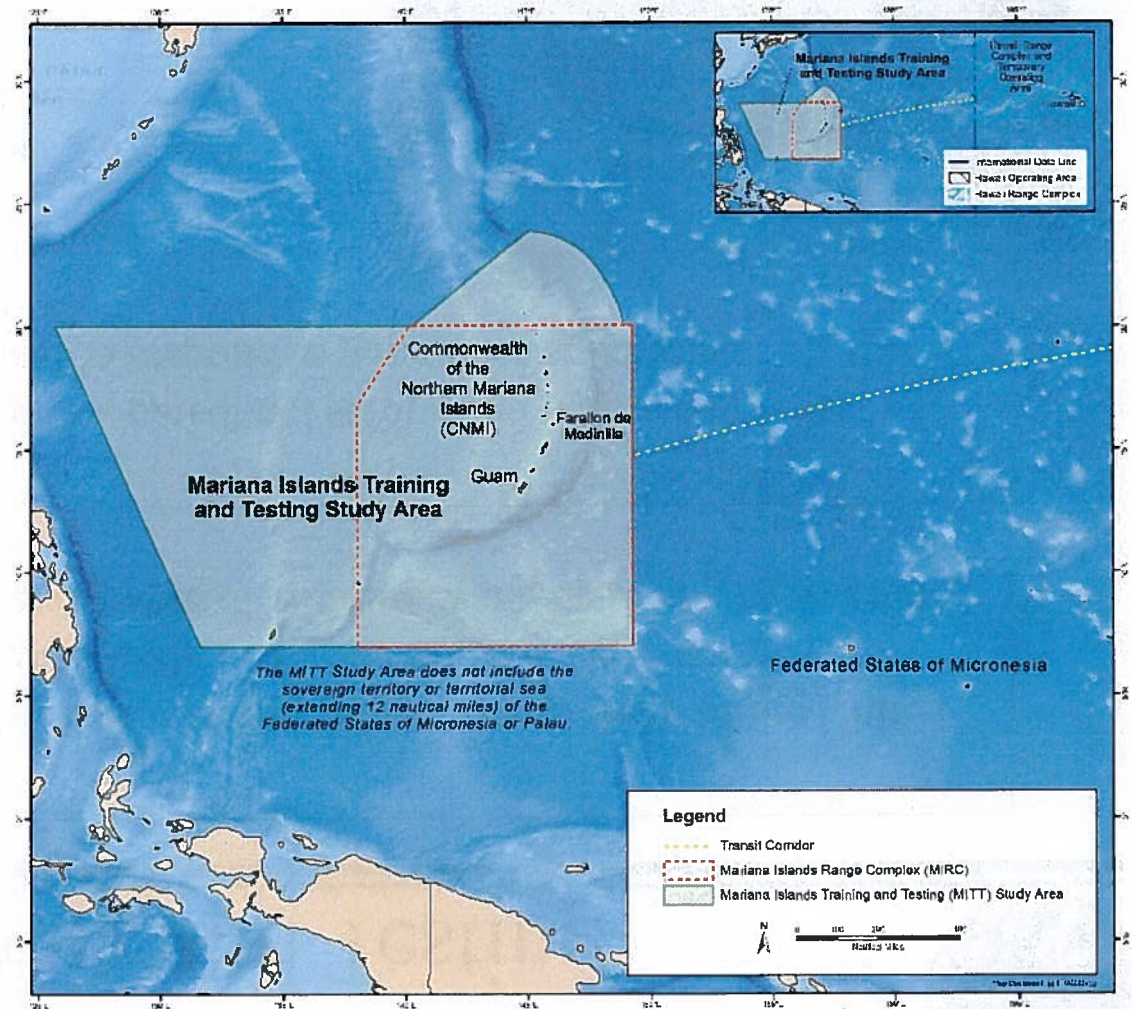


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Study Area

The MTT EIS/OEIS Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at-sea and on FDM within the Study Area.



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Strategic Importance of the MITT Study Area



- Military and Coast Guard have historically used the MITT Study Area for training and testing.
- MITT Study Area provides a range of realistic training environments and sufficient air and sea space necessary for safety and mission success.
- Study Area is characterized by a unique combination of attributes that make it a strategically important area. These attributes include:
 - Location within and adjacent to U.S. territory
 - Ranges and training areas on the islands of Guam, Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and FDM
 - Expansive airspace, surface sea space, and underwater sea space
 - Authorized use of multiple types of explosive and non-explosive ordnance on FDM
 - Support for all Navy warfare areas and numerous other service roles, missions, and tactical tasks
 - Support homeported/homebased service units based at installations on Guam
 - Training support for deployed forces
 - Ability to conduct joint and combined force exercises
 - Rehearsal area for western Pacific contingencies

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Why supplement the 2015 MITT EIS/OEIS?



- The supplement will update 2015 analysis
 - Revised acoustic effects criteria and updated species densities
 - New scientific research
- New information will be considered “in furtherance of the National Environmental Policy Act”
 - New information not anticipated to change conclusions reached in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, Record of Decision, Endangered Species Act consultation, or Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization
- New information provided to inform the public of latest scientific data and to update the analysis
- Changes in MITT activities have been identified however none are expected to be substantive

MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS supports new Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization beyond AUG 2020

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Purpose of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS



- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions) by reassessing the environmental impacts evaluated in the 2015 EIS/OEIS. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS would also address:
 - Training and testing activities associated with new weapons and systems expected to reach initial operating capability between 2020 and 2025.
 - Adjustments to training and testing activities associated with changes in mission requirements.
- Support NMFS's issuance of a Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act authorizing the unintentional take (e.g. behavioral harassment) of marine mammals incidental to the training and testing activities conducted in the Study Area.
- Support consultation with NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (if necessary) under the Endangered Species Act for takes of marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, corals, and birds resulting from military readiness activities.

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Proposed Action

Within the MITT Study Area, the Navy proposes to conduct military training and testing activities, to include the use of active sonar and explosives, off the coasts of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, throughout the in-water areas around the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC), the transit corridor between the MIRC and the Hawaii Range Complex, at select Navy pier side and harbor locations, and in sea space west and north of the MIRC.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Train and test at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements and the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet

Proposed training and testing activities are:

- Similar to activities that have occurred in the Study Area for decades
- Generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and earlier environmental planning documents

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Purpose and Need



The purpose of the Proposed Action is to achieve and maintain military readiness to meet the requirements of Title 10 of the U.S. Code, thereby ensuring the military services meet their mission to deter war and protect the security of the United States, its territories, and interests.

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Alternatives

- The 2015 Final EIS/OEIS included a “status quo” No Action Alternative plus two reasonable action alternatives that both met the purpose and need at the time the Record of Decision was signed.
- The Navy will supplement the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS by considering at least two revised alternatives:
 - No Action Alternative
 - Action Alternative of revised activities necessary to meet military readiness requirements beyond 2020
- Additional action alternatives will be informed by stakeholders and the public through the scoping process.

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Cooperating Agency



National Marine Fisheries Service

- The responsible agency for the Marine Mammal Protection Act; will use the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS to support its decision for Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization.
- The responsible agency for most marine Endangered Species Act species; will use the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS to support its decision for Endangered Species Act authorization.
- A Cooperating Agency on Phases I and II documents.

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Public Involvement

- Public and agency input allows decision makers to benefit from local knowledge and consider local issues and concerns.
- The public participates in the National Environmental Policy Act process during the following stages:
 - **Scoping Period:** Helping to identify the “scope” of the analysis, including environmental issues and potential reasonable alternatives
 - **Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period:** Evaluating and providing substantive comments on the draft analysis
 - **Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS Wait Period:** Reviewing the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS and Navy responses to substantive comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS



Requesting Scoping comments @ www.mitt-eis.com

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Schedule



Publish NOI in Federal Register	1 Aug 2017
Scoping Period	1 Aug – 15 Sept 2017
Release Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to Public	Late 2018
Public Meetings	Late 2018
Release Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS to Public	Mid 2020
Record of Decision	Mid 2020

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Discussion & Questions?

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