



OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
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FACT SHEET on Historic Properties at Ritidian/Litekyan and Finegayan

1) More adverse impacts from construction at Northwest Field than any of the other Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) alternatives.

Chapter 5, Section 5, page 5-393 of the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Roadmap Adjustments)* discusses the affected environment and environmental consequences at the LFTRC alternative sites, the implementation of Alternative 5 Northwest Field:

*“could cause direct adverse effects to 20 known NRHP-eligible archaeological sites. Potential indirect adverse effects could occur to three NRHP-eligible archaeological sites. Potential impacts could also occur to two NRHP-eligible sites (GHPI Numbers 66-08-0012 and 66-08-0013), as a result of reduced access. In addition, culturally important natural resources could be directly impacted due to removal of limestone forest. **Under this alternative, there would be more adverse effects from construction at NWF than any of the other LFTRC alternatives. There would be more adverse effects from operations under Alternative 5 than under any of the other alternatives.**”*

2) Overextension of the military’s effects within the Surface Danger Zone, and into the Guam National Wildlife Refuge and family properties at Ritidian/Litekyan.

Maps from the Final SEIS (Chapter 5, page 5-382 and page 5-401) illustrate how the Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) extends over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) area and outward into the surrounding waters, also reaching coral and algae crops, sea turtle sighting and nesting areas, as well as important fishing sites. A third map prepared by archaeologist Dr. Mike Carson from the University of Guam highlights the historic properties within GNWR that are a part of the Surface Danger Zone.

3) A total of 1,219 acres of limestone forests proposed to be cleared in northern Guam.

The July 2017 Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discusses the clearing of a total of 1,219 acres of limestone forest habitat, including the clearing of 187 acres of limestone forest habitat at Northwest Field, the clearing of 212 acres of limestone forest habitat for the hand grenade range, urban terrain training area and other activities at Andy South, the clearing of 12 acres of limestone forest habitat for well fields and water system at AAFB, and the further clearing of 683 acres of limestone forest for cantonment at Finegayan.

4) Expected significant adverse impacts on endangered or threatened species from destruction of habitat, to include limestone forest habitat.

The July 2017 Biological Opinion discusses the significant adverse effects on endangered or threatened species from the proposed destruction of habitat, especially the limestone forest habitat. It states that of the 23 endangered or threatened species located in Micronesia, 13 were found to occur adjacent to or within the proposed project area, the Live-Fire Training Range Complex at Ritidian Point and the GNWR:

“The largest effects on listed species habitat in terms of habitat fragmentation will be on AAFB near Ritidian Point from construction of the LFTRC. This area currently contains a large expanse (over 350 ac {142 ha}) of high-quality primary limestone forest that serves as occupied habitat for the Mariana fruit bat, Mariana eight spot butterfly, B. guamense, D. guamense, Tuberculolabium guamense, C. micronesica, H. longipetiolata, and T. rotensis, and unoccupied habitat for the Guam tree snail, fragile tree snail, and humped tree snail (DON 2017a, p. 44). This primary limestone forest is also contiguous with GNWR, providing an even larger forested area serving as habitat for the above eleven listed species. In total, approximately 78 ac (32 ha) of primary limestone forest and 109 ac (44 ha) of secondary limestone forest would be permanently cleared for construction of the LFTRC.

In addition to LFTRC clearing activities, the proposed action will create a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) over approximately 68 percent of the GNWR at Ritidian Point during operation of the LFTRC. The SDZ will cover the GNWR access road, visitor center, offices, and other facilities and thereby limit access to the GNWR while firing occurs at the LFTRC. Any entry into GNWR will require scheduling with and approval by LFTRC Range Control personnel. The limited access that GNWR staff will have to the refuge property during the estimated 39 weeks per year the LFTRC is active will limit the amount of habitat management that can occur at the GNWR. This could have an adverse

effect on listed species by: 1) limiting maintenance of the predator exclusion fence at the GNWR, 2) limiting maintenance of native out-plantings, 3) limiting invasive plant control, and 4) limiting effective ungulate control. Per Section 2822 (Establishment of surface danger zone, Ritidian Unit, GNWR) in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, the Service and the DON may enter into an agreement to establish and operate a SDZ over the GNWR. The agreement may include relocation and reconstruction of GNWR facilities, mitigation for impacts to wildlife species, and use of DoD personnel to complete GNWR conservation actions; however, this agreement is not yet in place. Therefore, in this analysis we assume that the operation of the LFTRC will have an adverse effect on listed species by preventing the management, research, and monitoring that would have otherwise occurred at GNWR.”

5) Adverse impact on historic properties at Finegayan and Northwest Field.

During June 2017 Informational Briefing with the Guam State Historic Preservation Office, the Committee on Culture and Justice received reports indicating that several sites will be adversely affected by the construction and installation of the marine cantonment slated for Finegayan. The State Archaeologist reported that while the State Historic Preservation Officer has asked the military for avoidance, final plans still reflect that avoidance to historic properties is not possible for the construction of the cantonment area. The SHPO staff also informed at the briefing that the military is currently undergoing data-recovery, which means a portion of the site has already been removed. The State Historic Preservation Office is currently waiting on the draft report from the data recovery from the cantonment area, which contains several sites, not just the one with the possible Latte sets.

SHPO staff also informed that LFTRC data recovery efforts have been reviewed, and that they have found the document to be lacking in substance and basic archaeological methodology. The SHPO has sent their concerns to NAVFAC, calling for more work to be conducted within the sites under data recovery at the LFTRC. Additionally, SHPO has identified that the site listed in the Guam Historic Property Inventory (GHPI), No. 66-08-2843, was excavated causing adverse effects to the historic properties identified at the site – four earthen ovens were excavated in support of the construction of the LFTRC.