



Senator

THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS regarding Live Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC)

at Northwest Field, commonly referred to as Tailålo or Northwest Field,
adjacent to Litekyan/Ritidian

- 1. Significant adverse impacts on endangered or threatened species from destruction of habitat, to include limestone forest habitat.** Among the species to be threatened is the *Serianthes nelsonii* tree, the last reproductive tree on Guam. In the July 2017 Biological Opinion by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a five-year review showed that the status for the species in the wild on Rota declined by 73% from the 1992 baseline. The Service recommended that Department of Navy should re-consult due to the significant wild population decline. The Biological Opinion also 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 Guam National Wildlife Refuge (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, Tuberolabium 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.”

- 2. Adverse impact on historic properties at Northwest Field.** Fourteen historic sites have been excavated and artifacts have been removed via data recovery in the LFTRC. There are also at least 80 other known historic sites in the surrounding Northwest Field area. SHPO recently was notified of **at least three more new inadvertent discoveries of additional historic sites made during clearing of the forest, one with at least 400 pieces of pottery found in a dense area and the other area encompassing 7 acres.** There is a concern that several more discoveries will be made and that it is possible that the entire construction area could be an ancient village.

Mailing Address: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Office Address: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com



Senator

THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

Prior to these new discoveries, the **SHPO has consistently sent their concerns to NAVFAC, calling for more survey work to be conducted within the sites under data recovery at the LFTRC**, among other sites. In May 2018, SHPO invoked Stipulation XIII of the Programmatic Agreement, objecting to the archaeological surveys used by DON for the LFTRC site, the Main Cantonment area in Finegayan, South Andersen, and the Water Well Development Construction Areas. There was some resolution between the SHPO and DON regarding this objection, but more concerns were raised by the SHPO at the 7th Annual PA Workshop meetings that still need to be resolved.

- 3. 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. ***Live Fire Range utilization is estimated to be 39 weeks per year, which would deny access to GNWR and fishing within the SDZ area for more than half of the year.*** 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.
- 4. 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.***

Updated June 12, 2019

Mailing Address: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

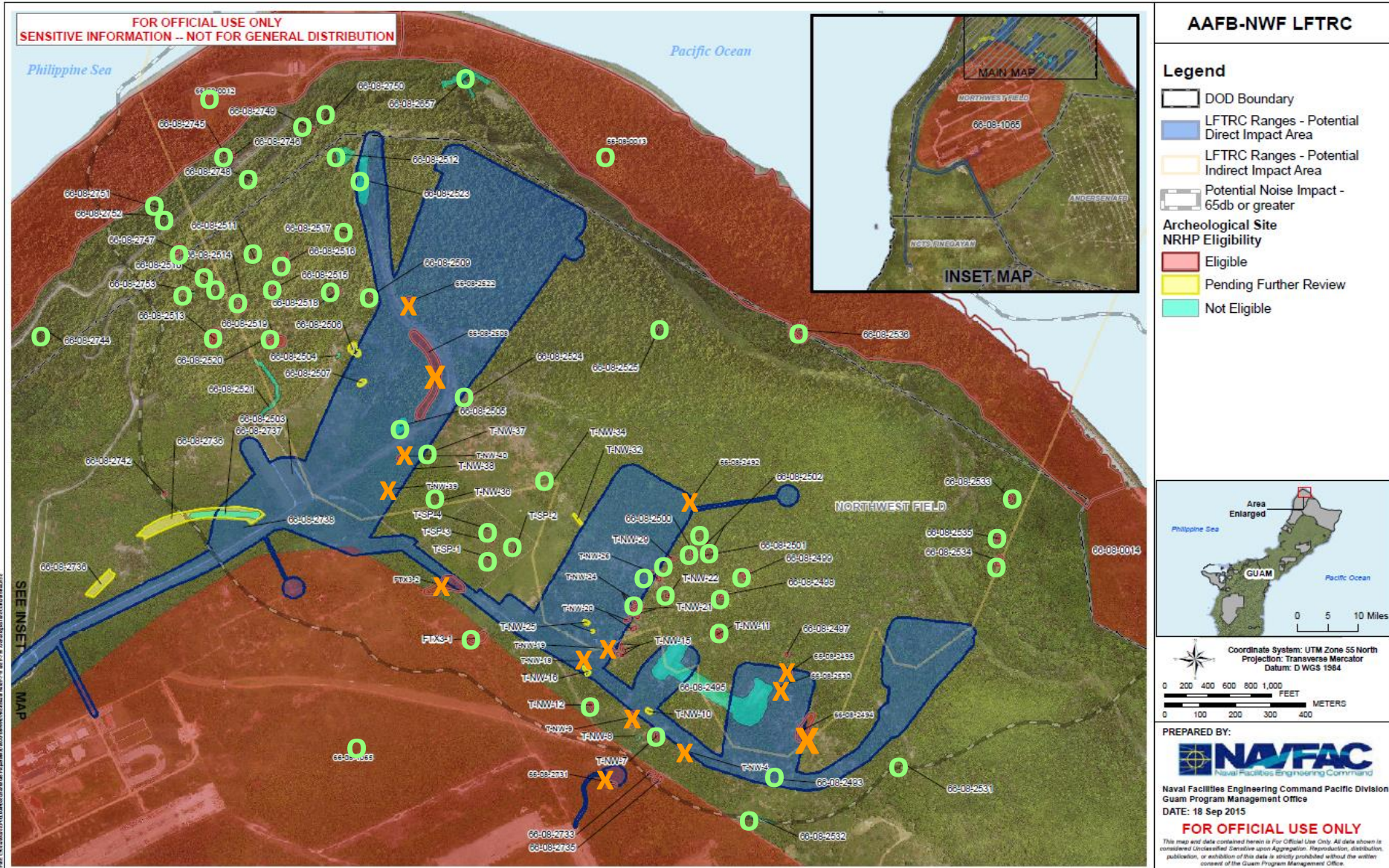
Office Address: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

X = 14 Historic sites (all NRHP eligible) removed via data recovery

O = 80 Other Known historic (NRHP eligible and ineligible) sites

Blue Area = Live Fire Training Range Complex – Potential Direct Impact Area



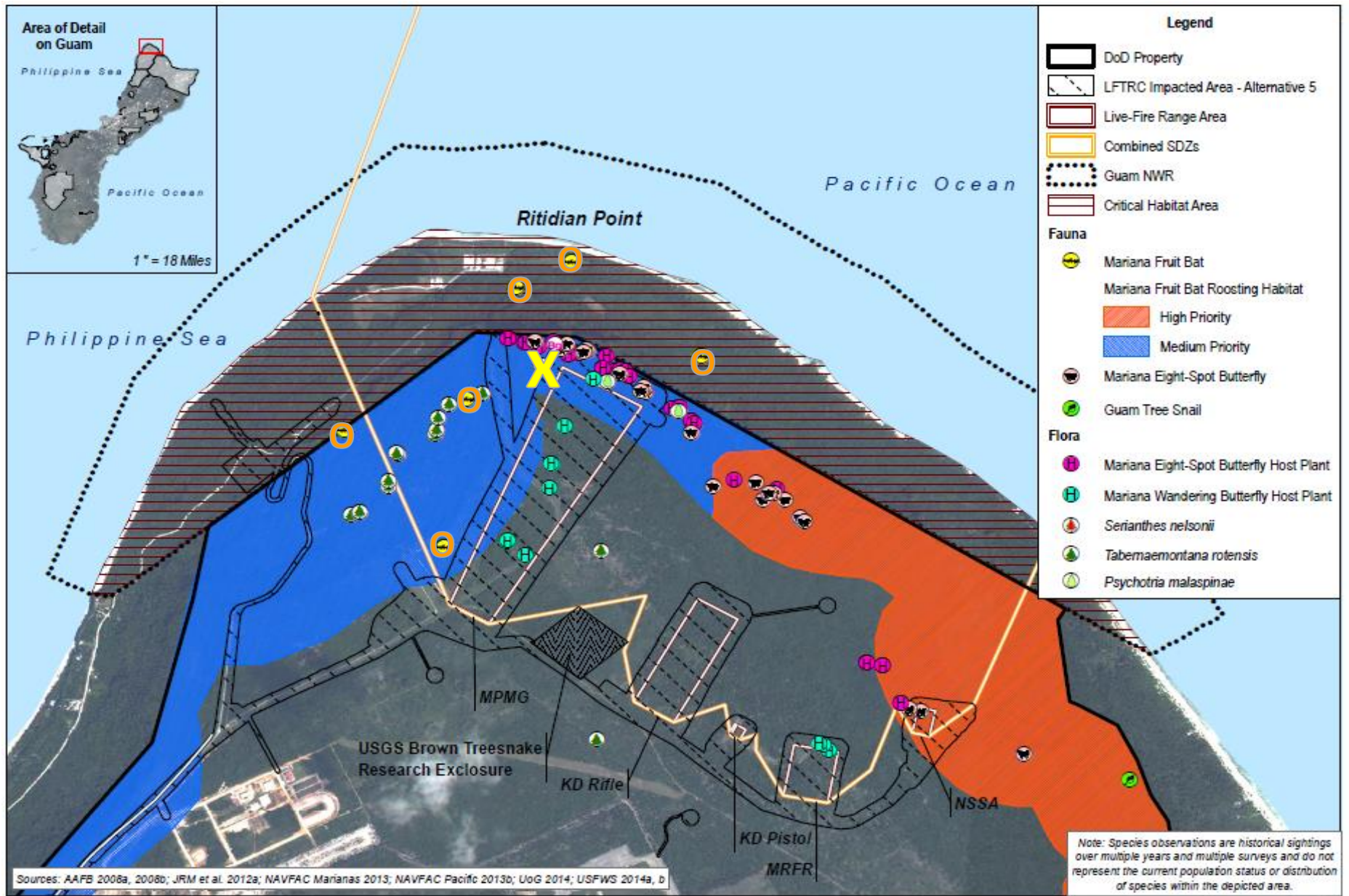
Source: GUAM RANGE MITIGATION PLAN (SEPTEMBER 2015)

Note: X and O enhanced for emphasis

Special-Status Species Observations

X = *Serianthes nelsonii*


O = Mariana Fruit Bat

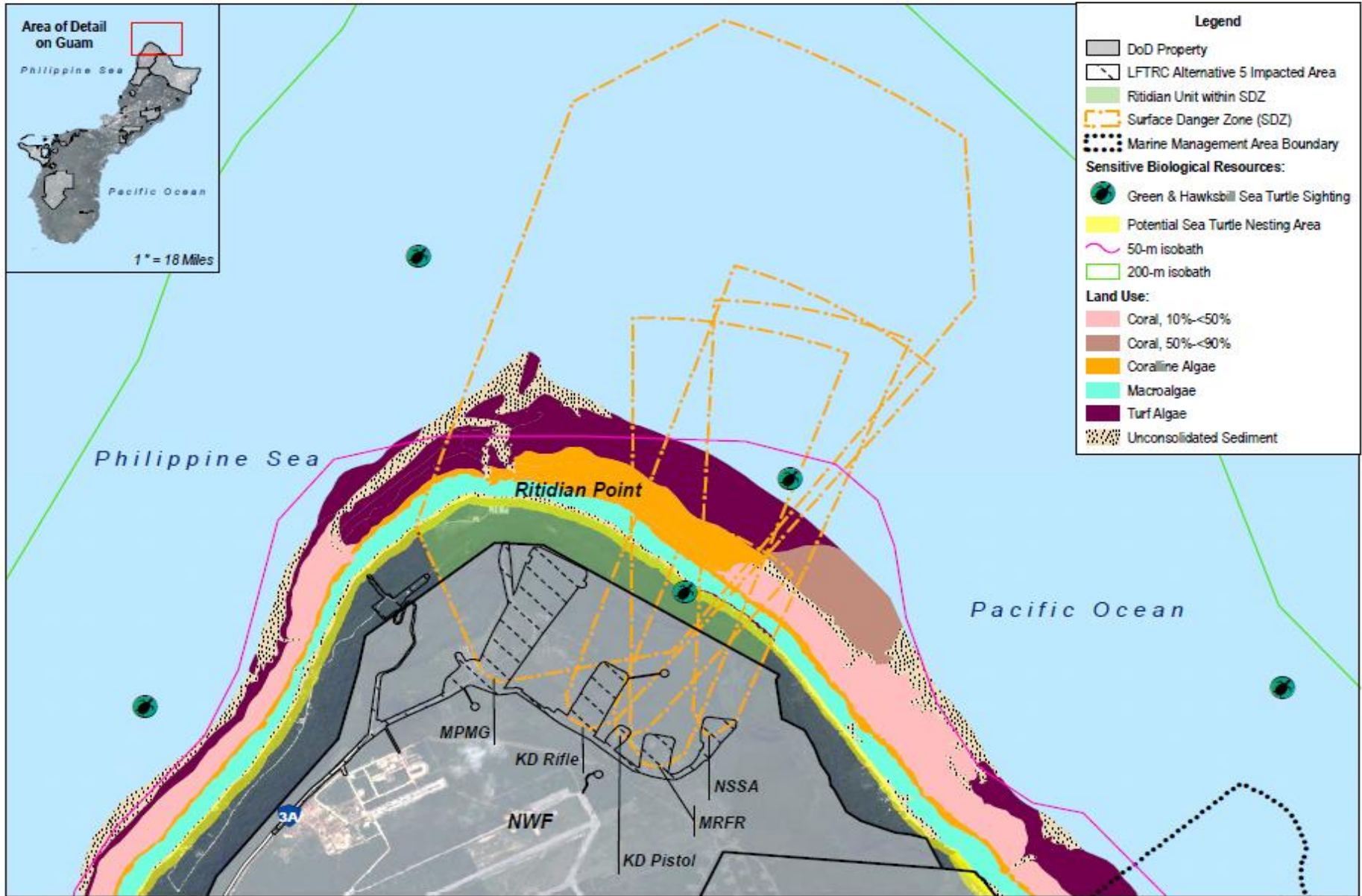


Source: Final SEIS - Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (July 2015), Figure 5.5.8-3

Note: X and O enhanced for emphasis

Overview of Sensitive Marine Biological Resources and Nearshore Habitat

 = Surface Danger Zone



Source: Final SEIS - Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (July 2015), Figure 5.5.9-1