

BARRIGADA

Office of the Mayor & Vice Mayor
124 Luayao Lane, Barrigada, Guam 96913



June 23, 2014

Joint Guam Program Office Forward
P.O. Box 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Re: SEIS Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments)

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith for your review and reference is a copy of our position statement relating to the SEIS Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments). This is to inform you that Vice Mayor Jessie P. Bautista and I, together with the Barrigada Municipal Planning Council support with certain reservations, the SEIS and appreciate it if our concerns are responded to:

June U. Blas "bmomayor@teleguam.net"
Jessie P. Bautista "jessie.bautista007@gmail.com"
124 Luayao Lane, Barrigada, Guam 96913 or
P.O. Box 786, Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Let us remember that *what is good for the military is good for Guam.*

Thank you and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* for allowing us the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the military buildup on Guam and the challenges facing our community.

Sinsramente!


JUNE U. BLAS
Mayor


JESSIE P. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor

Enclosure:

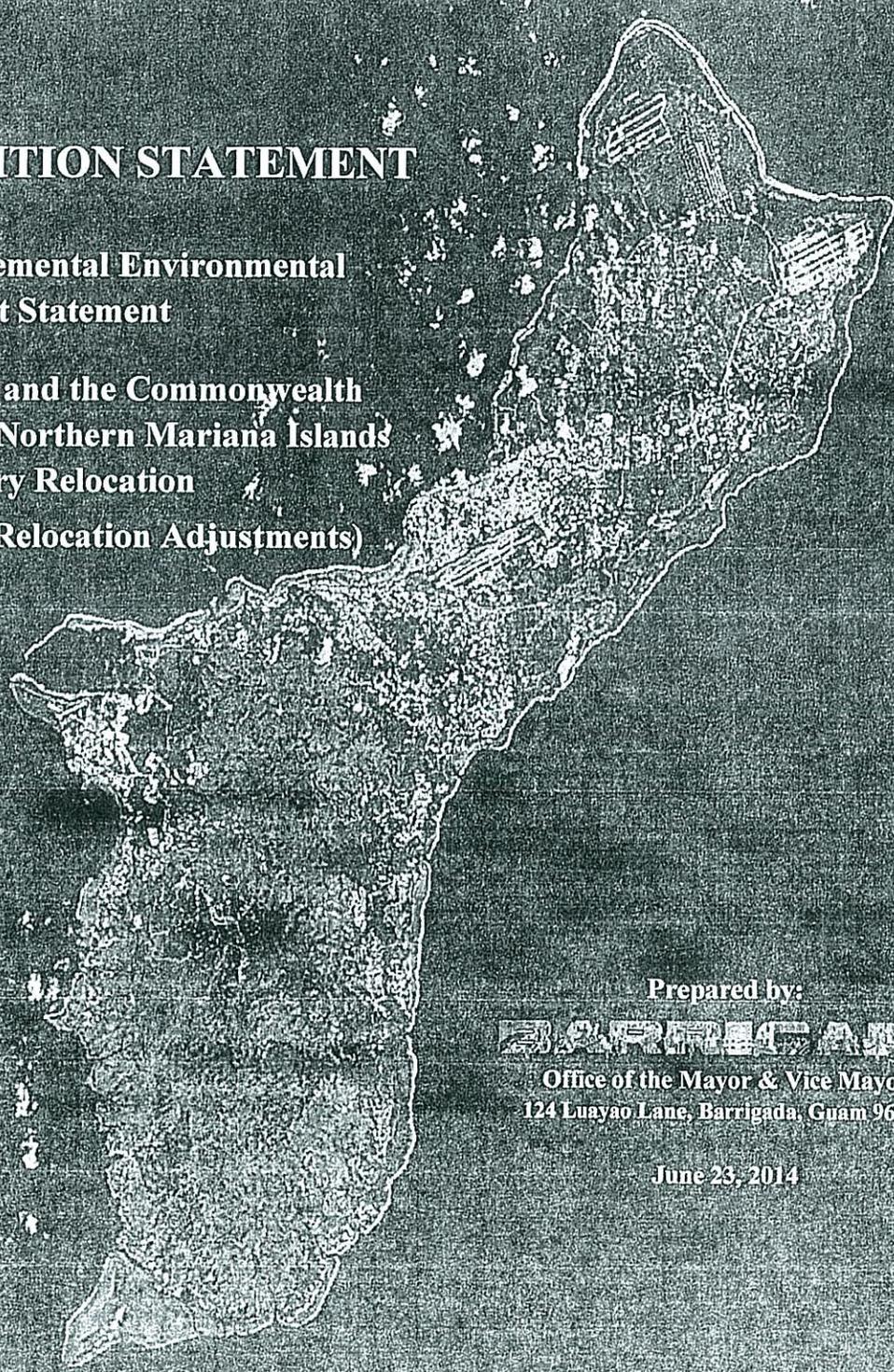
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Gov
Lt Gov
COS
Legis
MC
Const. Affairs

POSITION STATEMENT

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments)



Prepared by:

BARRIGADA

Office of the Mayor & Vice Mayor
124 Luayao Lane, Barrigada, Guam 96913

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Re: SEIS Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments)

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that Vice Mayor Jessie P. Bautista and I, together with the Barrigada Municipal Planning Council have reservations and concerns relating to the SEIS Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments).

At the onset, we offer a sincere *Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase* for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the military buildup on Guam and the challenges facing our community.

First and Foremost Gentlemen, July 21, 2014, the people of Guam, especially our *manamkos*, will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Guam's liberation. Liberation day as you well know, symbolizes the hopes of those who survived the atrocities of war and enemy occupation seeking closure and final peace of mind. This coming December, our *manamkos* will celebrate the 73rd Anniversary of the December 8th bombardment and stoppage of the Mass honoring our Patron Saint *Santa Marian Kamalen*.

Partnership with the Department of Defense

Now, with regard to the Military Buildup, Vice Mayor Jessie P. Bautista and I, along with members of our Municipal Planning Council seek a partnership with the Military and the Department of Defense together with the government of Guam to foster a successful building of U.S. Armed Forces on Guam. We ask that this partnership take the historic initiative to the next level of the preparation process and secure the financial commitments needed for projects inside and more importantly, outside the fence to service our island community as a whole and not just for the military residing inside the fence.

Since the announcement of the Marine relocation to our island the government of Guam and the U.S. Military, through the Department of Defense have built a strong relationship based on constructive dialogue. While we appreciate this progress, as leaders of our community, we have a duty to represent the best interests of our people. For the record, many of OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS are U.S. Servicemen and women together with their dependents who call Guam home.

When we first viewed the constructed timetable for the buildup and the even-shorter preparation period before the Marine forces arrived compelled us to question whether concrete commitments for funding and support will come from the federal government. Although some say that our island is poised for unprecedented economic and social growth, triggered by the buildup, we remain paralyzed by stunted and inadequate statements made by certain ranking U.S. Senators.

As we all know, the government of Guam lacks the financial footing to make the physical and social improvements needed to sustain a substantial increase in our population. While we are eager to host the most advanced military power in the world, we are increasingly concerned that our capacity is inadequate for the buildup of military infrastructure, the smooth transition of troops, the social livelihood of both civilians and military and the sustainability of economic growth.

With this Partnership, we propose concrete mutual commitments, which would build upon the most commendable and shared theme between the U.S. military and the government of Guam – that *“what is good for Guam is good for the military.”* While there has been extensive collaboration on what is needed to prepare for the next decade, we can all benefit from the financial commitment of the U.S. military and the federal government to provide what is needed.

For all intents and purposes, we agree that our physical infrastructure is for the benefit of both the civilian and military communities. That is why it is not only fitting and proper but it is the right commitment on the part of the federal government through the Defense Department to financially support to help the people of Guam build what is needed for all of us.

More importantly, this partnership must also realize the need to absorb the social impact of this buildup so both the civilian and military communities have adequate law enforcement, education and health care support.

Build up on Guam

The purpose of the proposed action evaluated in the SEIS is to ensure that the relocated Marines are organized, trained, and equipped as mandated by 10 USC §5063 to satisfy individual live-fire training requirements described in the 2010 Final EIS and associated ROD, while at the same time establish an operational U.S. Marine Corps presence in accordance with the 2012 Roadmap Adjustments.

Although the overall purpose remained unchanged from the 2010 Final EIS, the SEIS supports a materially smaller relocating Marine Corps force.

Master Plan [Congressional Mandate]

Since the issue regarding the relocation of III Marine Expeditionary Force personnel from Okinawa to Guam, the leaders of Guam, especially the Mayors' Council of Guam, have been asking members of Congress to monitor the U.S. Department of Defense's overseas master plans and to provide the appropriate Congressional defense committees with assessments each year.

The leaders were afraid that further delays in finalizing the development of a Guam Joint Military Master Plan for the military build up could the Department of defense to make budget requests for military construction, or the relocation of marines, without knowing whether or not the funds are needed when they are being requested, which could create budgetary difficulties.

Additional challenges created by the lack of a Master Plan include unresolved decisions with the government of Japan and Guam; finalizing the terms and conditions for the use of special purpose entities for housing and utilities; defining the roles of a new interagency advisory group; and other unforeseen challenges that could delay some construction projects, making it increasingly difficult to meet the deadlines established for the different components of the buildup.

U.S. Senate Waiting for DoD's Master Plan for Guam

June 2012 Guam Senators Frank F. Blas, Jr. and V. Anthony Ada, visited Congress and were told by Senator James Webb, East Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee Chairman on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that the Senate was still waiting for the Department of Defense's Master Plan for Guam so that the realignment can move forward. Guam Senators Blas and Ada were told that "*Guam continues to be vital to a robust defense structure and should expect a significant increase in military presence.*"

The lack of action by the Department of Defense to produce a Guam Joint Military Master Plan, as directed by the U.S. Senate in FY 2007, has increased uncertainty in Guam and throughout the Asia region, especially among those residents, businesses, and investors whose lives and livelihoods have been directly affected by the absence of a mandated DoD Master Plan.

In our opinion, until such a Plan has been presented to the U.S. Senate and the people of Guam are not likely to see substantial buildup progress, thus it is in the best interest of the people of Guam that the development of the Master Plan proceed forward quickly and that any action on H.R. 4402 -- Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014, be postponed until such time that the Master Plan has been approved.

What about the requirements of the people of Guam who reside outside the fence.

Also discussed was U.S. national interests and treaty commitments require strengthening of U.S. military capabilities in the Western Pacific.

What about the interests of the people of Guam who have no treaty commitments with the United States. Are they to be further relegated as with their ancestral lands.

The proposed Marine Corps relocation to implement the 2012 Roadmap Adjustments would consist of approximately 5,000 Marines accompanied by approximately 1,300 dependents, ... The relocation of Marine Corps uniformed personnel and their dependents would be augmented by civilian military workers and off-island construction workers, as well as indirect and induced population associated with economic growth from the proposed action.

As leaders, we need to know the rotational status and whether Guam has been qualified under Section 30 provisions to receive taxes.

The component of the proposed action includes the construction and operation of five live-fire training ranges and associated range control facilities and access roads at a single consolidated location to meet the individual weapons training/qualification requirements of the relocating Marines.

Once again, we ask the question, "What would this do to the ingress and egress to private properties adjacent to the firing range. Would this prohibit families from accessing their properties on the Urunao and Jinapsan areas." Remember, it took families on the Jinapsan area more than thirty years to finally access their properties without undue restriction, regulations and requirements.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Although the Department of the Navy updated the utilities assessment studies prepared for the 2010 Final EIS to reflect the reduced Marine Corps population and reduced facilities requirements associated with the 2012 Roadmap Adjustments.

Although the updated studies focused on power, potable water, wastewater, and solid waste disposal, what needs to happen is for the DON to continue working with the Consolidated Commission on Utilities, especially in the area of a unified waste water treatment plan. We are of the opinion that there is no need for a civilian and a military utilities system. The impact is over the water aquifer, and therefore, it makes sense to have the CCU operate and regulate the islandwide waste water treatment facility. The studies factored in the anticipated increase in population and associated utility demand, including direct, indirect, induced, and natural growth. Utilities requirements for the proposed action should be contained in the MOU worked on earlier by DON and the CCU.

Concerns

The Municipal Planning Council members pose the following concerns regarding the SEIS Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Relocation Adjustments).

Infrastructure: While the SEIS and previous reports addressed the planning process for DoD infrastructure. We ask the questions whether the SEIS and its the planners took into account the need to work with government of Guam and community to improve civilian infrastructure? It is our opinion that establishing a working Partnership, federal and local agencies should work closely to identify priority infrastructure improvements and at least match the needs of the government of Guam.

Impact: We realize that the community will be impacted with personnel commuting to and from their respective bases and assignments. We hope that impact to our communities will be addressed through efficient planning, scheduling of work hours, and potential road improvements. These issues should be constantly reviewed to minimize the impact to the local communities.

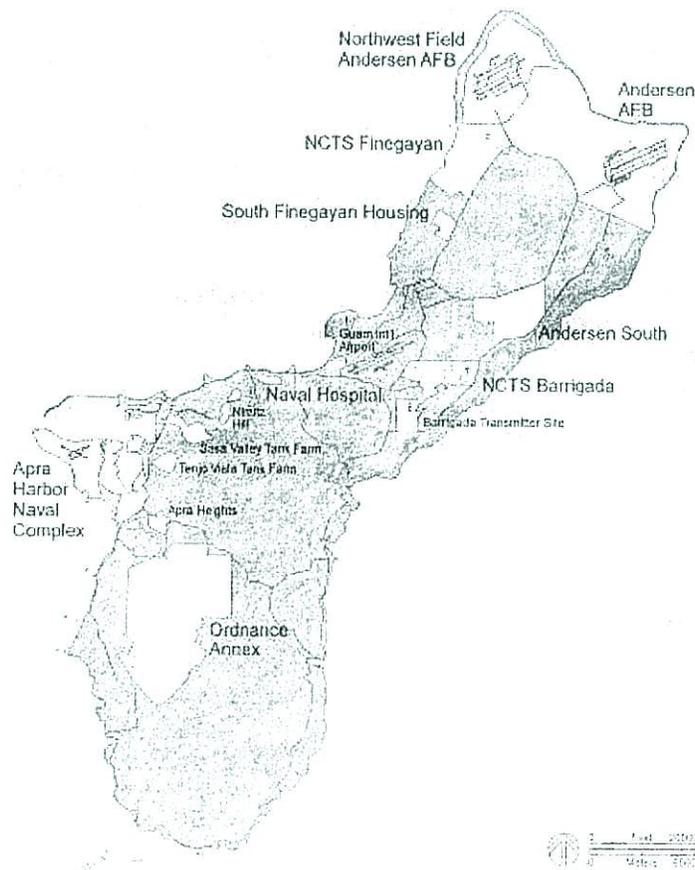
Traffic Impact: Traffic impact should not only depend upon the frequency of training and movement that is required. Options should be explored and consideration should be to utilize high density modes of transportation (buses, for example) to transport personnel to the training areas, which would minimize the amount of traffic to the training areas. Every effort should be made to minimize the trucks and heavy equipment impacts onto the public roads.

Medical and Dental Facilities and Veterans: With additional personnel comes the need for additional medical and dental facilities. Adequate medical facilities should be accounted for to support the influx of military personnel and dependents while at the same time respecting the rights of the veterans who currently use the facilities. We understand that DoD facilities are open to and available for employees and qualified personnel. More importantly, eligible veterans should be able to continue accessing appropriate facilities.

Housing Requirements: With all housing to be on base can we expect some personnel and their families to live in the community? Although residing on base will minimize impacts on our infrastructure as an island community we anticipate that some personnel and their families will choose to live outside the gate.

DoD Landownership on Guam

Utilizing DoD lands will minimize impact on our community.



Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act

Seventy-three (73) years ago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the American people that December 7, 1941, was “**a date which will live in infamy.**” Congressman, let us not forget, that on that morning, the people of Guam were attacked without warning and without provocation. Many of our people died, many were wounded, and many were left to ask why ... *why were we left alone to fend for ourselves.*

Today, on behalf of our *manam'kos*, Guam greatest generation, we again solicit your favorable consideration of H.R. 44, an act to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission. The passage and enactment of H.R. 44 would remove a blot on the pages of Guam's history and it would remove a cloud which has hung over the heads of our people. Vice Mayor Jessie Bautista and I, stand proud to salute the true veterans of Guam, (the survivors of the occupation of Guam) whose sacrifices saved democracy during our darkest hour. We ask that the Federal government acknowledge the grave injustice inflicted our people as a result of the occupation and recapture of Guam.

Tom Clancy said it best when in 1994 released a novel entitled “**Debt of Honor**”. In his book, Mr. Clancy refers to a fictitious occupation of the Marianas by the Japanese. Mr. Clancy also wrote “The Hunt For Red October” and “Clear and Present Danger”.

The real **debt of honor** is what the federal government owes the people of Guam for its negligence in resolving the shortcomings of its own war claims efforts after World War II.

The real debt of honor is way past due and must be paid.

Brown Tree Snakes

Gentlemen, shortly after World War II, and before 1952, the brown tree snake was accidentally transported from its native range in the South Pacific to Guam, probably as a stowaway in ship cargo. As a result of abnormally abundant prey resources on Guam and the absence of natural predators and other population controls, brown tree snake populations reached unprecedented numbers.

Snakes caused the extinction of most of the native forest vertebrate species; thousands of power outages affecting private, commercial, and military activities; widespread loss of domestic birds and pets; and considerable emotional trauma to residents and visitors alike when snakes invaded human habitats with the potential for severe envenomation of small children.

Since Guam is a major transportation hub in the Pacific, numerous opportunities exist for the brown tree snakes on Guam to be introduced accidentally to other Pacific islands as passive of this species have been reported on other islands, and a growing population is probably established on Saipan.

It is important that people who may come in contact with the brown tree snake, particularly on neighboring islands and other high-risk sites, understand the scope of this problem and how to identify the snake so proper action can be taken.

H.R. 4402 Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014

At this point and time, we don't understand why H.R. 4402, the "Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014," was introduced ... let alone its passage. In its current form, H.R. 4402, would have adverse impacts on the operation of Guam National Wildlife Refuge. The Wildlife Refuge serves a critical role in conserving the natural and cultural heritage of Guam and is an important recreational destination for over 92,000 Guam residents and tourists each year.

A closer look reveals that the Guam Wildlife Refuge (GWR) was established on October 1, 1993. The Guam Wildlife Refuge is comprised of three units: the Andersen Air Force Base Overlay Refuge Unit, the Navy Overlay Refuge Unit, and the Ritidian Unit.

The Guam Wildlife Refuge was primarily established to protect and recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act and endemic to the Mariana Archipelago, including the Guam Micronesian kingfisher, Guam rail, Mariana crow, Mariana fruit bat, Vanikoro swiftlet, Mariana common moorhen, two species of sea turtles, and a tree known as the *hayun lagu* or *Tronkon Guafi*. The 385-acre terrestrial portion of the Ritidian Unit is designated as Critical Habitat under the Endangered Species Act for the Guam rail, Mariana crow, and Mariana fruit bat.

The Refuge, as we understand it, has been designated Critical Habitat for several federally listed species and is the prime repatriation site for species extirpated by introduced Brown Tree Snakes. Potential impacts in our opinion can be best addressed through the NEPA process and the Section 7 consultation process under the Endangered Species Act.

In our opinion, let the Section 7 consultation procedure take place.

With regards to the movement of establishing an operational Marine Corps presence on Guam, let's not forget that the foundation is based on an international agreement between the United States and the Government of Japan.

We believe that the LFTRC at Northwest Field would be the best alternative among the other areas being considered. Northwest Field, in our opinion, meets the purpose and need of the Marine Corps and would not require the usage of non-Federal lands and would less impact our communities and other sensitive natural and cultural areas.

Let's not forget that no rounds will be fired directly into the Ritidian Unit.

What needs to happen is for the Navy and entities of the Federal government (DOI, Fish and Wildlife Service) to jointly review the proposal rather than making it a turf issue. Legal issues if any, must be resolved at the Secretary level.

Closing

Reports issued by the General Accounting Office have shed a lot of light on the Department of Defense's effort to realign and relocate military forces to Guam. While these reports recognize that Guam has unique economic and infrastructure requirements that have yet to be addressed, that report stressed that without effective partnering, it will be difficult to successfully deal with the island's concerns.

It has no secret that although there is excitement with the “*economic stimulus*” the planned military move would provide, there is also, equally a number of concerns as to whether or not Guam has the capacity or capability to deal with the infrastructure demands and quality of life issues the Buildup will bring. It is our concern that appropriate funding be sought to ensure that Guam’s concerns are met.

Vice Mayor Jessie P. Bautista and I, together with our Planning Council members we have emphasized the need for a working partnership to ensure that the Department of Defense continues with its plans to build up its force structure on Guam, the civilian needs of our island are met and our concerns are addressed.

For all intents and purposes, we agree our physical infrastructure is for the benefit of both the civilian and military communities. That is why it is only right that we get the Department of Defense’s financial support to help us build what is needed for all of us. This partnership must also realize the need to absorb the social impact of this buildup so both the civilian and military communities have adequate law enforcement, education and health care support.

These are exciting and historic times we must quickly and cooperatively take the next step forward to ensure that the opportunities from the military buildup and this unprecedented relationship are felt both by the people of Guam and our new neighbors whom we welcome with a warm *Hafa Adai!*

Thank you and *Si Yu’us Ma’ase* for your time, and let us remember that ***what is good for the military is good for Guam.***

Sinserramente!


JUNE U. BLAS
Mayor


JESSIE P. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor