



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAHÃN

Guahãn's First Line of Defense • Protecting Our Island, Our People, Our Resources

Director's Office

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To: Joint Guam Program Office Forward
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Office of the Governor of Guam
Attn: Military Buildup Office (Mark Calvo)
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam 96910

Subject: Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency Input / Comment on the
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

The following general comments are provided for your review and consideration:

Based upon my review and the feedback I received, it is important to note that the SEIS did not provide, or indicate, any specific assessment for the potential impact this buildup would have on customs services and operations. For these reasons, both my staff and I could only deduce what might be some of the potential impacts through the assessments and projections made for other critical areas and government operations.

In this regard, we learned that the new projections for the military personnel and construction activities have been substantially reduced as compared to what was provided in the 2010 DSEIS report. Notwithstanding, however, this report only affected certain elements of the original projections and have left many other components unaddressed, unchanged, or addressed in other reports not yet provided to us.

For example, the 2014 SEIS did indicate that the new numbers for military personnel (and their families) that will be stationed on Guam will be approximately 6,300. The report also indicated that the magnitude of construction activities will also be reduced and spread out over a greater length of time, thus reducing the number of construction and support personnel that will be needed to complete the projects and drive the infrastructure development. Overall, the report projects that approximately 10,000 personnel associated with the buildup will be present on-island at the peak of the buildup, and will drop to a sustained residency level of approximately 7,400 personnel. Important points to consider, however, is that the SEIS report did not provide data on projected temporary duty personnel that will be training on Guam, projected data on the impact of the aircraft carrier berthing dock and its supporting battle group, nor how often

these and the military residents will be cycling through Guam. With all these factors taken into consideration, we as customs can still expect as a result of the military buildup significant increases in:

1. passenger traffic from Asia and the United States;
2. troop movements, deployments, and temporary duty personnel;
3. cargo imports and exports involving perishable cargo, construction material and equipment, military vehicles; office supplies and equipment;
4. Mail volume; and
5. Military and commercial aircraft and vessel arrivals.

Secondly, based upon the varying social backgrounds of these personnel, the workforce, the population growth, and their areas of origin, we can also anticipate significant increases in:

1. Imports of Contraband materials (narcotics, intellectual, medication, etc);
2. Imports of Regulated and prohibited meats and plants, meat and plant products, and other foods; and
3. Arrivals with cargo, vessel, and aircraft infestations.

These increases, together with greater incidents of contraband and/or pest movements, will exceed our current manpower and facility capabilities. As provided earlier, the SEIS did not provide an assessment on the CQA operations nor did it provide any manpower numbers on page 4-121. At present, we are operating with significant shortages in manpower resources (approximately 139 uniformed staff) to man our borders, limited facilities and equipment, and limited funding capacities. The military buildup and the impact it would have on our operations would only exasperate our capability to meet the demand for our services and to efficiently meet our mission responsibilities to protect our island. In order to properly prepare ourselves for this growth in activity and maintain long term sustainability, some of the upgrades to our operations and capabilities that will be required include:

1. Increasing the number of customs officers at our borders to handle the influx of arriving passengers, cargo, and crew;
2. Automating our document review and clearance capabilities;
3. Heightening our intelligence networks and capabilities with the various law enforcement agencies to include the military;
4. Acquiring additional and more modernized inspection tools such as passenger x-ray machines, baggage x-ray machines, cargo x-ray machines, container x-ray machines, mobile x-ray machines, and more drug detecting canine etc to help expedite inspections;
5. Re-evaluating of our service fees and incorporating an adjustment commensurate with the projected growths in passenger, cargo, and conveyance arrivals at all ports of entry;
6. Re-evaluating our existing and absent facilities needed to provide customs services at the various military locations (offices, inspection areas, wash-down facilities, etc.), and ensuring that these facilities are provided as part of the overall buildup plan; and

7. Establishing Memorandum of Understanding with the military which enable Guam Customs to recover the costs of providing the manpower levels necessary to service the growths in military activities at Anderson Air Force Base, Naval Station, and any other location which may require a customs presence in connection with the military buildup.

These are just a few of the potential impacts associated with the military buildup and the necessary improvements to meet both the increases in the demand for our services, as well as the challenges unique to this growth.

If you should have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at pedro.leonguerrero@cqa.guam.gov or 671-475-6202.



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