



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING SYSTEMS COMMAND MARIANAS
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Tyrone J. Taitano
Director
Bureau of Statistics and Plans
P.O. Box 2950
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Subj: NOTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION FOR THE TERMINAL
HIGH-ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE (THAAD) ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURE AT ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM

Hafa Adai Mr. Taitano,

The Department of the Navy and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, propose to construct adjustments to the previously approved Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) project configuration to provide additional support facilities and utilities infrastructure at Northwest Field (NWF), Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), Guam. The Navy has determined that the proposed activity will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with mitigating any unintended effects on the Guam Coastal Zone, per 15 CFR 930 Section 930.35.

In 2017, the U.S. Army completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with the expeditionary placement, later proposed permanent emplacement and operation of the THAAD ballistic missile defense battery on Guam. This included a Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Federal Consistency Review that the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (GBSP) approved on July 31, 2015 with the conditional exception of two Water Quality and one Fragile Area resource policy requirements. In response to the GBSP's findings, the U.S. Army identified corrective actions for the three conditional exceptions in the Final 2017 EA/FONSI. Since the completion of the 2017 EA/FONSI, additional facilities and infrastructure were further identified to support the permanent emplacement of the THAAD battery.

The THAAD project site is located on the northwest end of the island of Guam on DoD land at NWF, AAFB, Guam. NWF is primarily used for ground and airfield training and activities. The THAAD project site is located approximately five miles northwest of the AAFB main base and approximately ten miles northeast of the A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport. The proposed action includes additional facilities and infrastructure beyond the scope of the 2017 EA/FONSI and the 2015 CZMA Federal Consistency Review. These project components include an expanded project footprint, the construction of additional facilities, utilities infrastructure, and site improvements. Under Title 10 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), the Department of Defense (DoD) has a national security mandate to protect the United States and its territories from adversaries and potential threats. In accordance with Title 10 U.S.C., the purpose of the proposed action is to provide security and long term protection for Guam residents and U.S. forces on Guam from the threat of ballistic missile attacks.

In October 2016, the U.S. Army and the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding the THAAD Permanent Stationing at NWF, AAFB. In accordance with the MOA, an archaeological survey was conducted of the THAAD project area, and the report detailing this work was submitted to the SHPO on October 30, 2020. On November 13, 2020, the SHPO responded with a letter

requesting revisions to the archaeological survey report. The Navy is currently completing the requested revisions and will resubmit the report to the SHPO. The proposed action would impact three (3) sites which are recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, data recovery and monitoring during construction were recommended as potential mitigation actions. Per Stipulation 2.b.iii. of the MOA these recommendations will be negotiated with SHPO during the development of the Treatment Plan.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Navy consulted with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on a determination that the Preferred Alternative may affect, and is likely to adversely affect cycads (*Cycas micronesica*) and that the Preferred Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Marianas Fruit Bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) with the implementation of a range of best management practices and conservation measures. On December 18, 2020, the USFWS issued a Biological Opinion reflecting these findings.

The Navy prepared a Supplemental EA and draft FONSI. The Supplemental EA and draft FONSI were made available for public review and comment from December 16, 2020 through January 5, 2021. Notices of availability of the Supplemental EA and draft FONSI were published in the December 16, 17, and 18, 2020 editions of the Pacific Daily News and the Guam Daily Post. No substantive public comments were received.

The Navy has completed an “effects” test per 15 CFR Part 930 Section 930.33(a)(1). The Navy assessed reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect effects on Guam’s coastal use or resources, reviewed relevant management program enforceable policies, and determined that the project has foreseeable coastal effects to Guam’s defined coastal zone per 15 CFR 930, Section 930.35. This notice of consistency determination is based on:

1. The proposed federal development is consistent with existing uses as military mission support.
2. The use of best management practices would be implemented to minimize potential environmental effects.
3. The proposed activities are similar to previous DoD activities that have been determined to be either consistent with, or have no effects, on coastal resources.

We respectfully request a response from Bureau of Statistics and Plans within 30 days or less from receipt of this package. However, if no response is received from your office within 60 days, the Navy shall presume concurrence with the consistency determination per 16 CFR Section 930.35(c).

I appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any questions relating to this submission, please contact Mr. Noah Burrell, NAVFAC Marianas Physical Scientist, by telephone at (671) 685-4580 or by email at noah.burrell@fe.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

John F. Salas, P.E.
By direction

Enclosures:

1. Project Description
2. Guam Coastal Management Program Assessment Format