

Coastal Zone Management Act

Consistency Determination

For

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

Additional Facilities and Infrastructure

At

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM

January 2021

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Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Additional Facilities and Infrastructure

Project Description

Commander, Joint Region Marianas and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), propose to approve and construct facilities and utilities infrastructure for the permanent stationing of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense battery at Northwest Field, Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), Guam (see Figure 1). The existing, previously approved THAAD battery has been in operation on an expeditionary (temporary) basis at its existing location since 2013. The current project would provide additional facilities and infrastructure required to support its permanent emplacement and operation. Figure 2 shows the existing THAAD battery area at Northwest Field, which comprises a 97-acre tactical site and a 14-acre maintenance site, separated by an approximately 59-acre fenced parcel known as “Area 50.”

The project would add approximately 18.8 acres to the existing 111-acre THAAD site for construction of maintenance and support facilities, offsite utilities, a relocated radar facility, access roads, munitions storage magazines, water well, and a stormwater detention basin. In addition, three additional reinforced concrete launcher pads would be constructed within the original THAAD site and offsite wastewater, electrical, and communications infrastructure would be constructed to serve the THAAD battery.

Background

The establishment of an Air and Missile Defense Task Force on Guam—including a THAAD system—was included as part of a 2006 U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) realignment initiative to relocate a portion of U.S. forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. A 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) included evaluating the impacts of establishing a THAAD system at Northwest Field, AAFB as part of the DoD’s preferred alternative. However, the DoD subsequently elected in the FEIS Record of Decision to defer the decision to implement this component of the proposed action pending further study of regional and global ballistic missile defense studies.

In April 2013, at the direction of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Army deployed a THAAD battery at Northwest Field, AAFB on an expeditionary basis in response to an emergent threat in the region—potential North Korean missile launch activity. Because of the emergency circumstances, the THAAD battery was emplaced and made operational prior to preconstruction surveys or consultation with resource agencies and regulators. As allowed in U.S. Army regulations for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation (32 CFR § 651.11[b]), the Executive responsibility to protect the homeland also superseded the completion of traditional NEPA analysis prior to the deployment of the THAAD battery to Guam. However, the existing THAAD battery site is in the general area of the preferred alternative site evaluated in the 2010 FEIS. The THAAD battery has been operational at the current site since April 2013.

Subsequent to the 2013 deployment, DoD validated the enduring requirement for a THAAD battery in Guam to ensure continued defense of the homeland. An environmental assessment (EA) addressing the impacts of the expeditionary placement and operation of the THAAD along with permanent stationing at its current location was prepared to comply with NEPA, and a FONSI issued in 2017. The 2017 EA and FONSI also included modification of a cargo drop zone training adjacent to the north of the THAAD

emplacement site. The THAAD project areas addressed in the 2017 EA/FONSI and currently being utilized are shown in Figure 2.

The U.S. Army prepared a Consistency Determination under Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) § 307(c)(1) and 15 CFR part 930, subpart C for the permanent stationing of the THAAD battery and modification of the cargo drop zone training area—proposals that were covered in the 2017 EA. In 2015, the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) found the proposed permanent stationing and cargo drop zone modification to be consistent with the policies and objectives of the Guam Coastal Management Program, provided that the U.S. Army complied with Water Quality and Fragile Area conditions involving hazardous materials/waste management measures, storm water quality pollution prevention, and preservation of historic properties (BSP letter to Robert W. Lyons dated July 31, 2015). Compliance actions have been or will be implemented by the DoD, as appropriate.

The 2017 EA/FONSI for the THAAD Permanent Stationing in Guam described the THAAD project area as encompassing an approximately 97-acre tactical site, and a 14-acre maintenance site (Figure 2). The tactical and maintenance sites were separated by an approximately 59-acre fenced parcel known as “Area 50.” Area 50 contains a relatively undisturbed area of limestone forest and former airfield tarmac. In the 1990s, the area was fenced for use as an experimental conservation area, but it is no longer managed or used for this purpose. The 2017 EA/FONSI acknowledged that additional site improvements, facilities, and infrastructure—beyond those addressed in that EA—may be required to support the THAAD mission, and that those improvements would be subject to NEPA compliance. The DoD subsequently identified additional facilities and infrastructure needed to support THAAD’s 100 percent system capabilities.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Supplemental EA and draft FONSI that evaluated the impacts of the new facilities and infrastructure components; i.e., the balance of projects needed to meet the 100 percent permanency requirement for the THAAD mission at Northwest Field, AAFB. The mission and intensity of operations and training activities for the THAAD battery are expected remain at current levels analyzed in the 2017 EA. That is, the primary difference between the current project and the project covered in the 2017 EA/FONSI is that the THAAD site would be served by permanent on and off-site facilities and utility services. Due to existing space limitations, the Army determined that expansion of the THAAD project area would be required to support THAAD in meeting its 100% mission capability. The preferred alternative would increase the THAAD project footprint by about 18.8 acres resulting in a revised project footprint of approximately 130 acres. The Army undertook a careful review of alternatives to identify the most compatible areas for the expansion of the THAAD project footprint, as described below.

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 subject of the attached CZMA Coastal Consistency Assessment is the suite of project components addressed in the Navy’s 2020 Supplemental EA and draft FONSI. It is tiered to the Army’s 2015 Coastal Consistency Determination and incorporates it, and Guam BSP’s concurrence, by reference.

Proposed Project Components

Facilities and infrastructure components included in the proposed action are shown in Figures 3 and 4 and described below.

Proposed Facilities (Figure 3)

- Three additional launch pads would be constructed in the tactical site (to support wheeled launch vehicles).
- The existing radar facility and the associated radar keep out zone would be relocated from the southeast corner of the tactical site to the southeast corner of Area 50, adjacent to the existing paved maintenance site.
- The maintenance site would be expanded onto an existing paved area on the west side of Area 50, adjacent to the existing maintenance site. This area would include utility support facilities (e.g., power plant, water and fire protection systems, garage, wash rack) and vehicle parking.
- A new access roadway would be constructed from the expanded maintenance site to the tactical site along the west side of Area 50.
- A 3.0-acre munitions magazine area would be constructed adjacent to the southeast corner of the maintenance site. This component consists of two munitions magazines and associated concrete aprons, generally centered on two existing paved pads, with associated perimeter security fencing and an internal access road connecting to the maintenance site.
- An 1.3-acre stormwater detention basin would be constructed adjacent to the southeast side of the existing maintenance site, north of and adjacent to the proposed magazine area and outside the fence. Grading, vegetation clearing, and excavation would be used to form natural berms to control stormwater overflows. The detention basin would allow water to infiltrate into the ground, reducing the off-site discharge rate.

Proposed Utilities Infrastructure

The project includes the following utilities and infrastructure improvements. Off-site utilities improvements would be installed within the proposed utility corridor identified in Figure 4. .

Potable Water

A new on-site potable and fire protection water well would be drilled to supply the potable water system at the THAAD project site. The potable water system would include an on-site pump station, water storage tanks, chlorination equipment to treat the raw well water, and a 12-inch waterline looped around the THAAD project site.

Wastewater

A new sewer force main would be installed from the THAAD site to the gravity trunk sewer at a manhole along Route 9. On-site wastewater service would be provided by a gravity collection system and a wastewater pump station.

Stormwater Drainage

Approximately 3,750 feet of trench drains would be provided along the north and south edges of the THAAD Maintenance Site to carry water away from the paved areas and buildings. The trench drains

would discharge the water to the west and east ends of the Maintenance Site and south where possible. Stormwater flows would also be directed to a new detention basin w outside of the fence line to the east of the THAAD maintenance site, which would allow water to infiltrate into the ground, reducing the off-site discharge rate.

Electrical

Electrical Service to the THAAD project site would be provided by constructing a new 34.5 kilovolt (kV) primary underground electrical line from Route 3 to a new electrical substation along Route 3A (Figure 4) because the existing Potts Junction Substation does not have sufficient capacity to support the proposed THAAD project electrical loads. The new substation would include a primary switching station with switchgears, step-down transformer, and feeders dedicated to support the THAAD project only, with provisions for future expansion.

A new power plant facility would be installed within the expanded THAAD maintenance site to provide required redundancy. The facility would include a utility yard, paralleling switchgear, redundant switches, step-down pad-mounted transformers, and three 1.6 megawatt standby generators. Ultra-low sulphur diesel would fuel the standby generators.

On-site electrical service would be provided by new electrical distribution lines to be installed in concrete encased, underground duct lines from the power plant facility to each THAAD facility. Electric manholes and handholes would be provided as necessary. Pad mounted transformers would be located within concrete masonry unit wall enclosures for protection during typhoons.

Telecommunications

New underground fiber optic and copper cabling would be installed from an existing point of connection west of the THAAD project site to the main telecommunications room at the proposed THAAD Mission Operations Facility. Underground telecommunications lines would also be installed from the THAAD project area to a new communications point of connection to the north of the THAAD project site. Additional telecommunications lines would be installed within the proposed electrical duct bank from the THAAD project site to the proposed new electrical substation (Figure 4).

Site Improvements

Site Preparation

The entire existing THAAD maintenance site is located on existing airfield pavement, but portions of the proposed project footprint expansion would require grubbing, grading, and paving existing vegetated areas, including:

- Area connecting the existing maintenance site and the existing paved area on the west side of Area 50
- Expansion of the THAAD maintenance site north into Area 50 along the east edge of the project area

Deteriorating airfield pavement within the THAAD maintenance site and Area 50 would be replaced as necessary.

The proposed munitions magazines would be located in a previously disturbed areas with existing pavement (Figure 3). However, the pavement is deteriorating, and the magazine sites would be graded

and repaved to allow for the construction of the magazines and their associated concrete aprons. Additionally, a two-acre area north of the munitions magazines would be grading, cleared, and excavated to create the stormwater detention basin.

Site Access Roads and Parking

Current site access within the THAAD site is mostly provided by unpaved roadways or previously paved tarmac. The Proposed Action would provide a new paved roadway connecting the west side of the THAAD maintenance site with an additional three proposed launcher pads. A new paved road would also be provided to access the proposed munitions magazines. A 72-stall vehicle parking area would be provided at the west side of the THAAD maintenance site.

A new access road would also be constructed to provide vehicular access to the proposed magazine area. The access road would connect from a gate at the southeast corner of the THAAD maintenance to both of the proposed magazines.

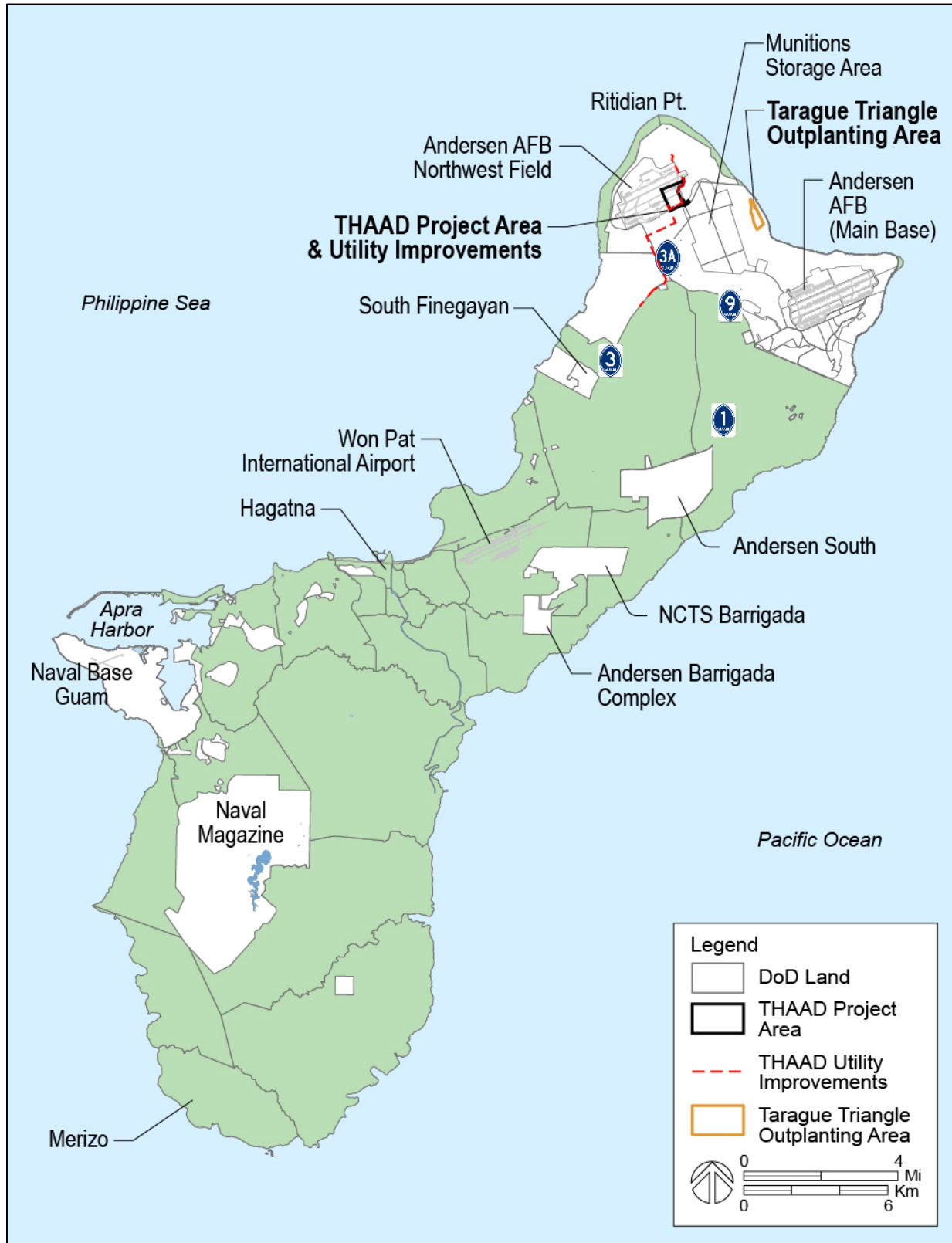


Figure 1: Regional Location Map

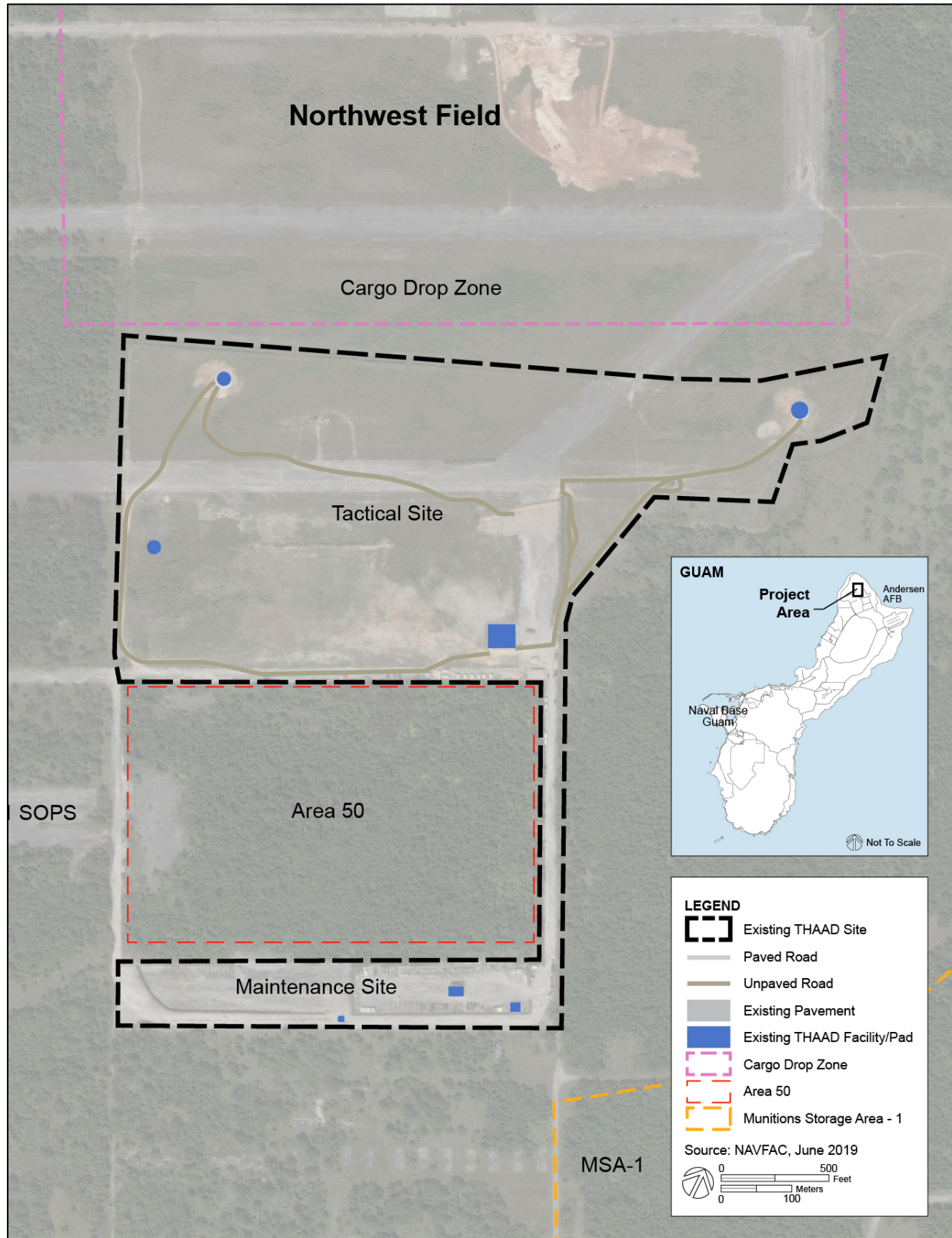
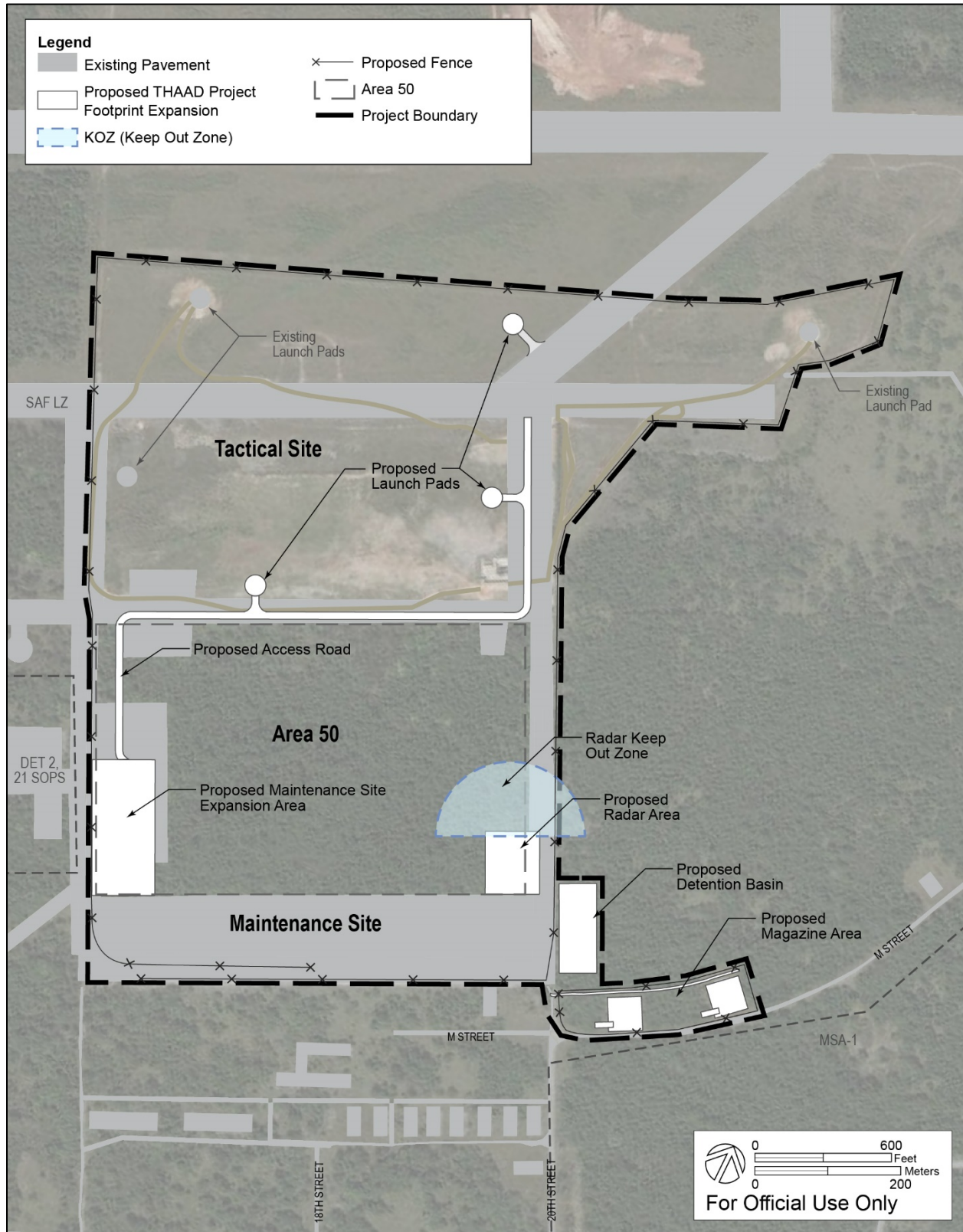
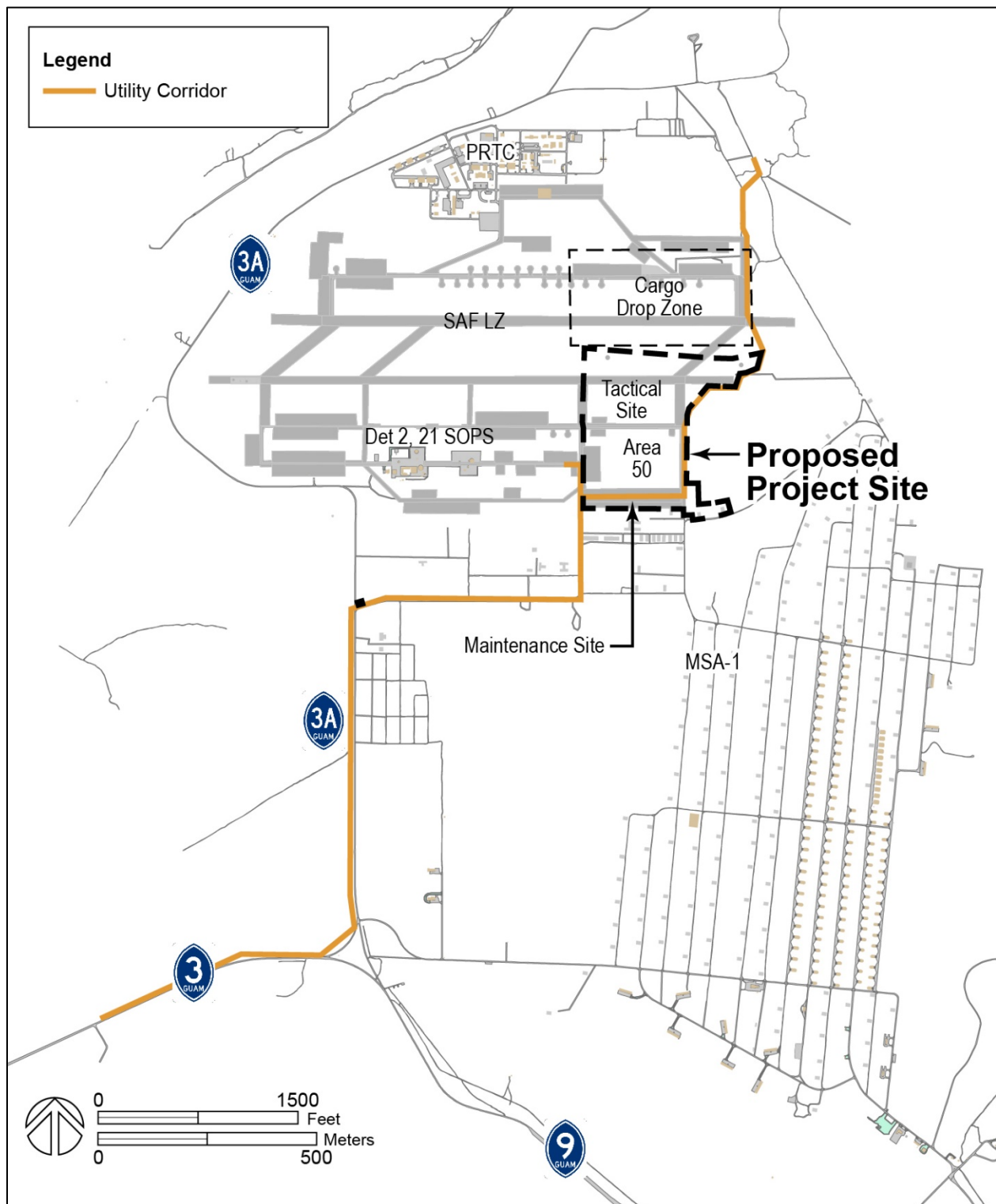


Figure 2: Existing THAAD Battery Site

**Figure 3: Proposed THAAD Project Site Plan**

**Figure 4: Proposed Utilities and Infrastructure**