

U.S. Air Force Seeks Input on Historic Properties in Revised Divert Proposal



The U.S. Air Force is asking for public comments. The Air Force requests comments on the potential effects to historic properties from the revised Divert proposal near and at Francisco C. Ada (Saipan International) Airport, Tinian International Airport, Saipan seaport, and Tinian seaport.

The Air Force previously sought input on historic properties in 2012 when it proposed to improve the Saipan and/or Tinian International Airports to accommodate training exercises and missions related to overall emergency preparedness in the Pacific. After receiving input from the CNMI government, Federal and local agencies, and community members, the Air Force has revised its proposal and is again inviting members of the public to assist in identifying potential adverse effects to historic properties.

The Air Force initially proposed building facilities and infrastructure at the Saipan and/or Tinian International Airports to support a combination of military cargo, fighter, and tanker aircraft and associated support personnel for diverted aircraft landings, joint military exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. Although the mission remains the same, the Air Force has revised its proposal to no longer include fighter aircraft; to decrease the extent of airport improvements; and to dramatically reduce the number of planned operations from 1,920 take-offs and landings to 720. As a result of these changes, the Air Force has developed three modified alternatives that include a reduced level of development at Saipan and Tinian.

With the proposed revisions to the Divert Activities and Exercises undertaking, the Air Force is revisiting the potential for adverse effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Air Force will conduct open house public outreach meetings on Saipan and Tinian to discuss the revised undertaking and seek public input on historic property identification, traditional cultural properties, and potential effects on historic properties. The public outreach meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- **Tinian:** Friday, July 24, 2015; 4:30-7:30pm; Tinian Elementary School, San Jose.
- **Saipan:** Saturday July 25, 2015; 1:30-4:30pm; Saipan Multipurpose Center, Susupe.

Written and verbal comments related to historic properties will be accepted at the meetings. Interested individuals may also request to join the consultation process as an interested party. Those with interest in or information pertaining to the historic properties within the areas of potential effect are encouraged to submit comments to PACAF Public Affairs (ATTN: PACAF Divert Section 106 Consultation), 25 E Street, Suite G-108, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853, or by email at pacaf.paops@us.af.mil. Comments will also be accepted on the project website at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com