

Environmental Impact Statement for Divert Activities and Exercises



Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Public Scoping

The development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is an iterative process that provides continued input of the public's concerns and comments. During the EIS development process there are two particular phases designed to encourage public participation: the Public Scoping Period and the Draft EIS Public Comment Period.



Public scoping is the first opportunity for public involvement during preparation of an EIS

What is Public Scoping?

Public scoping is an early and open process for identifying issues to be addressed in the EIS, and determining who (e.g., public and government agencies) is interested in the Proposed Action. The public scoping period begins with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* stating an agency's intent to prepare an EIS.

The U.S. Air Force published the NOI in the Federal Register on September 27, 2011. Additionally, the U.S. Air Force published a notice of EIS scoping meetings in local newspapers.

How long is Public Scoping?

The public scoping period for an EIS should be at least 30 days.

The Public Scoping Period for the Proposed Action is 45 days (September 27, 2011, through November 10, 2011).

Who can participate in Public Scoping?

As part of the scoping process, agencies are required to identify and invite the participation of any affected Federal, Commonwealth, and local agencies and interested persons.

The U.S. Air Force encourages citizens; elected officials; special interest groups; and local, Commonwealth, and Federal agencies to participate in Public Scoping for the Proposed Action.



What will occur during Public Scoping?

The U.S. Air Force will:

- ◆ Provide information on the Proposed Action and alternatives through the following media:
 - Project Web site, fact sheets, direct mailings, newspaper advertisements, and information repositories.
- ◆ Meet with local government agencies and other stakeholders such as:
 - Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Governors and Legislatures
 - Island Mayors and their Municipal Councils
 - Environmental quality, land and natural resources, fish and wildlife, and coastal resources agencies
 - Historic Preservation offices
 - Won Pat International Airport Board of Directors and Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors
 - CNMI Military Integration Management Committee and Guam Civilian Military Coordination Council
 - Federal agencies.
- ◆ Conduct five Public Scoping Meetings:
 - Two on Guam, one on Saipan, one on Tinian, and one on Rota.
- ◆ Solicit comments on the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Public, government agencies, and other interested parties can:

- ◆ Identify issues/concerns
- ◆ Suggest potential alternatives
- ◆ Provide new information/data
- ◆ Request project information/materials
- ◆ Add their name to the mailing list
- ◆ Attend Public Scoping Meetings
- ◆ Submit comments
 - By postal mail, voice mail, through the project Web site, and at Public Scoping Meetings.

Guam and CNMI Divert Activities and Exercises Environmental Impact Statement

Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), its environment, culture, and people are important to the U.S. Air Force. To make sure the environment continues to be protected, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for improving an existing airfield on U.S. territory in proximity of the Philippine Sea. This study will help to understand the effects on the environment, including natural and cultural resources, and the economic well-being of the people of Guam and CNMI from the proposed activities and exercises. The EIS will help the U.S. Air Force to better protect the unique environment of Guam and CNMI. For more information about the EIS, see the "Proposed Action and Alternatives" fact sheet.

How can you participate in the Guam and CNMI Divert Activities and Exercises EIS Scoping Process?

The U.S. Air Force wants to hear what you think about the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Participation in the scoping process for this Proposed Action gives you the opportunity to attend public scoping meetings and provide comments to help the U.S. Air Force identify the issues, alternatives, and potential environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Guam and CNMI Divert Activities and Exercises Draft EIS.

The Public Scoping Period extends from September 27, 2011, through November 10, 2011. To submit a comment, please use one of the following methods:

- **Public Scoping Meetings:** Submit oral or written comments at any of the five Public Scoping Meetings
- **Mail:** Capt Kimberly Bender, PACAF/PA, 25 E Street, Suite G-108, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853, ATTN: PACAF Divert Marianas EIS
- **Voice Mail:** 1-855-200-6734
- **Project Web site:** www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

All comments should be submitted no later than November 10, 2011, for consideration in the Draft EIS.