

Divert Activities and Exercises Section 106 Consultation



Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The National Historic Preservation Act and Section 106 Consultation

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) seeks to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States and its territories. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies like the Air Force to consider how their actions affect historic properties and to consider the input of interested parties and the public. As part of this consultation process, the Air Force invites you to share any comments and concerns about historic properties, traditional cultural properties, and preservation in relation to the undertaking. The Section 106 Consultation process includes the following steps:

Initiate: The Air Force notifies the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) about a proposed undertaking and invites interested parties and the public to consult.

Identify: The Air Force determines the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and identifies historic properties in the APE. The public shares information about historic properties in the APE and why they are important.

Determine Effects: The Air Force determines if and how the proposed undertaking affects historic properties. Consulting parties and the public provide input on effects.

Resolve Adverse Effects: With input from the HPO, the public, and other consulting parties including the National Park Service, the Air Force seeks ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects. For the Divert project, these measures will be outlined in a legally binding agreement made with the HPO and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The Divert Activities and Exercises Undertaking

The Air Force's Divert undertaking is a proposal to improve one or more existing airport and seaport in the Mariana Islands region to support additional divert capability as part of joint training exercises, humanitarian assistance activities, and disaster relief efforts. Elements of the Divert undertaking include:

- ◆ Aircraft support capabilities (including a suitable taxiway, fuel storage and delivery, a parking apron, a cargo pad, and a maintenance facility)
- ◆ Divert landings if other locations in the western Pacific are unavailable
- ◆ Joint military exercises with aircraft such as the KC-135, with up to 720 operations phased over a total of 8 weeks per year
- ◆ Humanitarian airlift staging in the event of an emergency
- ◆ Lodging for up to 265 temporary personnel

The Air Force is considering three modified alternatives:

- ◆ Modified Saipan Alternative at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Saipan seaport
- ◆ Modified Tinian Alternative at Tinian International Airport and Tinian seaport. This alternative includes a North Option and a South Option.
- ◆ Hybrid Modified Alternative which is a combination of the Modified Saipan and Tinian alternatives with reduced development at each location.



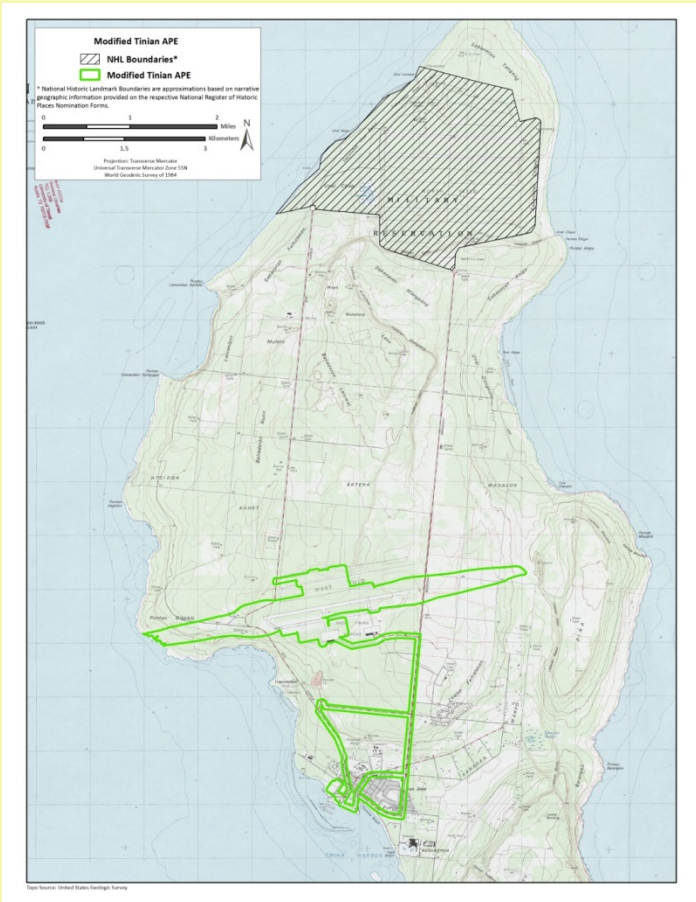
The Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) defines all areas where the undertaking may directly or indirectly have effects on historic properties. For the Divert undertaking, the primary factors in establishing each alternative's APE were construction, noise, and vehicle traffic on Saipan and Tinian; and the Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point National Historic Landmark (NHL) on Saipan. The APE for Saipan and Tinian are shown on the bottom of this sheet.

Historic Properties

Several archaeological and historical sites are known within the APEs based on previous archaeological and historical surveys. On Saipan, six historic properties are inside the Saipan APE, all of which are contributing parts of the NHL. In addition, the Air Force has identified two historical features that are part of the NHL but are recommended non-contributing to the NHL's historical significance. On Tinian, seven historic properties have been identified in the Tinian and Hybrid APEs. These are a mix of pre-contact and World War II era sites. In addition to these seven properties, the Air Force has identified four sites that are not historically significant and are recommended "Not Eligible" for the National Register of Historic Properties. Only sites that are listed on or are eligible for listing on the NRHP are considered historic properties and are protected by the NHPA.

Areas of Potential Effect- Maps



Tinian



Saipan

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