DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
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GH34-17-854
Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
34th Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Street, Suite 107
Hagåtña, GU 96910

Dear Senator Cruz:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a supplement to the 2015 Final Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter referred to as the "Study Area"). Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation (hereafter referred to as "training and testing"). The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues or viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in May 2015 for training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at-sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of activities the military has conducted in the Study Area for decades.

The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS (Enclosure 1). The Study Area includes the existing Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC); areas on the high seas to the north and west of the MIRC; a transit corridor between the MIRC and the Hawaii

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Range Complex, starting at the International Date Line; and Apra Harbor and select Navy pierside and harbor locations. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea and on FDM within the Study Area. Other activities and land components associated with the MIRC will not be included in the supplement.

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces, consistent with Congressional direction in Section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct at-sea training and testing activities at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020; and
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

Public comments will be accepted during the 45-day scoping period beginning July 28, 2017 through September 11, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **September 11, 2017,** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at **www.MITT-EIS.com**, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

If you would like additional information or to receive a project briefing, please contact Mr. John Van Name at 808-471-1714 or john.vanname@navy.mil.

Please help the Navy inform the community about the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS for at-sea training and testing by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

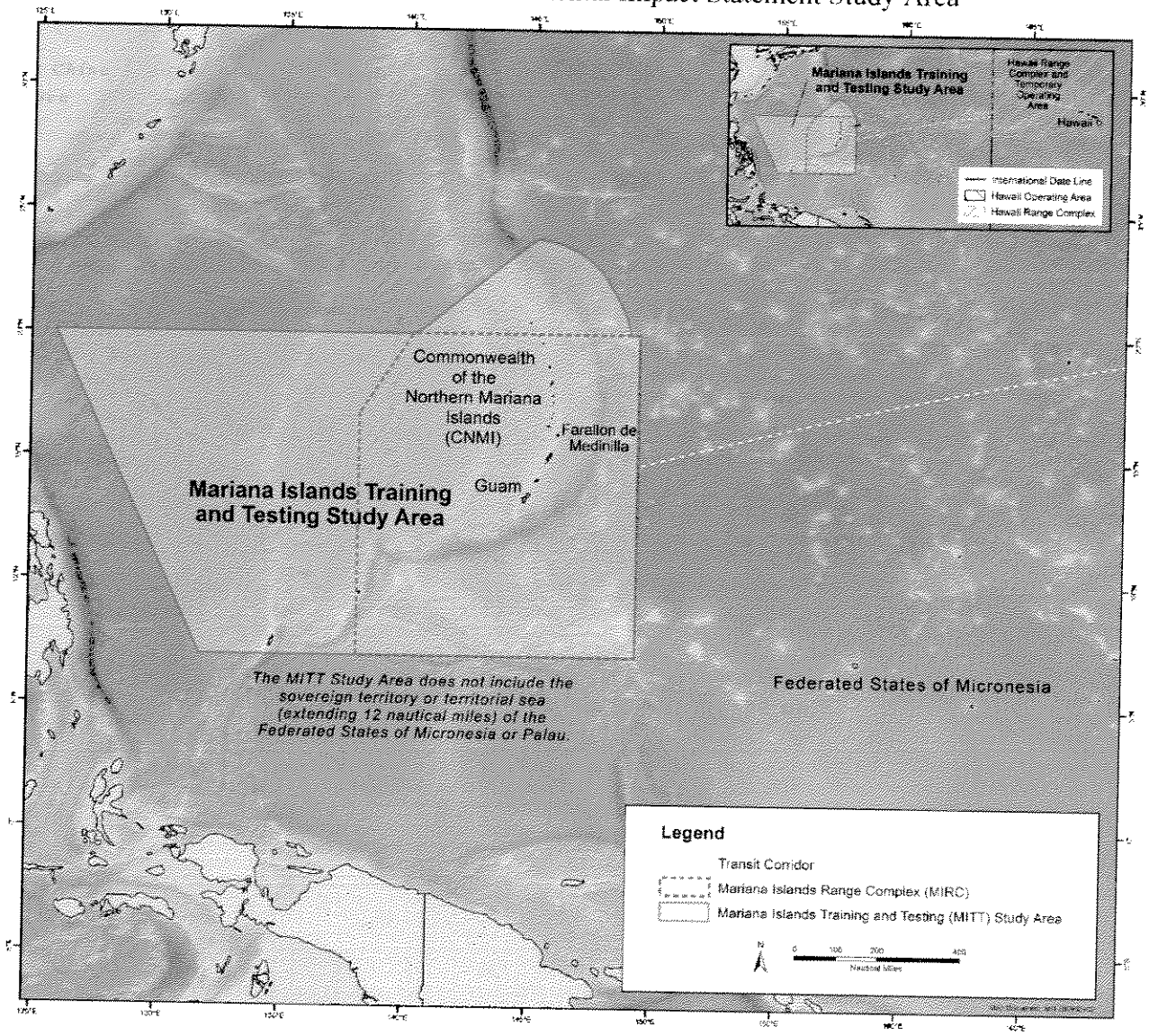
Sincerely,

FOR L. M. FOSTER
By direction

Enclosure: 1. Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area

Doc. No. 34GL-17-0854.

Enclosure: 1. Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area



Enclosure (1)