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MILITARY RELOCATION TO GUAM AND CNMI PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA) MEMO #2

Project:North Ramp Future Defense Policy Review Initiative
(DPRI) Project Design StudiesDate: June 17, 2014Project Location:Andersen Air Force BasePrepared By: NAVFAC Pacific

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project proposes to conduct geotechnical and topographic surveys to support project design efforts for future improvements and vertical construction projects within the bounds of North Ramp at Andersen Air Force Base (Figure 1). Although not specific to North Ramp itself, the traditional place name of the general area around it is Upi. The effort may also require munitions of explosive concern (MEC) removal. Please note: this PA memo is for consultation regarding potential effects of design studies only. Additional consultation for individual projects will be undertaken once Congress has approved funding for each project and design efforts are complete.

This project was identified after preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the military relocation to Guam and CNMI and Appendix E of the PA. As per Stipulation I.E. of the PA, it is a new project associated with the Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Military Relocation (the Undertaking). Accordingly, this memo presents information to allow interested members of the public to provide comments on the DoD's determination of effect and if adverse, DoD's plan for resolving that effect.

Project works will include vegetation clearance for the purpose of accessing specific study locations, placing geotechnical borings (via auger) and mechanized excavation to facilitate sample collection, and placement of survey markers (wooden stake hubs and/or rebar) for topographic support. Generally, geotechnical work entails drilling borings with a truck-mounted drill rig using 8-inch diameter augers or pipe casing with water or air rotary drilling. Boring depths vary, but generally range from 5 feet to a maximum of 110 feet. Additionally, backhoe test pits up to 3 feet wide and 12 feet long may be excavated in some areas to depths ranging from 3 to 8 feet. Samples of subsurface soil/rock materials are collected from borings and test pits for laboratory analyses. After completion of sampling, borings are filled with grout and test pits are backfilled with the leftover excavated material.

Andersen Air Force Base is one of the largest airfields in the US Air Force. It covers 6,275 hectares (15,500 acres) and occupies a mostly flat, uplifted limestone plateau in the northern

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portion of the island of Guam. The Main Operations area in the eastern third of the base includes the main active airfield and an array of operations, maintenance and community support facilities, most of which are located along the South Ramp. The North Ramp area includes operations of the Navy's HSC-25, munitions storage in the former Strategic Command storage area, and parking apron space for contingency operations. The central third of the base is a Munitions Storage Area (MSA). The western third is Northwest Field, a WWII-era airfield that is currently used for fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter training, and various field exercises and bivouacs.

The total APE for the current project is 248 hectares (614 acres).

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

Results of DoD Cultural Resources Review

As stated in the first PA Memo for this project, one historic property has been identified within the area proposed for design studies.

Historic Property 1 is a WW II-era runway complex, which while retaining some of its original layout, is now essentially a Cold War-era airfield with the 1940s elements adapted for larger and heavier aircraft (B-36, B-47 and B-52).

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT:

The DoD has determined that one historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A due to association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, will be adversely affected by the proposed action.

PLAN FOR RESOLVING ADVERSE EFFECT:

The DoD's proposed resolution of effect is consistent with mitigation requirements in the 2011 military relocation PA and comprised of the following measures:

- 1. In accordance with Stipulation VI.A., a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Survey of Historic Property 1 was completed in 2012 as mitigation for adverse effects resulting from MILCON P-101 (North Ramp Parking). The HAER was intended to also address adverse effects from all subsequent military relocation projects.
- 2. Also in accordance with Stipulation VI.A., the DoD will provide full-time monitoring of all ground disturbing activity and spot monitoring of the same in two specific portions of the APE. DoD will submit an archaeological monitoring and data recovery plan for GHRD review.
- 3. In accordance with Stipulation VI.B., a Public Education and Interpretation booklet in English and Chamorro that includes images, a summary of the work done (HAER), data recovered and a statement of the significance of Historic Property 1 to the regional culture was also completed in 2012 as mitigation for adverse effects resulting from MILCON P-
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- 101. This brochure is posted on the Cultural Resources Information (CRI) website and 1,100 printed copies have been provided to the Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD) for distribution to the public.
- 4. In accordance with Stipulation VI.F., the DoD has retained a full-time Archaeologist to provide site checks, oversee coordination and execution of the archaeological mitigation measures in the PA and to provide quality control. This individual is on-staff at NAVFAC Marianas and has also been tasked with supporting Command Joint Region Marianas (CJRM) in responding to and reporting of any inadvertent discoveries to the Signatories, Invited Signatories, and Concurring Parties per Stipulation XII of the PA.
- 5. In accordance with Stipulation VI.G., the DoD updated the Guam Historic Properties inventory (GHPI) data form for Historic Property 1. This requirement was completed on February 9, 2012 as a component of the HAER, with the revised form forwarded to the GHRD on April 10, 2012.
- 6. In accordance with Stipulation VII.C.3., the DoD has completed a nomination form for listing of Historic Property 1 in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination form is currently under review by GHRD.

No additional mitigation is proposed.