Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Marianas
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MILITARY RELOCATION TO GUAM AND CNMI
PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA) MEMO #1

Project: P-745 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Facilities Relocation Design Studies	**Date**: April 27, 2023 **Comment Period Open Until:** June 12, 2023
Project Location: Guam National Wildlife Refuge, Ritidian Unit, Yigo, Guam	**Prepared By**: NAVFAC Pacific

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed design studies support planning efforts for the relocation of USFWS facilities at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, Ritidian Unit. The relocation is required as part of an inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement to provide USFWS facilities outside the surface danger zone of training ranges on Guam's northern plateau. The proposed project includes geotechnical investigation, soil screening, topographic survey, and related work.

This project was identified after preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) for the military relocation to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Appendix E under various projects of the *2011 Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the Department of Defense, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Relocation to the Islands of Guam and Tinian.*

In accordance with Stipulation IV.E.2.a., this PA Memo presents information to allow the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the public the opportunity to provide comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties and the finding of effects.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located on the northern coastline of Guam, below the limestone plateau of Northwest Field, with an access road extending from the coastline up the limestone cliffs to the main road on the plateau.

The coastal plain consists of low coastal terraces and beaches which extend to the base of the northern limestone plateau. The area of potential effects (APE) measures 35.2 acres (14.24 hectares) and is depicted in Figure 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project includes geotechnical investigation, soil screening, and topographic survey. Associated efforts may include hand and mechanized vegetation clearing for access and/or line of

1 This PA Memo is required by Stipulation IV.E.2.a. of the PA as a means for interested members of the public to provide comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties. Stipulation IV.E.1.b. of the 2011 PA requires the DoD to take into account comments received within 45 days of the date of the delivery of this PA memo to the SHPO and public notification via the CRI website.

sight, and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) support. Investigation targets may be adjusted based on environmental conditions like MEC, or natural and cultural resources.

The geotechnical investigation generally entails auger boring utilizing a truck-mounted drill rig. Exploratory boring depths vary, but range from 10 - 115 feet (ft) or 3 - 35 meters (m) and measure 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter.

Composite soil screening involves collection of soil samples from boreholes and test pits. Boring for this effort uses handheld equipment to reach depths of approximately 2 ft (0.6 m), and measure 1 to 2 inches (2.5 - 5 cm) in diameter. Test pits are mechanically excavated to depths of approximately 5 ft (1.5 m) and typically measure 2 ft by 2 ft (0.6 m x 0.6 m).

Topographic survey is conducted using conventional land survey equipment throughout the APE. The survey necessitates driving stakes or nails into the ground to establish control points or survey limits.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The 2011 PA describes the overall efforts taken to identify historic properties in Stipulation IV, including archival research, oral studies, and interviews. Archaeological surveys have been conducted for the P-745 APE. Regulation does not require survey of an entire APE or identification of all historic properties, and 36 CFR Part 800.4(b)(1) states that a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts shall be made. The 2011 PA directs the PA Memo process to allow for members of the public to provide input on the identification and evaluation of historic properties. The input sought includes knowledge on specific historic properties not yet identified by previous efforts, and assistance in identifying issues relating to effects on historic properties.

The buildings now controlled by USFWS were originally constructed in 1968 as part of a Sound Surveillance System used during the Cold War to detect and monitor Soviet submarines. The buildings were transferred to the GNWR in 1993. The buildings were evaluated for listing in the NRHP against Criteria A, B, C, and D as well as under Criterion Consideration G. Due to a significant degradation in design, setting, materials, quality of workmanship, feeling, and association the facilities do not retain integrity and are not eligible.

Enclosure 1 is a list of references supporting identification efforts in and near the APE. Figure 2 illustrates the scope of these efforts. Two historic properties are present in the APE.

One site is an extensive Latte Period (A.D. 800 to 1521) feature complex consisting of both Pre-Contact and historic features. The complex includes a historically documented Spanish Missionization/CHamoru Spanish Wars Period village with a Spanish church, *latte* set habitations, utilized caves, surface ceramics and tools, and excavated subsurface materials.

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The site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of CHamoru or Guam history, and it is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory. Therefore, the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and D. Other elements, such as possible Cold War concrete foundations and antenna components within the site, do possess integrity of location and setting, but their materials, quality of workmanship, feeling, and association have been compromised by modern renovations.

The other site within the APE consists of six stone features measuring approximately 13 m (42.7 ft) by 20 m (65.6 ft). The site extends out from a steep slope on the site's southern edge, onto the forested terrace. No surface artifacts were found within the site; therefore, the period and function of the site are currently undetermined. Comparisons with similar sites on the north and east slopes of the plateau above the villages of Yigu and interviews with local residents above Pagat suggest that many – but not all – of these feature types are likely related to Post-Contact or historic native forest exploitation, including the drying of cycad nuts before processing. With steep slope and loose boulders forming the back of the site to the southeast, it appears ill-suited for habitation as the absence of surface remains suggests.

As a site of indeterminate date and function consisting of six cobble alignments and enclosures with partial paving located near a partially disturbed roadside context, it may yield information important in history or prehistory beyond that already recorded. The site does possess its integrity of location and setting, but its materials, quality of workmanship, feeling, and association have been compromised by mechanical disturbance. However, the site has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

In accordance with Stipulation VI.F. of the 2011 PA, the Department of Defense has retained a full-time archaeologist to provide site checks, oversee coordination and execution of the archaeological mitigation measures in the 2011 PA and to provide quality control. This individual is on-staff at MCBCB, designated to respond to and report any inadvertent discoveries to the Signatories, Invited Signatories, and Concurring Parties per Stipulation XII of the 2011 PA.

Additionally, due to the archaeological sensitivity of the Ritidian area, the proposed project includes an archaeological monitoring condition to assist with avoiding interaction with historic properties during the course of work. A qualified archaeological monitor will accompany crews conducting vegetation clearance during both the path layout and actual clearing activities, as well as during field investigations. If multiple crews are working concurrently, a monitor shall accompany each team.

FINDING OF EFFECTS:

The proposed project's ground surface vegetation clearing and subsurface excavation components have the potential to alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. However, there are modifications and conditions imposed on the undertaking that, consistent with regulation, have resulted in a proposed finding of "no adverse effect." The undertaking will adopt a combination of avoidance and archaeological monitoring support.

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Design work crews will have appropriate data to aid in avoidance of historic properties to the maximum extent as they perform their respective investigations. Investigation targets may be adjusted to accommodate environmental constraints.

The archaeological monitor's objective will be to identify and provide in-field guidance to assist in avoidance of historic properties. The monitor will document cultural deposits that may represent a historic property and/or human skeletal remains, including fragmented bone encountered as an isolated find. The monitor shall record subsurface stratigraphy, cultural deposits and archaeological features, collect diagnostic artifacts, and collect global positioning system (GPS) data. Standardized daily monitoring logs shall include all relevant archaeological observations. The DoD will direct the archaeologists to apply the methods and procedures of a previously accepted archeological monitoring work plan.

In the event of a post review discovery the DON will follow the procedures outlined in Stipulation XI of the 2011 PA. If comments received during the PA Memo process result in new information regarding historic properties, consultation will continue pursuant to the 2011 PA. Otherwise, PA Memo #2 will not be required as there will be no mitigation proposed for design studies.

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Enclosure 1

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This PA Memo is required by Stipulation IV.E.2.a. of the PA as a means for interested members of the public to provide comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties. Stipulation IV.E.1.b. of the 2011 PA requires the DoD to take into account comments received within 45 days of the date of the delivery of this PA memo to the SHPO and public notification via the CRI website.

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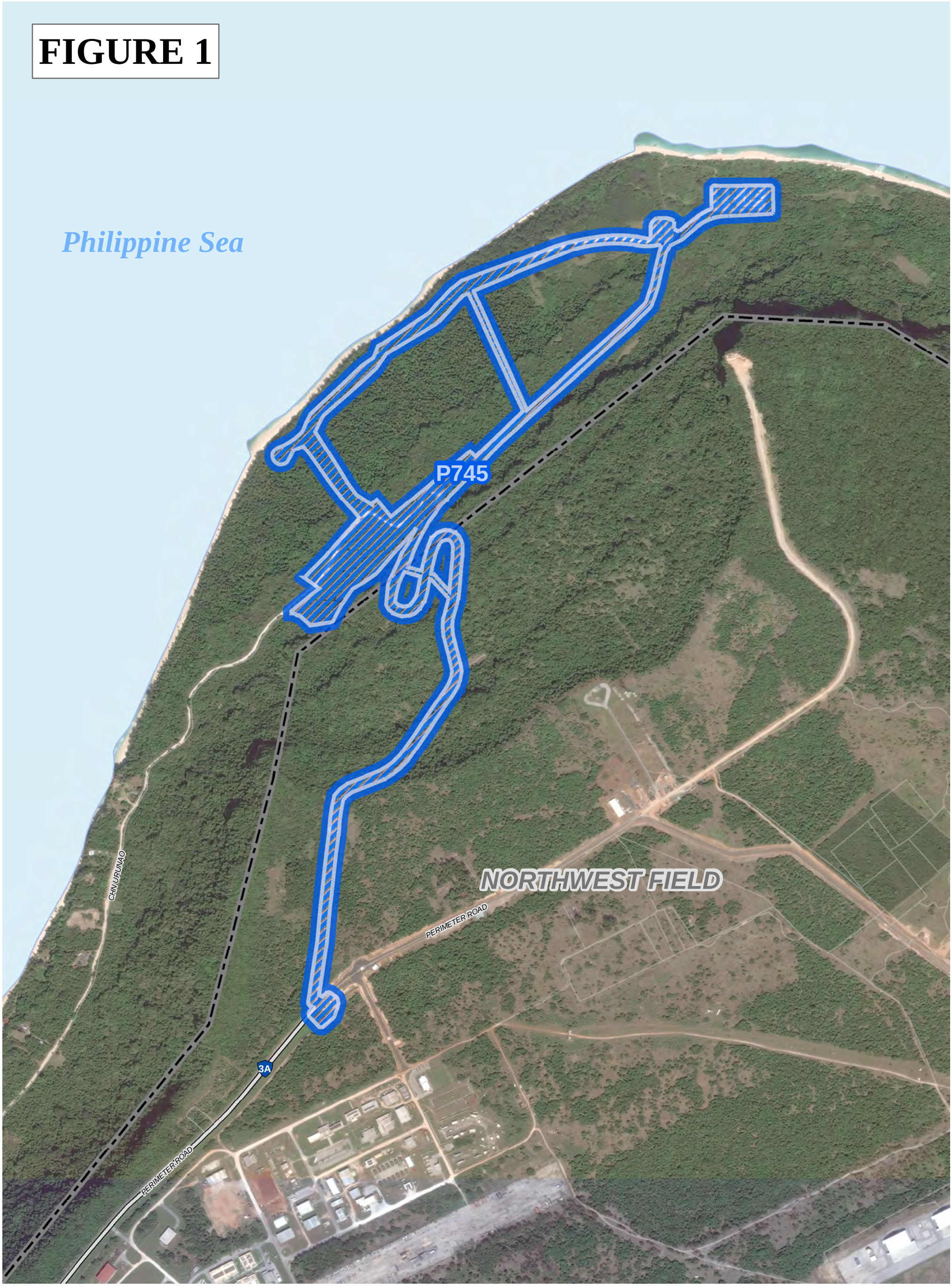
FIGURE 1



Ritidian Point - P-745, USFW Relocation - PA Memo - Construction Area

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 FEET

0 200 400 600 METERS

N W E S

PREPARED BY:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Division
Guam Program Management Office

DATE: 17 Apr 2023

NAVFAC
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command

Coordinate System: Geographic
Projection: N/A
Datum: D WGS 1984

Legend

- P-745 - USFW Relocation - APE
- Guam Hwys.
- Military Installations

MILCON APE
P-745 - 35.2 ac.

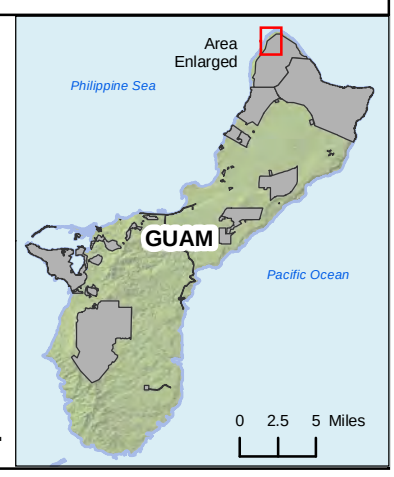


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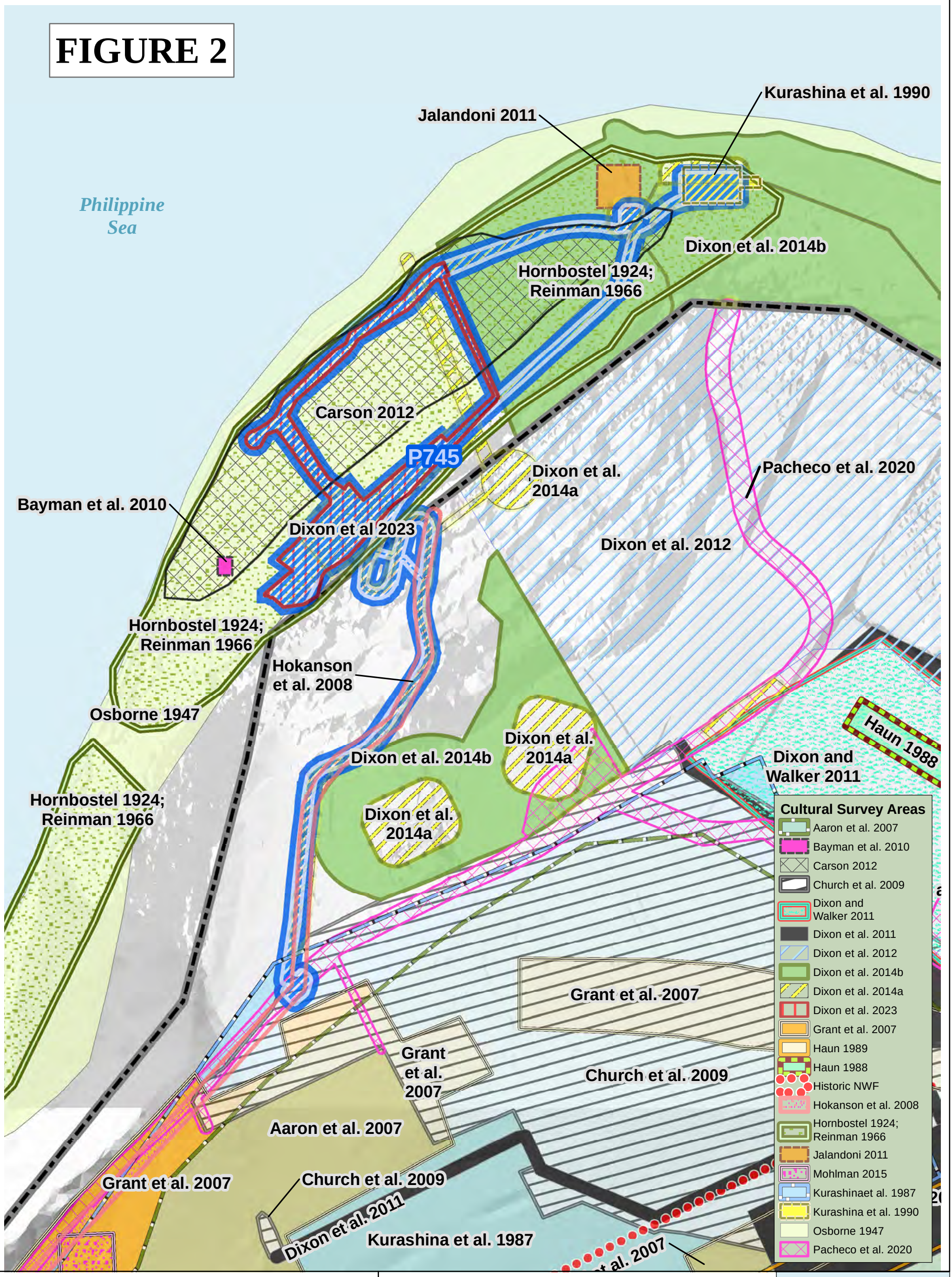
FIGURE 2



Ritidian Point - P-745, USFW Relocation - PA Memo - Survey Areas

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 FEET

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 METERS

N W E S

PREPARED BY:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Division
Guam Program Management Office

DATE: 25 Apr 2023

NAVFAC Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 55 North
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: D WGS 1984

Legend

P-745 - USFW Relocation - APE

Military Installations

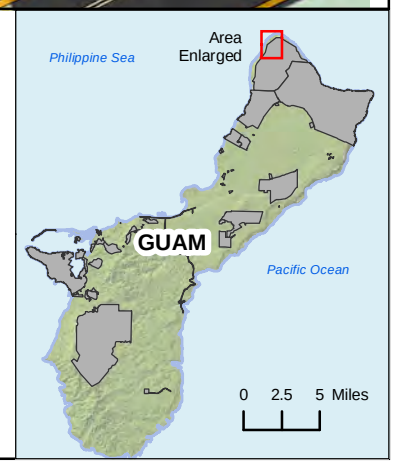


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FIGURE 3

Site 1: Site Plan and Example of Stone Feature