



Region Southwest Advisory

COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST and U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HAWAII-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINING AND TESTING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

San Diego, CA — The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to re-evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities, which include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities (hereafter referred to as “training and testing”) conducted within the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter referred to as the “Study Area”). The Navy welcomes the public’s review and substantive comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The Navy prepared the Draft EIS/OEIS to support the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in December 2013 for training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area from 2013 to 2018; this updated analysis will support future activities beginning in 2018. In this Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluates new, relevant information, such as more recent marine mammal density data and new scientific information, and updates environmental analyses as appropriate.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to conduct Navy training and testing activities within the Study Area. These activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. Proposed training and testing activities are similar to the types of activities that have occurred in the Study Area for decades. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, 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 training and testing activities at levels required to support Navy military readiness requirements beginning in 2018; and

- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

The Study Area consists of the at-sea areas off the coasts of Hawaii and Southern California, areas on the high seas between the Navy's Hawaii and Southern California range complexes where training and testing may occur during vessel transit, the Temporary Operating Area north and west of the Hawaii Range Complex, and select Navy pierside and harbor locations.

Public Meetings:

The Navy is holding five public meetings, four on Hawaii and one in Southern California, to provide information and an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft EIS/OEIS. Public meetings will include an open-house information session, during which time Navy representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions. A Navy presentation and public oral comment session will occur during the meetings. Written and oral comments will be accepted throughout each public meeting.

Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process, the Navy is conducting National Historic Preservation Act section 106 consultations regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties. Historic properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. During each of the meetings, an information station will be available, where subject matter experts will explain the section 106 process and solicit public input.

Four public meetings will be held on the Hawaiian Islands from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the following locations:

Monday, Nov. 6, 2017

Oahu Veterans Center,
Fred Ballard Hall
1298 Kukila St.
Honolulu, HI 96818

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017

Maui High School,
Cafeteria
660 S. Lono Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017

Kauai Veterans Center
Main Ballroom
3215 Kapule Highway
Lihue, HI 96766

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017

Waiakea High School,
Cafeteria
155 W. Kawili St.
Hilo, HI 96720

One public meeting will be held in San Diego from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the following location:

Monday, Nov. 13, 2017
Portuguese Hall,
Main Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal
San Diego, CA 92106

Public Comment Period and Availability of Draft EIS/OEIS:

The 60-day public comment period will begin Oct. 13, 2017, and end Dec. 12, 2017. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **Dec. 12, 2017**, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the 60-day public comment period will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at **www.HSTTEIS.com**, at the public meetings, or by mail to:

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

To review the Draft EIS/OEIS and for additional information, including details on the key differences between the 2013 Final EIS/OEIS and the 2017 Draft EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website at **www.HSTTEIS.com**. The Draft EIS/OEIS is also available at the following local public libraries:

- Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813
- Hilo Public Library, 300 Waiianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720
- Kahului Public Library, 90 School St., Kahului, HI 96732
- Kailua-Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766
- City of San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101
- Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118
- Long Beach Main Library, 101 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90822

Please help inform your community by sharing the information in this press release.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: There is an opportunity for media to speak with project personnel 30 minutes before each meeting. Media interested in attending or seeking further information should contact Helen K. Haase, Command Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs Office, at (619)532-1430.