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NAVY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT AT OPEN HOUSE SCOPING MEETINGS

PEARL HARBOR – The Navy has published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with military readiness training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities (“training and testing”) conducted within the HSTT Study Area. An EIS/OEIS for HSTT was completed in December 2013; this new HSTT document will support current and future military readiness activities in the HSTT Study Area beyond December 2018.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and issues for analysis in the HSTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. The Navy is seeking public involvement and input, which are fundamental to developing the Navy’s EIS/OEIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the public participation process, the Navy will hold meetings in Southern California and Hawaii next month to obtain public input on the scope of the HSTT Phase III EIS/OEIS.

The HSTT Study Area consists of the in-water areas of the Southern California Range Complex (including San Diego Bay); in-water areas of the Silver Strand Training Complex; in-water areas of the Hawaii Range Complex; areas on the high seas where training and sonar testing and maintenance may occur during vessel transit between the Hawaii and Southern California Range Complexes; the Temporary Operating Area north and west of the Hawaii Range Complex; and specific Navy pierside, port, and harbor locations.

The public is invited to attend open-house style scoping meetings for information about the Navy’s Proposed Action and to give written and oral comments on environmental aspects to be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. The public may arrive at any time during the advertised times. There will be no formal presentation; however, Navy representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions about the Proposed Action and the NEPA process.

Public comments will be accepted throughout the 60-day comment period. All written comments must be postmarked or received online by **January 12, 2016**, to be considered in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Written comments may be mailed to:

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

Comments may also be submitted online at www.HSTTEIS.com or in person at one of the two scoping meetings that will be held:

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

Location: Island School Main Hall
3-1875 Kaunuali'i Highway
Lihue, HI 96766

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2015

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial Los Banos Room
2685 N. Nimitz Highway
Honolulu, HI 9666

One open house public meeting will also be held in Southern California on December 1, 2015.

Project information can be found on the website (www.HSTTEIS.com) and at the following information repositories in Hawaii:

- Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King St., Honolulu, HI
- Hilo Public Library, 300 Waiuanue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720
- Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766
- Kahului Public Library, 90 School St., Kahului, HI 96732
- Kailua-Kona Public Library, 75-138 Hualalai Road, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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NOTE: Media interested in attending any of the public meetings or seeking further information should contact LCDR Matt Knight at William.M.Knight@navy.mil; 808-474-3970.

To learn more about the Navy's energy, environment, and climate change initiatives, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/home>.