

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Military Training Activities at Mākua Military Reservation, Hawai‘i

Abstract

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses the Army’s proposed military training activities in the State of Hawai‘i. The 25th Infantry Division (25th ID) and US Army (Army), Hawai‘i are the lead agencies for this Proposed Action. This document has been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ, 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 to 1508) and the Army (32 CFR Part 651) of the EIS assesses the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives at Mākua Military Reservation (MMR) and Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

The Army’s Proposed Action is to conduct the necessary type, level, duration, and intensity of live-fire and other military training exercises, in particular company-level combined-arms, live-fire exercises (CALFEXs) and convoy live-fire exercises (LFXs) for the combat units assigned to the 25th ID and for other military units to maintain the combat readiness of those units. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to enable the military in the State of Hawai‘i to achieve and maintain readiness for immediate deployments. The Proposed Action is needed because there are no existing training areas in the State, outside of MMR, that are currently configured and available to support a company-level CALFEX. The necessary criteria to support military training at this level are adequate range capacity, adequate range design, quality of life (proximity to home station), and time and cost.

Five alternatives are evaluated in this EIS: the No Action Alternative and four alternatives to achieve the Proposed Action. All project alternatives would involve training for up to 242 days each year, with utilization of weapons systems similar to those used under past training conditions at MMR.

The No Action Alternative involves no live-fire training at MMR. Military activities currently authorized for use at MMR include aviation lasing, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) training, training with blank ammunition (as authorized with restrictions), engineer training, and as a staging base for ground or air movement command and control elements only. The Army would conduct reduced management activities. The No Action Alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Alternative 1 (Reduced Capacity Use with Some Weapons Restrictions) involves use of MMR for maneuver training, air assaults, sniper training, convoy training, and demolitions training. The Army would conduct 10 to 19 company-level CALFEXs and 100 convoy LFXs.

Alternative 2 (Full Capacity Use with Some Weapons Restrictions) involves use of MMR similar to that under Alternative 1. However, the Army would conduct up to 50 company-level CALFEXs using tracer ammunition and 200 convoy LFXs.

Alternative 3 (Full Capacity Use with Fewer Weapons Restrictions) involves use of MMR similar to that under Alternative 2. In addition, the Army would use inert, tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missiles, 2.75-inch rockets, and illumination munitions. This alternative would also involve the use of an expanded training area at MMR. The Army would conduct up to 50 company-level CALFEXs using tracer ammunition and 200 convoy LFXs. Alternative 3 is the Army’s preferred alternative.

Alternative 4 (Full Capacity Use with Fewer Weapons Restrictions) PTA represents the same weapons and intensity usage as Alternative 3.

Some of the major potential impacts discussed in the EIS are associated with contamination of soil; surface water and groundwater quality; air quality; cultural sites; natural resources; endangered and threatened species; noise; recreational resources; wildfires; and the safety and transport of munitions through the Wai‘anae community.

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| <p>Individuals and organizations are invited to access information on the Army’s Web site established for this EIS at http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/makuaeis.</p> | <p>For further information or to request a copy of the EIS, please contact the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, 742 Santos Dumont, WAAF, Schofield Barracks, HI 96857. A copy may also be requested from U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii by e-mail at usaghipaomakuaEIS@hawaii.army.mil.</p> |
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