



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N01CE1/1661

December 20, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subj: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT MARIANA ISLANDS RANGE COMPLEX (MIRC) AIRSPACE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA/OEA)

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft EA/OEA to analyze potential environmental impacts from proposed modifications to military training airspace and sea space in the MIRC.

The U.S. military services require training and testing areas that provide realistic and controlled environments with sufficient sea, land and airspace necessary for safety and mission success. Proposed modifications to airspace and sea space ("Proposed Action") are needed to provide a safer and more efficient training environment and to maintain military readiness.

The Navy analyzed the potential environmental impacts of three alternatives in the Draft EA/OEA:

No Action Alternative:

- Under the No Action Alternative, training activities as defined by the 2010 MIRC EIS/OEIS and Record of Decision would continue as currently implemented or authorized, with no change to the existing 3 nautical mile (nm) Restricted Area (R-7201) or the planned 10 nm surface Danger Zone (DZ) at Farallon de Medinilla (FDM). (See Enclosure 1)

Alternative 1:

- Under Alternative 1, existing airspace within the MIRC would be modified to optimize public safety and training efficiency. Under Alternative 1, the Navy proposes the following:
 - extend the Restricted Area (R-7201) at FDM from 3 nm to 12 nm and designate the new restricted area as R-7201A

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- o create new Warning Areas (W), designated as W-11, W-12, and W-13, which, upon approval and implementation, would replace existing ATCAAs 1, 2, and 3

Alternative 2:

- Under Alternative 2, airspace within the MIRC would be modified as described under Alternative 1. In addition, the planned 10 nm DZ around FDM (analyzed in the MIRC EIS/OEIS) would be expanded to 12 nm (congruent with proposed R-7201A).

The Navy conducted a thorough assessment to determine the potential effects the Proposed Action and alternatives may have on environmental resources. The draft assessment indicates that there would be no significant impact on the environment from proposed modifications to airspace and sea space.

The Navy is holding two public open house information sessions during which Navy representatives will staff poster stations and answer questions about the project. Attendees are encouraged to provide written and/or verbal comments on the environmental issues analyzed in the Draft EA/OEA at the sessions or any time during the public comment period.

The open house information sessions will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Location: University of Guam
Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2013

Location: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

A 45-day public comment period is open from December 20, 2012 to February 4, 2013 for the public to review the document and provide input. Comments may be submitted online at

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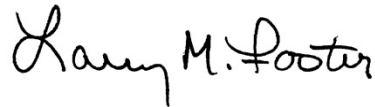
www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com, at the open house information sessions
or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MIRC Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

The Navy welcomes and appreciates your comments on the Draft
EA/OEA. All comments must be postmarked or received online by
February 4, 2013, to be considered in the development of the
Final EA/OEA.

For more information about the project or to download the
Draft EA/OEA, please visit **www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com**. If you would
like to request a CD-ROM version of the document, please contact
the MIRC Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager at the address above.

Sincerely,

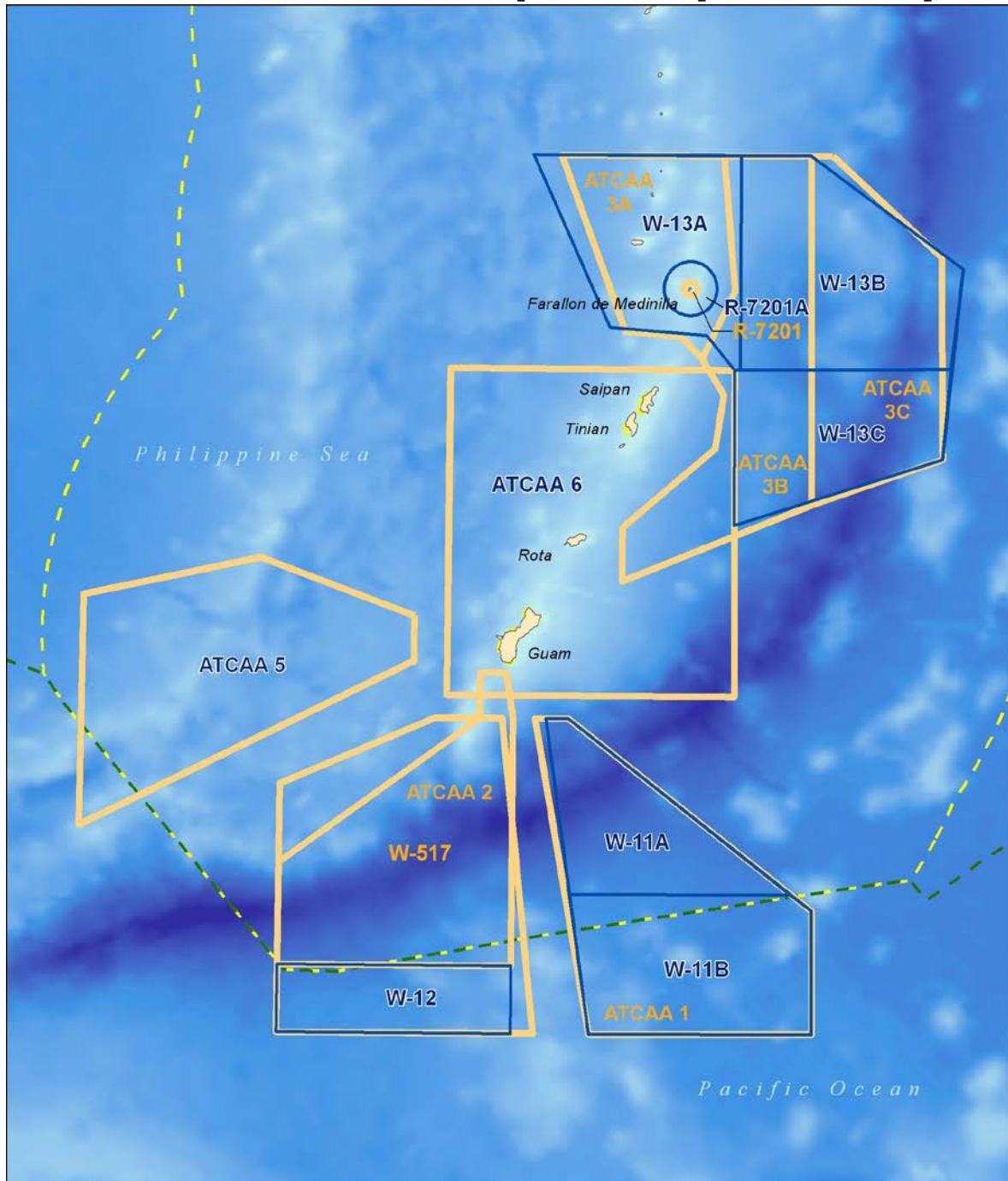


L. M. FOSTER
By direction

Enclosures: 1. Current and Proposed MIRC Special Use Airspace
2. Farallon de Medinilla Current and Proposed Danger
Zone

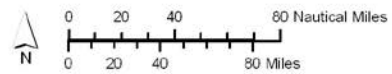
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Enclosure 1: Current and Proposed MIRC Special Use Airspace



Exclusive Economic Zone
 United States (Includes CNMI and Guam)
 Federated States of Micronesia

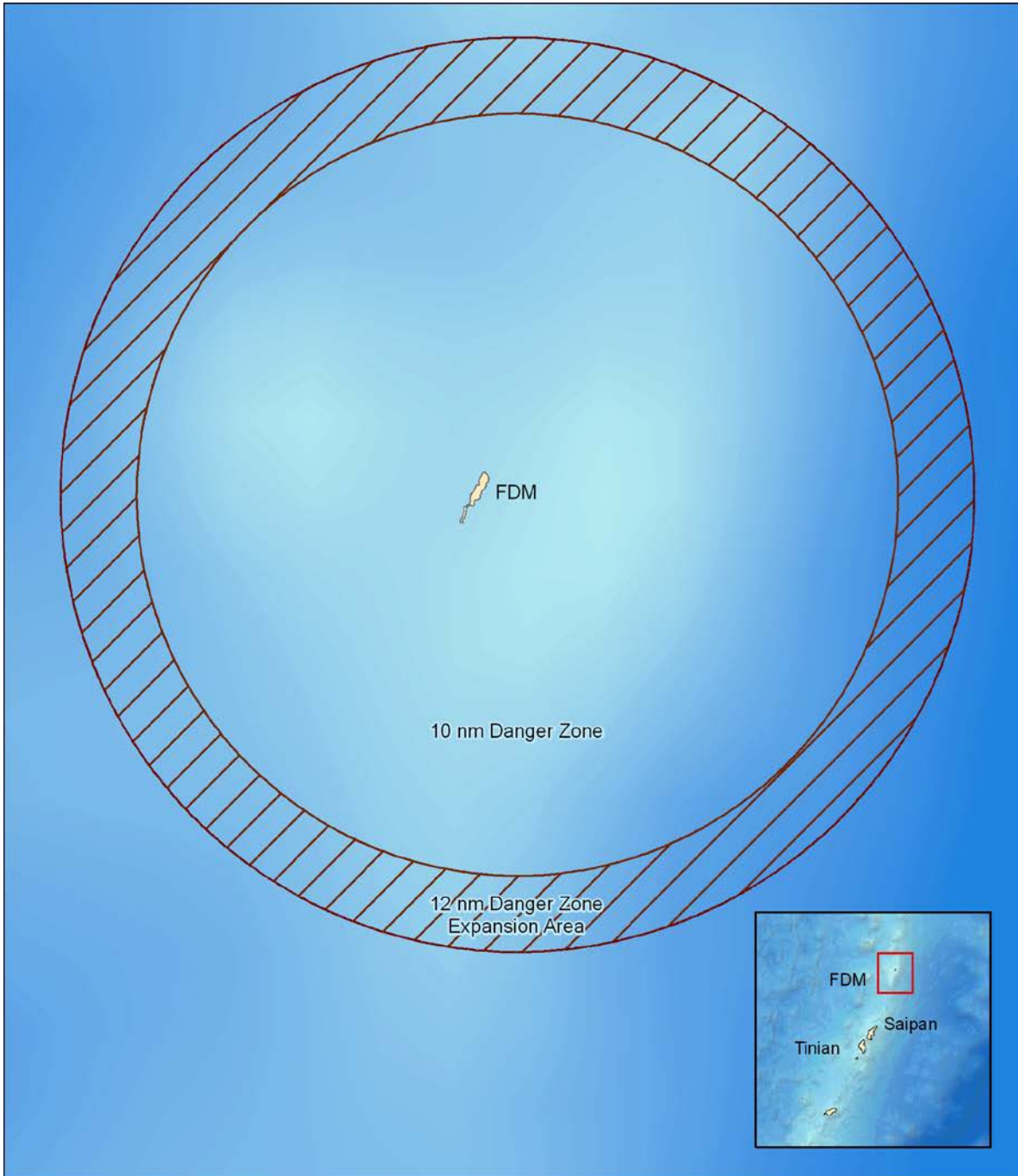
Special Use Airspace
 Current Airspace
 Proposed Airspace





Sources: PACFLT (Marianas Region), NGA, USGS, GEBCO
 Map Document: MIRC00799

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Enclosure 2: Farallon de Medinilla Current and Proposed Danger Zone



-  10 nm Danger Zone as analyzed in the MIRC EIS/OEIS
-  Proposed 12 nm Danger Zone Expansion Area



In accordance with the FDM Lease Agreement, Public access to Farallon de Medinilla Island and the waters of the Commonwealth immediately adjacent thereto are permanently restricted for safety reasons.

Sources: NGA, NOAA, DAFIF
Map Document: MIRC00800