



Hawaii Range Complex



Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Volume 3 of 5: Chapters 12-13

May 2008

Coordinator
Hawaii Range Complex
Pacific Missile Range Facility
P.O. Box 128
Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii 96752-0128



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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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**COVER SHEET
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
HAWAII RANGE COMPLEX (HRC)**

Lead Agency for the EIS: U.S. Department of the Navy
Title of the Proposed Action: Hawaii Range Complex
Affected Jurisdiction: Kauai, Honolulu, Maui, and Hawaii Counties
Designation: Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Abstract

This Final EIS/OEIS has been prepared by the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code § 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500-1508); Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR § 775); and Executive Order 12114 (EO 12114), *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. The Navy has identified the need to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training and research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities in the Hawaii Range Complex (HRC). The alternatives—the No-action Alternative, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3—are analyzed in this Final EIS/OEIS. All alternatives include an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the use of mid-frequency active (MFA) and high-frequency active (HFA) sonar. The No-action Alternative stands as no change from current levels of HRC usage and includes HRC training, support, and RDT&E activities, Major Exercises, and maintenance of the technical and logistical facilities that support these activities and exercises. Alternative 1 includes all ongoing training associated with the No-action Alternative, an increased tempo and frequency of such training (including increases in MFA and HFA sonar use), a new training event (Field Carrier Landing Practice), enhanced and future RDT&E activities, enhancements to optimize HRC capabilities, and an increased number of Major Exercises. Alternative 2 includes all of the training associated with Alternative 1 plus additional increases in the tempo and frequency of training (including additional increases in MFA and HFA sonar use), enhanced RDT&E activities, future RDT&E activities, and additional Major Exercises, such as supporting three Strike Groups training at the same time. Alternative 3 would include all of the training and RDT&E activities associated with Alternative 2. The difference between Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 is the amount of MFA/HFA sonar usage. As described under Alternative 2, Alternative 3 would provide increased flexibility in training activities by increasing the tempo and frequency of training events, future and enhanced RDT&E activities, and the addition of Major Exercises. Alternative 3 would consist of the MFA/HFA sonar usage as analyzed under the No-action Alternative. Alternative 3 is the Navy's preferred alternative.

This Final EIS/OEIS addresses potential environmental impacts that result from activities that occur under the No-action Alternative and proposed activities that would occur under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. This EIS/OEIS also addresses changes and associated environmental analyses that were presented in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Environmental resource topics evaluated include air quality, airspace, biological resources (open ocean, offshore, and onshore), cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials and waste, health and safety, land use, noise, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and water resources.

Prepared by: U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy
Point of Contact: Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs Officer
P.O. Box 128, Kekaha, Hawaii, 96752, (866) 767-3347

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