



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Capt. Neil A. Ruggiero
Office
Public Affairs Officer

Joint Guam Program

Phone: (671) 333-2306
455 Box 152
Fax: (671) 339-7034
FPO AP 96540-1000

PSC

Release number 09-05

**Length of Public Comment Period Doubled for
Guam/CNMI Buildup EIS**

90 Days Allotted to Review and Submit Comments

WASHINGTON (October 29, 2009) - Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus notified Guam Congressional Delegate Madeleine Bordallo of the decision to extend the length of time for the public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the military buildup on Guam during a meeting in Washington, DC today. The extension of the comment period from 45 days to 90 days will assure the interests of the citizens of Guam are fully represented in the study. Secretary Mabus recommended this extension, and it was approved by Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn.

The extension, which received careful consideration by senior Department of Defense leadership, responds to requests submitted by US Government Resource Agencies, Governor Felix Camacho and the Guam Legislature, as well as Congresswoman Madeline Bordallo. It balances the need for additional time to review a complex document with the Department's requirement to complete the military buildup on Guam on a tight schedule.

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment Roger Natsuhara, visiting Guam this week,



communicated this decision to Governor Camacho and members of the Guam Legislature.

Mr. Natsuhara issued the following statement:

"The proposed military buildup on Guam has the potential to be a significant, transforming event for the community. We appreciate the concerns raised by the island's leaders on behalf of the people of Guam and agree that the scope, complexity and magnitude of the buildup necessitates providing ample time for review of the DEIS. This complexity and magnitude are due, in part, to the Department of Defense's desire to ensure that the DEIS presents a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed actions on Guam and Tinian. We are committed to ensuring that all interested parties have full opportunity to review and provide comment on the DEIS. Therefore, the Department of Defense decided to set the comment period at 90 days."

Release of the DEIS is planned for November 20 (Eastern Standard Time). The public will be made aware of the release via notice in the Federal Register and local media. These notices will detail where the DEIS can be reviewed, how to electronically access the document, how to submit a comment, and dates and locations of public hearings in Guam and the CNMI.

About JGPO

The Joint Guam Program Office facilitates the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. JGPO works within the Department of Defense and closely with the Government of Japan, Government of Guam, U.S. Congress and Federal agencies to lead and manage the delivery of required capabilities to the Marines.

###