



MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Involvement Summary Report

Final

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Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Involvement Summary Report

This report includes a summary of public involvement and stakeholder outreach activities conducted by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), in cooperation with the United States (U.S.) Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration, during the public review and comment period for the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense (EIAMD) System on Guam Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed construction, deployment, and operations and maintenance of an EIAMD system to defend Guam against advanced missile threats (Proposed Action).

Stakeholders and the public were encouraged to provide comments on the Draft EIS during the public review and comment period. A Draft EIS is typically available for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. However, the EIAMD Draft EIS was released with a 75-day public review and comment period, from Oct. 25, 2024, through Jan. 8, 2025. Open house public meetings were held in Nov. 2024. The MDA planned on holding three public meetings, but due to the potential for inclement weather, the first meeting at the Hågat Mayor’s Office Community Center was canceled by decision of the Commander, Joint Region Marianas.

The purpose of public involvement and outreach during the Draft EIS public review and comment period was to:

1. Notify the public of the availability of the Draft EIS for review and comment;
2. Describe the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, project alternatives analyzed, and the findings in the Draft EIS;
3. Disseminate information about National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 processes; and
4. Provide an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS and to submit information or comments regarding historic properties.

Outreach and involvement efforts were conducted in accordance with NEPA and MDA and cooperating agency guidance.

1.0 Summary of Activities

1.1 Public Notification

The MDA prepared materials to notify the public of the Draft EIS public review and comment period. All public notices included information about the availability of the Draft EIS and where it could be accessed, open house public meetings, public commenting opportunities, and the project website address.

1.1.1 Federal Register Notices

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register* on Oct. 25, 2024. A second Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register by MDA on Oct. 28, 2024.

1.1.2 Newspaper Advertisement

Newspaper display advertisements were published in the *Guam Daily Post* (print and online) and the *Pacific Daily News* (online) beginning Oct. 25, 2024. An additional advertisement repeating information about the public review and comment period was published on Jan. 2, 2025, due to an error by the Guam Daily Post missing the scheduled publication date of Nov. 12, 2024. Table 1 lists the publications and dates.

Table 1. Newspaper Publications for Draft EIS Notice of Availability

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Schedule	Publication Dates
Pacific Daily News (online)	Hagåtña, Guam; and neighboring islands	Monday-Friday	Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024 Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025*
Guam Daily Post (print and online)	Harmon, Guam	Daily	Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 Monday, Nov. 11, 2024 Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

**Note: The Guam Daily Post missed the scheduled publication on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, announcing the availability of the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam DEIS and public meetings. The newspaper ran a replacement advertisement on Jan. 2, 2025, with information about the public comment period due to an error in publication schedules.*

1.1.3 Stakeholder Notification Letter

The MDA prepared a letter to notify stakeholders of the availability of the Draft EIS, public meetings, and public involvement opportunities. The MDA Director of Environmental Management signed the letter, which was mailed to 105 stakeholders, including federal and local elected officials and government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The MDA outreach team mailed the stakeholder letters first-class Oct. 24, 2024. The MDA Director signed an additional eight notification letters and were sent to the Governor of Guam, Guam’s Congressional Speaker of the House, Mayors’ Council of Guam, House Delegate for Guam, and four Congressional Defense Subcommittees. The MDA emailed and hand delivered these letters Oct. 23, 2024, and Oct. 24, 2024.

1.1.4 Postcard Mailer

The MDA outreach team prepared and mailed notification postcards first-class Oct. 24, 2024, to 152 community/business groups, aviation groups, nongovernmental organizations, academics, libraries, and individuals.

1.1.5 Stakeholder Database

The MDA outreach team developed a stakeholder database to manage and document the distribution of project notices.

1.1.6 News Releases and Media Distribution

News releases were prepared to directly notify the media, and indirectly the larger public, of the availability of the Draft EIS, open house public meetings, and public involvement opportunities. The Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for Joint Region Marianas (JRM) distributed a news release to local and regional print and broadcast media outlets Oct. 25, 2024. The PAO distributed an additional news release Nov. 8, 2024, prior to the public meetings.

1.1.7 Social Media Posts

The JRM PAO posted information about the project on the JRM Facebook page on Oct. 25, 2024. A second notice was posted on Nov. 13, 2024, to inform the public that public meeting to be held at the Hågat Mayor’s Office Community Center was canceled due to the potential for inclement weather.

1.2 Public Information

1.2.1 Project Website

The MDA provided the public with project information through the project website, including the Draft EIS, project fact sheets (including a fact sheet in CHamoru), posters, handouts, frequently asked questions, and references. The public was able to submit comments on the Draft EIS electronically through the website. The website address is www.mda.mil/system/eiamd. The website address was included in all public notifications and informational materials.

1.2.2 Stakeholder Briefings

The MDA, Army, JRM, and Army Air and Missile Defense Command personnel provided courtesy briefings to key stakeholders about the Proposed Action and the environmental impact analysis. Table 2 includes a summary of outreach briefings conducted during the Draft EIS public review and comment period. Outreach to stakeholders will continue throughout the development of the EIS to ensure they are kept informed.

Table 2. Stakeholder Briefings

Stakeholders/Target Audiences	Conducted By	Form of Outreach	Date
Governor’s Office • Guam Acting Governor Lt. Governor – Josh Tenorio • Guam Governor – Lou Leon Guerrero	• MDA • JRM • AAMDC • U.S. Army	In-person brief Virtual brief	Nov. 12, 2024 Nov. 20, 2024
Mayors’ Council of Guam	• MDA • JRM • AAMDC	Virtual brief	Nov. 12, 2024

Stakeholders/Target Audiences	Conducted By	Form of Outreach	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Army 		
Guam Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDA • JRM • AAMDC • U.S. Army 	In-person brief	Nov. 12, 2024
Guam Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDA • JRM • AAMDC • U.S. Army 	In-person brief	Nov. 15, 2024
Guam Local Radio Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDA • JRM 	Radio interview	Nov. 14, 2024

Notes: AAMDC = Army Air and Missile Defense Command, JRM = Joint Region Marianas, MDA = Missile Defense Agency.

1.2.3 Open House Public Meetings

The MDA planned on holding three public meetings, but due to the potential for inclement weather, the first meeting at the Hågat Mayor’s Office Community Center was canceled by decision of the Commander, Joint Region Marianas.

The purpose of the public meetings was to inform the public and stakeholders about the Proposed Action and the findings of the environmental impact analysis, answer questions, and solicit comments on the Draft EIS and the project’s potential to affect historic properties. The meetings were held in an open-house format and included poster stations staffed by project representatives who provided information and answered questions. A CHamoru interpreter was available at each public meeting.

Meeting staff set up a comment station with tables, chairs, pens, and comment forms to facilitate public commenting. Individuals could submit completed comment forms at the meeting or by mail to the address provided on the comment form. Comments could also be submitted electronically via the project website or email. A court reporter was available to record oral comments.

The public was encouraged to arrive at any time during the advertised times. The public meetings were scheduled to be held at the following locations:

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024
 4 to 7 p.m.
 Hågat Mayor’s Office
 Community Center
 Building 393, Route 2
 Hågat, Guam
 (canceled due to weather)

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024
 4 to 7 p.m.
 Hilton Guam Resort
 Micronesian Room
 202 Hilton Road
 Tumon Bay, Guam

Friday, Nov. 15, 2024
 5 to 8 p.m.
 Dededo Senior Center
 319 Iglesia Circle
 Dededo, Guam

In total, 94 people attended the open house public meetings. Seven written comments and one oral comment were submitted at the public meetings. Please note that one comment may include comments on multiple resource areas or topics.

Hilton Guam Resort, Tumon Bay

- 57 attendees
- 6 written comments

Senior Center, Dededo

- 37 attendees
- 1 written comment, 1 oral comment

1.2.4 Media Availability

On Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, a media availability was held at 3:30 p.m., 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the public meeting, in a separate room at the Hilton Guam Resort. Five media outlets attended the media availability session, including the Guam Daily Post, Guam Pacific Daily News, KUAM News, Marianas Business Journal, and the Marianas Agupa Radio Talk Show (Saipan).

1.2.5 Posters

The MDA outreach team developed ten posters and included the following topics:

- Need for Missile Defense on Guam
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Proposed Sites
- NEPA Process and Resources Analyzed
- Airspace Management
- Transportation and Utilities
- Terrestrial Biological Resources
- Health and Safety
- Cultural Resources and NHPA Section 106
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice*
* Environmental Justice covered under authorities in effect at that time; no longer considered.

The project website included downloadable copies of the posters.

1.2.6 Fact Sheets

The MDA outreach team developed a 16-page fact sheet in English and a two-page summary fact sheet in CHamoru that were made available at stakeholder briefings, the media availability session, on the project website, and during open house public meetings. The English fact sheet included the following topics.

- Introduction
 - Purpose of and need for the EIS
 - Cooperating agencies
- Proposed Action

- 360-degree Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System
- Proposed sites
- Summary of the Environmental Impact Analysis
 - Resource areas and potential impacts
 - Cumulative impacts
 - Mitigation measures
- NEPA and NHPA Section 106 Processes
 - NEPA process and timeline
 - Public participation opportunities
 - Submitting comments

1.2.7 Information Repositories

The Draft EIS in printed and electronic (CD-ROM) forms was made available for public review at the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, and the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library.

1.3 Public Comments

The public was able to submit comments in several convenient ways:

- Website
- Email
- In person at the public meetings (written or oral via a court reporter)
- U.S. postal mail

An electronic comment form (up to 5,000 characters) was made available on the project website, and one attachment (up to 5 MB) could be uploaded. The public could also submit comments to a dedicated email address, info@EIAMD-EIS.com.

A printed comment form was available at the open house public meetings and an electronic version was posted on the project website for the public to download. Comments could be turned in at the meetings or mailed to PMB 403, 1270 N. Marine Corps Dr., Suite 101, Tamuning, Guam 96913-4331.

1.3.1 Summary of Public Comments

This section is intended to illustrate the main issues heard from the public during the Draft EIS public review and comment period; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record.

The Draft EIS public review and comment period was open from Oct. 25, 2024, to Jan. 8, 2025. MDA received 72 comment letters during the comment period. MDA received 54 comments via email, 9 comments via the project website, 1 comment via postal mail, and 8 comments at the open house public meetings (7 written comments and 1 oral comment). Please note that if a comment was submitted by the same person or group more than once via different methods, e.g., the same comment was submitted by U.S. mail and via the website by the same person, it was

only counted once. Also, one comment may include comments on multiple resource areas or topics.

Table 3 is a summary of the public comments.

Table 3. Summary of Public Comments

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against the project, no missiles on Guam • Work with China diplomatically • EIAMD system can be beneficial to Guam in times of crisis • EIS did not include essential local agencies as Cooperating Agencies • Lack of oversight from independent or third-party institutions • EIS does not address potential impacts on the CNMI • EIS only addresses peacetime operations • Effectiveness of missile defense • Genuine security for Guam • Lack of safeguarding lives in the event of a missile threat (e.g., bunkers, warning systems, shelters) • Request to delay action • Request for Programmatic NEPA review • Island-wide community planning effort needed • Enhanced community engagement needed • Adequacy of the site planning process and reasonable alternatives • Analysis needed for potential runoff effects on marine resources, including corals, and mitigation plan • Map improvements (e.g., layout, graphics, colors, symbols) • Missing status of the Civil-Military Coordination Council and planning effort • Need for coordination with local government and utilities • Properly designate sites listed, or not listed, on the National Priorities List related to study area • Identification of Installation Restoration Program sites on the National Priorities List and subject to oversight • Compliance and cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Need for a cumulative impact assessment • Prepare a programmatic NEPA review for repetitive agency activities • Coordination of federal and local agencies on NEPA requirements • Concerns from Guam Department of Agriculture about data loss, data gaps, and equipment failure for the Remote Automated Weather Station • Concerns about disrupted radio communications during wildfire operations • Need for enhanced emergency management • Infrastructure protection (e.g., cyber, communications) • Increased demand for Veterans Affairs services • Public availability of the Lincoln Lans report as it relates to this activity • Impact on cultural and terrestrial natural resources in the same manner as applied to Camp Blaz • Potential impacts on the community in the event of a conflict • Lack of Congressionally mandated independent study of architecture to determine adequacy and full impact • Systems are still in development; how can impacts be measured • Lack of analysis for conflict scenarios • Clarification of alternative actions considered

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile and frequency of missiles being tested • Lack of communication with the CNMI and failure to provide open-dialogue opportunities • Fear and dangers of global military escalation, with Guam a target for adversaries • Perception Guam is being used a “front-line defense” for the continental U.S. • Political sovereignty of Guam being violated
Airspace Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use flight track data for 2019 • Review and update noise contours • Impacts on air carrier’s operations at A.B. Won Pat International Airport • Adjust underlying data used to determine impacts on airspace management • Potential airspace restrictions impacting use of drones in known management areas • Potential dangers of military aircraft failures over populated areas
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient disclosure of contamination at Andersen Air Force Base • Potential presence and proper disposal of munitions and explosives of concern • Expired munitions disposal plan • Protection of the public in event of incoming missiles; defense for civilian population • No identified school locations or discussion of localized safety and air quality • Program for early identification of health problems with children • Guam Police Department and public safety growth and resources • Address alternate forms of fire suppressants that remove PFAS contamination risks • Hazardous wastes mitigation and remediation • Mental health impacts among population • Increased collaboration between local and military facilities • Local healthcare workforce resource availability • Expected evacuations during missile tests
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove “Japanese Lookout” at Mount Alifan • Mount Alifan should be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places • More complete history is needed when describing affected environment • Address harm towards existence or growth of critically important medicinal plants • Questioned use of definition of “moderate” impacts as “less than significant” • Impacts of increased militarization on the CHamoru people • Decrease of Guam’s indigenous population • Enhanced transparency and culturally appropriate communications strategies • Cooperation with GovGuam and residents for protection of cultural resources and traditional access • Increased educational efforts to foster respect and sensitivity for indigenous culture • Lack of assessment of impacts on historic and cultural properties • Fear of exploitation • Perception of continued colonization and racism toward indigenous peoples
Terrestrial Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding environmental impact of stripping land of vegetation • Removal of limestone forest • Impacts on Mariana fruit bat • Island-wide analysis needed • 2021 surveys are insufficient for three sites not surveyed under this effort • Concerns about proposed mitigation measures, including collecting, propagating, and transplanting Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants • Continued spread of little fire ants • Avoided recognition of the Orote Peninsula seabird colony • Address impacts on marine environment (coral) • Impacts on wildlife from electromagnetic radiation

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to complete wetland determination for permitting to proceed • Negative effects of limestone area loss on mobile species • Concern of nesting impacts, disruption habitats, wildlife stress, and spread of invasive species
Socioeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated/accurate population estimates needed (projected population increase in Guam by 2037 or 2040) • Appropriately designate MDA projects for eligibility access by H-2B exemptions • Estimated number of temporary supplemental foreign workforce estimates seems low • Estimated number of annual construction workers seems low • Increase in housing needs and impact on CHamoru people with a population planning initiative • Housing availability and affordability (including workforce) • Housing insecurity and homeless vulnerabilities • Workforce and in-migrant temporary housing • Provide data on expected jobs and skills required for construction and post-construction • Impact of additive personnel from Singapore Air Force • Lack of adequate staff for current healthcare and education systems; additional personnel will make it harder for current population to receive proper health care and education • Need for increased, enhanced, specialized, and expanded healthcare resources • Data provided by law enforcement, fire department, and other services • Lack of analysis of those with preexisting vulnerabilities • Perception that the EIS suggests low-income/minority communities are disproportionately affected • Plan to maximize use and training of local workforce during construction and as a transition workforce • Information as it relates to Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency functions • Education programs for environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, socioeconomic impact studies • Career education for local community needed • Long-term economic impact
Protection of Children and Environmental Justice (covered under authorities in effect at the time; no longer considered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flawed methodology • Revisit potential impacts (not less than significant) • Clearly acknowledging all adverse effects would disproportionately fall on Guam residents • Impacts on housing and health care will impact children • Impacts from increased traffic (safety and air quality) • Combine Environmental Justice and Protection of Children section with Socioeconomics section • Concern that Guam Water Authority users will bear costs associated with increased water demand • Funding needed for the Host Community Compensation Act • Strain on Guam Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation resources and funding
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair compensation of landowners • Explosives Safety Quantity Distance arcs • Location of hiking trails • Impacts on public parks, recreational facilities, and community programs due to the increase in military population • Effects on humans, flora, fauna, soil composition and microbiomes from high-intensity radiated fields

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting for and qualifying of joint land use agreements, conservation easements, and federal habitat designations and proximity to proposed sites
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic and mitigation Not robust enough to provide true estimate of impacts Using average daily trips from 2030 daily traffic volumes are not accurate Issue with retiming mitigation Pavement mitigation needed Changes to forecasting of existing traffic volumes Increased demand on transit services Impact on airports and seaports EIS does not address commitment to bicycle lanes, pedestrian access, and safety Consideration of existing Guam transportation projects Current impact determinations do not align with Guam Department of Public Works' Transportation Improvement Plan No average daily trips data provided for modeling, traffic counts, etc. Work effort and potential infrastructure to retime signal systems is underestimated Impact of construction loads on bridges Need to increase number of public transportation vehicles, to include school buses Increased wait times for public transportation
Visual Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on tourism; island will look more like a military outpost Permanent changes to viewshed
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of civilian infrastructure Utility capacity issues Energy demand, efficiency, and resiliency by site/long-term estimates Island-wide region of influence should be analyzed Sewage treatment, capacity, and permit compliance Disposition of sewage waste from portable toilets; impacts on treatment plants and during transport Fortify and strengthen core telecommunication sites/resiliency Use of petroleum fuels contradictory to Guam Power Authority's Energy Master Plan Recommendation for collaboration with Guam Power Authority Solar feasibility study for use on construction sites and energy security overall Explanation on how petroleum tanks will be constructed and regulated Increased strain on Guam power grid from support facilities during construction Sewage collection and transmission system upgrade analysis, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance Potential for controlled waste disposal at Layon Permitting of sewage holding tank construction and sewage disposal Management of in-ocean debris Recycling of construction and debris waste, composting, and properly managed hazardous materials strategy needed Detailed analysis of military waste increase needed Need financial mitigation plan for solid waste Solid waste capacity/management
Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated ambient air quality data needed Climate effects on Northern Guam Lens Aquifer Climate change not adequately addressed Request for more information on reduction measures for Greenhouse Gases and Carbon dioxide emissions
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify distances to schools Construction site generator proximity to residential areas and clarification on expected

Resource Area/Topic	Issue/Concern
	usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of “permit-exempt” generator engines • Impact of noise and vibrations on sacred sites that “require calm and respect” • Sound impact of launch activities on nearby communities
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Guam Lens Aquifer Water Demand/Sustainable yield • Water quality concerns for Northern Guam Lens Aquifer • Collaboration with Guam Water Authority system-wide • Missing estimates of construction-phase water consumption • Underestimated water demand • Saltwater intrusion during pumping • Water demand impacts to sub-basins • Clarification on water quality impact assessment results/conclusions • Updated hydro-geologic study needed on basin-by-basin capacity • PFAS contamination impacts and mitigation • Increased stormwater infrastructure • Expanding footprint of potentially contaminated Installation Restoration Program and Military Munitions Response Program sites • Potable water service lines and fire-suppression equipment need to be modeled • Best managements practices to prevent water and environmental pollution need to be implemented • A more comprehensive model is needed to reasonably foresee future water needs • Inability to supply required water for fire flow with existing equipment • Analysis of existing surface water sources needed • Verification of field condition (pressure logger data) should replace hydraulic data • Financial management models needed • Mitigation strategies needed
Geological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substrate (limestone source) amounts needed for development to avoid additional quarries
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIS does not consider cumulative impacts of military activities as a whole on public health and welfare, and environmental and political justice on CHamoru people • Cumulative impact analysis should have exact quantities • Impacts on availability and quality of housing with multiple military projects • Impacts on medical and health care services on an already underserved population • More detailed analysis regarding island-wide cumulative impacts, particularly biological resources, cultural resources, and utilities • Address gendered violence • Potential for island-wide contamination • Address future increased waste generation and reduction in landfill capacity • Long-term utility demands • Overall contribution to, and effects of, climate change • Focus on DoD commitment with emphasis on “One Guam” • Scope appears artificially separated to narrow analysis • Moving principal elements of current deterrence configuration from offshore onto Guam

Notes: CNMI = Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, DoD = Department of Defense, EIAMD = Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense, EIS = Environmental Impact Statement, MDA = Missile Defense Agency, NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act, PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The EIS project team will consider the impact, significance, and relevance of the comments, as well as the substantive issues and concerns of the community, during the preparation of the Final EIS. The MDA appreciates the public and stakeholder participation in this important process.