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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Readiness

Subcommittee on
Readiness and Readiness Policy

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Federal Lands
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Subcommittee on Water, Energy, and
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September 19, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E94
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis,

I write concerning the commitments the Department of Defense (DOD) has made to the people of Guam related to the build-up of additional U.S. military assets, personnel, and their dependents on our island. As you are aware, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific has begun awarding significant contracts related to the relocation of Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, and it is important for DOD to be accountable to its promises that the build-up would be good for Guam's civilian community as well as the military.

As this program continues I seek a renewed commitment that the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps will adhere fully to the requirements in both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion finalized on July 18, 2017 and the "Four Pillars" principles first outlined by DOD in January 2011 as part of the programmatic agreement. As the build-up on Guam moves forward, the Navy must not only adhere to legal requirements under the 2011 Programmatic Agreement and the 2017 biological opinion but also the commitments made to Guam through the "Four Pillars," particularly the "One Guam" and "Green Guam" pillars.

The people of Guam are patriotic Americans who deeply value Guam's indigenous Chamorro culture and natural resources. While many on Guam continue to support the build-up, it is important for DOD to recommit to take all steps necessary to protect our cultural and natural resources. I recognize that many projects related to the Marine realignment have been underway for years at Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam. But as the DOD moves forward with projects in areas on DOD property that have not previously seen construction, local leaders, community stakeholders, and the public at large would benefit from knowing what specific measures are in place, planned, or underway to safeguard our island's precious resources and cultural artifacts.

To help ensure consistency in application, clarity, and sufficient engagement with the people of Guam, I ask that you provide detailed responses to the following questions:

- 1) What mechanisms for local community engagement on the build-up on Guam exist currently or are planned for the future? In particular, has Joint Region Marianas provided



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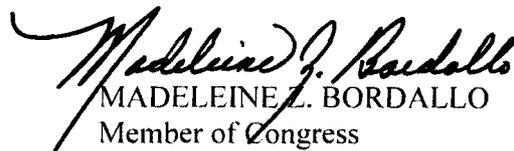
dedicated public affairs officers to respond to requests from local media, stakeholder groups, and interested members of the public regarding the buildup? Such steps may help to address the misinformation surrounding the build-up.

- 2) How is the Navy ensuring adherence to the 2011 Programmatic Agreement requirements for outreach and engagement on cultural and historic preservation? What constructive role can the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Guam State Historic Preservation Office play in helping to further these efforts? In addition, what additional resources is DOD making available to promote historic/cultural preservation on Guam?
- 3) Specifically, which personnel within Joint Region Marianas are responsible for coordinating with local agencies and stakeholders for cultural and historic preservation? In addition, does Joint Region Marianas anticipate staffing additional, dedicated positions to oversee cultural/historic preservation?
- 4) Please outline what steps are planned to protect cultural sites and artifacts within the Live Fire Training Range Complex's surface danger zone and provide public access to those sites. What additional resources has DOD committed to support cultural and historic preservation within the section of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Ritidian Unit) included in the surface danger zone?
- 5) How is the Navy reconciling and balancing stringent munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) clearance requirements with the need to adequately protect artifacts that may be uncovered during construction, particularly at previously undisturbed parcels at Finegayan and Northwest Field? What protocols are being or have been established to ensure that MEC clearance does not damage artifacts or cultural sites?
- 6) What steps are planned to ensure continued, full public access to the western section of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Ritidian Unit) not affected by the LFTRC surface danger zone? For example, is Joint Region Marianas considering much-needed repairs and re-routing the access road on federal property outside the surface danger zone (SDZ) that could improve public access to the Refuge and scenic overlooks?
- 7) How is DOD planning to better communicate the purpose of the surface danger zone? For example, would it be accurate to characterize the surface danger zone as designed to prevent even the least likely risks to public safety downwind of the LFTRC, out of an abundance of caution?
- 8) How does DOD plan to communicate clearly to the public when the surface danger zone is in or not effect, due to activities at the LFTRC? In addition, how will DOD make Guam's fishermen and boaters aware of opportunities to fish and recreate safely in waters adjacent to the surface danger zone or within when the SDZ is not in effect?
- 9) Please explain if, and how, the alternative siting process evaluated environmental, historical, and cultural impacts. How many other sites were examined? Please also

explain what considerations, to include local input, led to the designation of Northwest Field as the Preferred Alternative.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response detailing the military's continued commitment to respecting Guam's history, culture, and environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these matters further. I hope to share your responses with concerned constituents.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE L. BORDALLO
Member of Congress