



# Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz Environmental & Cultural Stewardship

January 2023

The Marine Corps relocation seeks to avoid, minimize or offset impacts to Guam's natural and cultural resources. The DoD takes its environmental stewardship role very seriously, having obligated almost \$200 million in support of its commitments and is implementing 140 environmental measures for the Marine Corps relocation alone. This significant effort is to ensure that fulfillment of alliance agreements to construct Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz on Guam is balanced with the protection of Guam's rich natural and cultural heritage.

MCB Camp Blaz prioritizes environmental and cultural stewardship through partnerships with the local community, organizations, industry and academia and is committed to remaining in compliance with local, regional and federal laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and many other applicable environmental laws.

## Environmental Initiatives

- Mariana eight-spot butterfly: Habitat creation behind all five earthen berms on the Live Fire Training Range Complex to create continuous habitat for the endangered butterfly. Behind each earthen berm are limestone boulders upon which Mariana eight-spot butterfly host plants (*P. pedunculata* and *E. calcareum*) will be planted. Safe planning of the host plants will be completed once ungulates are eradicated from the training area.
- Guam Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Project: Camp Blaz staff were main contributors to the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) REPI team that successfully obtained more than \$11 million as of calendar year 2023 from the Office of the Secretary of Defense to pursue conservation of forests and watersheds located within GovGuam conservation areas. The REPI effort is a partnership between JRM, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the GovGuam Department of Agriculture. Initial projects will mobilize within Taguan limestone forests and the Masso Reservoir watershed area.
- The DoD entered into an agreement to set aside 5,234 acres of habitat and to implement conservation projects (\$9.1 million as of fiscal year 2022) to support recovery goals for the Guam Micronesia Kingfisher, with benefits to other listed species. Part of the agreement includes USMC investment in landscape-level management of Brown Tree Snakes (BTS), including multi-species barriers, artificial bait development and monitoring methods to study low-density snake populations.
- Forest Enhancement and Ungulate (pig/deer) control: As of fiscal year 2022 DoD completed a ~600 acre enclosure and removal of pig and deer from the area. More eradication work will follow to reach 1,000 acres of protected habitat once more areas are enclosed by fences under construction. This will allow the natural regeneration of the forest to occur and will also support outplanting of native species as part of the forest enhancement work. To date, the following metrics were accomplished as part of this conservation measure:
  - Successfully transplanted more than 5,000 individuals of *Tuberolabium guamense* orchids.



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- More than 900 threatened *Tabernaemontana rotensis* trees outplanted in Caiguat Forest Enhancement Site Phase 1 in August 2022
  - 11.2 miles of ungulate fence installed between 2019 and 2022
  - 812 invasive deer and 137 feral pigs removed from 1,283 acres between 2020 and 2022
  - 30 species of limestone plants raised in nursery for rare, high value, or federally listed plants
  - 72 *Bulbophyllum guamense* orchids transplanted from construction sites into long-term conservation areas
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- The large development associated with Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz has resulted in the rare opportunity to look through the window of time in very large areas. The sheer volume of studies add an unprecedented amount to our understanding of ancient CHamoru lifeways and traditional practices. Although not all cultural sites can be left in place, many have been preserved during planning and construction for future study or visitation. Noteworthy preservation in place actions at the Northern Plateau include one of the earliest ancient rock shelters situated at the live fire training range complex as well as ancestral CHamoru burials at the main base and urban training complex.