

Explanation Guide for Training Area Selection

The Department of the Navy (DON) in consultation with the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has designed and built the training areas covered by this programmatic agreement expressly to minimize any impact to eligible historic properties within the training and testing operational footprint. During the initial design phase of these training areas, the DON consulted with their Cultural Resources Subject Matter Experts (SME) regarding all known historic properties and cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for training operation on military lands. DON Cultural Resources SMEs diligently analyzed the multiple previous archaeological surveys that were conducted within each individual proposed training area that were carried out by, or under the oversight or supervision of a person or persons meeting the professional qualification for an Archaeologist found in “The Secretary of the Interior’s (SOI) Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards” (SOI Qualification Standards), 62 Federal Register 33712.

A review of the DON-maintained geospatial database of eligible historic properties was conducted in order to geographically verify locations of historic properties in relation to the proposed training area footprint laydown. This level of analysis drove a well-informed decision for the DON to shift the footprints away from previously identified and known eligible historic properties to best minimize potential impact to those historic properties.

In an effort to further minimize potential impacts to previously identified historic properties and reduce inadvertent discoveries during training operations conducted in the training areas, the DON has consulted with the SHPO and proposed good faith and reasonable efforts to identify and implement mitigation measures for various training activities to minimize any potential impact. These mitigation measures were developed by DON Cultural Resources SMEs, in consultation with the SHPO, based on a number of carefully analyzed criteria. The DON initially looked at locational specific data regarding cultural resources and historic properties located within the training areas. Secondly, the DON carefully analyzed the specific training activities that were proposed within the individual training areas, such as: field training exercises, maritime security operations, maneuver exercises (convoy, and land navigation), urban operations, search and rescue operations, humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HA/DR) exercises, underwater detonations, and temporary encampment exercises. This locational and operational specific information was thoroughly analyzed by DON SMEs, which led to the creation of the mitigation measures presented within this document.