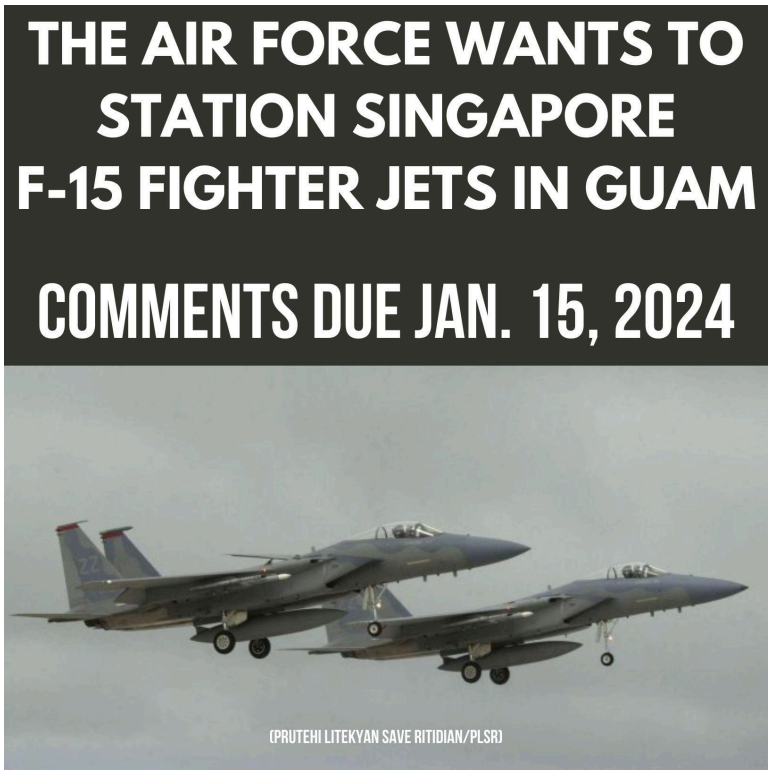
SAMPLE COMMENT AND TOOLKIT:

F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam



Official Project Website: https://www.aafbinfraandf15eis.com

Submit comments at the online portal:
https://www.aafbinfraandf15eis.com/provide-comments

Sample of relevant articles:
https://www.postguam.com/news/local/air-force-looking-at-bedding-down-up-to-12-singapore-f-15-fighters-at-andersen/article_8f4c7a50-9aec-11ee-890e-cb34ddfae731.html

https://www.airandspaceforces.com/usaf-upgrades-guam-singaporean-f-15s-training/

https://www.guampdn.com/news/andersen-could-be-host-to-12-fighter-jets-from-singapore/article_d8a1f7a4-9d7e-11ee-be28-97726d3b6f10.html

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/us-air-force-to-conduct-study-on-basing-of-rsaf-f-15sg-fighter-jets-in-guam

https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/12/20/usaf-guam-air-base/

USE OUR SAMPLE COMMENT BELOW:

January 15, 2024
Via Comment Portal: https://www.aafbinfraandf15eis.com

Re: Comment for the Environmental Impact Statement F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Hafa Adai:
I submit the following comment in opposition of the proposed F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam for the many adverse impacts it will have to the community and environment of Guam and the Mariåna Islands. The risks associated must be weighed against a long history of environmental justice issues and countless violations of our human and Indigenous rights. This includes but is not limited to the loss of access, the destruction of native species, numerous cases of substantial contamination, and severe desecration of sacred sites and ancestral remains, all still occurring at several military construction and operation sites around the island.

The scoping period is insufficient. The information provided to the public on the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base made available online is grossly inadequate and provided in a manner that is negligent and harmful. The information provided does not discuss the details of the dismissal of five other potential alternative locations within the Pacific Air Forces area and the reasons why Andersen Air Force Base was selected out of the alternatives. The "strategic pause" in the initial scoping period for the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam occurred at the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic from April to May in 2021. Since then, no public scoping meetings took place and there has been no opportunity for the public to address concerns other than providing written comments online or via postal mail. There was no venue to collect oral testimony and no effort to encourage robust community engagement. The timing of the scoping process is also distressing given that it took place in a limited 30-day period over the holidays. No email address was provided to submit comments, request information, or ask questions in advance of the scoping period deadline. Because of the lack of public outreach, members of the community were unable to request information and again, their ability to submit comments and questions was highly limited to written mail and the online portal. This process must be stopped, re-evaluated and redirected to ensure the local voices are included to prioritize the protection of vital resources for the future generations of Guam.

The construction of the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam as well as its operations could pose serious risks to critical environmental and cultural resources. Approximately 209 total acres would be disturbed for the construction of the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades. In recent years, we have witnessed massive deforestation and the destruction of our rare and endangered native species. The clearing and grading of more land will provoke further destruction of native jungles and the loss of protected

species including several invaluable and irreplaceable cultural resources already harmed at several military construction and operation sites including the new U.S. Marine Base, the Live-Fire Training Range Complex, and the Urban Warfare Training Range. These include traditional medicines, slow growing trees, birds, bats, insects, and other living organisms in our vulnerable ecosystem. We have witnessed how the massive clearings have made our coastlines, jungles, and fresh water more vulnerable in our recovery from Super Typhoon Mawar. Such clearing has impacted the recharge and natural protections of the Guam Northern Lens Aquifer, Guam's sole-source aquifer that provides the island with up to 90% of its drinking water. Clearing more land to construct the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base will make Guam more vulnerable to climate change and impact the security of clean drinking water.

I oppose the placement of the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base, which is directly located over the islands sole source aquifer. There are tremendous risks for contamination from military jet fuel, the use of AFFF fire-fighting foam, and the distribution of PFAS/PFOS that is associated with such installments. Andersen Air Force Base already has an existing superfund site.

I am specifically concerned about the jet fuel receipt, storage, and distribution over the aquifer and how these chemicals and other hazardous materials will impact the health of the aquifer as well as other invaluable resources and historic properties. The scoping period does not allow for the discussion of the associated environmental and health risks. Guam recently experienced a jet fuel leak that resulted in the destruction of 500 tons of soil. Also reflected in this incident, was the alarming level of under-reporting of such incidents to the public. It took several months for the military contractor to inform the Guam EPA of the spill.

Training events associated with this project will also harm the health of our community and our resilience to the climate crisis. The addition of two training exercises per year at 4 weeks each will drastically upsurge air emissions, impacting air quality as well as soil and water quality as contaminants settle and deposit around the island and into the ocean and waterways. The additional training events will also exacerbate noise pollution caused solely by military activities. This equates to 2 months out of the year that the community will be exposed to intensified contamination and disruptive sound. This will harm individuals with noise sensitivities, including our elderly and veterans, as well pets and animals, including essential pollinators: endangered birds and bats. The training events will also consume a disturbing amount of fossil fuel, thus increasing the military's overall emissions, burdening islands already faced with dangerous incidents of climate catastrophe. A total of 272,148 gallons of fuel would be needed for 24 F-15 planes, one tanker, and one early warning aircraft to cruise for just 6 hours in one day. For four days or 24 hours of flight, that equates to 1,088,592 gallons of fuel.

There will also be an increase of 240 personnel at the installation. During each four-week training event, which would occur twice per year, an additional approximately 200 personnel would be required for the duration of the event. This is total of 440 additional military personnel on island for 2 months of the year. This will pose issues to public safety, water

production, sewer and wastewater management, traffic and roadways, food access, housing, and more. Guam is currently facing a housing and labor shortage. The marines have not yet been transferred from Okinawa, yet we are already witnessing a housing crisis because residents are being outpriced by military households for scarce affordable housing, along with increases in construction costs for construction and labor.

In recent years, we have witnessed the continued desecration of ancestral burials, ancestral objects, sacred sites, and the removal of public access, all which impact the survival of Indigenous spiritual and cultural practices and ways of life. The taking and clearing of land for the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base will ensure the continued desecration of burials, cultural resources, and sacred areas. Within the last decade, we have witnessed the destruction of over 1,000 acres of limestone forest and critical habitat, the removal of hundreds of significant material remains of our ancestors, and the desecration of at least 26 burials. We are witnessing the erasure of our heritage every day.

The clearing of land for the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base might expose and require the treatment of explosive ordinance. The military currently uses open detonation to treat these waste munitions, while further risking contamination to groundwater and air.

I am concerned that this project will make Guam and the Mariåna Islands a greater target for war, as the presence of the F-15 jets and related training exercises will position our islands as places of U.S. force projection in the region. War studies have shown that Guam will be devastated should the U.S. enter into conflict with China and we are now becoming a “first strike community”. A “Divert Airfield '' is also being built at the Tinian airport should Guam sustain an attack, further emphasizing and expanding the risk to the islands. (https://www.csis.org/analysis/first-battle-next-war-wargaming-chinese-invasion-taiwan).

I oppose the use of this land for the purpose of preparing for war. The project is reported to take place on property already occupied by the Air Force and this land was condemned by eminent domain and the original inhabitants are withheld access. The military occupies almost 30% of the island and expanded activities within these properties further dispossessed Indigenous CHamorus of lands that are already occupied by the U.S. military.

The F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base reflects the expansion of U.S. military occupation and dominance which threatens our sovereignty, our right to self-determine our political future, and the movement for decolonization for Guåhan.

We still have not experienced all the impacts associated with the ongoing military expansion. We are already witnessing a housing crisis, a rise in crime, the loss of access to sacred areas, jungles to harvest medicines, critical fishing areas, and loss of access to family properties that were seized after World War II.

For these reasons and more, that I oppose the F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Signed, Name

Other resources used for drafting comments:

COSTS AND FUEL INFORMATION:
https://www.defenseone.com/business/2023/11/f-15ex-price-tags-rise-boeing-hunts-ways-control-costs/391786/#:~:text=In%20September%2C%20when%20the%20Air,Force%20spokesperson%20Ann%20Stefanek%20confirmed

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2023/03/f-35a-engine-would-be-win-win-win-win/384467/
https://www.businessinsider.com/price-military-aircraft-per-flight-hour-2016-8#f-15c-6

https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a3/publication/afpam10-1403/afpam10-1403.pdf

https://www.guardianjet.com/jet-aircraft-online-tools/aircraft-brochure.cfm?m=Gulfstream-G550-132

GUAM AS TARGET IN CONFLICT:
https://www.csis.org/analysis/first-battle-next-war-wargaming-chinese-invasion-taiwan).

JET FUEL LEAK:
https://www.kuam.com/story/38846452/2018/08/Thursday/dod-contractor-fined-100k-by-guam-epa

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/jet-fuel-spill-wasnt-reported-for-months-defense-contractor-fined/article_74663974-9c7d-11e8-9608-cb40bdef444e.html

AAFB SUPERFUND SITE:
https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.Cleanup&id=0902825#bkground).

MILITARY EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE:
https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2019/Summary_Pentagon%20Fuel%20Use%2C%20Climate%20Change%2C%20and%20the%20Costs%20of%20War%20%281%29.pdf

https://earth.org/us-military-pollution/#:~:text=It%20established%20that%20if%20the,(GHG)%20in%20the%20world

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190620100005.htm