



MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

Ground Forces Modernization (GFM) ***Environmental Assessment (EA)*** **Community Outreach FAQs**

1. What is an Environmental Assessment?

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment is a document that evaluates the potential environmental impact of a proposed federal action and determines whether the impacts can result in a finding of no significant impact or whether a more detailed environmental impact statement is required.

2. Why is the Marine Corps preparing an EA?

The 2022 National Defense Strategy, the 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States, Secretary of Defense 2023 Planning Guidance, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps 2019 Planning Guidance redirected the United States (U.S.) Marine Corps' mission from sustained operations ashore to great-power/peer-level competition, with special emphasis on the Pacific. This shift in mission, along with technological advancements in equipment sets, requires adjustments in how the Marine Corps organizes, trains, and equips.

As part of this restructuring, Marine Corps ground forces assigned to Marine Corps Base (MCB) Hawaii require additional capabilities and equipment to support emerging joint, naval, and Marine Corps operating concepts. The proposed action is the modernization of equipment, infrastructure, and training for Marine Corps ground forces in Hawaii. The proposed equipment changes are evolutions of existing equipment and combat capabilities with operational characteristics similar to those historically used by Marine Corps ground forces in Hawaii. The construction and equipment modernization portions of the proposed action would be implemented from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through FY 2030. These modernized ground forces would conduct activities within the footprint of MCB Hawaii and training ranges in Hawaii.

3. What changes/what is in this EA?

The proposed action has three components: (1) modernize equipment (2) upgrade, renovate, and construct support facilities; and (3) conduct training activities with modernized equipment. There would be no change in the number of Marine Corps Hawaii ground forces personnel because of the proposed action.

4. Who is preparing this EA?

The action proponent is Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific.

5. Where can I get more information?

Information can be obtained at Marine Corps Base Hawaii's website at <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Resources-Services/Pertinent-Information/Ground-Forces-Modernization-EA/>. Frequently Asked Questions and a fact sheet have been developed to provide information to the public. Marine Corps Base Hawaii Communication Strategy and Operations

representatives will attend local neighborhood board meetings and engage with the public presenting information regarding the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, environmental resources to be analyzed in the EA, the NEPA process, and public involvement opportunities.

6. What Community Engagement is the Marine Corps doing?

Kailua – First Thursday

- 7 December
- 4 January 2024
- 1 February 2024

Waimanalo – Second Monday

- 13 November
- 11 December
- 8 January 2024
- 12 February 2024

Kahalu'u – Second Wednesday

- 8 November
- 13 December
- 10 January 2024
- 14 February 2024

Ewa – Second Thursday

- 9 November
- 14 December
- 11 January 2024
- 8 February 2024

Kaneohe – Third Thursday

- 16 November
- 21 December
- 18 January 2024
- 15 February 2024

COMMSTRAT has begun community engagement and will continue until the end of the public comment period on January 25, 2023. COMMSTRAT will attend each individual neighborhood board four separate times. By doing this, the Marine Corps hopes to maximize public engagement and ensure that the public has adequate opportunity to gather information, ask questions, reflect on the material, and have any additional questions answered during subsequent board meetings.

7. When is the public comment period?

The public comment period will be from December 26, 2023 to January 25, 2024.

8. How do I make comments during the public comment period?

Beginning December 26th, 2023, comments can be forwarded via e-mail to: MCBH-EA@stantecgs.com or Mail comments to:

Peer Amble
Stantec GS Inc.
737 Bishop Street, Suite 3050
Honolulu HI, 96813

9. Will my input have any impact in this process?

Public participation is a fundamental aspect of the NEPA process, and the Marine Corps will consider all comments received during the public comment period. The Marine Corps will request and actively solicit feedback and comments from the public, government agencies, elected officials, nongovernmental organizations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

All comments submitted via the project website at <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Resources-Services/Pertinent-Information/Ground-Forces-Modernization-EA/> will be considered pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA and under NEPA.

10. How is the Marine Corps protecting plant and wildlife in the training areas?

On Oahu, we have a dedicated office – the MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection Office – that focuses specifically on this stewardship. These military and civilian environmental experts – most who live in the local community – manage MCBH conversation programs. They also lead NEPA environmental reviews of proposed major federal actions on base. We are proud of the critical role this office plays in protecting the environment, and are dedicated to its preservation. Marine Corps Base

Hawaii follows an ecosystem and adaptive management approach outlined in an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan involving execution of a suite of management actions across the full array of natural resources and Marine Corps Base Hawaii geographic areas. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans are planning documents that outline how each military installation with significant natural resources will manage those resources. They integrate military mission requirements, environmental and master planning documents, cultural resources, and outdoor recreation to ensure both military operations and natural resources conservation are included and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.