

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Infrastructure Improvements at the Yap International Airport and the Yap Seaport in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD), Joint Task Force-Micronesia.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), Section 161(a)(2) of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) between the United States (U.S.) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Yap State Operational Control Letter signed on March 25, 2025, conveyed via Diplomatic Note (DIPNOTE) DFA-LSR-113-25 dated March 25, 2025, and JTFINST 5090.1, the Department of Defense (DoD), through Joint Task Force Micronesia, announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with infrastructure improvements at the Yap International Airport (Yap airport) and the Yap Colonia International Port (Yap seaport) in Yap State, FSM, as well as subsequent periodic DoD use of such infrastructure, in coordination with Yap airport and seaport authorities. The proposed action supports defense obligations under the COFA and enhances operational capability, safety, and infrastructure resiliency within the region. The Department of Defense proposes to conduct these projects in cooperation with the FSM and Yap State governments.

The EIS will assess the environmental effects of the proposed action, the no action alternative, and other reasonable alternatives identified during the scoping process.


Please contact Lorraine Shaughnessy at yap_dod_project_scoping@us.navy.mil for more information.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE EIS BY MAIL OR ONLINE TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES

MAIL:
Yap Airport and Seaport EIS Project Manager, NAVFAC Pacific
258 Makalapa Dr Ste 100 Pearl Harbor HI 96860

EMAIL:
Scan QR code or email yap_dod_project_scoping@us.navy.mil

Comments must be received by 8/8/2025 to ensure consideration in the preparation of the Draft EIS



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the proposed action at the Yap airport is to enhance the ability of the Department of the Air Force and Department of the Navy to conduct forward presence, contingency response, and military readiness activities in the FSM. For the seaport, the purpose is to improve port infrastructure to support dual-use operations and occasional U.S. and allied vessel mooring, in accordance with U.S. defense obligations under the COFA.

The proposed action is needed to address current limitations to safe and efficient multi-user activities at the airport and seaport, which constrain the U.S.’s ability to meet its defense obligations under the COFA and ability of DoD to meet mission requirements in the Indo-Pacific region. Without the proposed improvements, operational effectiveness and support for humanitarian and contingency operations would remain limited and operations at the Yap airport would continue to fail to meet FAA safety standards.

Proposed Action: At the Yap airport, the DoD proposes to construct and operate facilities and infrastructure to support military readiness activities involving fighter, cargo, tanker, and other aircraft types. Proposed improvements include airfield infrastructure within an approximately 447-acre (181-hectare) project area, including runway extensions, aircraft parking apron, parallel taxiway, roadway improvements and realignments, fuel storage, support buildings, ancillary facilities, and staging and laydown areas. Additional land may be temporarily needed to support staging and laydown and worker lodging. Airport infrastructure may be further refined during the scoping process. The facilities would support training for aircraft diversions, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and other contingency responses. Once airport improvements are complete, training is expected to include several weekly landings of cargo and fighter aircraft with associated support personnel, and approximately two military exercises per year of up to 14 days each involving deployment of approximately 100 personnel to Yap. No permanent personnel, full-time aircraft basing, munitions use, or airspace modifications are included in the proposed action. While emergency scenarios such as actual humanitarian assistance/disaster relief responses are not part of the Proposed Action, the infrastructure would support training for such missions.

Site selection at the existing Yap airport was based on its existing utilities, airspace protections, logistical advantages, and desire to minimize land use consistent with the COFA. The improvements would enhance both military readiness and civilian airport capacity and potential by supporting aviation services and safety. The proposed action involves readiness activities within FSM’s sovereign territory. Activities in international waters or adjacent territories have been previously addressed in separate NEPA and Executive Order 12114 documents and are not part of this analysis.

At the Yap seaport, the Department of the Navy, in partnership with FSM and Yap State, proposes to rehabilitate and modernize Wuneday Channel facilities. Improvements would enable dual-use operations and mooring of U.S. and allied vessels without interfering with normal commercial seaport operations. The Proposed Action includes wharf and bulkhead reconstruction, harbor and channel dredging, and replacement of aids to navigation (ATONs). Improvements to the wharf and bulkhead consist of demolition of the existing dilapidated tuna warehouse, repair of the bulkhead, reconstruction of the wharf deck, addition of a new pile-supported wharf extension east of the existing wharf, and addition of a breasting dolphin to the west of the existing wharf.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including potential alternatives and environmental concerns, must be received by August 8, 2025, to ensure consideration in the preparation of the Draft EIS.

A public scoping meeting will be hosted by DoD at the Small Business Development Center on July 8, 2025, at 12:00 PM Yap Time. Additional meetings will be scheduled in coordination with the Yap State Task Force on United States Military and Government Operations and the Operational Control Letter (Yap State Task Force) during the week of July 7, 2025.

Additional public scoping meetings may be held at the following locations:

Municipality	Location	Date	Time
Dalipebinaw	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
Fanif	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
Rull	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
Tamil	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
Weloy	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise

The U.S project representatives can be available for additional scoping meetings on Yap during the same week; to request additional meetings, Yap municipality leaders should contact the Yap State Task Force through Alex Gilfiley, gilfiley@gmail.com, with a copy to Viliame Lagonilakeba, viliame.oagyap@gmail.com by 8:00 PM on Saturday, July 5, 2025, Yap Time with the date and time of the desired meeting. Additional public scoping meeting dates, times, and locations during the week of July 7, 2025, will be announced by DoD at public meetings and may be announced through radio, flyers, or social media where time and resources permit.

Depending on feedback from initial scoping meetings and information obtained during ongoing environmental surveys, an additional round of public scoping meetings may be scheduled the week of September 8, 2025; however, the public is encouraged to comment during the initial scoping period to ensure that comments can be considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS. If an additional round of public scoping meetings is scheduled, notice will be provided in the Kaselehlie Press; in addition, a copy of the notice will be provided to the Yap State Task Force for dissemination through radio, flyers, and social media.

Actions associated with the harbor and channel dredging include dredging at three locations—the wharf apron, harbor approach, and ocean channel entrance—to accommodate deeper draft vessels, including U.S. Navy and allied vessels, with designs informed by navigational modeling and consultation with local pilots. Minor dredging at additional locations may be necessary to support delivery of dredge material. Improvements to the aids to navigation include replacement of 18 existing channel markers with larger, lighted markers and installation of new front and rear range markers. These would be mounted on submerged concrete foundations in line with current Yap navigation conventions.

These improvements are designed to enhance the safety, efficiency, and capacity of the port for both civilian maritime activity and U.S. military activities. The facilities would support periodic port visits and could support future training for humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and other contingency responses. Collectively, the airport and seaport projects would improve facility operational readiness, reinforce regional defense posture, and provide long-term infrastructure benefits to the FSM and Yap State.

In addition to the improvements at the Yap airport and seaport, the DoD proposes to rehabilitate the road between the airport and seaport. Improvements or repair to additional roads may be carried out if other roads are impacted by construction activities.

The proposed action includes rehabilitation of approximately 4,450 feet (1,357 meters) of asphalt road west of the seaport facilities that cross over Chamorro Bay towards the Yap airport and upgrade of 1,140 feet (347 meters) of gravel road with drainage improvements, signage, and stormwater controls from the seaport to the southeastern corner of Chamorro Bay. The proposed action also includes repaving (i.e., overlay with asphalt) of the entire airport-to-seaport road and potentially the community road to the west of the airfield for use as a construction haul route (5.7 miles [9.2 kilometers]). Construction of approximately 3,500 feet (1,067 meters) of new community road to the east of the airport may be required due to construction.

Alternatives: The EIS will analyze the proposed action, a no action alternative, and other alternatives developed during the scoping process.

Environmental Issues: The EIS will address potential impacts to land use, geology and soils, biological resources, cultural and historic resources, water quality, noise, air quality, transportation, public health and safety, socioeconomics, and cumulative impacts. Local concerns include the protection of coral reefs and water ways, mangroves, taro patches, traditional fishing areas, and the social and economic effects of off-island labor forces. Mitigation measures and best management practices will be explained in the EIS as well.

Regulatory Considerations: The projects will be conducted in accordance with the COFA. The DoD will coordinate environmental compliance issues regulatory efforts with the Yap Environmental Protection Agency, Yap State Historic Preservation Office, Yap Department of Forestry and Agriculture, and the Yap Marine Resources Management Division.

Schedule: The Draft EIS is expected to be released in March 2026, with at least a 45-day public comment period to follow. The Final EIS is anticipated by August 2026, with a Record of Decision to be issued in September 2026.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Babior niboo rogon epinen ngan rin ara murwel ningan taa ko Yap Airport nge Seaport rodad uroy Waab. Pii murwel ningan taa ney e boo boch banen niyra mithmitheg yange yog ninge mon’og rogon kanawaey u maday ni arame seaport nge kanawaene shikoki ni arame airport.

Rerabaa l murweliy ninge rine bineye murwel: Department of Defense (DoD), Joint Task Force-Micronesia

Tin nganrin u lane bineye baior: Btuf ningan puruy man falag rogon babior nikanoge Enviromental Impact Statement ngay. Ara babior niboo rogone pinen yira gachgach ngay u daken e binaw nge lane daey.

Summary: Utane motochiyal ko fare Compact of Free Association rodad yu FSM ngak yu Mariken (United States) e boor banen nipuruy nag riy. Kuer rogon ba amendment (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) napan 1969 ko National Environment Policy Act (NEPA), Section 161 (a) (2) ni dugliy boch banen, rogon e ayuw rok yu Mariken ngodad, nge rogon ni gadad rapii yu FSM e ayuw ngak yu Mariken. G’oboo u tane motochiyal ko Compact of Free Association. Bang ko puruy ko Compact of Free Association. Ere btufe puruy! Gadadyu Waab ethabifel rogone mithmith ko murwel ko salthaw nu Mariken riy, thabifel rogon e tagil ko baani baaraye murwel ko salthaw ni kanoge Department of Defense ngay. Batuf rok yu Mariken batagile shikoki nge barkow ko salthaw rorad ninge bung rogone murwel rorad nib safe, efficient, mabfel rogone tagil riy dabi magawon nage gidii ngepar ko gidii.

Um’on kore murwel ney maboor banen niyira puruy nag riy. Kuar rogoni pinen yira dugliy ningan mithmitheg e fare EIS ara Environmental Impact Statement era dugliy rogone murwel ninga i yan nibfel rogon.

Maragen ea rea maruwel ney ea rayog ngam contact i Lorraine Shaughnessy at yap_dod_project_scoping@us.navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Airport nge Seaport rodad e chineye dabiyog ni ngan unege tiroke salthaw ara military e murwel u langin. Btuf ninge mon’og e airport nge seaport facilities rodad, nibe yibe barkow makura yog nibe yibe shikoki ko salthaw. Boo gaangine binaw nibtuf ningan murwel riy, gonpan 447-acre ara 181-hectare project area.

Kueri taye murwelu maday. Chiney e beyib eyug barkow, athop rok yu Mariken, e ngiyal nike tuf makura yog ninge yibe barkow ko salthaw. Ere re puruy neye bal’eg rogon ko murwel u daken binaw nge lane day. Ngan gaa nage airport u dakene binaw ma kueri tay lane day ara waene barkow ninge bung rogon e mithmith u ngawelene dubchel ngal. Boo boche murwel niyra taa u gampek ara dock. Boo e murwel ningan chuweg, wod fare naun niun aywege tuna riy, ara Ting Hong fish storage building, man faleg rogone gampek ngenuw megaa boch. Boo e murwel u ngawalene dubchol nge kayuyang u waene barkow, ngebung rogone mithmith ko barkow ko salthaw nibeyib fabeyan u napan nike tuf. Dredging at three locations: the wharf apron, harbor approach, and ocean channel entrance. Murwel niyra taa ekuran thilyeg fapi 18 existing channel markers niboo e magal riy nga i ayweg rogone mithmith ko barkow u mday. Boche magal nikiyra ta e fan ko front and rear range marker ninga i powiyy e barkow.

U napane marwel ko airport nge seaport mafaanra boo bang ko kanawoo u thiline galyangi nee nibtuf ningan faleg ngaki bung rogon e mithmith ko marwel riy makura ngongliye salthaw rogon.

Alternatives: Boche murwel ko Environmental Impact Statement era dugil rogone puruy riy makiyra yog ngan nang fan fin ud duguliy rogone murwel.

Environmental Issues: Urngine mithmith ko murwel ningan taa e boo kochi rogon nikan dugliy u rogone murwel ningeyan u daken fare Environmental Impact Statement.

Regulatory Considerations: Murwel ningan taa ebe micheg erabaa i murwel ney ko Department of Defense nibe yanu tane motochiyal ko Yap Environmental Protection Agency, Yap State Historic Preservation Office, Yap Department of Forestry and Agriculture, nge Yap Marine Resource Management Division. Be micheg yu Mariken ni rogon nikan dugliy ningeyane murwel e aram rogon niyad rarin. Yirarin niwod rogon nibe yoge motochiyal.

Schedules: Environmental Impact Statement Draft e yibe sap ngay nira March 2026 makema kan pii, niba 45 days niyira pii ko gidii niyoor ni faanra kubo e duwer fatin ngan weliy riy. Bin final ko Environmental Impact Statement e August 2026. September 2026 make dugil rogon e babior nge rogone murwel ningeyan.

Dates: Urngine e tin banen nibleg rogon ko bineye murwel ni faanra baye duwer rok bee riy ma thangar ri thap umon ko August 8, 2025. Rofeney ko August 8, 2025, e tomur ko rran nikan dugliy, ngeyog l uneg kofare babior ni EIS [Environmental Impact Statement].

Rebe moolung ko yoor ni ra host nage DoD u Small Business Development Center ko rofen ni July 8, 2025, ko 12:00 PM Yap Time. Kabaa’ boch ea moolung ni baykuni schedule nag nibayi puruuy nag ea Yap Task Force nge pinem ni baa ko fare Operational Control Letter (OCL) ko rea week ni July 7, 2025.

Kaboch ea moolung ko yoor ea baykun taa nga raa:

Municipality	Location	Date	Time
Dalipebinaw	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
Fanif	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise
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Weloy	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise	Yap Task Force to Advise

Ra Btuff ni kun madaa ngan moolung kun weliy boch ea pii marwel ney magraa yog ko pilung rom ni ngan contact fare Yap Task Force ni chaan ni ngan non ngak ea chaney i Alex Gilfiley, gilfiley@gmail.com, ni yiraa copy nag i Villame Lagonilakeba, viliame.oagyap@gmail.com ko 8:00 PM ni rofen ni Sabado, July 5, 2025, Yap Time ni baa ea yyar nge ngiyal ko moolung ni yibadag ni ngan moolung. Ra kubaa boch ea moolung ni bay kuni taa’ ko week ni July 7, 2025, ma bayn i announce nag ea DoD ko tinbaraa ea moolung ni kan duguliy nga radio, flyers fa tinbarra ea banen ni baa ko internet ni kanoge social media ngaa’.

Tin baa’ ni bayun weliy ko pii moolung ko yoor ney ea bayi duguliy rogon ko btuff ni kuran taa’ boch ea moolung ko rea week ni September 8, 2025; Yibe yog ko yoor ni raa baa ea tin i gabadag ni ngam weliy fa baa ea duwer rom ma rib btuff ni ngam weliy ngeyog ni ngan puruuy ya nge duguliy rogon fare marwel ko Draft EIS. Bayfini kunog reb ea moolung ko yoor nga lane fare Kaselehlie Press ma baykun pii ko Yap State Task Force ni nge werereg ea thin ko radio, flyers nge social media.

Ra baa’ ea duwer fa magfan rom ko rogone maruweliy fare babior ko Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ma baraa ea ggin rayog ni ngam yol ngaa:

Mail:
Yap Airport and Seaport EIS Project Manager
NAVFAC Pacific
258 Makalapa Dr Ste 100 Pearl Harbor HI 96860

Online:
Mu scan nag ea QR code fa mu email nage:
yap_dod_project_scoping@us.navy.mil



Duwer rok bea’ ea thingariy thap ko August 8, 2025, ya nge yog ni un ko fare babior ni Draft EIS