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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 31, 2024

Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Prepares to Announce Proposed Exercises

Public Encouraged to Participate in 30-Day Comment Period Starting June 3

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency (MDA) issued notice to Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio on a Proposed Final Environmental Assessment and a Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact to conduct up to two flight tests or tracking exercises per year over a 10-year period starting Fiscal Year 2025. According to the MDA these activities are to validate the interoperability of multiple sensors and interceptor systems of a missile defense system being developed to protect Guam. The letter from the MDA states that "Out of an abundance of caution, the Department will request select landowners on the boundaries of AAFB to agree to remain away from their private properties during test events to ensure their safety. Affected landowners will be contacted by the U.S. Navy Joint Region Marianas in the near future to obtain landowner consent."

Starting Monday, June 3, through July 2, the MDA will release the Notice of Availability for the Proposed Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public for a 30-day comment period. This information will be available at www.mda.mil/system/guamft and Guam libraries.

"As Governor of Guam, I urge our people to review and participate in this public comment period to the Proposed Action. This is our moment to ensure our collective interests remain paramount during these proposed exercises to be conducted by the Department of Defense," said Governor Leon Guerrero. "I have also instructed all relevant government agencies to thoroughly examine and provide responses to guarantee transparency and alignment with our community's safety. It is in our best interest that the assessment accurately reflects our concerns and priorities and that the potential impacts of the missile defense system are fully understood."

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