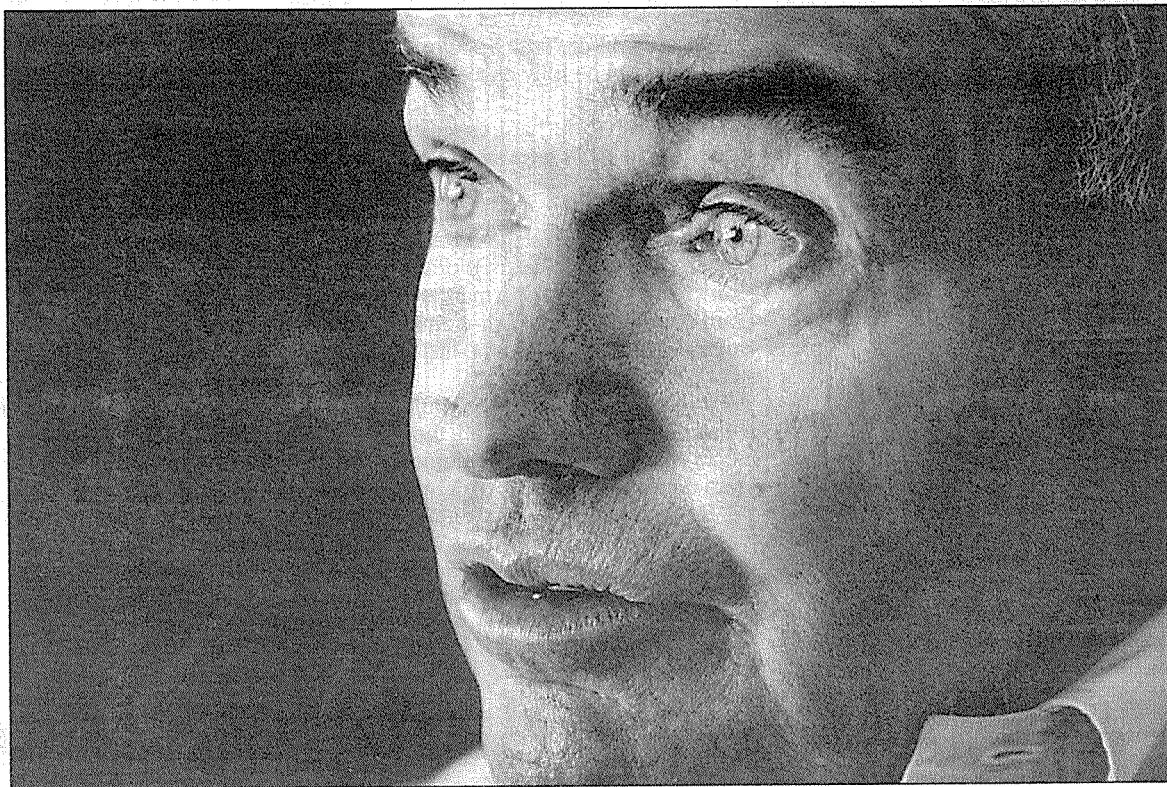


# Military buildup impact



Jacqueline Hernandez/Pacific Daily News/jhernande7@guampdn.com

**8,000 pages:** Retired Marine Maj Gen. David Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office, talks about the soon-to-be released draft Environmental Impact Statement related to the Guam buildup during an interview at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa in Tumon, yesterday. The draft EIS will be released Saturday, Guam time.

## Draft EIS to be available Saturday for comment

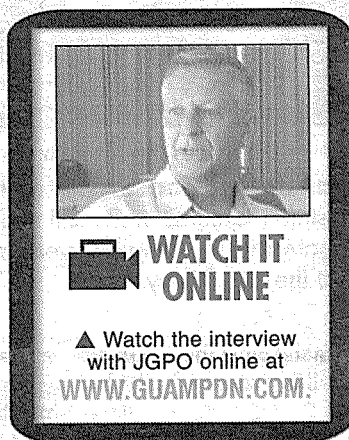
**By Amritha Alladi**

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Guam residents will get a comprehensive preview of the social, economic and environmental impact of the Guam military buildup with the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, on Saturday, Guam time.

Retired Marine Col. John J. Jackson, director of the Joint Guam Program Office, told the Pacific Daily News yesterday that the draft itself is a little less than 4,000 pages, and the appendices constitute about another 4,000 pages. The EIS document is designed to be an easy read for the "average citizen," Jackson said, while the appendices contain more technical data.

Jackson suggests residents



start with volume one to understand why the Marines are relocating to Guam and to find out

▲ See **Buildup**. Page 4

### WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

▲ The draft Environmental Impact Statement will provide a detailed account of how Guam's community will be affected through changes caused by the buildup. Factors of interest to Guam's community include access to recreation locations, safety, quality of life, labor-related issues, population increase and associated effects, Chamorro interests such as sacred burial ground and cultural sites, increases in traffic, utility requirements, small business opportunities, availability and cost of civilian housing, noise, land use, educational facilities, public health and social services, the local fishing industry and tourism.

### WHERE TO FIND IT

View the draft EIS and submit comments:

- ▲ Available to Guam residents on Saturday, Guam time
- ▲ View the draft online and submit comments online.
- ▲ View the draft EIS online at [www.Guam-PDN.com](http://www.Guam-PDN.com).
- ▲ Visit the public library, the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Mangilao, and mayors' offices in Yigo, Dededo, Barrigada, Agat and Mangilao to view digitally or as hard copy.

### ON THE NET

- ▲ The Joint Guam Program Office Web site: [www.guambuildupeis.us](http://www.guambuildupeis.us)
- ▲ The One Guam Web site: [www.one.guam.gov](http://www.one.guam.gov)

# Buildup: \$48M for off-base roads

▲ Continued from Page 1

in which volume their subjects of interest are encompassed.

With the EIS' release in a few days, retired Marine Maj. Gen. David Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office, which oversees the buildup readiness for the Defense Department, is visiting the island.

Responding to concerns by Gov-Guam officials that the local government faces a projected \$2.9 billion in off-base expenses to cover multiyear infrastructure projects associated with the buildup, Bice said the federal government, particularly the Department of Defense, has committed to bearing some of those costs.

"You see that in our fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, DOD has budgeted over \$48 million dollars for road improvements, off-base road improvements," he said. "The Office of Economic Adjustment (is) providing \$10 million to the government of Guam in terms of planning."

He added that DOD has been supporting the Port Authority of Guam application for funding through economic stimulus money — worth another \$50 million.

"Whether you're talking about Guam water, wastewater, certainly power, the landfill — all those things that Guam is facing serious shortfalls there, in terms of meeting regulatory standards on that, so we've gotta deal with that, and we also look at future growth," Bice said.

"With the Marines coming in and the civilian work force that will be accompanying them, the Guam tax base is going to increase exponentially," Bice said. The Office of Economic Adjustment is working with GovGuam to plan for that growth, he said.

But the economic impact is only one area covered by the draft EIS.

## Public comment

An EIS details the possible envi-

## Buildup conference tomorrow, Friday

### Pacific Daily News

The Guam Legislature will hold a conference tomorrow and Friday on Guam's perspective on the "The Military Buildup and Beyond."

Roger M. Natsuhara, acting assistant secretary of the Navy for installations and environment, will give the keynote address at 9:05

a.m. tomorrow, with a question-and-answer session to follow. The morning session will include a panel discussion on family and community issues regarding public health and building a competent work force. After lunch, the conference will feature a presentation at 1 p.m. by Emanuel Mori, president of the Federated States of Micronesia. A panel discussion on

the use of natural resources will follow at 1:30 p.m.

On Friday, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo will present the keynote address at 8:35 a.m. with panel discussions on public services to follow. The afternoon session at 1 p.m. will consist of a panel discussion on relations between the federal government and Guam.



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ronmental repercussions of a federal action, and it's required by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, according to Pacific Daily News files. Once a draft EIS is released, the public usually has 45 days to review it before a final EIS is published as a Record of Decision in the Federal Register. However, Guam's residents have been granted an additional 45 days to review the document, thanks to requests made by Guam leaders to Bice in October.

Capt. Neil Ruggiero, JGPO public affairs officer, said the EIS will be available to Guam residents as of Saturday online, and digital and hard copies of the EIS will be available at the public library, the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, and mayors' offices in Yigo, Dededo, Barrigada, Agat, and Mangilao. Digital copies also will be posted online at [www.Guam-PDN.com](http://www.Guam-PDN.com).

According to Jackson, the purpose of the NEPA process is to allow DOD leadership to make informed decisions while allowing the public to be involved in making those decisions, too.

Ruggiero added that specific comments will be the most useful when the assistant secretary of the

Navy for Installation and Environment reviews feedback from Guam residents. Comments can be submitted online, in writing, or through several village meetings to be held on Guam, Saipan and Tinian, Jackson said.

"When we say environment, it's not just the bunnies and the bees and things, but also the socioeconomic impact," Jackson said. "(For example,) what are the impacts on the power grid? What are the impacts on the road surfaces, the road network that people drive on every day? What are the impacts perhaps on archeological sites, ... endangered species or threatened species?"

"We look in a lot of different areas, but overall, those alternatives are looking at accomplishing the mission with the least amount of impact on the environment," Jackson said.

## 'No action'

A "no action" option is also presented in the EIS as one of the viable alternatives to a federal action, Jackson said.

Some Guam residents at last week's Guam Community and Economic Development Forum asked Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Derek Mitchell whether the "no action" option presented in the EIS could halt the military buildup altogether if it poses

enough threat to Guam's sustainability.

Jackson said yesterday that the "no action" option applies only to specific actions within the context of the military buildup happening. For instance, a firing range may be moved from one location to another because its relocation would be a more environmentally friendly option; but in only very extreme cases would the firing range not be built at all, Jackson said.

"When you look back on history of this move, the decision to come to Guam, was not a NEPA decision. It was a decision made between the government of Japan and the U.S. government," Jackson said. "The decision to come to Guam is really not part of the NEPA process."

Japan has agreed to pay about \$6 billion of the \$10 billion cost to relocate 8,000 Marines and their dependents to Guam by 2014, reducing the Marines' presence in Japan by almost half.

Some in Japan's new leadership, however, have brought up possibly calling for U.S. troops to leave Japan completely, prompting U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates to say recently that doing so could derail the U.S.-Japan pact that includes relocating Marines to Guam.

The JGPO officials declined yesterday to answer questions on the U.S.-Japan issue concerning the buildup.