

Prepared for and submitted to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources

Prepared by:

Department of the Navy

In accordance with the Letters of Authorization
Under the MMPA and ITS authorization under
the ESA

31 July 2015

Annual Unclassified Exercise Report

03 August 2015 to 02 August 2016 First Year

For The U.S. Navy's Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area

03 November 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL MITT EXERCISE REPORT

INTRODUCTION.....	3
(1) MITT – Major Training Exercises/SINKEX	
(i) Reporting requirements for Expeditionary and Strike Group Exercises	4
(ii) Exercise information for each Major Training Exercise	5
(iii) Evaluation of Mitigation Effectiveness.....	6
(iv) Exercise information for each SINKEX.....	6
(2) MITT – Summary of Sources Used	
(i) Total annual usage of each type of sound source.....	7
(3) MITT – Geographic Information Representation.....	10

ANNUAL MARIANAS ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING UNCLASSIFIED ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy prepared this unclassified version of the Annual Report covering the period from 03 August 2015 to 02 August 2016. In compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the Marianas Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area a classified version of this report is also submitted to NMFS.

In the MITT Study Area Letter of Authorization¹ "Requirements for monitoring and reporting" the following reporting subsections were specified. However, only unclassified information is present within this report:

- (1) Major Training Exercises (MTE)/SINKEX
 - (i) Exercise Information (for each exercise)
 - (ii) Individual Marine Mammal Sighting Information (for each sighting in each MTE)
 - (iii) Exercise information for each SINKEX
- (2) Summary of Sources Used
 - (i) Total annual usage of each type of sound source
- (3) Sonar Exercise Notification
- (4) Geographic Information Representation

The information in this Annual Report represents the best practical data collection for this period. To provide accounting for the entire five-year period of the authorization, Navy will also submit a five-year close-out exercise report with final totals of authorized usage.

¹MITT: 7(e) of the Letter of Authorization, 50 CFR §218.95(e) (1) through (e) (5)

MITT – Major Training Exercises/SINKEX

(i) Reporting requirements for Coordinated and Strike Group Major Training Exercises

This section summarizes authorized sonar use and marine mammal observations from MTEs conducted within the MITT Study Area during the reporting period. The MITT MTEs include *Joint Multi-Strike Group Exercise* (Valiant Shield), and *Joint Expeditionary Group Exercises*.

(ii) Exercise information for each Major Training Exercise

Table 1-ii-1a. MTEs conducted in the MITT Study Area.

(A) Exercise designator	(B) Date that exercise began/ended	(C) Location	(D) Number of items or hours of each sound source bin used	(E) Number and types of US vessels and aircraft participating
(i) LF4 (hours)				CG
(ii) LFS (hours)				DDG
(iii) LF6 (hours)				FRG
(iv) MF1 (hours)				LCS
(v) MF2 (hours)				MH-60R/SH-60F dipping helo
(vi) MF3 (hours)				SH-60B non-dipping helo
(vii) MF4 (hours)				Submarines
(viii) MFS (items)				MPRA
(ix) MFS (items)				Non-ASW surface ship
(x) MFS (hours)				
(xi) MFS (hours)				
(xii) MF10 (hours)				
(xiii) MF11 (hours)				
(xiv) MF12 (hours)				
(xv) MF1 (hours)				
(xvi) HF4 (hours)				
(xvii) HFS (hours)				
(xviii) HF6 (hours)				
(xix) ASW1 (hours)				
(xx) ASW2 (items)				
(xxi) ASW3 (hours)				
(xxii) ASW4 (items)				
(xxiii) TORP1 (items)				
(xxiv) TORP2 (items)				
(xxv) M3 (hours)				
(xxvi) SD1 (hours)				

No major training exercises were conducted in the MITT study area during this reporting period.

Table 1-ii-1b. MTEs conducted in the MITT Study Area (explosives).

(A) Exercise designator	(B) Date that exercise began/ended	(C) Location	(D) Number of impulsive source detonations
(I) E1			
(H) E2			
(H) E3			
(V) E4			
(V) E5			
(V) E6			
(VH) E8			
(VH) E9			
(IX) E10			
(X) E11			
(XI) E12			

No major training exercises were conducted in the MITT study area during this reporting period.

(ii) (F) Individual marine mammal sighting information by exercise

Table 1-ii-2. MITT MTE – Individual Marine Mammal Sighting Information:

(1) Date/time/location of sighting	(2) Species	(3) Number of individuals	(4) Initial detection sensor	(5) Indication of specific type of platform the observation was made from	(6) Length of time observers maintained visual contact with marine mammals (min)	(7) Sea state (Beaufort scale)	(8) Visibility (nm)	(9) Sound source in use at time of sighting (Y/N)	(10) Indication of whether animal is <200 yd, 200-500 yd, 500-1000 yd, 1000-2000 yd, or >2000 yd from sound source	(11) Mitigation implementation – whether operation of sonar sensor was delayed, or sonar was powered down or shutdown, and how long the delay was; or whether navigation was changed or delayed	(12) If source in use is a hull-mounted sonar, relative bearing of animal from ship and estimation of animal's motion relative to ship	(13) Observed behavior – Watchstanders shall report, in plain language and without trying to categorize in any way, the observed behavior of the animal(s), and if any calves are present

No major training exercises were conducted in the MITT study area during this reporting period.

(iii) Evaluation (based on data gathered during all exercises) of mitigation effectiveness

There were zero major training exercises conducted in the MITT Study Area this reporting period.

Table 1-iii-10. MITT Study Area major training exercises.

MTE Type	Dates	Exercise Days	# of US Ships Involved (MFAS and non-MFAS)	# of Marine Mammal Sightings	# of Marine Mammals
No major training exercises were conducted in the MITT study area during this reporting period.					

MITT Study Area Major Training Exercise Marine Mammal Observations

There were zero major training exercises conducted in the MITT Study Area this reporting period therefore there is no sighting data to report.

MITT Study Area Major Training Exercise Mitigations

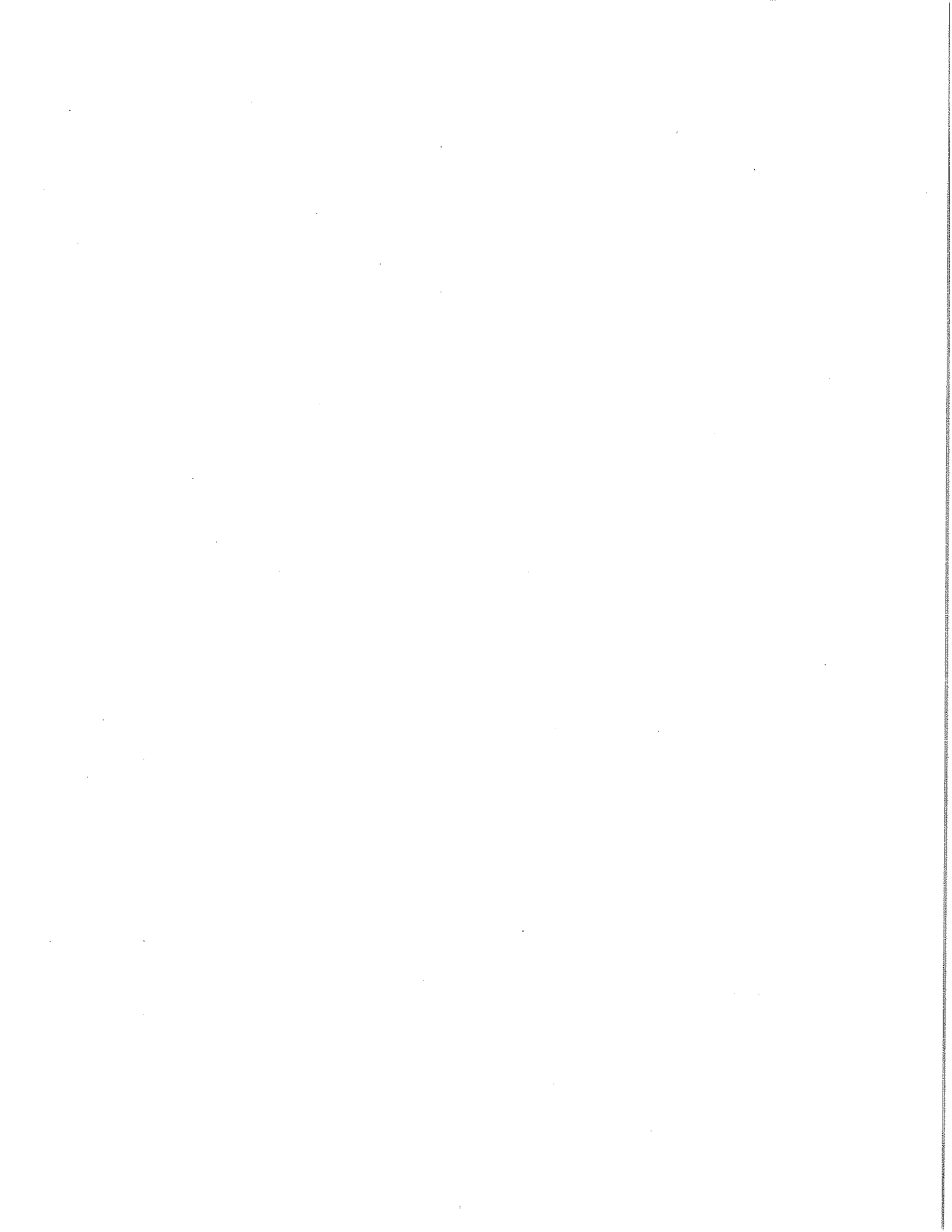
There were zero major training exercises conducted in the MITT Study Area this reporting period therefore there is no mitigation to report.

SUMMARY: Mitigation Effectiveness and Navy Safety Zone Adherence

There were zero major training exercises conducted in the MITT Study Area this reporting period therefore there is nothing to report regarding mitigation effectiveness or safety zone adherence. The Protective Measures Assessment Protocol (PMAP) is required to be used prior to each activity requiring mitigation to ensure proper mitigation and safety zones are utilized.

(iv) Exercise Information for Each SINKEX

SINKEX events were not conducted in the MITT Study Area during the reporting period.



Authorized sound sources 50 CFR §218.95		Authorized Amount (03Aug15- 02Aug16)	Actual Usage (03Aug15- 02Aug16)	% Used of Authorized Amount
E8	>60 lb to 100 lb NEW	16 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E9	>100 lb to 250 lb NEW	4 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E10	>250 lb to 500 lb NEW	12 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E11	>500 lb to 650 lb NEW	6 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E12	>650 lb to 1,000 lb NEW	184 detonations	0 detonations	0%

Classified data

(C) Table 2-i-2. 5-year cumulative training sound source usage within the MITT Study Area by source bin.

Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (03Aug15 to 02Aug16)	5-year Authorized Amount (03Aug15 to 02Aug16)	5-yr Cumulative Usage (03Aug15 to 02Aug20)	% Used of 5-yr Authorized Amount
Active Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Training				
LF4	0	615 hours	#	#
LF5	0	55 hours	#	#
LF6	0	200 hours	#	#
MF1	149	9,360 hours	#	#
MF2	0	3,125 hours	#	#
MF3	2	960 hours	#	#
MF4	6.5	1,070 hours	#	#
MF5	66	12,940 items	#	#
MF6	1	165 items	#	#
MF8	0	615 hours	#	#
MF9	0	235 hours	#	#
MF10	0	1,155 hours	#	#
MF11	0	1,620 hours	#	#
MF12	0	3,280 hours	#	#
HF1	0	565 hours	#	#
HF4	0.13	5,300 hours	#	#
HF5	0	1,680 hours	#	#
HF6	0	5,865 items	#	#
ASW1	0	720 hours	#	#
ASW2	0	3,300 items	#	#
ASW3	0	19,675 hours	#	#
ASW4	0	160 items	#	#
TORP1	2	575 items	#	#
TORP2	10	310 items	#	#
M3	0	560 hours	#	#
SD1	0	11,705 hours	#	#
Explosive Sources Used During Annual Training				
E1	0	50,700 detonations	0	0%
E2	0	530 detonations	0	0%
E3	7	4,660 detonations	7	0%
E4	0	2,100 detonations	0	0%
E5	0	3,420 detonations	0	0%
E6	3	380 detonations	3	<1%
E8	0	80 detonations	0	0%

Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (03Aug15 to 03Aug16)	5-year Authorized Amount (03Aug15 to 03Aug16)	5-yr Cumulative Usage (03Aug15 to 03Aug20)	% Used of 5-yr Authorized Amount
E9	0	20 detonations	0	0%
E10	0	60 detonations	0	0%
E11	0	30 detonations	0	0%
E12	0	920 detonations	0	0%

Classified data

(2) (C) Improved Extended Echo-Ranging System (IEER) sonobuoy summary

IEER sonobuoys were not used within the MITT. IEER buoys have been phased out of the inventory for training, and are no longer planned or anticipated to be used during training in the MITT. However, they could possibly be used during some testing activities during future years.

(3) MITT – Geographic Information Presentation

The geographic extent U.S. Navy use of sound sources within the MITT Study Area from 03August 2015 to 02 August 2016 is derived from sonar positional reporting system (SPORTS) data and is classified at the confidential level in a separate classified report to NMFS.