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In accordance with the Letter of Authorization
Under the MMPA and ITS authorization under
the ESA 12 August 2012

Annual Range Complex Unclassified Exercise Report

16 February 2013 to 15 February 2014

**For The U.S. Navy
Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC)**

15 April 2014

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MARIANA ISLANDS RANGE COMPLEX

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy prepared this Annual Range Complex Exercise Report covering the period from 16 February 2013 to 15 February 2014 in compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC).

In the Mariana Islands Range Complex Letter of Authorization “Annual MIRC report”, the following report subsections were specified and are present within this report for the MIRC:

- (1) Mid-Frequency Active Sonar (MFAS)/High-Frequency Active Sonar (HFAS) Major Training Exercises for Reporting (MTER).
 - (i) Exercise Information (for each MTER).
 - (ii) Individual Marine Mammal Sighting Information (for each MTER).
 - (iii) Evaluation (based on data gathered during all MTER) of effectiveness of mitigation measures designed to avoid exposing marine mammals to MFAS. This evaluation shall identify the specific observations that support any conclusion the Navy reaches about the effectiveness of the mitigation.
- (2) Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) Summary
 - (i) Total annual hours of each type of sonar source
 - (ii) Cumulative Impact Report
- (3) Sinking Exercises (SINKEX)
 - (i) Exercise information
 - (ii) Individual marine mammal observation information
- (4) Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER)/Advanced Extended Echo Ranging (AEER) Summary
 - (i) Total number of IEER and AEER events
 - (ii) Total expended/detonated rounds (buoys)
 - (iii) Total number of self-scuttled IEER rounds
- (5) Explosives Summary
 - (i) Total annual number of each type of explosive exercise
 - (ii) Total annual expended/detonated rounds for each explosive type

This unclassified annual exercise report covers the period from 16 February 2013 to 15 February 2014, major training exercises did not occur in the Mariana Islands Range Complex during the reporting period. All classified information will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report. The data collection period for monitoring and reporting is not specifically stated in the MIRC Letter of Authorization (LOA) as it is for other Navy range complexes. In order to provide adequate time to collect, compile, and validate the range data prior to the 15 April 2014 MIRC annual exercise report required submission date, a data cutoff date of 15 February 2014 was chosen by the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. This amount of time is consistent with other annual exercise reporting requirements. In an effort to provide a better representation of annual exercise data for the MIRC, the Navy will in the future combine exercise data from 16 February to 15 February and compare it to the annual allocations provided in the MIRC Letter of Authorization. This representation of annual exercise data shall be repeated in future annual reports. To provide accounting for the entire five year period of the authorization, the Navy will also submit a final report at the end of the five years to provide comprehensive totals of authorized usage.

(1) MIRC – MFAS/HFAS Major Training Exercise Summary

Between 16 February 2013 and 15 February 2014 major training exercises were not conducted.

(i) Exercise Information (for each MTER). NTR.

(ii) Individual marine mammal sighting information by exercise. NTR.

(iii) Evaluation of effectiveness (based on data gathered during all MTER).

Between 16 February 2013 and 15 February 2014 major training exercises were not conducted.

Mitigation Effectiveness Discussion

Due to the lack of major training exercises occurring during this reporting period the data needed to evaluate mitigation effectiveness during major training exercises is not available.

(2) MIRC – ASW Summary

(i) Total annual hours of each type of sonar source

Total annual hours of each type of sonar source is classified and has been forwarded in the classified version of this report.

Table M2-i. Sonar authorization within the MIRC by source.

Authorized MFAS sources §218.100 (c)(1) of NMFS MIRC Final Rule	Annual Amount Authorized
(i) AN/SQS-53 (hours)	2,173 hours
(ii) AN/SQS-56 (hours)	141 hours
(iii) AN/SSQ-62 (# of buoys)	1,654 buoys
(iv) AN/AQS-22 (# of dips)	592 dips
(v) AN/BQQ-10 (hours)	12 hours
(vi) Mk-48/Mk-46/Mk-54 (# of torpedoes)	40 runs
(vii) AN/SSQ-110 (IEER) (# of buoys)	106 buoys
(viii) AN/SSQ-125 (AEER) (# of buoys)	106 buoys
(ix) Range Pingers	280 hours
(x) PUTR Transponder	280 hours

(ii) Cumulative Impact Report

From NMFS Final Rule: *“To the extent practical, the Navy, in coordination with NMFS, shall develop and implement a method of annually reporting non-major training (i.e. ULT) utilizing hull mounted sonar. The report shall present an annual (and seasonal where practicable) depiction of non-major training exercises geographically across MIRC. The Navy shall include (in the MIRC annual report) a brief annual progress update on the status of the development of an effective and unclassified method to report this information until an agreed-upon (with NMFS) method has been developed and implemented.”*

Graphic representations of sonar use within the MIRC (annual and seasonal) are provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report. The precise locations and frequency of ASW training is classified. There is currently no method to declassify the sensitivity of this data in order to publish this type of information in an unclassified report. For this reason the only method available for this information to be disseminated for the foreseeable future is in a classified version of the annual exercise report which is forwarded separately to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(3) MIRC – Sinking Exercises (SINKEX)

Between 16 February 2013 and 15 February 2014 Sinking Exercises (SINKEX) were not conducted.

(4) MIRC – IEER/AEER Summary

Improved Extended Echo-Ranging System (IEER) and Advanced Extended Echo-Ranging System (AEER) sonobuoy use is classified, this data is forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report.

(5) MIRC – Explosives Summary

Table M5-1. Explosives use within the MIRC.

(i) Total annual number of each type of explosive exercise					
Authorized Exercise	Total Exercise Amount Feb13-Feb14	Amount Authorized Annually	% Total Used To Total Authorized	Total Amount Used Aug 2010-Aug 2015	Total Used of Five Year Authorization To Date (Amount/%)
(A) Gunnery Exercises (S-S GUNEX)	2	12	17%	2	60/3%
(B) Bombing Exercise (BOMBEX)	4	4	100%	6	20/30%
(C) Sinking Exercises (SINKEX)	0	2	0%	2	10/20%
(D) Extended Echo Ranging and Improved Echo Ranging (IEER/AEER) Systems	*	106	*	*	*/*
(E) Demolitions (Underwater Demolition)	7	50	14%	14	250/6%
(F) Air to Surface Missile Exercises (A-S MISSILEX)	0	2	0%	1	10/10%
(ii) Total annual expended/detonated rounds for each explosive type					
Category	Authorized Quantity/Year	Total Amount Used Feb 2013-Feb 2014			
(A) 5” and 76 mm naval gunfire rounds	440	49			
(B) Bombs (MK-82,83, 84, GBU-38, 32, 31)	4	MK-82 (2), GBU-32 (2)			
(C) SINKEX	HARPOON (10), 5” Rounds (800), HELLFIRE (4), MAVERICK (16), GBU-12 (20), GBU-10 (8), MK-48 (2), Underwater Demolitions (4)	0			
(D) IEER/AEER Systems	106	*			
(E) Demolitions	50	7			
(F) Maverick missiles	2	0			

*classified data forwarded separately to the National Marine Fisheries Service.