United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

APR 1 2 2017

In Reply Refer To:
01EPIF00-2015-F-0025
01EPIF00-2016-F-0185

Commander Jeffrey S. Powell
Director, Pacific Programs Office
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (OASN)
Energy, Installations and Environment (EI&E)
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Subject: Reinitiation of the 2015 Biological Opinion on the Relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and Associated Activities on Guam

Dear Commander Powell:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2017 that included the *Revised Biological Assessment for the Marine Corps Relocation from Okinawa to Guam* (hereinafter referred to as Revised BA). We discussed your Revised BA during our March 13, 2017 meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. On March 24, 2017 we requested in writing information and identified items needing further clarification in the Revised BA. This letter acknowledges that the Service has received your responses on April 12, 2017. These responses and additional information provided, sufficiently address our questions. This letter confirms that we have received a complete consultation package.

The consultation addresses the potential effects of the relocation of the U.S. Marines to Guam and the construction and operation of a live-fire training range complex on federally-listed species and designated critical habitat on Guam. The formal consultation will include the following additional newly listed species: the Mariana eight-spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*); Humped tree snail (*Partula gibba*); Guam tree snail (*Partula radiolata*); Fragile tree snail (*Samoana fragilis*); *Bulbophyllum guamense*; *Cycas micronesica*; *Dendrobium guamense*; *Heritiera longipetiolata*; *Tabernaemontana rotensis*; and *Tuberolabium guamense.* Pursuant to our meeting on March 13, 2017 and subsequent teleconferences, the consultation will also include the Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) to address new information

on this species and DoN's request for an amendment to the amount of take of the Mariana fruit bat specified in the 2015 Biological Opinion (Service File #01EPIF00-2015-F-0025). The DoN also requested our concurrence that the proposed action as described in the Revised BA is *not likely to adversely affect* the endangered plant, *Eugenia bryanii*.

We understand that the Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Service have been in formal consultation since February 2016, on 11 of the 23 newly listed species of Micronesia (80 FR 59424). Since that time, the DoN has conducted extensive surveys for listed species in, and proximate to, the project areas resulting in significant additional species occurrence data and information, that is contained in the Revised BA and appended Geographic Information System (GIS) data files.

The consultation schedule is progressing as agreed. Service staff is working closely with DoN's technical staff and have scheduled several meetings in the next few weeks to further discuss the following items:

1. Monitoring plan and specifics for all out-planting vegetation restoration activities mentioned in the Revised BA – initial meeting set for April 18th;
2. Monitoring plan and translocation protocol for the Mariana eight-spot butterfly and the three listed snail species, respectively – meeting set for April 25th; and
3. Discussion of large-scale Brown tree snake control methods and success criteria – meeting time is TBA.

We look forward to continuing our regularly scheduled meetings with you and your team over the 90 day consultation period and concluding this consultation in 135 days from the receipt of DoN's Revised BA on March 3, 2017. We appreciate your extended efforts to conserve listed species. If you have questions regarding our response or require our technical assistance, please contact Lasha-lynn Salbosa (b) (6) or Toni Mizerek (b) (6)

Sincerely,

Mary M. Abrams, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor
Pacific Islands Fish & Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service