

NAVY

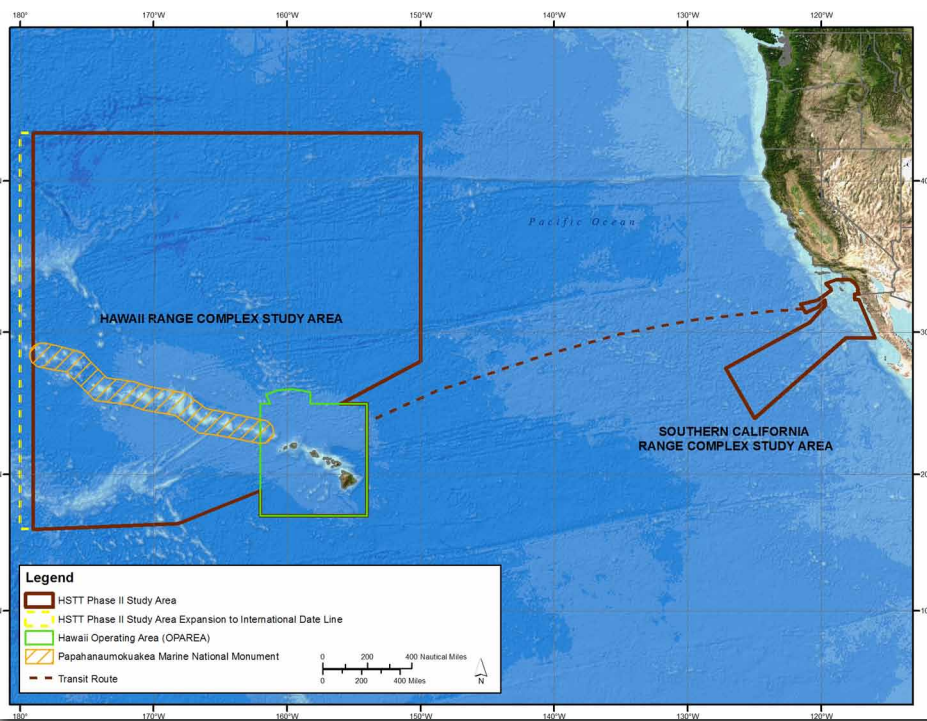
Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

The Importance of Training and Testing

Navy Mission. The U.S. Navy's mission, derived from Title 10 of the U.S. Code, is to "maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas." To accomplish this mission, the Navy establishes and executes at-sea training and testing programs and ensures forces and commands have access to military ranges, operating areas and airspace for training and testing. Training provides Navy personnel with the opportunity to learn and practice skills needed to conduct a wide range of activities. The Navy also conducts research, development, test and evaluation of new technology, tactics, weapons systems, vessels and aircraft to ensure that its forces are properly equipped. Further, the Navy's access to military ranges must be maintained because those ranges are vital for training and testing.

Realistic Training

Realistic training allows U.S. Navy personnel maintain the highest level of readiness and capability. Diverse training opportunities ensure Navy personnel are able to react swiftly and decisively in a wide range of potential situations from combat to civilian evacuations and disaster relief.



Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area (HSTT).

The study area for the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) includes the:

- ◆ Hawaii Range Complex as extended to the International Dateline;
- ◆ Southern California Range Complex including the San Diego Bay;
- ◆ Silver Strand Training Complex;
- ◆ Areas on the high seas where training and sonar testing may occur during vessel transit between the two range complexes; and
- ◆ Some Navy pierside locations.

Navy Training in the HSTT. The Navy has trained in waters off the coasts of Southern California and Hawaii for decades to prepare Navy personnel and other military forces for global conflicts and homeland defense/homeland security activities. The Navy ensures that military personnel are prepared to go into harm's way through rigorous, real-life training in the air and at sea.

Navy Testing in the HSTT. The Navy conducts a variety of testing activities in the HSTT. These activities are broad in scope and range from the scientific study of the marine environment to the testing and evaluation of new technologies and weapons. Sometimes these activities are carried out as part of Navy training activities because of the need to use ships, submarines or aircraft, or because some aspect of the training activity is an important part of the test. These testing activities are essential to ensuring military personnel have the best materials, equipment and tactics possible.

Importance of the HSTT.

The HSTT is essential for meeting the Navy's mission. The study area has unique attributes, including location, proximity, environment and size, that make it an ideal training and testing venue.

Location Near Homeports of Naval Forces

San Diego, Calif., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, are naval homeports, each having a high concentration of key Navy organizations, commands, vessels and infrastructure. This means more time spent training rather than traveling to training areas. In addition, training close to home reduces fuel costs and usage.

Proximity to Other Ranges in the Southwest

Southern California contains the most capable and heavily used concentration of Navy ranges in the eastern Pacific.

Proximity to the Western Pacific

Hawaii serves as an ideal en route training location for units deploying from the West Coast to the western Pacific Ocean or Middle East. Range capabilities in Hawaii provide an opportunity for deploying units to train in multiple warfare areas.

In-transit Training Space

The transit areas linking these two critical range complexes provide ample opportunity for ships and aircraft to conduct valuable en route training and testing activities.

Training Environment

The ability to train in underwater topography that is similar to the littoral (nearshore or shallow water) areas of the world is crucial to Navy deployment preparations. The underwater areas of the Southern California Range Complex are

essential to Navy training in anti-submarine warfare, which is conducted in the littoral areas. The training environment is also important for air, surface, subsurface and amphibious training activities.

The Hawaii ranges provide an opportunity to train in an unfamiliar environment, and to make the real-time adjustments required by Sailors and Marines. The large training area available within the Hawaii Range Complex allows training to take place on a geographic scale that replicates possible real-world events. There are also large remote areas within the complex that provide an ideal setting for long distance tests and multinational exercises such as the Rim of the Pacific training exercise.



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Training Activities.

Training activities within the HSTT supply Navy personnel with opportunities to learn and practice skills needed to operate complex weapons systems. Training activities consist of basic and specialized individual military skills, intermediate skills or small unit training, and advanced, integrated training events. Training activities provide realistic experience and include:

- ◆ Operating aircraft, ships and submarines;
- ◆ Conducting weapons training;
- ◆ Conducting mine counter-measures; and
- ◆ Detecting and locating submarines.

All the skills involved in conducting these activities safely and effectively are challenging to achieve and difficult to maintain without constant practice. The Navy maintains a rigorous, comprehensive training regimen to ensure personnel are ready to use these skills when called upon.



Testing Activities.

Testing activities within the HSTT are also important for maintaining Fleet readiness. New and emerging technologies are constantly being researched and developed by the Department of Defense and eventually these technologies must be tested and evaluated. Because sonar systems are critical to the Navy's ability to defend against adversary submarines and anti-ship mines, it is vital to conduct scientific research, evaluate new systems and maintain the operational capability of current systems. The study area has provided an ideal environment for testing the quality and safety of these weapons systems for decades.

To fulfill its mission, the U.S. Navy establishes and executes at-sea training programs and ensures forces have access to military ranges, operating areas and airspace for training and testing. The Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing study area is essential for meeting the Navy's mission and training Sailors for emergencies and national security threats.

TRAINING AND TESTING WITH EXPLOSIVES

Training with explosives under real-life conditions is necessary for the readiness of Sailors who may be called to respond to emergencies and national security threats. Operating in a high-stress environment – including the use of and exposure to live ordnance and explosives – provides an opportunity for Sailors to practice the critical tasks and coordination essential to survival and success. These skills are highly perishable, and practice is necessary to ensure accuracy and instill confidence in military personnel.

Training and testing with explosives significantly enhances the safety of U.S. forces by improving combat readiness, equipment reliability and personal safety. To the extent possible, the Navy uses simulation and other available technologies when training and testing. Simulation, however, cannot completely replace training and testing in a real world environment.

