

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
DEACTIVATION OF THE 6594TH TEST GROUP
HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, OAHU, HAWAII

INTRODUCTION

1. The U.S. Air Force proposes to deactivate the 6594th Test Group at Hickam Air Force Base (HAFB), Oahu, Hawaii. The 6594th Test Group was established in 1958 to support U.S. Air Force Systems Command missile and space development operations in the Western Pacific area. It also provided support to the U.S. Coast Guard and Honolulu Joint Rescue Coordination Center on an as-available, non-interference basis.
2. The 6594th Test Group is comprised of 520 Department of Defense personnel, as follows:
 - 95 officers
 - 409 enlisted personnel
 - 16 civilians (U.S. Civil Service)

Other personnel who support the 6594th include 273 from the 15th Air Base Wing (ABW), as follows:

- 77 military
 - 196 civilians (U.S. Civil Service)
3. Aircraft assigned to the 6594th are:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
7	JC-130B
3	JC-130H
5	HH-53C
3	HC-130P

4. Deactivation would involve terminating the mission of the 6594th Test Group, redistributing personnel and aircraft, and modifying the aircraft for other functions.

5. Of the 639 military personnel involved, 500 will be transferred to Air Force Bases outside of Hawaii, and 139 will be reassigned within Hawaii. Of the 210 civilian personnel, 72 will be reassigned, 79 will be changed to a lower grade, and 59 will receive mandatory separations.
6. Deactivation will occur in an optimum and orderly fashion and be complete within three months of T-Day, June 30, 1986.

IMPACTS

1.0 SOCIOECONOMICS

1. The primary impacts will involve personal and municipal economics. The 59 civilians who receive mandatory separations will be without jobs. The 79 who are scheduled to receive a change to a lower grade will be eligible for grade or pay retention and therefore will not receive less income. The impact will be realized in future actions when the employees' pay does not increase as it would had they not been changed to a lower grade.
2. The economic activity of HAFB and its Region of Influence (ROI) will be reduced due to the civilian displacements and by the 500 military personnel who will be departing Hawaii. It is estimated that there will be a decrease in the total economic impact (TEI) of HAFB on its ROI of about 3 %, from \$695.5 million (FY 1985) to \$671.6 million.
3. There will be a concurrent decrease in economic activity at HAFB, with base retail and commissary sales estimated to decrease 10%, from \$78.9 million (FY 1985) to \$71 million after deactivation.
4. Housing impacts are reviewed as positive, as 181 on-base and 319 off-base family housing units would become available.

2.0 TRAFFIC

1. Vehicular traffic impacts would likely be beneficial, although negligible, particularly for the area outside HAFB. At least 500 drivers/vehicles would depart the island, which has 500,000 registered vehicles.

2. Air traffic at HAFB would decrease about 25% as a result of deactivation. However, the decrease in total traffic must consider Honolulu International Airport and Barbers Point Naval Air Station. It is estimated that deactivation would reduce total local air traffic by less than 10%.

3.0 AIR QUALITY

These effects would be positive, as there would be some decreases in local vehicular and aircraft activity. However, these effects would be negligible.

4.0 NOISE

These effects would be positive, as there would be some decreases in noise due to a decrease in vehicular and air traffic. However, these effects would be negligible.

MITIGATIONS

1. The 70 separated Civil Service Personnel will be registered in the U.S. Military Priority Placement Program. They also will be given assistance by the 15th ABW civilian personnel office. Also, the Air Force will reduce to the extent possible the total number of mandatory separations.
2. Economics mitigations will be achieved primarily to the extent that mandatory separations are minimized and other Air Force personnel and aircraft are assigned to HAFB.

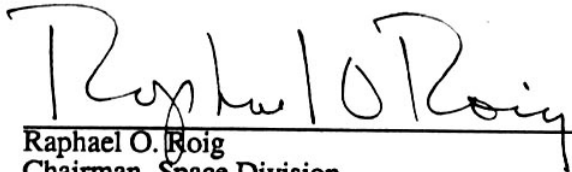
ALTERNATIVE

This would involve maintaining at HAFB the present configuration of the 6594th Test Group personnel, aircraft, and equipment, plus the 15th ABW military support personnel, even though there is no longer a mission for them to achieve. This would not be feasible.

FINDINGS

1. In view of the above, a finding of no significant impact is made.
2. An Environmental Assessment for the proposed Deactivation of the 6594th Test Group at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, dated June 1986, is on file at:

HQ SPACE DIVISION
Post Office Box 92960
Worldway Postal Center
Los Angeles, California 90009
ATTENTION: Mr. John R. Edwards, SD/DEV



Raphael O. Roig
Chairman, Space Division
Environmental Protection Committee



Date