

December 6, 2017

Questions from RAC/SAC regarding US Navy activities.

Responses provided by Janice Fukawa, Department of Defense Representative

(1) Are the activities of foreign countries that participate in RIMPAC covered in the EIS?

Our analysis of RIMPAC considers the activities proposed to be undertaken by foreign navies that are in furtherance of the RIMPAC exercise.

(2) Do participating foreign navies have a legal obligation/commitment to abide by U.S. regulations and/or the conditions in the EIS?

Under international law, a foreign naval vessel does not have a legal obligation to follow domestic U.S. regulations. However, before a foreign navy participates in RIMPAC, we request its vessels comply with U.S. protective measures and standards within the U.S. territorial sea.

(3) Can we/do we make them comply to certain regulations?

While requesting foreign navies comply with U.S. protective measures and standards within the U.S. territorial sea, the U.S. Navy also encourages foreign navies participating in RIMPAC to comply with these measures while operating in the international waters that comprise the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and the High Seas.