



5 September 2003

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Songsong Village Flood Insurance, Rota

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject study.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The purpose of this study is to determine typhoon induced stage frequency flood relationships for coastal areas in Songsong Village on Rota. This study will update the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and provide the Government of Saipan and the community of Rota the flood information necessary to regulate development within 100-year flood plains.

b. Rota is situated within a corridor for developing tropical cyclones. For any given year, two to three storms pass within 200 miles of Rota. Typhoon Jean (1968), Super-typhoon Pamela (1976) and more recently, Typhoon Paka (1997) have passed close enough to Rota to cause substantial flooding and destruction. Current FIRMs for the southeastern coastal areas lack base flood elevation data and therefore prevents the community of Rota from effectively managing construction activities.

c. Funds were received from Federal Emergency Management Agency on September 1998 to delineate coastal flood plains and base flood elevations and update the current FIRMs. The initial time and cost estimate was discussed in a meeting held with CNMI officials in May 1998.

d. Funding was provided to the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Vicksburg, Mississippi, to conduct the typhoon stage frequency analysis. This analysis will incorporate new coastal modeling techniques currently being developed for the Hurricane Evacuation Studies for the island of Guam. ERDC has submitted the draft hurricane analyses in December 2002. High water marks were determined from the Super Typhoon Pongsona event, however, the data will not change the flood maps. The draft flood maps were completed in June 2003 and will be forwarded to FEMA's new A-E technical consultant along with technical documents when they have been selected in October 2003. A final coordination meeting to discuss the draft maps is scheduled for November 2003.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest in this project, at this time.