



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Rota East Harbor, Rota

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

a. The Rota East Harbor study is being conducted under Section 107 of the Continuing Authority Program. The East Harbor is located in Sosanjaya Bay on the southwest of the island. The existing harbor facilities, prior to Super Typhoon Pongsona, consisted of a single lane launch ramp and a deteriorated 100-foot-long concrete pier/protective structure. The concrete pier/protective structure was destroyed by the super typhoon. The harbor is used by small, trailer-launched boats, primarily for commercial and recreational diving and fishing activities.

b. The feasibility phase of the study was initiated in FY99. Funds in the amount of \$100,000 were provided in FY02 to continue with the feasibility study. The alternative plan being considered is to widen the entrance channel to 60 feet and deepen to -11 feet below mean sea level. The turning basin would be enlarged to 100 feet by 100 feet and dredged to -9 feet. Based on a preliminary economic evaluation, it has been determined that the proposed improvements are not economically feasible. Termination of this study under Section 107 is underway.

c. Related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging action is a separately funded and authorized action from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government received a grant from EDA for shoreside and structural improvements. The original EDA project, prior to the Super Typhoon Pongsona included the repair and upgrade of the concrete pier/protective structure, seawall, launch ramp and shoreside facilities. Currently, revisions to the construction drawings are underway to reconstruct the concrete pier / protective structure, repair seawall, construct new launch ramp, and repair / upgrade the shoreside facilities. CNMI has requested the Honolulu District's assistance to monitor the construction of this project as a reimbursable activity.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Tenorio has expressed a strong interest in this project.