



## Key Points from the 2008 Brown Treesnake Working Group Meeting

Compiled and submitted on 4/24/08 by Christy Martin, Public Information Officer, CGAPS—  
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (808) 722-0995, [christym@rocketmail.com](mailto:christym@rocketmail.com)

The Brown Treesnake Working Group met in Honolulu on April 16-18, 2008 to discuss progress and challenges related to managing brown treesnakes and preventing their movement. Agency representatives and cooperators from Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the continental U.S. provided brief overviews on their efforts related to brown treesnake control, containment and research over the past year. Budgetary and logistical needs for the impending military buildup on Guam were also discussed.

### Current Funding

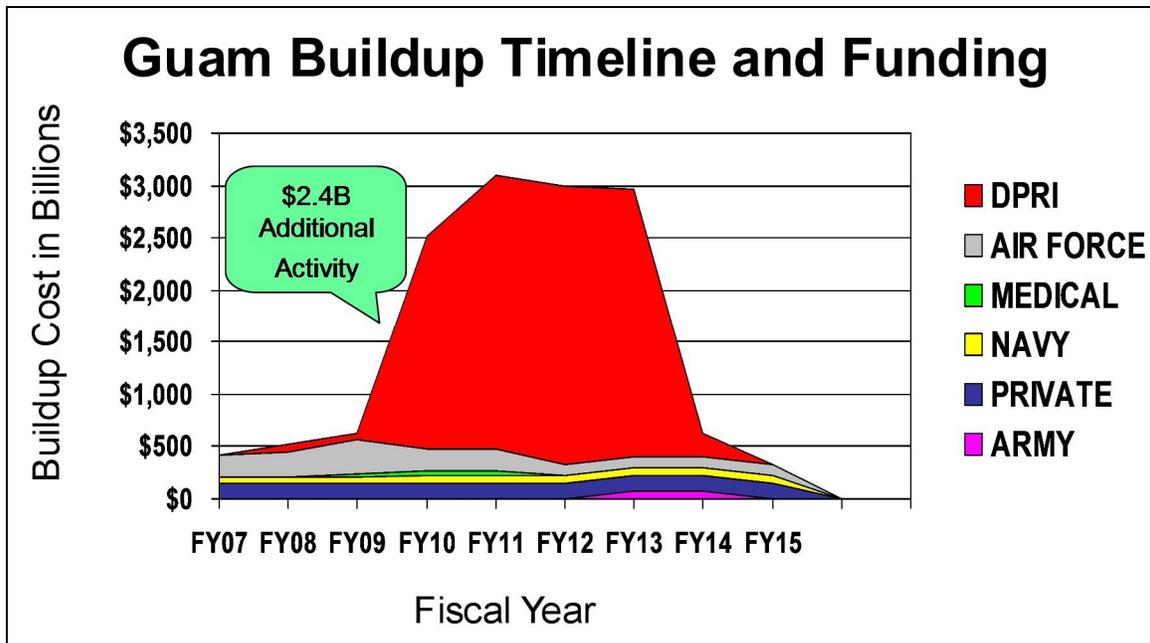
1. Issue: the funding mechanisms for keeping brown treesnakes are still not institutionalized. Year-to-year funds are largely due to the Department of Interior—Office of Insular Affairs, and the efforts of Senator Daniel Inouye for Congressional add-ons to the DoD. Secure funding mechanisms must be found for this program.

| AGENCY                         | AMOUNT             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Department of Interior         | \$2,940,782        |
| Department of Defense          | \$2,879,660        |
| U.S. Department of Agriculture | \$358,349          |
| Guam Power Authority           | \$80,355           |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$6,259,146</b> |

2. Efforts are underway to improve the second line of defense (snake inspection at the ports of entry). The CNMI has constructed cargo receiving areas within snake-proof walls and has mandated that all high-risk cargo be placed in the enclosures and inspected before being released. Hawai'i Department of Agriculture is working on gaining funding and authorities to implement a Biosecurity Plan which would aid in inspection capability at ports.

### Military Buildup on Guam:

1. Projected population increase for Guam to include 38,000 military personnel (from current 14,000) and families, 20,000 civilians, building and infrastructure, and a projected 600% increase in cargo movement. Timeline and spending projection:



- Current cost of the Brown Treesnake Interdiction Program is \$6.2 million per year. **With the increase in people, aircraft, ships, equipment and cargo, the projected costs to conduct inspections, trapping and snake-suppression on Guam will be \$20 million per year.**

### Snake trapping on Guam:

- Trapping efforts around ports of exit and in cargo facilities removed 1,255 snakes in 2007 (USDA Wildlife Services).
- Trapping history shows that we do not tend to catch the smaller or larger snakes; different baits (mice size, etc.) affect the size of snake caught; trapping is much less effective in areas where prey are easily available. Research is ongoing.
- Chemical research into snake attractants (for more successful trapping) is ongoing.
- Widescale snake control on Guam is a goal and research is ongoing. Past research has found that acetaminophen is toxic to snakes and it has been registered with the EPA for brown treesnake control. Current research is looking at refining cost-effective methods for delivery of acetaminophen to snakes for snake suppression over large areas. This would reduce the chances of snakes finding their way into transportation networks and may one day allow native birds being raised in captive-breeding facilities to be released.