

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Informational Briefing/Hearing/ Oversight Hearing / Roundtable Hearing

STANDING COMMITTEE / SENATOR	HEARING	COMMITTEE REPORT	HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement.	Informational Briefing	Digital Committee Report for the Informational Briefing on the Military Buildup-Defense.	5/4/26 2:00 p.m. 6/26/26 2:00 p.m.	7/27/26	



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building
2238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senatortelot@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

July 27, 2026

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Informational Briefing on the Military Buildup

Buenas yan Håfa adai, Speaker Blas,

Transmitted herewith is the **Committee Report on the Informational Briefing on the Military Buildup** held by the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement on Monday, May 4, 2026, 2:00pm and Friday, June 26, 2026, 2:00pm in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

Sincerely,



TELO T. TAITAGUE
Senator



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:
July 27, 2026 12:58 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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COMMITTEE REPORT

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

- I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - a. Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.
 - b. Civil-Military Coordination Council**
 - Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
 - Military-driven population planning and impacts
 - c. Housing**
 - Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
 - Development plans and post-buildup land use
 - Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.
 - d. Healthcare**
 - Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
 - Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
 - Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts
 - e. Labor and Workforce**
 - Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
 - Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition
 - f. Infrastructure**
 - Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.
 - g. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines**



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II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

a. Regional Relations

- Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
- Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08

b. Housing

- Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand

c. Deep-Sea Mining

- Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.

d. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense

- Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.

e. Updates on MITT Training and Testing

- Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa

- Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

- Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).



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- Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- e. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- f. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

27 April 2026 at 12:20

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Rowena Fejeran <senatortelot.rowena@gmail.com>, Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>, senatortelot.dylan@gmail.com

April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**Subject:** **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.***Håfa Adai!*

The *Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* will conduct Informational Briefing on **Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, on the following agenda item (s):

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:**I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office****a. Community Defense Liaison Office**

- Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.

a. Civil-Military Coordination Council

- Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
- Military-driven population planning and impacts

a. Housing

- Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
- Development plans and post-buildup land use
- Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.

a. Healthcare

- Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
- Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
- Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts

a. Labor and Workforce

- Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
- Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition

a. Infrastructure

- Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.

a. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines

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- Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand

a. Deep-Sea Mining

- Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.

a. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense

- Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.

a. Updates on MITT Training and Testing

- Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

a. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa

- Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

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- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
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IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- a. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- a. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- a. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- a. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- a. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

Public Hearing Testimony: Written testimony on the agenda items may be emailed to senatortelot@gmail.com or delivered to the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague, Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, Guam.

Public Access to Testimony: Testimony and other documents related to the agenda items can be viewed at: [Military Buildup/Defense Info Brief_05.04.26](#).

The drive file is periodically updated as testimony is received. You can also contact the office of Senator Telo T. Taitague to request copies at senatortelot@gmail.com or (671) 989-8356.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance of accommodation should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email senatortelot@gmail.com.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building
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Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com



FIRST NOTICE PH_05.04.26 Info Brief.docx.pdf
385K



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Telo T. Taitague
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April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media
From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson
Subject: **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

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Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office

- a. Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.
- a. Civil-Military Coordination Council**
 - Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
 - Military-driven population planning and impacts
- a. Housing**
 - Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
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 - Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts
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 - Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
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- a. Infrastructure**
 - Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.
- a. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines**

II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

- a. Regional Relations**
 - Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
 - Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08
- a. Housing**
 - Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand
- a. Deep-Sea Mining**
 - Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.
- a. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense**
 - Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.
- a. Updates on MITT Training and Testing**
 - Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.
- a. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa**



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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- Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

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FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 04/27/2026 12:15 PM

 **Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan, Committee Director

 **Public Hearing Date:** 05/04/2026 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE (/notices?division_id=282)

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April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

Subject: **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

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I.

**Vera Topasna, Executive Director,
Community Defense Liaison Office**

a.

**Community Defense Liaison
Office**

•

Scope of issues,
active/secured grants, and
priority projects to address most
pressing issues on Guam.

a.

**Civil-Military Coordination
Council**

-

Community
Defense Initiatives for readiness
and emergency communications
infrastructure

-

population Military-driven
planning and
impacts

a.

Housing

-

Balance of on-
base vs. off-base housing supply

-

Development
plans and post-buildup land use

-

Impact on local
housing/rental market and
mitigation strategies.

a.

Healthcare

-

Expansion of
military healthcare capacity
(personnel/dependents)

-

Anticipated use of
local healthcare systems

-

Preparedness
measures tied to buildup
impacts

a.

Labor and Workforce

-

Partnerships with
UOG, GCC and other trade
programs

-

Impact of
military-related jobs on wages
and labor market competition

a.

Infrastructure

-

Status and
timeline of the Integrated
Missile Defense System.

a.

Funding status and impacts

II.

**Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's
Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs,
Office of the Governor of Guam**

a.

Regional Relations

-

Buildup impacts
on commercial port operations.

-

Status of DoD
coordination on Association of
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a.

Housing

-

Government
strategy to meet off-island
workforce housing demand

a.

Deep-Sea Mining

-

Relationship to
Military Buildup/Defense near
Guam and CNMI.

a.

**Cultural and Environmental
Impact of Military Buildup/Defense**

-

Protection of
cultural sites and environmental
resources.

a.

**Updates on MITT Training
and Testing**

-

Timeline status
and potential expansion of
training and study area.

a.

**Rotation of Marine Corps
Personnel from Okinawa**

-

Status of
Okinawa-Guam rotations and
operational role on Guam.

III.

**Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security
Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of
Civil Defense**

a.

Cybersecurity

-

Guam's
current cybersecurity
readiness and capabilities.

-

Priority gaps
and actions to strengthen
cyber defense infrastructure.

-

Contingency
planning for an islandwide
cyber-attack.

a.

Emergency Communication

-

Impact of
Fusion Center access loss
and restoration efforts

-

Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).

-

Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV.

Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

a.

Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.

a.

Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.

a.

Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.

a.

Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.

a.

Civilian roles and expectations
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a.

Implications of Operation Epic
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SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

1 message

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

30 April 2026 at 12:30

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Rowena Fejeran <senatortelot.rowena@gmail.com>, Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>, senatortelot.dylan@gmail.com

April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**Subject:** **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.***Håfa Adai!*

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a. Deep-Sea Mining

- Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.

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- Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building
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Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com



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Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement will conduct Informational Briefing on **Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, on the following agenda item (s):

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office

- a. Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.
- a. Civil-Military Coordination Council**
 - Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
 - Military-driven population planning and impacts
- a. Housing**
 - Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
 - Development plans and post-buildup land use
 - Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.
- a. Healthcare**
 - Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
 - Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
 - Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts
- a. Labor and Workforce**
 - Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
 - Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition
- a. Infrastructure**
 - Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.
- a. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines**

II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

- a. Regional Relations**
 - Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
 - Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08
- a. Housing**
 - Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand
- a. Deep-Sea Mining**
 - Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.
- a. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense**
 - Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.
- a. Updates on MITT Training and Testing**
 - Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.
- a. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa**



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

- Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

a. Emergency Communication

- Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
- Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- a. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- a. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- a. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- a. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- a.** Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

Public Hearing Testimony: Written testimony on the agenda items may be emailed to senatortelot@gmail.com or delivered to the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague, Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, Guam.

Public Access to Testimony: Testimony and other documents related to the agenda items can be viewed at: [Military Buildup/Defense Info Brief_05.04.26](#).

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SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

 PRINT

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 04/30/2026 12:30 PM

 **Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan, Committee Director

 **Public Hearing Date:** 05/04/2026 02:00 PM

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April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

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INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

I.

**Vera Topasna, Executive Director,
Community Defense Liaison Office**

a.

**Community Defense
Liaison Office**

•

Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.

a.

**Civil-Military Coordination
Council**

•

Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure

•

Military-driven
population planning and
impacts

a.

Housing

•

Balance of on-
base vs. off-base housing
supply

•

Development
plans and post-buildup land
use

•

Impact on local
housing/rental market and
mitigation strategies.

a.

Healthcare

•

Expansion of
military healthcare capacity
(personnel/dependents)

•

Anticipated use
of local healthcare systems

•

Preparedness
measures tied to buildup
impacts

a.

Labor and Workforce

•

Partnerships
with UOG, GCC and other
trade programs

-

Impact of
military-related jobs on
wages and labor market
competition

a.

Infrastructure

-

Status and
timeline of the Integrated
Missile Defense System.

a.

**Funding status and impacts
on buildup project timelines**

II.

**Carlotta Leon Guerrero,
Governor’s Chief Advisor on Military &
Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of
Guam**

a.

Regional Relations

-

Buildup
impacts on commercial port
operations.

-

Status of DoD
coordination on Association
of Pacific Island Legislatures
(APIL) Resolution No. 64-
BOD-08

a.

Housing

-

Government
strategy to meet off-island
workforce housing demand

a.

Deep-Sea Mining

-

Relationship
to Military Buildup/Defense
near Guam and CNMI.

a.

Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense

-

Protection of
cultural sites and
environmental resources.

a.

Updates on MITT Training and Testing

-

Timeline
status and potential
expansion of training and
study area.

a.

Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa

Personnel from Okinawa

-

Status of
Okinawa-Guam rotations and
operational role on Guam.

III.

**Esther Aguigui, Homeland
Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security &
Office of Civil Defense**

a.

Cybersecurity

-

Guam’s
current cybersecurity
readiness and capabilities.

-

Priority
gaps and actions to
strengthen cyber defense
infrastructure.

-

Contingency
planning for an
islandwide cyber-attack.

a.

Emergency Communication

-

Impact of
Fusion Center access loss
and restoration efforts

-

Status and

improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).

•

Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV.

**Brigadier General Karin Watson,
Adjutant General, Guam National Guard**

a.

Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.

a.

Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.

a.

Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.

a.

Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.

a.

Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.

a.

Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

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Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senatorfelo@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan • 38th Guam Legislature

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room
Monday, May 4th, 2026 beginning at 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office

a. Community Defense Liaison Office

- Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.

b. Civil-Military Coordination Council

- Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
- Military-driven population planning and impacts

c. Housing

- Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
- Development plans and post-buildup land use
- Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.

d. Healthcare

- Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
- Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
- Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts

e. Labor and Workforce

- Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
- Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition

f. Infrastructure

- Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.

g. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines



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CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room
Monday, May 4th, 2026 beginning at 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

**II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military &
Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam**

a. Regional Relations

- Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
- Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 60

b. Housing

- Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand

c. Deep-Sea Mining

- Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.

d. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense

- Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.

e. Updates on MITT Training and Testing

- Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa

- Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.



OFFICE OF SENATOR

Telo T. Taitague

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,
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Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room
Monday, May 4th, 2026 beginning at 2:00 P.M.
AGENDA

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

- Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
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Telo J. Taitague

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Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room
Monday, May 4th, 2026 beginning at 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- e. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- f. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.



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FIRST CONTINUATION NOTICE of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

2 messages

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

19 June 2026 at 08:05

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Robert Underwood <robertunderwood@pacificcenterforislandsecurity.com>, Leland Bettis <lelandbettis@pacificcenterforislandsecurity.com>, Monaeka Flores <mflores.guam@gmail.com>, prutehigu@gmail.com, Rowena Fejeran <senatortelot.rowena@gmail.com>, Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>, Isah Peredo <senatortelot.isah@gmail.com>, senatortelot.alana@gmail.com

June 19, 2026

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**Subject:** **FIRST CONTINUATION NOTICE of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.***Håfa Adai!*

The *Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* has recessed the Informational Briefing on **Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and will continue/reconvene on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00pm** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, on the following agenda item (s):

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:**I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office****a. Community Defense Liaison Office**

- i. Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.

b. Civil-Military Coordination Council

- i. Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
- ii. Military-driven population planning and impacts

c. Housing

- i. Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
- ii. Development plans and post-buildup land use
- iii. Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.

d. Healthcare

- i. Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)

- ii. Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
- iii. Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts
- e. Labor and Workforce**
 - i. Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
 - ii. Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition
- f. Infrastructure**
 - i. Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.
- g. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines**

II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

- a. Regional Relations**
 - i. Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
 - ii. Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08
- b. Housing**
 - iii. Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand
- c. Deep-Sea Mining**
 - iv. Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.
- d. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense**
 - v. Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.
- e. Updates on MITT Training and Testing**
 - vi. Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.
- f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa**
 - i. Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

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- a. Cybersecurity**
 - i. Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
 - ii. Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
 - iii. Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.
- b. Emergency Communication**
 - i. Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
 - ii. Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
 - iii. Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.**

- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
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- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- e. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- f. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com



Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

19 June 2026 at 08:15

Hafa adai and posted on the calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910



1-671-969-3514



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CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
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Ste. 407 DNA Building
2238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senatortelot@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

June 19, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

Subject: **FIRST CONTINUATION NOTICE of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

Håfa Adai!

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INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office

a. Community Defense Liaison Office

- i. Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.

b. Civil-Military Coordination Council

- i. Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
- ii. Military-driven population planning and impacts

c. Housing

- i. Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
- ii. Development plans and post-buildup land use
- iii. Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.

d. Healthcare

- i. Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
- ii. Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
- iii. Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts

e. Labor and Workforce

- i. Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
- ii. Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition

f. Infrastructure

- i. Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.

g. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines

II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

a. Regional Relations

- i. Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
- ii. Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08

b. Housing

- iii. Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand

c. Deep-Sea Mining

- iv. Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.

d. Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense

- v. Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.

e. Updates on MITT Training and Testing



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
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- vi. Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa

- i. Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- i. Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- ii. Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- iii. Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

- i. Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- ii. Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
- iii. Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
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FIRST CONTINUATION NOTICE of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 06/19/2026 10:30 AM

 **Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan

 **Public Hearing Date:** 06/26/2026 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):**

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 **Division(s):**

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INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

I.

**Vera Topasna, Executive Director,
Community Defense Liaison Office**

a.

**Community Defense
Liaison Office**

i.

**Scope of
issues,
active/secured
grants, and
priority
projects to
address**

**most
pressing
issues on
Guam.**

b.

**Civil-Military
Coordination Council**

i.

**Community
Defense
Initiatives
for
readiness
and
emergency
communications
infrastructure**

ii.

**Military-
driven
population
planning
and
impacts**

c.

Housing

i.

**Balance of
on-base vs.
off-base
housing
supply**

ii.

**Development
plans and
post-
buildup
land use**

iii.

**Impact on
local
housing/rental
market and
mitigation
strategies.**

d.

Healthcare

i.

**Expansion
of military
healthcare
capacity
(personnel/dependents)**

ii.

**Anticipated
use of local
healthcare
systems**

iii.

**Preparedness
measures
tied to
buildup
impacts**

e.

Labor and Workforce

i.

**Partnerships
with UOG,
GCC and
other trade
programs**

ii.

**Impact of
military-
related jobs
on wages
and labor
market
competition**

f.

Infrastructure

i.

**Status and
timeline of
the
Integrated
Missile
Defense
System.**

g.

**Funding status and
impacts on buildup project timelines**

**II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on
Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of
Guam**

a.

Regional Relations

i.

Buildup
impacts on commercial
port operations.

ii.

Status of
DoD coordination on
Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures
(APIL) Resolution No.
64-BOD-08

b. Housing

iii.

Government strategy to
meet off-island workforce
housing demand

c. Deep-Sea Mining

iv.

Relationship to Military

Relationship to Military
Buildup/Defense near
Guam and CNMI.

**d. Cultural and Environmental Impact
of Military Buildup/Defense**

v.

Protection
of cultural sites and
environmental resources.

**e. Updates on MITT Training and
Testing**

vi.

Timeline
status and potential
expansion of training and
study area.

**f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel
from Okinawa**

i. Status of Okinawa-Guam
rotations and operational role on Guam.

III.

**Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security
Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil
Defense**

a.

Cybersecurity

i. Guam's current cybersecurity
readiness and capabilities.

ii. Priority gaps and actions to
strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.

iii. Contingency planning for an
islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

- i. Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- ii. Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
- iii. Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV.

Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

a.

Guam National Guard
role in Guam's national defense and security.

b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.

c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.

d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.

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SECOND NOTICE OF CONTINUATION of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

1 message

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

24 June 2026 at 10:30

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

June 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**Subject:** **SECOND NOTICE OF CONTINUATION of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.***Håfa Adai!*

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b. Civil-Military Coordination Council

- i. Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
- ii. Military-driven population planning and impacts

c. Housing

- i. Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
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- i. Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
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- i. Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
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II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam

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- vi. Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.

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- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
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Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building
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Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com



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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

June 24, 2026

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Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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 **Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan

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To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE OF CONTINUATION of Public Hearing on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

Håfa Adai!

The *Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* has recessed the Informational Briefing on **Monday, May 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and will continue/reconvene on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00pm** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, on the following agenda item (s):

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

I.

**Vera Topasna, Executive Director,
Community Defense Liaison Office**

a.

**Community Defense
Liaison Office**

i.

Scope

of issues,
active/secured
grants,
and
priority
projects
to address

most pressing issues on Guam.

b.

**Civil-Military
Coordination Council**

i.

Community

Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure

ii.

Military-

driven population planning and impacts

c.

Housing

i.

of on-
base vs.
off-base
housing
supply

Balance

ii.

plans and
post-
buildup
land use

Development

iii.

on local
housing/rental
market
and
mitigation
strategies.

Impact

d.

Healthcare

i.

Expansion

of
military
healthcare
capacity
(personnel/dependents)

ii.

Anticipated

use of
local
healthcare
systems

iii.

Preparedness

measures
tied to
buildup
impacts

e.

Labor and Workforce

i.

Partnerships

with
MCC

UUG,
GCC and
other
trade
programs

ii.

Impact

of
military-
related
jobs on
wages
and labor
market
competition

f.

Infrastructure

i.

Status

and
timeline
of the
Integrated
Missile
Defense
System.

g.

**Funding status and
impacts on buildup project timelines**

**II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on
Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of
Guam**

a.

Regional Relations

i.

Buildup
impacts on commercial
port operations.

ii.

Status of
DoD coordination on
Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures
(APIL) Resolution No.
64-BOD-08

b. Housing

iii.

Government
strategy to meet off-
island workforce
housing demand

c. Deep-Sea Mining

iv.

Relationship
to Military
Buildup/Defense near
Guam and CNMI

**d. Cultural and Environmental Impact
of Military Buildup/Defense**

v.

Protection
of cultural sites and
environmental
resources.

**e. Updates on MITT Training and
Testing**

vi.

Timeline
status and potential
expansion of training
and study area.

**f. Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel
from Okinawa**

i. Status of Okinawa-Guam
rotations and operational role on Guam.

**III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam
Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense**

a. Cybersecurity

i. Guam's current cybersecurity
readiness and capabilities.

ii. Priority gaps and actions to
strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.

iii. Contingency planning for an
islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

i. Impact of Fusion Center access loss
and restoration efforts

ii. Status and improvement of the
island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).

iii. Public communication strategy
during emergencies (natural disasters
and conflict).

**IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General,
Guam National Guard**

a.

Guam National Guard
role in Guam's national defense and
security.

- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- e. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- f. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

Public Hearing Testimony: Written testimony on the agenda items may be emailed to senatortelot@gmail.com (<mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com>) or delivered to the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague, Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, Guam.

Public Access to Testimony: Testimony and other documents related to the agenda items can be viewed at: [Military Buildup/Defense Info Brief_06.26.26](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XnxF1t5JBeGyRg6QFdIAITaBMUk8A3Tq?usp=sharing) (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XnxF1t5JBeGyRg6QFdIAITaBMUk8A3Tq?usp=sharing>).

The drive file is periodically updated as testimony is received. You can also contact the office of Senator Telo T. Taitague to request copies at senatortelot@gmail.com (<mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com>) or (671) 989-8356.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance of accommodation should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email senatortelot@gmail.com (<mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com>) .

Submission of Presentation Materials and Media: PowerPoint presentations and other digital materials must be emailed to senatortelot@gmail.com (<mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com>) no later than three (3) days prior to the public hearing to allow timely submission to the Guam Legislature's MIS Division at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. These protocols are to ensure the security and integrity of the Legislature's information systems.

Broadcast and Live Stream Information: The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo

Channel 117, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams> (<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>). A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

Public Hearing Notices: Notices for this public hearing are published on KUAM TV, the Guam Legislature Website at <https://guamlegislature.gov> (<https://guamlegislature.gov/#gsc.tab=0>) and the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal at <https://notices.guam.gov/> (<https://notices.guam.gov/>).



Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

UPDATED-Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

1 message

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

20 April 2026 at 12:39

To: "Watson, Karin L NFG (USA)" <karin.l.watson.nfg@army.mil>

Håfa adai, Brigadier General Watson,

I hope this finds you well as we recover from Typhoon Sinlaku.

Please see the attached letter and kindly confirm receipt.

Thank you for the work you and our National Guard are doing as we recover from this typhoon. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,
Senator Telo T. Taitague

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: senatortelot@gmail.com



Sen.TTT to Adjutant General Watson Invitation to Informational Briefing.pdf

338K



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

April 20, 2026

Transmitted Via Electronic Mail

Brigadier General Karin Watson,
Adjutant General, Guam National Guard
430 Army Drive, Building 300,
Barrigada, Guam 96913
karin.l.watson.nfg@army.mil

Subject: Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

Håfa adai, Brigadier General Colonel Watson,

As the Oversight Chairperson of the Legislative Committee on the Military Buildup, I formally invite you to participate in the legislature's public informational briefing regarding the ongoing and future impacts of the military buildup/defense on Guam. Please note the date for this informational briefing is May 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Kindly confirm your availability for this date as soon as possible.

The briefing will provide an opportunity for the Legislature and the public to receive updates on key aspects of the buildup, including infrastructure development, workforce needs, environmental considerations, and community engagement efforts. Given your leadership role, your insight and expertise will be invaluable in ensuring transparency and fostering productive dialogue between Guam's civilian and military community members. In addition to your participation, the following stakeholders have also been invited to participate in the briefing and join the discussion:

- Rear Admiral Brett W. Mietus, Commander, Joint Region Marianas
- Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky, Commander, Joint Task Force - Micronesia
- Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office
- Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs,
- Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

The Committee has prepared a series of questions to guide the briefing and to ensure a clear and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. We kindly ask that you provide your insights and address the questions that were sent to you previously in the invitation for our initial April 15, 2026 informational briefing date.

We also welcome any additional information you believe would be beneficial to share with us. We kindly request that you submit your presentations or testimonies, along with an estimated timeline for your presentation, no later than two days before the informational briefing. This will allow our office to coordinate accordingly.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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senatortelot@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

Please confirm your participation at your earliest convenience. Should you or your staff have any questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We appreciate your time and look forward to your valuable contributions and insights.

Kindest Regards,

Senator Telo T. Taitague



Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

UPDATED-Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

2 messages

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

20 April 2026 at 12:35

To: "Carlotta A. Leon-Guerrero" <carlotta.leonguerrero@guam.gov>

Håfa adai, Ms. Leon Guerrero,

I hope this finds you well as we recover from Typhoon Sinlaku.

Please see the attached letter and kindly confirm receipt.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,
Senator Telo T. Taitague

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,
Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building
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Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

 **Sen.TTT to CLG Invitation to Informational Briefing.pdf**
323K

Carlotta A. Leon-Guerrero <carlotta.leonguerrero@guam.gov>

22 April 2026 at 06:09

To: Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Confirming receipt.

[Quoted text hidden]



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

April 20, 2026

Transmitted via Electronic Mail

Carlotta Leon Guerrero
Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Transmitted via email: carlotta.leonguerrero@guam.gov

Subject: Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

Håfa Adai Ms. Leon Guerrero,

As the Oversight Chairperson of the Legislative Committee on the Military Buildup, I formally invite you to participate in the legislature's public informational briefing regarding the ongoing and future impacts of the military buildup/defense on Guam. Please note the date for this informational briefing is May 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Kindly confirm your availability for this date as soon as possible.

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- Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky, Commander, Joint Task Force - Micronesia
- Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office
- Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense
- Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

The Committee has prepared a series of questions to guide the briefing and to ensure a clear and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. We kindly ask that you provide your insights and address the questions that were sent to you previously in the invitation and supplemental document for our initial April 15, 2026 informational briefing date.

We also welcome any additional information you believe would be beneficial to share with us. We kindly request that you submit your presentations or testimonies, along with an estimated timeline for your presentation, no later than two days before the informational briefing. This will allow our office to coordinate accordingly.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

Please confirm your participation at your earliest convenience. Should you or your staff have any questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We appreciate your time and look forward to your valuable contributions and insights.

Kindest Regards,

Senator Telo T. Taitague

Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

5 messages

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>
To: Esther Aguigui <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>

20 March 2026 at 17:49

Håfa adai, Homeland Security Advisor Aguigui,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,
-Senator Telo T. Taitague

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,
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Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

 **Informational Hearing Invitation Letter_GHS.OCD.pdf**
337K

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>
To: Esther Aguigui <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>

31 March 2026 at 10:07

Håfa adai, Homeland Security Advisor Aguigui,

I am writing to kindly follow up on my invitation to you for the Military Buildup/Defense Informational Hearing sent to you on Friday, March 20.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,
-Senator Telo T. Taitague

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,
Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>
To: Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>
Cc: Alana Ungacta <senatortelot.alana@gmail.com>

31 March 2026 at 10:24

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

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Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,
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Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

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 **Informational Hearing Invitation Letter_GHS.OCD.pdf**
337K

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>
To: Esther Aguigui <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>
Bcc: Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>, Alana Ungacta <senatortelot.alana@gmail.com>

2 April 2026 at 11:09

Håfa adai, Homeland Security Advisor Aguigui,

For your records, please see this revised invitation letter with a correction to the Adjutant General's rank.

Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to seeing you at the briefing later this month.

Kind Regards,
-Senator Telo T. Taitague

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague
38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-8356
Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

On Fri, 20 Mar 2026 at 17:49, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Informational Hearing Invitation Letter_GHS.OCD.pdf**
338K

Esther Aguigui <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>

4 May 2026 at 14:08

To: Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Cc: Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@ghs.guam.gov>, Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, Rikki Orsini <rikki.orsini@guam.gov>, Office Senator Shawn <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa adai Senator Taitague,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the information submitted herein.

V/r,

HSA 17



Esther J. C. Aguigui

Homeland Security Advisor
Guam Homeland Security / Office of Civil Defense
[221-B Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, Guam 96910](#)
Office: (671) [475-9600](tel:671-475-9600) / Fax: (671) [477-3727](tel:671-477-3727)
Email: esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov

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Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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(671) 989-8356
senatortelot@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

March 20, 2026

Transmitted via Electronic Mail

Advisor Esther J. C. Aguigui
Guam Homeland Security Advisor
Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense
221 Chalan Palasyo,
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov

Subject: Invitation to Informational Briefing on the Guam Military Buildup/Defense

Håfa adai, Homeland Security Advisor Aguigui,

As the Oversight Chairperson of the Legislative Committee on the Military Buildup, I formally invite you to participate in the legislature's public informational briefing regarding the ongoing and future impacts of the military buildup/defense on Guam. Please note the tentative dates for this informational briefing are April 15, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.. Kindly confirm your availability for this date as soon as possible.

The briefing will provide an opportunity for the Legislature and the public to receive updates on key aspects of the buildup, including infrastructure development, workforce needs, environmental considerations, and community engagement efforts. Given your leadership role, your insight and expertise will be invaluable in ensuring transparency and fostering productive dialogue between Guam's civilian and military community members. In addition to your participation, the following stakeholders have also been invited to participate in the briefing and join the discussion:

- Rear Admiral Brett W. Meitus, Commander, Joint Region Marianas
- Rear Admiral Joshua Lasky, Commander, Joint Task Force - Micronesia
- Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs,
- Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense
- Colonel Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

The Committee has prepared a series of questions to guide the briefing and to ensure a clear and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. We kindly ask that you provide your insights and address the following questions during your remarks at the informational briefing:



OFFICE OF SENATOR

Telo T. Taitague

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

- Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense
 - Please explain the mission of the Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense.
 - Have the duties and responsibilities of your office changed in the past year?
 - Please list what falls under your purview and explain what each item is, and what GHS/OCD is doing to either support, mitigate, or counter it.
 - Of this list that falls under your purview, what items require the most urgent attention?
 - Is there anything that does not fall under your purview that you believe requires our urgent attention? If so, please list each item and explain why you are concerned about it and what should be done to address or resolve your concern.
- Cybersecurity
 - What is the state of Guam's cybersecurity readiness and capabilities?
 - What aspects of our cyber defense require immediate attention?
 - What steps is GHS/OCD taking to strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure and readiness and capabilities?
 - Please explain what Guam's critical digital infrastructure is and what it supports.
 - In a cyberattack scenario, is GHS/OCD capable of defending and supporting critical digital infrastructure?
- Emergency Communication
 - How has the loss of access to the fusion center impacted the defensive capabilities and readiness of GHS/OCD?
 - Is GHS/OCD working toward regaining access to the fusion center? If so, what steps has your office taken and what is the projected timeline for regaining access?
 - What is the state of air raid warning systems on Guam, and what steps is GHS/OCD taking to improve this system?
 - What is the state of Guam's emergency communications infrastructure and what steps GHS/OCD is taking to improve it.
 - In the event of an emergency, due to either a natural disaster or conflict/war, how will GHS/OCD disseminate information to the civilian population of Guam?



OFFICE OF SENATOR
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We also welcome any additional information you believe would be beneficial to share with us. We kindly request that you submit your presentations or testimonies, along with an estimated timeline for your presentation, no later than two days before the informational briefing. This will allow our office to coordinate accordingly.

Please confirm your participation at your earliest convenience. Should you or your staff have any questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We appreciate your time and look forward to your valuable contributions and insights.

Kindest Regards,

Senator Telo T. Taitague



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan • 38th Guam Legislature

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Monday May 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

AGENDA:

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE:

- I. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - a. Community Defense Liaison Office**
 - Scope of issues, active/secured grants, and priority projects to address most pressing issues on Guam.
 - b. Civil-Military Coordination Council**
 - Community Defense Initiatives for readiness and emergency communications infrastructure
 - Military-driven population planning and impacts
 - c. Housing**
 - Balance of on-base vs. off-base housing supply
 - Development plans and post-buildup land use
 - Impact on local housing/rental market and mitigation strategies.
 - d. Healthcare**
 - Expansion of military healthcare capacity (personnel/dependents)
 - Anticipated use of local healthcare systems
 - Preparedness measures tied to buildup impacts
 - e. Labor and Workforce**
 - Partnerships with UOG, GCC and other trade programs
 - Impact of military-related jobs on wages and labor market competition
 - f. Infrastructure**
 - Status and timeline of the Integrated Missile Defense System.
 - g. Funding status and impacts on buildup project timelines**
- II. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Advisor on Military & Regional Affairs, Office of the Governor of Guam**
 - a. Regional Relations**
 - Buildup impacts on commercial port operations.
 - Status of DoD coordination on Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Resolution No. 64-BOD-08
 - b. Housing**
 - Government strategy to meet off-island workforce housing demand
 - c. Deep-Sea Mining**



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Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

- Relationship to Military Buildup/Defense near Guam and CNMI.
- d. **Cultural and Environmental Impact of Military Buildup/Defense**
 - Protection of cultural sites and environmental resources.
- e. **Updates on MITT Training and Testing**
 - Timeline status and potential expansion of training and study area.
- f. **Rotation of Marine Corps Personnel from Okinawa**
 - Status of Okinawa-Guam rotations and operational role on Guam.

III. Esther Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense

a. Cybersecurity

- Guam's current cybersecurity readiness and capabilities.
- Priority gaps and actions to strengthen cyber defense infrastructure.
- Contingency planning for an islandwide cyber-attack.

b. Emergency Communication

- Impact of Fusion Center access loss and restoration efforts
- Status and improvement of the island's alert systems (e.g., air raid/siren).
- Public communication strategy during emergencies (natural disasters and conflict).

IV. Brigadier General Karin Watson, Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

- a. Guam National Guard role in Guam's national defense and security.
- b. Effects of the military buildup on Guard operations and capacity.
- c. Guard responsibilities for civilian support during conflict scenarios.
- d. Coordination with U.S. military branches on Guam.
- e. Civilian roles and expectations in a conflict situation.
- f. Implications of Operation Epic Fury, including potential Guard deployment.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance of accommodation should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email senatortelot@gmail.com.

Submission of Presentation Materials and Media: PowerPoint presentations and other digital materials must be emailed to senatortelot@gmail.com no later than three (3) days prior to the public hearing to allow timely submission to the Guam Legislature's MIS Division at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. These protocols are to ensure the security and integrity of the Legislature's information systems.

Broadcast and Live Stream Information: The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
 CHAIRWOMAN

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 Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Monday, May 4, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Military Buildup/Defense Informational Briefing

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. Douglas, Charles	GUNB	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☒	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☒	
2. Perez, Duane	GUNB	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
3. SAPIAN, RYAN	GUNB	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
4. GEORGE BAMBIA	CDLO	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
5. Albat Santos	CDLO	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
6. Mark Scott	GUNB	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
7. ESTHER J.C. AQUINO LUCIA R. PEREZ (Reading)	OHS/OCD OHS/OCD	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☐	
8. Carlos L. L. L.	Gov's Office	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☒	
9. Seahara Cruz	CDLO	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
10. Jose Naputi	CDLO	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	



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Military Buildup/Defense Informational Briefing

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. Vera Tapasna	AND	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
2.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
3.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
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10.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	



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1 Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Friday, June 26, 2026, at 2:00PM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. ROBERT UNDERWOOD	PCIS	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☒	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☒	
2. Leland Bettis	PCIS	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☒	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☒	
3. Ilaos Santes Santes	Senator Perez	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
4. Ariana Millard	Sen Perez	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
5. MONAEMA FLORES	PRUTEH	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
6. Melvin Nonat-Borja	CD/DCA	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
7. BALTAZAR AGUIAR	Baltazar Aguiar	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☒	
8.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
9.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
10.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	



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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Friday, June 26, 2026, at 2:00PM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. <i>Pedro Blas</i>	<i>Yigo MO</i>	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
2. <i>Ilai Demapan</i>		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☒	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
3.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
4.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
5.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
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7.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
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9.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
10.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	



COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON OFFICE

Informational Briefing – Military Buildup

Public Hearing

GUAM LEGISLATURE

May 4, 2026 · Hagåtña, Guåhan

Classification
UNCLASSIFIED

BRIEFING ROADMAP

CDLO is providing this informational briefing in response to the supplemental questions submitted by the committee. Topics are addressed in the order requested.

1

CDLO Grant Portfolio

Open grants and new awards advancing community readiness, public health, and infrastructure.

2

Housing

NAVFAC RFP Issued Phase I –
Update from JRM

3

Infrastructure

Buildup completion percentage,
MILCON status excluding EIAMD,
and adjusted timelines.

4

Healthcare & Preparedness

Naval Hospital expansion, GMH
referrals, and emergency
readiness.

5

Funding & EAC

Anticipated federal cuts plus
convening of the Economic
Adjustment Committee under
EO 12788.

Open grants advancing community priorities

Guam Public Health Laboratory

Modernization of island public-health laboratory capacity in support of the buildup population and broader civilian health system.

STATUS
ACTIVE

Completion: June 2026

Logistics Grant

Recurring annual funding for CDLO logistics operations supporting planning, coordination, and community engagement.

STATUS
ACTIVE

Annual operations

Professional Advisory Services

Post-Typhoon Mawar damage assessments, NEPA review support, and policy advisory across federal-territory coordination.

STATUS
ACTIVE
Ongoing

New awards expanding island-wide assessment capacity

Village Infrastructure Assessment

Systematic, village-by-village review of utility, road, drainage, and public-facility conditions to inform priorities and federal funding requests.

STATUS
NEW AWARD

Medical Capacity, Island-Wide

Assessment of clinical capacity across military and civilian providers — beds, specialty access, ED throughput, and referral pathways.

STATUS
NEW AWARD

Infrastructure Risk Assessments

Hazard and resilience screening for critical public infrastructure, integrating typhoon, seismic, and aging-asset risk.

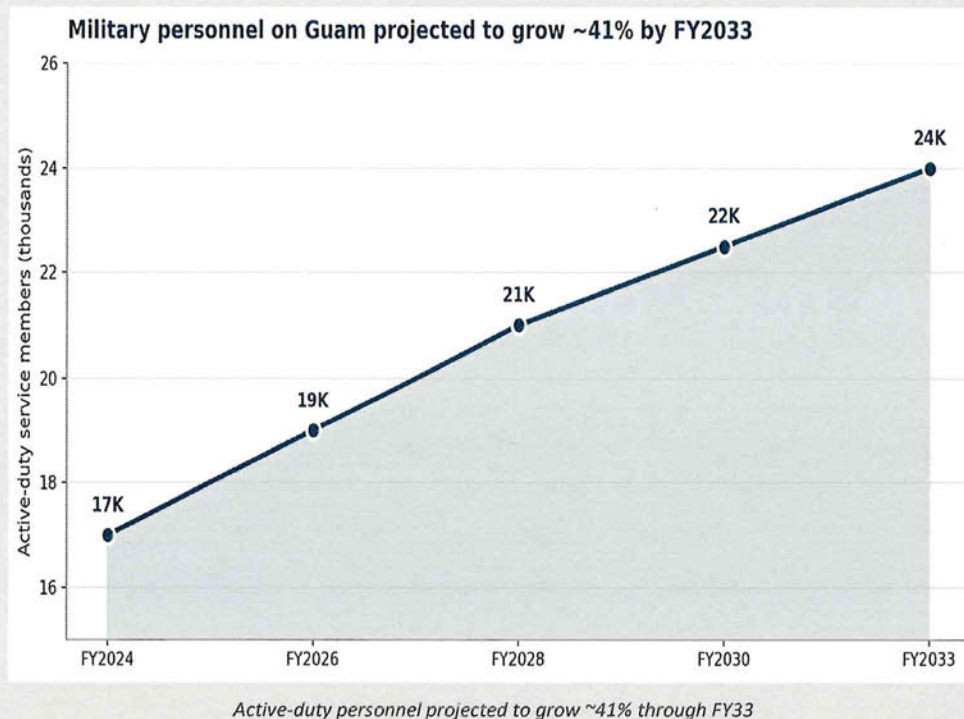
STATUS
NEW AWARD

PART I • HOUSING

Supply, demand, and where it goes

Subsidized inventory, buildup demand, off-base impact, and Sigua Highlands

Subsidized supply on-base vs. off-base, and projected buildup demand



Source: JRM GICSWG Update (Feb 2026)

Where the buildup will live

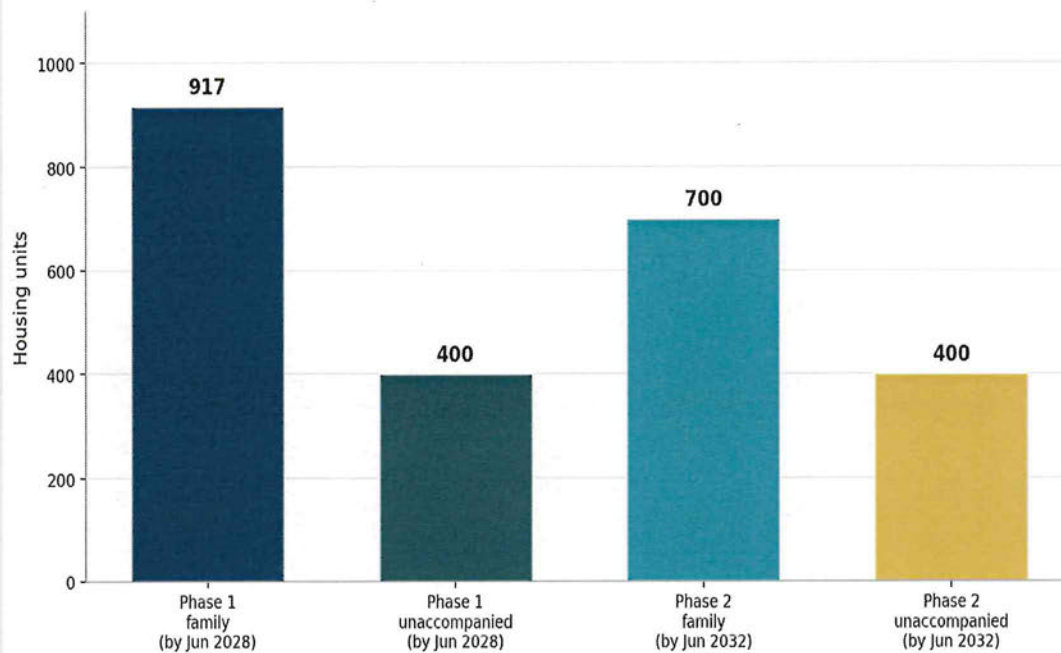
Q: How many subsidized units exist on-base vs. off-base, and how will demand be met?

A. DoD has not published a current on-base vs. off-base subsidized-unit breakdown for Guam. **What is on the record:**

- Personnel grow from ~17,000 (FY24) to ~24,000 by FY33 — a +41% increase across all services.
- Current on-island manning sits at ~85% — projections continue to outpace reality (JRM/GICSWG).
- Near-term MILCON coming online: **NBG Apra Palms reno (150 units)** and **AAFB Phases 4–10 (385 units)**.
- Housing Pilot is critical: without it, DoD cannot build affordable MILCON fast enough and would flood the local rental market.
- \$297M Andersen AFB barracks contract awarded July 2025 for unaccompanied airmen housing.

Navy 2,400-unit initiative — phased delivery through 2032

Navy plans 2,400 new units on Guam — half family, half complete by 2028



Phased delivery

Housing Pilot Phase I — FY28

917 family units + 400 unaccompanied service-member units

Housing Pilot Phase II — FY32

700 family units + 400 unaccompanied service-member units

Why a pilot is needed

With the Housing Pilot, the number of military families housed off-base will significantly shrink reducing pressure on the local rental market.

Acquisition pathway

"Lease, lease-to-purchase, purchase, or other transaction structure" — Rear Adm. Brett Mietus, JRM

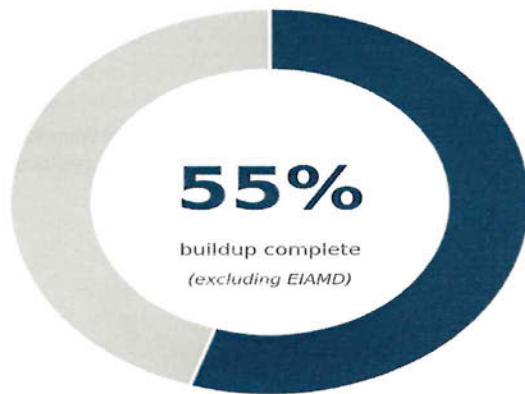
Source: [JRM GICSWG Update \(Feb 2026\)](#) · [Pacific Island Times](#) · [Stars and Stripes](#)

PART II • INFRASTRUCTURE

Buildup completion and MILCON status

Buildup completion percentage and MILCON status (excluding EIAMD)

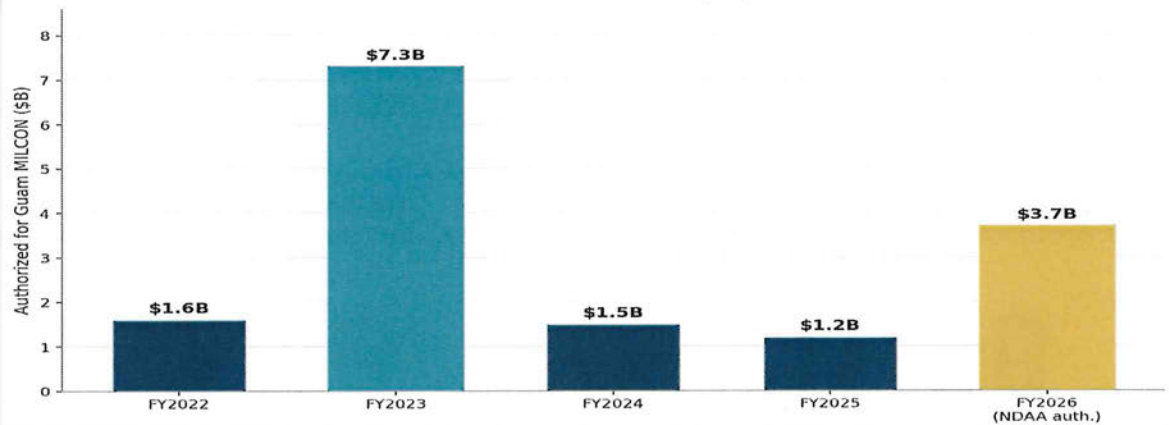
DoD: buildup 'more than halfway' complete
(testimony, April 2025)



“Over halfway” complete

DoD official Randal Sablan, in April 2025 testimony to the Guam Legislature.

Guam MILCON authorizations — FY26 NDAA: \$3.7B proposed



Adjusted timelines & remaining work (excluding EIAMD)

- Marine relocation: Camp Blaz operational; ~5,000 Marines flowing in through FY28.
- Family housing: 2,400-unit Navy program runs through 2032 — beyond original buildup horizon.
- FY26 NDAA authorizes \$3.7B in Guam MILCON, sustaining pace into late-decade construction.
- EIAMD (missile defense) tracked separately under the Guam Defense System Joint Program Office.

Source: KUAM (Sablan testimony, Apr 2025) • Pacific Daily News (FY26 NDAA) • U.S. Army (GDS JPO)

NAVFAC construction update

NAVFAC Marianas portfolio across active execution and the next two fiscal years on Guam.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

\$6.1B

Active NAVFAC-managed MILCON in execution across Guam installations the current backbone of buildup delivery.

PLANNED FY26

\$2.5B

Programmed Guam construction starts for fiscal year 2026 within the NAVFAC pipeline.

FY27 PDI / MILCON Proposed

\$1.9B

Anticipated FY27 Pacific Deterrence Initiative and MILCON authorization sustaining late-decade construction.

Total visible program → \$10.5B across active execution, FY26 plans, and FY27 PDI/MILCON. *Anticipated federal cuts could compress FY26–FY27 starts and slip later phases.*

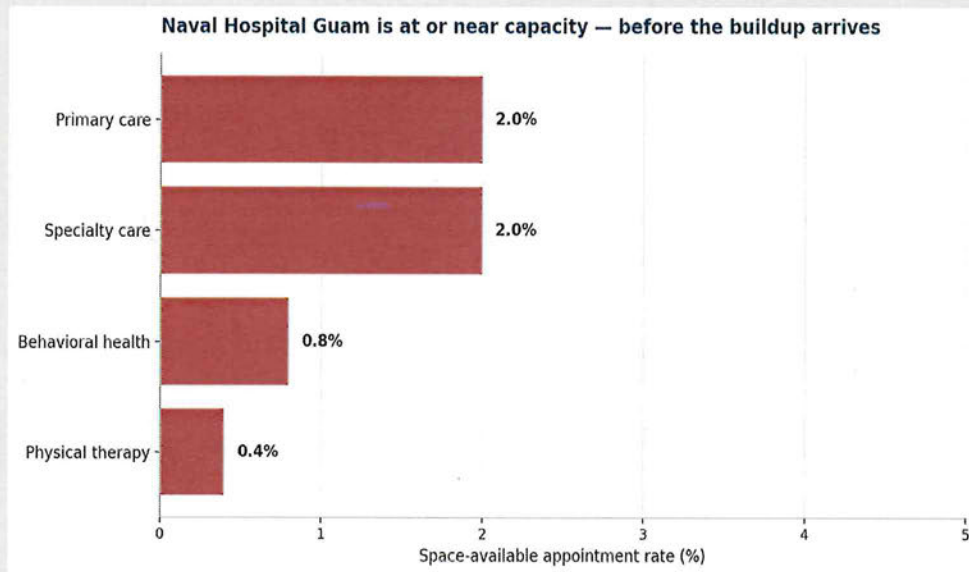
Source: NAVFAC Marianas · DoD Comptroller — FY27 PDI

PART III · HEALTHCARE & PREPAREDNESS

Capacity, referrals, and contingency readiness

Naval Hospital expansion, GMH strain, and how the system holds in a contingency

Military healthcare expansion, capacity, and civilian-hospital strain



DoD-reported space-available appointment rates at Naval Hospital Guam



Source: DoD Health.mil report (Feb 2025)

Capacity, referrals, civilian impact

Naval Hospital Guam (Agana Heights)

39-bed inpatient hospital. The 36th Medical Group at Andersen AFB is outpatient-only.

Demand outpaces capacity

ADSM/ADFM population +88% since FY21; 15,053 new DoD beneficiaries projected FY24–FY28. Space-available rates for non-DoD patients sit at or below 2% across primary care, specialty, behavioral health, and PT.

NBG New Medical Clinic to support

Referrals to GMH and civilian system

Per the DoD report, non-TRICARE patients arriving at the NH Guam ED are “stabilized and transferred to a local private sector hospital.” GMH and GRMC absorb the residual load.

What is being studied

Guam/DOD Masterplan due 2026

Convening of the Economic Adjustment Committee — EO 12788

Pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12788 (Defense Economic Adjustment Program, signed Jan 15, 1992; amended 2005), the Secretary of Defense convenes the EAC to coordinate federal assistance for communities materially affected by DoD activity. DoD has begun the process for Guam at the Government's request.

Status — where the EAC stands

Sept 2025 Rep. Moylan and Gov. Leon Guerrero send joint letter urging convening of EAC for Guam.

Dec 2, 2025 DoD initiates the framework; OLDCC engages federal agencies at the regional level to identify resources and gaps.

Dec 4, 2025 DoD letter from Principal Deputy ASD (EI&E) Robert E. Thompson signals intent to convene the EAC process for Guam.

Lead designation CDLO Executive Director Vera Topasna designated as GovGuam lead for coordinating with DoD, OLDCC, and other federal partners.

Last EAC for Guam: 2015 — produced investments in the Public Health Lab, cultural repository, water systems, and Apra Harbor.

Where GICSWG and EAC will align

Five core areas plus emerging tracks

Medical	Ports	Power	Water	Roads
Hospital capacity, referrals, mental health	Ports of entry, throughput, resilience	GPA load growth, generation, reliability	GWA capacity, wastewater, distribution	Route capacity, traffic loading, safety

Emerging tracks

- **Guam DOD Masterplan — FY 26**
- **Shipyard** NDAA-directed feasibility study due April 2026

Thank you

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Information Briefing
May 4, 2026 · Hagåtña, Guåhan

Classification
UNCLASSIFIED

Håfa Adai. Madam Chairwoman and Honorable Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding the ongoing military buildup from a Guam National Guard perspective. I appear before you not just as a military officer, but as someone who has called Guam home for (x) years, representing the men and women of the Guam National Guard who live, work, and serve in the very communities we are sworn to protect.

Today, I want to address three vital areas: how your National Guard integrates with the broader joint force on the island, how the current buildup impacts our specific formation, and our critical role in ensuring the resilience of Guam's people and civilian infrastructure.

First, regarding our interface with the other military branches:

As you know, the Guam National Guard is a unique entity. We operate under the dual authority of the Governor of Guam and the President of the United States. In the context of the buildup and the Indo-Pacific strategy, we are part of the "Total Force." Our Adjutant General stays in regular communication with Joint Task Force – Micronesia, Joint Region Marianas, and our other military commands on Island through synchronization meetings, planning efforts,

and even social events. These relationships are key to the success of our interoperability and shared missions.

Whether it is through integrated missile defense operations at the THAAD, joint logistics planning, or shared training ranges, the Guard works to bring local perspective to federal military planning. Our soldiers and airmen serve as the critical bridge between the Department of War and the local community, so advocating for the island's needs has become our implied task...

Second, regarding how the military buildup affects the Guam Guard:

The influx of active-duty personnel, assets, and infrastructure development presents both opportunities and challenges for our ranks. On the opportunity side, the buildup brings potential training facilities and joint operational exercises to our backyard, and may provide employment opportunities with the Guam Defense System.

However, we also recognize the challenges. As the active-duty footprint grows, so does the competition for resources. The increased personnel and operational tempo on the Island means our logistical and support elements such as central issuing and maintenance facilities, training space, and availability of military medical providers, are challenged to maintain pace with the broader defense strategy. As the second-smallest and most remote National Guard in the Nation, we are actively advocating for proportionate federal

investment in local facilities and manning to ensure we are not outpaced by the broader buildup...

Finally, and most importantly, I want to address our role in national security and civilian considerations:

While the active-duty branches are heavily focused on power projection and regional deterrence, the Guam National Guard's center of gravity remains the homeland defense of Guam. National security cannot exist without local resilience.

Our Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission is paramount. When it comes to life support, our engineers, medical personnel, and logistics experts are the first military responders to natural disasters. But beyond storm response, our modern battlefield includes critical infrastructure and cyberspace.

The military buildup relies heavily on civilian infrastructure—our commercial port, our power grid, our water systems, and our telecommunications. Recognizing this, the Guam Guard has prioritized cyber defense and critical infrastructure protection. Our Cyber efforts work to connect GovGuam agencies and local utilities with resources for vulnerability assessments, network hardening, and defense against state-sponsored and non-state actors who seek to disrupt our way of life. But without a formalized, full-time cyber protection team, our capacity is limited.

In conclusion:

The military buildup is transforming our island's strategic landscape, but the core mission of the Guam National Guard remains unchanged: to protect our island and defend our nation. We will continue to leverage our joint partnerships, adapt to the changing footprint, and fight for Guam's civilian infrastructure and cyber resilience needs. Because the people of Guam deserve nothing less.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.
Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

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Esther J. C. Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor/
Acting Administrator, OCD

04 May 2026

TO: Honorable Senator Telo Taitague

FROM; Esther J. C. Aguigui
Homeland Security Advisor / Acting Administrator, Office of Civil Defense

SUBJECT: Verbal Testimony, Informational Briefing on the Guam Military
Buildup/Defense
Legislative Committee on the Military Buildup

Håfa Adai, Chairwoman Taitague, and Distinguished Members of the Committee.

My name is Esther J. C. Aguigui. I serve as Guam's Homeland Security Advisor and Acting Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, under the Office of the Governor. I also serve as Guam's Territorial Coordinating Officer, the primary civilian link between our island and FEMA. I am the former Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, with over 36 years of combined military and public service to this island I call home.

I am grateful for this opportunity and I welcome this dialogue.

The mission of the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense is to protect the people of Guam before, during, and after any threat, whether natural or man-made.

We are Guam's lead agency for emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery, and homeland security coordination. Think of us as the civilian command center that connects the Governor, federal partners like FEMA and DHS, the military, and every GovGuam agency when a crisis hits. Typhoon Mawar in 2023. COVID-19. And right now, OHS-OCD is hard at work with our ongoing recovery from Typhoon Sinlaku coordinating resources, managing federal disaster declarations, and keeping the Governor informed every single day.

Have our duties changed this past year? Yes. Significantly. The security environment around Guam has grown more complex. The military buildup has accelerated. That means our office is now operating at the intersection of natural disaster response and defense-related civil preparedness simultaneously. We are doing more, with a lean team, while managing an active federal disaster recovery.

Our areas of responsibility include: emergency management and disaster response; homeland security grant administration; cybersecurity coordination; emergency communications and public warning systems; critical infrastructure protection; and continuity of government operations.

Of these, the items requiring the most urgent attention are cybersecurity and emergency communications and I will address both directly.

There is one item that does not technically fall under our purview but that I believe requires this Committee's urgent attention: the condition and funding of Guam's critical utilities infrastructure — specifically power and water. No emergency system functions without them. When the grid goes down, everything downstream fails. That is a GPA and GWA matter — but it is an OHS-OCD problem the moment a disaster strikes.

Guam's cybersecurity posture is improving, but we are not where we need to be, and I will be direct about that.

Our critical digital infrastructure includes: government networks, the Port Authority systems, GPA's operational technology, hospital networks, and telecommunications. These systems support commerce, healthcare, water distribution, and public safety. A cyberattack on any one of them can cascade across all of them, as we saw happen to Colonial Pipeline on the U.S. mainland in 2021, where a single ransomware attack shut down fuel supplies across the Eastern Seaboard for days.

OHS-OCD is currently pursuing federal funding of approximately \$2 million to modernize our IT infrastructure, establish redundant communications systems, and build out a cybersecurity capability appropriate for an island of strategic national importance. We are working with CISA and our federal partners on this. But funding and staffing gaps remain. Immediate needs include: a dedicated cybersecurity operations function, updated network architecture across GovGuam agencies, and a tested incident response plan. We do not yet have all three fully operational.

Regarding the secured room located inside our OHS-OCD facility - I want to be clear: the loss of access to that space has not impacted our defensive capabilities or our readiness. Our strong partnerships with Joint Region Marianas and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue to provide us with the critical information necessary in the interest of national security. Those relationships are intact, active, and effective. At this time, there is no projected timeline for regaining access to that room, but operationally, we remain fully capable.

On public warning systems: I want to correct a common misconception. Guam does not have an air raid warning system. What we have is an All Hazards Alert Warning System

or AHAWS, and I am proud to report that it is fully operational. It consists of 23 warning locations distributed throughout the island, covering our villages and key population areas. This system is tested on the second Tuesday of every month, so our residents know what it sounds like and what to do when they hear it. That regularity builds public confidence and community readiness.

On broader emergency communications: OHS-OCD activates the Emergency Alert System and coordinates with local media during any emergency. We have also received grant funding to implement the Wireless Emergency Alert system which pushes notifications directly to every cell phone on island, ensuring we can reach residents rapidly and broadly, regardless of whether they are watching television or listening to the radio. We also maintain direct lines to our village mayors, who are our last-mile communicators to residents on the ground. That network is one of our most underappreciated but most critical assets, and we continue to invest in strengthening it.

In the event of an emergency, whether due to a natural disaster or a conflict or war situation, OHS-OCD will disseminate information to the civilian population of Guam through two primary channels: the All Hazards Alert Warning System and the Joint Information Center. The Joint Information Center brings together government agencies, military partners, and media into a single, coordinated communications hub, ensuring that the public receives one clear, consistent, and accurate message, no matter the nature of the emergency.

Chairwoman Taitague, this Committee is asking exactly the right questions. Guam sits at the tip of the spear; geographically, strategically, and increasingly in terms of risk. Our people deserve a civil defense capability that matches that reality.

I am committed to this work. My office is committed. And I welcome the Legislature as a partner in making sure we get there.

I do want to offer my sincere apologies, given that we are in the middle of an active disaster recovery, I am unable to appear or stay for questions today. However, I genuinely welcome your feedback and any follow-on questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office directly at lucia.perez@ghs.guam.gov or esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov. We will be responsive.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'..

Sincerely,



ESTHER J. C. AGUIGUI



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 64-BOD-08

"CALLING FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES (APIL), THE INDO-PACOM, AND JOINT TASKFORCE MICRONESIA (JTM) TO ESTABLISH A HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT NETWORK IN THE PACIFIC."

1 **WHEREAS**, the Indo-Pacific Command (Indo-PACOM) plays a critical role in
2 maintaining regional stability and security in the Pacific region, including through
3 disaster response and humanitarian assistance initiatives; and

4 **WHEREAS**, United States Navy Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Jr., and Joint
5 Taskforce Micronesia (JTM) have recognized the need for increased humanitarian
6 coordination and support to address the unique challenges faced by Pacific Island nations;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Ayuda Foundation, as a creation of APIL, presents a significant
9 opportunity to enhance humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts in the
10 region through multi-sector collaboration; and

11 **WHEREAS**, effective disaster response and humanitarian aid require an
12 integrated approach that aligns military capabilities, government policies, and non-
13 governmental efforts to ensure timely and efficient relief; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the success of humanitarian missions in the Pacific hinges on the
15 alignment of the humanitarian component as the third pillar, complementing the existing
16 security and training efforts; and

17 **WHEREAS**, establishing structured training programs that incorporate a
18 humanitarian lens will help bridge gaps in response capacity, particularly during times of
19 drought and climate-related crises; and

20 **WHEREAS**, fostering regional partnerships with Indo-PACOM, JTM, and the
21 Ayuda Foundation will provide the necessary framework to enhance long-term resilience
22 and disaster preparedness in the Pacific; now, therefore,

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific
24 Island Legislatures, at its 64th Board Meeting, February 25-26, 2025, in Majuro,
25 Republic of the Marshall Islands, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the
26 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby formally endorses this Resolution and
27 calls for the coordination of Indo-PACOM, Joint Task Force-Micronesia, the Ayuda

1 Foundation and APIL in establishing an operational humanitarian support network in the
2 Pacific; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL urges its member jurisdictions to
4 work in collaboration with Indo-PACOM, JTF-M, and the Ayuda Foundation to integrate
5 humanitarian training into existing security and disaster response frameworks; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of
7 Pacific Island Legislatures, 64th Board of Directors meeting, Majuro, Republic of the
8 Marshall Islands, February 25-26, 2025, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the
9 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby calls for coordination between the
10 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, the INDO-PACOM, the Joint Task Force -
11 Micronesia and the Ayuda Foundation to establish a humanitarian support network in the
12 Pacific to assist all member states and the people of the region in a manner that aligns
13 with their training missions; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the
15 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be
16 thereafter transmitted to the U.S. Navy Admiral Samuel J. Paparo Jr., Commander, U.S.
17 Indo-Pacific Command; to Rear Admiral Greg Hoffman, Commander Joint Task Force-
18 Micronesia, and to Ms. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Executive Director of the Ayuda
19 Foundation, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each
20 member jurisdiction of the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025



SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
PRESIDENT



SENATOR VICTOR BAMOG
SECRETARY



STATEMENT BY ROBERT A UNDERWOOD,
CHAIR, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY
JUNE 26, 2026

Buenas Tatdes yan Hafa Adai,

Senator Taitague and members of the Guam Legislature,

I am Robert Underwood and, in this hearing, today, I am here in my role as Chair of the Pacific Center for Island Security.

Si Yu'os ma'ase' for holding this hearing and for giving various voices in our Guahan community the opportunity to voice their concerns about dramatic changes in our society, economy and political structure. My colleague at PCIS, Leland Bettis, will provide an statement on the dynamics of military activity in Guahan and the surrounding region. The PCIS presentation represents our best effort to outline the situation we face in Guahan with respect to the US military plans and activities.

I am frequently asked if PCIS is pro-military or anti-military. That is a false dichotomy that has unfortunately affected public discussion and policy-making in our island home for decades. It seems to presuppose that the military is the standard of measurement against which we ascertain whether something is good for us or not. It is time to use a new standard which is people-based and Guam-based.

They have an important mission. I respect that mission. But they are not entitled to uncritical review or support for their activities. The most appropriate question is "Is this activity positive or negative for Guam?" That is a question you should be actively and enthusiastically answering.

If you want to ask the broader question of whether these military activities really promote peace and stability in Guam and the region or actually takes us to a more precarious situation, then you can ask that aw well. That is a complicated and nuanced question. But if Guam is being used as a platform for major power projection in geostrategic conflict, it is an entirely appropriate question for the people who live here. Perhaps it is a question that the people of this island the surrounding region are the most entitled to ask and respond to in a critical manner.

It is in that vein that we seek to expand the conversation. I believe that it is the Guam Legislature's responsibility as it is the Governor's and the Delegate's responsibility to ask critical questions and take counter measures when necessary. The unincorporated territory of Guahan has the capacity to make laws which affect military activities if not negate them. The Governor of Guam can agree to be a handmaiden to military activities or seek a balanced partnership. The Delegate can affect legislative initiatives at the federal level which benefit Guahan.

PCIS seeks to provide critical information as well as critical perspectives not for their own sake. Rather, we week to expand the debate, extend the conversation and empower local communities.

Thank You.

Statement of Leland Bettis
Informational Briefing
of the
Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement
June 26, 2026

Håfa Adai Madame Chair and Members of the Committee. I am Leland Bettis, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Center for Island Security and a resident of Hagåtña. I am here today to provide foundational framing on the issues that the Committee has been addressing.

Housing, Labor, Civil-Military Affairs, Education, Infrastructure, Healthcare, Environmental concerns. All these issues arise from the application of an increasingly unbalanced and erratic view of Guam by the U.S. military. None of these are new issues. It's not like they haven't been raised for decades. Unfortunately, these issues central to our lives in Guam have not been addressed. And, the situation seems to be getting worse. It is painfully clear that the current track of coordinating with the military locally is simply not working.

Let me quickly offer some explanation for why things are increasingly off-the-rails, and some broad suggestions on getting Guam back on track.

1. **Guam is not in U.S. national strategies.** For all of the escalating activity that is going on in our part of the world, Guam is not in the U.S. National Security Strategy, not in the National Defense Strategy, we are not in any national economic strategy and clearly the U.S. political strategy for Guam is the colonial status quo.

Without guidance that places Guam in a national strategy or national policy framework, what the U.S. does in Guam, and is doing in Guam, is left to the operators of programs and other instruments of the U.S. government.

One example. In the security space, there is all this frenetic activity around militarization because of China's growing capabilities. On the other hand, there is a complete absence of civilian shelters. There's not even a plan, or a study to plan for a plan for shelters. Sure, we are important for military purposes, just not important in a national plan that thinks about civilian lives.

2. **U.S. national priorities have been outsourced to the military.**

Even if Guam does not rate a place in national strategies that provide a focus on local conditions, there are clear national priorities at play. Billions of dollars are being channeled to Guam and most of this is being managed to address U.S. military

objectives. But billions of dollars do not a strategy make.

it is critical to note that billions for Guam is largely for the military. It is not a program for the Guam community. In the broadest sense, as the military correctly claims, they are working to defend American soil and, by a tortured extension, they might be seen as serving the community.

Military personnel follow the billions. Where are the plans for housing military personnel? With the billions flow requirements for local labor. Where is the rationalization of how we as a community address both our human capital and development requirements and those of a transitory military? How do we complete with a two-tiered wage structure that billions in military projects bring? The evidence is clear that billions for the military does not mean civilian needs are addressed. This hearing, and the litany of long-standing, unresolved issues that negatively impact our lives is proof enough.

There are going to be some knock-on financial aspects to military activity. We will hear about EACs and funding that will flow from the buildup process. But at the end of the day, even these funds are intended to serve first a military and second a civilian purpose. Against the backdrop of escalating housing and rental prices, a disrupted labor market, healthcare challenges and strained infrastructure, crumbs from our table are what we are expected to be grateful for? Our priorities need to be weighted fairly in the balance.

3. Military priorities change. All the time

There needs to be a recognition that what is said today, what is happening today, and what happened in the past are not indicators of the future. Because there is no strategy for Guam—military or civilian—the military regards Guam as a utility piece which can be used even for suboptimal or non-continuous military purposes. I could provide you a long list, but let me just mention a couple of current ones:

- Camp Blaz- After massive environmental degradation is this a facility the USMC is going to occupy? The fact is, the Marines never wanted to be here, but Japan put up the money and Guam paid the price. Now that it is built, at some point someone in the military will define a new requirement. Or maybe not.
- Virginia Class Submarine Base at Polaris Point. The plans for developing Polaris Point to base new Virginia Class subs were the rage 3 years ago. A multi-billion plan was in the works. Not anymore. While there will be upgrades to support the existing compliment of Los Angeles class subs (who will be here at least another 5-8 years) a base, and all the projected follow-on ship-repair related work will not be staying here. Don't count on ship repair work in Guam. But we have been at this junction before and by now we should know better.

- Just three years ago, when pressed on the complexities of layering offensive missiles on top of the “missile defense” project, the JRM spokesperson said: “According to the Missile Defense Agency, the current architecture is not designed for offensive purposes” “The current architecture does not support ground-based offensive ballistic or hypersonic missiles.”

4. Guam’s Military Value: From Strategic Sanctuary to Strategic Vulnerability

If you want to understand how the military thinks about Guam today it is critical to appreciate that we are no longer seen as a sanctuary. Our vulnerability is now a defining characteristic.

There was a time when the US could operate from Guam without fear of an attack by an adversary. Those days are long gone. Of course, Guam remains incredibly important to the military. AAFB has the largest munitions storage and fuels capacity of any US Air Force Base in the world. The Navy’s Ammunition Annex at Fena contains a crucial forward stockpile. But today, these assets are beset with acute vulnerabilities.

There is a reason there are no permanently stationed manned USAF bombers, tankers, or ISR planes at AAFB

There is a reason that divert airfields are being developed up the Marianas chain and down to Yap and Palau

There is a reason that the planned development of a submarine base at Polaris Point was moved to Australia

There is a reason that the military wants an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System in Guam

And just to tip the scales on the vulnerability index, the head of the US Pacific Command now says Guam should have offensive missiles capable of reaching China.

Going forward, the military’s focus on Guam will be dominated by the incredible dependency they have in operating freely here balanced by the acute vulnerability to all of their operations. Not to dismiss the real challenges that a military operator or war fighter has, but their focus on these issues will make our needs even less relevant than they are regarded today.

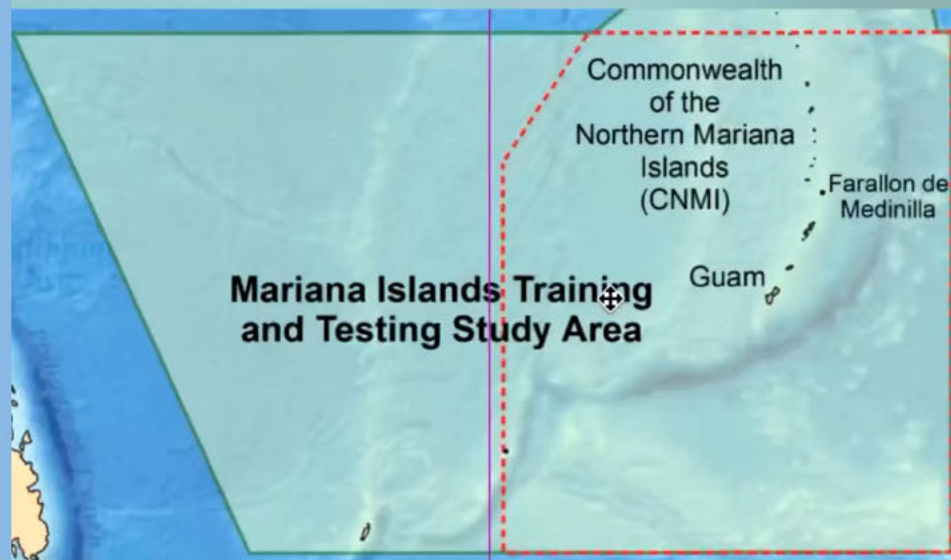
And to put a fine point on where we are in this situation, even though the military is laser focused on their vulnerabilities, they can’t even figure out a way to find room for civilian shelters.

5. A Way Forward

Coming to terms with the unfortunate reality that we find ourselves in should be a call to action. If our community is to be sustainable, we cannot bear the weight of every military requirement today, much less a requirement that might change, or is obsolete, before it is even realized. Fundamentally, we need to recognize that a military plan for Guam and our future may not always be in synch. Indeed, civilian and military interests may frequently be out of synch, and this will likely increase given Guam's strategic vulnerability. Of course, the military has come to depend on the community's acquiescence to any and all of its expressed needs. This has brought us a generation of crises around housing, healthcare, education, the labor market, the environment, etc.

The individual issues this Committee has discussed need solutions. More empty words will not solve them. More missiles will not solve them. And we should not have to wait on a structural solution to address them. Small tactical steps—and wins—are needed now. But this means focus. It also means facing up to the reality that these issues will not work themselves out on their own. We can't just wish them away.

Clearly Guam needs to figure in national strategies. We cannot depend on JFT-Micro, or US PaCom to carry these issues for us. They are too busy, and will soon be even more busy, addressing their growing vulnerabilities in Guam and the region. We cannot depend on formal discussions with local commands to solve these problems. Our current experience is evidence enough that this is not a path to success. If the future of Guam's families for housing, shelter, education, safe infrastructure and a livable environment are going to be achieved, we are going to have to carry this requirement ourselves.





MARINE SPECIES IN THE MARIANAS IMPACTED BY THE MITT

(MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING AREA)

Several endangered and protected marine species are identified as being **HARMED, HARASSED, OR KILLED** as part of the the take in the Proposed Action in the MITT.

These include:

- **TURTLES:** Green Sea Turtle, Leatherback, Hawksbill
- **SHARKS AND RAYS:** Giant Manta Ray, Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Oceanic Whitetip Shark
- **WHALES:** Blue Whale, Bryde's Whale, Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Cuvier's Beaked Whale, Short-Finned Pilot Whale, plus more
- **DOLPHINS:** Common Bottlenose Dolphin, Rough-Toothed Dolphin, Spinner Dolphin, Striped Dolphin, plus more
- **MANY OTHER SPECIES INCLUDING FISH AND CORALS**

Short-finned pilot whales near Anatahan (PHOTO:NOAA)

WHAT IS A“TAKE”?

GLOSSARY OF REGULATORY TERMS:

- **Take:** To harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.
- **Incidental take:** An unintentional, but not unexpected, take.
- **Injury:** Direct harm or damage to tissues or organs.
- **Mortality:** When an animal is killed or is subjected to a serious injury that is more likely than not to result in death.
- **Level A harassment:** An act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.
- **Level B harassment:** An act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal's natural behavioral patterns, such as migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where patterns are abandoned or significantly altered.
- **Auditory injury:** Permanent hearing loss or damage to cells in the auditory system.
- **Hearing threshold:** The lowest sound pressure (similar to volume) at which an animal can hear a particular frequency.
- **Temporary threshold shift:** A reversible shift in an animal's hearing sensitivity.
- **Behavioral response:** A disruption of natural behavior patterns.

Sources: Marine Mammal Protection Act; National Marine Fisheries Service

This will excuse the military from accountability and consequences from harassing, injuring, or killing sea life including protected species during MITT activities.



**Rough-toothed dolphin south of the West Mariana Ridge
(PHOTO:NOAA)**



**Rare Striped Dolphin
sighting in the Marianas
(PHOTO:NOAA)**

Bryde's Whale in the Marianas (Photo: NOAA)





Pilot Whales south of the Marianas (Photo: NOAA)



Survey on a nesting beach in Saipan (NOAA)



**Rehabilitated Green Sea Turtle, Guam
(PHOTO: Guam PDN)**



This video circulated on WhatsApp and social media in recent weeks. This beautiful whale was sighted off Managåha Island, Saipan earlier this year.



Isah Peredo <senatortelot.isah@gmail.com>

FYI: Input on Military Build Up Hearing

1 message

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 29, 2026 at 7:45 AM

To: Dylan Clymer <senatortelot.dylan@gmail.com>, Charissa Manibusan <senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com>, Isah Peredo <senatortelot.isah@gmail.com>, Alana Ungacta <senatortelot.alana@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **RONALD L MCNINCH** <mcninchr@triton.uog.edu>

Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2026 at 14:16

Subject: Input on Military Build Up Hearing

To: senatortelot <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Ron McNinch

28 June 2026

PO Box 5224

Mangilao, Guam 96923

mcninchr@triton.uog.edu

Memo to Senator Telo Taitague, Chair, Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

RE: Input on INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON MILITARY BUILDUP/DEFENSE, June 26, 2026

Dear Senator Taitague,

Our local media reported you held a sparsely attended hearing on June 26, 2026 related to the military buildup on Guam. Due to a class conflict, I was not able to attend or participate. Therefore, I am providing some basic input on the items covered.

The number of topics listed for this hearing were wide ranging and scattered. The topics included, the Community Defense Liaison Office, Civil-Military Coordination Council, Housing, Healthcare, Labor and Workforce, Infrastructure, Building Project Issues, Regional Relations, Deep Sea Mining, assorted impact of the military buildup, MITT, Marine Corps relocation to Guam, cybersecurity, emergency communications and assorted National Guard Issues.

Given the types of issues and scope of the topics, the format for this type of effort may be more suited to roundtable discussions. As a general rule, I would suggest two topics per hour for discussion rather than trying to discuss twenty topics in three hours. Oddly, the primary topic mentioned in the media on this hearing related to larger national security concerns which are likely well outside the purview or control of a state level legislature. Instead of concentrating on things the Guam Legislature can actually manage or control, this hearing simply seemed to be an exercise in side discussions.

While I will not go into each topic in detail, I can provide some constructive points on the Guam case in terms of the voters. The following is a general list of these points.

- 1) Overall, over 70% of voters view the US military in a very favorable light. Less than 18% have negative opinions about the US military. There are a number of reasons for this including the large veteran population on Guam, base access for veterans and military reservists, intermarriage with active duty military members, over all positives toward the US government and the connection between US mainland residents from Guam and military views. Nearly 75% of Guam voters have been in the US military or have had an immediate relative serve. Base access has greatly increased in recent years and food and gas are often bought on base. Over 42% of married couples on Guam are married to a person of another race. Over 70% of children under 25 years old have at least one grandparent of another race. This is an external indicator of military families. Finally, many persons with Guam heritage in the US mainland are there due to direct and indirect military ties. For some odd reason, many of our elected officials do not seem to understand these points.
- 2) On the housing point, Guam has not had serious discussion on alternative building materials. Instead, we build nearly all housing in concrete blocks, which is very expensive and require air conditioning. No one in our government discusses this. There are better ways to build.
- 3) On the healthcare point, nearly all discussions focus on the internecine battle over a new public hospital. The key crisis in healthcare is training healthcare providers. The University of Guam produces only about 30 nurses per year and most move off island within three years of graduation. GCC has a new RN program and this may help. All else equal, Guam could produce over 100 nurses per year. No one seems to discuss this point in our government. They only want to build concrete buildings.
- 4) Regarding labor and workforce development, we have three education systems on Guam (GDOE, GCC and UOG) that operate in isolation and we simply do not produce skilled workers. These three groups could work together, the government is paying for dysfunctional systems.
- 5) On infrastructure, we have no emphasis on infrastructure protection here. Our systems are very fragile and no one seems to understand this point.
- 6) On regional relations, our government has simply chosen to not engage in a regional relations efforts outside of junket travel. We could get a lot done if this were taken seriously. But real work does not involve taking trips funded by the government.
- 7) On deep sea mining, the involvement by our government in these areas, along with CNMI leaders, was simply a farce. No one on Guam gave any serious debate or discussion to these issues and our government essentially became a hand puppet for external lobbyists and outside influences.
- 8) I can hold a side discussion on MITT with senators if needed.
- 9) On the Marine relocation, Guam has not really discussed this in depth. We have a lot of data on this and the public is in very strong support.
- 10) On cybersecurity, I run the UOG program on this topic and we can hold side discussions as needed.
- 11) On emergency communications, I have spent two years on this topic and just finished an off island fellowship on this topic last year. It is well known typhoons knock out our cell phones. I believe we need to make 2-3 alternate protocols including meshtastic.
- 12) On the national guard, I served as an enlisted infantry and infantry officer in the army national guard. Guam should consider building CERT models using the FEMA former programs. We could also establish a "state defense force" which is an auxiliary to the national guard and does not have a federal activation function. This could be used in emergencies.

Finally, a lot of media and elected official energy has been centered on strategic missiles and nuclear war. While I enjoy shallow speculative discussions at times, the concerns for Guam are far more practical and manageable.

The single largest practical threat to Guam is supply chain disruption. We experienced an abstraction of this during covid and GDOE had to feed thousands of families. No one ever recognized this effort. Without shipping, we have just 2-3 weeks of a food supply. We need to encourage as many families as possible to develop a six to twelve month rotating food and drinking water supplies.

Sincerely, Ron McNinch, University of Guam

senatortelot@gmail.com

Håfa Adai, Madam Chair and members of this committee. For the record, my name is Baltazar Bordallo Aguon, and I'm here today to talk about the total collapse of the "One Guam" framework and the systematic disrespect of our people.

I remember the empty chairs from the previous briefing last May. The top brass of the military command didn't miss that meeting because of a scheduling conflict. They ignored us. They are absent because, in the grand calculus of the War Machine, our local government and our residents are treated as nuisances to be managed, not partners to be consulted. They think our voices and our consent mean **nothing**.

Look at the news from Washington over the last few days. The House and Senate are moving massive defense proposals under the Fiscal Year 2027 defense budget, carrying over one and a half billion dollars for the Guam buildup. We saw headlines celebrating a House amendment to zero out the twenty-nine million dollars requested for land acquisitions at Camp Blaz and Nimitz Hill. **But that potential land grab did not die.** The Senate Armed Services Committee has put that exact twenty-nine million dollar appropriation right back on the table. The threat to our civilian footprint is active, live, and moving through Congress at this very moment.

And the Pentagon is still moving full speed ahead with a multi-billion-dollar missile defense shield that turns our entire island into a combat laboratory. They are deploying land-based **Aegis** components right over Northwest Field at Andersen Air Force Base. They are packing the Navy Munitions site with heavy launchers. And right in the middle of our island, the six communication domes at the Barrigada Army Reserve property stand as a permanent, glowing bullseye for regional adversaries.

The Marine Corps recently altered its internal strategic blueprint to keep its primary combat regiments in Okinawa. If the Pentagon can casually break a binding defense treaty with Japan—a **sovereign nation**—and unilaterally decide to leave those Marines in place, what do you think they will do to a US territory? They will do whatever they want. They leave us with the permanent concrete, the destroyed jungle, and the operational risk, while turning our actual troop numbers into a shell game of six-month rotations that threatens our Section 30 funding.

Because history has shown that the US War Machine will take the land, poison the resources, ignore the locals, and call it "global stability."

Military planners say these installations, and the transportable micro-nuclear reactors they want to bring into the **Pacific Command area of responsibility** to power them, carry low environmental risk. But our bodies and our soil remember the truth.

Today, Andersen Air Force Base remains a toxic Superfund site—as it has been since **1992**—with over 80 hazardous zones leaching into the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer—the very water that 70% of our civilian population relies on to survive. And it isn't just Andersen. When you look across our landscape at the other twelve major toxic and defense restoration sites—from the toxic Agent Orange footprints left behind in Marbo and Harmon, to the asbestos in Tiyan, to the heavy metals in our bays—the pattern of environmental neglect is undeniable.

Why is our island still carrying the burden of this massive toxic legacy? Look at what happened in 2002. A landmark GAO report came out and exposed that the federal government funded a measly 4% of military cleanups on Guam compared to the rest of the nation. The **Army Corps of Engineers** explicitly admitted to moving our cleanups down the national priority list. They looked at our island and chose to rank us lower, despite acknowledging that the contamination posed an identical threat to human health. They decided that mainland communities were the priority, and we were not. They decided mainland lives were worth the funding, and ours weren't.

As recently as 2023, our families in Malesso' were paying the price for that exact deprioritization with documented spikes in cancer rates—directly linked to unmitigated military PCB contamination at Cocos Island.

And now, they want to introduce transportable nuclear micro-reactors into our region, exploiting a loophole in the federal defense bill that fast-tracks the evaluation of these programs without real civilian oversight. **As Dr. Robert Underwood and Leland Bettis recently warned our community, these installations don't deter a war—they invite one.** They turn our home into an immediate target. Under military doctrine, a power source feeding a missile shield is a critical node. It is a primary target for an enemy strike.

If a reactor is targeted in a conflict, or malfunctions, radiation will not stop at a base fence. A plume will cover our northern villages in minutes. Radioactive runoff will poison our aquifer in days. On an island thirty miles long, there is no "inland" to evacuate to. It is an existential threat to our survival.

Several days ago in Washington, Hawai'i Congresswoman Jill Tokuda stood up at that defense bill markup and gave a fiery speech against these exact same micro-reactors. She explicitly warned that after decades of nuclear testing in the Pacific- and the poisoning of Oahu's water at Red Hill - the Hawaiian islands refuse to be used as a testing ground for an unproven military nuclear program. She rose in defense of her people and drew a line.

As leaders in Hawaii have the courage to say no to being a nuclear experiment, I know this 38th Guam Legislature has that same courage—you have already proven it. When you stood firm and passed Bill 253-38 to ban deep-sea mining vessels from using our ports—now Public Law 38-129—you protected our ocean and showed the entire region what visionary, protective leadership looks like. You proved that we have the statutory power to protect our home from outside exploitation. You drew an unyielding line at the reef, and the world listened.

We must draw that same line on our soil. I **urge** this body to look at the precedent you set with our ports and apply it to our survival. Don't negotiate or regulate a nuclear loophole behind closed doors. Put it to the people.

I **urge** this committee to immediately introduce a legislative submission bill to place a binding referendum on the November General Election ballot. Let the people of Guam decide, once and for all, if we will permit nuclear technology on our **sacred** island.

In demanding this vote, we are simply standing up for what any other community who cares for its people and homeland would fight for.

If federal authorities refuse to give us transparency, let us use the ultimate tool of democracy to give them our answer.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on *Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement*, convened an **Informational Briefing on Military Buildup, Monday, May 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

Public Notice Requirement:

In compliance with Open Government Law, a five (5) day public notice of this hearing was published on Monday, April 27, 2026, and a forty-eight (48) hour notice was published on Thursday, April 30, 2026, on KUAM-TV and the Guam Public Notice Website. Notices were also sent to all senators, and all main media broadcasting outlets via email on the same dates.

Senators Present:

Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson
Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Senator Chris Barnett
Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Appearing Before the Senate Panel:

Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office (CDLO), Office of the Governor
Colonel Charles Douglas, Assistant Adjutant General, Office of Civil Defense
Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Adviser on Military and Regional Affairs; Executive Director, Ayuda Foundation
Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Homeland Security / Office of Civil Defense

Written Testimony Submitted:

Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office (CDLO), Office of the Governor
Colonel Charles Douglas, Assistant Adjutant General, Office of Civil Defense
Esther J. C. Aguigui, Homeland Security Advisor / Acting Administrator, Office of Civil Defense



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

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II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 2:07 p.m. The Informational Briefing on Military Buildup was the only item on the agenda.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: *Buenas and Hafa Adai*, this public hearing is now called to order and the time now is 7 after 2 p.m. on this day, May 4th, 2026. And I'd like to apologize to everyone who's listening and of course those here today for the delay. We had some technical difficulties with our YouTube, so we're here today and thank you for being here. This hearing is conducted by myself, *Senadot* Telo T. Taitague, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Election and Retirement. To comply with the open government law, notices of this hearing were published on KUAM and the government of Guam Notice Portal on Monday, April 27th, 2026 and the second notice on Thursday, April 30th, 2026. The notice of this hearing was also disseminated to all the Senators, media via email and is made available on the Guam legislative website which is up and running right now.

I would like to also recognize those who are in person and those who are watching from home. Welcome to your Guam Legislature. I also like to welcome my colleagues who are joining us today. Senator Therese Terlaje, Senator Chris Barnett, Senator Jesse Lujan, and Senator Shawn Gumataotao. Colleagues, copy of copies of the informational briefing documents compiled received prior to this informational briefing can be accessed through the Google Drive link which is published on the public hearing notice for this hearing and also emailed to you in advance as well as a copy of all the questions that were provided to these four agencies ahead of time. So you will see those questions in front of you to basically... to knock off some time you know or just make it more convenient for everybody to provide the answers. For the listening public, you can also access the Google Drive link on the public hearing notice published by the government of Guam Public Notice Portal at notices.guam.gov. However, I'm not sure if that is up yet. I have a list of some of them but is it up Ms. Perez? Okay. So, notices to Guam.gov is up and running.

The Guam Legislaturator's website is also up and running at guamlegislature.gov. If you need assistance, please feel free to call the legislature at 671-472-3465. The rules before we begin are when you speak to please speak directly into the microphone. And for the record, please state your name, position, and who you represent. I ask that those who are testifying today to stay seated for any questions my colleagues may have. And then you'll be excused. I do know some individuals have to leave right away. We're in the middle of recovery as well as we all know what's happened on the cyber side. So I also ask that you conduct yourselves professionally and respect each other's opinion. So no pulling hair or biting. Those individuals who do not comply with these rules will be removed from the room and prohibited from participating.

So that being said, this informational this informational hearing— I'm going to go ahead and start with the



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informational hearing. I invited four individuals to be here today to participate in this hearing. And just to let you know that after this hearing is concluded, I will recess and another hearing will be— we'll notify for another hearing for the public to come and provide their testimonies to the comments that you made today. So just a FYI. *Hafa adai* and good morning and I would like to begin by acknowledging the significance of this briefing we are holding today. It's been a little over a year since the committee held its first informational briefing on the military buildup. The military buildup was significant and is significant and has far-reaching impacts on all aspects of our lives in Guam and in our community ranging from economy, emergency preparedness, infrastructure, housing, health care, workforce development, the environment, education, cultural, historical practices and preservation.

Unfortunately though, we had invited both Rear Admiral Mietus Commander of the Joint Region Marianas and invited Rear Admiral Lasky Commander of the Joint Task Force-Micronesia to this hearing. In their response to our invitation, they informed us they will not be attending this year's military informational briefing and they will not be sending a representative with no explanation as to why. It is very disheartening that they are not staying true to the commitment of the one Guam approach. This is very disappointing and is the reality of this military buildup changing so drastically that they should be here to answer our questions. But nevertheless, I'm greatly appreciative of those before us today who do protect this community. We are here today to provide, my colleagues, but most especially the people of Guam who deserve and have every right to know what the status of the military buildup/defense is on our island. Present today, we have Vera Topasna, executive director of the community defense liaison office.

We have Carlotta Leon Guerrero, the Governor's Chief Adviser on Military Region Regional Affairs from the Office of the Governor. We have, Homeland Security Advisor representative who is here today representing Esther Aguigui, Miss Perez, Miss Perez from Homeland Security. We also have, Office of Civil Defense from the Civil Defense and assistant adjutant general colonel Charles Douglas who is representing Brigadier General Karin Watson the Adjutant General of the National Guard who is currently off island. So, thank you so much for being here. And before we proceed, I also like to ask my colleagues to refrain from any questions that you have until after everyone has had the opportunity to provide their opening remarks. I ask this because prior to the informational briefing, I provided each person here with a set of questions that they are to address at the starting of this briefing. So at this time I'd like to open it up to Executive Director Topasna. you are now recognized to present your opening remarks based on the questions I sent to you earlier as well as any additional comments you would like to add to your presentation. Madam, you are now recognized.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Thank you Honorable Senator Taitague and all Senators present here today. Thank you for this opportunity to come before you and to present this informational briefing on the military buildup. The Community Defense Liaison Office continues to serve as the Government of Guam's coordinating link on defense related matters that affect our island community. In practice, that means we work across Gov Guam agencies or



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federal partners, military commands to identify impacts and opportunities early to align planning and advocate for community needs as buildup activities continue. Our work is centered on one core responsibility and that is making sure Guam is not only informed about the buildup but to the extent practicable is prepared for it and positioned to secure the federal coordination and investment needed to protect the health infrastructure, housing stability, and public services for our people. The briefing that I'm about to share with you reflects that mission. It responds to the committee's supplemental questions and provides an executive overview of CDLO's current work across five areas. Our grant portfolio management, housing, infrastructure, healthcare and preparedness, and federal coordination tied to funding and the economic adjustment committee process. At this stage, CDLO is supporting active grants already advancing public health capacity, logistic support, and professional advisory work, while also standing up new assessment efforts focused on village infrastructure, islandwide medical capacity and infrastructure.

We are also tracking through our housing subcommittee of the civil military coordinating council led by Fernando Esteves on how military growth is affecting off-base housing demand, public infrastructure timelines, hospital capacity and the need for stronger interagency coordination so that civilian systems are not left to absorb pressure without planning or support, working with our local agencies, Joint Region Marianas and Joint Task Force-Micronia counterparts. Just as important, CDLO has been designated as a government of Guam lead for coordination with the Department of War, the Office of Local Defense, Community Cooperation, and federal partners as the economic adjustment committee process moves forward for Guam. Today's presentation is intended to give the committee a clear picture of where the buildup stands today with available information that's provided to the CDLO. What pressures and opportunities are emerging and where CDLO is focused in order to protect community interests while maintaining a constructive working relationship with our local, federal, and military partners. And so I thank you, Madame Chair, with that, I will proceed with the briefing. I'm not sure if—I apologize. We brought the presentation, so I'm not sure if it's able to go up.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Unfortunately, what has happened is we needed this, a couple days. There's a requirement a couple days in advance in order to put the PowerPoint up and it didn't meet the deadline. So I did provide all our senators who are here today with a copy of your brief. You can go ahead and proceed from there and hopefully we can—we will put this online for the public to be able to look at as well to provide that access. Please go ahead and proceed.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Okay, and so I'll begin with our grant portfolio. Currently the CDLO is managing a logistics and operational grant and that provides for the staff of the CDLO and I would be remiss, the same people I do have in addition former Senator George Bamba our Senior Policy Analyst, we have our Chief Planner John Burch, Senior Planner Jose Naputi, and our Senior Engineer Mr. Al Santos. And Seahara Cruz who is working sort of duly on a OIPD grant supporting CDLO and Melissa Bettis at OIPD. We are managing, again, currently



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the Professional Advisory Services Grant that was awarded a year and a half ago to Tetrattech and in that grant they have been assessing the post-Mawar vulnerabilities to telecommunications, power, water, the port and they are just about ready to wrap up a final report. In addition to that, they provide NEPA support to us professional certified environmental experts who have been supporting the office of the governor and our GovGuam agencies in responding to the final EIAMD (Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense) EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) and the Mariana Island training and testing. MITT action that just closed a few days ago. And so we were able to successfully respond with really good comments from our government of Guam to include a request for the Navy to possibly assess the post Sinlaku effects on our reefs and on and the ocean and all of the issues that we based. So, we will see what the response will be. The governor sent a cover letter with those comments.

In addition to those open grants, we do have some new awards that have not yet been awarded contractually, but I will share that we have a village infrastructure needs assessment to support the village mayor's council to look at emergency response critical infrastructure within the villages. They will also be providing one-on-one support to the mayor's council as they deal—as we deal with the military buildup. And in addition to that, we have a medical capacity services grant which will look at the overall capacity of medical facilities and capabilities across the island, not just the hospital, but clinics, specialty clinics and what that capacity is for the people of Guam in consideration for the influx of military personnel as well. I mean—and then the third one is the infrastructure risk assessment that will look at other critical areas such as fuel logistic support throughout the island. We will be looking at and in partnership with OIPD, we will look at broadband and a little bit of cyber vulnerabilities on the island and the transportation emergency network system working with DPW. So, those are the three grants that were awarded to CDLO and again we are working on getting those out on the streets and hopefully awarded soon.

And so moving on, I know that there were questions about the housing RFP that went out by the DoD. And so what I'm reporting is as much as I could get from them, but I would invite the committee to perhaps address them. I don't want to misquote any anything or or misreport anything from - by them, but I did put some graphics here and again this was reported by Admiral Mietus during the CMCC and so it covers the RFP for the phase one of their housing at 917 family units plus 400 unaccompanied service member units. The housing pilot phase two, my understanding is that it is not yet released. I understand that they are revisiting their approach, but I don't have any additional information. This is basically what you see here on the slide is what they covered when they announced and when they reported, what they would be looking for in terms of housing in their RFP and as the Admiral had mentioned the acquisition strategy that they were looking at was a lease, either a lease, a lease to purchase purchase or other transactions. structure as deemed appropriate by and acceptable by the Department of the Navy. And again, I know that phase 2 is being worked on. When that will come out or any information, I do not have an update from them. And so, moving on to the next slide, the last time that we were here before you, Madame Chair, JRM, Randel Sablan had reported where they were on buildup completion percentages and MilCon status excluding the missile defense program and this graphic is basically from some of the reports that they issued to



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us. The EIMD on this slide was tracked separately, but in the next slide you will see this is the latest from NAPAC. and that is currently under construction is 6.1 billion planned for FY26. In other words those are to be awarded in FY26 is 2.5 billion. And then the FY27 PDI Millcon that's is being proposed and sent to Congress is one right around 1.9 billion and in that is the program for the missile defense of Guam, some housing and I believe a bit of cybersecurity initiatives and so the total visible program at this point 10.5 billion across active execution and again FY26 plans and FY27 anticipated or proposed to Congress. And then the next few slides or in the next slide it was you had asked about military health care expansion capacity and civilian hospital strain. This was taken from their DoD health military report in 2025. I did run it up the chain at JRM and so far it's pretty much tracking. They will go back and see if there's an update but this is the slide that I am sharing based on what they reported.

And I think it's important to note the 39 bed inpatient hospital in other words Navy hospital is also shared by veterans but that is their inpatient capacity. And then there's demand outpaces capacity as they have stated in their report. What we do know is that they are standing up— while the naval base Guam has a new medical clinic to support capacity and I believe the camp Blas has a small clinic and then Anderson Air Force Base, though, it is outpatient. Right now, currently we are working with Napac Pacific on the Guam DoD master plan that takes into account the— using the latest growth of population for the military buildup to look at they've already produced the gap analysis. We are waiting for a final report from them and we continue to work with them and our agencies to get that Guam DoD master plan issued this year. And then lastly the convening of the economic adjustment committee. I can't report that, you know, unfortunately we had to cancel the first federal round table in San Francisco due to typhoon Sinlaku but that was already— had already been scheduled and Guam was prepared.

Our agency has— were prepared to accompany the governor for that round table. So right now we are waiting for a reschedule which we would hope would be sometime in June. And in the EAC we've had all our agencies submit priority projects. Right now there are five core areas that the CDLO focused on with our agency counterparts and that is the hospital capacity, the port of Guam, Guam Power, Guam Water and DPW for roads. Those agencies were provided technical support from our professional advisory team to help them solidify their packages for this federal convening. And again we have the DoD master plan that's an emerging track that we hope to get out this year and then in the NDAA, what we are waiting for is a directed feasibility study for the shipyard that is due April 2026. To date we haven't had an update on that. I believe they're still working on it. and so with that, that is all I have to report, pending any questions.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much. Thank you so much, Vera. Before I turn it over to the next one on the agenda, I did want to ask you, this information that you provided on this spreadsheet. This is up to date. This is 2026 information, right?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE



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OF THE GOVERNOR: For which?

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Well, what is not up to date as far as information? because you mentioned—

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I think the only one probably that I would say is, would be something I would want, maybe updated would be the hospital, the medical capacity slide that had some of the stats for Naval Hospital and healthcare. That's probably something that I would want updated.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay, and lastly you were talking about the grant for military facilities and getting together about finding out even clinics as well as hospitals that you're accumulating this information. Does that also include the military clinics as well and hospital?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yes, that will look at the entire capacity both inside and outside the fence.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Well, thank you so much. And at this time I'd like to recognize Miss Perez from Homeland Security. Madam, you have the floor.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Good afternoon and *hafa adai* honorable chairwoman Taitague and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Esther J. C. Aguigui. I serve as Guam's Homeland Security Advisor and acting administrator of the Office of Civil Defense under the Office of the Governor. I also serve as Guam's territorial coordinating officer, the primary civilian link between our island and FEMA. I am the former agitant general of the Guam National Guard with over 36 years of combined military and public service to the island I call home. I am grateful for this opportunity and I welcome this dialogue.

The mission of the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense is to protect the people of Guam before, during, and after any threat, whether natural or man-made. We are Guam's lead agency for emergency preparedness, disaster response, and recovery, and homeland security coordination. Think of us as the civilian command center that connects the governor, federal partners like FEMA and DHS, the military and every GovGuam agency when a crisis hits. Typhoon Mawar in 2023, COVID 19, and right now, OHS OCD is hard at work with our ongoing recovery from typhoon Sinlaku, coordinating resources, managing federal disaster declarations, and keeping the governor informed every single day.

Have our duties changed this past year? Yes, significantly. The security environment around Guam has grown



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more complex. The military buildup has accelerated. That means our office is now operating at the intersection of natural disaster response and defense related civil preparedness simultaneously. We are doing more with the lean team while managing an active federal disaster recovery. Our areas of responsibility include emergency management and disaster response, homeland security grant administration, cyber security coordination, emergency communications and public warning systems, critical infrastructure protection, and continuity of government operations.

Of these, the items requiring the most urgent attention are cyber security and emergency communications and I will address both directly. There is one item that does not technically fall under the purview of OHS OCD but that I believe requires this committee's urgent attention. The condition and funding of Guam's critical utilities infrastructure, specifically power and water. No emergency system functions without them. When the grid goes down, everything downstream fails. That is a GPA and GWA matter. But it is an OHS OCD problem. the moment a disaster strikes. Guam's cyber security posture is improving, but we are not where we need to be, and I will be direct about that. Our critical digital infrastructure includes government networks, the port authority systems, GPA's operational technology, hospital networks, and telecommunications. These systems support commerce, health care, water distribution, and public safety. A cyber attack on any one of them can cascade across all of them, as we saw happened to the Colonial Pipeline on the US mainland in 2021, where a single ransomware attack shut down fuel supplies across the eastern seaboard for days.

OHS OCD is currently pursuing federal funding, approximately \$2 million, to modernize our IT infrastructure, establish redundant communication systems, and build out a cyber security capability appropriate for an island of strategic national importance. We are working with CISA and our federal partners on this, but funding and staffing gaps remain. Immediate needs include a dedicated cyber security operations function, updated network architecture across GovGuam agencies, and a tested incident response plan. We do not yet have all three fully operational. Regarding the secured room located inside our OHS OCD facility, I want to be clear, the loss of access to that space has not impacted our defensive capabilities or our readiness. Our strong partnership with Joint Region Marianas and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue to provide us with critical information necessary in the interest of national security. Those relationships are intact, active, and effective. At this time there is no projected timeline for regaining access to that room but operationally we remain fully capable.

On public warning systems. I want to correct a common misconception. Guam does not have an air raid warning system. What we have is an all hazards alert warning system also known as AHAS and I am proud to report that it is fully operational. It consists of 23 warning locations distributed throughout the island covering our villages and key population areas. This system is tested on the second Tuesday of every month so that our residents know what it sounds like and what to do when they hear it. That regularity builds public confidence and community readiness. On broader emergency communications, OHS OCD activates the emergency alert system and coordinates with local media during any emergency. We have also received grant funding to implement the



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wireless emergency alert system which pushes notifications directly to every cell phone on island, ensuring we reach each resident rapidly and broadly regardless of whether they are watching television or listening to the radio. We also maintain direct lines to our village mayors who are our last mile communicators to residents on the ground. That network is one of our most underappreciated but most critical asset and we continue to invest in strengthening it. In the event of an emergency whether due to a natural disaster, a conflict or war situation. OHS OCD will disseminate information to the civilian population of Guam through two primary channels, the All Hazards Alert Warning System and the Joint Information Center.

The joint information center brings together government agencies, military partners, and media into a single coordinated communications hub, ensuring that the public receives one clear, consistent, and accurate message, no matter the nature of the emergency. Chairwoman Taitague, this committee is asking exactly the right questions. Guam sits at the tip of the spear geographically, strategically, and increasingly in terms of risk. Our people deserve a civil defense capability that matches that reality. I am committed to this work. My office is committed and I welcome the legislature as a partner in making sure we get there. I do want to offer my sincere apologies given that we are in the middle of an active disaster recovery. I am unable to appear or stay for questions today. However, I genuinely welcome your feedback and any follow on questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office directly at lucia.perez@ghs.guam.gov or esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov. We will be responsible. *Si Yu'us Ma'åse'.*

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Perez and I'd also like to thank you for inviting me up two days after the typhoon to see how Homeland Security/ Office of Civil Defense is working during the recovery efforts and I was very impressed. And just having Andy from GSA sitting in the director's office from the time it started to the end was just so impressive. There to ready to stamp all those RFPs right away to get the equipment needed for our people as they recover. And at this time you know I'll have AG and then I mean not AG I'll have the Adjutant General go next then you Carlotta, and then we'll do your questions so that you can leave because I know you have to leave. So at this time I'd like to recognize Colonel Douglas. You are now recognized please sir.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE: *Hafa adai*, Madame Chairwoman and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding the ongoing military buildup from a Guam National Guard perspective. I appear before you not just as a military officer, but as someone who has called Guam home for more than 33 years, representing the men and women of the Guam National Guard who live, work, and serve in the very communities we are sworn to protect. Today, I want to address three vital areas. How our National Guard integrates with the broader joint force on the island. how the current buildup impacts our specific formation and our critical role in ensuring the resilience of Guam's people and civilian infrastructure. First, regarding our interface with the other military branches, as you know, the Guam National Guard is a unique entity. We operate



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under the dual authority of the Governor of Guam and the President of the United States. In the context of the buildup and the Indo-Pacific strategy, we are part of the total force. Our Adjutant General stays in regular communication with Joint Task-Force Micronesia, Joint Region Marianas and other military commands on island through synchronized meetings, planned planning efforts, and even social events. These relationships are key to the success of our interoperability and shared missions. Whether it is through integrated missile defense operations at the THAAD, joint logistics planning, or shared training ranges, the Guard works to bring a local perspective to federal military planning. Our soldiers and airmen serve as a critical bridge between the Department of War and the local community. So advocating for the island's needs has become our implied task. Second, regarding how the military buildup affects the Guam Guard, the influx of active duty personnel, assets, and infrastructure development presents both opportunities and challenges to our ranks.

On the opportunity side, the buildup brings potential training facilities and joint operational exercises to our backyard and may provide employment opportunities with the Guam defense system. However, we also recognize the challenges. As the active duty footprint grows, so does the competition for resources. The increased personnel and operational tempo on the island means our logistic and support elements such as our central issuing and maintenance facilities, training space, and availability of military medical providers are challenged to maintain a pace with a broader defense strategy. As the second smallest and most remote National Guard in the nation, we are actively advocating for proportionate federal investment in local facilities and manning to ensure we are not outpaced by the broader buildup. And finally, and most importantly, I want to address our role in national security and civilian considerations. While the active duty branches are heavily focused on power projection and regional deterrence, the Guam National Guard's center of gravity remains the homeland defense of Guam.

National security cannot exist without local resilience. Our defense support of civil authority mission is paramount when it comes to life support. Our engineers, medical personnel, and logistic experts are the first military responders to natural disasters. But beyond storm response, our modern battlefield includes critical infrastructure and cyberspace. The military buildup relies heavily on civilian infrastructure. And our commercial port, our power grid, our water system, and our telecommunications. Recognizing this, the Guam Guard has prioritized cyber defense and critical infrastructure protection. Our cyber efforts work to connect govam agencies and local utilities with resources for vulnerable assessments, network hardening and defense against state sponsored and nonstate actors who seek to disrupt our way of life. But without a formalized full-time cyber protection team, our capability is limited. In conclusion, the military buildup is transforming our island strategic landscape, but the core mission of the Guam National Guard remains unchanged. To protect our island and defend our nation, we will continue to leverage our joint partnership, adapt to the changing footprint, and fight for Guam's civilian infrastructure and cyber resiliency needs. Because the people of Guam deserve nothing less. Thank you, and I look forward to any of your questions.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much, Colonel. At this time, I'd like to



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recognize Carlotta Leon Guerrero. Madam, you have the floor.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and good afternoon to members of the legislature. I think I'm here with two hats on. the Governor's Chief Advisor on Military and Regional Affairs and also the Executive Director of the *Ayuda* Foundation which was one of the topics of the questions that you sent my way, madam chair was to update this body on an APIL resolution that was sent to INDOPOCOM urging the leaders of the region wanted INDOPACOM to pay attention to creating a greater humanitarian role and they advised them to talk with the *Ayuda* Foundation about how we could do that together. So that was a year ago and so to report back from that, there has— I have been approached by INDOPACOM different people from INDOPACOM. It first happened when there was the defense form that Vera organized here. After I gave my remarks, I was approached and then when I was in Hawaii for another meeting I had some other meetings with people from Indoaccom. So I would say it's starting off connections on how to connect their training efforts with humanitarian needs, trying to do more so that every time the ships or planes are going out that we would be aware of it and whatever is space available there would be an opportunity to put humanitarian cargo on that. So I would say those conversations have begun.

I would like to say I would like to see them more structured and but I would I do have to say that I feel that we have started something and one of the first things that they wanted to talk with me about was to get some feedback from me as well as the other people that I deal with on sea planes. They— INDOPACOM has an interest in maintaining sea plane capability and so the conversation was very brief but could seep plane capability factor into humanitarian delivery of cargo to small remote at holes? So there has been no other conversations after that initial conversation specifically on sea planes. But I can tell you that right now switching to current efforts to recover from Sinlaku what it is like dealing with INDOPACOM right now is they're they're interacting they're calling, I'll get a call at like 8:00 at night and say can you move something and we want to get a Navy plane we want to do an airlift we want to do water relief to an isolated impacted area in Saipan. So they will call, they will connect, but it's not in any regular standard SOP kind of way. It's just that right now we're in the middle of a disaster. And so, military ships and planes are reaching out, the captains, I get calls from people that work at Joint Task Force-Micronesia, asking about availability and could we get cargo. So, I would say we're connecting, but it's not in a standardized way. I'm hoping that over time that will strengthen those capacities. The other way— Oh, oh yes...

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: That's just a copy of the questions that we provided you just in case. And also just to let you know, I did provide the legislature, the Senators, a copy of the APIL resolution so they can look at it. But I just thought I would give you a copy of the questions on...

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL



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AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: So on— and I apologize. I've been tied up a little bit on the—

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Understandable this type—

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: On this one here, on deep sea mining. I did have a point I wanted to make to update the legislature on the governor's efforts on deep sea mining as it pertains to military training and trying to get INDOPACOM involved. We've done a lot of research and we found out that the Florida delegations, congressional delegations as well as DoD has opposed Bowam's efforts to do oil drilling in the outer continental shelf. So they are opposed to anything that is going to put natural resource extraction up against military training and testing. So that's what they say. There's all this literature, there's all these positions coming out of the unified Florida congressional delegation as well as DoD, these reports where they're saying that deep not they didn't say deep sea mining. That's what we're saying. They're saying oil extraction within the outer continental shelf in the Gulf will hinder military training and testing and so they're opposed to it. And so that's one of the things that the governor's office is working on, is that position and working with Governor Apatang in the CNMI. There's a letter that's going out to the Senate Natural Resource chairman asking for federal task force on deep sea mining as well as getting an impact study on how deep sea mining in the outer continental shelf will impact the military training and testing. And so it's an unusual position for us to be in. But if this is something that can slow down this process until science catches up with it, it is something that we are exploring. So that's the best I can answer at this time. I apologize I don't have all the answers to the different questions. I can submit and get them to you soon.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: How about the last one before I mean I gave you a copy of the questions that were provided to you earlier. This last one, on the rotation of Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa, Japan to Guam.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I would think Barrett probably has more of an idea of that. But I do know that the impetus that they had on concern to the government of Guam is in that rotation. How do you calculate the impact to section 30 funds with a six-month rotation? So, the government of Guam is always trying to say whether you put two people into that, we're going to count that as impact. So, they're thinking - is that the issue right, on section 30? One of the ideas is that we wanted to make sure how that is calculated as far as their impact to our services so that we can claim section 30. So, I'm sorry I don't. I don't have a fuller answer on that one.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. At this time, I know you have to leave as well as



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Ms. Perez. So, I'm going to open up to my colleagues for any questions they may have. just to Carlotta first and then once finished with her, we'll go to Miss Perez and then we'll continue on with both sides to be here. So, I'm going to go ahead and start with who came first. Oh, Senator Gumataotao, you are recognized. This is just for Carlotta Leon Guerrero, the Governor's Liaison for Military Affairs.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks Carlotta for being with us and thank you Lucia for your work on the response. On the proposed MITT study area expansion. Which civilian government agencies were formally consulted before that proposal was advanced? And has the office of the governor provided, I think you mentioned it earlier but has the office of the governor provided a written position on the expansion's potential impact on civilian communities?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: The expansion of the MITT to the civilian community. I believe this is something that Vera's office handled and I think this is something that we also had assistance with Tetrach and professional advisory services on that. But as far as going all the way up to interior and to BOEM as well as to Congress, the governor, Lieutenant Governor, as well as the speaker Congressman Moylan and the mayor's president just sent a letter to BOEM. oh, I'm sorry, I'm getting confused. That was for Deep Sea Mining. No, I'm sorry. Vera has the latest information on the expansion of that.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Okay. Thank you so much, Carlotta. That was my only question, but I'll save that for Vera.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Sorry, conflicted.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO That's it.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much. Senator Lujan, you're recognized.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon, Senator and Senator Bamba as well. See you here Senator. Leon Guerrero, I asked the governor while back while back here, that the Office of Federal Affairs also be extended the opportunity to be part of the civilian military coordinating committee at the start of this term. The same way my predecessor who had the committee on federal and foreign affairs, Senator Barnes, was given that opportunity as well. I haven't heard back regarding that request.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I am not sure exactly what the response to



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that. I can tell you that my recommendation is to say yes. I like the, more the merrier. And when I was in your position I was included in all kinds of executive task forces and military task forces as well. So, that's the best I can do is, I have passed it on and I do recommend that you guys -

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: I appreciate that because some of the questions here that were being asked and and some things come back to us as well. You know, I have oversight of all utilities, tourism and things of that nature and in my communications as well with both - actually admirals as the oversight chair for federal affairs as well. They're supportive of some of the things that we're supportive of, but you know, we need to all sit down, you know, in one setting and talk these things out because you may not have some answers to some of these things, but they may do, they have the answers with that. like for example in regards to it I've asked about infrastructure and totally in support of it as well. one of the things that we we asked about again is is that the airport to be able to tap into the pipeline to be able to have fuel directly to the airport again that because that was one of the things in Mawar that prevented again the airport from functioning 100% because all their fuel trucks were were busy out to to their stations and they you know the the airport wasn't a priority to to the these folks. They're were in support of that and wanting to move forward and know I know the airport is pursuing that as well.

And likewise just that we just got the information that the Trump administration extended the Jones Act waiver for another 90 days. So this is something that we need a permanent waiver basically for our situation here as well for Guam. Just 90 days is not going to do us any good. And we know also, that these tankers that - cuz we know that Japan just got their fuel from Alaska not too long ago here, but those tankers cannot come into Guam. They use tankers - we use here are called boutique tankers basically. So these exemptions, the the 90 the 60 and the 90 days exemptions, you know, are nice, but what I like about it is that it gives us the opportunity again to talk about our uniqueness here on the island and that yes, we appreciate the the waiver, but we need or the temporary waiver, but we need the permanent waivers because of who we are and where we are. That these these are exemptions again the you know just few months it's not going to do us it's not going to do us any any good so and these are things again I mean another thing is the cabotage situation here both admirals aren't supportive of it you know and so if we can get them them black and white to support that will go a long ways to some of the things that that we're pursuing but -

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I'm a big fan senator I'm a big fan of us working closer with joint task force Micronesia, Marianas, Indopaccomm. I think that the lawmakers have a lot to offer. So I'll stress it again every chance that I get.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: And I appreciate that again being part of the committee because like I said some of the things that of course here we have a crossover between the military buildup and federal and foreign affairs at this point here. So there are questions that I previously asked that were answered in the positive manner but



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those folks are not here you know and so you know when are we going to come together is it going to be a joint resolution with everybody or you know how's you know how are we going to take advantage again like I said we just heard that we got an exemption to the Jones Act another 90 days. How do we take advantage of that, to again, to really get our cause looked at to get the permanent waiver for that because again the 90 days it's nice. It's a little longer than the 60 but you know are we taking advantage of that to really again show our uniqueness and the need for a permanent exemption. So anyway that's my thing. Thank you madam chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Very welcome. Thank you Senator. As well, you know, Carlotta, I know we're going to be getting information from you on the questions that I asked you earlier and to please incorporate into that question regarding the civilian military coordination. It's a good question to ask the governor if she would still let us be a part at least a member of this legislature to be a part. other than that, then I will move over to Senator Terlaje. You are now recognized.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Madam Chair, thank you for being here this afternoon, all of you, and your testimony. I just wanted to follow up on a couple. So, I guess we're open to every strategy regarding this deep sea mining, slowing it down. I agree with you. I just don't want to be endorsing any additional military training or testing in those same waters because they also have impacts. I'm interested to see the comment on the MIT that your office submitted, Vera and looking forward to that if we could get a copy if it's not posted online, please. And especially because you said that was in consultation with - you have a consultant working with you right now for those types of things. All right. I wanted to go back a little bit to the housing. Oh, sorry. Only for Carlotta's questions. Senator Carlotta, can you Yeah. Just do you have anything to add regarding what the government is doing to mitigate the military's buildup to local housing?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Well, what I would just like to speak as a former lawmaker to fellow lawmakers. If I were in your position, I would be looking at the housing study that GURA put out and where they identified that there's something like 6,500 homes that are not in the mix and they're not in the mix because they're stuck in probate, they can't get funding, they can't -

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Yeah, we're familiar with that.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Yeah. I think that's a great place to start off, how to incentivize. I don't know if you can write incentives so that if they do this and turn it into affordable housing for 10 years or something they can get a break. So -

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Well that is, would be the government of Guam taking on additional



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responsibility which it could but I'm just asking about this hearing today regarding the intersection between the military and its actions and Guam. So you're saying we've just mitigate that on our own. Have you guys entered into any discussions on additional - I mean there was talks before about asking them to change different things. I was at the forum that you had. Is there going to be any push for example during the economic adjustment committee or or any - no other efforts that you're aware of?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: If I could just throw some things out, having been involved in military buildups, the shrinking and growing of them over decades and what can happen is you can you can think you're going to get hit with a huge buildup and then something changes and the troops get pulled back or they get re or they don't come for a long time. That's what we saw when we built - somebody built those four huge towers over at GMH that sat for about 10,12 years before things picked up. Now you hear that troops might be getting pulled out of Europe, a huge amount of troops getting pulled. So it ebbs and flows and so it is entirely possible that this thing could change. And then I just want to throw that out.

And then another thing that I want to throw out is in each and every meeting that I go to at different times, I'm pushing for them to go higher. I don't understand why when -

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Higher what?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Condos to go up instead of taking up so much land space. I think that when you look at military bases in Okinawa and you look at housing in Korea, they're all up in huge towers. They're not taking up precious land space. So, that's a push back that I personally throw into each and every different kind of meetings and opportunities that I get. And when you look at housing in military housing in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea, you'll see that - what it looks like there.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Well, the housing shortage that we're having is immediate. It's not one that they're even, I mean the future is also a potential you know it's going to be a similar situation but right now the situation is dire according to everyone. So-

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I agree

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: I'm just wondering if there's anything that you're aware of that's a concerted effort on your actions.



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CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: They're building houses, they're fixing up houses. They're trying to add more inventory on the military bases. That's one thing. And the other thing of the kind of personnel that they send over to send over more single soldiers instead of the ones that come with their families. So, I've seen them try to mitigate their impacts in ways such as the type of soldier, but I know that there's lots of money in the budgets to fix up and build more houses on the military bases right now. Yeah.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So, in the NDAA, they note 452 housing units at Anderson Air Force Base they're going to replace. So that would just be a replacement of 452, not an additional. And they're going to revitalize 44 current unit Lockwood Terrace at Naval Base Guam. So it doesn't really sound like additional, just kind of replacement of the numbers for on their side. And then what about the land easements that they are proposing to obtain for their installation of nuclear reactors for the missile defense land easements? Sounds to me like kind of contrary to this, the net negative land policy that the military promised during the buildup. Do you agree? And is there any effort to push back on additional land easements that are they not able to.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I personally push back on it. I personally go into meetings and I'm questioning, what did they mean when you said that you were not going to increase your geographic footprint by the time you leave your geographic footprint will be smaller. I think their interpretation is on excess lands because what's happening right now is our people are running at them with land that they want to sell that they want to lease. And so that's the reality of what's going on is that, there is a lot of interested land owners close to military installations that want to talk about selling or leasing their land.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Sure. But there was also a promise right that they would not increase their footprint as you said and yeah but now this seems completely contrary to that that they want to increase to obtain additional land easements like you say by purchase or otherwise. I guess you say you personally push back but in your position aren't you the one in representing us in the meetings?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Yes. And I make my point clear, but I am not the only person that has an opinion on how this should go. I think they might look at it like the way they got land before was after the war where there was so much condemning of land or that's how there was land acquisition before. Right now when you've got local families that are nearby saying, I'd like to have meetings with you to talk about this. It's a different dynamic, Senator, of how our people are approaching. Many of them are seeing this as an opportunity.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: I agree for the people, they can do what they want with their land. But



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I'm asking what is the government doing, the governor's office and your offices doing to represent us in regards to these additional land that the military wants to obtain on Guam.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: My preference is that I think they should go up high on their footprint. That's my stated position. It's not the winning argument, but that's what I put forth.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Well, and are you familiar with what the agenda will be in the economic adjustment committee?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: That is Vera's.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator. Thank you. Senator Barnett, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Madam Chair, for first of all for holding the hearing and thank you for everyone - to everyone who is in attendance. Questions for Senator Carlotta. Senator, if you could just start by kind of going over your experience relative to working on the military build buildup. Does it extend prior to this administration?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Yes. When I first was a senator, they were closing bases. There was Brack base realignment and closure. So that's why I was saying I've been around where they shrink or they grow. So I was a member of the legislature and then I joined Brack and Joe T. San Agustin was there the first year I was a senator and then he became - he left office and he became the executive director of the local reuse authority to respond to the B. And so what he had was a weekly meeting and Senator Lamorena who was in tourism and economic development. I was in transportation, telecommunications and micronesia affairs and the two of us were on that committee. So, we would go to Adaloop every Thursday for a two-hour meeting and then there would also be other business people there, other people from different agencies and then we participated in all the meetings with the military and we would go to Hawaii and we had legal counsel. So Joe T. wrote a grant and we got a grant from the I'm not sure and EDA to fund our operations and to have legal counsel. And so we went and this was the group that got back 3200 acres of excess land. The other thing that we did is we - the military was going to close SRF and keep SRF. Joe T. found language and our lawyers found language that we could go after it. So we put together the lease terms and we went after that one and it resulted in



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keeping like 700 jobs on island. So we that's the kind of work that I have done in the past when I was a senator and then when I was chief of staff to the lieutenant governor of Guam me and George Bamba created the civilian military task force. I was in I was still here with chief of staff to Mike Cruz and George was chief of staff to Felix and we created this entity and then when I went up with Mike Cruz to *Adelup* we created I think 12 committees and each committee had people from the government of Guam, the civilian population as well as the military on every topic. And then we crunched out budgets and came up Oh, and Shwan was there also. and we crunched out budgets and came up with scenarios of how we needed to respond.

So that's the history that I have and also in that period of time before that when I was a journalist there would be efforts like when part of that shrinking and growing would be a volcano goes off Pinatubo and the whole effort at that time was to move all of Clark and Cubic to Guam. So there was this massive okay let's get ready for that and there was a lot of activity and people interested and then they went all the way to the west coast and that totally shrank. So that's what I'm saying it can shrink and grow and there can be long periods of time between it. Nobody ever would have thought that they would close NAS. Nobody ever thought that would ever happen and yet the government of Guam went after that. The government of Guam made the case to get back NAS. So George and I were all participants in that effort. So that's the background that I have. Thank you for asking me.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: No worries. Just wanted for the viewing public to get an idea that you've been involved for decades. In guiding and working on the military buildup on Guam. Are you able to clarify the land that the Department of War is trying to obtain that Senator Terlaje was referring to? Is this relative to the 19 proposed missile defense sites? And how is it related to the recent news of the Department of War making available some \$29 million to purchase private property on Guam?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: My understanding I'm not. I don't want to get too con - I don't want to confuse the lawmakers. I was talking about the people that are wanting to sell because of building housing and doing leasing deals on housing. I wasn't referring to easements for nuclear reactors to support military operations. So, I know that this is something that the lawmakers have indicated that they were going to pass something to or if not if you haven't already, something that would say specifically how the people of Guam feel about nuclear reactors.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: So, that's the difference is the \$29 million that's being made available is for the acquisition of private property to meet the military's housing needs.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I'm not sure if that's it. I - Vera might know.



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VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah, I think there's well, there is a difference between the easements, right? The Department of War wanting to access GovGuam easements such as in the same manner that GovGuam would need military easements and so that is strictly handled by that is handled, between DPW and Department of Land Management and it's not necessarily an acquisition. So there's an agreement. So I think that they would be able to provide more detail on the easement that's being requested to support missile defense on the land acquisition. It means just that it's to acquire land, but it's not specific if you look at the missile defense or the NDAA, it's not specific to, you know which land or it is just an authorization to purchase land. but there are no specifics and I would imagine that to buy well their policy or their statutes require them to budget to buy whatever it is they want to buy and that would be inclusive of land. So, if they have an RFP for private sector housing, they would need the money to negotiate with the private sector or the private owner of property to acquire, but it's not specifically detailed in the NDAA, but that would be needed to be approved by Congress to purchase land.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you. Are you able to share? I'm a little bit foggy on it. How the military intends to obtain the land relative to the proposed missile defense sites. I think there's 19 located around the island.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Let's just for Carlotta, I just need to if she doesn't know it, she can refer to Okay, you're going to refer.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Okay. So, I did notice on the civilian military coordinating council there were a couple questions here that I don't - I'm not sure if they were answered. How often does the council meet and how can the public access the minutes of these meetings?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I would say the meetings are about three to four times a year and the minutes I think they're accessible. I don't know if they're on the website or

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Can they be foyered?

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Yeah, I think that's the point is we haven't seen any minutes. We also are not privy to when these meetings are held. So could you also answer why these meetings are subject to the you know open government law and the public notice requirements that, you know, pretty much all our other meetings are subject to.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Me personally, I could not respond to that.



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And I would go back to my earlier statement that I would be happy to see you guys there. So, and get as much information as possible.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: I appreciate that sentiment, but you know, I mean, you'd be happy for us to be there. We don't even know when the meetings are. The people of Guam don't know when the meetings are. The people of Guam can't access the minutes, have no idea what's being discussed in these meetings, and they're pretty heavy meetings. I mean, you're coordinating with the military many aspects that impact and affect civilian life. So, I've said this repeatedly in my 10 years as a senator. I believe these meetings should be made public. About all I've seen of these meetings are photo opportunities posted to Joint Region Marianis' Facebook page and the governor's Facebook page. And these photo ops come after the meetings have been concluded. So, if you're able to, Senator, can you again tell us why these meetings don't fall under the purview of the open government law and why the public or elected leaders for that matter are not given access to attend these meetings?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: Senator, I would not be able to answer that. I don't know any reason why justification why they are not.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Are you able to follow up on that in your capacity?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I can assure you I will.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Okay. Yeah. Because how long have we been having these meetings? How many years have we been having these meetings with the CMCC?

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I think they started during the Camacho administration. the CMTF kind of morphed into the CMCC. during the Calvo administration, they didn't take place at all. And so they just started back up when this administration started. So they started then there was a break and then started up again.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: So just for the record, you agree that these meetings should be made public and should adhere to the you know open government law and the all of the public notice requirements that we all have to go through.

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: If it were left to me, I would and I would



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load you guys up with the things to do list that would make everybody productive as productive as frustrated as you guys are. I can see.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: It is frustrating and I mean I would like to see these meetings and see the minutes because when you come to the people's house and you tell the senators and the people of Guam that you're you're taking these stances that are in our you know best interest and I'd like to see that you know on the record whether it's -

CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION: I hope you can appreciate that we're here.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Yeah. Oh absolutely. Yeah. You know but I mean but Senator I hope you can appreciate that you are here but our so-called military partners on the joint region Mariana side are not here. that the involvement of these same entities in these meetings to me that seems to be the trigger as to why the public's not notified about them, why the public's not privy to the information, why senators are not allowed to attend these meetings. And with something as significant as this ongoing military buildup, I think and you know because you've worked on this for decades, that there's a tendency for secrecy, that there's a lack of transparency and accountability when we have meetings behind closed doors that the people of Guam aren't privy to. And and I think we'd be hard pressed to find anybody who doesn't think that these meetings should be made public and that the people of Guam should understand you know what these representatives in these meetings who you know some of you are not elected to represent the people what's being said what's being discussed what's being promised what's being asked for and you know maybe more importantly what's not being asked for. So I just wanted to again, put that on the record. Madam Chair, it's probably like the fifth time I've asked that these meetings be made public, but I'm glad that we're getting a more firm commitment from the senator to pursue this for the people of Guam. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much. Senator Barnett. Carlotta, you have the questions in front of you. I know you've been very busy with the recovery efforts of the typhoons, but not just in Guam, but you know, it's continuing and it's heart-wrenching to see our brothers and sisters in the CMI suffer so much. And I want to thank you and the Ayuda Foundation for collecting, ever since day one, you know, supplies needed to the CNI for their help. I talked to our speaker, Speaker Blas, and he mentioned all the efforts that you've done. And it was just very impressive. And I'm glad to know that there is a warehouse. The Ayuda Foundation has a warehouse so they can collect these items and distribute them correctly to those who truly need it. You know, because we know that some things are happening there. very much so. The questions were asked by my colleagues today. If you can also include them, please into your - the questions I provided you earlier. And please feel free to add additional comments that you may have. but I appreciate your time. Thank you very much and your excuse.



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CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO, GOVERNOR'S CHIEF ADVISER ON MILITARY REGIONAL AFFAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AYUDA FOUNDATION:

Thank you for letting me.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I know you got to make sure the next pallet gets on the next plane out to CNMI. Appreciate again. Thank you so much. And at this time, I'd like to recognize another person who is dealing with the typhoon recovery as well as, you know, some cyber security issues that's been going on. Miss Perez, I'm going to have my colleagues ask you some questions right now. And again, I'll start with Senator Shawn Gumataotao.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Madam Chair, I have no questions for Lucy. Thank you, Lucy.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And then Senator Lujan, you are now recognized.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Thank you very much. Madam Chair, I as well have no other questions and my questions remain the same basically, but thank you very much. Thank you.

Very welcome. Senator Therese Terlaje, you are recognized for Homeland Security.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Does Homeland Security intend to play a role in the economic adjustment committee meeting if that is convened?

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Yes, ma'am. They do.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: What is your ask?

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: I would have to refer back to the AHSA and I will make sure I note that question and have her submit her response.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: I'm trying to get a feel for what we are - what's our goal during that meeting. Okay and I - All right. No other questions. Madam Chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Senator Barnett, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Madam Chair, I also had questions about the economic



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adjustment committee convening, but since it appears we're not able to answer those, I'll save them for another hearing. But *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Madam Chair, thank you. Thank you, Miss Perez.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And then, lastly, I do have some questions, additional questions, especially with the cyber security that's happening right now. I know that the websites for most of our agencies were down. Luckily, some data was kept. In the event of a military buildup though, one of the questions that I did have, that I wanted to pose is civil defense, homeland security. They're the individuals that warn us, you know, the civilians that are here, the community. So if Guam were to conduct, you know, a massive cyber attack on our community, power, water, essentials, and if there was any kind of act of war, how will the community of Guam be notified when I asked and and just to let you know some background, I did ask the generals when we had a meeting with them in the event something like this to happen like Taiwan would be, you know, they're bombing long time on or we know that it's very close to where we are and what's going to happen. I mean, is it going to be like World War II where C130s came to pick up everybody who lived on the military base and left the civilians behind? Who's responsible? I asked and they responded, "We're not responsible. The military is not responsible for the civilians here. So who is responsible to notify us, those who live here that call Guam home, in the event any kind of military attack, missile defense, can warn us? That's my question.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: I will have the HSA respond to you formally on that question. On who would be responsible to inform the public, those who live outside the fence is what I'm gathering your question is. currently if there was any event we would coordinate through the joint information center which comprises of different PIOS right so your question if there was a cyber attack if there was an active war how do we get notices out? The joint information center is active. We've discussed should systems go down and we cannot utilize cell phones if we cannot utilize radio or TV. What's the next step? And so we've had discussions with the mayor's representative. We have a task force on communication that is comprised of the private companies on what steps need to be taken. So, and we also work with FEMA to go through our plans and discuss what that's going to look like, whether it's going to be bull horns, whether it's going to be people going forth and and doing walking to or driving to agencies to find out information what that will look like, but that is currently being updated and reviewed. What we also do is we work with the agencies, the government of Guam agencies to look at their pace plan, right? So pace plan is your primary, your secondary, your emergency communication. So should the phone system go down, what are you going to do? You know, and most people will say, "Oh, I have cell phones." Well, what if the cell phones go down? Well, I have a radio. What if that goes down? So that is what we're updating and we exercise too. and the joint information center plays a great part in that.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Senator Telo T. Taitague; Chairperson: Well, that's something that should have been done a long time ago if you ask me. You know, we're now - you're we're scrambling to find out how we are going to warn our community in the event there's war. How do we know that when cyber security hits us that a big time takes out our water infrastructure? All those possibilities that will hinder us. Where do



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we go? Who do we see? I mean, what do you have planned? And this is something I think we we really need to not look into get done since yesterday, but and I will be asking for you, you know, if you go back to Esther, you know, give us a plan because I know I myself have been reaching out to FEMA for a thing called the pause. Right. And this information has been supposed to be given to Guam a long time ago and I'm trying to bring it back. I had to cancel my trip to Hawaii, meeting with FEMA regarding the pause because of the epic fury and the shutdown. So, I ended up not going but talking - you and I talked with the federal individual that was there from the federal side on FEMA. But this part in your testimony that was provided on public warning systems, I want to correct a common misconception. Guam does not have an air raid warning system. What we have is an allhazard alert warning system or Oz and I'm proud to report it fully operational. Can you elaborate on this? Does not have an air raid warning system?

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: So I just want to clarify there's always been a pace plan. It's nothing new. As long as civil defense has been in existence, each agency has one and we constantly go back and request for updates. ESF2 whenever there's going to be any exercise or as soon as we get a heavy weather brief for example that's one of my primary talks with each of our agency representatives is to go back and look at your communications plan in the event that you have no communications what are you going to do and communication can mean different things to different agencies right so just want to be clear it's a plan that's been in existence It's going through different updates because of technology. So it's there but because of how technology evolved they, the plans also have to be updated. So it's for that

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Constantly, constantly

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Yes and that's my fear right that's when there's an activation that's one of the hats I wear. So yes it's worked on. Now in terms of the air raid you know, system. So there's no air raid. What Guam does have is an all hazards alert warning system. And so this started out as sirens that were placed for tsunami and then eventually through the years we upgraded that because tsunami is not an only event that happens on the island. It could be other things. It could be flooding. It could be a typhoon. It could be whichever. Right? So, we've installed that and they're located throughout the island and we go through a test every month and this is a Tuesday, second Tuesday and it's not only GovGuam that tests the system, we work together collaboratively with our federal partners.

So like the giant voice we each have that NVG we test our systems so that the people will know and understand. In the AHA system there are programs that define different alert codes. So for a tsunami you have a specific alert code, for other events for presidential messages there may be a different alert code. Now, in terms of what you were talking about about IPAWS, so Guam, the Office of Civil Defense, Homeland Security applied for a grant on August 4th of last year and the grant was the next generation warning system. We submitted a grant and in that grant we requested for first and foremost, was to be integrated into IPAWS, right? so that Guam can receive the same alerts that Konus does. So that's in the works. The second program that we requested was the wireless emergency alert. So whenever



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you travel to the mainland, if you have your cell phone and there was an Amber alert or there was any alert, you get it automatically on your cell phone. On Guam, that doesn't happen because we don't have the equipment. So we are working with DHS on getting that and what that means is that we will work together with our private telecommunication carriers because the systems belong to them to ensure that the gateway that is installed works with those systems. What that's going to do, it's going to take work of trying to get a message and get it down to 160 characters to send to telecommunication carriers to have them program in and then for them to send out. That's currently what happens. How soon you get that message could vary. It could be instantaneous. It could be depending on where that cell phone is located at, whether they have access to a tower. It could be sometimes I've seen a day and it's because the person's cell phone wasn't fully charged. So with wireless emergency alert, all that gets put away and now it's instantaneous. So that's what we're working on.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Working on. Okay. Yes.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Yes. Because they were in furlow. So yeah,

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: It's very sad that we weren't - we don't have this capability right now. And I know I'm trying to help push this through. We see it when you go to other countries, not just the US, but like for instance, I was in Taiwan and was on the 30th floor and I really didn't realize Taiwan had earthquakes and right when it made its first jerk, I got something on my phone automatically that said earthquake. Here in Guam, we get it 5 to 10 minutes later that there was an earthquake. This is like as soon as it makes one jerk, boom, it's set off. And it's set off for a reason because then communications can go down really quick. So, I really hope that we can work together on how we can educate our community on what to look for in the event of an invasion into the island, cyber security, and we really need to get that out since yesterday. But appreciate it if you can bring back to the table some of the questions that were asked earlier of myself and that we had and looking forward to those answers and I appreciate all that you're doing. I know you have to go as well and I kept you half an hour more than was supposed to because of the efforts, the recovery efforts. So I appreciate my colleagues don't have any more questions. Oh, sure. Senator.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Sorry about that. But yeah, just one question before you leave. In Ms. Aguigui's testimony here today, it says, regarding the secured room located inside the OS and OCD facility, I want to be clear, the loss of access to that space has not impacted our defensive capabilities or our readiness. Our strong partnerships with the joint regional Marianas and the bureau of federal bureau of investigation continue to provide us with the critical information necessary in the interest of national security. Those relationships are intact, active and effective. At this time there is no projected timeline for regaining access to that room but operationally we remain fully capable. What conditions or situations would warrant you needing to be in that secured room and should our partnership with the joint region Marianas and Bureau of Investigations. They're providing us with information, but how long does that



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information take to get to you if you don't have access to a secured facility? And so again, what conditions or what situations would require you to because you said there's no timeline in regaining access. So does that mean we're not going to have it at all? It's not a priority and what conditions or situations will require a secured access to your room.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Two things. In terms of the timeline, the Fusion Mariana Regional Fusion Center is waiting on DHS, Department of Homeland Security to respond to their letter as to when or what or how that room will be handled. So that's the timeline that HSA Aguigui was speaking to in terms of so the second part as soon as there is a call a notice or an individual walking up to the HSA, Homeland Security Advisor or the governor and is given a notice that they are required or needed to attend a brief that requires a certain security level clearance, both individuals have access to those rooms. I can say that as recently as two to three weeks ago, there was an event that required our homeland security advisor to be informed of a report. And soon as they let her know, she made herself available and she went to the site. So you're not waiting for days to get access to a room. As soon as they receive notice that a brief needs to happen at - with their security level clearance, both principles are told where to go.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Okay. So we're getting it pretty much in real time then.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: Yes. Yes.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Okay. Okay. And you said you're waiting for the Department of Homeland Security. is that a funding situation or -

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: It's not a funding situation. It's regarding how they want to deal with the room.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: And if I'm not mistaken, the fusion center section that Senator Jesse Lujan is talking about, I do know that when I visited up there that it is ready for inspection, any kind of clearance that needed to be done because of the condition it was in prior. they addressed all the conditions and we're just waiting now for the federal side to clear that room so we can begin doing it. But yeah, I was concerned about that too. Thank you for bringing that up, Senator Lujan. And at this time, you were excused and thank you again to everyone at Homeland Security and Civil Defense for what they're doing on the relief efforts from the typhoon. Thank you.

LUCIA PEREZ, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY: And thank you for coming up to our office and thank you also to Senator Shawn. He also came up and he saw firsthand what happens



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during an operation, a disaster operation. So, we truly appreciate it.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you so much. And we'll look forward to your responses to some of those questions. And at this time, I'm going to open it up to my colleagues for both sides, either from the Guam Guard or to CDLO. Okay. So, I begin with Senator Gumataotao. You're recognized to answer either or.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And let me re-ask the question of Vera. First off, good afternoon to Vera and also a proper good afternoon to my former boss and former Senator George Bamba. Thank you, George, for being with us today.

Going back on the proposed MIT study area expansion, which government of Guam agencies were formally consulted before the proposal was advanced and has the office of the governor provided a written position on the expansion's potential impact on civilian communities?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yes. So, we formally responded on May 1st. We met that deadline and we worked with all of our agencies and specifically in the areas of the - what we and and and we will share the response to the Navy, but we covered biological resources, everything from marine mammals to cultural resources, archaeological resources, traditional cultural places. We looked at the socioeconomic section. We responded to public health and safety. Other resource areas include invasive species, coastal resources, marine transportation. and so it was a pretty robust response that dealt with all of those resource areas. And it - then what some of the subcategories were related to sediments and water quality air resources and again marine habitat everything from marine vegetation seabird I mean it was a very comprehensive response probably one of the best that we've done because we did have some some technical experts on board to help our agencies.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: All right. Thank you, Vera. Now, it was suggested during a military build up informational briefing in April of last year that in addition to archaeological and environmental personnel, first responders, including firefighters, should be available to closely monitor all military training and testing related activities. To what extent have our Guam public safety and law enforcement personnel engaged in observing military exercises, if any, at least during the past year since the governor's office suggested their participation as observers?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I do know that we had responses from the customs and quarantine and first responders, specifically the fire department who responded and provided their comments.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: All right. Thank you. As Guam's premier law enforcement agency, the



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Guam Police Department, shared during the department's budget hearing last week that it had submitted a \$6 million federal grant application to the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority for a *Yigo* Police Station, which would strengthen police services in *Yigo* and in parts of *Dededo*. Recognizing that the community defense liaison office's role as a central point of contact for all DoD growth and activities on Guam. and I kind of would refer even to your presentation which was encouraging on village infrastructure assessment. But when we think about this type of activity, how specifically can you and your office assist GPD in establishing this much needed presence in northern Guam in support of not just our civilian communities but in my discussions with the airwing also Anderson Air Force Base and also nearby Camp Blas.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah. So, one of the things that is well, I think it's been on its third year is there's an opportunity for agencies and business partners if there's a public private partnership to apply for the defense community infrastructure program under OCC. This year they're at a \$200 million budget availability and so we've been able to get some of our agencies to win some of those awards. It is competitive. But I think with Guam's current activity with the buildup we've gotten in the last three years we've gotten two large awards.

In addition to that, the economic adjustment committee was going to be that convening committee where our agencies would be able to present their top priorities. And I do know that the Guam Police Department submitted that and we asked them to also include any grant applications that we submitted so that we could discuss that during the economic adjustment committee.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Yeah, absolutely. And again, the economic adjustment committee is an executive branch function. Correct.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Correct.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Thank you. the Guam Fire Department. And this is kind of a good segue, they reported 22,196 total calls for service in 2025 requiring the assistance of a GFD unit. Now, the data doesn't break down the responses for civilian emergencies and those involving our military communities through established mutual aid agreements. What information can you possibly share confirming your efforts with DoD to also strengthen GFD's operational posture especially in support of course, Anderson Air Force Base and Camp Blas in the north as an example of this.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: So, the Guam Fire Department reported in the January CMCC meeting a co-sponsor presentation with the Navy on emergency response and they provided us data in their the government of Guam JFD



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and their response to military support. So those numbers are available and that is what we are also packaging. but also those numbers help to strengthen any mutual aid agreements in place. So there's an opportunity to enhance it to support the growth and an opportunity for funding for whether it be infrastructure to submit as part of the economic adjust adjustment committee packages.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Yeah. And thank you for that because in fact I did get a chance to see that in our legislative briefing with the admiral relative to the work on the emergency management side. It was great to see that kind of collaboration on the fire side and again would continue to encourage your office to direct more of that kind of collaboration. I don't necessarily have any questions for the National Guard. you know your presentation was spot on and it's very consistent with what we have heard relative to joint with the joint task force. So again, do appreciate the National Guard's participation today. But I do want to - if I can, Madam Chair, I'm just going to end with this because just as I sit up here as a policy maker, I'm reminded about our role and I would there were a couple of maybe comments made earlier.

I would disagree with some of that. I, as a son of a United States Marine, Vietnam veteran, I'm very proud to, you know, to also serve, we have a - we're a country of laws. I'm happy to hear some of our disagreement because I think this kind of engagement is not meant to have any disagreement, but to try to find a way to meet in the middle. And I'm hoping that as the command is listening that they're not here. This is our function and I think we're doing we're doing what we have to do but the - I'm certain that joint region is paying attention and I know that the governor of Guam will carry the message of not only the rest of the people of Guam but also this branch's position on the myriad of issues that face us as a community because it's not a single - we're one community and I hope that you can take that back Vera to the governor and I hope we can work together moving forward again thank you madam chair for the time thank you.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. As well, my father is also a veteran as well. And you know when we started this out even during the Camacho administration as you know Senator Gumataotao I believe was there during the Camacho administration and going into the Calvo administration was when a lot of things were put into place and one of them was the one Guam approach and the four pillars that were put together and it was put out to the community. I remember there were a bunch of hearings that were out there and trying to find that one problematic agreement that would also work with everyone.

So, you know, it's so it is still very disappointing, you know, not that because I know that you're stuck with answering a lot of these questions, you know, Vera, some of them that you're trying to get the updates to on the housing situation or the or what stockpile has been eliminated for Guam on this military buildup because of the epic fury. That's one of the biggest concerns that a lot of people have. you know, do we still have those stockpiles for Guam to protect us? You know, when the military buildup came to Guam, you know, we also became a bigger target. We've always been a target technically, but we're not on that first row of defense in the Pacific. We're on the second row, but that could still



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be very, very scary for a lot of our people on Guam. And knowing that the military is here to protect us is something that we need to know. We need to know that as a community because many people are just deciding to pack up and leave because they don't feel that if anything should happen and war breaks out on Guam or that we're attacked whether through air strikes or drones or cyber security. We have to make sure that our people are notified well in advance and to give them that security that no, we are here. CDLO's here. You know, we have homeland security. We have our national guard here protecting us and that's all what we're here for. But to not have the military themselves here at this meeting is very disheartening to say the least. So I appreciate So Senator Lujan, you are now recognized. Sir.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Thank you very much. Madam Chair, just to the guard, you know, just this morning, I was told that our National Guard and the CNMI are in need of a lot of assistance. Is that being provided? And what assistance are being provided or their I guess shortcomings in their needs?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE: Senator, I appreciate the question. We are assessing the situation currently and the National Guard as you know is prepared to mobilize under either the direction of the federal government or the governor of Guam and we maintain our preparation and readiness in the event that we will deploy.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Okay. But I mean their everyday needs are being assessed. That's what I'm hearing that they're - you know they're just their everyday needs are - I mean they're in great need as is everybody over there as well. But I mean I guess for them to function in their capacities you know the things we take for granted are those needs being provided then to them by the guard here?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE: For clarification, you ask Senator, are you asking our guardsmen that are currently over there? Are they being provided or the population?

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Yeah. Yes. Are they? Yeah.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE: So, Senator, once again, I will say that we are keeping, rack and, a vigilance on, what is occurring over there. We do understand the events that have occurred and how it's impacted the local population. And once again we are prepared to maneuver to support such a mission. But we're very dependent on the requirements, the authorities and the funding given to us through the authority of the governor or from the federal side to be able to do something specifically.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: No, I understand that. But I mean, you know, I mean, in our capacity, I mean, if we're waiting for funding from the federal government, I mean, what can we do now that, you know, filling



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community that we can provide for them because we're doing that right now as we're doing it for the for the residents over there. But, you know, if they're everyday essential needs and things like that, you know, and again, if we're waiting for funding, but what can the the community do at this point that make sure it's directed as well to our guards folks that are over there if we're still waiting for the funding, but what can we do now to be able to do that? So I mean because I just heard it from some guards folks this morning that they were collecting and they were doing some things to send over there as well. So what can we do in our capacity you know minus the their main funding source

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

And roger, Senator, we have done some collections. We have had visits with our chaplain teams with our recruiting retention that's gone over checked with our soldiers that are over there. We have done assessments with the government of Guam. We have provided as I said there has been donations and such that have gone out and of course we obviously want to do more but we're very dependent on on the authority to do that and as of right now we're assessing the best way that we can potentially support Saipan whether it is through the federal side or through the government.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: How many of our folks are there, our guard folks over there?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

So currently we're looking at approximately about 60 yeah about 60 individuals that are over there. Some are impacted by it and we're making sure that those soldiers are getting all their benefits and support that they possibly can.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Yeah. No, because if there's a need, please let us know so we can again, you know, something that we can directly provide for them. because their funding hasn't come in yet or waiting for clearance. You know, we want to be able to do that and make sure that the portion given to them as well.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

Senator, I do appreciate that. That is correct. And Sergeant Major did bring up a good point. We do have the National Guard relief fund that is a part of some of the support that we can provide out there. But as for our actual actions of what our units potentially can do, we have to go through these alternate routes to be able to support.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, madam chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Very welcome. Thank you, Senator Lujan. Senator Terlaje, you are now recognized.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* and follow up. I want to also thank the Guam National Guard for all of its efforts to secure us and to restore us after Typhoon Sinlaku and continued efforts, I'm sure, and



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especially those immediate efforts right after the storm, we're very appreciative. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

Thank you, Senator. We appreciate it.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Thank you. as to the buildup briefing, if I could get back to the liaison office. So did your consultant also assist you in responding to the environmental assessment for the missile defense?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yes.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Oh, sorry, turn the mic, the microphone.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Sorry. Yes, they did. They came on a little late. from the time that we awarded the contract, but they did provide support to us. But we also - the CDLO, we worked really hard to help the agencies respond just researching NEPA on our own. So, to your question, yes.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. So, I know that there were some concerns and it seems like just from this May one article that I'm reading regarding the Pentagon's budget request for Guam in particular where they point out that they are requesting \$29 million for land acquisition in Guam. This is supposedly for the explosive safety quantity distance arcs will encroach onto non-military land for missile defense sites at Marine Corps base camp Blas and Navy property at Emitz Hill. So they want to obtain the surrounding land for that safety buffer zone based on where they're putting their missiles up on those sites. It says the plans call for six missile launchers at the camp Blas site and three on Nimmitz Hill. So non-military land near those areas require real estate action. That's their quote. They also want a road easement across the government of Guam land near Naval Magazine for another missile defense site at Naval Magazine. So, is the government of Guam agreeing to this easement?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I would have to defer to We are not involved in negotiating an easement. We are aware that there is a request and I believe that I need to confirm, but I believe that it has already risen to the attorney general's office if I'm not mistaken.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So they're proceeding with it?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah. Route 17. Yeah. Yeah. Route 17. So the Department of Land Management and I believe



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DPW, but I'll confirm, are the ones who have - who the Navy has-

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Negotiated with.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I don't know about negotiating with, but they've sent the request.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So, they're just granting an easement and now it's gone to the AG?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: No, I didn't say they're granting the easement. I said they made the request to the appropriate Gov Guam agencies, but where that is today, I'm not sure. We'd have to confirm.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. I thought you said it's at the AG. So, I thought-

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I understand that he's also reviewing the request.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Okay. Yes. Well then and then they also talked about that they are going to fund nuclear reactors and our congressman asked for what military funding source could helped Guam power authority and the island's power grid and I know from all the presentations and the other media that the governor and GPA are in agreement we want to harden they call it our power grid put it cement or and so that you know that's proactive but it sounds like from this response that they don't have any plans to do that in this budget and their only plan is to move forward with their own nuclear power grids for their own missile defense sites or whatever sites they are involved in. Is that your understanding that those-

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I'm not sure what response you're referring to, the Navy's response. I'm not sure. I have not seen a budget in the defense budget for nuclear reactors for Guam. I do know that they had announced a pilot program for nuclear reactors in air force and army installations, but I have not had any update that Guam is officially included and has been budgeted for nuclear reactors. So I and I have not, in all the discussions with Guam Power and the governor we've not had any discussions on micro nuclear reactors at all.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: They said that congressmen was able to put in a provision in the NDAA because of that discussion where the governor of Guam is given at least 100 day - 80 days in advance of any proposal to bring the nuclear reactors to Guam. I'm wondering if you know whether there will be an additional environmental study on that or not or just the 180 days notice and then we don't really have time to mitigate or do anything else.



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VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: No. You know, I apologize. I cannot comment. I have not read the response and I have not had a discussion with the governor on our position on micro nuclear reactors.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. Thank you. So, I appreciate your efforts on the and the governor's efforts on convening the economic adjustment committee. You say that it's like you have letters and that show that they intend to convene one. Do we have a timeline that we can guess?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Well, as I said, we had unfortunately were scheduled to meet but Sinlaku hit and so we postponed and we hope to find out this week when we will re put that back on the calendar. I believe we are asking the government of Guam is asking for June to meet in San Francisco.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: So okay so can I ask? Then you must already know what is the government of Guam's asks for example, are we asking for hardening of our power infrastructure or are we in agreement with them providing their own mini nuclear reactors.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I think it would be safe for me to say that everything that we are asking for the individual agencies are asking for, that is what they have reported to their oversight chairs in terms of what they need to deal with the buildup. So Guam Power has off the top you know underground power lines is what they're requesting the Port Authority of Guam that is looking at the entire infrastructure of the port authority, the fuel storage facility area, additional support for to upgrade, to install the new gantry cranes. So, they're pretty big budgets and I don't think that you would be surprised by anything that they're asking because it's something I believe that they have asked the legislature,

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Right? That's good to know.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Year to year to fund, right?

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Is there a place we can look at their, what you intend to request?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I mean, everything that I have is directly from the agency heads.



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SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Yeah. Is there a place that we can see that or -

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Well, I can, I can certainly send it to you. There's not anywhere that we collected the data and have a package. So, I don't see any reason why we wouldn't be able to share that.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: Okay. I'd appreciate that, Madam Chair, if you could follow up on that. And then this package, your packaging, you're going to go meet with them and hopefully (inaudible) does that include anything regarding housing?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yes. So in the round table what we are doing is for every - so the EAC consists of 22 federal agencies. So for everyone who is going to attend on the federal side we are bringing their counterparts and so housing. So really it is a lot of the critical infrastructure power water housing health and human, service, roads, port. It's a pretty good contingency because we are meeting with some of them if they're not the secretary of that federal department it's the under secretary. So the cabinet heads are part of the delegation.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: What might we be looking forward to in the housing area for what's our ask in the housing area? In the housing.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: You know, I would have to defer. I don't recall there's so many. I'd have to defer to Fernando on the specific asked. I know he's looking at, you know, affordable housing and you know he'll be meeting with HUD if he hasn't already. But I would defer to Fernando on specific-

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: But that would be reflected in your package that you're going to provide. All right.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE: All right. Well, I appreciate that and I wish you the best on those efforts. Of course, on behalf of all of the people of Guam that we succeed in obtaining some mitigation for the impacts of the buildup. *Si Yu'us Ma'åse'*, Madam Chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Very welcome, Senator Terlaje. Senator Bennett, you are recognized.



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SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* madam chair and again thank you to Colonel Douglas and the guard for being here and providing the information. Also just want to ditto, thank you for your response to the super typhoon Sinlaku. Seeing the guys out on the intersections really brought back memories of the dancing guardsman. I know people who are watching are going to remember exactly what I'm talking about. And it was also good to see some of these intersections where you had the guard also being supported by the law enforcement component and it's always good to see the guard camies out there. I mean there's been so many storms other times where we've been challenged as an island and a people and it has been the national guard air guard army guard who has been there for our island and our people. So *un dangkulu na si yu'os ma'ase*. 'I wanted to thank you, sir.

Miss Vera, I know I've given you that line of questioning about the meetings being made public. So, I don't want to really belabor that. But just to kind of follow up on Senator Terlaje line of questioning, it is unnerving to read about all these things in the news relative to the micro nuclear reactors because it was just a couple years ago in this very room we were privy to a briefing from the missile defense agency. And at the time there was a published report that discussed the potential for nuclear micro reactors to be used on Guam. And I and a few of my colleagues had asked about this. And the response that we got was basically like, hey, don't freak out. That's just a little footnote of a footnote in a report that's, you know, buried under 10 reports. And, you know, here just a few years later finding out that it's you know, a reality that it all intents and purposes, according to the secretary of the department of war, that we are getting this technology on Guam. There was just one part that I was kind of worried about and I don't know if you know anything about it but the language in the NDAA says that there's a 180 day notice requirement for a permanent nuclear micro reactor. So, in your opinion, does that alleviate the Department of War from providing any notice to our local government when they're using portable or otherwise temporary micro micronuclear reactors?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Not to my knowledge. I do and I can find out more information for you. I do know that one of our - the other communities my counterpart in Alaska is dealing with the micronuclear reactors being installed in one of their installations. but I can certainly find out what the parameters are for officially hosting a micronuclear reactor on Guam. I can certainly reach out and let you know and give you whatever information you need.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you Vera. So, and and when you do that, maybe you can just kind of clue me in as to the process. So if something like the NDAA says that they have to do an 180 day notice requirement when you're sitting in these CMCC meetings, are you able to kind of assert on behalf of the people of Guam and say things like, Hey, you know, permanent any kind of temporary we want a a notice given to the people of Guam in advance or are many of these decisions kind of made before you even get a seat at the table"

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Oh, no, not at all. There are several occasions where we have and I don't want to put use the



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word push back but that we have disagreed with some of the plans that they have and that for that reason that they have made some concessions they've you know shifted in in many different areas. So to your point we, you know if we believe that there is a concern by the people of Guam, by the governor, by the legislature, we will bring that up and we have discussed that and again the micronuclear reactors. I just read that a couple of days ago and I did get some texts about that. So, I will get more information, but we've had, you know, very candid conversations, but in a very respectful way. And, you know, I know that the legislature does a really good job in sharing those concerns publicly and the CDLO I, you know for the record we are you know we are not decision makers to be quite honest. We provide, you know, policy advice. We read the NDAA. We report to the governor. We do an analysis and we do a lot of that work.

But we also do a lot of the the coordinating between the agencies who are not you know a lot of our agency heads there are a lot of people who are not you know who don't have the decades of experience like Senator Carlotta and we help them with the NEPA some of them you know are and to no fault of their own NEPA you know doesn't happen every day. So the CDLO we do not hold back on the information that we share with our agencies and we look at you know some historical you know actions in other places when these communities are dealing with with NEPA actions and and hence our responses are to the you know and what we recommend to the governor I can say, you know, that they go in, they're not they are not changed. It goes in as is. Because it's sent to CDLO. We take a look at it. We make sure that, you know, we try to make sure that, you know, there are - we try to give them a lot of regulatory background or, you know, statutes that, you know, historical, that have worked for other communities and then that gets packaged and sent to the governor. And I think everything we've sent, she's basically signed off and sent in to the Navy. So I did want to make one clarification on the CMCC.

And so that you know the civil military coordinating council that council was established as part of the NEPA as part of the record of decision to and part of the adaptive program manage program management, right to form the civil military coordinating council that's chaired by the governor and back then it was I believe CMCC came in probably at the early part of the Calvo administration and it was just trying to grow its legs and the so it was to address you know, the construction tempo and any environmental concerns that the government of Guam had with the marine camp Blas buildout. But what we have done is that we've we've taken and they've been open about that is that we've taken the liberty of you know discussing some things that are now part of I guess I could say the Pacific Deterrence Initiative the missile defense of Guam. but there are more discussions there there are no decisions that are made because as you know joint region they have an upper echelon right Indoaccorn and just keeps right that that make those decisions but we don't hesitate to discuss everything from permitting for you know ongoing projects today that are not marine core buildup related. And so in that in that spirit, we are looking at amending the CMCC charter that gives us probably a little more latitude, if you will, to discuss other, you know, other things that are outside of the marine realignment because that really was born out of the record of decision and the marine realignment.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Are you able in your reform of the CMCC are you able to include any type of open



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government notices or any type of you know declaration that these meetings should be made public just because you know and listening to you talk about the things that are discussed in these in these meetings again I just got to reiterate that the people of Guam or even their elected representatives should have a seat at this table and a voice in the conversation.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Well I would probably I mean I would defer discussing that with the governor and obviously both you know legal counsels because as you know it is an executive function if you will and so how that gets amended to include outside the executive branch I think you know legal counsel would probably have to look at that and then obviously a discussion with the governor.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Senator Carlotta alluded to the existence of meeting minutes for these meetings and I'd have to go back and watch the tape tomorrow, but she seemed pretty convinced that there are somewhere meetings being recorded or minutes being recorded for these meetings. Do you have any knowledge of that? And are we able through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain these minutes if they exist?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Yeah. Well, I you know, I think it would be safe for me to say that I would defer to legal counsel. I, you know my understanding, I'm not a lawyer but the governor has certain executive privileges. I am her employee and you know I would have to go to legal and I could safely say that there is everything we talk that, the agencies talk about in the CMCC. It is about their agency and the services that they're providing and the impact that the buildup is causing the agencies in terms of servicing the people of Guam. So whether it's permits or licenses or power or water, you know, it really is all in consideration of the people of Guam. The people of Guam are well represented by the agency heads and what they report to you during an oversight hearing, you know, from you know, staffing capacity to the issues that they're facing, you know, operationally and dealing with the buildup. That's pretty much what we're hearing. But I will go back and find out what's available and what we can share and you know, but I'm willing to answer any question you have regarding our CMCC meetings. But there is a utilities we have a housing working group, we have utilities team, right? There's the natural resources team and there is now a Guam defense you know co - I think it's the the committee chairs are the TAG homeland security advisor joint region Marianas. And so those are some of the committee members that are sitting in the CMCC.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you for that information and just respectfully I would offer that the way you describe what's discussed in the meetings, agencies talking about the impact of the military buildup and the military's actions decisions on Guam. All of that to me sounds nothing like executive privilege. All of that to me sounds like information. I mean, you guys don't have I mean, do you have a security clearance to attend these meetings? It just really seems like this information absolutely should be made public and I'm willing to die on that hill respectfully.



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VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Your point is well taken and I understand and I will inquire and I can promise you a response.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you, Miss Vera. I know we've had a lot of discussions, you know, in here and offline, and I appreciate the work that you do. And in listening to just what you're saying and listening to some of the public comments from the governor, I mean, it kind of seems like there's a disconnect because I've attended events where the governor is you know, drinking wine with the admirals and she goes up on the stage and she describes our people in these dismissive terms like, Oh, we're the tip of the spear. but the spear is only good as the holders of the spear. So just that kind of rhetoric you know she's done interviews in the international media where she's expressed as much as you know sentiments like we could end up speaking Chinese. I think these are just absolutist notions that really don't - they're not productive and when I hear about the hard work that you and Senator Carlotta are doing and the other agencies that are working directly with the military buildup, it's almost a totally different response than what the governor has been said. So, you know, I just ask that you continue to brief her with all of this information that you receive. And I hope she's reading the documents that you get just because again, respectfully based on her public comments, I think she's kind of moving in a little bit of a different direction than you know what we hear from the table down there. Yeah.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: No, and I will assure you that everything that we do is, you know, again sent to the governor and the lieutenant governor and it's reviewed all of our analysis. but and I you know I mean to be fair I don't feel like there's a disconnect but I you know that's I'll let you have your opinion.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: I mean I just based on listening to what you're saying in here and having attended you know events where the governor makes these kind of comments it does seem like there's a little bit of a distance between her thoughts and what's actually happening. I also wanted to ask Madam Chair if you could, the one Guam approach. I mean this was a big deal and this was the promise that the joint region DoD, the local partners would all have you know seats at the table and discuss this military buildup moving forward as one Guam. but you know it's very disappointing despite what some of my colleagues might think that we can't even get the presence of joint region Marianis or the department of war you know really just in front of the people's elected voices so that we can ask questions. So with that being said, has the one Guam approach ended because we don't see it really here in the legislature. I mean it's been like-

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: No I wouldn't- it hasn't ended. I, you know a lot of the work that we are doing is in the spirit of one Guam. That's my opinion and the, you know when you look at the four pillars these agencies who have like utilities I believe there's the green bomb, have you know memorandums of understanding or agreements that are - were born out of the one Guam four pillars. I do know that we are in discussion about updating the one Guam and



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enhancing it a little more to add more and again the one Guam came out of the obviously the CMCC and then and then the one Guam four pillars based on some of the concerns we had back then about net negative energy and I can't remember off the top of my head right cultural right. So it is very alive I would say. I think that I mean if there were specific concerns that you have regarding the one Guam and those four pillars then you know we would be happy to bring that forward. But just recently in the last few days we've had discussion about, you know whether or not it's time to, you know, to kind of update it and based on the current environment right and that that we're facing today and the buildup that we're facing.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: I think we we agree that the one Guam agreement is lacking and that it does need some type of update or some type of closer examination to bring it really to where we envisioned it was going to be a true one Guam approach and you know I just also when you're in the next CMCC meeting you know ask the leadership of joint region to have a little deference and respect to the people's elected voices and attend these hearings so that we can get information from I mean this military buildup and the people who are building up the military are not even in attendance and I just think that speaks volumes and you know given that you are touting this good relationship that you have with them I would just say that you pass that along that message along from the people's elected voices and also from the the people like well respectfully Miss Vera *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* madam chair

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Of course thank you. Thank you Senator Barnett and bringing that up in in your closing comments and questions because it's true you know they every admiral that has come to Guam you know since I'm joined the Calvo administration has always put forward that they want to engage in the community they want to be a part of the community not just themselves but their members their military members who decide not to go to a DoDoe school who decide to go to a public school on Guam or private school or who decide to go into the workforce of you know of Guam here on Guam to not working inside Bass outside of base engaging in and just what Guam has to offer you know and they keep telling us that you know and then they also say that we want to be transparent that was one of the biggest things that this current you know admiral was saying we want to be very very transparent during the tags induction you know I remember speaking with them oh yeah we we want to be transparent and it's unfortunate because this is the opportunity for them to be here to be transparent to answer our questions and I do realize that they will come back to you and say which I've heard them say before is that we only answer to the governor of Guam that's fine.

You want to give them important information, stuff that is classified, etc. But if you're saying that you want to be transparent and engaging the community, then why did you stop? They came last year or at least sent a representative. You know, I don't mind that send a representative. but they didn't. And it's unfortunate, but we can be grateful for our National Guard who's here today, for CDLO who's here today. We can be grateful for Homeland Security and Carlotta for being here too as well. You know, that we're grateful for and I don't. I don't take that lightly when it comes to, you know, the contributions you've made, especially, you know, and we really in dire straits on any typhoon and my colleagues want to thank you so much for all the National Guard, what they're doing. You know our brothers and



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sisters there and greatly appreciate it and I greatly appreciate you being here too as well.

There is one question I would like to ask with this cyber security did affect the national guard at all with this latest attack that happened on Guam. Did you guys get affected?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

No, Senator did not.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Good. Are you using a cloud to store your data and information or are you using Gov Guam?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:

No. No, Senator. We have our own secure networks that has their additional resiliency against cyber attacks.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Excellent. Excellent. I remember in Tad Cruz was involved in making sure the cyber security was addressed and all the concerns that may come about. I mean he was thinking way of ahead so way ahead. So I'm glad to see that you guys are staying the course and continuing those efforts. The people who are listening to CDLO, people are asking me what CDLO? What's the - Now the military buildup name of the office of military buildup happened back during George's time, you know, and it's so nice that you do have institutional knowledge in your office. Thank goodness, not just Carlotta, but George being beside you to work with you on a daily basis. I can tell you it started out as an office of military affairs, not military affairs, military buildup. The office now has changed to CDLO which stands for community defense liaison office. So we try to pull away from the name military buildup office to just CDLO the acronym. But it doesn't mean that this office does not address military buildup issues. They address it every day and they will continue to address it. There are just more moving parts now that come into this office to address and they are doing an excellent job on trying to retain you know funding to do data research information.

So they go beyond the duty of military buildup and I appreciate all the work that you're putting into this agency to be more than just the military buildup. And right now we're going to be counting on you, you know Vera, for this office to give us the information that the you know GRM and those in the military who's not wanting to come in front of us. So data and information that you receive is greatly appreciated by this office because whatever we can do to address the hardships that come with the military buildup, the housing issue that's coming about the concern of power and water that are being utilized with the growth of the military coming. The change of rotation on these 4,000 Marines coming from, you know, being stationed on Guam to only allowing them 6 months rotation. We all know what happens when that - we don't see, you know, section 30 money. And that was one of the biggest assets that we received on this military buildup was these are the things that Guam behind the fence is going to be able to avail themselves of more funding. You know, economic growth from more people to serve on this island. You know, we're



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losing a lot of people right now and that hurts our economy. So, I appreciate all the questions that were asked by my colleagues and being here today. but I'll greatly even more appreciate it if you can answer their questions. provide it to me. I will be sure to make sure they get it as well. Now, other than that, there was a question asked if you sat on this CMCC and of course adjunct the tag sits on that CMCC. that committee you're right a good explanation that you said we talk about infrastructure you know everything that affects our agencies are put in there but there's also information that the military provides to what their next movement is. One of the concerns that I had of course, we talked about the nuclear reactors and it - actually it was 400 million if I'm not mistaken can set aside four nuclear reactors, small nuclear reactors, two bases, small bases. So the conversation is ongoing. Yeah, you accolade yourself with that one on the nuclear reactor as you mentioned earlier. But if I'm not mistaken, there was something else that was concerning - no that was already asked earlier. I'm not going to repeat that. But on the housing side, just one other thing is have you received any word from the department of war about when the guidance of living quarter allowances for non-active duty DOW workers and if so, what can we expect to see on this outcome?

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: I have not received an update. I do know that the congressman I believe, I saw it in the paper that he had mentioned he was pursuing that. There was a provision in the NDAA but there's been no appropriation and I don't know that the bill actually passed. so I can get an update on that but to my knowledge there's that there has not been any funding obligated for that.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And can you tell me when your next CMCC meeting will be? ,

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: It might be May, but we'll see what happens with you know, everyone's in recovery. I know that you know, they're also helping Saipan, I'm sorry CNMI but I think we do have one due May or June. I believe we're Yeah. So, we try to have one quarterly.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Quarterly.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah so, and it's coming up. So, it should be sometime soon.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Looking forward to that and maybe some of the slides or the PowerPoint presentation because we know that the military sits on that committee as well and provides information. So if any of these slide presentations need to be updated, please let us know right away because the intent now is to allow the public the next phase of this public hearing is to allow the public to come forward and to provide testimony, their concerns or issues. And that's something I think you know you as well could listen to. I'm not asking you guys to



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come back. Don't worry, you've been here almost 3 hours and appreciate your time. I greatly appreciate your time. But so that being said, if there's any comments or concerns you would like to say before I end the hearing, now's your opportunity. Usually I ask my colleagues that question, but I'm not going to. I'm going to ask you. Is there anything you would like to add?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL COLONEL CHARLES DOUGLAS, OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE:
Nothing, Senator. We're good.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay, Vera.

VERA TOPASNA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Yeah. No, nothing. Thank you so much for the time.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So, that being said, I'd like to thank everyone again for your testimony and so at this time I am now calling this hearing that has been heard. However, we are not going to end this hearing. We're going to recess this informational hearing. I'm recessing this information hearing briefing to allow the public to provide testimony at a later date. Also, if you would like written testimony, we may also submit it to my office at senatortelotaitague@gmail.com. Thank you everyone. Create great day and we are now in recess. Thank you.

Public Hearing Recessed: Until Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Presenters and Their Topics

1. Vera Topasna, Executive Director, Community Defense Liaison Office (CDLO), Office of the Governor
 - Presented on:
 - CDLO's role as the coordinating link for defense-related matters affecting Guam.
 - Overview of CDLO's current work: grant portfolio management, housing, infrastructure, healthcare/preparedness, and federal coordination.
 - Updates on active and pending grants (logistics, medical capacity, infrastructure risk assessment).
 - Housing RFPs and military housing plans.
 - Status of military construction (MilCon) and funding for FY26/FY27.
 - Military healthcare capacity and civilian hospital strain.



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- Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) process and agency priorities (hospital, port, power, water, roads).
- CDLO's responses to environmental impact statements and coordination with federal partners.
- 2. Lucia Perez (on behalf of Esther Aguigui), Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense
 - Presented on:
 - Homeland Security and Civil Defense's mission in emergency preparedness, disaster response, and homeland security coordination.
 - The evolving security environment due to the military buildup.
 - Key focus areas: cybersecurity, emergency communications, critical infrastructure protection.
 - Status of the All Hazards Alert Warning System (AHAS) and public warning capabilities.
 - Ongoing efforts to modernize IT infrastructure and secure federal funding for cybersecurity.
 - Coordination with FEMA and federal partners.
- 3. Colonel Charles Douglas, Assistant Adjutant General, Office of Civil Defense (Guam National Guard)
 - Presented on:
 - The National Guard's integration with other military branches and its dual authority (Governor and President).
 - Impacts of the buildup on the Guard: opportunities (training, employment), challenges (resource competition, infrastructure strain).
 - The Guard's role in homeland defense, disaster response, and critical infrastructure/cyber protection.
 - Advocacy for federal investment in local facilities and cyber defense.
- 4. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Governor's Chief Adviser on Military Regional Affairs & Executive Director, Ayuda Foundation
 - Presented on:
 - Updates on APIL resolution urging INDOPACOM to enhance humanitarian roles and coordination with Ayuda Foundation.
 - Ongoing, but informal, coordination with INDOPACOM for humanitarian cargo and disaster relief.
 - The Governor's office's position on deep sea mining and its intersection with military training/testing.
 - Efforts to address military housing impacts and land use (including concerns about land easements and nuclear reactors).
 - Reflections on her long history with military buildup issues and the need for more structured, transparent coordination.

Senators' Questions, Answers, and Respondents

Senator Shawn Gumataotao



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1. To Carlotta Leon Guerrero:

- *Q:* Which civilian government agencies were consulted before the MITT study area expansion? Has the Governor's office provided a written position?
- *A:* Carlotta deferred to Vera Topasna for details; Vera later confirmed a comprehensive response was submitted covering multiple resource areas.

2. To Vera Topasna:

- *Q:* Which GovGuam agencies were consulted on the MITT expansion? Was a written position provided?
- *A:* Vera confirmed all relevant agencies were consulted and a robust written response was submitted.
- *Q:* To what extent have Guam public safety/law enforcement observed military exercises?
- *A:* Vera stated customs, quarantine, and fire department provided comments and participated as observers.
- *Q:* How can CDLO assist GPD in establishing a Yigo Police Station?
- *A:* Vera suggested applying for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program and noted the EAC as a venue for such priorities.
- *Q:* How is CDLO supporting GFD's operational posture for military and civilian emergencies?
- *A:* Vera referenced data sharing and mutual aid agreements, with opportunities for further support via EAC.

Senator Jesse Lujan

1. To Carlotta Leon Guerrero:

- *Q:* Can the Office of Federal Affairs be included in the Civilian Military Coordinating Committee (CMCC)?
- *A:* Carlotta supports inclusion and has recommended it, but awaits a formal response.
- *Q:* How can Guam secure a permanent Jones Act waiver?
- *A:* Carlotta supports closer collaboration with military and federal partners, but no specific answer provided.

2. To Colonel Douglas:

- *Q:* Is the Guam Guard providing assistance to CNMI National Guard? What are their needs?
- *A:* Douglas said needs are being assessed, support is provided as authorized, and about 60 Guam Guard members are in CNMI.
- *Q:* What can the community do to help Guardsmen in CNMI?
- *A:* Donations and the National Guard relief fund are options, but formal actions depend on federal/governor authority.

3. To Lucia Perez (Homeland Security):

- *Q:* What conditions require use of the secured room at Homeland Security? How is information relayed without it?
- *A:* Perez explained access is arranged as needed for classified briefings; information is received in real time.



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Senator Therese Terlaje

1. To Carlotta Leon Guerrero:
 - Q: What is the government doing to mitigate military impacts on local housing?
 - A: Carlotta suggested incentivizing use of vacant homes and noted military is building/fixing on-base housing and adjusting personnel types.
 - Q: Is there pushback on military land easements for missile defense/nuclear reactors?
 - A: Carlotta personally pushes for vertical development, but acknowledges local landowners are often willing sellers/lessors.
2. To Vera Topasna:
 - Q: Did consultants assist with environmental assessment for missile defense?
 - A: Yes, consultants provided support.
 - Q: Is GovGuam agreeing to land easements for missile defense?
 - A: Vera said requests have been made to relevant agencies; status is under review by the Attorney General.
 - Q: Is there a plan for nuclear reactors on Guam?
 - A: Vera has not seen budgeted plans for Guam; no discussions with GPA/governor on micro nuclear reactors.
 - Q: What are GovGuam's asks for the EAC, especially for housing?
 - A: Each agency's priorities are included; specifics for housing would come from the housing subcommittee.
3. To Lucia Perez (Homeland Security):
 - Q: Will Homeland Security participate in the EAC? What is their ask?
 - A: Yes, but specifics to be provided later.

Senator Chris Barnett

1. To Carlotta Leon Guerrero:
 - Q: What is your experience with military buildup?
 - A: Carlotta detailed decades of involvement as a lawmaker, chief of staff, and task force creator.
 - Q: Can you clarify land acquisition for missile defense and the \$29M in the NDAA?
 - A: Carlotta deferred to Vera; Vera explained the difference between easements and acquisitions, and that specifics are not detailed in the NDAA.
 - Q: How often does the CMCC meet and are minutes public?
 - A: Carlotta said 3-4 times/year; minutes may be accessible but not sure if online. Barnett pressed for open government compliance.
2. To Vera Topasna:
 - Q: Is the 180-day notice for nuclear reactors sufficient? Does it apply to temporary reactors?
 - A: Vera will research and provide more information; not aware of current plans for Guam.
 - Q: Can the CMCC charter be amended for more transparency?



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- A: Vera will discuss with legal counsel and the governor.
- Q: Are CMCC minutes available via FOIA?
- A: Vera will check with legal counsel and follow up.
- Q: Is the "One Guam" approach still active?
- A: Vera says yes, but acknowledges it may need updating.

Senator Telo T. Taitague (Chairperson)

- Asked clarifying and follow-up questions throughout, including:
 - Confirmation of data currency in presentations.
 - Inclusion of military clinics in medical capacity studies.
 - Details on public warning systems and cybersecurity plans.
 - Status of living quarter allowances for non-active duty DoD workers (Vera: no update).
 - Next CMCC meeting schedule (Vera: likely May or June, quarterly meetings).
 - Cybersecurity impact on National Guard (Douglas: not affected, uses secure networks).

Here is a detailed summary of the findings and recommendations made by Senators during the Guam legislative public hearing on the military buildup and its impacts:

Key Findings by Senators

1. Transparency and Public Access
 - Senators repeatedly found a lack of transparency in the Civil-Military Coordinating Council (CMCC) process, with meetings and minutes not being publicly accessible or subject to open government law.
 - The absence of military leadership (Joint Region Marianas, Department of War) at the hearing was noted as a significant gap in accountability and public engagement.
2. Housing and Land Use Concerns
 - Senators identified an immediate and severe housing shortage, exacerbated by the military buildup and the influx of personnel.
 - There is concern that military housing projects are largely replacements, not additions, and that off-base housing demand is straining local resources.
 - The process for military land acquisition and easements (especially for missile defense and potential nuclear reactors) appears to contradict previous promises of a net negative land policy.
3. Emergency Preparedness and Civil Defense
 - Senators found that Guam's emergency alert and communication systems are not yet at the level needed for the island's strategic importance, especially in the event of cyberattacks or military conflict.
 - There is a need for more robust, redundant, and modernized public warning systems and cybersecurity infrastructure.
4. Interagency Coordination and Federal Support



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- The Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) process is seen as a critical venue for securing federal support for infrastructure, but there is a need for clearer, more public articulation of Guam's priorities and "asks."
- Senators noted the importance of including all relevant agencies and legislative voices in federal coordination efforts.

This committee recommends the following:

1. Increase Transparency and Public Participation
 - Make CMCC meetings and minutes public, subject to open government law and public notice requirements.
 - Ensure legislative and public access to all major discussions and decisions regarding the military buildup.
2. Address Housing Shortages
 - Incentivize the use of vacant or probate-stuck homes for affordable housing.
 - Push for military housing solutions that minimize land use (e.g., vertical development/condos) rather than expanding the geographic footprint.
 - Ensure that military housing projects add to, rather than simply replace, existing inventory.
3. Protect Local Interests in Land Transactions
 - Push back on additional military land easements and acquisitions, advocating for the promised net negative land policy.
 - Ensure that any land deals are transparent and in the best interest of the local community.
4. Strengthen Emergency Preparedness
 - Accelerate the modernization of Guam's emergency alert and communication systems, including integration with national systems (e.g., iPaws, wireless emergency alerts).
 - Develop and publicize clear plans for civilian notification and evacuation in the event of military conflict or cyberattack.
5. Enhance Federal and Military Coordination
 - Advocate for permanent Jones Act waivers and other federal exemptions that recognize Guam's unique logistical challenges.
 - Ensure that all relevant government agencies, including the Office of Federal Affairs, are included in the CMCC and EAC processes.
 - Push for more structured, regular, and transparent coordination with military and federal partners, especially regarding humanitarian and disaster relief roles.
6. Clarify and Publicize Guam's "Asks" in Federal Forums
 - Compile and share a clear, public list of infrastructure, housing, and emergency preparedness priorities for the EAC and other federal venues.
 - Ensure that agency "asks" are coordinated and reflect the needs of the entire community.
7. Monitor and Respond to Military Technology Initiatives



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- Closely monitor proposals for nuclear microreactors and missile defense sites, ensuring adequate notice, environmental review, and public input.
- Assert Guam's right to advance notice and meaningful participation in decisions about new military technologies or installations.

The Committee on *Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* hereby reports out the Informational Briefing held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. on **Military Buildup.**

**Part 2 –
June 26,
2026**



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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on *Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement*, reconvened the **Informational Briefing on Military Buildup, on Monday, May 4, 2026 which was recessed until Friday, June 26, 2026 at 2:03 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

Public Notice Requirement:

In compliance with Open Government Law, a five (5) day public notice of this hearing was published on Friday, June 19, 2026, and a forty-eight (48) hour notice was published on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, on the Guam Public Notice Website. Notices were also sent to all senators via email on the same dates.

Senators Present:

Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson
Senator Sabina F. Perez
Senator Chris Barnett
Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Appearing Before the Senate Panel:

Dr. Robert Underwood, Chair Pacific Center for Island Security
Leland Bettis, Chair Pacific Center for Island Security
Balthazar Bordallo Aguon
Monaeka Flores, Executive Director, Prutehi Guåhan

Written Testimony Submitted:

Dr. Ron McNinch

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 2:03 p.m. The **Informational Briefing on Military Buildup** was the only item on the agenda.



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SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: *Håfa adai* and *buenas*, I'm now calling this public hearing to order and the time now is 9:03 p.m. (Note: the public hearing was actually convened at 2:03pm) Friday, June 26, 2026. This hearing is conducted by myself, *Senadot* Telo Taitague, Chairwoman on the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Build-up, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Election and Retirement. Notice of this hearing was also disseminated to all senators and media via email and is made available on the Guam Legislature's website and the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal. I'd like to recognize those who are here in person. Thank you so much for being here and those of course watching from home. Welcome to the People's House. I would also like to welcome my colleague Senator Chris Barnett, who is a member of the committee on military buildup.

As well, Senator, as you know, the Google Drive has been sent out and all information has been disseminated to you also via email. Now for the listening public, you can access the Google Drive link on the public hearing notices published on the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal at notices.guam.gov or the Guam Legislature's website at guamlegislature.gov. If you need any assistance, please feel free to call the legislature at (671)-472-3465. Before I begin, we're going to set some rules of engagement. When you speak, please speak directly into the microphone. And for those who are testifying for the record, please state your name, position, and who you represent. I ask that those who are testifying today to stay seated for any questions my colleagues may have, and then you'll be excused. However, if you need to leave earlier, please let me know so that I can let you go first with any questions from my colleagues.

And I respectfully ask that we conduct ourselves professionally and respect each other's opinion. And those who do not comply to these rules, will be removed from the room and prohibited from participation. Okay, that being said, I'm going to go ahead and start this off. Again, welcome to part two of this military buildup defense informational briefing. Part one was held on May 4th, 2026, and testimony was heard from Guam Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense, Guam National Guard, the Office of the Governor on the progression of the military buildup and Guam's current defense capabilities and emergency response infrastructure. In the time that has passed, the status of Guam's military buildup has changed drastically. Through our research, we have found an article from the Washington Times reporting a budget request of \$122 billion was sent to Congress from Admiral Sam Paparo, commander of the Indo-Pacific Command. If approved, \$67.4 billion will be allocated for new missiles and \$18 billion to counter Chinese military control systems, \$15 billion for a space-based missile warning system and battlefield surveillance sensor, and \$2.3 billion for maritime, underwater, and ground-based drone



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weapons. However, only \$909 million, million, that is, of this total budget request will be dedicated to Guam's defense system as part of the \$4.5 billion Pacific Homeland Defense Strategy Program. According to the Washington Times, this report also disclosed the Pentagon's intention to deploy offensive missiles here to Guam, otherwise known as strike missiles.

Additionally, the potential deployment of micronuclear reactors to Guam by 2030 is becoming more likely with an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027 being decided right now upon by Congress as we speak. Should the buildup further intensify and extend after the approval of the Pentagon's new budget request, we will see significant intensification and potential extension of the military projects that will further impact and complicate the challenges our people are already facing with this buildup ranging from already strained utility grids, housing, and rental market environment and culture preservation. Today, we will be hearing from the public and will allow testimony to be submitted even after this hearing, up to five days. At this time, I'd now like to open the floor to our public and allow, first here is Honorable former congressman, Dr. Underwood and you will be the first to begin. You are now recognized sir and thank you so much for being here.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS):

Thank you very much Senator Taitague, Senator Barnett and all the others who senators who hopefully are watching on TV or will watch a taping of this hearing. I am Robert Underwood and in this hearing today I am here in my role as chair of the Pacific Center for Island Security. *Si yu'os ma'åse'* for holding this hearing and for giving various voices in our *Guåhan* community the opportunity to express themselves and their concerns about dramatic changes in our society, economy, and political structure, such as those that you have just outlined in the past few weeks, Senator Taitague. My colleague at PCIS, Leland Bettis, will provide a statement on the dynamics of military activity in *Guåhan* and the surrounding region. The PCIS presentation represents our best effort to outline the situation we face in Guam with respect to the U.S. military plans and activities. I am frequently asked if PCIS is pro-military or anti-military. This is a false dichotomy that has unfortunately affected public discussion and policy making in our island home for decades. It seems to presuppose that the military and its activities is the standard of measurement against whether we ascertain whether something is good for us or not. It is time to use a new standard, which is people-based and Guam-based. The military has an important mission. I respect that mission, but they are not entitled to uncritical review or support for their activities. The most appropriate question is, is this activity positive or negative for Guam? That is a question you should be actively and enthusiastically asking and answering. If you want to ask the broader question of whether these military activities really



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promote peace and stability in Guam and the region, or actually takes us to a more precarious situation, then you can ask that as well. But that's a very complicated and nuanced question. But if Guam is being used as a platform for major power projection and geostrategic conflict, the home of offensive weapons, it is an entirely appropriate question for the people who live here.

It is an entirely appropriate question for the people who live here. Perhaps it is a question that the people of this island and the surrounding region are the most entitled to ask and respond to in a critical manner. It is in that vein which PCIS seeks to expand the conversation. I believe that it is the Guam legislature's responsibility, as it is the governor's and the delegates' responsibility, to ask critical questions and take countermeasures when necessary. Even though sometimes we say that, well, there's nothing we can do, just resign ourselves to whatever decision is being made, the unincorporated territory of *Guåhan* still has the capacity to make laws which affect military activities if not negate them. The governor of Guam can agree to be a handmaiden to military activities or seek to establish a more balanced relationship. The delegate can affect legislative initiatives at the federal level which benefit *Guåhan* or perhaps reduce our capacity to respond. PCIS seeks to provide critical information as well as critical perspective, not just for their own sake, rather we seek to expand the debate, extend the conversation and most importantly empower local communities thank you, Senator.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: *Si yu'os ma'åse'* and now I'd like to recognize Mr. Bettis.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): *Håfa adai*, madam chair and Senator Barnett. I'm Leland Bettis, a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Center for Island Security and I'm a resident of *Hågatña*. I'm here today to provide foundational framing on the issues that this committee has been addressing. Housing, labor, civil military affairs, education, infrastructure, health care, environmentalist concerns. All these issues arise from the application of an increasingly unbalanced and erratic view of Guam by the U.S. military. None of these are new issues. It's not like they haven't been raised for decades. Unfortunately, these issues central to our lives in Guam have not been addressed and the situation seems to be getting worse. It is painfully clear that the current track of coordinating with the military locally is simply not working. Let me quickly offer some explanation for why things are increasingly off the rails and some broad suggestions on getting Guam back on track.

First, it's important to recognize Guam is not a part of any U.S. national strategies. For all of the escalating activity that is going on in our part of the world, Guam is not in the US national security strategy, not in



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the national defense strategy, we are not a part of any national economic strategy, and clearly the US political strategy for Guam supports the continuation of the colonial status quo. Without guidance that places Guam supports the continuation of the colonial status quo. Without guidance that places Guam in a national strategy or national policy framework, what the U.S. does in Guam and is doing in Guam is left to the operators and programs and other instruments of the U.S. government. Let me give you one example. In the security space, there is all this frenetic activity about militarization because of China's growing capabilities.

On the other hand, there's a complete absence of civilian shelters and civilian resiliency in the event of a conflict. There's not a plan or a study to plan for a plan for shelters. Sure, we are important for military purposes, just not important in a national plan that thinks about civilian lives. Secondly, U.S. national priorities have been outsourced to the military. Even if Guam does not rate a place in national strategies that provide a focus on local conditions, there are clear national priorities at play. Billions of dollars are being channeled to Guam and most of this is being managed to address US military objectives, but billions of dollars do not a strategy make. It is critical to note that the billions for Guam is largely for the military. It is not a program for the Guam community. In the broadest sense, as the military correctly claims, they are working to defend U.S. soil and by some tortured extension that might be seen as serving the local community. But military personnel follow the billions. Where are the plans for housing military personnel? With the billions flow requirements for local labor, where's the rationalization of how we as a community address both our human capital and development requirements and those of a transitory military requirement? How do we compete with a two-tiered wage structure that billions in federal projects brings? The evidence is clear that billions for the military does not mean civilian needs are addressed. This hearing and the litany of longstanding, unresolved issues that negatively impact our lives is proof enough. Now there's gonna be some knock-on financial aspects to military activity. We're gonna hear about EACs and that funding will flow from the buildup process. But at the end of the day, even these funds activity. We're going to hear about EACs and that funding will flow from the build-up process. But at the end of the day, even these funds are intended to serve first a military and second a civilian purpose.

Against the backdrop of escalating housing and rental prices, a disrupted local labor market, health care challenges, and strained infrastructure, crumbs from our own table, is what we're expected to be grateful for? Our priorities in Guam need to be weighed fairly in the balance. A third issue that drives what's going on is that military priorities change, and they change all the time. There needs to be a recognition that what is said today, what is happening today, and what happened in the past are not indicators of the future.



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Because there is no strategy for Guam, military or civilian, the military regards Guam as a utility piece which can be used even for suboptimal or non-continuous military purposes. I could provide you a long list, but just to mention a couple of current ones. Camp Blaz. After massive environmental degradation, is this a facility the US Marine Corps is actually going to occupy?

The fact is the Marines never wanted to be here, but Japan put up the money and Guam paid the price. Now that it's built, at some point maybe somewhere in the military will define a new requirement or maybe not. Virginia-class submarine base at Polaris Point. The plans for developing Polaris Point to base new Virginia-class subs was the rage three years ago. A multi-billion dollar plan was in the works. Not anymore. While there will be upgrades to support the existing complement of Los Angeles class subs who will probably be here for another five to eight years, a base and all the projected follow-on ship repair related will not be staying in Guam. Don't count on ship repair work in Guam, but we've already been at this junction and by now we should know better. Let me give you a third point. Just a few years ago, just three years ago, when pressed on the complexities of layering offensive missiles on top of the quote-unquote missile defense system, the Joint Region Marianas spokesperson said, and I quote, "according to the Missile Defense Agency, the current architecture is not designed for offensive purposes. The current architecture does not support ground-based offensive ballistic or hypersonic missiles." Again, things change all the time, and you can count on that to happen in the future. A fourth item is that, is about Guam's military value and this is really critical to understanding where we're headed. Guam is moving from and has moved from being a strategic sanctuary to strategic vulnerability. If you want to understand how the military thinks about Guam today it is critical to appreciate that we are no longer seen as a sanctuary.

Our vulnerability is now a defining characteristic. There was a time when the U.S. could operate from Guam without fear of an attack from an adversary. Those days are long gone. Of course, Guam remains incredibly important to the military. Andersen Air Force Base has the largest munition storage and fuels capacity of any U.S. Air Force Base has the largest munitions storage and fuels capacity of any U.S. Air Force Base in the world. The Navy's ammunition annex at Fena contains a crucial forward stockpile, but today these assets are beset with acute vulnerabilities. And let me just speak to the vulnerabilities in several points. There is a reason that there are no permanently stationed manned U.S. Air Force bombers, tankers, or ISR planes at Andersen Air Force Base. There is a reason that the military is developing divert fields up the Marianas Chain and down to Yap and Palau.



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There is a reason that the planned development of the submarine base at Polaris Point has now moved to Western Australia. There is a reason the military wants an enhanced integrated air and missile defense system in Guam. And just to tip the scales on the vulnerability index, the head of U.S. Pacific Command now says Guam should have offensive missiles capable of reaching China. Going forward, the military's focus on Guam will be dominated by an incredible dependency that they have in operating freely here, balanced by the acute vulnerability to all of their operations. Not to dismiss the real challenges that a military operator or a warfighter has, but their focus on these issues will make our needs seem even less relevant than they are regarded today. And to put a fine point on where we are in the situation, even though the military is laser focused on their vulnerabilities, they can't even figure out a way to find room for civilian shelters and civilian support. Thinking about a way forward, I think you know coming to terms with the unfortunate reality that we find ourselves in should be a call to action. If our community is to be sustainable, we cannot bear the weight of every military requirement today, much less a requirement that might change or is obsolete even before it is realized. Fundamentally, we need to recognize that a military plan for Guam and our future may not always be in sync. Indeed, civilian and military interests may frequently be out of sync, and this will likely increase given Guam's strategic vulnerability. Of course, the community, the military has come to depend on Guam's acquiescence to any and all of its express needs. This has brought us a generation of crises around housing, health care, education, the labor market, the environment, etc. The individual issues that this committee has discussed need solutions. More empty words will not solve them. More missiles will not solve them.

And we should not have to wait on a structural solution to address them. Small tactical steps and wins are needed now. But this means focus. It also means facing up to the reality that these issues will not work themselves out on their own. We can't just wish them away. Clearly Guam needs to figure in national strategy. We cannot depend on Joint Task Force Micro or US Pacific Command to carry these issues for us. They are too busy and will soon be even more busy addressing their growing vulnerabilities in Guam and the region. We cannot depend on formal discussion with local commands to solve these problems. Our current experience is evident enough that this is not a path to success. If the future of Guam's families for housing, shelter, education, safe infrastructure, and a livable environment are going to be achieved, we're going to have to carry this requirement ourselves. Thank you.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITGAUE, CHAIRPERSON: You're very welcome, thank you Leland. And at this time I'd like to recognize Baltazar Aguon. Please proceed.



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BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: *Håfa Adai* Madam Chair and Senator Barnett. For the record my name is Baltazar Bordallo Aguon and I'm here today to talk about the total collapse of the One Guam framework and the systemic disrespect of our people. I remember the empty chairs from the previous briefing last month. The top brass of the military command didn't miss that meeting because of a scheduling conflict. They ignored us. They are absent because, in the grand calculus of the war machine, our local government and our residents are treated as nuisances to be managed, not partners to be consulted. They think our voices and our consent mean nothing. Look at the news from Washington over the last few days. The House and Senate are moving forward massive defense proposals under fiscal year 2027 defense budget, carrying over \$1.5 billion for the Guam buildup. We saw headlines celebrating a House amendment to zero out the \$29 million requested for land acquisitions at Camp Blaz and Nimitz Hill. But that potential land grab did not die. The Senate Armed Services Committee has put that exact same \$29 million appropriation right back on the table. The threat to our civilian footprint is active, live, and moving through Congress. And the Pentagon is still moving full speed ahead with a multi-billion dollar missile defense shield that turns our entire island into a combat laboratory. They are deploying land-based Aegis components right over Northwest Field at Andersen Air Force Base.

They are packing the Navy munitions site with heavy launchers. And right in the middle of our island, the six communication domes at the Barrigada Army Reserve property stand as a permanent, glowing bull's-eye for regional adversaries. The Marine Corps recently altered its internal strategic blueprint to keep its primary combat regiments in Okinawa. If the Pentagon can casually break a binding defense treaty with Japan, a sovereign nation, and unilaterally decide to leave those Marines in place, what do you think they will do to a U.S. territory? They will do whatever they want. They leave us with the permanent concrete, the destroyed jungle, and the operational risk while turning our actual troop numbers into a shell game of six-month rotations that threaten our Section 30 funding. Because history has shown that the US war machine will take the land, poison the resources, ignore the locals, and call it global stability.

Military planners say these installations and the transportable micro nuclear reactors they want to bring into the Pacific Command area of responsibility to power them carry low environmental risk. But our bodies and our soil remember the truth. Today, Andersen Air Force Base remains a toxic superfund site, as it has been since 1992, with over 80 hazardous zones leaching into the northern Guamlands aquifer, the very water that 70% of our civilian population relies on to survive. And it isn't just Andersen. When you look across our landscape at the other 12 major toxic and defense restoration sites, from the toxic Agent Orange footprints left behind in Marbo and Harmon, to the asbestos in Tiyan, to the heavy metals in our



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bays, the pattern of environmental neglect is undeniable. Why is our island still carrying the burden of this massive toxic legacy? Look what happened in 2002. A landmark GAO report came out and exposed that the federal government funded a measly 4% of military cleanups on Guam compared to the rest of the nation. The Army Corps of Engineers explicitly admitted to moving our cleanups down the national priority list. They looked at our island and chose to rank us lower, despite acknowledging that the contamination posed an identical threat to human health. They decided that mainland communities were the priority, and we were not. They decided mainland lives were worth the funding, and ours weren't. As recently as 2023, our families in Malesso' were paying the price for that exact deprioritization with documented spikes in cancer rates, directly linked to unmitigated military PCB contamination at Cocos Island. And now they want to introduce transportable nuclear micro-reactors into our region, exploiting a loophole in the federal defense bill that fast-tracks the evaluation of these programs without real civilian oversight. As Dr. Robert Underwood and Leland Bettis of the Pacific Center for Island Security recently warned our community, these installations don't deter war. They invite one. They turn our home into an immediate target. Under military...I believe Dr. Underwood said a double target.

Under military doctrine, a power source feeding a missile shield is a critical node. It is a primary target for an enemy strike. In today's Guam Daily Post, Director Bettis explicitly warns that the Senate is demanding a backup command center before the primary one is even built. Federal planners are operating under the underlying assumption that Guam will be hit and rendered completely unavailable. If a reactor is targeted in a conflict or malfunctions, radiation will not stop at a base fence. A plume will cover our northern villages in minutes. Radioactive runoff will poison our aquifer in days. On an island 30 miles long, there is no inland to evacuate to. This is an existential threat to our survival. Several days ago in Washington, Hawaii Congresswoman Jill Tokuda stood up at the defense bill markup and gave a fiery speech against these exact same micro nuclear reactors.

She explicitly warned that after decades of nuclear testing in the Pacific and the poisoning of Oahu's water at Red Hill, the Hawaiian islands refused to be used as a testing ground for an unproven military nuclear program. She rose in defense of her people and drew a line. As leaders in Hawaii have the courage to say no to being a nuclear experiment, I know this 38th Guam Legislature has that same courage. You have already proven it. When you stood firm and passed Bill 253-38 to ban deep-sea mining vessels from using our ports, now Public Law 38-129, you protected our ocean and showed the entire region what visionary protective leadership looks like. You proved you have the statutory power to protect our home from outside exploitation. You drew an unyielding line at the reef and the world listened. We must draw that



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same line on our soil. I urge this body to look at the precedent you set in protecting our ocean and apply it to our survival. Don't negotiate or regulate a nuclear loophole behind closed doors. Put it to the people. I urge this legislature to immediately introduce a legislative submission bill to place a binding referendum on the November general election ballot, let the people of Guam decide once and for all if we will permit nuclear technology on our sacred island. In demanding this vote, we are simply standing up for what any other community who cares for its people and homeland would fight for. If federal authorities refuse to give us transparency, let us use the ultimate tool of democracy to give them our answer. *Si yu'os and saina ma'åse'.*

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much Baltazar. And at this time, before I get to Monaeka, and Baltazar, can I please get a copy of your testimony emailed to me? If you don't have a hard copy with you today, please email it to my office at senatortelot@gmail.com. It was a very good testimony.

BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: Yes, Senator, I will.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Before I turn it over to Monaeka, is there anyone else in the audience who would like to come forward and have any comments or testify or any comments really it's not so much, anyone else okay, but if you change your mind just let my staff know. Okay and at this time I'd like to recognize and I believe we do have a powerpoint presentation. Okay, so we're going to make sure that it is ready to go. Okay, we're ready to go. Monaeka, you are now recognized.

MONAIEKA FLORES, MEMBER, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: *Si yu'os ma'åse'.* Thank you so much, Senator Taitague and Senator Barnett, for being here. We wish more senators were here. It is an election year, and we've been hearing a lot of the senators and candidates talk about how they prioritize environmental issues and preservation. And not seeing people here living up to what they're saying in their campaign is really revealing. We also really appreciate you hosting today's forum in the middle of Valiant Shield. A lot of us have been overwhelmed with the noise pollution from Valiant Shield. There's Ospreys here. A few of us had Ospreys flying over our homes. Some of us feel like we can't even breathe. The sound is so powerful that it vibrates our insides of our bodies. And for those of us living in the area of Mongmong-Toto-Maite, we can even smell the fumes coming from the airport. And Valiant Shield always lines up with the Rim of the Pacific exercises, which is the largest, the world's largest military maritime exercise with over 30 participating countries. And so we are seeing, we are really in the midst of huge war games, which are truly provocations for conflict and tensions in the region. And part of what feeds into the buildup that's



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making us more of a target for war. Last year a lot of us were at the defense forum held at the Dusit Thani and we were— it was really grating to hear a lot of the presenters repeat over and over again the words homeland and mainland and trying to force a connection between our island as both part of the homeland which is several thousand miles away and also trying to deflect from where our mainland really is. Our homeland is here in the Marianas. And so, you know, I'm here, I'm a member of *Prutehi Guåhan*, and a lot of our work is about democratizing information to help sustain and nurture community advocacy.

And so a lot of our work includes toolkits on various comment periods and projects of the military, workshops for developing comments letter campaigns, of course protests and community meetings, because our folks are also inundated not just with war games but with comment period after comment period on really destructive projects. These very dense, heavy materials were burdened with thousands of pages of material to read and understand in such a short period of time to participate in a process that doesn't always respond to our concerns and our priorities. And just even looking at a map of where we are, being the second island chain and seeing how the island chains are lining up, how far away our island is from the quote unquote mainland. It really is so frustrating to see how all of the Pacific is being set up as stages of war and sites of U.S. force projection, all for the benefit and the priorities of the United States.

And so with that, I just wanted to maybe also mention a little bit about greenwashing. I come here a lot and I talk about greenwashing. But greenwashing is the act or practice of making a product, policy, or activity appear to be more environmentally friendly or less environmentally harmful than it really is. And we've been inundated as well with federal and military greenwashing trying to sort of dismiss our concerns about the impacts. Greenwashing is also a pattern of behavior or manipulation that makes people believe that an agency is doing more to protect the environment than it really is. It uses false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a practice. And an example of this is how the Navy uses the words stewards of the sea to conceal how they kill, harm, harass, injure, contaminate, and destroy our ecosystem. The Navy refers to itself as a world leader in marine species research, stating they have funded many studies in the Marianas for us to better understand the distribution, abundance, habitat, and movement patterns of ocean species. Meanwhile, the Navy is using these studies as a mode to expand its harmful practices in our waters, which will ultimately increase stressors for marine life. And stressors are introduced into the environment by military activities and vary in intensity, frequency, duration, and location. And these include acoustics, explosives, sonar, physical disturbances, strikes, energy, entanglement, ingestion, secondary as habit or prey availability is affected.



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And so I bring that up because, you know, we're inundated with a lot of the ways that, you know, the military does all these projects but also tries to convince us that they're not harming us at the same time. And now, you know, we just finished the comet period for the Marianas Islands Testing and Training Area. I refuse to call it the study area, but this is about a million nautical miles in our surrounding waters. And so I'm going to talk a little bit about that in my slides. I guess we could cue them up now if that's okay. There we go. So this is a video that we made. If you could go ahead and press play on the video at the bottom of the slide. There it is.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Well while they're setting up I just want to recognize my oversight, well my vice chair of the military buildup, Senator Perez. Thank you so much for joining us.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Thank you, Senator Perez. So this first slide is actually a video that shows the overlap of the area that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has identified for potential mining and extraction for minerals. Now flanking both sides of the archipelago. This is actually the BOEM area, and it's right within the MITT. So you can see here, the blue lines represent the areas where they're looking into mining. The red area is the trench, and it's right within the MITT. So I just wanted to show the overlap and of course this race for rare earth minerals, this is being fast-tracked by the Trump administration, this is it part of the geopolitical competition that the United States has with China to reduce its dependency on these minerals but also these minerals are used for weapons manufacturing and technology. So this is very much connected to the military industrial complex. This is another kind of military destruction in that sense, and another colonial and imperialist resource grab that we in the Medianas are experiencing. Next slide, please. And so several endangered and protected marine species are identified as being harmed in the MITT, in the Marianas Islands Testing and Training Area. And those include turtles. A lot of these are protected and endangered species. They include sharks and rays. And they include mammals, such as whales and dolphins, and many other species, including fish and corals. Next slide, please. Oh, that's an image of short-finned pilot whales near Anatahan in the Marianas, and that's a photo by NOAA. Next slide, please. So the Navy, just to say this, the Navy uses a lot of these species to be like caricatures for their campaigns that they're protecting them. But these are actual images of the species they claim to be protecting in their greenwashing campaigns that will be hurt in the activities within the MITT. And so this is just some vocabulary for you to understand the difference between a take, incidental take, injury, mortality, level A harassment, level B harassment, auditory injury, hearing threshold, temporary threshold, shift in behavior response.



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Basically, a take excuses the military from any accountability and consequences from harassing, injuring, or killing sea life, including protected species during mid activities. Now it's basically a permission slip for them to go out and destroy our ecology, contaminate our waters while they're playing war in the oceans that surround us. Next slide please. And so these are just some other images. These are rough-toothed dolphins south of the Marianas Ridge and then here is a very rare sighting of striped dolphins in the Marianas. Next slide, please. This is a bride's whale, also in the Marianas. Next slide, please. Pilot whales south of the Marianas archipelago. Next slide. These are just a couple examples of, this is actually a rehabilitated green sea turtle on the right. This is a photo from Guam PDN. And then a turtle nesting beach in Saipan on the left. Next slide. And actually, could you play this video? You can play it at the bottom.

Yes, thank you. So this video just circulated actually right before the typhoon. This looks like a bride's whale. And this is just right off of Mañagaha island. So these are just some of the species actually that will be impacted that are being impacted. And so now, you know, during the typhoon we didn't have... We can turn those off, thank you so much. During the typhoon we didn't have power, water, internet, cell service, but the comment period for the new MITT EIS continued and actually we wrote to the government twice asking for a formal request to pause, to actually to halt the comment period it is completely inappropriate inhumane, to continue with the comet period during a tragic time, a very traumatic time of recovering and responding to a super typhoon, not just in Guam but throughout the Marianas. These plans are going to affect all of us in the Marianas. The new MITT includes planned increases, tenfold increases even, for using artillery, sonar, explosives in the area. And so that in itself is an injustice. But also to carry forward the process as if we don't count when we can't even respond is another injustice, another layer on that injustice. And so now I also just want to bring up the missile defense system, since it's a topic of conversation now, especially looking at the almost \$30 million appropriated or in the budget for land acquisitions. It's important to mention that, you know, in the missile sites plan for the missile defense system, that three of those sites overlie about 100 acres of non-DOD property. And that includes the sites at Orote Point, Nimitz, and MCB CM South. These are where launchers are going to be located. So at least three are non-DOD properties.

And of all of the sites, there exists military contamination that was never cleaned up, including asbestos, lead paint, harmful pesticides, and other existing issues of contamination that the military has never even dealt with, that they'll have to remove, if they move forward with the sites for the missile defense system. On top of that, there's 10 historic properties and 14 unevaluated resources, cultural resources that will be impacted. And these include a thermal feature, Latte pottery scatters, and a few others. And so we're



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looking at, also impacts to, of course, ancestral material... remains, the evidence of our ancestors' lives. And so with that, I just wanna also add that, you know, we're of the position that we want absolutely no nuclear reactors here for this missile defense system and no nuclear power generation whatsoever for the military. We know that they depend on our grid and our grid is not enough to power the missile defense system and the operations of the military.

And you know joining Bal's call I, we want to go further and ask that the legislature pursue a full-on ban of nuclear power generation. A lot of people are going to say it's a clean alternative it's very safe now but we really don't have to look far to see an island within Micronesia, islands within Micronesia, you know, that are suffering from unresolved issues around storage of nuclear waste that the United States left here. And because of federal law, the United States is not required to remove their own nuclear waste that exists in the Marshall Islands because they are a sovereign nation, even though its nuclear waste that was put there by the United States. And we need to think about how this is going to impact our journey toward decolonization to self-determination. How are we going to be a fully realized, decolonized, sovereign country if we're taking over and reclaiming lands that are so heavily contaminated and really can't be used for producing food or for living on... water that's so contaminated these are truly going to affect our security more than the presence of more bombs, more planes, more missiles. And so I'll end there. And thank you all so much for listening. And, you know, we see that the presence of the bases here makes us a bigger target for war. And we do not consent. The people of Guam have never consented just like we've never ceded our sovereignty. We've never consented to be a site for war which is what we're being set up to be once again. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much Monaeka. At this time if there's no other, anybody else would like to come up and make comments or provide any kind of testimony? Nothing at this time. Don't be afraid. This is your island. Okay. At this time, I'd like to now turn it over. Did you? Anyone? Okay. Okay. Okay, so at this time I'd like to allow my colleagues to ask some questions and some comments. Senator Barnett, you are now recognized.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: *Si yu'os ma'åse'* madam chair and *biba betnes*, and thank you again to the people watching on our new and improved YouTube live stream. Thank you to our AV team for those improvements. And thank you to the panel. Wow, Monaeka, I was hoping you wouldn't stop. Just keep going. No obviously, I think when you look up and you see us, these three faces and maybe there's just a couple more in this legislature that's willing to stand up and try and fight a lot of these issues associated



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with military buildup, associated with you know political status, and I have to agree with you Monaeka there sure is a lot of talk this election season but it's just very disappointing that my good colleague, the chair of this committee, is really the only member of the majority here who gives a damn about these issues with the military buildup.

I mean, for the rest of my colleagues in the Republican majority, we see very little to no concern. In fact, they might be watching this hearing and throwing labels that you concluded in your testimony to include anti-military. You know, I said this last term on the floor, I don't think it's a question of anti-American, anti-military, it really is a question, as the Congressman framed it, of being pro-Guam and asking the questions, is it good for our island? And I think 90% of the time, the answer is no. And the other 10% of the time, we don't have enough information to even make a determination or ask the question. So I definitely appreciate your testimony and yeah it's just a struggle because we're constantly under this avalanche of information that we've kind of got to sort through and then to kind of make these comments when really we haven't even been able to digest a lot of the information and occurrences that we're supposed to be commenting on. So you know I'm very reluctant to comment because I think the whole thing is kind of skewed against I mean obviously against the interests of the people of Guam. So we jump through these hoops, we make these comments, we you know look at these deadlines and you know our comments and they just disappear into thin air. So you know as a kind of a new lawmaker, I'm trying to figure out how we get back to that one Guam approach, where you know man it seems like maybe a decade or more ago that we really had some more alignment with the executive branch, the congressional and the legislative branch. I mean we're all on the same page about where we stood with the military buildup and, you know, asking questions and, you know, trying to fight against some of these things. And now we're just victims of the divide and conquer, right?

I mean, we have an executive branch that seems very willing to work with the Department of War behind closed doors. We have a congressman who I think is really, you know, unfortunately falling short on a lot of these issues that he should be bringing up to the federal government. So, you know, Congressman Underwood, in your testimony you talked about countermeasures. So I'd just like to ask, how do we as a legislature work better with your group to kind of institute some of these countermeasures? Because, you know, we have tried, we introduced a bill in the last legislature calling for a full ban on nuclear microreactors. We recently passed the public law, of course, banning the, not banning deep sea mining necessarily, but doing what we could within the confines of our status, which was kind of just to say, like,



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if you're docking at our port and it's got anything to do with deep sea mining, you know, no, we do not consent. And so, Congressman, if you could just maybe offer some advice to us.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS):

Well, thank you for those comments, Senator. You know, of course, it's very difficult to imagine because we seem, as an island and as a political structure, we seemingly have no capacity to resist that, and we're constantly overwhelmed with information, as you've outlined, and you know trying trying to deal with the complexity of the information and the nuances of the information is difficult and you know sometimes between Leland and myself and Ken Cooper, we always say, well we're three people and how many people do they have up there on Nimitz Hill working this issue? And, you know, there's just the three of us. And then, of course, there's Monaeka and Bal. And I want to congratulate them for their detailed testimony. So, fortunately, there's AI. So, I know the legislature had access to a couple of AI programs, maybe down to one now. I'm not sure. I'm just trying to keep track of that in terms of what's going on in the legislature. But you know, using that tool, there are probably many state legislatures that have passed laws that have restricted or affected military activities in their own state that we don't really know about. And I was trying to imagine that there are some of those that are ongoing. So now, for example, the state of Hawaii has a kind of a law against or rule about nuclear reactors. So what is keeping the Guam legislature from engaging in that, is that we should really look through the miracle of AI and through some very direct research to find out what those laws may be. And they may be even in red states.

And I'm sure, I'm almost positive that those laws and rules exist. And we're constantly told that we can't do that because A, that's a federal responsibility, and B, anyways, you're just an unincorporated territory. You don't have any real power or efficacy to do this. So that's one possible route. And of course, you know, I don't want to make it political, but obviously you have to kind of elect leaders that are willing to deal with this from a position of strength rather than a position of weakness. And constantly we're involved in kind of partnerships that never really materialize or partnerships that we think we have but we don't really have or an attempt to kind of make it sound like, oh, we're all friends, we can all get along. And so the style of one Guam, green Guam, remember that? I mean, that was a going thing, so to deal with some of the issues that Monaeka brought up, and now that's gone.

Of course, now one Guam, green Guam has become two Guams and one green, maybe not one so green. And now we have all of these issues. And it's the total lack of concern about the local population that is most disturbing. If you look back and because you know you read press releases and so Delegate Moylan



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has said there's 1.9 billion dollars for Guam, 1.9 billion. If someone had started off by saying you know if we're going to get money from the military can we earmark five percent of that for some Guam projects? Can we come to an agreement that is 95 million dollars? But of course, there's no such thing. There's no such animal in that whole process. So even as a deal-making product even if we were to say let's make a deal. There's no deal There's nobody dealing. There's none of that, let alone the idea that you have serious issues that you're confronted with, but you feel like you don't have the capacity. Well, flood the gates. Flood the gates with the legislation, legislative initiatives that are ongoing in other states. I don't think that we have to sit back and wait for that. I think we could do that so that that demonstrates the seriousness. And then, of course, we have to, at some point in time, hold fellow elected officials to task or to accountability for their position.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Yeah, and I think that, thank you for the answer, by the way. But you're right, we've tried to introduce different measures and then the pushback we get from, and you could read the writing on the wall, you know, if you just do the math, we introduce a bill to match and nuclear micro-reactors and kind of figure we're only gonna get four votes on it. So again, it comes down to the people of Guam voting wisely. And I commend everybody at this table because while we're struggling to interpret and make sense of the avalanche information, you guys are in the forefront and you're giving it to us in a way that's very digestible. Not just us, but to the, like you said, democratizing that information is so very important because that's why a lot of people, I feel, have this archaic mindset of the extremes, either anti this or you're pro that is because maybe they don't have the information. I mean, the local media barely reports on the issues surrounding the military buildup. And I think what we've seen here in my experience is like I said, it's a divide and conquer. The Admiral's feel like they don't have to bother with the legislature because they have the cooperation of the governor and lieutenant governor.

And so that's what I've seen in my experiences. Why would they even bother coming down here to the people's house to answer just kind of basic questions that we were not trying to pry classified secrets out of anybody and I think they kind of dismissed the entire lawmaking body of the island of Guam because they have a great relationship with the governor and lieutenant governor. Which I think you know given our political status we just if we had a and lieutenant governor, which I think, you know, given our political status, we just, if we had a governor, lieutenant governor, who were more assertive in defending the rights of the people of Guam, I mean, I think that we could fast track a lot of these political status discussions if we had a governor, lieutenant governor, and I said this before, I'm not saying lay down in front of the bulldozer, but, you know, take a stand for the people instead of continuing to meet with, you know with



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the military brass behind closed doors, because that's kind of the situation that we have now is we're all here yelling into the wind and the admirals, their ears are closed because they've already kind of made the deals and they have the cooperation of the executive branch. So that's very, very frustrating. Leland, do you agree with Congressman? In your testimony, you talked about taking small tactical steps and how important it is for us to get some wins.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): So just a couple of things real quick. I think it's important I say this in the statement but I'll say it more directly, Joint Region Mariana's, Joint Task Force Micro are messengers. If they can successfully get somebody in Guam to agree with what has come down the pipe for them to deliver, they've done their job. If nobody's pushing back, if no one says, no, we don't like your message, take it back. If no one's doing that, then those guys are gonna get promoted. And by the way, we've seen that regularly. People come here and get quick agreements for issues in Guam. They get promoted. So thinking about national strategies, national policies, and where Guam figures in, thinking about leverage for Guam. And, look, I don't want to overstate One Guam, Green Guam.

If you have an agreement with the military, you're going to have to hold their feet to the fire all the time because, you know, it's a turnstile. People are always moving through and moving out, so you're going to have to hold their feet to the fire. But I think it's important to remember a general framing. Guam, under the United Nations, is a non-self-governing territory. Technically, under international law, administering powers are not supposed to be conducting military activities in non-self-governing territories. Now, I know when I was involved with the Commission on Self-Determination and the Commission on Decolonization, we regularly had visits to New York at the General Assembly with representatives from Guam.

We tended not to use that particular lever in our discussions. We focused more on the general generic, you know, Guam is a non-self-governing territory, we have a right to self-determination, etc. However, that particular lever was used at a point in time by Speaker Won-Pat, who went and testified on military activities, and guess what, that's what led to the one Guam Green that made people in Washington stand up and go, we need to do something different. We need to make a deal. But as long as you're making the deal behind the guy that's the messenger without trying to adjust the policy you're not gonna get a good deal. So you've got to elevate the discussion, small tactical wins, I mean I think there's got to be something on housing. There's got to be a prohibition, no more military personnel until you provide housing. There's



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got to be things like that that you start to do to show that you're serious about it. Otherwise, look, the housing issue has been talked about not just by this governor, but by previous governors and these, you know, committees that they have that they meet, that they meet once a year or now once a quarter, for over a decade. And of course the military always says, oh yes, we're concerned about housing. What's it got you?

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): If I could just add to that, Senator, I think what Leland has pointed out is absolutely correct in the sense that you're connecting a specific military activity to a specific social, economic, and political issue that matters to people. So sometimes if we're talking about micro nuclear reactors some people say well nuclear nuclear power is okay that's a different debate. But I don't think anybody on this island maintains can make, can seriously maintain that the price of housing is out of control and that's directly connected to military activities. And so that's like making that issue central to that. I feel like you know just in a little bit banter between Senator Taitague and us before the hearing you know she was also sort of lamenting that it's very difficult to get some of the sitting senators involved in this. And I said well it's like your house has been burglarized now three times and the solution is to build sidewalks, it's like let's just focus on something else.

While in the meantime everything in the society is being disturbed and disrupted and the solution is to let's focus on something else and not at the real problem. And so trying to find that you know, it's going to be, admit, you know that I admit that it's difficult and I admit that the forces that are arrayed against it seem invincible but as, we just have to keep in mind and I think Leland points it out the people on Nimitz Hill are not the people that actually make any decisions. I mean, they are important. They got a tough job, and I respect them. But they're not people who make decisions. They're messengers. If we treat them as if they were up there on the hill looking down on us, which they are physically, and we respond to them that way, we empower them more than they need to be. And the fact that they don't show up here in a hearing is lamentable, but I guarantee you that if you had a bill that was seriously being heard on any one of these issues, they would try to show up in some fashion.

BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: I'm not well versed on legislative strategy and government strategy but I have seen the power of the people. I have seen things happen when you have a wave of passionate people coming together to defend our island, to stand up for the issues. And I think, you know, just last night I was reviewing an October 2017 hearing on the buildup, and this whole legislature was packed. You



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had all of the military here and you've had all of the stakeholders were here. This whole room was packed. And I was looking at that and I was saying, wow, this hearing is filled with so much passion and so much energy and so much bravery to sit there and question the military top brass on Guam. You know, you had Kathy McCollum had a really heartfelt, passionate, effectively delivered testimony that had all of the military just, they couldn't even speak. They were speechless. You know, Senator Hope was there, and you had them question right here at the table. You had them question the military, and the military had to answer.

So I see right now that there's this big disconnection between interacting with the people on these issues and with the military. And I think that you've hit it right on the nose. The military already has the cooperation with the administration. You know, they don't need to go to the legislature. They don't need to go to the people. So I think that if we somehow connect these big deep issues at this point in time and get the people riled up to come out and demonstrate and and be visible then all of the other senators who are not here today will have to take notice and they will have to be they will have to make their opinions known. So I think legislative strategy and empowering the people is key to standing up against what we could possibly lose?

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Well, you know, I wonder, you know, about, gosh, it's a little overwhelming, because we should all be angry, but are we angry enough? Are we angry enough? And I have to say that it's really disheartening when our own leadership doesn't represent the anger, the grief, the rage of the people and instead capitulates to bootlicks, even I'll say bootlickers. Whenever we hear words like mitigation and data recovery, that means destruction and contamination are guaranteed to happen or has already happened. And no person speaking for the people of Guam and specifically for the *CHamoru* people should ever say that that is acceptable. You know, no director of any agency, no president of any agency, and definitely not the governor and lieutenant governor. We are not angry enough and that's what we want from the leadership, to be angry, to be strong, and not to capitulate and compromise. This is, you know, I wonder sometimes if people are thinking about the future instead of the moment right now. What are we leaving behind for the future generations? What, you know, we've already been colonized for 500 years, almost 200 under the United States, 300 under Spain, and we know we've lost a lot. And so we have to protect what is left for the future generations. And I wish that our folks would rise up in numbers, because there is strength in numbers. And so it used to be that when we protested, you know, it's really interesting, because we've seen waves of activism. We've seen, we've heard different elders, for instance, activists threaten congressional reps or spit in people's faces or, you know, openly threaten



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members of the federal government. Those days are gone and now there's increased hostility from this administration to anybody protesting and resisting ultimately the destruction of our homeland. And so when our own leaders are also silencing us, forcefully removing us, sometimes using excessive force, threatening us, and also gaslighting us, and speaking about us dishonestly, as if we're the threats. We're the ones being disrespectful. We're the ones, the disrespect, the biggest disrespect is the desecration of the final resting places of our ancestors. The biggest disrespect is the poisoning of our aquifer, which has been happening now for generations, from Agent Orange to PFAS and now Dieldrin. So many harms, so many injustices that have never been dealt with, directly connected to the military occupation of our island and their operations. And so it is our responsibility, truly, as members of this community and as leaders of this body and leaders at Adeloop and all the leadership in every agency to challenge and not accept the bare minimum and the status quo. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: Can I add one more thing? I think part of the reason we're not seeing this wave or this is because of the lack of information coming out of the meetings. I know Senator Barnett, you questioned whether, why are these negotiations not available to the public? You know, up to now, I mean, have there been minutes that were produced to you from the administration? Nobody knows what's going on in these meetings. So you have an effective pall of silence over these negotiations. You know, if we knew what they were, we don't even know if they agreed to having the micronuclear reactors come in, you know? So I think that this lack of information, this lack of the public knowing what is going on, what are we being, you know, what's being negotiated is a big part in why the people are not getting upset, not getting riled up. So I hope at some point that you will have, we will have the minutes from the negotiations from the meeting that was requested from the last hearing. And it's very telling that you haven't even gotten them now. Were there even any minutes? Thank you.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you. I wanted to ask, because there was some recent developments with the programmatic agreement. I know we've had just a bunch of different hearings in here, but I just wanted, if you could, because I haven't talked to you about this pausing of the programmatic agreement. Is this a small tactical win, or is this election year politics?

BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: To be quite honest with you, we're grateful that there's a pause and that nothing went forward. But when you look at the response from the acting governor. The only thing he gave up were issues that everybody could agree on, which is cultural heritage. The other issues, the core issues of land taking, of a combined monopoly of administrative oversight, the really deep issues were not



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even addressed and I think that at this point I would if it could somehow be resurrected I don't know if this is even possible push for 144-38 and just completely get rid of the 2008 programmatic, did I get the resolution number — to completely get rid of the 2008 agreement and this current draft and go right back to the section 106, which provides more protection. So I think that the pause is great. I don't know what's going to come of this pause. Whether, you know, right now it's being reviewed legally, but is this just a way to say, okay, it's legal, let's move forth, and not have any of our, you know, concerns addressed? So I'm thankful that the pause happened but we're still in the cloud on what it will bring.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: The three of you were here when you asked SHPO Patrick Lujan for a roundtable that allowed for the public to go through a review of the programmatic agreement, get an understanding of it, and then give recommendations. And you asked that those recommendations be considered and included, and we know that that didn't happen. You cannot have a meeting for the public without inviting the public, and that's what ended up happening. Of course we brought up the violation of open government and then the SHPO openly said he will not work with the public and that is extremely problematic for any representative of the government of Guam and our state historic preservation officers who just refuse to engage the community. And basically this Saturday we're having our second forum. These are the kinds of meetings that we were also hoping to see. These are the kinds of meetings that we've actually been asking for, the kind of engagement and transparency that we've been asking for. And we're doing it ourselves. The community is doing it. *Protehi* is responding to community members and their requests and demands. And that's, I would say it's shameful that after three administrations and almost eight years of this one, this is what we've been asking for and we never got it. And now we have to do it ourselves. And we welcome the pause. We appreciate the pause. And we do question if it's a gesture for optics. And we refuse to be used for optics. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you.

BALTAZAR BORDALLO AGUON: I just want to add that the Historic Preservation Office in the SHPO position is one of the few agencies on our island that should have teeth. It's one of the few agencies that can tell the military to stand back and take a deep breath and do what you need to do before we consent. And this whole process, the whole, what came out of the PA, there's no teeth. Everything was just given up to military oversight. So I would like to see at some point the office and the position have the power that they had so that we can be protected but to just sweep everything under the rug it's not going to happen to just



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sweep everything under the rug. It's not going to happen. It's not going to happen with anything this important.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Yeah, we saw the former State Historic Preservation, or the Guam Historic Preservation Officer, I should say, use stipulation 13 in the other programmatic agreement time and time again to stop work when those activities reflected findings that were in violation. And so this programmatic agreement draft doesn't have anything like that. We don't see that sort of engagement with the SHPO, activating the stipulations within the programmatic agreements to stop work where there's been a disturbance and a desecration. And also what was revealed in the hearing on the resolution, which I really appreciated was that in Senator Perez's FOIA, she discovered that there was damage to historic and cultural properties that were that happened because of loopholes in the 2008 PA and those have not been addressed. And it doesn't, it's as if the SHPO himself is just checking off the boxes procedurally so that this can be signed and pushed forward. And we should question why the state historic preservation office is trying to push forward a programmatic agreement that does not align with Guam law and federal law.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Yeah. Thank you for that. And I think the original ask that we had made was that the whole thing be thrown out and started from scratch because there was a lack of community engagement in the consultation process which is from the beginning. I mean you know we were I think in this room we were I don't want to say I was willing to compromise but we did say hey *måseha* you know have a round table and get the comments and you know commit to possibly including them I thought that was a great compromise, but instead what we saw was what we saw. Where we hav, now a SHPO who has said, you know, absolutely he does not want to engage the public, and I think that this whole process, the most important part of it is engaging the public. So I think it's a little bit of Joshy come lately. And then also the pause, I don't support it. I think it doesn't address, you know, our original complaint about the programmatic agreement and the entire process. And then just on the matter of the nuclear reactors, Congressman Underwood had said something, and I think you too, Monaeka, had said something about, you know, our history of radioactivity, nuclear weapons testing.

And in the Pacific and I think that's what kind of colors this whole issue of the micro nuclear reactors for our people, many of whom you know caught cancer because they were downwind of you know nuclear radiation. And you know asking us to host micro nuclear reactors is a lot like blowing cigarette smoke in a cancer survivor's face. I mean, we have the historical context to be suspicious of this. And unfortunately, I don't think that we have the support to even get a bill moved forward that would bar this technology from



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our island. And it was in this room in the previous term, we had the officials from the Missile Defense Agency, and I asked because at the time it was a footnote, and I think you're the one that shared this with me, Leland, it was a footnote and a report that was like 100 pages deep.

And an individual that we had asked about it said, oh, that was just like, they're just talking about it, there's nothing concrete, and you know, just a couple years later, we're now hearing that it's actually very concrete and almost a done deal. You talk about lack of information I watched the governor in DC and those senators over there don't even know that you know our grid is where what the military's hooked up on. So thank you, I know I'm taking up all the time. Thank you madam chair for, you know a lot of the other senators, when they have their hearings, they limit us to five minutes to ask questions. And that's like, we're adults. So we have big problems, big questions. We can't solve the island's problems in five minutes. So thank you for the time, Madam Chair. And *Si yu'os ma'åse'*, again, I mean, there's so many other things that we can discuss relative to this issue. So I'm just very grateful that we've been able to have this conversation here today. Thank you.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Barnett. And you can rest assured that we're not going to stop talking about this. We're not going to set it aside, as many of the other senators feel, like Dr. Underwood said, you know, start looking at sidewalks and stuff like that. So that was excellent. And at this time, I'd like to recognize my vice chair of the military buildup, Senator Perez. You are recognized, ma'am.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon to the panel here, and thank you for all your expertise that you brought here today. So I just want to focus in on the testimony provided by Leland Bettis and it's very disturbing to hear in one of your points you state that, Guam's military value from strategic sanctuary to strategic vulnerability and you state here that, it's basically you state that that Guam is considered as vulnerable and yet...So can you basically reconcile the infrastructure that's being placed here in the billions of dollars and yet we're considered as vulnerable.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): Well again, I provided several examples earlier. Effectively technology has changed Guam's status in terms of its military value. Specifically, missiles and missile technology has moved Guam from being a place that was not an achievable target even probably by by airplanes to one that's now you know a 20-minute Express from China or North Korea and we first began to see this in 2020 when at Andersen Air Force Base, they



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removed the b-52s and they did that at the time specifically because they didn't want effectively 15% of the inventory of B-52s on a runway at Andersen that could evaporate in the event of attack. And since that time we've seen you know more and more progressive things that demonstrate Guam's vulnerability. I mean if you think about Andersen and I mentioned this in the testimony got the largest storage of fuels of any air base in the testimony, got the largest storage of fuels of any air base in the U.S. inventory. Got the largest munition storage of any air base in the U.S. inventory. And there's not a single plane up there that can deliver that. And the reason they don't have the planes there is because they don't want to put those planes at risk in the event of a conflict. Guam is recoverable. They'll try to sort of figure it out and work between divert airfields to figure how to come in and out of Guam. But Guam is just vulnerable period from the Air Force's point of view. And you know this, the second order of that is the development of these divert airfields. Tinian, Saipan is being expanded, Yap there's federal appropriations for Yap, Palau, all these are developments intended to make room for the possibility that Guam is, as they call it, not available in the event of a national emergency or natural disaster. So the vulnerability is very, very clear. I think the recent Senate National Defense Authorization Act had a provision which makes us even more clear. Someone on the Senate side has said that the Department of War has to certify to the defense committees that effectively there's a redundant capability for the Aegis Guam Command and Control Center that's being set up for missile defense. Now the Aegis Command and Control Center is not even developed yet and already people are saying wait we need a redundant command and control center. So I think you know that again I just three examples to give you a really good sense of how vulnerable the military views Guam as. Look, the missile defense itself, the whole missile defense system is a red flag about what you think is going to happen in the event of conflict.

And the recent disclosure that the head of the U.S. Pacific Command wants offensive missiles, I mean that really is sort of the, I mean it's very, very clear that the US military sees Guam as highly vulnerable. Now how do I reconcile that with the fact that there's nothing for civilian shelters? I can't justify that. But it's clear, I mean look it's not, the military is doing what the military thinks they need to do. And you know they don't particularly think about Guam as a civilian community, they think about Guam as a base. And that's their job, that's the way they do it. We can't let them get away with that. We live here. You can't, you can't say Guam is vulnerable and provide all the examples about how vulnerable Guam is, spend billions of dollars to support, supposedly defend the vulnerability and then not even think about the local community. It's unconscionable, really. And for all the talk about homeland that you hear people in the



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military talk about when they refer to Guam, you know, this doesn't sound like homeland in that context. I hope I answered your question.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, yes. And do you, have you heard that there are bunkers on base being constructed?

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): I have not personally seen any bunkers, but I can't imagine that the new complex at Camp Blaz doesn't have some sort of shelters for personnel.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, yes, I heard there was rumors that they are building bunkers on base. The other thing that you mentioned is that, and yet they're not building it for the civilian population, like you said. The other thing that you mentioned was that Guam is not part of the National Security Strategy nor part of the National Economic Strategy. So we all are advocating that Guam have a seat at the table. I mean it's really critical that when decisions are made that we need to be there. And I agree with you Dr. Underwood that we're talking to the individuals that are given the orders and not the decision makers. And so how do you see that we can be at the table when it comes to these decisions that are made at a higher level?

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): That question for me?

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, thank you.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): Well thank you, thank you very much and just to add to that of course Guam doesn't have a specific seat at the table, but it always has some seat at some table. And that's the point at which I think advocacy, you know, there's regular meetings that are going on in D.C., there are committee hearings, there's the IGIA, there's the annual review of things. Those are places upon which Guam can make a case. But what cases it's making when it has the opportunity to do so? What is the issue that is being raised? That seems disconnected. I will add this, you know because they talked about the mini pause and then the issues that you're trying to pressure does work and think about it.

The Guam Defense Forum was really a defensive measure on the part of Indo-PACOM at the time in order to ratify and to demonstrate that they're interested but they're not really going to do anything. You know



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but they did do that and the way it was constructed was to make sure that certain people didn't show up or that they weren't invited to be part of panels but they kind of assuaged themselves. Now a lot of noise was made about housing and Leland and I were participants in a meeting with an assistant secretary that made a solemn commitment we're going to do something about housing and how long ago was that? I don't know you know it's been a couple of years but unless the pressure is continually made not just by, you know, activist organizations or even think tanks, but basically through elected officials. Even if they seem like lone voices in the wilderness, they will have an impact. And I think the Guam Defense Forum was an example of that and I'm thinking that along the lines here you know, we're all of a sudden just based even on this hearing just based on the conversations that are ongoing. I've ventured, I'm pretty sure that some forum will be suggested in the future that this will be and it will be again another public relations kind of forum rather than an avid discussion. And so the greatest public relations line that we are being treated to is that you're part of the homeland. That is the greatest public relations line whoever whoever thought it up whoever thought it up as a communication strategy and then to constantly repeat it.

A carrier comes to Guam and the first thing the commander says is we're here because Guam is part of the U.S. homeland. I didn't know that I thought you're just here because carriers come through here all the time. I've never heard that before but that is really the whole essence of this. So they, it is seen as a communications problem rather than a policy issue. And our task is to make it a policy issue. That's really and I know that it's difficult, and then you have to kind of consider all the levers you have. Micronuclear reactor, what does GPA say about it? What does GPA say about nuclear energy? What are they saying? And then there, that area of activity and inquiry is more under the control of the Guam legislature. That's the kind of pressure that should be exerted and it has to be kind of multifaceted and as I said before your AI program ought to be help you figure that out.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): Senator just I think you know Guam was not mentioned in the National Security Strategy. Guam was not mentioned in the National Defense Strategy, which probably surprises some people if you think about how much money is being poured here per square mile, probably more than anywhere else in the entire U.S. system. You, we're not in those strategies because the people that are in charge of running the operation in Guam for the military today are satisfied they've got everything under control. If we're not saying we need to be in the strategy, if we're not saying we need shelters, if we're not saying does this really make sense for us, and the military guys are going, hey don't worry about it, we're not going to be in those strategies. I think it's that simple. So silence gives everybody a pass. We don't get the attention we need.



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SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: It seems like a catch-22 here, because for one, we're dealing with the lower end of the hierarchy. And if they don't want to come to the table, for instance, or they feel that they're, I guess, perhaps the people that are communicating with them are giving them assurances, right? So, you know, they don't need to come to the table with us.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): And, you know, just to ratify that point, because what that means is that whatever is going on in Nimitz Hill, they're reporting back that everything is under control. Don't worry about it. We got this covered. And so it's like any other kind of institutional behavior. An institution doesn't move unless it feels threatened or it feels that it has to respond. It has historically been the strategy of those up in Nimitz Hill to talk to the mayors because they find a more receptive audience than to talk to the legislature. So that's kind of like a constant trope that not only are they behaving like that, they're telling each other this is what you do. And of course, the mayors are receptive to it because, you know, who doesn't want their bus stops painted?

Or who doesn't want these community projects that are like, you know, you talk about a cost-effective use of resources that generates what is seen to be as great you know public support for really minimal effort, very minimal effort on their part. And so that that has been like and I've heard this, you know, for decades now. That's why they like to engage what they call "real community leaders" in the name of village mayors. And then, you know, whatever the legislature is, you know, they're not going to show up here unless there's something really at stake for them, or they think is. And normally it would be hard for us to see where members of military command show up at state legislatures anyways. But they do on occasion if something is at risk and right now, the fact that they're not really engaging or either they're oblivious to the concerns or they think nothing is at risk and so you know that suggests that we have to make them aware of our concerns and or put them at risk.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): Just one other point on that I would suggest that expecting an admiral, a one-star Admiral in Guam to carry your water, is probably not a good strategy either. Because the military itself is built around a system that rewards people going with the grain, not against it. So if Washington says we want this in Guam, you're not going to get an admiral in Guam going, oh well the people in Guam have some different ideas. They're not going to do that. It's going to hurt their promotion chances. So I mean, I think we just, I think we have to be realistic about you know what we're dealing with in terms of this process and that's why you really need to elevate



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the discussion outside of Guam. I would say even beyond Hawaii. This has got to be the kind of thing that goes to Washington D.C. and to New York at the U.N. raise, really raise the level of discourse.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. And the other point that you raised, Leland, was the military priorities change all the time. And, you know, there was so much effort and money put into the Camp Blaz base, so much destruction that occurred. And, you know, the community came out, you know, fought really hard. But now we're seeing, you know, change like you said the priorities have changed. The Polaris Point you pointed out, most, the most recent example they cleared that whole area and now it's going to Australia. So you know, how do, what do you suggest I mean, I know you've gave a lot of recommendations so far but you know, as far as what other recommendations can you provide to the community so that we are not victims or we are not subject to the the vagaries of war, the focus of war and you know, of course we don't want war. But yeah, that we are, our lands are being sacrificed our artifacts, our heritage, is being at risk and it's being lost I know we need people in these positions to really be there and we need to be united and I think that's the problem, like my colleague mentioned we're not all united in this.

You know, basically speaking out and you know ensuring that our land is protected, our history is protected but then only to find out later that you know it's dispensable. It's no longer needed and I think that's the bigger question, you know, when we know that the U.S. military has over 700 installations worldwide this idea of redundancy becomes dispensable that you know any of these installations are dispensable and that is a question that we have to ask ourselves right. Do we want to continue on this trajectory where even our homeland itself, the water that we drink, you know, we know it's already impacted, but further being further impacted. And when we talk about micro nuclear reactors that relies on, you know, uranium. And even though they say that the technology is improved uranium's half life is over 700 million years. Which means exposure to carcinogens for multiple generations right. So yeah anything you can provide is, I mean, I applaud you for being very vigilant, providing the latest information, you know, but if there's anything else that you can recommend so that we can really strengthen our resolve here.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): I think we have to be ahead of the information curve as much as we can and to voice concerns about issues that are rising. On the Camp Blaz issue, I mean, I can tell you, and a very close friend of mine was on the National Security Council at one point in time as a uniformed personnel, and he met with the Commandant of the Marine



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Corps as the Camp Blaz issue was sort of in abeyance. And I was not in the meeting, I heard this secondhand. So the Marine Corps commander says we don't want to be in Guam, you know, every time a dolphin washes up on the beach we're gonna be blamed we're Marines we break things. Guam is not the place we want to be.

So my point is that I think even sometimes within the institutional structure of these places, there is a recognition that things need to be handled a little differently in Guam. I know the former head of the Missile Defense Agency went out of his way four years ago to talk about how Guam was a tourist destination, and they needed to make the radomes and the missile defense launchers look pretty because of the tourists. Now that's not you know, saying we don't missile defense but there's a recognition there that what's happening in Guam is a little different and a little over the edge and I think we have to think about ways to leverage any of those, that any of those sort of attitudes and sensitivities where they do exist to our advantage. But if we simply go, say nothing, do nothing, then it's going to come.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Monaeka, you raised your hand?

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Well just even to think about PARS, the Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors, and their fight, and *Sinot* Robert Celestial's fight, just to fund medical care for our folks who have been exposed to radiation from the nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. And the reason why, you know, there's many reasons why, we can assume that it hasn't been funded racism, for one, but also because it's going to open up a Pandora's box for the federal government to fund every other exposed community from Saipan to Palau to Yap, everywhere else that has been impacted by and, you know, we've seen it added to NDAAs and taken out, and we've seen them reduce the years trying to ignore the half-life of the nuclear contamination. So it's just, you know, we have had many people go, I mean, he went all the way to the Senate and tried to argue for compensation for medical care for our folks who suffer from all kinds of illnesses specifically associated to that exposure. And then, just, you know, sorry, I just wanted to add a note to the greenwashing thing I was talking about earlier. We now see USS Washington out there picking up trash at Ypao Beach, you know? And that's greenwashing because it's not talking about how they're dropping thousands of pounds of explosives in our ocean that they're not gonna mitigate or clean up or remedy, and that we're gonna be stuck with that contamination. Sorry, I just saw a picture of it from PDN that USS Washington's out there picking up trash, and that's the kind of stuff that the mayors are informed by. Like, hey, they're out here picking up our trash. Aren't they great? And with every flight, and



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with every thousand pound bomb that they drop out there in the ocean, that's thousands and thousands of gallons of fossil fuels being burned. That's making us more susceptible to the climate crisis.

We just survived a super typhoon. It's going to make us more vulnerable to that recovery, that kind of recovery in the future. And you know, not to mention the thousands of dollars wasted, to play war in our waters when all of these issues from housing to health care have been ignored. Guam is a recognized medically underserved location. And not just Guam, the whole of the Marianas, Tinian doesn't even have an operating clinic right now. And all of those issues are going to also be exacerbated with the increased labor that comes for all of these construction projects associated with the missile defense system and other operations because all of that labor force is going to put more pressure on our medical care system. So just some reflection, listening to this great panel, just some other thoughts to add. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: *Si yu'os ma'åse'.* Oh, yeah, the question for Monaeka, actually, so you mentioned about the MITT comments and how that could conflict with the mining, the deep sea mining. Have you had any response by the military in regards to that?

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: No, actually we were hopeful that they would know that we're suffering, really, from a very traumatic, not just Guam, the whole of Tinian, Saipan even more so, were suffering from a very difficult recovery after the super typhoon. And they should have paused, they should have paused the comment period. Actually our friends from our Commonwealth 670 were planning two comment writing workshops that we were going to support with an expert with a NEPA expert and that had to be cancelled because it was, it's just completely inappropriate also for us to continue with some of our work in a time like typhoon recovery. It's just completely insensitive of the limitations and needs of our community. And so we wrote twice, we wrote the administration and some members of the legislature and also members of Joint Region Marianas asking for a pause in that comment period. And we received no response and we saw no requests from the administration to pause on that comment period, which was really upsetting. But yeah, as you can see from the video just the overlap of you know a plan that will essentially destroy our future deep sea mining is going to remove minerals that took thousands and thousands of years to be created and for national security, for national prosperity, again conflating homeland and mainland, it's not gonna benefit any of us. It's not gonna benefit, it's gonna destroy our future. And so yes, we should see this layering of all of these horrible proposals as environmental racism and as just a complete violation of our indigenous rights and our human rights as well. Yep.



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SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, just when you're showing the examples, just to kind of reaffirm that, you know, these, the whales, these are migratory animals.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Yes.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: And so they're down here giving birth right, I believe, right.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Yes.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: So they travel as far as I think Alaska right.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Mhm, yes.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: And that's where they feed during the winter time I believe and then they come down here during the summer to nurse, to breed and to nurse. So that's, I think you know, just, you know, as an environmentalist, I think that's really important to identify the, that these are cycles. These animals have existed for longer than humans have existed and this is their way to survive and we're really impacting a very, you know, important eco species right and their ecosystem.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Yes.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: And yeah, it's just very disruptive, these testing and training. And then of course the turtles too, they travel very far distances.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Mhm.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: And to really think about, you know, the beauty of life and how things can, you know, sustain themselves and we are really undermining the very ecosystem that supports them and it ultimately supports us. And so I think you know, that's, you know at, when we're talking about these activities you know, oftentimes it's based out of fear right fear because the they're the fear of being impacted but you know, the really, what it's doing is undermining everything and you know, the really, it's really important that we focus on you know the diplomacy you know really genuine security. Like you mentioned before, it's like that is what's going to produce peace in the world I think and of course I know that's not shared, that view is not necessarily shared, but really it's concerning



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to see the world become more militarized in regards to the nuclear power, right? And what worked then does not work today, and we need to come up with new solutions. And I feel that really our indigenous knowledge, this is where we can shine. I really believe in that and because we have a longer view I feel. We've been in existence for so long that we know what works and yeah rather than relying on these unsustainable practices.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Right

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: You know, we know, we can see

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Yes.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: We could see that this is not going to lead to anything good. And so I do have hope that we can really exert our knowledge, our wisdoms, because I think that's really what would be better for all of us. Thank you.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: One of the CEOs from the metals company said that we are so colonized that we have no cultural ties, no spiritual ties anymore to the ocean. And of course, that's racist and just untrue. Whenever we go to these meetings for comment periods, whether it's for the MITT or the missile defense system, when we look at their maps of culturally sensitive areas, what they are identifying as cultural resources is so limited. It's all, it's all valuable, it's all the resources, all sensitive to us and it's all the desecration and even now they're closing three miles of, three nautical miles of the surface danger zone to test the firing range in the next few days. That those fishing grounds and the Rota banks and the waters north of *Litekyan* have been part of our culture for centuries. You know, if you talk to anybody in the fishing community, so many of the fisher folks say that's where they learn to fish, that's where their parents learn to fish, that's where their grandparents learn to fish. And even the marina is named after Gregorio Perez, who caught the Guinness Book largest Marlin in those waters. Those waters are going to be closed in the next few days because of the activation of one of the ranges. And so we're seeing a constant attack on our rights, on our heritage, on our even ways for food sustainability, for food security. And so it's so many things. It's really injustice layered on injustice layered on injustice. And I don't think we're angry enough. I don't think our leadership is angry enough and so thank you all so much for continuing your efforts and continuing this conversation and engaging all of us. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*



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SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ, VICE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Thank you too as well Monaeka and thank you for everyone here today. Thank you madam chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much and even though I'm gonna you know, ask some questions, I want my colleagues to know that you can say anything while I'm giving these comments. Like something might come to your mind that you want to bring up. This is more relaxed. So please feel free to jump right in on something that you just remembered that might help the conversation flow to provide the information that our people really need because it's like you said you know, we need to find a solution. It's about solutions, it's also about being proactive rather than reactive when time is so sensitive. From what I gather it takes what, seven minutes for any missile to hit Guam from China, and now with this new powered missile, it may take even shorter time. So it's important that we civilians, as the military has stated we are, we're civilians that are very patriotic. We've had the highest rate of per capita of people joining the military. And everyone sitting here today, I'm pretty sure have someone very close in the family and even extended family that are military. So we do our part. We know this land belongs to the United States of America. United States of America. It's a big difference from U.S. territory. So how do we, like mentioned earlier, how do we get ourselves in the forefront, in their face, right? And that's some of the solutions that we can come together. The CMCC you know, it's a group that brought together, that leaves the military out. So it's not just the military you know, leaving us out but we're finding even our own government leaving the community out, leaving the legislature out. So we need to be aggressive like you said, but done smart, educated wise. But with anger, we have to at least, you know, when we're pushing for that, that we turn that anger into more passion and ideas. And as I mentioned, solutions. It was brought up, you know know to how do we get in their face scenario.

Well I remember there was a group of researchers that came to Guam on behalf of congress, so I kind of looked up some other times where the congressional side, especially you know, former Congressman Underwood that there have been multiple congressional visits to Guam in the recent years, and this is within the five years, okay? Both members of CODEL as well as the staff delegation, and a primary focus was on the military buildup. So on April 2024, the congressional member delegate CODEL, literally, they came here to Guam. And during the visit, the delegation met with leaders and toured various military facilities, learning about the operations and capabilities and opportunities for growth. Then in 2025, Congressional staff delegate, STAFFDEL, they also came. And the staff traveled to Guam to meet with military leaders, government officials, to receive updates with military construction infrastructure.



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And then there was the congressional, this is one I think Senator Perez, you and I were still senators when they came by in August 2023, was a group called the Congressional Research Service which published a major report in August of 2023 titled, "Guam Defense Infrastructure and Readiness." So we are reaching out to someone else other than the military and asking them to be a part of ensuring that we have a voice. But the problem is all those visits in the last five years, what are they doing? Has there been a response from Congress? Does Congress see that we have been left behind in so many ways of protecting our own civilians on this island? So how do we find that Congressman Underwood? Find all those reports that Congress had, who came to Guam, gave those reports. Are there somewhere, and where do they sit now? Are they collecting dust on a shelf and not even being paid attention to?

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): I don't think they're on a shelf. I think they're in somebody's computer, but I don't know that they've even bothered to print up a report. The STAFFDEL and CODEL phenomena, the STAFFDEL is always pursuant to somebody asking a question. It's never done on its own. STAFFDEL is not going to come, a staff delegation is not going to come out here just to generally research something. There's usually a point to their purpose here and that purpose is almost primarily in that case to try to figure out what they need to do in order to assist the military carry out its function. They're not here to figure out what the community wants. Having said that, it is possible that, you know, when you hear Congressional Research Service, a CRS report, those are organized by Congress in response to a specific question. And so that is where a delegate needs to speak up, because if the delegate speaks up and gets a couple of people to sign on to it, they can get a GAO study. They can get a CRS report. And so the GAO study is usually more pointed.

So they might ask a question, like what's to keep GAO from studying the question, what is the total impact on the housing market of Guam by military activities? Well, what keeps them from engaging in that is nobody is forcing GAO to ask that question. And GAO is independent, they could do it. And so when you when you every time you read a GAO report you just look at the beginning and you see what the question is and then once you see who the question is you can pretty much figure out who's asking the question and then you'll see it somewhere in the in the course of the documentation. So the lack of GAO studies or the lack of any congressional inquiry on this is really a function of the congressional delegates office. So that's pretty clear. So if you're asking me what can you do about it, is you can write a letter to the delegate and say, why don't you ask this question? Why don't you cause a GAO inquiry about this and make public that letter?



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You know, you can make public the letter in advance of even writing it. I used to be very frustrated, I have to admit to this, that when I was sitting in Congress, some Guam senator would try to make a press off of my office by writing me a letter saying, you should do this, and then releasing the letter before I even ever got it. It's a little bit of gamesmanship. But in reality, people in the Guam legislature are free to do that. You're free to make that inquiry. So what are the issues, what are the issues related to micro nuclear reactors? Who can cause a GAO study on that and what are the issues related to that? All of those things are fodder for GAO studies, and GAO studies are almost always initiated by members of Congress. So that. Now, a CRS report is a little bit of a different status, but the report of a congressional delegation and the report of a staff delegation is never going to see the light of day. It's just not because what they're doing, is, they're adding that information into the formation of legislation. So the staff are all getting together and they say you remember they wanted this and the military needs this and so let's put this into the NDAA or let's see if the Pentagon is requesting it. So now when you look at the whole NDAA process, what you have now is basically the Pentagon has proposed this. This is the Trump administration's proposal. There's no kind of massaging that for Guam. There's no amendment specific to Guam. There's no Guam initiative in there. I haven't looked at the NDAA the way that Leland has looked through it. But I'm assuming that the massaging of the NDAA is there by other members of Congress, that there are little kind of projects and nuances where you can massage it.

But in this case there's been little, little, very little massaging and of course you have to then kind of point out the differences between what is now in the House that will go to the floor and what is brewing in the Senate that will eventually go there and see where the differences are. But the reporting process for a STAFFDEL is basically to go back to the committee and report on it, and then it'll find its way into legislation or it'll find its way into some kind of, you know, congressionally directed activity. But it's not generally for public consumption. The GAO reports and CRS reports are, and those are prompted by political pressure from somebody in Congress.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much for that explanation and a process in which we can, you know, follow, you know, through with, because I still don't know. Well, with AI, maybe now I can find that report that was done in 2023 called the Guam Defense Infrastructure Readiness. So we can bring that to the forefront and hopefully, because the way I see it too, I think you have individuals in Congress who are really concerned about the civilians, you know, and I think there are some in there that are voting members, thank goodness. And I've seen it when I've watched C-band and listened to them, that the humanitarian side is so important to the world. You know, we're teaching people respect,



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dignity, and being able to protect themselves. So, that being said, hopefully we can reach out to Congress because they seem to be able to help us more than the military can because they don't even show up anymore. Now, last year, last year I had this. My whole nemesis was to have this military buildup every year. But of course things change like Leland said in his report, very quickly, very, very quickly, like I mentioned in my opening about the Wall Street Journal, I mean the Wall Street Times, I'm sorry, Wall Street, I'm thinking finances, but Washington, Washington Times and the changes that are being made so maybe we can pull from there.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): If I may.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): Even the report on the Washington Times okay so that report is somewhere I mean that story is based on a report somewhere so who has access to that report? I would assume, I'm not for sure, but I would assume Delegate Moylan has access to that report. So where is that report and where is the reporting from Delegate Moylan's office on that? Because that's like really critical, really critical. And you gonna ask for it in advance of his much awaited speech before the legislature? Or, I'm not trying to make light of it because it's a very serious issue, but information flow and trying to understand where information comes from. And people make it a little bit more complex than it actually is sometimes and of course there's different roles for different parts of Congress. But if a committee is coming here and the staff delegations coming here they're here to figure out how to help basically the military especially if it's coming from the House defense.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Well, as I mentioned earlier, that this is not the last one. I think that because of the situation and the strike missiles alone is very alarming that we need to have these informational hearings a lot more often and I think I have to say that I should have invited delegate Moylan here to provide some information but I think what I can do is give him enough time to put all this documentation bring some of his staff his own CRS you know his staff to Guam to provide information that the community may have questions to and again, you know invite you as well, the public as well, as even our own departments and agencies that were on the first part one of the informational hearing. This is something that I think everybody needs. I don't mean to scare people out there about Guam, but what can we do, Leland, to ensure safety? I mean, for our island, because regardless, the military, what they're not



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doing for us, helping with infrastructure, addressing the housing issues, all the issues that the military has brought forward to us, we cannot forget that there is one superpower out there in the world that would love to have Guam under their jurisdiction and conquer there. We've been conquered how many times in our lives, you guys? From Japan to the Spanish, we've been invaded. Now, I'm sure China would love to have us, North Korea would love to have us strategically. So we have to find a way to protect ourselves. And we're finding out that the military said, "Well, you guys are on your own, the civilians." "If there's an airstrike that comes this way, "we will notify our members. And this came directly from an admiral telling me this. If there's an airstrike or if there's an airstrike on Taiwan or somewhere nearby, are you going to let us know or are you just going to do what happened last time during the last war where they packed up all their militaries on their C-130s and took off and left us behind.

Now it is our responsible, it's, we are responsible. Homeland Security is supposed to do a whole lot more for us. There's a thing called IPOS which is being used in Hawaii, we remember that incident where they actually said an airstrike was coming. Well, they've since then corrected those issues and technology that has added to more accuracy on warning systems. Guam doesn't have anything but a siren, and I can tell you right now, if that siren goes off and you're in the air con or inside a building with the air you're not going to hear anything. So Leland, what can we do to protect our civilians, the civilians on this island? You know, and cover ourselves. It was brought up about shelters you know, Senator Perez brought that up bunkers that are being done. I've seen some bunkers in Harmon that were there. But what can we do, the government?

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): I think the government of Guam has to make the case that there's got to be infrastructure for the civilian community, that's one thing. I should also say that you know, I'm not anticipating a conflict next week or next year. I don't think either the US or China want to go to war. I'm not sure that China is actually looking to conquer Guam or North Korea is looking to conquer Guam. If they have their eyes on Guam it's because of the threat that Guam poses to them. So we're sort of stuck in the middle. We're in a bad place. You know it's the threat that is posed from Guam that makes Guam a target. And if that's the case, then I think that really the onus is really on the military to step up and provide security for us. That's a, I mean, the government of Guam has to make that case strongly. And we can't continue on this track where the military only thinks about their worst-case scenario, and spends billions for missiles and nothing for shelters. That simply doesn't make sense. So, you know, that's got to come from here. We've got to hold them accountable. There's got to be a structured basis to approach this, and then hold their feet to the fire and get it funded. I



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mean, nobody wants conflict, obviously. And I don't think the US wants conflict with China, and I don't think China wants conflict with the United States. The problem is not people deciding we're going to go to war like the case recently in Iran. The problem is over misunderstandings, triggers that happen that cause people to accidentally go into conflict I think is the biggest concern. And the more people get in this regional cock fight that we're seeing around who's got the military, the Chinese are clearly showing they intend to come into the Philippine Sea, that's the kind of environment that escalates the possibility of misunderstandings and accidental conflict. That's really, I think, the largest risk for us, not someone coming to conquer Guam.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you, Madam Chair, for indulging me. Yeah, I tend to agree with Leland. I don't know if it's a scenario of China or North Korea coming to take over Guam. I think we're posing a threat and, you know, a wartime footing, they would just eliminate the threat, right? Which, again, begs the question about the shelters. Leland, you and I sat together in a forum in 2023 at the University of Guam, and I specifically asked the, I forget the rank of the, and I specifically asked the I forget the rank of the high muckety-muck. I asked him who was responsible for providing the shelters for the civilian population and he said we were, which I thought was you know, ridiculous because we're not responsible for the reason why we need the shelters in the first place. But Major General Esther Aguigui, the governor's special assistant for Homeland Security at the time, she had, she wasn't there but she submitted a pre-recorded video statement and she said in the event of an imminent missile attack local buildings which are built to withstand winds over 175 miles an hour would be the first shelter for members of the community. And she went on to say Guam has some of the highest building codes in the nation.

LELAND BETTIS, MEMBER, PACIFIC CENTER FOR ISLAND SECURITY (PCIS): I think obviously you know, if you have ten minutes you know sheltering in place is probably a good idea. But having said that the islands way off Okinawa, Yonaguni for example, in the southern part of the Okinawa chain, the Japanese government is building shelters there. It's six foot of reinforced cement, that's the kind of shelters they're building and that's not for nuclear weapons, that's what they're planning in terms of, you know, the potential strikes. I think I was, I remember that 2023 meeting we're at. I think the captain first said, we don't do shelters in North Dakota. We don't do shelters in Wyoming. So we don't do shelters in Guam. That's up to you. He's right. They don't do shelters in North Dakota. But then again, you know, North Dakota is a pretty big place. Guam is a pretty small place. And I, you know, I think the impact on our community is different. And let me just, let me just give you the example. The proposal to put offensive



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missiles in Guam, let's say at the top end there's 300 missiles that can reach China that are stationed in Guam. 300 missiles from Guam at China is not going to change China's calculus about going to war with the United States if that's what they decide they're going to do. China is six times bigger than Iran. We've just seen the limited effect that missiles can have in a place like Iran. So 300 missiles from Guam is not going to make it, you know, they're going to think about it, but it's not going to change their calculus. But what China might lever to eliminate 300 missiles in Guam is a huge issue for us. A huge issue.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Yeah, and I think...

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, as well as drones, too.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Right. So you mentioned Iran, and I mean, the trouble the United States is having in this conflict with Iran is Iran has responded with asymmetrical warfare, and in the event of any conflict with China, and I mean, mean it's gonna be very symmetrical you know and I don't think our concern is gonna be a little drone making it through the quote-unquote missile defense system it's gonna be the Guam killer missile. Thank you madam chair.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: No, I hear you and yeah I'm very concerned about the drone scenario because it just doesn't go come in through air, it can also, they have underwater drones now that they're looking into and in you know bettering that technology to strike without being noticed, you know, so go ahead. I know what...Monaeka go ahead.

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: Oh, no, they don't even have to send a nuclear bomb. They could shoot one of the nuclear reactors. Then its dead and then...

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Just take a small drone and run it

MONAEKA FLORES, PRUTEHI GUÅHAN: You know, we don't even need the Guam Killer. We'll have a lot of nuclear reactors for targets if that should happen.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON: Absolutely. Senator Perez, do you have any additional, okay. Well, there was a lot discussed here. You had a wealth of information. Everyone. Baltazar, thank you. I'm looking forward to just really having your testimony so that we can incorporate some of the recommendations that you have. I mean, we're not here today to just, we know the issue, the complaint. We are just trying to be the voice to wake everybody up right now. That this is a huge issue and like Leland



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said, we don't think there's gonna be anything happening in the next three or four years but it does put a lot of uneasiness to our population here, our community here, people are literally, every time they read the paper about something like especially with the Washington Times, they're thinking okay, that's it okay pack up everybody we're leaving, we're gonna go, we don't need this stress now.

They're bringing the strike missiles people are leaving. We need to ensure that we need to give that confidence that our island is going to be safe for us no matter what, no matter where you go in the world because we know that cyber security is one of the biggest issues. It's not just the strike scenario but cyber security is probably what most people have said, is the way it's going to go if they're going to attack the U.S. through that means shutting off our water, our power, the infrastructure all going down. But we still have to be prepared. I know, Dr. Underwood, you wanted to say anything? Ok, so that being said, before I do my closing, I want you to know that I do plan on having another informational briefing because, as you said, change happens so quickly all the time that we need to keep our public abreast with information. And I'm hoping that with these informational hearings that it would ease their mind, knowing what's going on and what we're doing to protect it. So that being said, and there are no more questions on your end?

Okay. So thank you everyone for being here. I would like to also mention that it was very disappointing again that the military or any representative did not show up on May 4th and that I will incorporate the next hearing to include Congressman Moylan to come and invite him and his staff to come and provide some information to us as well and again invite you. Dr. Underwood, Leland Bettis, Monaeka and Baltazar, thank you and those who are of course, I'd like to recognize Melvin Won Pat, who's been in the audience listening very carefully to this, and I appreciate you being here too as well. So, my office will continue to receive any written testimonies from the public and on this informational hearing and they can email that to senatortelot@gmail.com or you can mail it to my office at 238 Archbishop Flores St. Suite 407 of the DNA building. So I'd like to again thank you everyone and create a great weekend. This hearing is adjourned. Thank you. And the time now is 4.20. Thank you.



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III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

PART 2 FINDINGS

During this second and final part of the hearing on June 26, 2026 the public provided testimonies on the impact of the Military's ongoing projects and significant potential changes to Guam's defense posture as specified in a report from the Washington Times.

Present to provide oral and written testimony from the public were Dr Robert Underwood, Chair of the Pacific Center for Island Security (PCIS) and Leland Bettis, also representing PCIS, Baltazar Aguon, and Monaeka Flores, Executive Director of Prutehi Guåhan.

- Dr. Underwood, in his capacity as the Chair of PCIS, provided testimony he emphasized the following:
 - The need to examine and be critical of the positive and negative impact of the Military Buildup on Guam while also being able to respect the Military's mission.
 - The Legislature and Government's ability to create and enforce policies that can affect and negate impacts of Military activities.
 - Dr. Underwood also noted that the Governor of Guam can either seek a more balanced partnership with the military or be party to its decisions
 - Dr. Underwood also noted that the Congressional Delegate is charged with asking critical questions and taking countermeasures if or when necessary in Congress.
- Leland Bettis, also a member of PCIS provided testimony on the following:
 - Guam's exclusion from the United States' National States national strategies
 - Guam's exclusion from the U.S. National Defense and Economic Strategies is a strategic choice made by the status quo
 - US National priorities and the federal funding to support and execute these priorities are given to the military while the issues and challenges created by the military buildup that civilians and the local government face are not addressed.
 - Military Priorities on Guam quickly shift. Examples of priorities that have changed are as follows:
 - Camp Blaz: Marines that were to be stationed here on Guam will now be rotated through Guam every 6 months
 - Virginia Class Submarine Base at Polaris Point: Plans to develop Polaris Point to base new Virginia Class Submarines has been cancelled
 - Guam's Military Value: From Strategic Sanctuary to Strategic Vulnerability
 - Advances in technology have made it possible for foreign nations to attack Guam, in a potential conflict scenario
 - Mr. Bettis argues that this prompted the placement of the Advanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam and the drastic change to basing Virginia Class Submarines at Polaris Point.



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- According to US Pacific Command, Guam is now in need of offensive missiles capable of reaching China.
- A Way Forward
 - Guam must recognize that civilian and local government priorities do not always align with military priorities and interests.
 - This misalignment of priorities and interests may likely increase Guam's strategic vulnerability.
 - The military's dependence on Guam's infrastructure and local resources has resulted in housing, healthcare, education, labor, and environmental crises.
 - Guam needs to be placed into national strategies because Joint Region Marianas, Joint Task Force Micronesia, and US Pacific Command cannot be depended on to address growing concerns in Guam and the region.
- Baltazar Aguon representing himself as a private citizen provided testimony on the following:
 - Collapse of the "One Guam Framework"
 - Stated the military has been absent from the 2026 Military Informational Briefing and has consistently disregarded concerns over issues and challenges Guam faces that have been created by the military buildup
 - Ongoing Military Land Grab Threat to Civilians
 - Though the amendment to zero out the \$29 million land acquisition was removed from the House Armed Services Committee version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027, this amendment has been reinstated in the Senate Armed Services Committee version.
 - Continuation of Missile Defense System Deployment and Further Militarization
 - Deployment of Missile Defense system and concentration of its equipment on Guam makes the island a more attractive target in a potential conflict scenario.
 - Concern over US breaking a binding defense treaty with Japan to leave Marines based in Okinawa and the significant risk this poses to Guam's section 30 funding.
 - Placement of Micro Nuclear Reactors in Guam
 - Expressed strong opposition to deployment of mobile nuclear reactors to Guam. Arguing the technology poses an existential threat to the island if it is targeted during an attack or malfunctions.
 - Reiterated the environmental impact of the military buildup has had on Guam.
 - Andersen Airforce Base remains a toxic Superfund site since 1992 with over 80 hazardous zones leaching into the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer
 - 12 major toxic and defense restoration sites ranging from agent orange footprints in Marbo and Harmon, to Asbestos in Tiyan, and heavy metals in Guam's bays.
 - GAO report states that the federal government funded only 4% of military cleanups on Guam in comparison to the rest of the nation.



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- In 2023 families in Malesso reported spikes in cancer rates linked to unmitigated military PCB contamination at Cocos Island.
- Next Steps
 - Mr. Aguon urged this committee to immediately introduce a legislative submission bill to place a binding referendum on the November General Election ballot to let the people of Guam decide if they want mobile nuclear reactors to be deployed to the island.
 - Urged for more transparency from federal authorities.
- Monaeka Flores Director of Prutehi Guåhan, provided testimony on the environmental impact of the military buildup and its activities on the following:
 - Critique of Legislative Engagement and Environmental Priorities
 - Expressed disappointment at the low attendance of senators, especially given campaign promises about environmental protection.
 - Noted the disconnect between political rhetoric and actual legislative participation on military and environmental issues.
 - Impact of Military Exercises (Valiant Shield, RIMPAC)
 - Described the overwhelming noise, air pollution, and physical discomfort caused by military exercises, including Osprey flights and fumes.
 - Highlighted how these exercises coincide with large-scale war games, increasing regional tensions and making Guam a target.
 - Community Advocacy and Information Democratization
 - Outlined Prutehi Guåhan's work: toolkits, workshops, protests, and community meetings to help residents engage with complex military project comment periods.
 - Criticized the burden placed on the community to review thousands of pages of technical documents in short timeframes.
 - Greenwashing by the Military
 - Accused the military of "greenwashing"—making misleading claims about environmental stewardship while causing harm.
 - Provided examples: the Navy's "stewards of the sea" campaign contrasted with actual harm to marine life and ecosystems.
 - Environmental and Cultural Harm from Military Activities
 - Presented evidence of harm to endangered and protected marine species (turtles, sharks, rays, whales, dolphins, fish, corals) from the Marianas Islands Testing and Training Area (MITT).
 - Explained how military activities introduce stressors (acoustics, explosives, sonar, physical disturbances) that injure or kill sea life.
 - Criticized the "take" process, which excuses the military from accountability for harming protected species.



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- Highlighted the overlap between areas targeted for deep-sea mining and military testing, framing it as a colonial resource grab.¹³
- Public Comment Periods
 - Noted that the MITT comment period continued during typhoon recovery, making it impossible for many to participate, despite Prutehi Guåhan making two official requests to the office of the Governor of Guam to pause the commenting period.
- Missile Defense System and Contamination
 - Pointed out that missile defense sites are planned on non-DOD property, some of which are contaminated and contain historic and cultural resources.
- Opposition to Nuclear Reactors and Call for a Ban
 - Strongly opposed the introduction of nuclear reactors for military use, citing unresolved nuclear contamination in Micronesia and the risk to Guam's aquifer and food security.
 - Called for a full legislative ban on nuclear power generation for military purposes.
- Connection to Decolonization and Indigenous Rights
 - Linked military buildup and environmental harm to broader struggles for decolonization, sovereignty, and indigenous rights.
 - Emphasized that the people of Guam have never consented to being a site for war or military experimentation
- Critique of Government Transparency and Public Engagement
 - Criticized the lack of transparency and meaningful public engagement in government-military negotiations.
 - Noted that community groups are forced to organize their own forums due to government inaction.
- Call for Stronger Leadership and Public Mobilization
 - Urged leaders to reflect the anger and grief of the people, resist compromise on core issues, and prioritize future generations.
 - Highlighted the need for public activism and unity to protect Guam's land, culture, and people.
- Dr. Ron McNinch was not present at the continuation of the Military Buildup/Defense Informational Briefing, however he submitted, by email, written testimony to this committee on June 28, 2026. In his email he provided testimony on the following:
- Stated the informational briefing may have been more effective it was held in a roundtable format with two topics per hour for discussion.
- Listed the following statistics
 - Over 70% of voters hold positive view of the US Military and less than 18% hold negative views on the military.
 - 75% of Guam voters have been in the US military or have had an immediate relative serve.
 - Over 42% of married couples on Guam are married to a person of another race.



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- Over 70% of children under 25 years old have at least one grandparent of another race.
- Notes that these statistics are an external indicator of military families. Finally, many persons with Guam heritage in the US mainland are there due to direct and indirect military ties.
- Guam has not had a serious discussion on alternative building materials to alleviate the housing and rental crisis.
- Argues that the key crisis in healthcare on Guam is training new healthcare providers and states the following:
 - The University of Guam produces approximately 30 nurses per year and most move off island within three years of graduation.
 - GCC has a new RN program and this may help. All else equal, Guam could produce over 100 nurses per year.
- On the issue of labor and workforce development, Dr. McNinch highlights the dysfunction between the three education systems on Guam comprised of the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Guam Department of Education. States these systems do not produce skilled workers.
- Highlights the lack of Infrastructure protection on Guam.
- On regional relations, Dr. McNinch states that Guam has chosen not to engage in regional relations outside of junket travel.
- On Deepsea Mining, Dr. McNinch states that Guam's involvement in Deepsea Mining debate was a farce and the Government of Guam is being influenced by external lobbyists.
- For emergency communications, Dr. McNinch suggested establish alternate communication protocols including mesh network.
- Regarding the Guam National Guard, Dr. McNinch suggested establishing a state defense force which would be an auxiliary to the national guard and does not have a federal activation function.
- Dr. McNinch concluded his testimony stating the greatest threat Guam faces is supply chain disruption.
- After listening to the testimonies provided, Senator Barnett, a member of this committee asked those present how the legislature can work with the Pacific Center for Island Security how to institute countermeasures against unwarranted military activity, specifically regarding deepsea mining.

After listening to the those present provide their testimonies, Senator asked the following question and received the following answers:

Senator Chris Barnett

- Question: How can the legislature work with PCIS to institute countermeasures against unwanted military activities, especially regarding nuclear microreactors and deep-sea mining?
 - Dr. Robert Underwood:
 - Suggested researching state-level laws that restrict military activities, even in "red states," using AI and direct research.



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- Emphasized the need to elect leaders willing to act from a position of strength.
- Recommended flooding the legislature with initiatives modeled after other states and holding elected officials accountable.
- Question: Do you (Leland Bettis) agree with Dr. Underwood's assessment, and what small tactical steps can be taken for local wins?
 - Leland Bettis:
 - Stressed that local military representatives are messengers, not decision-makers.
 - Urged holding the military accountable through persistent pressure and leveraging Guam's status as a non-self-governing territory under international law.
 - Suggested connecting specific military activities to local issues (e.g., housing) and prohibiting further military personnel until housing is addressed.
 - Dr. Underwood:
 - Reinforced the need to focus on direct impacts like housing and to treat local military representatives as messengers, not ultimate decision-makers.
- Question: Is the recent pause in the programmatic agreement a tactical win or just election-year politics?
 - Baltazar Bordallo Aguon:
 - Stated he appreciated the pause but noted that core issues (land taking, oversight) remain unaddressed.
 - Suggested pushing for a return to Section 106 for better protection and transparency.
 - Monaeka Flores
 - Criticized lack of public engagement and transparency in the process.
 - Noted that community forums are being organized by activists due to government inaction.
- Question: What about the lack of transparency in negotiations with the military and the absence of meeting minutes?
 - Baltazar Bordallo Aguon
 - Highlighted the "pall of silence" over negotiations and called for public access to meeting records

Senator Sabina F. Flores

- Question (to Leland Bettis): How do you reconcile the billions spent on military infrastructure with Guam's increased vulnerability?
 - Leland Bettis
 - Explained that technological changes have made Guam more vulnerable.
 - Noted that military investments are for operational needs, not civilian protection.
 - Critiqued the lack of civilian shelters and the military's focus on its own assets.
- Question: Are you (Bettis) aware of bunkers being constructed on base?
 - Leland Bettis



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- Had not seen bunkers personally but assumed new facilities likely include shelters for personnel.
- Question: How can Guam get a seat at the table in national security and economic strategy decisions?
 - Dr. Robert Underwood
 - Stated Guam always has some seat at some table (e.g., IGIA, committee hearings).
 - Emphasized the need for advocacy and for elected officials to raise critical issues at every opportunity.
 - Noted that pressure from elected officials is necessary to have an impact.
- Question: Given shifting military priorities and abandoned projects, what recommendations do you have to avoid being impacted by shifting military priorities?
 - Leland Bettis
 - Recommended staying ahead of the information curve and voicing concerns early.
 - Suggested leveraging any recognition of Guam's unique situation within the military for local benefit.
- Question (to Monaeka Flores): Has the military responded to concerns about the overlap between MITT activities and deep-sea mining?
 - Monaeka Flores
 - No response received from the military or administration despite requests to pause comment periods during typhoon recovery.
 - Criticized the insensitivity and lack of engagement from both military and local government.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chair

- Question (to Dr. Underwood): What happens to congressional reports and visits—do they result in any action for Guam?
 - Answer (Dr. Robert Underwood):
 - Explained that STAFFDEL and CODEL visits are usually to support military needs, not community needs.
 - Noted that GAO and CRS reports are public and can be initiated by congressional delegates, but require political pressure.
 - Suggested the legislature can publicly request such studies to prompt action.
- Question (to Leland Bettis): What can the government do to ensure civilian safety, given the lack of shelters and warning systems?
 - Answer (Leland Bettis):
 - Urged the government to demand infrastructure for civilians and hold the military accountable for local security.



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Chairperson Telo Taitague emphasized the Military's lack of transparency in communicating significant changes to Guam's military buildup, Guam's absence in national strategies, and announced her intention to hold another Military Informational Briefing and to invite Congressional Delegate Moylan to discuss information and changes to Guam's military buildup that the Delegate has received and has discussed with his colleagues in Congress.

The Committee on *Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* hereby reports out the Informational Briefing held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and June 26, 2026 at 2 p.m. on Military Buildup/Defense.