

# U.S. Military Cargo Returns from the Philippines

*Port plays strategic for U.S. Military role in the region*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 3, 2009

The cargo used by members of the U.S. Military during Exercise Balikatan 2009 in the Philippines will arrive back on Guam tonight.

The military cargo will be unloaded throughout tonight and tomorrow by Port Authority of Guam operations employees and then transported to the military bases here on island.

The military cargo was shipped out of Guam in March and sent to the Philippines for Exercise Balikatan 2009, the annual bilateral military exercise that enhances the military capabilities for the United States and the Philippines. Following the exercise, the items were loaded on the MV Cape Nelson at the Port of Subic Bay and sent back to Guam. The entire operation for the shipment of the military cargo was handled by the U.S. Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

“The Port Authority of Guam continues its efforts to obtain strategic designation by the U.S. government and this operation bolsters our case that Guam’s commercial sea port is a critical part of our national security efforts in this region,” said Glenn A. Leon Guerrero, Port Authority of Guam general manager. “We are proud to have been a part of this crucial exercise and we look forward to helping our military partners with similar operations in the upcoming years.”

The cargo includes High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (Humvees), ambulances, cargo trucks, construction equipment and containers filled with many other items used during the exercise.

Earlier this year the Port Authority of Guam began its quest for designation as a U.S. Strategic Port, in recognition of its critical role for Guam and the Mariana Islands and its strategic importance to national security. This designation will increase Guam’s priority for federal funds and will greatly benefit our local economy as well as our nation’s military preparedness. U.S. officials have not yet made a determination on the request.

*CUTLINE: Employees of the Port of Subic Bay load U.S. military cargo on board the MV Cape Nelson last week for its voyage back to Guam. The equipment will be off-loaded at the Port Authority of Guam on Wednesday and Thursday.*

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