



UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

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17 September 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION~~ *Mr. Secretary*
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY & LOGISTICS
VICE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
COMMANDER, US PACIFIC COMMAND

FROM: TCCC

SUBJECT: Guam Designated Strategic Port

1. On Monday, 14 Sep 2009, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command designated the Port of Guam as the United States' 16th commercial Strategic Seaport. As I discussed with Deputy Maritime Administrator Matsuda this week, I view this designation as a great opportunity for Guam and an operational advantage for the United States. The Port of Guam will be a vital intermodal conduit for the deployment of forces and associated supplies to the Pacific theater.
2. Over the years, Guam has evolved from a logistics support base to a forward deployed strategic military asset. In the near future, Guam will experience growth in the total number of U.S. military forces, including approximately 8,000 U.S. Marines, over 600 U.S. Army Soldiers, and their dependents. This expansion will not only benefit the Department of Defense, but will provide economic growth for the island and the Marianas Region.
3. To support this growth, the port will need to upgrade its cargo handling equipment and facilities. I realize that Strategic designation does not guarantee federal funding for port improvement, but it does underscore the need for funding for infrastructure improvement. A modernized port will provide additional deployment options for our forces forward and greater flexibility to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in the Pacific theater. Thus, I strongly support efforts to modernize the port to accommodate mission requirements. I also request the Department of Transportation consider the expansion of mission at Guam and the potential for further growth as important factors as they weigh grants and stimulus funding for critical transportation infrastructure improvements.
4. I look forward to working with you as we collectively work to improve Guam's port infrastructure in support of PACOM, our other COCOMs, and our warfighters.

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DUNCAN J. McNABB
General, USAF
Commander

cc:
Vice CNO
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