



News Release

PAG Seeks Strategic Port Designation

Federal designation will recognize Guam's critical role in national security

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The Port Authority of Guam is seeking designation as a U.S. Strategic Port, recognizing its critical role for Guam and the Mariana Islands and its strategic importance to National security.

“This designation will benefit our local economy as well as our nation’s military preparedness,” said Glenn Leon Guerrero, General Manager of the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port. “If we are designated as a strategic port then we will receive higher priority after applying for federal funding.”

Strategic Military Seaport designation is assigned to those U.S. seaports that the Department of Defense intends to utilize for the quick movement of military equipment and personnel overseas in times of crisis, and for military exercises. The designation is given to a seaport only after an intense evaluation process by the Department of the Army’s Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) and the Department of Transportation’s U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD). In their deliberations, MTMC and MARAD closely evaluate how a port’s facilities, capabilities, inland access, and geographic location can serve the needs of the U.S. military when timely deployment of equipment and personnel is essential.

The benefits of Strategic Port designation to a U.S. seaport are numerous and significant. They include: increased federal investment in the port district; improved access to federal security and port infrastructure funding; dramatically increased cargo volumes during periods of military deployment; and the establishment of an ongoing partnership between the seaport and the Department of Defense, resulting in the development of joint projects benefiting both the military and the commercial port. In addition, a strategic designation will showcase to the commercial industry our capacity to serve the needs of their companies and our entire community.

The Port’s board of directors passed a resolution last month asking the Governor and members of the 30th Guam Legislature to solicit the help of Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo. The board would like for Bordallo to introduce a resolution or legislation authorizing the Department of the Army’s Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) and the Department of Transportation’s U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) to conduct an assessment on the feasibility of designating Guam’s port as a U.S. Strategic Port. Copies of the board’s resolution were provided to Governor Felix P. Camacho, members of the Legislature and Congresswoman Bordallo.

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