MAY 2024

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Port Shines at Invest Guam Symposium



The Port Authority of Guam made a significant impact at the Guam Economic Development Agency's in New York City on May 14-15, 2024, highlighting the island's strategic importance as a commercial hub in government the Pacific.

The symposium provided an opportunity for investors to learn more about the credits they hold in their portfolio and focused on updating investors on the financial condition of each credit and future capital needs thereby strengthening existing relationships with investors enhancing efforts in being more transparent. The symposium also attracted investment to Guam, featuring a series of discussions highlighting the island's economic potential, infrastructure, and strategic initiatives.

"The Invest Guam Symposium undoubtedly opened avenues for growth and collaboration.

positioning Guam for a prosperous future driven by strategic investments sustainable development," Invest Guam Symposium 2024 held said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

> The event brought together officials. business leaders, and potential investors to explore opportunities in various sectors.

Highlighting Strategic Importance

At the heart of the Port's the presentation was strategic Guam, emphasizing location of its role as a pivotal logistics and transportation center in the Western Pacific Region. Representatives from the Port highlighted the port's capabilities, including its financial and operational performance, ongoing bond-funded projects and upgrades designed to enhance its capacity and efficiency. With its deep-water harbor and proximity to major Asian markets, Guam serves as a crucial gateway for

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trade between the United States and Asia.

Infrastructure Investments

A key focus in the presentation detailing the significant was infrastructure investments currently underway. These projects are aimed at modernizing the port's facilities to meet the growing demands of global trade and ensure compliance with international standards. Kev initiatives include the expansion of container yards, the enhancement of cargo handling and improvements equipment, in port security measures. These upgrades are expected to increase the port's throughput capacity and operational efficiency, making it more attractive to international shippers and logistics companies.

Economic and Environmental Sustainability

The Port also underscored its commitment to economic and environmental sustainability. The port's development plans include sustainable practices designed to minimize environmental impact, such as implementing green technologies and adopting energy-efficient systems.

Collaborative Efforts

The symposium also provided a platform for the Port to strengthen ties with other stakeholders, including government agencies. These collaborative efforts are essential for the successful implementation of the port's strategic initiatives and for fostering a supportive environment

for investment. The Port's participation highlighted the importance of building strong partnerships to drive economic growth and development in Guam.

Looking Forward

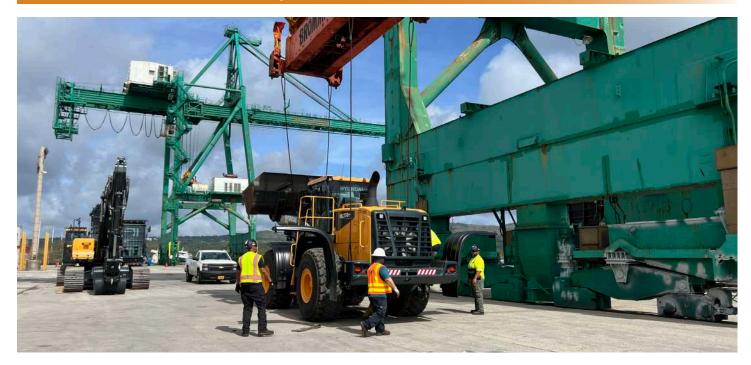
The Port Authority of Guam's active involvement in the Invest Guam Symposium in New York has reinforced its position as a critical player in the region's economic landscape. By





showcasing its strategic initiatives, infrastructure investments, and commitment to sustainability, the Port has successfully attracted the interest of international investors and stakeholders. Moving forward, the Port aims to build on the momentum generated at the symposium to further enhance Guam's status as a premier logistics and transportation hub in the Pacific.

Guam receives DOT waiver for Buy America, cranes excluded



The U.S. Department of Transportation has granted Guam a waiver for the Buy America requirements for federally-funded infrastructure projects but the waiver does not cover the acquisition of STS cranes.

On April 29, 2024, the DOT announced a public interest "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for the Pacific Island Territories and the Freely Associated States." Domestic preferences are waived for iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in projects in the Pacific Island Territories to include Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa as well as the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The waiver applies to all FTA awards obligated from April 29, 2024, to March 1, 2025.

The policy of the Department of Transportation (DOT) has been to maximize the use of American-made products and materials in all federally funded projects as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). In this waiver, DOT is waiving the requirements of section 70914(a) of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), included in BIL, and related domestic preference statutes administered by DOT and its Operating Administrations (OAs) for federal financial assistance awarded by DOT

and its OAs for infrastructure projects located in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and American Samoa, collectively referred to as the "Pacific Island territories." The waiver also applies to discretionary grant assistance provided by DOT and its OAs to the Freely Associated States (the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia) in the Pacific that are subject to a domestic preference statute.

In considering this waiver, DOT consulted with the relevant Federal assistance programs in the respective OAs, including the regional offices in those agencies that directly administer DOT funding programs in the Pacific Island territories and Freely Associated States. DOT also relied on other communications that it has received from stakeholders in those territories. For example. CNMI and Guam have cited their isolated location in the Western Pacific and reliance on ocean freight as the only mode of transporting commodities to the island as creating significant challenges in obtaining materials from domestic sources, with impacts on both project costs and delivery schedules. The two territories have also indicated that shipping construction materials from the continental United States raises shipping costs by approximately 30 percent above the cost to ship directly to the islands from Asia.

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"While this waiver is certainly helpful for the Port Authority of Guam, we continue to pursue Department of Defense funding for the acquisition of three new cranes, averting Chinese options," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

The Port Board of Directors on April 25, 2024 unanimously approved procuring up to three new cranes during its monthly board meeting. The board approved Resolution No. 2024-01 "RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM GENERAL MANAGER TO **TEMPORARILY** PAUSE H-WHARF CONSTRUCTION. **PROCURE ADDITIONAL** GANTRY CRANES. AND **ESTABLISH** COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC MEASURES FOR PORT OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND FINANCIAL REALLOCATION."

"This will be the first new cranes in the Port Authority of Guam's history," said Respicio. "Our current cranes are more than 40 years old and based on consultant reports, they will reach the end of their expected service life and will need to be replaced by 2029. Our efforts to replace the cranes have included an aggressive approach by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio in national forums and in face-to-face meetings with federal partners in past years."

Respicio said that securing these cranes is imperative for our national security. With the Biden administration's heightened concerns, he said that it is crucial to secure funding aligned with U.S. security policies to prevent reliance on China-manufactured equipment.

The acquisition of new STS gantry cranes would be the first new cranes the Port would procure in its 48 years of autonomy as past and current cranes have been second-hand equipment owned by other American ports.

The Port has been proactively communicating with the Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (MARAD), FEMA, INDOPACOM, key House and Senate members, and the Joint Region Marianas to assist in purchasing these cranes as a matter of commerce, economic growth and now, more than ever, national security with growing geopolitical tensions and avoid Chinese options. The General Manager added that this is a critical step forward for our island and region's nexus to the global supply chain, throughput capacity and military readiness programs.



The Port previously submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation/MARAD through Port its Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for two STS gantry cranes and although the application was well written, it was not awarded due to its nonconformance to the Buy American Act Requirements. Subsequently, in August of 2023 the PAG once again submitted a grant application to the USDOT/MARAD's PIDP and was likewise unsuccessful due to the non-approval of the PAG's Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver request. Due to the aging cranes and the critical need to procure, the Board authorized the pause of construction activities at H-Wharf and the redirecting of those resources and additional funds toward the purchase of up to three new STS gantry cranes.

\$1.94 invested at the Agat Marina



The Port Authority of Guam held a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the rehabilitated Agat Marina Dock B, new restroom facilities, and CCTV cameras at 11 a.m. on May 29, 2024.

"The Agat Marina holds a special place in the hearts of many, serving as a gateway to adventure and relaxation for both locals and visitors alike," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "With the rehabilitation of Dock B, we are expanding our capacity and infrastructure to the public's benefit to accommodate a growing demand for maritime services while maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability."

The rehabilitation of the Marina's Dock B provides an additional 48 slips for recreational boaters and fishers of Guam and is the last dock to undergo rehabilitation totaling 162 useable slips. The use of non-rot recycled plastic composite material, marine-grade aluminum frames and stringers, and stainless-steel junction boxes with watertight fittings provide a low-cost maintenance facility. Additionally, the dock is designed to withstand the combination of wind, sea action, boat docking, and other loads without damage to the structure and components throughout a 20-year design life.

The newly built restroom facility provides the



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community and tourists better accommodations while utilizing the marina and the installation of CCTV cameras provides 24-hour surveillance to enhance the security and protection of all marina users.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio for their vision and support as we continue to improve our capacity and resiliency not only within the terminal yard but outside the fence, empowering us to better serve our community and the region," said Respicio. "I'd also like to thank our Board of Directors for their unwavering dedication and stewardship as well as the Port Authority of Guam team, whose tireless efforts have made today's achievements possible."

The rehabilitation of Dock B cost \$1,494,750.00 which included \$500,000.00 from the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs with the Port being a sub-grantee to the Guam Department of Agriculture's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service USFWS (OIA Grant Number F19AF01199) and \$994,750.00 in Port funds. The Restroom Facility cost \$345,000.00, the CCTV Cameras cost \$107,800.00 and were both paid for with Port funds.



RRAP findings presented during May meeting

Initial findings on the critical 2022 Guam CNMI Maritime Transportation System Regional Resiliency Assessment Program were revealed this month during meetings held at the Port Authority of Guam as well as a presentation at the Guam Museum.

Guam and CNMI, through a joint effort, received grant funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to conduct a comprehensive cyber and physical security assessment of the Port Authority of Guam and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The program kicked off in November of 2022 and is ongoing. This project will study the existing information and operational technologies used today and will guide Port management and stakeholders to collaborate toward achieving strength and sustainability of the supply chain, services and operations.

A Presentation on the findings was held May 10, 2024 at the Guam Museum and the final report will be presented sometime next year. Meetings were also held that week at the Port Authority of Guam with fuel industry partners as well as other Department of Defense partners.

"In today's highly connected and interdependent world, critical infrastructures



sectors increasingly rely on information technology and operational technological systems," said Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "The malfunctioning or disruption of these services could cause significant social and economic harm. The goal of the Guam/CNMI RRAP is to generate greater understanding and action among public and private sector partners to improve the resilience of our region's critical infrastructure and maritime security."



A new commander takes the helm of USCG Forces Micronesia Sector Guam





Photos courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

Welcome to the new United States Coast Guard Captain of the Port Capt. Rob Kistner!

Officials of the Port attended the Change of Command Ceremony held on May 23, 2024 at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor as Captain Kistner took command of the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam from Capt. Nick Simmons. Rear Adm. Michael Day, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District commander presided.

Capt. Rob Kistner joins the Forces Micronesia team after serving as the chief of Prevention for the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District, where he adeptly oversaw maritime safety and security operations across 12.2 million square miles, covering 21 maritime nations and more than half of the world's shipping. He also supported Sector Honolulu, Forces Micronesia, their sub-units, and USCGC Juniper (WLB 201) and USCGC Sequoia (WLB 215) in enhancing maritime incident prevention, supply chain resiliency, and governance. He will be the interim commander until the Fall of 2024 when Capt. Jessica Worst is scheduled to arrive from her current assignment on the U.S. Northern Command staff.

Before his role in the Pacific, Capt. Kistner, a native of Rochester, New York, shaped his expertise in Coast Guard operations through diverse assignments. He served aboard USCGC Seneca (WMEC 906) as an engineer officer in training and damage control assistant, led the Facility Inspections and Deep Draft Vessel Inspections Branches at Sector Baltimore, and managed regulatory compliance as Inspections Division chief at Sector Boston.

Capt. Kistner, as deputy commander of Sector Western Great Lakes, oversaw a team of 1,137 members across 15 sub-units, covering over 1,000 miles of shoreline from Vermillion, Ohio, to the St. Lawrence Seaway. He held roles at the Leadership Development Center, the Coast Guard Academy, and Coast Guard Headquarters, enhancing his experience with workforce development and honing his strategic insight.

Capt. Kistner has a Bachelor of Science in operations research, as well as a master's certificate in environmental management, and a Master of Science in applied mathematics. Capt. Kistner has won many awards, including three Meritorious Service Medals and three Coast Guard Commendation Medals.

The Port welcomes Capt. Kistner and thanks Capt. Simmons for his service and commitment to the Port Authority of Guam over the course of his leadership.

Strong employee satisfaction in latest Organizational Morale Survey

The Port Authority of Guam released the results of its latest Organizational Morale Survey on May 8, 2024, which highlighted robust employee satisfaction and a strong endorsement of the organization's leadership.

The survey, conducted on May 6 and 7, 2024, received responses from 349 employees, reflecting a high level of engagement across the board, and accounting for 89% of the Port's workforce.

Key Findings of the Survey Include:

- Overall Satisfaction: The average satisfaction score stands at 9.0 out of 10, indicating a high level of contentment among employees with their roles and responsibilities.
- Supportive Work Environment: Approximately 83.33% of employees feel their work environment is supportive in achieving their professional goals.
- Effective Communication: 82.95% of participants rate the communication within their divisions as excellent.
- Recognition: About 82.37% of the staff feel that their efforts are recognized and appreciated adequately.
- Resources: A notable 90.80% reported having access to the necessary resources and tools to effectively perform their jobs.
- Work-Life Balance: 76.15% of the

- respondents are satisfied with their worklife balance.
- Feedback and Growth Opportunities: 76.44% are content with the feedback and growth opportunities available to them.

The survey also revealed strong approval of the leadership, with 94.12% of the participants affirming the Board's exceptional performance rating of the General Manager.

General Manager's Statement: "We are grateful to see this kind of feedback and participation from Port employees," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This affirms our commitment to maintaining a supportive and dynamic work environment. We are dedicated to continuous improvement and are taking careful consideration of the constructive feedback to enhance our operations further."

"The Port Authority remains committed to its mission of fostering a collaborative and efficient work environment that supports its employees, serves our island community effectively, and supports the defense of our nation operationally," Respicio said.

Pulse surveys are a powerful tool for maintaining continuous dialogue within an organization. They help leaders stay connected with employee needs and perceptions, enabling timely interventions and fostering a culture of openness and responsiveness.



Crane Maintenance Section trains with simulator

In-house training for the maintenance and repairs of the Port's gantry cranes is now readily accessible and convenient for the employees of the Equipment Maintenance Repair Division, Crane Maintenance Section.

The team recently built a Programmable Logic Control (PLC) Simulator that has been a valuable tool in training junior mechanics to become more familiarized with the Crane Maintenance System (CMS) without having to physically climb up the cranes. The CMS, located in the electrical house of each crane, provides the crew with online events and status information of the crane.

With the use of spare parts and the assistance of Min Tun (ABB lead engineer for the Port Authority cranes), the team built, mounted and connected all the wiring system for the simulator. Min Tun then trained the mechanics on how to use the simulator, which has given mechanics a sense of confidence and comfort level when doing work on the cranes.

The simulation training is being utilized to provide the team with realistic, immersive replications of real-life work processes, scenarios, tasks, and tools in a zero-risk environment. Training on the simulator is intended to enhance the mechanics' learning outcomes and skill development by offering hands-on experiences that closely mimic real-world situations.

"This simulator has been a game changer for the team, allowing them to conduct training that will sharpen their skills in performing tasks such as diagnostics, troubleshooting, maintenance and repairs - all from the convenience & safety at the Maintenance shop," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

Just last month, all three of the Ports 40-yearold gantry cranes successfully passed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recertification process - a testament to the team's dedication and commitment to keeping





the cranes functional for the community. Training on the simulator will definitely benefit the Crane Maintenance Section with future inspections and recertifications.

Keep up the good work team!

Derelict barge removed



Progress never stops at the Port Authority of Guam! On May 3, 2024 the partially sunken barge at the end of Wharf F-6 was refloated and removed out of the water.

The barge is now being cut up at the staging site for the demolition and removal of the older gantry cranes.

Barge YFN-816 remained sunk for decades at the end of Wharf F-6. In March 2021 a contract was awarded to Guam Industrial Services DBA Guam Shipyard for the design/demolition, removal and proper disposal of Gantry No. 2 and No. 3, one mobile harbor crane, two rubber-tire gantry cranes and the barge at Wharf F-6.

The contractor was tasked to safely

dismantle the archaic, damaged, and inoperable assets by disassembling and cutting the cranes and equipment into manageable pieces that will eventually be shipped off site to an approved disposal facility. The scrap metal will be cut and stuffed into containers for shipment to off-island recycling centers. Sub-Contractor Smithbridge Guam has worked to dismantle the assets under the supervision of the Port Engineering Division, Safety Division and Guam Shipyard.

"This project will not only rid the Port of inoperable assets by the waterfront but will also help clear the waterways that are utilized by porting vessels," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

Montly PUGG Meeting



Port Users Guam Group (PUGG) during their monthly industry meeting held on May1, 2024. Discussions were held on the Port crane demolition project, wharf for demurrage chassis without containers, the Port's berth window policy as well post-Typhoon Mawar repairs and typhoon mooring for commercial buovs operators. The meeting was held in the Port Authority of Guam Board Room.

New EQMR Workflow

The Equipment Maintenance Division of the Port Authority of Guam has established new procedures to increase productivity and accountability.

"Due to new processes, we have to structure ourselves to better fit the Port's vehicle mission," said Equipment Maintenance Superintendent Shine A. San Agustin.

San Agustin said that effective May 20, 2024, any and all work requests or requests for vehicle status updates should be routed through the Maintenance Control Section at Ext. 330 or Ext. 332.

"Any and all work requests for Fleet, Preventive and Welders must now flow through Maintenance Control," the superintendent said. "This is critical to ensure that all work is tracked and properly accounted for."

Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio said he fully supports the new process put in place by EQMR.

"This is an excellent way to set these standards to deal with the increased demand for the critical services provided by EQMR," Respicio said.

According to San Agustin, the new standard for vehicle and/or equipment repairs includes:

- If the vehicle is drivable, no notification is needed and could just be brought to Fleet Maintenance. They have established a service writer who will handle all incoming vehicles.
- If the vehicle and/or equipment requires

work from Preventive Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance and/or both, Maintenance Control will decide which shop will be assigned the request and when such work is to commence.

 If the vehicle or equipment is not drivable, please contact Maintenance Control accordingly with directions below.

Monday - Friday - 0800h - 1700h

- Call Ext. 330 or Ext. 332
- Email fleetmaintenance@portofguam.com For any assistance from Welders or Preventive Maintenance that is not vehicle/equipment related:
- Call Ext: 330 or Ext. 332
- Email: welders@portofguam.com
- Email: preventive@portofguam.com

No Changes to Crane Maintenance for Gantry issues.

After Hours and Weekends

- Email fleetmaintenance@portofguam.com for any vehicle and/or equipment repair needs.
- This is to ensure when our team comes in, we know what repairs are needed.

For any Emergencies or operational mission needs call 671-929-9575.

For any assistance from Welders or Preventive Maintenance that is not vehicle and/or equipment related:

- Email: welders@portofguam.com
- Email: preventive@portofguam.com

No Changes to Crane Maintenance for Gantry issues.

80th Guam Liberation Parade Spots

This July marks Guam's 80th year of Liberation from the Japanese Occupation with festivities along Marine Corps Dr. celebrating the island's annual Liberation Day Parade.



The Port Authority of Guam has eleven coveted spots that it annually makes available to Port employees. This year, the Port will be raffling off all eleven spots. Employees interested in participating in this annual celebration are encouraged to complete the Liberation Day Space Use Application, available at Commercial, and submit it to the Commercial Division no later than Friday, June 21, 2024.

A lottery will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Port Board Room.

Eighth cruise ship sails into Guam, Seabourn Pursuit



The Port Authority of Guam welcomed its 8th passenger vessel of the year with the arrival of the MV Seabourn Pursuit on May 14, 2024.

The MV Seabourn Pursuit docked at the Port Authority of Guam at 9:30 p.m. with 231 passengers and 240 crew members. The cruise ship will depart the port tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m.

"The arriving passengers and crew members from the MV Seabourn Pursuit is a boost to Guam's tourism industry and highlights Guam as a premiere luxury cruise destination," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "The MV Seabourn Pursuit's arrival marks the eighth cruise ship to visit in 2024 and we are tracking many more cruise ships to arrive this year. What

is special about this cruise ship is a majority of the arriving passengers are disembarking to catch a connecting flight or are continuing their vacation here in Guam at one of our many hotels."

General Manager Respicio added that the arrival of the MV Seabourn Pursuit and other premier cruise ships underscores the Port of Guam's role in our local and regional economies, aligning with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio's vision for the Port of Guam.

Other potential cruise ship visits to Guam this year include the MV Seabourn Pursuit on September 7th, the Le Soleal on October 8th, the Carnival on October 22nd, and the MS Asuka II on December 30th.

Port dive team continues with Mawar recovery efforts

The Port Authority of Guam dive team conducted an exploratory dive on May 2, 2024 as part of the agency's ongoing recovery efforts and repairs to our facility as a result of damage sustained from Typhoon Mawar. The purpose of the dive was to inspect the waterways along F3 for debris on the seafloor and to inspect F3 pier after the removal of the Polaris tugboat which broke loose in the height of the storm and found its way onto the floating dry dock that was partially submerged due to strong winds and rain.

The dive revealed that some of the sacrificial anodes that were welded onto the underwater sheet piles had broken off. These anodes are used to protect the metal structure and slow down the corroding process of the sheet piles. Several holes under the wharf were also found which was the cause of the sinkhole on the surface of F3 dock. Loose debris found on the seafloor consisted of fenders that broke loose from the wharf, forklift battery, ropes and lines.

The CIP division will be making recommendations on the removal of loose debris, as well as repairs to F3. The dive team includes Harbor Master Christopher Flores, Port Police Chief Jesse Mendiola, Assistant Port Police Chief Victor Camacho, CIP Manager Clarence Lagutang and Engineering Tech II Jacob Aquiningoc.

May photo highlights



Representatives from the Port Police Division attended a special proclamation signing ceremony led by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio on May 17, 2024 for the national and local observation of Police Week as well as the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. From May 20 to June 2, 2024, law enforcement agencies will be enforcing the seat belt law for those in violation.



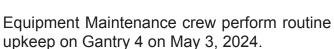
Stef Cordero, Administrative Assistant within the Transportation Division, collects her raffle prize at the Port's Relay for Life Kickoff fundraising event held at The Venue on May 23, 2024. Thank you to all who assisted with ensuring a successful kickoff event! We're that much closer to meeting our Department's goal!

Members of the **Guam Army National** Guard's 105th Troop Command participate in the ICS 300 training hosted by the Port Authority of Guam, enhancing their emergency response capabilities. The opportunity training was conducted in the Port's training room on May 14, 2024. Thank you to all for your participation.



May photo highlights







Transamerica Life Insurance representatives visit the Port to enroll interested employees on May 17, 2024.



Stevedores gather for a photo after securing Guam's 8th passenger vessel of the year, the MV Seabourn Pursuit. The MV Seabourn Pursuit docked at the Port Authority of Guam at 9:30 p.m. on May 14, 2024 bringing 231 passengers and 240 crew members.

May photo highlights continued



Family of late retired Port Employee +Efren Niu are comforted by Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio and Dominic Muna, Deputy General Manager Operations. A final farewell occured in front of the Port Authority's Administration Building on May 22, 2024 to allow Port employees to pay their final respects. +Efren Niu retired from the Port in 2022 with 27 years of government of Guam service. Rest in peace brother +Niu.

PortStrong/APL softball team take second place in the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association's Competitive Softball Tournament held Mav 26, 2024. on Congratulations for your impressive performance during the entire season!! Biba!! PORT STRONG!



