



# NEWSLETTER

## PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

JANUARY 2025

### Board of Directors

**Dorothy P. Harris**  
*Chairperson*  
**Conchita S.N. Taitano**  
*Vice Chairperson*  
**Fe Valencia-Ovalles**  
*Board Secretary*

### Port Management

**Rory J. Respicio**  
*General Manager*  
**Dominic G. Muna**  
*Deputy General Manager*  
*Operations*  
**Pacifico R. Martir**  
*Deputy General Manager*  
*Administration and Finance*



### Inside this Issue

- National Transparency Award
- Board Approves Key Resolutions
- Clean Ports Kickoff
- Hazardous Pay
- Senators Tour Port
- Port Welcomes Senators
- Port Police Legal Training
- HAZWOPER Training
- Police Tactical Training
- Wellness Program Continues
- Happy Valentines Day
- January Photos
- February Birthdays

### Port Wins 4th Prestigious National Transparency Award

The Port Authority of Guam proudly announces that it has received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting from the national Association of Government Accountants (AGA) for its Fiscal Year 2023 Citizen-Centric Report (CCR). This is the fourth time the Port has been honored with this prestigious national recognition, having previously received awards for its FY 2022, FY 2021, and FY 2019 reports.

The AGA commended the Port's unwavering commitment to government accountability and fiscal transparency. In their letter to the Port, AGA CEO Ann M. Ebberts stated, "AGA applauds your commitment to good government and responsible fiscal action reflected in the Citizen-Centric Report you



produced on behalf of the Port Authority of Guam." She highlighted the Port's exceptional use of visuals such as charts, tables, and photos, and its ability to effectively communicate complex information in an engaging and accessible manner.

The Port's FY 2023 Citizen-Centric Report was prepared by the Financial Affairs Division, under the direction of Chief Financial Officer Jose B. Guevara III, with the support of the Marketing Division. The report provides a concise overview of the Port's financial performance, accomplishments, and future outlook, fulfilling the requirements of local law for all Government of Guam agencies to publish such a report within 60 days of the independent audit release.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero expressed her congratulations, stating, "The Port Authority of Guam's achievement in receiving this prestigious award for the fourth time reflects the high standards of transparency and accountability we expect from our government agencies. This award-winning Citizen-Centric Report ensures that the people of Guam have the information they deserve about how their government is working for them."

Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio added,

*Story continues on page 2*



“The Port has set an exemplary standard for effective communication and fiscal responsibility. This award highlights the dedication of the Port’s leadership and team in fostering trust and ensuring our citizens are informed about the progress and challenges of one of Guam’s most critical institutions.”

General Manager Rory J. Respicio expressed his gratitude for this recognition, stating, “This award underscores our dedication to transparency and accountability. The Citizen-Centric Report is an important tool to ensure that the people of Guam have a clear understanding of how their government is utilizing taxpayer and ratepayer funds. I commend our Financial Affairs and Marketing Divisions for their outstanding work in producing this award-winning report.”

AGA reviewers specifically praised the FY 2023 CCR for having a well-organized layout highlighting leadership, mission, vision, and key Port Authority information and for being clear and visually engaging with bar graphs and narratives that connect agency performance to its mission. The award also states that the report was comprehensive yet had an uncluttered presentation of financial and performance data



and contained a thorough description of challenges, including recovery from Typhoon Mawar, and the Port’s projected future outlook.

The winning FY 2023 Citizen-Centric Report can be found on the website at [https://www.portofguam.com/sites/default/files/fy2023\\_ccr.pdf](https://www.portofguam.com/sites/default/files/fy2023_ccr.pdf).

All the previous Citizen-Centric Reports can be found at <https://www.portofguam.com/citizen-centric-report>.

The Port Authority remains committed to excellence in transparency and accountability, ensuring that citizens have access to accurate and timely information.

## Board Approves Key Resolutions to Strengthen Port Operations

The Board of Directors for the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port convened for its regular monthly meeting on January 23, 2025, addressing several critical issues and passing seven resolutions aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, financial sustainability, and infrastructure development at the Port.

Among the resolutions passed, Board Resolution No. 2025-01 was highlighted as a significant step toward ensuring the Port’s financial sustainability. This resolution formalizes efforts to enhance revenue generation since 2019 and implements a strategic methodology to secure continued revenue growth for the Port.

“The adoption of Resolution No. 2025-01 reflects the Board’s commitment to long-term financial stability and sustainability,” said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “With this resolution, we are paving the way for a more resilient Port that can meet the demands of Guam’s growing

economy and our critical role in regional and national security.”

In addition to Resolution No. 2025-01, the Board also approved the following key resolutions:

Resolution No. 2025-02: Establishing provisions for FY2025 budget allocations and budget ceiling adjustments for FY2026 and FY2027 to ensure operational continuity and address the lack of confirmed board members.

Resolution No. 2025-03: Aligning with Public Law 30-19, requiring board approval for lease rates for Port properties.

Resolution No. 2025-04: Authorizing a lease agreement between the Port and Black Construction Corporation to support the Glass Breakwater repair project, a critical infrastructure initiative.

Resolution No. 2025-05: Approving the abolishment of specific positions under the Port’s classification and compensation plan to align with

*Story continues on page 3*



Title 4, GCA Section 6303.1.

Resolution No. 2025-06: Opening a General Reserve TDOA savings account to bolster financial reserves.

Resolution No. 2025-07: Opening a Crane Reserve TDOA savings account to ensure the sustainability of Port equipment.

These resolutions demonstrate the Board's proactive approach to addressing operational needs, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and maintaining the Port's role as a critical infrastructure hub for Guam and the region.

"Each of these resolutions underscores the Port's dedication to enhancing its operations and preparing for future challenges," Respicio said. "As the Port approaches its 50th anniversary, these strategic initiatives will position us for continued success."

The Board's agenda also included updates from the General Manager's report and opportunities for public and employee comments, reflecting the Port's ongoing commitment to transparency and community engagement throughout our agency.

## Port Hosts Kick-Off Meeting for \$2.4 Million Clean Ports Program Grant



The Port Authority of Guam marked a critical milestone on January 16, 2025 by hosting a Kick-Off Meeting for its \$2,410,415 award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Program. The funding, part of the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition, was among 55 projects selected across 27 states and territories to advance zero-emission equipment and climate planning.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from WSP, the Port's owner agent, and Jacobs, its subgrantee, alongside Port leadership, environmental planners, and community partners. Vice Chairperson Conchita Taitano, who played a pivotal role in securing this grant, emphasized the Port's commitment to sustainability.

"Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio tasked the Port to lead in sustainability efforts, and this project certainly

underscores their vision," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "With Vice Chair Taitano's decades of experience at Guam EPA and her advanced certification through MIT's Sustainability Program, the Port is well-positioned to meet the ambitious goals of this initiative."

During the Kick-Off Meeting, participants discussed key objectives of the Net Zero Emissions Strategy Update and Implementation Plan, including:

- Conducting a mobile emissions inventory,
- Updating the Net Zero Emissions Strategy,
- Preparing a workforce development plan,
- Developing a resiliency strategy to assess climate risks and vulnerabilities, and
- Creating an actionable implementation plan for decarbonizing and electrifying Port operations.

The meeting also highlighted the critical

*Story continues on page 4*

collaborative support of EPA Administrator Michelle Lastimoza and her team, who have been instrumental in ensuring the Port's alignment with national climate and air quality goals.

"By enhancing climate resilience and improving air quality, we're building a more sustainable future for Guam," Respicio said.

The initiative also prioritizes community engagement, which will play a critical role in

shaping the Port's sustainability and resiliency efforts. The Kick-Off Meeting served as a platform to gather input and build momentum as the Port begins implementation.

The Port Authority of Guam remains steadfast in its commitment to environmental stewardship and innovative planning. This project is a major step forward in achieving the goals of its Sustainability and Resiliency Plan and reducing emissions across its operations.

## GUAM DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# WHD

### WAGE & HOUR DIVISION



### Port Earns 5-Year Certification for Temporary Hazardous Duty Pay

The Port Authority of Guam (PAG) is proud to announce that it has successfully passed its 5-Year Certification for Temporary Hazardous Duty Pay following a thorough inspection conducted by officials from the Guam Department of Labor (GDOL) on January 16, 2025.

During the inspection, labor officials conducted an on-site review of Port operations, observing employees across various divisions, including Port Police, Facility Maintenance, Terminal Operations, and Stevedoring, as they performed their duties in hazardous working conditions. The certification reaffirms the Port's compliance with all requirements for hazardous duty pay and recognizes the unique challenges and risks faced by Port employees in their day-to-day operations.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio expressed his gratitude for the dedication of PAG employees and the partnership with GDOL, stating, "This certification underscores the critical role our employees play in maintaining Guam's only commercial port under challenging conditions. The recognition from the Guam Department of Labor affirms our commitment to

ensuring that our workforce is properly acknowledged and compensated for their efforts."

The Temporary Hazardous Duty Pay certification, issued by GDOL, is valid for a period of five years and highlights the following key divisions whose operations involve hazardous duties:

- Port Police
- Maintenance Department
- Facility Maintenance Section
- Welding Section
- Preventive Maintenance Section (Corrosion Control)
- Fleet Maintenance Division
- Crane Maintenance Section
- Transportation Division
- Terminal Division
- Stevedoring Division

This achievement reflects the Port Authority's continued dedication to upholding workplace safety standards and ensuring the welfare of its workforce. The Port Authority of Guam remains steadfast in its mission to support Guam's economy while ensuring a safe and productive work environment for all employees.



## Senators Tour Port Operations and Receive GM Briefing



On Tuesday, January 21, 2025 members of the Guam Legislature toured the Port's facilities to gain a deeper understanding of its operations and strategic initiatives. The delegation included Senator Jesse A. Lujan, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Federal & Foreign Affairs, and Utilities, along with Senator Vincent A.V. Borja, and staff from other senatorial offices. They began their visit with a comprehensive briefing by General Manager Rory J. Respicio in his office.

Following the briefing, the senators toured key areas of Port Operations, observing firsthand the logistics and processes that keep Guam's only commercial port running efficiently. The visit

provided an opportunity for open dialogue on the Port's strategic priorities, including infrastructure upgrades and the role of the Port Authority of Guam in supporting Guam's economy as well as overall national security.

These visits reflect the Port Authority of Guam's ongoing commitment to transparency, collaboration, and engagement with stakeholders to advance our mission for the people of Guam. Meanwhile, these partnerships are key to fueling progress and maintaining the Port's role as a vital hub for Guam and the region.



## Legal Training for Newly Hired Police Officers and Armed Security Guards



The Port Authority of Guam took a significant step in strengthening its security operations by providing comprehensive legal overview training on January 14, 2025 for the 13 newly hired members of its Port Police Division. The training was conducted by Port Staff Attorney James L. Canto II, who offered invaluable insights on critical legal topics essential to law enforcement roles.

The session, held at the Port's Command Center, covered key subjects, including:

- Search and Seizure procedures,
- Miranda Rights and their application,
- Probable Cause and its parameters,
- Color of Law and its implications, and
- Numerous other legal principles critical to

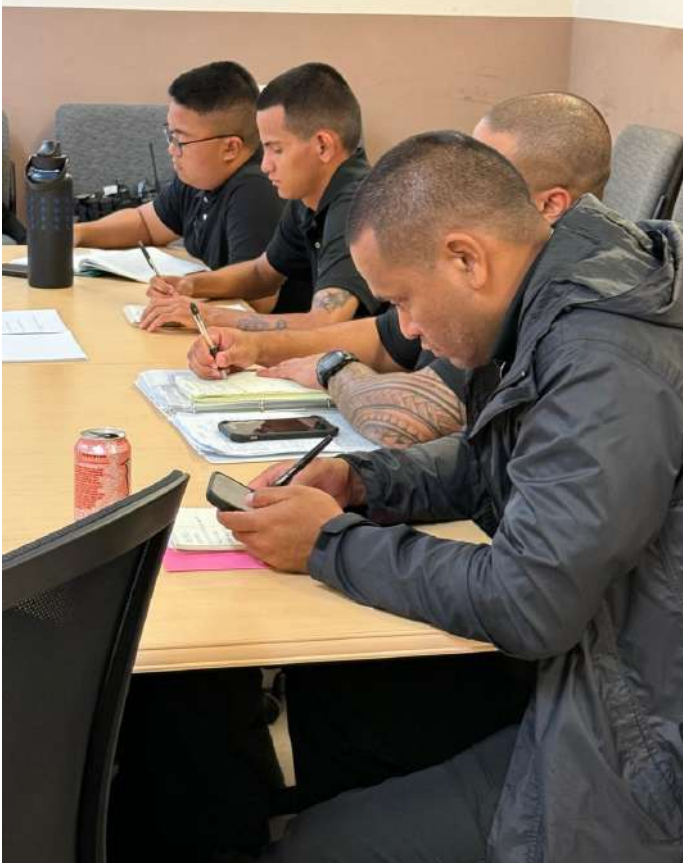
the duties of police officers and armed security personnel.

"The safety and security of our Port and community are paramount," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "Providing our new recruits with robust legal training ensures they are well-equipped to uphold the law and perform their duties responsibly, professionally, and in alignment with the highest standards."

The recent additions to the Port Police Division include Armed Security Guards, Police Officer I, and Police Officer II roles, as part of the Port's ongoing efforts to enhance its security workforce. These new hires bring the Port closer to meeting its goals of maintaining a secure and resilient facility, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and supporting the island's economic and national security.

Attorney Canto emphasized the importance of legal knowledge in law enforcement, stating, "Understanding the legal framework governing their actions is essential for officers to make sound decisions and maintain public trust. This training is designed to ensure they are prepared for the complexities of their responsibilities."

The Port remains committed to providing its personnel with the tools and training needed to excel in their roles. This legal overview training is part of a larger initiative to ensure all Port Police Division members are not only highly trained but also fully prepared to handle the challenges of their positions effectively.







The Port Authority of Guam is proud to announce that nine members of its Port Police and Armed Security team have successfully completed the 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training under OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120(e). This specialized training equips personnel with the skills and knowledge needed to safely and effectively respond to hazardous materials incidents, ensuring the continued safety and security of the Port and the community.

The following officers are recognized for their dedication and achievement:

**Christopher Fruge**

**Christian Salonga**

**Gage Santos**

**Glen Topasna**

**Justin Cruz**

**Michael Duenas I**

**Pedro Lizama**

**Rae Brigino**

**Reggie Rechebong**

HAZWOPER training is a comprehensive program mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for workers involved in the cleanup of hazardous waste or the response to emergencies involving hazardous substances. The 40-hour course provides participants with essential skills in hazard recognition, decontamination procedures, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and incident command systems.

“This training is a critical investment in the safety and readiness of our Port Police and Armed Security team,” said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “The completion of HAZWOPER training demonstrates their commitment to protecting not only the Port’s operations, but also the environment and the health and safety of our community.”

The training is particularly important for the Port Authority of Guam as the island’s only commercial

*Story continues on page 8*

seaport, which handles a wide range of cargo, including potentially hazardous materials. By equipping its personnel with advanced emergency response capabilities, the Port ensures it can effectively manage incidents that may arise, minimizing risks to employees, stakeholders, and the public.

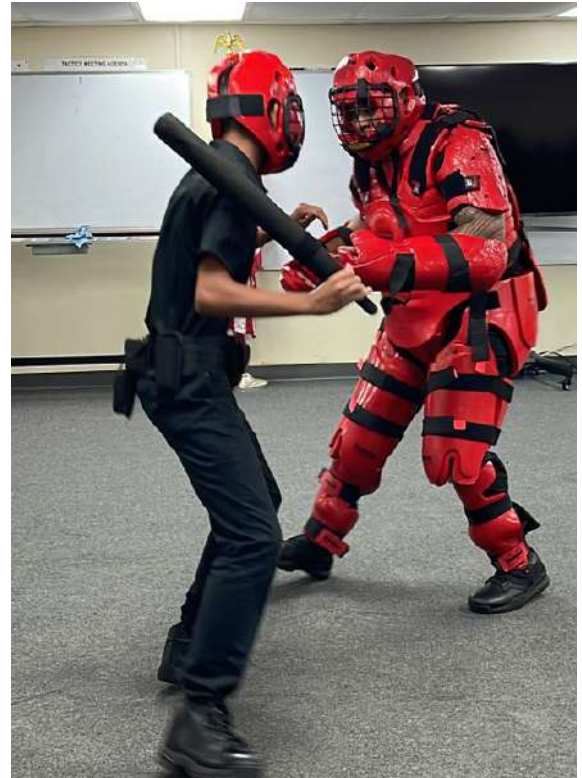
“Emergencies involving hazardous materials require swift and knowledgeable responses,” Respcio said. “The successful completion of

HAZWOPER training by our officers ensures that the Port remains prepared to handle these critical situations with the highest level of professionalism and care.”

The Port Authority of Guam congratulates these officers for their dedication to enhancing the Port’s safety standards. Their training and expertise further strengthen the Port’s position as a resilient and dependable gateway for commerce in the region.



### Officer Survival And Use of Force Training





## Port Wellness Program Continues



The Operations Managers Office hosted Mr. Al Silverio from the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services on January 9, 2025 for an insightful discussion on Diabetes prevention & education.



Strategic Planning Division held a wellness presentation on January 16, 2025 with Payless HealthSmart which included a cooking demonstration, healthy food options and nutrition and weight management tips.





## January Photo Highlights



## February Birthdays


Happy Birthday

JENNIE C. UNTALAN	JOHN GP. QUINTANILLA JR
DENNIS J. PEREZ	KELLEN I. Y. KAWASAKI
EUGENE F.S. BLAS	JESUS P. SAN NICOLAS JR.
PAUL R. SALAS	RYAN J. ARRIOLA
WALTER M. SANTOS	CARL I. QUINATA
ALBERT I. TUDELA	JUANITO S.N. UNTALAN
JOAQUIN T. MANGLONA	CHRISTOPHER FLORES
DAVID F. NAPUTI	JUAN B. AQUINGOC
DAVID G. TEIXEIRA	TERESA M. TAITANO
RONALD E. LAITAN	JESSE J.S. MENDIOLA
BRYAN A.L. SANTOS	CHRISTINA R. CRUZ
JR. RONNIE D. SABLAN	FRANCISCO B. AQUINGOC
MARK R. RIVERA	JENNIFER R.S. BARCINAS
CHRISTOPHER J. TAITANO	TRISTAN J. FLORES
WOODROW A. CONCEPCION II	SIRENA MARIE O. CEPEDA
JOAQUIN J. CRUZ	JESSE JON MESSER
SEMJELFH REW D. DAVIS	PACIFICO R. MARTIR
ANTONIO G. GENOVANA	GLEN S. TOPASNA