



NEWSLETTER

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

NOVEMBER 2024

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



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Moody's issues Baa2 credit rating for fourth year in a row



The Port Authority of Guam received positive financial news on November 5, 2024 as Moody's Investors Service issued a Baa2 credit rating for FY 2023.

This rating was based on the Port's credit strengths for the fiscal year. Moody's report highlighted the following:

- **VERY STABLE REVENUE PROFILE:** The port's credit is supported by a very stable revenue profile, which has proven resilient in recent years. Despite an effective closure of the island's tourism economy from the coronavirus pandemic, the port's operating revenue between 2021 and 2023 averaged \$57.8 million, in-line with pre-pandemic figures.
- **HEALTHY LIQUIDITY:** The port authority's liquidity position is healthy. Fiscal 2023 financials show unrestricted cash and cash equivalents of \$28.6 million, with unrestricted and discretionary reserves of \$51.8 million; days cash on hand for 2023 was 368 days, from the 429 in 2022. The port has held more than 300 days cash on hand since 2016, a trend

we expect will continue at least through the outlook period.

- **SOLID DEBT SERVICE:** Debt service coverage for the port is solid and expected to remain around 2x on a net revenue basis.
- **CREDIT STRENGTH:** The port derives credit strength from its role as the sole commercial port in Guam, handling around 90% of the territory's imported cargo, of which approximately 30% is military related. Competition from other smaller ports in Micronesia only applies to a small volume of volatile transshipment cargo. The Port of Guam is the only port in the Micronesia region that has the infrastructure and equipment required to service container vessels with a capacity of up to 4,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). The port faces limited restrictions to accommodate future growth related to the military build-up. The port's capacity limit is around 192,000 containers; in fiscal 2023, the port handled around

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86,000 containers, in-line with volumes over recent years.

- **QUICK MAWAR RECOVERY:** We've noted in prior reports that the port is exposed to weather-related events that could affect revenue-generating activities. In late May, Typhoon Mawar shut down port activities for several days, though early and prudent preparations limited the extent of damage, with sustained damage quickly remediated by the port.

"This reaffirmed Baa2 credit rating is a testament to the resilience and strategic vision of the Port Authority of Guam," said Governor of Guam Lou Leon Guerrero. "Our island's only commercial seaport continues to stand strong as a vital economic engine, capable of withstanding challenges like Typhoon Mawar and serving as a reliable partner for both our community and our military allies. We are immensely proud of the Port's accomplishments and the stability it brings to Guam."

Building on the Governor's sentiments, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio adds, "The Port's sustained

credit rating reflects the hard work, commitment, and dedication of every member of the Port Strong team. This positive rating demonstrates our commitment to fiscal responsibility and efficient operations, providing Guam with a stable, efficient port capable of meeting the island's needs now and into the future."

Moody's release is just more good news for the port on the financial front. On October 28, 2024, S&P Global Ratings released its rating maintaining its outlook for the Port at stable and affirmed its 'A' long-term rating on the agency's outstanding series 2018 Port Revenue Bonds.

"This is a strong indicator of the Port's leadership and effective management, showcasing the dedication of our Port Strong team to Guam's growth and stability," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We are here, we are focused, and remain committed to delivering real, measurable results. This positive rating from Moody's underscores our advancement in operational efficiency and financial stability, further establishing the Port as a reliable hub for Guam's commercial and military needs."

Brigadier General with INDOPACOM visits the Port



Brigadier General Christopher K. Fautot, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, visited the Port Authority of Guam on November 22, 2024 to meet with Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. The visit included a tour of the Port's facilities and discussions on its critical role in supporting local and national security operations in the Indo-Pacific

region.

The Port of Guam serves as a cornerstone of U.S. defense infrastructure, ensuring seamless support for military and civilian operations essential to the Pacific region's security. The tour highlighted the Port's readiness initiatives and ongoing efforts to address infrastructure challenges to meet

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increasing demands.

“We are grateful for Brig. Gen. Faurot’s visit and the opportunity to showcase the Port of Guam’s strategic importance,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respecio. “The Port stands at the intersection of economic vitality and national defense. With the full support of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and our Board of Directors, we are focused on enhancing the Port’s readiness through critical infrastructure upgrades, including the replacement of our aging gantry crane.”

Brig. Gen. Faurot’s visit underscored the importance of collaboration between the military and local leadership in bolstering the Port’s infrastructure and ensuring its long-term operational readiness. Discussions focused on inter-agency coordination and strategic investments that enhance the Port’s ability to support the growing demands of military logistics and commercial shipping.

“The leadership of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio has been pivotal in advocating for the Port’s infrastructure development as part of Guam’s broader readiness strategy,” said Respecio. “The guidance and oversight of our Board of Directors continue to ensure we are aligned with national security priorities and positioned to meet the evolving needs of our region.”

As the primary gateway to the Indo-Pacific, the Port of Guam remains vital to U.S. military power projection and contingency response capabilities. Investments in infrastructure, including replacing critical equipment like gantry cranes, are essential for sustaining the Port’s dual role as a logistical hub for military and commercial operations.

This visit reaffirms the shared commitment of military and civilian leaders to maintain Guam’s strategic readiness and ensure the Port’s continued role in safeguarding regional security and economic stability.

Joint Region Marianas makes courtesy visit



Officials from the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) made a courtesy visit to the Port Authority of Guam on November 6, 2024 to strengthen relationships and pledge to work together with the Port Authority of Guam on supporting mutual plans for the future.

The goal of the JRM courtesy visit was to get an in-person understanding of the Port modernization plans and challenges as it relates to the interconnectedness of the Transportation Critical Infrastructure sector on Guam and the dependency on the Port Authority of Guam for all critical infrastructure sector support in the region.

The Port is an indispensable component of the Joint Region Marianas’ mission in the Pacific. It supports a range of critical activities, from military deployment and readiness to humanitarian relief

operations, all while serving as a key logistical and strategic hub for U.S. military forces in the region. Its location, infrastructure, and capabilities make it essential to the U.S. military’s ability to project power, respond to crises, and maintain security in the Indo-Pacific region.

In attendance were LtCol Devin Jewell, JRM J3 Plans Officer (Critical Infrastructure), MSgt James McGilton, JRM J3 Operations Planner (Critical Infrastructure), JRM Director Port Operations Jeff Ziemer (NBG), JRM Deputy Director of Port Operations Jeff David (NBG), along with the Port Management team - General Manager Rory J. Respecio, DGMs Dominic Muna and Pacifico Martir, Corporate Services Manager Vivian Leon, Chief Planner Joe Javellana and CIP Manager Clarence Lagutang.



Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio delivered an insightful presentation at the Guam Industry Forum 2024 that emphasized the critical role of the Port in enhancing regional security and economic growth.

The event, held at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort from November 14 – 15, 2024, gathered industry leaders, government officials, and military representatives to discuss collaborative initiatives aimed at fortifying Guam’s infrastructure amidst growing strategic demands in the Indo-Pacific region.

Building Resilience and Advancing Growth

Respicio’s presentation, titled “Building Resilience and Strategic Growth: Advancing Guam’s Port Infrastructure for Regional Security and Economic Vitality,” outlined the Port’s ongoing capital improvement projects (CIP) designed to enhance the island’s defense capabilities and

economic resilience. Highlighting the Port’s pivotal position as the largest deep-water seaport in the Western Pacific, Respicio underscored its strategic significance for the U.S. military, especially as Guam plays a key role in the defense and logistics chain in the Indo-Pacific theater.

“Our infrastructure improvements are not just about capacity growth; they are about ensuring Guam remains a reliable partner in regional security,” Respicio said. “By investing in resilient port facilities, we are supporting the strategic priorities of the United States and ensuring that Guam can effectively respond to both military and disaster relief operations.”

Strategic Upgrades for Regional Security

During his presentation, Respicio shared details on the Port’s recent and upcoming projects, which are essential for supporting

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military operations in the region. Notable initiatives include:

Service Life Extension Projects for key wharf facilities, ensuring they meet the demands of increased military and commercial activity.

The procurement of new Ship-to-Shore (STS) gantry cranes through a multi-step bid process, enhancing the Port's capacity to handle increased cargo throughput.

Investments in critical fuel infrastructure projects, aimed at bolstering Guam's readiness and sustainability for both defense and civilian needs.

Respicio also highlighted the Port's participation in the America's Marine Highway Program and ongoing sustainability efforts, including the acquisition of EPA DERA Tier-4 ultra-low sulfur diesel terminal tractors and a funded Net Zero Emissions Strategy, supported by a \$2.24 million EPA Clean Ports Program award.

Collaborating for Economic and Environmental Sustainability

The presentation also emphasized PAG's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, with projects focused on energy-efficient technology, sustainable materials, and green practices. These initiatives not only support Guam's economic development but also align with global environmental standards, ensuring the Port's operations remain eco-friendly while meeting the island's growing logistical needs.

Respicio praised the collaboration between the Port Authority, federal agencies, and local stakeholders, which has been instrumental in the successful execution of these projects. "Our partnerships are essential to advancing these strategic projects, which in turn enhance the resilience of Guam's infrastructure," Respicio noted.

Looking Ahead: Opportunities for Collaboration

The forum provided an opportunity for industry leaders and government representatives to explore ways to work together in addressing Guam's infrastructure challenges. As part of the ongoing discussions, Respicio highlighted opportunities for further collaboration between military and civilian stakeholders to ensure Guam's infrastructure is prepared to meet future demands.

"Our mission is clear," Respicio concluded. "We are committed to sustaining Guam's growth, securing its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific, and ensuring that our port infrastructure is resilient, sustainable, and ready for the challenges ahead."

The Guam Industry Forum, hosted by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), is a premier event that focuses on aligning local and military interests to strengthen infrastructure and economic development in the region. This year's theme, "Building Resilience Together," brought attention to the pressing need for strategic investments in Guam's infrastructure to support regional defense and economic stability.

Port adopts ambitious Zero-Emission and Zero-Waste (ZEZW) Resiliency and sustainability goals



The Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors has unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2024-18, formalizing the Zero-Emission and Zero-Waste (ZEZW) Resiliency and Sustainability Goals developed by Jacobs and WSP USA Inc.

This monumental decision, made during the monthly Board of Directors meeting held on November 27, 2024, integrates these objectives into the sustainability framework of the 2023 Master Plan, reaffirming the Port's commitment to environmental stewardship and operational resilience.

The ZEZW Plan, supported by a \$2.41 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection

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Agency’s Clean Ports Program, outlines a transformative path to reduce the Port’s carbon footprint, enhance climate resilience, and drive innovation in sustainable operations.

“Our adoption of the ZEW goals reflects our unwavering dedication to advancing sustainability as a core pillar of the Port’s future,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “This initiative is more than an environmental commitment—it’s a promise to our island community to prioritize long-term resilience and efficiency while aligning with regional and global sustainability strategies. We are building a legacy for the generations to come.”

Resolution No. 2024-18 underscores the Port’s strategic priorities, including conducting a comprehensive mobile emissions inventory, updating the Net Zero Emissions Strategy, and developing a workforce equipped to embrace sustainable practices. The resolution states, “The Port is dedicated to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility through community engagement, reinforcing a shared vision for a cleaner and more sustainable Guam.”

Respicio highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving these goals. “This

historic step would not have been possible without the contributions of Vice Chairperson Conchita S.N. Taitano, who brings decades of expertise in environmental policy, and the dedicated teams across the Port and its partners,” he said.

The EPA Clean Ports Program funding will also support key initiatives such as preparing a climate resiliency strategy and creating actionable plans for decarbonizing and electrifying Port operations. As the resolution emphasizes, “These efforts align with the 2023 Master Plan’s sustainability component and the ‘Look Ahead 2024’ framework, ensuring that the Port remains a model of innovation and environmental stewardship.”

General Manager Respicio concluded, “The adoption of these ambitious goals signifies a defining moment for the Port Authority of Guam under the guidance and leadership of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and our Board of Directors. Our journey toward zero emissions and zero waste is not just a roadmap—it is our pledge to lead with purpose and vision, ensuring a sustainable future for Guam and the region.”

Port sustains no damage during Tropical Storm Man-Yi

The Port Authority of Guam is pleased to announce that the island’s vital seaport facilities sustained no damage during the passage of Tropical Storm Man-Yi on November 13, 2024.

Comprehensive inspections conducted by PAG confirmed that all infrastructure and equipment remain fully intact. Thanks to the extensive preparations and coordinated efforts of our dedicated team, the Port remained fully operational, ensuring the continuous flow of goods to the island.

In preparation for Tropical Storm Man-Yi, the Port Authority of Guam implemented a series of precautionary measures, such as lowering container stacks to two-high configurations and securing the gantry cranes to withstand high winds. These proactive steps, taken well in advance of the storm’s arrival, were crucial in safeguarding critical assets and ensuring the swift resumption of normal operations.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio

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commended the exceptional teamwork across all divisions of the Port, stating, “The resilience and dedication of our Port Strong team once again proved invaluable in preparing for and responding to Tropical Storm Man-Yi. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every division for their commitment to keeping the Port safe and operational. Our preparedness and quick recovery reflect the strength of our workforce and our commitment to serving the people of Guam.”

Special recognition is extended to the Equipment Maintenance Division, under the leadership of Kin Pangelinan and Shine San Agustin, for their outstanding efforts in protecting our vital equipment. The crane mechanics and maintenance team worked diligently to bring all three gantry cranes back online shortly after the storm passed, ensuring that cargo operations could resume without delay. Their hard work and expertise were instrumental in enabling Matson’s vessel, the Daniel K. Inouye, to continue discharging cargo today.

“Every division of the Port played a crucial role in storm preparedness, from securing facilities

to safeguarding equipment, and we extend our deepest thanks to all involved,” Respicio said. “The tireless efforts of our Operations, Terminal, Harbor Master, and Safety divisions were essential in ensuring the safety of the Port, its personnel, and its assets. As we move forward, the Port remains committed to our mission of providing uninterrupted service to Guam’s residents and businesses. We will continue to prioritize the safety of our staff and the community while supporting the island’s economic resilience.”





Port announces updated Uniform Allowance Policy for Port Police

The Port Authority of Guam has implemented a revised uniform allowance policy to better align the benefits received by its Port Police personnel with their counterparts in other law enforcement agencies.

This updated policy, which came into effect effective October 1, 2024, increases the annual uniform allowance from \$350 to \$500, reflecting the agency's commitment to ensuring parity for its officers.

The new policy streamlines the process for the Port Police, allowing officers more flexibility in selecting their duty gear and uniforms. Notably, PAG has shifted away from stockpiling certain uniform items, instead providing personnel with the autonomy to upgrade their police gear at their own expense. This change empowers officers to select duty gear that best suits their specific operational needs.

"We continuously look for opportunities to enhance the benefits and support we provide

to our employees," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This increase in the uniform allowance is a recognition of the hard work and dedication of our Port Police. By providing our officers with more options to personalize their equipment, we are ensuring they have the tools necessary to carry out their duties efficiently while aligning with industry standards."

The updated policy is part of PAG's ongoing efforts to enhance employee welfare while maintaining operational excellence. The change also aligns with the agency's broader initiative to modernize processes and streamline administrative procedures.

Port Police personnel are essential to the security and smooth operation of Guam's only commercial seaport, safeguarding both public and military cargo. The uniform allowance increase is seen as a critical investment in supporting these frontline officers who are vital to the island's safety and logistical operations.

Port Authority of Guam celebrates employee excellence at Port Week Grand Finale

The Port Authority of Guam marked the close of Port Week with a Grand Finale and Employee Recognition Ceremony on November 8, 2024 that was held to honor the outstanding contributions and dedication of Port Strong employees.

This year’s event, which capped off the week-long celebration of the Port’s 49th anniversary, was attended by dignitaries, community leaders, and Port employees and held at Top O’ The Mar in Nimitz Hill.

Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio addressed the audience and highlighted the critical role the Port plays in Guam’s economy and security and praised the honorees for their hard work and resilience, calling them the backbone of Guam’s only commercial seaport.

“For nearly half a century, it’s been the grit—defined by perseverance, passion, and unwavering commitment—of every Port Authority employee that has kept the Port strong and

resilient. This ‘Port Strong’ spirit, a testament to pushing through challenges with dedication and resilience, is the backbone of Guam’s economy and an essential pillar of our national security. We honor each individual, past and present, whose grit has shaped a legacy that keeps Guam and our region moving forward. As we celebrate these 49 years, let’s recognize that it’s this same grit that will guide us as we look ahead to continue making bold moves and strategic decisions to truly enhance and modernize the Port of Guam, with all employees and their families as the reason for our administration’s being,” said Respicio.

A highlight of the event was the Annual Awards, where employees and divisions were recognized across multiple categories for going above and beyond in their roles. The recipients of these prestigious awards include:

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**Employee of the Year
Brenda Ann T. Atalig
Category I**



**Employee of the Year
Jacqueline A. Cruz
Category II**



**Employee of the Year
Gerdie H. Sicat
Category II**



**Supervisor of the Year
Donna Lizama-Acosta
Category I**



**Supervisor of the Year
Gus Alan D. Aromin
Category II**



**Supervisor of the Year
Derrick M. Balajadia
Category II**



**Outstanding Work Center
Marketing Division
Category I**



**Outstanding Work Center
Transportation
Category II**



**Good Housekeeping Work Center
General Manager's Office
Category I**



**Good Housekeeping Work Center
Corrosion Control
Category II**



In addition to the Annual Awards, recognition was also given to employees for Sick Leave and Years of Service. Notable Recognition Included:

Years of Service: The Port Authority celebrated long-standing service with recognition for employees reaching 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years. Among the honorees were Lina M. Quinata and Victor Q. Duenas, each celebrating 40 years and Frank B. Santos, Carol V. Jenkins, David C. Taitano, Antoinette M. Mafnas and Frances T. Cepeda celebrating 35 years of service. Honored for 30 years of service were Albert I. Tudela, Betty Ann P. Wusstig-Perez and Rory J. Respicio.

Sick Leave Accumulation: Honorees included Chief Financial Officer Jose B. Guevara, III (5,000 hours) and Deputy General Manager of Operations Dominic G. Muña (3,500 hours), along with more

than a dozen other employees who demonstrated dedication to their roles and responsibility toward their fellow team members.

“We are immensely proud of our team, whose grit and dedication embody the spirit of Port Strong,” said General Manager Respicio. “We honor not only the milestones they’ve achieved, but also the critical role each of them plays in keeping Guam’s economy moving forward.”

The Port Authority of Guam’s Employee Recognition Ceremony continues a legacy of appreciation for the hard work and dedication that define Port Strong. As the Port looks ahead to its 50th year, the commitment of its employees remains central to its mission of serving Guam and the region.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Port Receives New Telescopic Boom Lift

A brand new state-of-the-art 180' telescopic boom lift has arrived at the Port Authority of Guam. The acquisition of this cutting-edge equipment, delivered to the Port on November 22, 2024, is a key milestone in enhancing the Port's capabilities and improving operations.

The purchase of the new boom lift, made possible through the FY2022 America's Marine Highway Program, was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD). The grant, totaling \$517,205.41, was approved on June 10, 2024 and is part of the \$5.7 million that was awarded in October 2022 for the expansion of the Port's fleet of specialized container yard equipment. It is part of the federal government's ongoing commitment to support the development and modernization of port facilities across the country.

The 180' telescopic boom lift, manufactured by JLG Industries, Inc., will significantly increase the Port's ability to safely and efficiently handle high-reach tasks, primarily for the maintenance of the gantry cranes and buildings, as well as inspection and other operational needs throughout the Port's facilities. This investment will enhance productivity and contribute to the Port's long-term growth and



success, reinforcing its role as a critical hub for trade and transportation in the Pacific region.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio expressed his enthusiasm about the new addition to the Port's fleet, stating, "The acquisition of this advanced telescopic boom lift is a testament to our commitment to improving the safety, efficiency, and capability of our operations. We are grateful for the support of MARAD and the America's Marine Highway Program, which continues to play a vital role in strengthening the Port's infrastructure. This lift will allow our team to perform tasks at greater heights with enhanced safety, ensuring we are ready to meet the growing demands of our maritime industry."

Respicio also thanked Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and the Board of Directors for their support and guidance on this project.

The Port is implementing a plan to make the telescopic boom lift available for rental to industry partners at fair market rental prices when it is not in use or scheduled for operations by the Port's maintenance section. This initiative aims to maximize the utility of the equipment while supporting the needs of the broader community.





The Port Authority of Guam hosted WSP, its Owner Agent Engineer, for an extensive series of meetings from November 4 through November 8, 2024.

This visit, encompassing strategic discussions and collaborative site assessments, focused on advancing critical projects, infrastructure updates, and modernization efforts essential to the Port's growth and regional support.

WSP's visit commenced with a detailed status update on various task order deliverables, allowing both PAG and WSP to review the current project landscape. This included briefings on the FY25 Owner-Agent-Engineer (OAE) work and ongoing federal grants aimed at enhancing Guam's strategic port capabilities.

Key sessions included:

Port Modernization and Critical Infrastructure: With representatives from Joint Region Marianas in attendance, discussions on November 5, 2024 explored modernization strategies essential to maintaining and improving port infrastructure resilience and efficiency. This aligns with Guam's vital role in regional stability and economic growth.

Tariff Analysis and ZEW Draft Report: As part of the commitment to operational excellence, WSP and PAG leadership reviewed the upcoming tariff analysis and presented findings from the ZEW Draft Report, focusing on economic sustainability and regional environmental standards.

Comprehensive Site Visit and CIP/Engineering

Updates: A commercial port site tour and a series of meetings on ongoing Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) facilitated direct insights into on-ground operations and forthcoming upgrades. Specific attention was given to FEMA-funded pier projects (F1, F2-F6) to ensure alignment with federal resiliency objectives.

Future of Public-Private Partnerships: Recognizing the importance of collaborative growth, PAG and WSP discussed avenues for public-private partnerships, underscoring their potential in driving economic diversification and enhancing Guam's competitive standing in the Pacific.

The week-long series of meetings concluded with a management out-brief, summarizing actionable outcomes from the discussions and establishing next steps for ongoing and future initiatives.

"We are pleased to welcome WSP back to Guam and appreciate their commitment to helping us achieve a forward-looking, resilient, and economically sustainable Port," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "These collaborative efforts strengthen Guam's role as a critical hub in the Pacific and ensure we remain adaptable to both current demands and future challenges."

The visit reflects the port's commitment to continuous improvement, operational resilience, and strategic growth, ensuring Guam remains a vital link in the regional and global supply chain.

Port joins Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation

The Port Authority of Guam proudly participated in a coordinated Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO) in early November, conducting unannounced regulatory inspections of cargo containers at the Port terminal yard. This joint operation, led by the U.S. Coast Guard, took place on November 6th and 7th and involved multiple federal and local agencies working together to ensure the safety and security of Guam's maritime operations.

Over the two-day exercise, a total of 148 containers were randomly inspected. The primary focus was to verify compliance with hazardous cargo regulations and to uphold the Port's stringent safety protocols. The inspections yielded positive results, with no major discrepancies identified, reaffirming the Port's commitment to safe handling practices and regulatory adherence.

"Maintaining the safety and security of our port facilities is always a top priority," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We are grateful for the

collaboration and support from all the agencies involved in this operation. These efforts ensure that we continue to uphold the highest standards in protecting our community and the flow of goods to our island."

The MASFO was organized by the U.S. Coast Guard and included participation from:

- Port Authority of Guam
- Guam Customs and Quarantine
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USCG Investigations Section
- USCG Enforcement Team

These joint inspections not only enhance regulatory compliance but also strengthen interagency coordination, ensuring that all entities involved in cargo handling operate efficiently and safely.

The Port Authority of Guam remains committed to collaborating with local and federal partners to safeguard the integrity of Guam's supply chain and maritime operations.





On November 21, 2024, the Port Authority of Guam shared in the celebration of a momentous occasion with the inaugural voyage and blessing ceremony of the new Matson barge *Islander*. The vessel, built specifically for this region, will serve as a key player in transporting transshipment cargo between Guam and neighboring Micronesian islands, enhancing the region’s connectivity and logistical operations.

Matson, a long-time partner of the Port Authority of Guam, has been a trusted service provider for more than 25 years, contributing significantly to the region’s economic and supply chain growth. The *Islander* represents Matson’s continued commitment to investing in Guam and its surrounding islands, strengthening the vital maritime link that serves the local communities and businesses.

The ceremony, which took place at F3 wharf, included a special blessing for the vessel by Father Richard Kidd, special remarks from Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Matson Vice President of Sales Bernie Valencia. General Manager Rory J. Respicio, who also delivered remarks, expressed his appreciation for Matson’s ongoing partnership

and the positive impact that the *Islander* will bring to the region. He highlighted how the new barge would not only help facilitate the transportation of goods but also support the economic resilience of Micronesian islands by ensuring the timely delivery of essential supplies.

“This investment by Matson signifies their unwavering commitment to Guam and the broader Micronesian region,” said Respicio. “We are excited for the opportunities this new barge will bring, strengthening our ability to serve the people of Guam and our neighbors in Micronesia. The *Islander* will ensure the efficient movement of goods, providing critical support to our region’s businesses and communities.”

With a history of providing dependable service and fostering strong partnerships, Matson’s investment in the *Islander* barge underscores the company’s dedication to the people of Guam and the greater Pacific region.

As the *Islander* embarks on its maiden voyage from Guam to the CNMI, the Port Authority of Guam looks forward to the continued growth of its maritime operations and the positive impact on regional trade and logistics.

Port Wellness Program continues



Food Benefits Presentation by Finance



Yoga by Marketing Division



Seawall Run/Walk by Commercial Division



Seawalk walk by Stevedoring Division

The Port Authority of Guam's Weekly Wellness Program empowers each division to lead creative activities that promote health, teamwork, and camaraderie.

| Division | Assigned Week |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Information Technology | December 2 – December 6, 2024 |
| Transportation Division | December 9 – December 13, 2024 |
| Port Police Division | December 16 – December 20, 2024 |
| Facility Maintenance Division | December 23 – December 27, 2024 |
| Engineering/CIP | December 30 – January 3, 2025 |

Seaports Features the Port Authority of Guam



November 7, 2024

Port Authority of Guam Secures \$2.4 Million EPA Grant for Net Zero Emissions Strategy

The Port Authority of Guam has been awarded \$2.4 million from the U.S. EPA's Clean Ports Program to advance its Net Zero Emissions Strategy Update and Implementation Plan. The grant will support initiatives such as conducting a mobile emissions inventory, developing a resiliency strategy, and creating a workforce development plan, all aligned with Guam's Sustainability and Resiliency Plan. The project is part of the port's commitment to decarbonizing operations and improving air quality for the community. The Port Authority acknowledges the collaborative support from EPA Administrator Michelle Lastimoza and applauds Vice Chairperson Conchita Taitano's leadership in sustainability efforts.

November photo highlights



Congratulations to Cabras Marine Corporation for christening their newest tug Olympia on November 7, 2024 at their Apra Harbor location. Governor Lou Leon Guerrero attended the event as well as Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio and Deputy General Managers Dominic Muna and Pacifico Martir. Since 1975, Cabras has been the leading provider of tug and harbor pilotage services in Guam and CNMI, demonstrating unwavering commitment to our islands.

The Port Authority of Guam rallied with the island community on November 9, 2024 for the annual Relay for Life held at the University of Guam Fieldhouse. The annual fundraising event is organized by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and raises awareness about cancer, honors survivors, remembers those who lost their battle, and funds critical cancer research and support services. The Port employees raised \$4,184.00 this year for the fight against cancer and ranked 2nd among all Government of Guam agencies that participated in the fundraising event. A total of \$33,217.00 was raised by Government of Guam agencies.



Shout out to our dedicated Port maintenance team! They were out early on the morning of November 8, 2024 keeping our grounds in top shape, cutting the grass and ensuring a clean and safe environment at the Port. Their hard work keeps our facilities looking their best for the entire Guam community. Thank you, maintenance crew for all you do for the port!

November photo highlights



Members of the Port Authority of Guam's Finance Division proudly participated in the AGA Guam Chapter's Thanksgiving Food Drive, collecting canned goods from Port employees to support Catholic Social Services' Food Pantry. Thank you to our Port Strong family for your generosity and commitment to helping families in need this holiday season!



Whether it's the Thanksgiving Luncheon Committee planning the event or our dedicated logistics team preparing the grounds, our Port Strong Family works together to make the celebration a success for everyone—thank you to all who made it possible!

December Birthdays

PORT OF GUAM

Happy Birthday

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank B. Santos | Ashley J.C. Emsley | Jesse Joseph Mendiola Jr. |
| Anthony R. Francisco | Jessica R. Quinata | Jeremy J. Camacho |
| Annie L.G. Sablan | Ronald A. Ayuyu | Octavio A. Garcia |
| Ray D. Aromin | Johnathon J. Blas | Jessirae J.A. Flores |
| Christina M. Leon Guerrero | Alex L. Tithingrad | Paul J. Untalan Jr. |
| Roley Noel A. Borja | Felipe A. Gico | Christian J. Santos |
| Jesse C. Mendiola | Jarrett J.Q. Lynch | Jessi J. Santos-Torres |
| Christopher P. Salas | Jesse J. Borja | James L. Canto II |
| Richard N. Borja | Alfred J. Manibusan | Austin J. Borja |
| Bradley S. Paulino | Desiree M. Quintanilla | Matthew J.I. Mendiola |
| Dominic D. A. Taianao | Amacris V. Legaspi | Kiana L.A. Flores |
| Sammy Q. Babauta | Alkenneth Y. Constantino | |
| Pia A. Castro | Kyler J. Candoletta | |

Thanksgiving Luncheon

