

CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS OF GUAM
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Håfa Adai Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the distinguished House Armed Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on our priorities for Guam in the development of the Chairman's mark for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

As China and North Korea proceed to push their political and military power throughout the region, and as Russian aggression has illustrated the need to remain globally vigilant, now more than ever we must support the resiliency of American families throughout our Republic, whose sons and daughters swell our ranks in defense of freedom. Specific to our Territories it is well known on this Committee that our military recruitment per capita proudly exceeds national averages, and to further support this I respectfully request the Committee to include in this year's NDAA necessary amendment language to strike the provisions that prevent Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from applying to American families in the Territories. A standard lifeline throughout our nation, SSI provides support that is critical for us to maximally recruit into our armed services. Enabling SSI in our Territories will significantly bolster the family and recruitment environment of some of our highest per Capita military service areas in the country. On a cost basis, with recent CBO scoring SSI initiatives for Territories in the 117th Congress at a price point of just \$33 million per annum, it represents a fractional cost of servicemember recruitment and retention and 0.004295% of the total prior year 2022 NDAA at \$768.2B.

On the Readiness front, as we further harden Guam with necessary Missile Defense Assets to complement our force projection on the second island chain, attention is needed to ensure the critical access points are traversable by the necessary vehicles and equipment needed to support the planned 360 degree defense system. According to Rear Admiral Nicholson¹ (enter into record), increased exercises have, and the new capabilities in Guam will, undoubtedly increase military traffic on the Guam road system. For example, the current main supply route (MSR) from Naval Base Guam (NBG - ship transported materiel) to Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB - air transported materiel) is Route 1. Future MSR use of Route 1 and Route 3 to access Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz (MCBCB) and onward to AAFB will increase military use of this MSR. This results in Route 1 being heavily trafficked by military vehicles, especially during exercises, and it is anticipated the military traffic would increase significantly more if major combat operations were to take place. In light of these increased traffic and associated road infrastructure requirements, we request that the Committee initiate a study of Defense Access Road (DAR) needs on Guam as they correspond to the aforementioned MSR use as well as the planned 360-degree air and missile defense system for Guam to ensure that all possible DARs are funded to meet military needs assuming worst case scenarios.

Finally, in continuance with our priority to align national defense interests with specific needs for Guam, we respectfully request that need funding be committed to the U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) in Guam to fill all medical professional billets, and that the Committee direct the Defense Health Agency to conduct a study on the need for additional billets and specifically psychiatric services for outpatient and inpatient care. Such a study should encompass all mandated constituencies to include active duty servicemembers, veterans, Gold Star families, and all other eligible groups for military services in the Guam Naval Hospital. The remote nature of Guam and the Pacific Islands continues to create longstanding unique challenges for healthcare availability not only for our local populations, but our armed services community as well. This has shown possible adverse effects to its ability to provide the 26,000 beneficiaries, with approximately 50,000² veterans alone that is serviced throughout American Samoa, and Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with timely access to primary,

¹Attached: 04182022 Letter from Admiral B.R. Nicholson RE: Defense Access Roads (DAR)

²GAO-18-288 Veterans Health Administration: Opportunities Exist for Improving Veterans' Access to Health Care Services in the Pacific Islands

mental health, and specialty care. The hospital has a workforce of approximately eight hundred active duty, civilian GS and contract staff who provide medical and nursing care, ancillary services, and administrative support. We must ensure that our facilities are provided the necessary support and resources to continue delivering on its commitment to operational readiness, outstanding customer service, and always delivering world-class health care commensurate with the service and sacrifice our active duty personnel, military retirees, and their families.

Mr. Chairman, the Armed Services Committee has been a friend of and strong advocate for Guam's interest as our island plays a key role in our nation's primary defense against adversaries in Asia. I have appreciated this Committee's longstanding efforts in reaffirming Guam's seat at the table and ensuring that Guam's concerns regarded. Thank you again for your time and consideration of my testimony, and I look forward to our continued work together.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

JOINT REGION MARIANAS

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April 18, 2022

The Honorable Michael F. Q, San Nicolas
Member, United States House of Representatives
330 Hernen Cortez Ave., Suite 300
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Congressman San Nicolas,

This letter is in response to your desire to have a better understanding the future military ground transportation requirements and the impact to the road system in Guam.

As part of the Defense Posture Review Initiative (DPRI) program on Guam a number of potential Defense Access Road (DAR) projects were identified. The attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as amended through August 28, 2020 identifies sixteen (16) programmed projects. There are two remaining projects to be completed which are DAR Road Strengthening along Routes 1 and 3 (P-115/GRN 8, 10, 13., 14, 15, 24 and 33) and DAR Bridge Improvements along Route 1 (P116/GRN 35). All other DAR projects listed in the MOA have been completed.

An additional DAR project was identified as the resurfacing of Route 5 from Route 1 to the Naval Magazine. This project will now be funded through non-Department of Defense federal funding sources.

On-island military exercises have increased over the last few years and additional military units and capabilities are planned for Guam, including the proposed multi-location Missile Defense Agency (MDA) missile defense system. The increased exercises have, and the new capabilities undoubtedly will, increase military traffic on the Guam road system. I am currently unable to quantify the exact amount of increased traffic and any associated road infrastructure requirements as the MDA plans have not yet been finalized.

However, there are likely improvements needed regardless of the final MDA plan. For example, the current main supply route (MSR) from Naval Base Guam (NBG - ship transported materiel) to Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB - air transported materiel) is Route 1. Future MSR use of Route 1 and Route 3 to access Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz (MCBCB) and onward to AAFB will increase military use of this MSR. This results in Route 1 being heavily trafficked by military vehicles, especially during exercises. It is anticipated the military traffic would increase significantly more if major combat operations were to take place. There are alternate routes (Routes 4, 9, and 15), but these roads have not been improved.

There are many avenues, including DAR, to improving roads which support both the military and civilian population. It is important to note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) jointly administer the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning and decision making as well as for championing the appropriation of the funding, which will be transferred to FHWA to distribute to local/state transportation organizations for execution.

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. military on Guam.



B. R. NICHOLSON
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander