



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

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Organization

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2 Our Progress

3 Our Finances

4 What's Next for CBMA?

Who We Are

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs (CBMA) was created under Executive Order 2019-09, by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres. CBMA is tasked under the Executive Order to:

1. Establish a central clearinghouse of all communication, documents, and information between the Department of Defense (DoD), and its various departments and commands and the government of the CNMI;
2. To act as the exclusive liaison between the DoD, its various departments and commands and the government of the CNMI;
3. To aid, assist and coordinate the CNMI government in its engagements with the DoD and its various departments and commands;
4. To engage with the DoD in the promotion of economic opportunities and activities for the CNMI and its residents;
5. Monitor military related matters for the Governor.
6. Formulate plans and policies, develop a comprehensive approach, coordinate and/or implement programs or activities that result in an improve relationship between the Commonwealth and U.S. Armed Forces

Mission

To improve communication, coordination and response of the CNMI government to the United States military, facilitate the military's integration into the community, and to ensure the relationship between the military and the CNMI is one based on mutual respect and benefit.

Vision

A strong and mutually beneficial collaboration between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Department of Defense that recognizes and preserves the cultural values of the people.

TIMELINE OF MILITARY PROPOSALS

Guam-CNMI Relocation (U.S. Marines)

Final EIS - July 2010
Record of Decision - September 2010
Supplemental EIS - July 2015
Supplemental Record of Decision - August 2015

Mariana Islands Range Complex (U.S. Navy)

Final EIS - May 20, 2010
Record of Decision - July 20, 2010

CNMI Joint Military Training Program (U.S. Marines)

Draft EIS Issued - March 31, 2015
DoD Announced Revised EIS - February 18, 2016

Mariana Islands Training and Testing Range (U.S. Navy)

Final EIS - May 22, 2015
Record of Decision - July 23, 2015
Final Supplemental EIS - June 5, 2020
Record of Decision - July 29, 2020

Divert Activities and Exercises Program (U.S. Airforce)

Final EIS - September 23, 2016
Record of Decision - December 8, 2016
Final Supplemental EIS - July 17, 2020
Construction of Program Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements - Ongoing



CBMA Team



The CBMA serves the interests and goals of all residents of the CNMI across Rota, Tinian, Saipan and the Northern Islands in communicating with the U.S. Department of Defense and its associated agencies.

This report is guided by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) standards and model. AGA is a member organization for government financial management professionals across the nation promoting government transparency and accountability.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the leadership and staff of CBMA achieved the following advancements to the mandates provided under Executive Order 2019-09

Central Clearing House

Established the Land Analysis System to provide a **centralized and secure data library** for all GIS, CADD, and planning documents, including of geo-referenced, high-resolution aerial images of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Established an internal depository of Department of Defense related resources, maintains the depository with more than **37,000 accessible records**.

Established protocols with CNMI Departments and Agencies to streamline communication channels on DoD related matters.

Activation of the Joint Region Marianas use of Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System to centralize communication flows through entry authorization protocol through CBMA.

Department of Defense Engagements

Hosted DoD Roundtables:

- **MITT Environmental Working Group**, comprised of representatives from Pacific Fleet and CNMI government resource partners, **to discuss the impacts of proposed DoD activities in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Range;**
- **FDM Summit** to discuss **DoD impacts** on the CNMI island of Farallon de Medinilla;
- **MITT Final SEIS technical review and comment submission** by Governor Torres for MITT and DIVERT EIS, along with CNMI agencies;
- **CJMT Technical Working Group** to continue efforts to **maintain resources to adequately respond to proposed DoD activities on Tinian and Pagan;**
- **Divert Design Reviews** on the **community infrastructure projects** currently **underway in Tinian;**
- **Military Training & Exercise** meetings with Planners;
- **Divert Programmatic Agreement** Working Group
- **MITT Programmatic Agreement** Working Group
- **Divert Programmatic Agreement** Working Group

Notable Activities

Organized in response to the **2015 Marianas Islands Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**, providing for acknowledgement of CNMI concerns over **marine and terrestrial natural resources, cultural and historic resources** and the access to CNMI waters for **commercial and recreational fishing**. These comments found recognition and action by the U.S. Navy in its Record of Decision signed in August 2020.

Economic Opportunities

Procured services for the development of the CNMI Resilient Sustainable Islands Master Planning Effort to identify systemic challenges to CNMI development, **seek viable solutions to promote sustainable development opportunities and capacity building** in line **with DoD related activities in the CNMI**.

Promoted Grants Management Training within CNMI government to **increase economic impact** of federal funds

Procured services for the development of a Strategic Decision Metric Model and Intermodal Transportation Plan to enhance **operational effectiveness, resiliency** and **sustainable intermodal infrastructure** in the CNMI, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Ports Authority

Secured funding for a Procurement Technical Assistance Center to assist CNMI businesses and entrepreneurs in navigating the federal contracting system **increasing the CNMI's ability to compete and participate in federal contract opportunities**.

Military Integration

Established the Community Relations (COMREL) program to integrate military personnel stationed in the region with the community. This effort has **supported community relations efforts** through sports activities, beach cleanup initiatives, and non-combat humanitarian exercises **between military personnel and residents**, the eventual **redevelopment of community park facilities and clean-up efforts across the CNMI**.

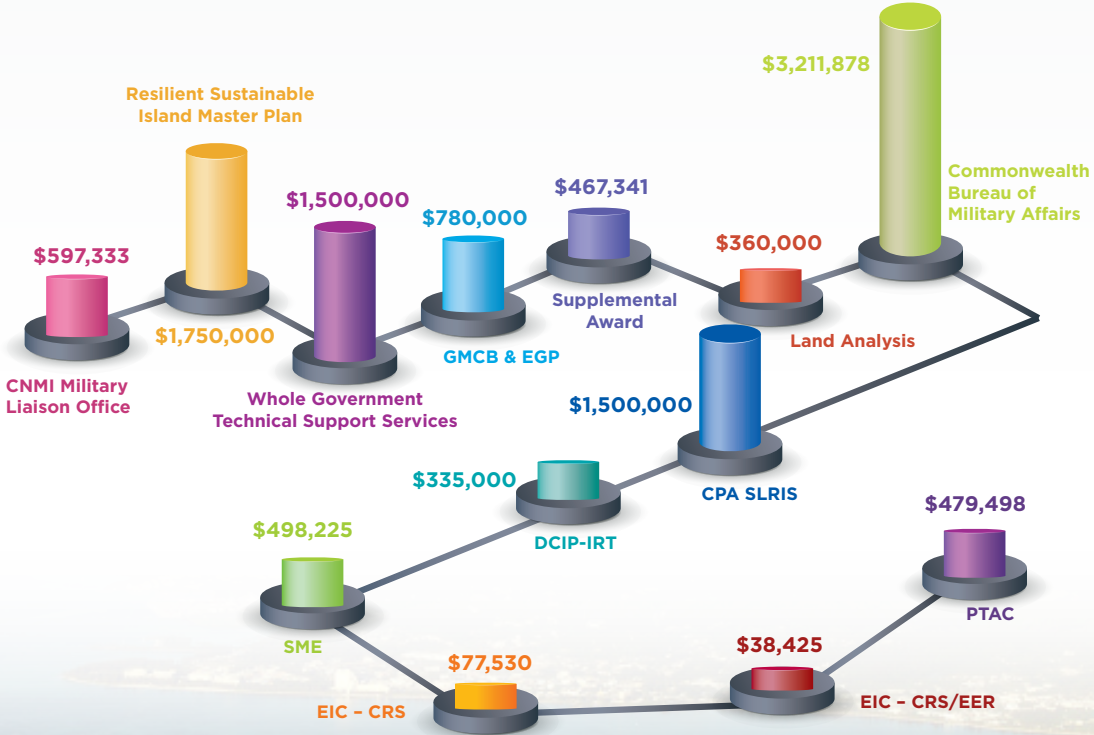
Successful coordination, alongside the **Lady Diann Foundation and First Lady Diann Tudela Torres**, for the **2019 Toys for Tots campaign** in collaboration **with the U.S. Marine Corps Guam**.



May 22, 2020
Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios proclaimed CNMI Armed Forces Day to be observed on every fourth Friday of May in the Commonwealth.



Federal Grant Funding Awarded Fiscal Year 2020



Highlights

CBMA will continue to provide coordination and communication support in the development of the Divert Activities and Exercises Program's ongoing construction efforts for community infrastructure and Air Force programmatic requirements on Tinian. Already, the U.S. Government has appropriated \$316 million for the development of the program that will be deployed into the Tinian economy.

CBMA will continue to provide coordination and communication support for the Seabees Innovative Readiness Training of Marpo Heights Subdivision II Road Improvement Projects.

The development and implementation of the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) in Fiscal Year 2021 will increase capacity of local entrepreneurs to become successful in DoD contracting opportunities. The PTAC will engage local stakeholders and become a central repository of information to strengthen the local access to federal resources and opportunities for growth alongside DoD related activities.

Challenges

The CNMI is faced with responding to the wide-ranging impacts proposed in voluminous and technical Environmental Impact Statements and proposals provided by the U.S. Department of Defense with limited resources within CNMI Departments and Agencies. These proposals have the potential to impact the environmental, cultural, historic and economic resources of the CNMI for generations, with limited opportunity to respond within the National Environmental Protection Act comment period framework. CBMA will continue to seek more opportunities to expand the technical capacity of the CNMI government to adequately address the concerns of the people and to seek benefits within the CNMI's partnership with our nation's military.

Key Initiatives for 2021

Continue to build stable and lasting relationships with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment to target initiatives that support the economy and well-being of the CNMI population.

Connect the CNMI tourism infrastructure, sites, and accommodations to find a new tourism market among service members and families stationed in the region, potentially unlocking tens of thousands new tourist arrivals to our islands' beaches, sites and amenities.

The establishment of the CNMI Procurement Technical Assistance Center in the coming year will present new and focused resources to CNMI businesses to take advantage of growing contract opportunities with the U.S. Department of Defense development projects, increasing domestic economic gains from federal activities and supporting CNMI jobs.

Further engaging the U.S. Department of Defense on community resources through a developing project to promote the health of our population through community fitness and training facility on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in partnership with the National Fitness Campaign Foundation.

Develop a CNMI Resilient Sustainable Islands Management Plan and advance the CNMI's programmatic requirements in the U.S. Congress through the Department of Defense Economic Adjustment Committee.

Enhance CNMI government capacity through advance grant writing and performance training program to increase integration of higher level of federal resources through competitive grant opportunities.

Provide permanent facilities to house CBMA.

Relocate and upgrade utility assets on Marpo Heights II and Routes A through Route G.

Integrate energy efficient resources at the Administration's and Women's Affairs facilities to enhance operational sustainability.



Governor Ralph Torres and First Lady Diann Torres with Colonel Bradley Magrath during the Toys for Tots distribution night on December 18, 2019.



Toddlers and Youths during the Toys for Tots distribution of gifts on December 18, 2019.