

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor



**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**MEMORANDUM:**

GOV19-220

**Date:** July 06, 2019

**To:** Departments, Agencies, Offices, Independent Entities of the Commonwealth Government, Other Entities of the Executive Branch, Government Instrumentalities and Public Corporations

**From:** Governor

**Subject:** Executive Order No. 2019-09 Establishment of the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs and Appointment of Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs

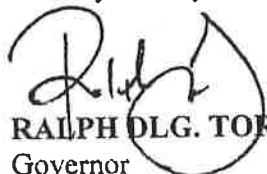
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This is to inform you that I have issued Executive Order No. 2019-09 establishing a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs within the Office of the Governor. This action is taken pursuant to my authority under Article III, Sections 1 and 15 of the Commonwealth Constitution and Title 1, Section 2502 of the Commonwealth Code.

In accordance with Executive Order No. 2019-09, I am hereby appointing Glenna SP Reyes to serve as the Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs.

All departments, agencies, offices, independent entity of the Commonwealth government, other entities of the Executive Branch, government instrumentalities and public corporations are requested to cooperate, to the maximum extent practical, with the Special Assistant as she carries out the mandate of the Bureau.

Thank you for your cooperation.

  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor



COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-09**

**SUBJECT:** On establishing a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs within the Office of the Governor and appointing a Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs to head the establishment, operation and administration of the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs.

**AUTHORITY:** NMI Const. art. III, § 1 provides that "[t]he executive power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a governor who shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws;" and NMI Const. art. III, § 15 permits the governor to "make changes in the allocation of offices, agencies and instrumentalities and in their functions and duties that are necessary for efficient administration." Further, 1 CMC § 2052 provides that the "Governor may employ staff as required to assist the office of the Governor in performing its functions..."

**WHEREAS,** the United States Department of Defense has initiated five independent Environmental Impact Statements/Overseas Environmental Impact Statements that impact the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS,** the five Environmental Impact Statements/Overseas Impact Statements have independent proposed actions but all actions entail training throughout the islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its surrounding waters; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Department of Defense, through the various departments and commands of the armed forces, has programmatic agreements with the Commonwealth arising from duties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and is seeking to amend or renegotiate a number of the programmatic agreements; and,

**WHEREAS,** the recent execution of a 40-year lease agreement between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the United States Department of Defense as part of the Divert Activities and Exercises Initiative will lead to construction projects on the island of Tinian that would support military training initiatives and will lead to increased military presence and engagement in the Commonwealth; and,

**WHEREAS,** numerous military United States Department of Defense initiatives, studies, training exercises and other engagements require communication, response, and coordination from the various agencies of the Commonwealth government; and,

**WHEREAS,** due to the increase in military activities, and in anticipation of even more frequent, complex and robust Department of Defense engagements with the Commonwealth, it has become necessary to establish a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs to act as a single point of contact and clearinghouse of communication, documents, and information between the

Department of Defense, and its various departments and commands and the government of the Commonwealth and its various departments, agencies, instrumentalities and public corporations; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the increase in military activities, and in anticipation of even more frequent, complex and robust Department of Defense engagements with the Commonwealth, it has become necessary to establish a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs to act as a liaison between the Department of Defense, and its various departments and commands and the government of the Commonwealth and its various departments, agencies, instrumentalities and public corporations; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the increase in military activities, and in anticipation of even more frequent, complex and robust Department of Defense engagements with the Commonwealth, it has become necessary to establish a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs to aid, assist and coordinate the Commonwealth government and its various departments, agencies, instrumentalities, public corporations in their engagements with the Department of Defense, and its various departments and commands.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph DLG. Torres, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and in order to achieve the effective and efficient government administration so as to better serve the interests of the Commonwealth and its people,

It is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. There is established in the Office of the Governor a Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs ("Bureau") which shall be headed by a Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs ("Special Assistant"), who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The purpose of the Special Assistant and the Bureau is to aid the Governor and the government of the Commonwealth as to military and military related matters connected to the United States Department of Defense and its various departments and commands. Such aid is to serve as a means to improve communication, coordination and response of the Commonwealth government to the United States Department of Defense and its various departments and commands, facilitate the military's integration into the community, and to ensure the relationship between the military and the Commonwealth government and its people is one based on mutual respect and benefit.

2. In furtherance of its purpose, the Special Assistant and the Bureau will have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

(a) The Special Assistant, through the Bureau, will act as a single point of contact and central clearinghouse of all communications, documents, and information between the Department of

Defense, and its various departments and commands and the government of the Commonwealth and its various departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations.

(b) The Special Assistant, through the Bureau, will act as the liaison between the Department of Defense, its various departments and commands and the government of the Commonwealth and its various departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations.

(c) The Special Assistant, through the Bureau, will aid, assist and coordinate the Commonwealth government and its various departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, and other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations in their engagements with the Department of Defense and its various departments and commands.

(d) The Special Assistant, through the Bureau, shall execute the authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities found in Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 7, section 20123, subsections (a)-(f) and (h) of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code to the extent outlined in paragraph 3 below.

(e) In coordination with the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, the Special Assistant, shall identify, acquire, manage, utilize and shall serve as the Authorizing Official for all Office of Economic Adjustments program of assistance and other federal grants related to United States Department of Defense, its various departments and commands, and military affairs.

(f) The Special Assistant, through the Bureau, shall create and manage a depository into which all documents, records, reports, studies and official communications between the Department of Defense, its various departments and commands and the government of the Commonwealth and its various departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, and other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations shall be deposited.

(g) In coordination with any necessary or appropriate Commonwealth or local government agencies, the Special Assistant may engage with the Department of Defense and its various departments and commands to promote economic opportunities and activities for the Commonwealth and its residents.

(h) Monitor military and military related matters for the Governor and provide reports upon request of the Governor.

(i) Any other duty that the Governor may from time to time direct the Special Assistant or the Bureau to undertake.

3. In furtherance of the purpose of the Special Assistant and the Bureau, all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs found in Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 7, section 20123, subsections (a)-(f) and (h) of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code are transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau. To the extent that subsections (a) and (h) relate to veteran affairs, those functions shall be retained by the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs. The Office of Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs is re-designated the Office of Veteran Affairs.

4. In furtherance of the purpose of the Special Assistant and the Bureau, all authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Civil Military Liaison Office established within the Office of the Governor through the program of assistance by the Office of Economic Adjustments are transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau.

5. All records and property (real and personal) of the Civil Military Liaison Office and all personnel used in the administration of the Civil Military Liaison Office (including employees whose chief duties relate to such administration) are hereby transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau. The unexpended appropriations, allocations, allotments, or other funds available for the use of the Civil Military Liaison Office are transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau.

6. The Special Assistant, with the approval of the Governor, may make internal organizational changes to the Bureau as may be administratively necessary to fulfill the purpose, duties and responsibilities outlined in this executive order; and may, with the approval of the Governor, employ staff or procure the services of independent contractors.

7. The Bureau and Special Assistant shall utilize funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Office of the Governor and designated for such purpose by the Governor or Legislature; and may utilize federal grants or other sources of funds available to the Commonwealth to fund personnel, operations, capital expenses and programs.

8. All departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, and other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations are directed to forward to the Special Assistant and the Bureau all documents, records, reports, studies and official communications between the Department of Defense, its various departments and commands for deposit in the depository to be created by the Special Assistant and the Bureau. Heads of departments, agencies, offices, instrumentalities, or other entities of the executive branch, and the head of each independent entity of the Commonwealth government including any public corporations are directed to cooperate with the Special Assistant and the Bureau in the performance of its duties to the maximum extent practical.

9. The Bureau and the position of Special Assistant shall continue in existence indefinitely for so long as the Bureau and Special Assistant are needed to serve the people of the Commonwealth.

10. All contracts and agreements relating to the functions transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau from the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs lawfully entered into prior to the effective date of paragraph 3 shall continue to be effective until expired, revised, amended, repealed, or terminated.

11. All contracts, agreements and grants relating to the functions transferred to the Special Assistant and the Bureau from the Civil Military Liaison Office lawfully entered into prior to this executive order shall continue to be effective until expired, revised, amended, repealed, or terminated.

12. In accordance with the Constitution, paragraph 3 of this executive order shall become effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless specifically modified or disapproved by a majority of members of each house of the Legislature.

13. If any provision of this executive order or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this executive order or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
Governor