



# NEWSLETTER

## PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

MAY 2023

### Board of Directors

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*Vice Chairperson*

**Dr. Judith P. Guthertz**  
*Board Secretary*

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*Board Member*

### Port Management

**Rory J. Respicio**  
*General Manager*

**Dominic G. Muna**  
*Deputy General Manager Operations*



### Inside this Issue

- Recovery Efforts
- Operations Resume
- Port Restoration
- FEMA Radios
- Gantry 6 Online
- Port Prepares and Recovers
- PH: 2023 Master Plan
- NDTA Conference
- Port Police Week
- Liberation Lottery
- GTA Phone System
- Softball Champions
- Photo Highlights

### Mawar Hits the Port: Recovery Efforts Ongoing



Typhoon Mawar hit Guam in May and left behind a massive trail of destruction.

Merely one day after Typhoon Mawar devastated Guam and the island's only commercial seaport, employees of the Port Authority of Guam worked tirelessly to get the Port back up and fully operational.

By 12:30 p.m. on May 26, 2023, the U.S. Coast Guard gave the Port clearance to begin the major recovery efforts dockside and the Port proceeded to make assessments to include the condition of the gantry cranes. A Port employee dive team conducted an underwater assessments of the docks, which was key to the Port's ability to reopen.

The Port weathered Typhoon Mawar with visible damage to Piers

F3, F4, F5 and F6, particularly the Bull Rail. Portions of the Fender System were also damaged or broke off. The storm also caused damage to the Hågat and Hagåtña Marinas.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio held a briefing with Port personnel to discuss disaster recovery measures toward reopening the Port which included an assessment of damage to equipment, container yard, piers, port facilities, and marinas to execute recovery efforts and restore service.

"The Port worked with carriers and agents to restore operations to deliver much-needed goods and supplies to the community," said Respicio on May 26, 2023. "We are working with the petroleum companies to allow the safe discharging of fuel. Our priority

*Story continues on page 2*





right now is to ensure that our gantry cranes and equipment are fully operational and that it is safe for employees and Port users to work within the terminal yard. We also have to inspect the integrity of the piers as we believe the docks were damaged during the typhoon.”

### Port Police Rescue Cabras Marine Crew

Three fuel barges took refuge from the storm along F4 and F5 and were supported by three tug boats from Cabras Marine with crew members aboard the vessels. At the height of the storm, the Harbor Master’s Office received a distressed call from the Tugboat Polaris that their engine was down. In response, six Port Police Officers battled strong winds to rescue four crew members aboard the vessel that was tied up to F4 Pier. Lt. James Sandlin and Police Officers Alex Tithingrad, Jacob Iriarte, David Untalan, Kyle Maurer, and Kyler Candoleta rescued the four-man crew safely from the storm surge battered vessel.





## Port Prepares for and Recovers from Typhoon Mawar



### Typhoon Mawar Preparation

Before Typhoon Mawar hit the island, the Port performed routine typhoon preparations to secure the facility, yard, terminal equipment and offices. These measures included trimming stacked containers within the yard from 4-high to 2-high, securing official vehicles within the warehouse and barricading roll-up doors and gates.

Employees from the Finance Division reported

to work on Monday, May 22, 2023, during COR2, to process payroll and pay employees one day early to ease their storm preparations efforts.

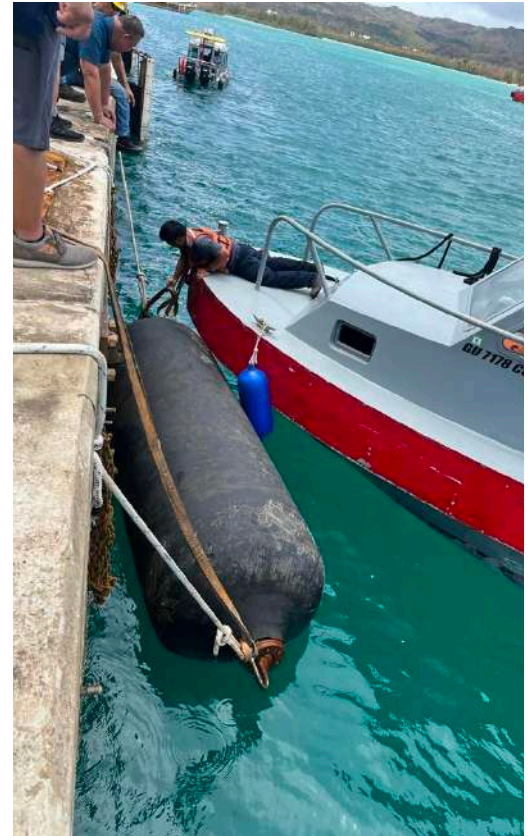
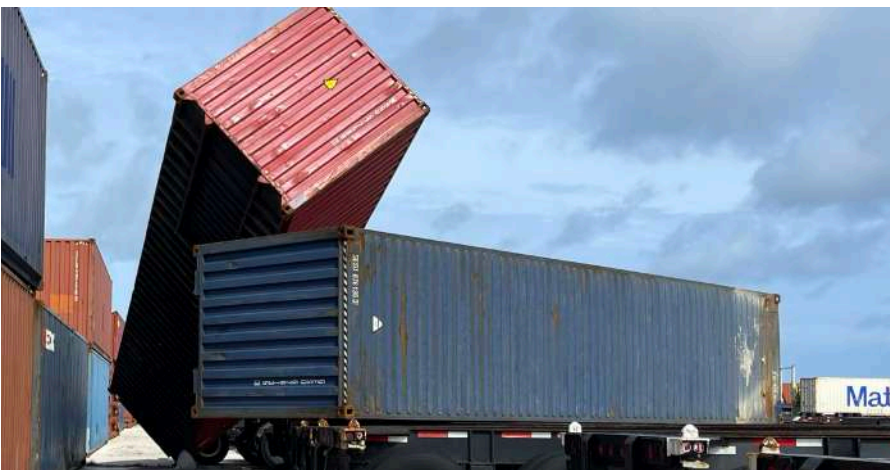
### Typhoon Mawar Response

When COR1 was declared on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Port employees assigned to the Typhoon Response Team bunkered down in the Port Command Center to ride out the storm. On the morning of May 25, 2023, while still in COR1, Fleet mechanics and Port police officers worked to remove boulders along Route 11 to allow one-lane access to Cabras Island. At daybreak on May 26, 2023, employees from the Operations and Maintenance Divisions worked to remove the remaining debris to allow access on both lanes for employees to report to work.

### Typhoon Mawar Recovery

On the morning of May 26, 2023, Port managers held a Port Recovery briefing and when the U.S. Coast Guard gave the all-clear at 12:30 p.m. that day, Port employees pulled together to begin cleanup and recovery efforts within the terminal yard.

Thanks to the determination, resiliency and Port Strong spirit of the employees, the Port is now back to full operational capacity.





## Port Operations Resume



Port operations resumed three days after the typhoon to offload the Matson Maunawili container ship.

Although the Port sustained significant damage to its facilities and assets, employees had been working around the clock to get the Port back up and fully operational and were able to completely clear the terminal yard of debris by the time the Maunawili docked.

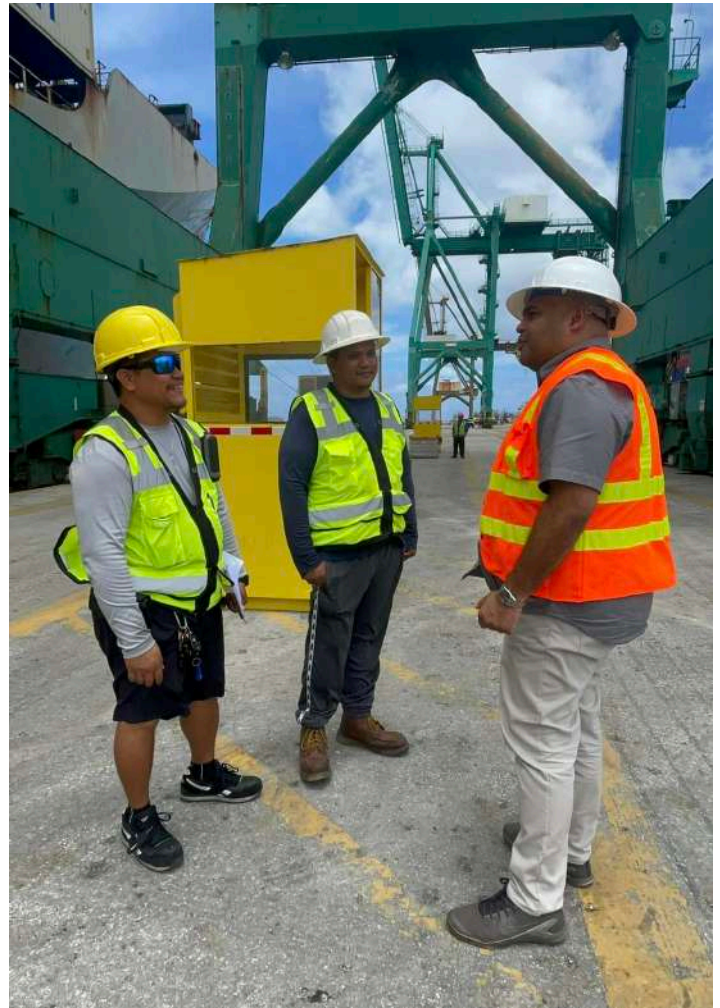
“We can confirm that Gantry 5 is operational after addressing damage to conduits and its circuit board,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio on May 28, 2023. “Gantry 4 and Gantry 6 were also damaged and underwent troubleshooting to identify the issue.”

The U.S. Coast Guard’s Captain Nicholas Simmons, Captain of the Port, issued the all-clear to open from the waterway perspective at 10:30 a.m. on May 28, 2023 and Respicio immediately issued the all-clear from the dockside. This was done after Governor Lou Leon Guerrero gave the directive to place the island back to COR 4.

“The Port received substantial damage to our facilities and our Port Strong Family has been working to get the Port up and running,” Respicio said on May 28, 2023. “With the leadership of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio, along with our Board, we have been working diligently with our industry partners for the last 48 hours and the Port is ready.”







### Operations Resume at F1 Pier

Mobil Oil Guam Inc. began discharging fuel at F1 Pier on May 29, 2023. The pier is fully operational despite damage sustained from Typhoon Mawar. The Yasa petroleum barge discharged the remaining half of its cargo that could not be offloaded when the island went into COR 2 on May 21, 2023.

The U.S. Coast Guard was able to supply Mobil with satellite radio communication devices which were required in order for Mobil to discharge fuel to the Hågat holding tanks.

“With the support of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, we have been working closely with FEMA and the U.S. Coast Guard to acquire the necessary communication devices to allow for fuel operations to take place,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

### Island Power Restored

Island power has been restored to Cabras Island which has allowed the Port to get back online

and resume full operations. “I want to thank John Benavente and GPA’s crew members who have been working around the clock to power up our island,” said Respicio. “The Port is the economic lifeline to the island so it is critical for us to be on island power so we can offload essential supplies as quickly as possible and release them into the community.”

### Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio makes Port visit

Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio made a visit to the Port to get a visual of the damage sustained by the facility and to thank the employees for their continued hard work and dedication to the people of Guam.

Lt. Governor Tenorio observed cargo offloading from the Matson vessel, spoke to employees at gate house and visited F1 Pier to observe fuel operations and to learn first-hand that satellite communications has been established by the USCG allowing diesel fuel to be discharged at F1 pier.



## Port Receives FEMA Radios

The Port Authority of Guam received 52 hand-held land mobile radio devices from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support cargo operations after push-to-talk services were down and employees took pen to paper going “old school” to process cargo container movement and release.

On May 31, 2023, Two Emergency Communications Programmers with FEMA spent the morning programming the radio devices, channels, and testing the units throughout Port facilities located at Cabras Island. These devices have a 1-2 mile operational radius so radio testing within Port facilities spanned from the terminal yard gatehouse along Route 11 to Hotel Wharf. The results were positive with all areas covered.

By 11:00 a.m. on May 31, 2023, Port representatives were provided an orientation on the use and capabilities of the radio devices and issued units based on their organizational and operational needs.

“The lack of communication tools hinders operations and poses a safety issue when discharging cargo,” said Respicio. “These FEMA assets are a big help as we continue to provide uninterrupted service to our island community. We are grateful for strong community partnerships that support our mission at such a critical time.”

“These devices will provide communication within the terminal yard to facilitate cargo operations,” said Respicio. “Additionally, our



information technology division was able to reconnect our system to the gatehouse allowing operations to move away from the pen-to-paper methodology and back to digital cargo clearance processes.”





## Gantry 6 Goes Back Online



On May 31, 2023, the Port Authority of Guam's Gantry crane 6 went back online having gone down as a result of water damage sustained to the trolley motor from Typhoon Mawar. The Port's crane mechanics worked tirelessly to get the crane back into operation.

"Placing Gantry 6 back online increases the

Port's cargo handling capacity and expedites the flow of critical commodities into our community," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "The Port is nearly caught up with the pre-storm vessel sequence schedule and will continue to make progress to bring the Port to its pre-storm capacity."



## Port Holds Public Hearing on 2023 Master Plan



A public hearing for the 2023 Port of Guam Master Plan was held by the Bureau of Statistics and Planning (BSP) on May 5, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Port Authority of Guam's Board Room. The public hearing was broadcast live on the agency's website and social media pages.

"The geopolitical climate in the Indo-Pacific makes it a critical time for Guam, especially for the Port Authority, as the Port must have the capacity to provide full service to ocean vessels in support of loading and unloading cargo operations while meeting the demands of the military realignment and buildup activities," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio." The updated Master Plan will modernize facilities and services while recognizing the evolving priorities of Guam's community and the Western Pacific Region."

The purpose of the 2023 Port of Guam Master Plan is to provide statutory structure to ensure that the Port continues to improve and maintain fiscally sustainable operations, promote increased awareness, and consensus on its approach among all affected stakeholders and the rate payers of Guam.

Respicio said the 2023 Port of Guam Master Plan will guide the agency over the next five to 10 years. The Plan also will allow the Port to accommodate the peak of the military buildup, support Indo-Pacific Command's Pacific Deterrence Initiative and ensure maritime posture for future deployments of military assets.

"The Port Authority of Guam is seeking funding support from the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense to acquire three new STS Gantry Cranes and to upgrade our infrastructure and facilities," Respicio

said. "The 2023 Port of Guam Master Plan will further enhance the Port's core capabilities and implement new strategies based on the agency's financial, operational and sustainability needs."

The 2023 Port of Guam Master Plan addresses the Port's challenges in its efforts to replace aged Ship-To-Shore (STS) Gantry Cranes, upgrade revenue generating wharves that are in dire need of repair, replace facilities and equipment that have exceeded their useful life span, and increase capacity in areas that will better serve commercial customers and the Department of Defense's (DOD) readiness plans in the Indo-Pacific theater. Additionally, the resiliency upgrades allow for the implementation of environmentally sustainable equipment and infrastructure, such as cargo handling equipment with emission reduction technology and vapor recovery systems at the Port's two (2) fuel facilities – Golf Pier and Pier F1, which will dramatically improve air quality as a result of cleaner operations.





## National Defense Transportation Association Conference



Pictured from L-R: Blair Garcia, WSP; Ernest Bezdek, Chairman NDTA Port Subcommittee; Gus Hein, MARAD Gateway Director for Mid-Pacific; Bill Pappe, MARAD Associate Administrator for Ports & Waterways; Rory J. Respicio, General Manager for the Port Authority of Guam; and Jose Javellana, Chief Planner for the Port Authority of Guam.

The National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) held a Surface Force Projection conference (SFPC) in Newport, Virginia on May 15 – 18, 2023. The SFPC brings together the U.S. government, industry logistics, transportation experts, and members of the Joint Logistics Enterprise (JLE), to examine a wide range of challenges associated with moving and sustaining U.S. military forces operating in and through highly contested environments to provide integrated logistics and transportation support when and where it is needed.

Participants had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions and meetings, engage with notable key speakers, moderators, subject matter experts (SMEs) and panelists to network and share lessons learned, best management practices, challenges and strategic plans to enhance seaports' capabilities to support the US Department of Defense (DOD) US Transportation Command's (USTRANSCOM) and Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

The Port Authority of Guam was initially designated the nation's 16th commercial Strategic Seaport in September 2009 and since then has been placed by the DOD under "Special Consideration" status due to its unique strategic location and importance to the DOD. This status removes Strategic Seaport requirements for the Port to provide Readiness Reporting, updates for the National Defense Study, and Port Planning



SDDC Commander Major General Gavin A. Lawrence with Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio

Order. While at the conference, Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio requested the SDDC to consider re-designating the Port back to its original designation as a commercial Strategic Seaport.



## Port Police Celebrates Police Week

The Port Authority of Guam's Port Police Division took part in celebrating Police Week alongside their fellow sworn Peace Officers from various law enforcement entities.

The weeklong celebration fittingly commenced with a Peace Officer Memorial that occurred in Hagåtña wherein uniformed officers from multiple law enforcement agencies, to include our very own Port Police officers, rendered a solemn salute in remembrance of fallen local, federal and military law enforcement officers.

As celebrations continued throughout the week, Port Police participated in a shooting competition held at Andersen Air Force Base as well as a static display held at Tiyan High School which allowed students from six separate schools to interact with our local law enforcement and community partners to better understand the service to our community each provides.



Celebrations culminated with a presentation of Certificates of Recognition to all Port Police officers for answering the call to serve and protect our community as well as appreciation for their honor, courage, and sacrifice. Officers' families received thank you notes for their support and sacrifice toward ensuring the Port Police Division is always mission ready. Additionally, each officer was presented with a Thin Blue Line Guam Flag patch, a Saint Michael Patron Saint of Police Officers' medallion and token, and a prayer to keep them safe:

*"I pray your courage outweighs your fear. I pray goodness overcomes evil. But most of all, I pray that you are always protected."*

## Honoring Our Port Police Officers



*"Thank you for your service and dedication in protecting our Port and community."  
~ Rory J. Respicio.*

Chief Jesse Mendiola	11 Yrs.	Alex L. Tithingrad	7 Yrs.
Asst. Chief Roseanna Castro	27 Yrs.	Kylie R. Maurer	6 Yrs.
Asst. Chief Victor Camacho	24 Yrs.	David John M. Untalan	6 Yrs.
Higinio M. Camacho, Jr.	27 Yrs.	Kody F. Guerrero	5 Yrs.
Eric J. Salas	22 Yrs.	Jacob Q. Iriarte	5 Yrs.
Frank J. San Nicolas	21 Yrs.	Rudolph C. Salas	5 Yrs.
David B. Esplana Jr.	19 Yrs.	Kyler J. Candoleta	2 Yrs.
Jonathan L. Aguon	17 Yrs.		
Angela M. Cabrera	17 Yrs.	<b>Armed Security Guards</b>	
Benny M. Quinata	17 Yrs.	Citadel Sablan	21 Yrs.
Therese Reyes-Manibusan	17 Yrs.	Ronald M. Laitan	17 Yrs.
Keesha Ann F. Duenas	15 Yrs.	Cassandra Rosal	8 Yrs.
Michael A.P. Franquez	15 Yrs.	Leann M. Meeks	5 Yrs.
Joy R. Quichocho-Cruz	15 Yrs.	Roy Ignacio	1 Yr.
James A. Sandlin	15 Yrs.	Cory R.A. Untalan	1 Yr.
Michael Lasiste	12 Yrs.	Jose M. Cruz	1 Mo.
Daryl M. Movida	9 Yrs.	Sirena Cepeda	> 1 Mo.

\*Combined years of service as peace officers.



## Liberation Day Parade Application Deadline

### Map of PORT Spots for Liberation Day Parade



This July marks Guam's 79th year of Liberation from the Japanese Occupation with festivities along Marine Corps Dr. celebrating the island's annual Liberation Day Parade.

The Port Authority of Guam has eleven coveted spots that it annually makes available to its Port employees. This year, the Port will be

raffling off all eleven spots. Employees interested in participating in this annual celebration are encouraged to complete the Liberation Day Space Use Application and submit it to the Commercial Division no later than **Friday, June 16, 2023**.

A lottery will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Port Board Room.

## GTA Wins Bid for Port's New Phone System

It's been more than 20 years since the Port Authority upgraded its telephone system. The existing PBX phone system was purchased in the early 1990's and generally, these systems should be replaced every five years to keep up with the latest telecommunication technology.

"Purchasing a new phone system is a wise investment for the Port Authority and replacement of the antiquated system is long overdue," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This will allow the Port to consistently keep track of calls and provide customers with prompt responses and timely callbacks."

The upgraded features of voicemail, personalized greetings, call transferring, call forwarding, along with the ability to handle high call volumes, will greatly contribute to improved customer service.

The new system acquired by the Port is a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Telephone System which makes phone calls using an internet connection rather than using a landline. Advancements and improvements in technology are making VoIP the standard means of communication for businesses that want a reliable and future-proof means of communication.



Included are 18 analog lines in case of power loss or when the internet goes down, especially during an emergency situation.

GTA was awarded the contract for one year with four one-year options to renew, upon the availability of funds.



## Port Softball Championship



The Port Authority of Guam participated in the 2023 Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) GovGuam Coed Softball League, Tasi Division. Having enough interested players to make two teams, Port employees were divided into either the Manhoben or Manâmkô' team.

The league lasted three months, culminating in a head-to-head match-up between both teams vying for the coveted first place position. The deciding championship game was held on Saturday May 13, 2023 at the Guerrero field.

With both teams equally matched, the game went 0 and 0 until the top of the 3rd inning when the Manâmkô' team scored the first run of the game and furthering their lead in the 4th inning with another seven runs. The Manhobens answered at the bottom of the 4th inning with three runs. The Manhobens, doing their best to hold the Manâmkô's down in the 5th, couldn't stop two more runs by the Manâmkô's but were able to answer with three runs of their own for a score of 10-6 Manâmkô' by the bottom of the inning.

Each team put it all on the field in a fun and friendly game that would, at the end of the day,

send both Port teams home as Co-Champions.

As the game progressed, the Manhobens fought on, scoring a total of nine runs. However, it was not enough to take the lead. The Manâmkô' team took the win, bringing home the trophy with a final score of 15-9.

Congratulations Manâmkô' team on your win! Well played.

While the Manâmkô' team brought home the Championship trophy, the Manhoben team received two trophies as well: one for runner up and another for 1st place in the regular Tasi Division season having the most wins/best record overall.

Congratulations to both teams! Way to represent our talent and skill on the field! Biba Port Strong!

Other Government of Guam departments that participated in the league's Tasi Division include: the Guam Power Authority, the Customs and Quarantine Agency, the Guam Police Department, the Department of Corrections, the University of Guam, Superior Court of Guam, and the Department of Education.





# May Photo Highlights





## May Photo Highlights Continued



## June Birthdays

**HAPPY**  
*Birthday*  
**TO YOU**

JOSE A. ULLOA, JR.  
DEVIN JESS CRUZ  
ANTONY B. LEON GUERRERO  
EARL T.L. AQUAI  
ERWIN JAN H. ADONAY  
CORRINA H.C. QUINATA  
ROBERT D. QUINATA  
JEANNIE A. MARTINEZ  
CAROL V. JENKINS  
JESSICA L. TOFT  
NATHANIEL A. DIAZ  
BETTY ANN P. WUSSTIG-PEREZ

HELEN M. MATTHEWS  
JOSHUA T. TUITUU  
MATTHEW JON L. SANDLIN  
JAMES A. SANDLIN  
FRANK J. SAN NICOLAS  
KIRIDA HA'ANI CHARFAUROS  
TROY S. PATTERSON  
TANYA L. CHARGUALAF  
VINCENT J. ASANOMA  
ALISHA R. CANDOLETA  
HIGINIO N. CAMACHO, JR.

