

# PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

JOSE D. LEON GUERRERO COMMERCIAL PORT



1026 Cabras Highway, Suite 201  
Piti, GU 96915  
Phone: (671) 477-5931/472-PORT  
Fax: (671) 477-2689  
Website: [www.portofguam.com](http://www.portofguam.com)

## News Release

### **Port assists Military in transshipment of goods for Exercise Balikatan 2009**

*SDDC Cargo will be moved through Guam on its way to Philippines*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 8, 2009**

The Port continues its efforts to serve as a strategic partner for the U.S. military as the agency assists in the movement of military cargo heading to the Philippines for the Exercise Balikatan 2009.

The cargo for use by the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) will begin arriving at the Port Authority of Guam tomorrow morning and is being shipped by Maersk Lines under a contract by the U.S. Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC). Throughout this week, the SDDC will be moving unit equipment for the Guam Army National Guard to the Republic of the Philippines for the annual Balikatan exercise.

The GUARNG cargo will be staged at the Port Authority of Guam starting tomorrow and will depart from the Port in mid-March on one of Horizon Line's vessels. The operation will involve personnel from the Port Authority of Guam, SDDC, GUARNG, Horizon Lines and Ambyth.

"This military surface deployment operation once again demonstrates the great teamwork between the Port Authority of Guam, the U.S. Military and the ocean carrier industry that occurs here on a daily basis," said Port General Manager Glenn Leon Guerrero. "We are proud partners in this effort and this movement of cargo shows how strategic the Port Authority of Guam is to our Nation, our region and our community."

Earlier this year, the Port Authority of Guam began efforts to obtain designation as a U.S. Strategic Port, recognizing its critical role for Guam and the Mariana Islands and its strategic importance to National security. This designation will benefit our local economy as well as our nation's military preparedness. If the Port is designated as a strategic port then agency will receive higher priority after applying for federal funding. The Port recently asked the Governor and Senators to solicit Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo's assistance is gaining approval from the SDDC in the quest for Strategic Designation.

The U.S. military cargo will be used by the U.S. Military in their annual exercise with military members from the Republic of the Philippines. The annual bilateral military exercise helps to enhance the military capabilities for both countries and strengthens their relationships. During Exercise Balikatan 2009, members of the U.S. Armed Forces also will take part in community-related projects during their time there, improving roads and offering medical and dental assistance to the people of the Philippine Islands.

**Contact: Port Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno**

Phone: (671) 477-5931 ext. 545 Email: [bmemo@portguam.com](mailto:bmemo@portguam.com)

NOTE TO EDITORS: MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA WISHING TO GAIN ACCESS INSIDE THE DOCKS FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF THE MILITARY CARGO BEING MOVED BY PORT, SDDC AND U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS SHOULD MEET AT PORT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AT 8:30 A.M. TOMORROW (MONDAY MORNING). PLEASE BRING YOUR PICTURE IDENTIFICATION AND WE WILL ESCORT YOU INSIDE.

For more information, please contact Port Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno at (671) 477-5931 ext. 545 or via email at [bmeno@portguam.com](mailto:bmeno@portguam.com)

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**Contact: Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno**

Phone: (671) 477-5931 ext. 300/315 e-mail: [bmeno@portguam.com](mailto:bmeno@portguam.com)