



NEWSLETTER

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Port Authority of Guam Awarded \$4.8 Million Federal Grant to Restore Critical Fuel Pier



The Port Authority of Guam was awarded a \$4.8 million federal grant under the Department of War's Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) to fund urgent structural and safety upgrades at F1 Pier, the island's sole operational fuel import terminal. The total cost of the Joint Region Marianas Pier Infrastructure Restoration Project is \$6.9 million, with the DCIP grant covering the majority of the funding.

"This grant delivers immediate, critical fixes to the only remaining fuel pier at the Port," said Rory J. Respicio, General Manager of the Port Authority of Guam. "We acknowledge our Planning and CIP/Engineering team, along with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and Vera Topasna at the Governor's Local Buildup Office, who worked closely with Steve Chung and his team at OLDCC under Patrick O'Brien to make this possible, consistent with

the One Guam approach."

The project is a direct response to the urgent need to secure Guam's energy infrastructure following Typhoon Mawar, which caused extensive damage to Golf Pier, leaving it inoperable. With Golf Pier out of service, F1 Pier now bears the entire burden of importing and offloading vital fuels that power Guam's civilian and military operations. Its current condition represents a single point of failure that threatens both the island's economy and national security.

The F1 Pier project will execute near-term structural and safety upgrades to stabilize the pier, extend its operational life, and maintain critical functionality until long-term replacement funding and construction can be secured.

F1 Pier serves as the primary offloading point for fuels including Jet Fuel, Marine Gas Oil (MGO), High

Story continues on page 2

Sulfur Fuel Oil (HSFO), Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD), and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). These fuels are essential for the operations of Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, the Guam Power Authority, the Guam International Airport, and numerous commercial distributors.

The proposed upgrades will eliminate immediate safety hazards, improve operational readiness, and ensure uninterrupted deliveries to both defense and civilian sectors for the next 5–10 years. This critical investment directly supports mission assurance, strategic mobility, and Guam's energy resilience.

"The Department of War's investment underscores a simple fact: if the Port is not ready, the military will not be ready," Respicio said. "These improvements are vital not only for readiness but also for sustaining our island and regional economies. This grant reinforces the Port's role in commerce, national security, and energy dominance by ensuring safe, reliable infrastructure that serves our island community and the region. We remain on message by presenting the facts."

Steve Chung, Pacific Readiness Senior Project Manager at the Department of Defense's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), commended the collaborative effort that made this award possible:

"This project represents a vital investment in both Guam's civilian community and our nation's defense infrastructure," said Chung. "By addressing vulnerabilities at F1 Pier, we are ensuring the uninterrupted flow of fuel necessary to support Indo-Pacific operations and strengthen supply chain resilience. The strong partnership with the Port Authority of Guam, the Governor's Office, and local stakeholders has been key to moving this critical project forward."

Guam plays a pivotal role as a hub in the Indo-Pacific region. The island is home to multiple military installations and federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, the Guam National Guard, and a major Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) fuel storage facility operated by Tristar Terminals Guam, Inc.

By ensuring F1 Pier remains stable and operational, the project protects Guam's civilian energy security while safeguarding U.S. military readiness. It also supports the regional economy by guaranteeing reliable fuel access for both government and commercial needs.

The DCIP program provides federal grants for infrastructure projects that directly enhance military value and operational readiness. The F1 Pier project exemplifies this mission by addressing urgent vulnerabilities in a facility critical to Guam's future and the defense of the Indo-Pacific.



Port Secures More Than \$1 million in FEMA Funding



The Port Authority of Guam was awarded \$1,116,368 under the Fiscal Year 2025 FEMA Port Security Grant Program to deliver near-term security upgrades at Guam's only commercial seaport. The award consists of \$987,276 in federal funding and a \$129,092 local match.

The package prioritizes physical security. Funding will install a new security barrier system at Main Gate 1 to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to restricted terminal facilities. In the event of an intended breach, the barriers are designed to stop penetration of the restricted area and reduce the risk of injury to personnel and damage to property. The grant also provides a modular floating dock system with gangway and sinkers or anchors to enhance Port Police prevention, protection, response, and recovery missions for the Port and the Territory in collaboration with U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam.

The award also strengthens the Port's cyber posture. It advances the Cyber Security Initiative and Roadmap through implementation of Active Directory, a core platform that improves user and resource security, centralizes management of network and user resources, and enables integration and scalability. In addition, the grant replaces the aging SonicWall 4600 firewall with a redundant SonicWall 5700 and provides a three-

year subscription to 24/7/365 Intrusion Detection System monitoring by the Center for Internet Security. CIS, designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, supports state, local, tribal, and territorial entities with cyber threat prevention, protection, response, and recovery services. These upgrades fulfill the Facility Security Plan Cybersecurity Annex requirement in 33 CFR 105.275 and strengthen the Port's network and system defense capabilities.

"This award brings more than one million dollars in targeted security improvements to our island's only commercial seaport," said Rory J. Respicio, General Manager of the Port Authority of Guam. "These investments strengthen the Port's perimeter and harden our cyber backbone to safeguard people, cargo, and critical missions. This progress reflects the leadership and guidance of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and the continued support of our Board of Directors. I thank FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and our Port Strong employees for their partnership and dedication to readiness."

Project activities will be implemented in phases and in accordance with federal and local procurement requirements to minimize operational impact while delivering these enhancements on schedule.

Port GM Highlights Guam's Critical Role in Indo-Pacific Logistics During the Guam Defense Forum



Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio joined military, government, and industry leaders as a panelist at the 2025 Guam Defense Forum, held September 17–18 at the Dusit Thani Hotel.

The forum, hosted by the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration and the Community Defense Liaison Office, brought together key defense leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss regional security, civil-military collaboration, and Guam's vital role in the Indo-Pacific region.

General Manager Respicio participated in Panel Discussion 9: Strengthening Guam's Defense Supply Chain and Logistics Ecosystem, alongside senior leaders from the Department of Defense, the shipping industry, and the Guam Airport Authority. The session examined Guam's role as a logistics hub for both military and civilian needs, emphasizing the importance of supply chain resilience, port modernization, secure sourcing of critical materials, and public-private partnerships.

"Guam's only commercial seaport is the entry point for more than 90 percent of the island's goods, making it a linchpin in both civilian and defense logistics," Respicio said. "This forum provided an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with our partners to ensure Guam's port infrastructure remains strong, resilient, and ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow."

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero highlighted the importance of bringing civilian and military leaders together to shape Guam's future.

"The Guam Defense Forum is about bringing our community together with defense and regional partners to ensure Guam's voice is heard in shaping the future of security in the Indo-Pacific," said Governor Leon Guerrero. "Guam is at the center of critical conversations, and we are committed to making sure those conversations reflect the priorities and values of our people."

Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio echoed this sentiment during his opening remarks at the forum.

"We are not just a staging ground or a strategic location. We are a living, breathing, and vibrant community forever tied to our land, our waters, and our way of life," said Lt. Governor Tenorio. "Our collective vision for Guam, our 'One Guam' approach, must recognize that what strengthens the defense mission must also strengthen the people who call Guam home."

Panelists included Mr. Joe Cruz, Past President of Cabras Marine; Mr. Patrick Bulaon, Vice President and General Manager of Matson, Inc.; CAPT Patrick Brown, Commander of Defense Logistics Agency Pacific; Mr. John Quinata, Executive Manager of the Guam Airport Authority; and Mr. Andrew Winternitz, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Defense Continuity and Mission Assurance.

By participating in the Guam Defense Forum, the Port Authority of Guam reaffirmed its commitment to supporting both Guam's civilian economy and the nation's defense strategy, ensuring the island remains a reliable partner and a resilient hub in the Indo-Pacific region.

Port to Kick Off 50th Anniversary Celebration with Week-Long Festivities

The Port Authority of Guam will officially launch its 50th Anniversary Celebration with a special Opening Ceremony at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 20, 2025.

This milestone year is being celebrated with the theme “Port Strong: 50 Years of Grit, Resilience, and Service Fueling Local and Regional Economies, Partnerships, and National Security.” The theme reflects the Port’s critical role as the lifeline of Guam and the region, connecting the island to global commerce while ensuring the flow of goods vital to civilian life and military readiness.

Throughout the 50th Anniversary Port Week, the Port will host a series of events to honor its history and celebrate its future. Activities will include employee and community sporting events, family-oriented gatherings, and the first-ever Maritime Resilience & Innovation Summit, where industry leaders and stakeholders will come together to discuss modernization, sustainability, and strengthening supply chain resilience for Guam and the Indo-Pacific region.

The week-long celebration will culminate with the Port Week Grand Finale Dinner at the Leo Palace Resort on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 6 p.m. The Grand Finale will highlight the Port’s journey over the past 50 years and recognize the dedicated Port Strong employees, partners, and community members who made this milestone possible.

As part of the celebration, the Port will also unveil its 50th Anniversary Legacy Book, a commemorative publication that chronicles the Port’s growth from its humble beginnings with a single pier on leased land to its current position as a modern



commercial seaport and regional hub. The Legacy Book highlights historic milestones, employee contributions, and a vision for the Port’s next 50 years of service to Guam and beyond

“From our very first days to today, the Port Authority of Guam has been defined by the grit and resilience of our Port Strong employees,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “This celebration honors their service and recognizes the Port’s vital role in fueling Guam’s economy, supporting our military partners, and connecting our island to the world.”

As Guam’s only commercial seaport, the Port Authority handles more than 90 percent of the island’s containerized and breakbulk cargo, serving more than 400,000 residents and neighboring islands. This 50th Anniversary celebration is not only a reflection of the Port’s past but also a commitment to a stronger, more sustainable, and secure future.



Congratulations *on your 50th Anniversary*

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

Håfa Adai! On behalf of the people of Guam, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Port Authority of Guam on its 50th Anniversary. This milestone honors five decades of essential service and impact. From the food in our grocery stores to the fuel that powers our cars and the supplies that stock our schools, nearly every part of life on our island is touched by the work of the Port. It is the first stop for almost everything that sustains us—and it has never missed a beat.

Through natural disasters, global supply chain disruptions, and periods of growth and modernization, the Port has remained steady, reliable, and innovative. We are proud of the major progress made over the years, from expanded infrastructure and increased operational efficiencies to national recognition for transparency and accountability. Most importantly, we are proud of the dedicated team behind the scenes whose work supports every household and business across Guam.

As we celebrate this golden anniversary, we also look to the future. Our administration remains committed to investing in the Port's continued success because we understand how vital it is to Guam's economy, security, and quality of life.

Congratulations to the Port Authority of Guam—and thank you for 50 years of service to our island.



Lou Leon Guerrero
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam



Joshua F. Tenorio
Joshua F. Tenorio
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam



Port GM Testifies in Support of Bill to Strengthen Guam's Port Security

Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio submitted testimony to the Guam Legislature in strong support of Bill No. 183-38 (COR), legislation introduced by Senator Shawn Gumataotao to give the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) additional time to finalize the design and secure funding for a long-planned Customs Satellite Inspection Facility located at the Port.

The facility, first authorized under Public Law 34-112 in 2018, is a critical project to protect Guam's borders and strengthen the island's role as a secure transshipment hub serving the region. Under the proposed bill, CQA would have two additional years, until July 2026, to complete planning and move forward with construction.

"Our seaport is the entry point for nearly all cargo arriving on Guam and throughout Micronesia," Respicio said. "This project will ensure that Customs has the infrastructure needed to inspect and secure cargo, intercept contraband, and safeguard our community before threats reach our shores. This facility is part of a broader vision for a modern, secure, and resilient Port that keeps Guam safe, competitive, and

ready for the future."

Respicio emphasized that the Port has been a committed partner from the beginning, working closely with Customs and the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration to identify and secure the four-acre site for the facility inside Port property. The Port also incorporated the project into its Master Plan and leveraged a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to fund initial planning and design.

"This project has the full backing of the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Port Board of Directors, and our federal partners," Respicio testified. "It reflects the united commitment of government and community leaders to safeguard Guam, protect commerce, and strengthen national and regional security."

Respicio noted that as Guam's only commercial seaport, the Port plays a vital role in ensuring the secure flow of goods throughout the region. By centralizing inspections and isolating potential threats, the new facility will enhance public safety, prevent dangerous drugs and contraband from entering Guam, and reinforce the readiness of the U.S. military and supply chains.



Port Police Officers Certified as Trainers in Sobriety Testing Program



Three Port Police Officers have successfully completed the Train-the-Trainer course for the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) program. Officers POII Benny Quinata, POII Jacob Iriarte, and POI Justin Cruz attended the 4-day training hosted by the Guam Police Department on September 8-11, 2025, at the Hakuboton Building in Tamuning.

The Train-the-Trainer course equips law enforcement personnel with advanced instructional techniques and specialized knowledge to effectively teach other officers the SFST procedures. The curriculum includes adult learning principles, presentation skills, and management of live alcohol workshops (wet lab), student presentations and field report writing, all designed to develop well-prepared and confident instructors.

As certified trainers, officers Quinata, Iriarte, and Cruz will now administer SFST training to other Port Police officers, strengthening the department's overall capability in enforcing impaired driving laws.

SFST is the national standard field test used by law enforcement agencies across the United States to determine whether drivers are impaired. The program follows the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA) curriculum and is funded by the federal agency through a grant administered by the Department of Public Works Highway Safety Division. The course combines classroom instruction with hands-on practice and training topics covering impairment detection, the proper administration and interpretation of sobriety tests, and field report writing.

A component of the training focused on the Horizontal and Vertical Gaze Nystagmus tests, which are vital tools for determining levels of intoxication. Practical exercises and dry runs allowed participants to refine their skills in preparation for real-world situations. The ultimate goal of the SFST program is to enhance officers' ability to identify and address impaired driving, thereby reducing DUI offenses and making Guam's roadways safer.

"We are extremely proud of Officers Quinata, Iriarte, and Cruz for completing this rigorous course and becoming certified trainers," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "Their commitment to expanding the Port Police's expertise will have a lasting impact on our department's effectiveness in addressing impaired driving. Through this training, we are advancing safety for our Port, our people and the entire island community."

Port Authority and U.S. Navy Partner to Remove Derelict Vessel



The Port Authority of Guam, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, successfully removed a derelict vessel from the Piti Channel through the Navy's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

The vessel, known as The Voyager, was originally docked at F6 but broke loose and ran aground during Typhoon Mawar in May 2023. Recognizing both the environmental and navigational hazards posed by the vessel, the Port applied to partner with the Navy through the IRT program to carry out its safe removal.

The Navy's IRT program is a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative designed to provide military personnel with real-world, hands-on training in fields such as construction, healthcare, and logistics. These missions are conducted

within the United States and its territories, giving service members the opportunity to enhance their skills while providing valuable services to local communities. The program fosters strong collaboration between military units and community partners, supporting joint projects that improve military deployment readiness while benefiting the community at large.

Initial removal efforts began on September 15, 2025, but operations were temporarily halted when the bollard securing the line to The Voyager broke off. On September 22, the Navy salvage ship USNS Salvor successfully towed the vessel back to F6.

Currently, the Navy Salvage Team and Port personnel are working together to clean the vessel. Once the cleaning process is completed, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Coast Guard will inspect The Voyager. If deemed environmentally safe, the vessel is scheduled to be towed into open waters and allowed to sink naturally on October 1, 2025.

"The removal of The Voyager is a great example of what we can accomplish through collaboration. By working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Navy, we not only helped provide valuable training for military personnel but also addressed a significant environmental and navigational concern for our Port and island community. This partnership reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting Guam's waterways and ensuring the safety of all who depend on them," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio





The Port successfully wrapped up a series of strategic stakeholder meetings held from September 22 to 26, 2025, aimed at gathering vital data and input to guide planning and modernization efforts for Guam's only commercial seaport.

The meetings were conducted in partnership with WSP, a consultant engaged to work with the Port and local stakeholders to evaluate Guam's economic development, tourism growth, and military buildup, ensuring that the Port's plans align with the island's long-term needs and opportunities.

Over the course of the week, WSP met with shipping carriers, government agencies, and economic development partners to review operational data and discuss ways to strengthen Guam's supply chain and regional trade position. These sessions included valuable discussions with APL, MEL Lines, Matson, Kyowa, the Guam

Visitors Bureau, the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and representatives from other entities.

"Bringing our stakeholders together for open discussions about our current operations and future goals is critical to ensuring the Port remains ready to meet the demands of our island and the region," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "These meetings helped us build stronger partnerships and provided a roadmap for advancing our mission of service and sustainability."

The week began with a Management In-Brief, where WSP outlined its objectives and approach, and concluded with a Management Out-Brief to present key takeaways and next steps. Topics covered included carrier operations, economic development strategies, tourism partnerships, and ways to improve operational efficiency to better serve the people of Guam.

Employee Quarterly Awards - 4th Quarter of FY 2025

Employee of the Quarter

Category 1:



Aaron Jamanila, Supply Technician I

Category 2:



Kevin Sanchez, Planner Work Coordinator



Shawn Flores, Preventative Maint. Mech.

Supervisor of the Quarter

Category 1:



Pete Castro, Jr., Supply Supervisor

Category 2:



Ronnie Sablan, Transportation Leader



Colby Santos, Cargo Checker Leader

Outstanding Work Center of the Quarter

Category 1:



General Administration Division

Category 2:



Transportation Division

Good Housekeeping Work Center of the Quarter

Category 1:



General Manager's Office

Category 2:



Maintenance Manager's Office



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September Photo Highlights



Employees from the Transportation Division successfully completed the Crane Recertification Training on September 9 and 15, 2025. The training, conducted by Island Certs, ensures employees remain certified and equipped with the latest safety and operational standards.

Labor Day Photos



Congratulations to Our New SFST Trainers



The Port Authority of Guam proudly congratulates Officers Benny Quinata, Jacob Iriarte, and Justin Cruz on successfully completing the rigorous Train-the-Trainer course for the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing program. Their dedication to enhancing their skills and strengthening the Port Police's capabilities reflects an unwavering commitment to public safety. As certified trainers, they will play a vital role in ensuring our officers are well-prepared to identify impaired driving and keep Guam's roadways safe.

October Birthdays

