NEWS RELEASE

All Three Cranes Taken Offline for Necessary Repair, Highlighting Critical Infrastructure Needs to Ensure Civilian and Military Readiness Throughput Capacity

Piti, Guam, November 14, 2023: The Port Authority of Guam announced the successful repair and return to service of all three gantry cranes. These vital pieces of critical infrastructure equipment are back online after Gantry 4 was out of service for three days (November 8th - 11th) to replace a faulty aftercooler, Gantry 5 was offline for eight days (November 3rd – 11th) due to mechanical issues that have been addressed with a genset replacement and Gantry 6 was offline for four hours (November 8th) after an electrical cable shorted and blew a fuse.

These incidents underscore the Port's pivotal role in supporting not only our island and region's commercial and economic activities, but also its critical role in military readiness in the face of looming geopolitical threats.

For the past five years since taking over, the Leon Guerrero Tenorio Administration has been working diligently to explore every possibility for the replacement of the Port's existing three aging STS gantry cranes and various yard equipment, which no plan was set in place prior to January 8, 2019.

"Our efforts have included an aggressive approach by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and even in all of our participation in national forums and face-to-face meetings with federal partners in past years," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

"We have all been proactively communicating with the Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (MARAD), FEMA, INDOPACOM, key House and Senate members, and the Joint Region Marianas emphasizing the crucial need for robust infrastructure support as a matter of commerce, economic growth and now more than ever national security with growing geopolitical tensions. The downtime experienced by all three of the port's gantry cranes serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities in throughput capacity that will impact military readiness programs."

"As a strategic asset in the national supply chain, the Port Authority of Guam, which is also a designated strategic port, plays an essential role in ensuring the effectiveness and readiness of military operations. The recent disruption of all three downed STS gantry cranes has highlighted the urgent need for the Department of Defense to consider these gaps in infrastructure elements as critical components in their operational budget and to allocate sufficient funds as mitigation efforts to safeguard against such vulnerabilities," said Respicio.

Respicio further stated, "The successful repair of the gantry cranes was achieved through the dedicated efforts of our maintenance team, whose expertise and commitment ensured minimal disruption to our vessel operations. This incident reinforces the need for a broader strategic approach to infrastructure resilience, one that integrates the requirements of national defense logistics."

Respicio concluded, "The Port of Guam remains committed to working closely with the Department of Defense and other stakeholders to ensure that our infrastructure is not only capable of supporting commercial activities but is also resilient enough to meet the demands of national security imperatives."

BACKGROUND ON THE PORT'S GANTRY CRANES

The Port's gantry cranes are more than 40 years old. They were manufactured in 1983/1984 and belonged to the Port of Los Angeles. The Port of Guam acquired the used cranes from the Port of LA and they were refurbished and brought to Guam in 2009. Based on consultant reports, they will reach the end of their expected service life and will need to be replaced next year. The acquisition of new STS gantry cranes would be the first new cranes the Port would procure in its 48 years of autonomy as past and current cranes have been second-hand equipment owned by other American ports.