

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5301

MARCH 11, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM DELEGATE JAMES MOYLAN

***“RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL MEDIA ARTICLE PERTAINING TO AN
INCREASE IN SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS ON GUAM”***

(Washington, D.C.). Based on a headlined story published in a local newspaper, I do want to emphasize that based on various briefings provided to me, there are no plans to either double or drastically increase the number of troops on-island within the next 12 to 24 months.

More importantly, there are no plans to increase the military population to 45,000 servicemembers and their dependents within the next 2 years. We want to be clear on this to alleviate any concerns from the community.

If there was a planned surge of troops, regardless of the number, this information would be protected at a minimum to the level of CUI (Controlled Unclassified Information).

If there was a planned surge of troops, regardless of the number, sharing this controlled information publicly would put Guam at risk. Known adversaries would certainly take notice and act accordingly. Thus, the control and flow of accurate information is paramount to the continued safety of our people.

The reality of an increase in the military population over the next decade is not a secret and is not one which was conceived just yesterday. Between the opening of Camp Blaz, the existence of the Missile Defense Agency, and even with the Coast Guard now having a base on island, a population growth is anticipated. While there are many scenarios, situations do change, hence no numbers are definite, and obviously these plans are protected.

More importantly, the DoD will work with local government entities to ensure that our resources are not depleted, as Guam's infrastructure is vital for both the military's readiness, and our community's survival.

In anticipation of an increase in our military population, our office has been actively engaged in the following since we took office in 2023:

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- We successfully secured \$215 million in family housing construction on Guam through the 2024 NDAA, which eases constraints on the local housing market. We look forward to pursuing the same or more, for the 2025 NDAA.
- In the upcoming NDAA we are advocating to increase the number of military homes through various routes, including 3D printing and public private partnerships through existing, yet vacant, structures. Once again, our objectives are to reduce the need for DoD to deplete homes in the local inventory.
- An extension of the H-2B visa to ensure Guam has the needed manpower to address the construction of not just military projects, but also of homes, for both the military and civilian populations. Our efforts of a 5-year extension were successful in the 2024 NDAA.
- We introduced the Typhoon Mawar Reconstruction Act, which would empower FEMA to carry out major infrastructure projects on island and make historic investments in Guam's power grid. We are also introducing this as an amendment to the 2025 NDAA to expand our approach.
- Working with FEMA on the establishment of the Guam Resiliency Plan, which would create additional federal grant programs to improve Guam's infrastructure.
- Leveraging DoD's needs to establish a partnership for much needed infrastructure in Guam, including greater focus on our roads, port, and healthcare.
- Requiring detailed plans from the Secretary of the DoD to address safety measures for the civilian community (shelters, food security, communications, etc.) in the event of the unexpected.
- Enhancing discussions on augmenting the role of the GUANG when it comes to the defense of Guam.

END OF STATEMENT