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OLDCC MEETINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO AN UNPRECEDENTED FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT

“What is needed is a commitment across the federal government to partner in shoring up the local civilian systems that are essential to supporting the multi-billion dollar investment the military is making in Guam.” – Governor Leon Guerrero

San Francisco, CA and Hagåtña, Guam — Territorial and federal leaders convened high-stakes talks here this week to manage Guam’s massive military expansion and solidify its indispensable role in Pacific defense.

The talks come against the backdrop of aligning the buildup with local infrastructure and other priorities, including social, economic, and cultural impacts of what may go down as the largest outlay of money, hard military assets and personnel in the Pacific since World War II.

The primary convening features over 100 federal participants and 57 representatives from Guam and the CNMI, marking one of the largest joint territorial-federal summits in recent history. *[A list of attendees from Guam, the CNMI, and the federal government is attached]*

“The level of federal-local engagement taking place in San Francisco this week is unprecedented,” said Acting Governor Joshua Tenorio, who has worked closely with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero for several years to lay the groundwork for these meetings.

“The federal government, which is hosting this opportunity for Guam and the CNMI to explain the financial and other impacts of the buildup, determined that the best place to meet is in San Francisco.”

While agencies from Guam will talk specifics about healthcare, utilities, roads, telecommunications-cyber security, Governor Leon Guerrero will tie it all together for federal officials across federal agencies outside the military, who may not yet understand the magnitude of the investment underway here.

She will say, in part: “Some of the pressures discussed today would have developed over time as Guam grew. But not at this pace, not at this scale, and not with this concentration. The buildup has accelerated the timetable.

Guam will carry its share. But a community of our size simply cannot finance, through its tax base alone, a \$5 billion necessity—and we certainly can’t do it with the speed required to support a national defense mission of this magnitude.”

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Editor’s Note: These meetings are taking place at the Hawthorne Plaza in San Francisco; in secure office space on floors occupied by the federal government that are not open to the general public for walk-in. Documented appointments or official federal business is required to enter.

The Communications team at the Office of the Governor is coordinating to provide audio, still photos, and videography for local release in Guam.