



# FROM CAPITOL HILL ACROSS THE AGENCIES

“TO ADVANCE OUR PEOPLE’S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH STABLE, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNANCE”



## CJMT PLANNING IN MOTION: STRENGTHENING CNMI’S POSITION

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training (CJMT) discussions continue as agencies and officials prepare for the upcoming Quarterly CNMI Stakeholders Meeting. Two recent CNMI Planning Meetings, held on January 27 and February 25, focused on reviewing the revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) anticipated in May. These sessions provided an opportunity to address questions and concerns, as well as to develop a unified CNMI-wide presentation for the stakeholders meeting. The goal is to ensure that the collective voices of the CNMI are heard, understood, and supported through a collaborative approach. Various government agencies, mayors, representatives, and invited stakeholders participated, reinforcing the importance of teamwork in addressing the region’s interests.

## OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PARTNERS WITH VBA BENEFITS COUNSELOR TO ASSIST VETERANS

The Office of Veterans Affairs is actively working with Mr. Willie Peterson, the CNMI’s Saipan-based Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Benefits Counselor, to provide Veterans with the support they need in navigating their benefits claims. With his expertise and dedication, Mr. Peterson is highly effective in moving claims forward, ensuring that Veterans receive the benefits they have earned. Veterans can schedule an appointment with Mr. Peterson through multiple convenient options. For more information or to book a consultation, please contact the Office of Veterans Affairs. Help spread the word—encourage Veterans in our community to take advantage of this valuable resource!

**TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT  
GO TO**  
<https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>  
 Or scan the QR Code:




## HOPWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENS NEW MODULAR CAMPUS

On February 14, 2025, the Public School System in collaboration with the Public Assistance Office under the Office of the Governor celebrated the ribbon-cutting of Hopwood Middle School’s newly built 20-classroom modular building. This marks a significant step forward in restoring Hopwood after its devastation by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. With the full rebuild set for completion in 18 months, the future of Hopwood looks brighter than ever.



## FCC SPECIALTY CLINIC RIBBON-CUTTING ENHANCES HEALTHCARE ACCESS

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) proudly celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new FCC Specialty Clinics on February 13, 2025. This milestone marks a significant step forward in enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the CNMI. The clinic, initially offering cardiology and occupational therapy services, represents a key development in expanding access to specialized medical care for the residents of the Commonwealth.





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## HSEM HOSTS SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING FOR LOCAL AGENCIES

On February 20-21, 2025, the CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) hosted the Social Media Engagement Strategies (PER-343) and Social Media Tools and Techniques (PER-344) training at Pacific Islands Club (PIC).

The training welcomed 27 participants from government agencies, private sector organizations, and NGOs. PER-343 focused on social media engagement strategies, covering content creation, audience engagement, and effectiveness measurement. PER-344 provided intermediate-level training on messaging strategies, situational awareness during emergencies, and advanced content creation tools.

For more information on HSEM trainings, contact Mr. Dave Pangelinan at [dpangelinan@cnmihsem.gov.mp](mailto:dpangelinan@cnmihsem.gov.mp).

## SAIPAN CONDUCTS WIDESPREAD PFAS SAMPLING TO ENSURE WATER SAFETY

From February 10 to 14, 2025, environmental experts conducted an island-wide sampling at 125 locations across Saipan to test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in local drinking water. Led by teams from the U.S. EPA, ERG, and BECQ, with support from local water system staff, the initiative aims to ensure water safety. Samples will be analyzed using EPA Method 533 to detect PFAS, known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence and health risks. The analysis will provide important data on PFAS levels, helping officials implement effective measures to protect public health. Results will help guide future safety measures and inform residents about any necessary actions. Residents are encouraged to stay informed through BECQ or the EPA.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8th, 2025  
Women's Month Mini Cultural Festival  
NMI Museum  
8AM - 6PM

March 22nd, 2025  
Women's Awesome Walkathon  
Eloy S. Inos Peace Park

March 31st, 2025  
Child Neglect Awareness Proclamation  
Dandan Middle School, 10AM

Autism Awareness Month Proclamation  
Location TBA, 2PM



## OGM'S RELIEF EFFORTS CONTINUE ON OUR SISTER ISLAND, TINIAN

On February 22, 2025, the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse (OGM) carried out a successful Community Relief Initiative at the Tinian Youth Center, providing much-needed support to residents. A total of 500 sacks of 50-lb rice bags were distributed, with priority given to the manamko and veterans of the community. This initiative highlights OGM's commitment to assisting those in need and strengthening community resilience. The next relief effort is set to take place in Rota, continuing the mission of providing essential aid to the people of the CNMI.

