A Report to Our Citizens
Guam Veterans Affairs
Fiscal Year 2015

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Our Mission
To ensure that all Veterans and their dependents are well informed on their possible benefits under Title 38, U.S. Code of Veterans Benefits, a codification of laws under the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our Vision
To improve the quality of health care services to all veterans and to assist all veterans with other benefits or privileges to which they are entitled to by reason of their service in the Military.

Our Strategic Goals
- Continue Outreach Programs
- Work continuously to improve the Guam Veterans Cemetery
- Expansion of the Guam Veterans Cemetery

Our Functions
- Interview and counsel veterans and dependents on their benefit claims.
- Coordinate with respective military branches of service for military honors for deceased veterans.
- Do home and hospital visits on disabled veterans and dependents.

About Us
The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs was established under Public Law 17-25 (III: II Chapter 67) and operates under the Office of Maga ‘Iahen Guåhan or U.S. Veterans Affairs. Our agency is accountable in enforcing all local laws pertaining to the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Our service is for the current and former members of the United States Armed Forces and/or their families. Our agency is responsible for assisting every veteran of Guam and their dependents or survivor of every veteran of Guam. We prepare claims for health care services, benefits programs and process access to the Guam Veteran’s Cemetery to former military personnel and their dependents. We carry out our duties through two main sections: Benefits Section, and Cemetery and Burial Section.

The periods of military service are defined by time period, as follows:
- Gulf War (Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts): September 2001 or later.
- Vietnam Era: February 1961 to April 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period, or August 1964 to April 1975 for all other cases.
- World War II: December 1941 to December 1946.
- Pre-World War II only: November 1941 or earlier.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guam Population (est.)</td>
<td>165,121</td>
<td>167,543</td>
<td>169,989</td>
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<tr>
<td>GovGuam Employment (March)</td>
<td>11,660</td>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>11,760</td>
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<td>Unemployment Rate (March)</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
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Our Performance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</th>
<th>FY13</th>
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<tr>
<td>Driver license fee renewal waiver</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans license plates</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>Counseling and Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services-Connected Disability Claims</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>484</td>
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<td>VA Health Care Benefits</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Pensions Applications</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>GI Bill Education and Training</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Life Insurance</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burial and Memorial Benefits</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Dependents and Survivors Benefits</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Appeals of VA Claims Decision</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Military Medals and Records</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Referral Services</td>
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<td>Vocational Rehab and Employment</td>
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<td>Transition Assistance</td>
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<td>Assistance with Military Records</td>
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<td>Corrections</td>
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<td>Certification of VA Income</td>
<td>40</td>
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</table>

Our Office of Veterans Affairs, State Agency, is committed to serve all of our veterans and their dependents. In an effort to provide quality service, our office comprised of the following:

Administrative Section

Responsible for the daily administrative operation of the office to include personnel, budget and serve as the support staff for the office.

Benefits Section

Accredited to prepare, present, and prosecute claims before the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) or the Board of Veterans' Appeals. All claims processed have to be submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Honolulu Hawaii for adjudication.

Cemetery and Burial Section

Responsible for coordinating with the respective branches of service for burial honors and interment for all deceased veterans and eligible department at the Guam Veterans Cemetery. This section is responsible for ordering head markers and update the directory of all burials.

What would you like to see reported on in this page? Please let us know by contacting Liah Concepcion at conceplj@gmail.com.
For FY 2015, our agency’s total appropriation was $957,487 and total expenditures were $612,316. This means that 37% of their budget was not spent. Total appropriation for FY 2014 was $681,538 and total expenditures were $573,425. A 16% of the budget was not used. Therefore, in comparison to the prior fiscal year, our budgets for expenditures were more accurate in FY 2014.

An increase of 40% in appropriations in FY 2015 were due to passing of Bill No. 306-32 for the implementation of Guam Veterans Registry and became Public Law 32-210.

This additional funds was spent in hiring additional personnel, purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, and other expenditures related to sustaining Guam Veterans Registry.

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Guam Veterans Affairs Expenditures

- **Regular Salary**: 79%
- **Utilities**: 15%
- **Travel**: 2%
- **Contract**: 0.5%
- **Supplies**: 2.5%

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Guam Veterans Affairs is included in the GovGuam-Wide Financial Statement. Audited financial statements may be viewed at www.opaguam.org.
Progress & Outlook  
Moving Forward

Progress

Since the increase of the Guam Office of Veteran Affairs funds, we have been working on projects and improvements to better serve our veterans.

Some of the projects and improvements:

- Established a Directory and a website
- Installed new signs at the Naftan location
- Installed a handicap restroom on the 1st floor of the office building
- Allocated all service support staff to the 1st floor of the office building

Outlook

The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs will continue to improve on infrastructure and services to better serve our veterans.

- Improve the Guam Veterans Affairs website
- Improve and expand the Guam Veterans Cemetery infrastructure
- Expand the Guam Veterans Affairs office building
- Repair the sewer system in the Guam Veterans Affairs office building

Upcoming Events

Run as One

When: April 16, 2016 at 6 a.m.
Where: starts at the parking lot by Guam USO/Royal Orchid Hotel Tumon.

Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony

When: May 30, 2016
Where: Veterans Cemetery in Piti

Veterans Day Ceremony

When: November 11, 2016
Where: Governor's Complex in Adelup