

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**APPOINTMENTS**

DOCUMENT NO.	APPOINTEE	POSITION	AGENCY	APPT. DATE	TERM LENGTH	DATE REFERRED	COMMITTEE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	SESSION DATE	DATE CONFIRMED	NOTES
37GL-23-0807	Michael W. Cruz	The Adjutant General Director	Guam National Guard Department of Military Affairs	7/28/23	To serve at the pleasure of the Governor	8/2/23	Committee on Emergency Response, Military and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors Council	9/29/23 2:00 p.m.	11/29/23 10:01 a.m.			



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

November 28, 2023

**The Honorable Therese M. Terlaje**

Speaker

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

*Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

**VIA: The Honorable Chris Barnett** *DUB*  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**RE: Committee Report on the Appointment of Michael W. Cruz**

*Håfa adai* Speaker Terlaje,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on the appointment of **Michael W. Cruz** to serve as the **Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard** of the **Department of Military Affairs**, which was referred to the **Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam**.

Committee votes are as follows:

- 8 TO DO CONFIRM
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO NOT CONFIRM
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO ABSTAIN
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE



**COMMITTEE ON RULES**

**Received:**

November 28, 2023 12:40 p.m.

*Kamarin Nelson*

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'*

Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas

Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

# **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Nomination of**

**Michael W. Cruz**

**As the Adjutant General, Director, Guam National  
Guard of the Department of Military Affairs**

**by Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas**



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**

Chairperson

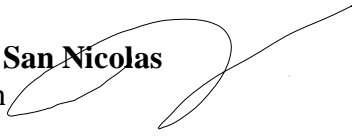
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

October 04, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** **All Members**  
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans  
Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

**FROM:** **Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas**  
Committee Chairperson 

**SUBJECT:** **Committee Report on the Appointment of Michael W. Cruz**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration in the Committee Report on the appointment of **Michael W. Cruz** to serve as the **Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard** of the **Department of Military Affairs**, which was referred to the **Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam**.

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of the Appointment
- Copy of the Appointment Letter to the Speaker
- Copy of the Appointment Packet & Supporting Documents
- Notices of Public Hearing & Other Correspondence
- Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Written Testimony & Supporting Documents
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

  
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas  
Committee Chairperson

Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, 96910, Guam.  
Phone Number (671) 989-4400 or via email: [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

*37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

August 2, 2023

**To:** **Joaquin P. Taitague**  
Substitute Clerk of the Legislature

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**  
Legislative Legal Counsel

**From:** **Senator Chris Barnett** *DUB*  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Subject:** **Referral of Appointment**

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*Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!*

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §9.01, Rule IX of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of the following appointment:

**Appointee:** **Michael W. Cruz**

**Position:** **The Adjutant General, Director**

Please refer the following document:

“**Doc. No. 37GL-23-0807** – Office of the Governor – Appointment and Supporting Documents for Michael W. Cruz, The Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs.”

Ensure the appointment is referred to the Committee on Emergency Response, Military and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors Council chaired by Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas. I also request that the same be forwarded to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin J.A. Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

July 28, 2023

37GL-23-0807  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
THERESE M. TERLAJE

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje  
Speaker  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

-07-31-2023

Time: 11:51am  
Received: [Signature]

**RE: Appointment**

*Hafa Adai* Madame Speaker:

By virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam and the applicable local laws, 10 GCA § 69201, I am pleased to transmit the following appointment and supporting documents:

APPOINTEE: Michael W. Cruz  
POSITION: The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard

The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Please schedule a hearing at your earliest convenience.

*Senseramente,*

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam



37GL-23-0807  
Messages and Communications  
RECEIVED  
Committee on Rules  
July 31, 2023  
12:32 p.m.  
Beatrice Cruz

cc: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, Lt. Governor of Guam

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
Governor



**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
Lieutenant Governor

*Revised*  
*7/18/23*

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM Nomination and Appointment Information Sheet

The following information is required for submission to the  
Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan in accordance with Title 4, Guam Code Annotated Section 2103

### NOMINEE INFORMATION

<b>Last Name</b> Cruz	<b>First Name</b> Michael	<b>Middle Initial</b> W.
<b>Mailing Address</b> [REDACTED]		<b>Apartment/Unit #</b>
<b>City</b> [REDACTED]	<b>State</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Zip Code</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Phone</b> [REDACTED]	<b>E-mail Address</b> [REDACTED]	
<b>Position to which Appointment is Made</b> The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard/ Director, Department of Military Affairs		
<b>Are you a citizen of the United States?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If no, are you authorized to work in the United States?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

### EDUCATION

SCHOOL (Name, City and State)	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	TYPE OF DEGREE	YEAR EARNED
<b>High School</b>			
<b>College</b> Walla Walla University 204 S College Ave. College Place WA 99324	September 1976 - June 1980	Bachelor of Science in Biology	1980
<b>Graduate School</b> Loma Linda University School of Medicine 11130 Anderson St Loma Linda CA 92350	July 1980 - June 1984	Doctor of Medicine	1984
<b>Other Degree</b> The Heller School of Social Policy & Management of Brandeis University	January 2018 - May 2019	Master's in Business Admin (MBA)	2019

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

<b>Name of Present/Last Employer and Mailing Address</b> Guam Army National Guard 430 Army Drive. Bldg. 300 Rm. 113 Barrigada, Guam 96913-4421	<b>Position Title</b> Various positions
	<b>Dates Held</b> September 1996- Present

<b>Previous Employer and Mailing Address</b> Blue Continent Healthcare 133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929	<b>Position Title</b> Executive Director
	<b>Dates Held</b> January 2022- Present

<b>Previous Employer and Mailing Address</b> Guam Regional Medical City 133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929	<b>Position Title</b> President & Chief Executive Officer
	<b>Dates Held</b> November 2018- January 2022

<b>Previous Employer and Mailing Address</b> Island Surgical Center 171 Farenholt Ave. Tamuning, Guam 96913	<b>Position Title</b> General Surgeon
	<b>Dates Held</b> March 2004- December 2020

<b>Previous Employer and Mailing Address</b> Guam Regional Medical City 133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929	<b>Position Title</b> President & Chief Operating Officer
	<b>Dates Held</b> June 2016- November 2018

## PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE

<b>Agency or Department Name</b> Executive Branch		<b>Position Title</b> Lt. Governor
<b>Address</b> 513 West Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, GU 96910	<b>Phone No.</b> (671) 472- 8931	<b>Dates Held</b> 2006- 2010

<b>Agency or Department Name</b> Guam Legislature		<b>Position Title</b> Senator
<b>Address</b> 155 Hesler Pl, Hagatna, GU 96910	<b>Phone No.</b> (671) 472- 3455	<b>Dates Held</b> 2004- 2006



**PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE (EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT OF GUAM)**

<b>Agency or Department Name</b> Guam Memorial Hospital		<b>Position Title</b> Medical Director	
<b>Address</b> 850 Gov Carlos G Camacho Rd. Tamuning, GI		<b>Phone No.</b> (671) 647- 2555	<b>Dates Held</b> 1993- 1998

<b>Agency or Department Name</b> Guam Memorial Hospital		<b>Position Title</b> Surgeon	
<b>Address</b> 850 Gov Carlos G Camacho Rd. Tamuning, GI		<b>Phone No.</b> (671) 647- 2555	<b>Dates Held</b> 1993- Present

**TRAINING**

<b>INSTITUTE/SEMINARS/ON-THE-JOB TRAINING</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Please see resume attached.	

**AWARDS**

<b>List all educational, professional, civic awards, and recognition for public service:</b>
Please refer to resume for all awards.

**PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

<b>List involvement on a local/national/international level. List organizations, activities participated in, and offices held:</b>
Please see resume attached.

### COMMUNITY / CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

*List organizations, activities participated in, and offices held:*

Co-Founder & President of the Ayuda Foundation  
\* A Non-Profit Medical Missions Foundation, 1995- Present

### PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

*List any published articles, papers delivered at professional meetings, etc.:*

### MILITARY SERVICE (Please attach Form DD-214)

BRANCH	DATES OF SERVICE	RANK AT DISCHARGE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE
Guam Army National Guard	Various dates	N/A	N/A

### OTHER INFORMATION

(1) Have you ever been found guilty of a felony in any court, whether within or without the United States?

Yes  No  If so, please specify in detail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of the Court: N/A

Date(s) of Conviction: N/A

Specific Infraction Committed: N/A

(2) Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent by any court, whether within or without the United States?

Yes  No  If so, please specify in detail the reasons and facts related to such declaration:

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(3) Have you ever been found not guilty or not punishable in any criminal proceedings by reason of insanity?

Yes  No

(4) Have you ever been confined to a mental institution for any reason?

Yes  No  If so, please specify in why the appointing authority believes you that you are not suffering from any mental illness or affliction:

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**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
Governor



**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
Lieutenant Governor

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM**

**Statement of Financial Interests**

(Required by 4 G.C.A. §13104.1)

TO: The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
Governor of Guam  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex  
Adelup, Guam 96910

FROM: Michael W. Cruz

- I have no financial interest in any business
- I do have interest(s) in the following business(es):

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BUSINESS INTEREST	TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INTEREST
Rental Business [Redacted]	Home Rental partnership with wife


  
Signature

04.18.23  
Date

**AFFIDAVIT / DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY**

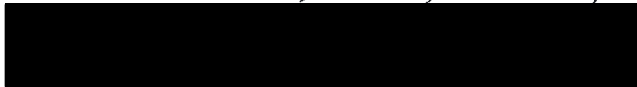
I, the undersigned, do hereby depose and say that: (1) I have read and reviewed the information contained in the attached Appointment/Nomination letter from the Governor of Guam; (2) that the matters contained in the Appointment/Nomination letter, together with all attachments thereto, are true and correct and that I am competent to testify to said matters; and (3) that this Declaration is made for the purpose of complying with the requirements of 4 G.C.A. Section 2103.5.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Guam (4 G.C.A. Section 4308) that the foregoing is true and correct.

MICHAEL W. CRUZ  
Print Name and Signature 

09.18.23  
Date

# Michael W. Cruz, MD, MBA, FACS



## PERSONAL DATA:

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Director, March 2023 – Present  
Department of Military Affairs  
430 army Drive, Bldg 300, Rm. 113 Barrigada, Guam 96913-4421

Executive Director, January 2002 – Present  
Blue Continent Healthcare  
133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929

## EDUCATION

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Bachelor of Science in Biology, June 1980  
Walla Walla University  
204 S College Ave, College Place, WA 99324

Doctor of Medicine, June 1984  
Loma Linda University School of Medicine  
11130 Anderson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92350

Master's in Business Administration (MBA), May 2019  
The Heller School for Social Policy & Management Brandeis University  
415 South St MSC 035, Waltham, MA 02453

General Surgery Residency, July 1984- June 1989  
Pontiac General Hospital  
461 West Huron Street Pontiac, MI 48341

## BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

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Diplomate National Board of Medical Examiners

Certified by the American Board of Surgery in 1992-2002

Current Certification in Surgery by the National Board of Physicians & Surgeons

## STATE LICENSES

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Guam, Active

Michigan, California (Inactive)

## WORK HISTORY

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General Surgeon, July 1989- March 1992  
FHP Hospital, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

General Surgeon, April 1992- June 1999  
The Doctor's Clinic, 851 Governor Camacho Rd, Tamuning, Guam 96913

Chief Medical Officer, May 1993- June 1998  
Guam Memorial Hospital, 850 Governor Camacho Rd. Tamuning, Guam 96913

Chairman, Department of Surgery, September 2010- January 2014  
Guam Memorial Hospital, 850 Governor Camacho Rd. Tamuning, Guam 96913

Chief Medical Officer, January 2014- May 2016  
Guam Regional Medical City, 133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929

President & Chief Operating Officer, June 2016- November 2018  
Guam Regional Medical City, 133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929

General Surgeon, March 2004- December 2020  
Island Surgical Center, 171 Farenholt Ave. Tamuning, Guam 96913

President & Chief Executive Officer, November 2018- January 2022  
Guam Regional Medical City  
133 Rt. 3 Dededo, Guam 96929

Guam Army National Guard, September 1996- Present  
430 Army Drive, Bldg. 300 Rm. 113 Barrigada, Guam 96913-4421

#### CREDENTIALS

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Active Medical Staff Member, General Surgeon  
Guam Regional Medical City: 2014- Present  
133 Rt.3 Dededo, Guam 96929

- Hours spent in direct patient care per week: 6- 8 hours.
- Days spent in direct patient care per week: 2-3 days.

Currently Credentialed, General Surgeon  
Guam Radiology Consultants: October 2020- Present  
171 Farenholt Avenue Tamuning, Guam 96913

- Hours spent in direct patient care per week: 4- 6 hours.
- Days spent in direct patient care per week: 2- 3 days.

Currently Credentialed, General Surgeon  
Guam Memorial Hospital: 1993- Present  
850 Governor Camacho Rd. Tamuning, Guam 96913

- Hours spent in direct patient care per week: None due to Covid-19, GMH is not accepting elective cases until further notice.
- Days spent in direct patient care per week: None due to Covid-19, GMH is not accepting elective cases until further notice.

Currently Credentialed, General Surgeon  
Guam Surgery Center: 2019- Present  
633 Governor Camacho Rd. Tamuning, Guam 96913

- Hours spent in direct patient care per week: 1-2 hours.
- Days spent in direct patient care per week: 2-3 days.

#### MEDICAL SOCIETY & ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Fellow, American College of Surgeons  
Member, American College of Healthcare Executives  
Member, American College of Breast Surgeons

Former member of the Guam Board of Medical Examiners  
Former member of the Board of Directors, Mountain Pacific Quality Health

ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

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Lieutenant Governor of Guam  
January 2007- January 2010

Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
January 2004- December 2007  
Chairman, Health & Human Services Committee

COMMUNITY/HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

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Co-Founder & President of the Ayuda Foundation  
A Non-Profit Medical Missions Foundation, 1995 to Present

HUMANITARIAN/CIVILIAN HONORS & AWARDS

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National Governor's Association Award 2004 for Distinguished Service to State  
Government

C-Change: Collaborating to Conquer Cancer Award 2009, presented by Former President  
of the United States, George H. Bush

American College of Surgeons, Surgical Volunteerism Awardee for 2011  
Walla Walla University, Alumnus of the Year 2011

MILITARY SERVICE

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CPT, General Surgery Resident  
323<sup>rd</sup> General Hospital (USAR)  
Southfield, Michigan 48034

CPT, General Surgeon  
US Army Reserve  
Los Alamitos, California 90720

CPT, General Surgeon  
Operation Desert Shield/Storm  
Raymond W. Bliss Army Medical Hospital  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

MAJ, Battalion Surgeon  
HHHC, 1-294 Infantry Regiment (Light)  
430 Army Drive Barrigada, Guam 96921

LTC, Commander  
Medical Detachment, Guam Army National Guard  
Fort Juan Tamuning, Guam 96913

COL, State Surgeon  
Guam National Guard Readiness Center  
430 Army Drive Barrigada, Guam 96921



COL, General Surgeon  
Operation Iraqi Freedom  
1<sup>st</sup> Forward Surgical Team/28th Combat Support Hospital Baghdad, Iraq

COL, Officer in Charge  
RAM-T (Rapid Action Medical Team)  
CJTF-7 Green Zone Baghdad, Iraq  
COL, Senior Surgeon  
Medical Detachment, Guam Army National Guard  
Fort Juan Muna Tamuning, Guam 96913

COL, Battalion Surgeon  
1-221 CAV  
Task Force Wildhorse  
FOB Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan  
Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan

COL, Assistant Adjutant General & State Surgeon  
Guam Army National Guard  
Joint Forces Headquarters-Guam  
430 Army Drive Barrigada, Guam 96913

MILITARY AWARDS/MEDALS

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Bronze Star Medal-Operation Iraqi Freedom

Combat Medical Badge-Operation Enduring Freedom

Multiple other military decorations & awards



# GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION

## Kumision Eleksion Guåhan

Your VOTE is your voice. • BOTA ya un ma'kuenta.



April 25, 2023

Brigadier General Michael Cruz  
Adjutant General  
Guam National Guard

RE: Financial Disclosure Statement, Request for Filing Extension Approved

Hafa Adai Adjutant General Cruz:

Si Yu'os ma'åse' for your request for an extension received on April 22, 2023. Pursuant to 4 GCA § 13103, **you are hereby granted an extension** of not more than one hundred eighty (180) days to file your Financial Disclosure Statement with the Guam Election Commission. Your report for Calendar Year 2022 is due no later than the close of business on **Friday, October 20, 2023**.

Please let us know if you require additional information or assistance. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

Sinscramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "THAS AGUSTIN", written over a horizontal line.

THOMAS H. SAN AGUSTIN  
Acting Executive Director



# SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center | 120 West O'Brien Drive | Hagåtña, Guam 96910 | (671) 475-3370 | Fax: (671) 475-0078

Name: **MICHAEL W. CRUZ**

Driver's License # [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

## CERTIFICATE OF SEARCH

The undersigned Clerk hereby certifies the following results of a diligent search of the records of this Court:

**Criminal Cases:**  
**No Cases Found**

**Civil Cases:**

Request for further information may be addressed at the Records Division of the Superior Court of Guam, Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, Guam. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Sundays and local/federal holidays. **Court Clearances are Non-Refundable.**

Dated: 07/20/2023

Sophia Santos Diaz  
Clerk of Court

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk II

Prepared by: Alfred Santos



The absence of an  
Original Court Seal  
Invalidates this  
document. 3011



Note that the Legislature has taken steps to ensure that any protected personal identifying information has been redacted or excluded in whole or in part in order to protect the privacy of any individual(s) whose information has been included as part of this transmittal.

Government of Guam

**GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
RECORDS & IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

P.O. Box 23909  
Guam Main Facility, Guam 96921



July 19, 2023

**SUBJECT: CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD**

<b>NAME:</b>	Michael Warren CRUZ		
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>FINGERPRINT#:</b>	[REDACTED]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The individual has no record of criminal conviction(s) in the Guam Police Department files that are subject to Guam law.		

\*\*\*\*\*NOTHING FOLLOWS\*\*\*\*\*

*THIS INFORMATION MAY BE LIMITED TO A LOCAL CRIMINAL OFFENSE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE FOR ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.*

11

By Direction: priscilla

*(Signature)*

**STEPHEN C. IGNACIO**  
Chief of Police

The absence of an original GUAM POLICE seal invalidates this police clearance.  
REVISED 04/26/19



Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

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**FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

2 messages

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Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 4:28 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org  
Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, Guam MIS <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com, michael.w.cruz4.mil@army.mil, karantina.v.duenas.nfg@army.mil, joseph.b.aquino.mil@army.mil

September 19, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

**FROM: Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**

**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam will convene a confirmation hearing and a public hearing on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room. The Committee will hear and accept testimonies on the following:

**Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs**

**Bill No. 170-37 (COR)** Sponsor(s) - Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 79607 TO ARTICLE 6 OF CHAPTER 79, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE INDEPENDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF GUAM TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT HONORING THE SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) SONS OF GUAM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND ALL VIETNAM VETERANS IN SERVICE OF OUR ISLAND AND COUNTRY.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas via electronic mail at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) or call (671) 989-4400 no later than **September 28, 2023** for guidance.

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact and submit their request to Ms. Ursula Cruz or Mr. Ray T. Bonita at the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas at STE 407 DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, Guam, by phone at (671) 989-4400, or by email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org).

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed. A recording of the hearings will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Public Hearing to provide testimony may contact the Office of Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas at (671) 989-4400 or via email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) no later than **September 28, 2023** for further guidance.

We are looking forward to your participation!

Respectfully,  
Ray T. Bonita  
Senior Policy Analyst



**Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**  
*Committee on Emergency Response, Military and  
Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors  
Council*

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 37th  
Guam Legislature

**Telephone:** 671-989-4400

**Email:** [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)

**Website:** [senatorsannicolas.com](http://senatorsannicolas.com)

**Address:** DNA Building STE 407/408

238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna, Guam 96910

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**2 attachments**



**First Notice Public Hearing (Gen. Michael Cruz)-signed.pdf**

48K



**Bill No. 170-37 (COR).pdf**

1520K

**Ed Pocaigue** <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 4:38 PM

To: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

Hafa Adai=)

Noted and Posted on Calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]

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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*

**Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.**  
Sergeant at Arms

37th Guam Legislature  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Tel: (671) 969-3514

Email: [sgtarms@guamlegislature.org](mailto:sgtarms@guamlegislature.org)

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**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

September 19, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

**FROM: Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**

**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam will convene a confirmation hearing and a public hearing on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room. The Committee will hear and accept testimonies on the following:

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**Bill No. 170-37 (COR)** Sponsor(s) - Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 79607 TO ARTICLE 6 OF CHAPTER 79, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE INDEPENDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF GUAM TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT HONORING THE SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) SONS OF GUAM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND ALL VIETNAM VETERANS IN SERVICE OF OUR ISLAND AND COUNTRY.





**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na LiheSlaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas via electronic mail at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) or call (671) 989-4400 no later than **September 28, 2023** for guidance.

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact and submit their request to Ms. Ursula Cruz or Mr. Ray T. Bonita at the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas at STE 407 DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, Guam, by phone at (671) 989-4400, or by email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org).

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We are looking forward to your participation!

Respectfully,

Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Chairperson

# FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday –  
September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING



- ❑ Posted on: 09/19/2023 04:28 PM
- ❑ Posted by: Ray Bonita, Senior Policy Analyst
- ❑ Public Hearing Date: 09/29/2023 02:00 PM
- ❑ Department(s):  
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)
- ❑ Division(s):  
OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS (/notices?division\_id=287)
- ❑ Notice Topic(s): PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)
- ❖ Types of Notice: PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)
- ❑ For Audience(s): PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)
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September 19, 2023

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Bill No. 170-37 (COR)

([http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_37th/Bill%20No.%20170-37%20\(COR\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_37th/Bill%20No.%20170-37%20(COR).pdf)) Sponsor(s)

- Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata

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We are looking forward to your participation!

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**SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**  
 COMMITTEE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE, BORDER SAFETY, MILITARY & VETERANS  
 AFFAIRS, MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM  
 I MINATRENTAL SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 37TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & AGENDA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AT 2:00 PM**

The Committee will convene a confirmation hearing and a public hearing on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room. The Committee will hear and accept testimonies on the following:

**Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs**

**Bill No. 170-37 (COR) Sponsor(s) - Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata**  
**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 79607 TO ARTICLE 6 OF CHAPTER 79, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE INDEPENDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF GUAM TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT HONORING THE SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) SONS OF GUAM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND ALL VIETNAM VETERANS IN SERVICE OF OUR ISLAND AND COUNTRY.**

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The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. A recording of the hearings will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

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Website: [www.senatorsannicolas.com](http://www.senatorsannicolas.com)

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## **SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

1 message

Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

Wed, Sep 27, 2023 at 10:04

AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, Guam MIS <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com

September 27, 2023

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

**FROM: Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**

**SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

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Ray T. Bonita  
Senior Policy Analyst



**Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**  
*Committee on Emergency Response, Military and  
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I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 37th  
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## 2 attachments

 **Second Notice Public Hearing (Gen. Michael Cruz) DSN-signed.pdf**  
48K

 **Bill No. 170-37 (COR).pdf**  
1520K





**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
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*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

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Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
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*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Lihešlaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

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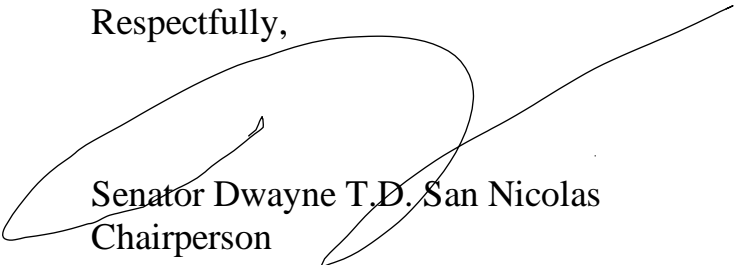
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Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Chairperson

# SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday – September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Friday –  
September 29, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING



- ❑ Posted on: 09/27/2023 10:04 AM
- ❑ Posted by: Ray Bonita, Senior Policy Analyst
- ❑ Public Hearing Date: 09/29/2023 02:00 PM
- ❑ Department(s):  
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)
- ❑ Division(s):  
OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS (/notices?division\_id=287)
- ❑ Notice Topic(s): PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)
- ❖ Types of Notice: PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)
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September 27, 2023

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**SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

**OVERSIGHT HEARING  
Friday, September 29, 2023  
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room**

9:00A.M.

Department of Revenue and Taxation - Tax Collection and Enforcement Activities and Capacity

Testimony on this oversight hearing should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, via email to office@senatorperez.org, no later than Friday, October 6th, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 986-2988. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!



**GUAM HOUSING CORPORATION**

The Guam Housing Corporation Board of Directors will hold its Regular Meeting on Friday, September 29, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the GEDA Conference Room, 5th Floor, ITC Building. This meeting is open to the public via Zoom and can be viewed live via GHC's Facebook page (see links below).

**Topic:** GHC Regular BOD Meeting

**Time:** Sep 29, 2023, 12:00 PM Guam, Port Moresby

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81698137271?pwd=REk2YURuSm01R3l0Tzk0bm5pT0Nldz09>

**Meeting ID:** 816 9813 7271 **Passcode:** 507633

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes  
A. August 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting
- IV. President's Report for August 2023
- V. Legal Reports for August 2023
- VI. Old Business  
A. Status of Lada Gardens Renovation Project Phase II
- VII. Public Participants
- VIII. Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities or requiring special accommodations are asked to contact Cassandra Santos at (671) 647-4143. This ad is paid for by Guam Housing Corporation Government Funds.

**BROOKS CONCEPCION LAW, P.C.**

247 Martyr Street, Ste. 101  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
(671) 472-6848  
(671) 477-5790

Attorneys for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
DONALD SEERY,  
Deceased.**

Probate Case No: PR0014-23

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Antoinette P. Leon Guerrero, Administratrix of the Estate of Donald Seery, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said estate or against said deceased, that within sixty (60) calendar days after the first publication of this notice, they either file them with necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Guam, or exhibit them with the necessary vouchers to Antoinette P. Leon Guerrero, Administratrix at the Law offices of **BROOKS CONCEPCION LAW, P.C.**, at 247 Martyr Street, Ste. 101, Hagåtña, Guam, the same being the place for the transaction of the said estate.

Dated: 09/19/2023.

/s/ **Antoinette P. Leon Guerrero**  
Administratrix for the Estate of  
Donald Seery

**BAUMANN, XU and BLACK, LLC**

238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Suite 903  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
Telephone: (671) 477-9084  
Fax: (671) 477-9087

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE  
OF  
JOEY PATICK TOVES,  
Deceased.**

PROBATE CASE NO. PR0045-23

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by FRANCIS D. TOVES, Executor of the Estate of JOEY PATRICK TOVES, deceased, through the undersigned counsel, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against, the deceased, that within sixty (60) calendar days after the first publication of this notice, all claims shall be filed, with the necessary vouchers, to the said Administrator of the Estate at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Guam, or exhibit them with the necessary vouchers to the said FRANCIS D. TOVES, Administrator, at c/o Shane F.T. Black, Esq., BAUMANN, XU and BLACK, LLC, at 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Suite 903, DNA Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, the same being the place for the transaction of business of the Estate. For further particulars, creditors should refer to the specific requirements set forth by law.

Dated this 13 day of September, 2023

**BAUMANN, XU and BLACK, LLC**  
By: /s/ **SHANE F.T. BLACK**  
Attorneys for Petitioner



**SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**

COMMITTEE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE, BORDER SAFETY, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS, MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM  
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 37TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & AGENDA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AT 2:00 PM**

The Committee will convene a confirmation hearing and a public hearing on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room. The Committee will hear and accept testimonies on the following:

**Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs**

**Bill No. 170-37 (COR) Sponsor(s) - Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata**  
**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 79607 TO ARTICLE 6 OF CHAPTER 79, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE INDEPENDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF GUAM TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT HONORING THE SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) SONS OF GUAM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND ALL VIETNAM VETERANS IN SERVICE OF OUR ISLAND AND COUNTRY.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas via electronic mail at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) or call (671) 989-4400 no later than September 28, 2023 for guidance.

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact and submit their request to Ms. Ursula Cruz or Mr. Ray T. Bonita at the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas at STE 407 DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., Hagåtña, Guam, by phone at (671) 989-4400, or by email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org).

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. A recording of the hearings will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Public Hearing to provide testimony may contact the Office of Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas at (671) 989-4400 or via email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) no later than September 28, 2023 for further guidance.

Tel: 671-989-4400 Email: [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)

Website: [www.senatorsannicolas.com](http://www.senatorsannicolas.com)



Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

## Notice of Confirmation Hearing – September 29, 2023, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

1 message

Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>

Wed, Sep 20, 2023 at 9:53

AM

To: Michael.w.cruz4.mil@army.mil

Cc: karanina.v.duenas.nfg@army.mil, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com, joseph.b.aquino.mil@army.mil

*Håfa Adai* Mr. Michael W. Cruz:

Congratulations on your appointment as the Adjutant General, Director, of Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs.

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam has scheduled a Confirmation Hearing for your appointment on **Friday, September 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** The hearing will take place in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room.

The Committee would like to invite your friends and family and the community to submit written testimonies or to give an oral testimony supporting your confirmation.

Please submit written testimonies to our office or to our email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) on or before September 12, 2023. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,  
Ray T. Bonita  
Senior Policy Analyst



**Office of Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas**  
*Committee on Emergency Response, Military and  
Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors  
Council*

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 37th  
Guam Legislature

**Telephone:** 671-989-4400

**Email:** [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)

**Website:** [senatorsannicolas.com](http://senatorsannicolas.com)

**Address:** DNA Building STE 407/408


238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna, Guam 96910

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**2 attachments**

 **(signed) Invitation Letter to Michael Cruz DSN (09.20.23).pdf**  
117K

 **First Notice Public Hearing (Gen. Michael Cruz)-signed.pdf**  
48K



—37<sup>th</sup>—  
GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office Of Senator

Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas



Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military & Veterans Affairs, Mayors' Council of Guam

September 20, 2023

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

[Michael.w.cruz4.mil@army.mil](mailto:Michael.w.cruz4.mil@army.mil)

Michael W. Cruz  
[REDACTED]

**Re: Notice of Confirmation Hearing – September 29, 2023, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai* Mr. Michael W. Cruz:

Congratulations on your appointment as the Adjutant General, Director, of Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs.

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam has scheduled a Confirmation Hearing for your appointment on **Friday, September 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** The hearing will take place in the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room.

The Committee would like to invite your friends and family and the community to submit written testimonies or to give an oral testimony supporting your confirmation.

Please submit written testimonies to our office or to our email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) on or before September 12, 2023. We look forward to your reply.



(671) 989-4400



[www.senatorsannicolas.com](http://www.senatorsannicolas.com)



[senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)



STE 407 DNA Building

238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna Guam

Honesty, Compassion, Kindness



37<sup>th</sup>  
GUAM LEGISLATURE

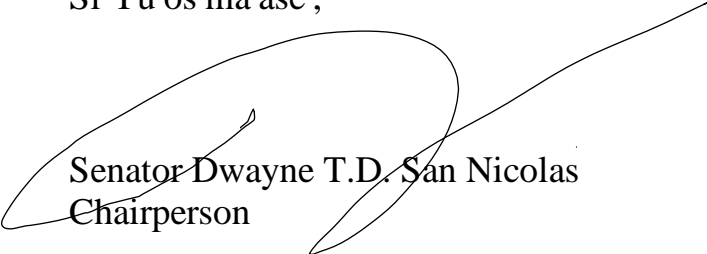
Office Of Senator

Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas



Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military & Veterans Affairs, Mayors' Council of Guam

Si Yu'os ma'åse',



Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Chairperson



(671) 989-4400



[www.senatorsannicolas.com](http://www.senatorsannicolas.com)



[senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)



STE 407 DNA Building

238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna Guam

Honesty, Compassion, Kindness



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T.D. SAN NICOLAS**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

**AGENDA**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Friday, September 29th, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**  
***Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room***

The agenda is as follows:

**2:00 p.m.**

**Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs**

**Bill No. 170-37 (COR)** Sponsor(s) - Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / William A. Parkinson / Roy A.B. Quinata

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 79607 TO ARTICLE 6 OF CHAPTER 79, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE INDEPENDENT VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF GUAM TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT HONORING THE SEVENTY-SEVEN (77) SONS OF GUAM WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND ALL VIETNAM VETERANS IN SERVICE OF OUR ISLAND AND COUNTRY.**

The public is invited to provide oral testimony on the agenda item. Written testimony may also be submitted via email at [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org) or hand delivered to the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D San Nicolas at Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, 96910,

Guam. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Office of Senator Dwayne T.D San Nicolas at (671) 989-4400 or [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org). All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo

Channel 117/112.4, and livestream on the Guam Legislature YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GuamLegislatureMedia>.

Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, 96910, Guam  
Phone Number (671) 989-4400 or via email: [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)



# Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas

Chairperson, Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

## Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
<del>Joseph Cameron</del>	relative	✓	✓	✓		[REDACTED]
<del>Sheila Compton-Bird</del>	GUWA	✓		✓		[REDACTED]
<del>Carlotta Leon Guerrero</del>	Ayuda Fundation	✓		✓		
<del>Hoa Nguyen</del>	AMC	✓		✓		[REDACTED]

Former  
Senator

Dr.



# Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas

Chairperson, Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

## Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

*Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room*

**Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs**

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
<del>NATHANIEL BELLO</del>	<del>GA</del>	X		X		[REDACTED]
<del>FR SANTOS</del>		X		X		[REDACTED]



## Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas

Chairperson, Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

### Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Dr. <del>Thomas Shieh</del>	<del>GuMA</del>	✓		✓		[REDACTED]
<del>Angel Vitbar</del> <del>Cathy Cague</del>	PDSC	✓		✓		[REDACTED]
Former Senator <del>Fernando Estevan</del>	Self		✓	✓		[REDACTED]



## Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas

Chairperson, Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

### Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

*Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room*

Confirmation hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
James Espaldan				✓		██████████



Major General Benny M. Paulino, US Army Ret HC 1



1 Oct 2023

Honorable Dwayne San Nicolas  
Committee of Emergency Response, Border  
Safety, Military & Veterans Affairs, Mayors'  
Council of Guam  
37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Reference: Confirmation Hearing Brigadier General Michael W.  
Cruz, Friday, September 29, 2023

Dear Senator San Nicolas:

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for the confirmation of Brigadier General (BG) Michael W. Cruz as The Adjutant General (TAG), Guam National Guard / Director, Department of Military Affairs. It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that I provide this testimony, as I firmly believe that BG Cruz is exceptionally qualified and committed to fulfilling this vital role.

I have known BG Cruz personally and professionally for many years in my capacity as The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard from 1996 to 2002; Chief Operating Officer, The Doctors' Clinic from 2004 to 2010; and again, from 2011 to 2015 as The Adjutant General.

BG Cruz brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to the position of TAG Guam. His extensive military career, including deployment to a theatre of military combat operations, has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the US Armed Forces and to the well being of Guam and its citizens.

Throughout his career, BG Cruz exhibited remarkable leadership and technical skills, which are essential for effective leadership in this role. As The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, I saw him interact with his troops on many occasions in the workplace, and when off-duty. The men and women who served with or alongside BG Cruz saw him as a leader of integrity they could trust strongly. There was a sense of mutual respect and understanding. This motivated people to be efficient in accomplishing their assigned tasks.

What sets BG Cruz apart is not only his impressive professional background but also his deep-rooted connection to the Guam community. He understands the unique challenges and opportunities that the island faces and has shown a genuine interest in addressing them. BG Cruz possesses the ethics, integrity, and moral compass required to lead the Guam National Guard with honor and distinction. His unwavering commitment to upholding the values and principles of the military and the TAG position is unquestionable.

Without hesitation, I strongly recommend BG Cruz confirmation as the TAG Guam. I am confident that he will serve with distinction, contributing significantly to the safety, security, and well being of Guam and its residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or have any questions regarding this testimony.

Sincerely,

// signed //

Benny M. Paulino

Major General, US Army (Ret)

October 9, 2023

The Honorable Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Chairperson, Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety,  
Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Confirmation Hearing of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General,  
Director, Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

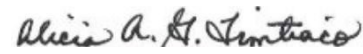
Dear Chairperson San Nicolas and Members of the Committee on Emergency Response,  
Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the appointment and confirmation of Michael W. Cruz to serve as Adjutant General and Director of the Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have known Dr. Cruz for over twenty-five (25) years. His life experiences and professional path have shown him to be a person of outstanding integrity and character. In both his personal and professional capacities, he prioritizes and is responsive to the needs of others -- our community and our island -- before those of himself. Dr. Cruz is a faithful public servant and an exceptional leader, including having served as a Lieutenant Governor and Senator. He is an intelligent, honest, conscientious, and decisive individual who understands possible outcomes and makes choices efficiently and effectively to achieve the required goals and objectives. Dr. Cruz remains steadfast in his commitment to and possesses the core values and skills to meaningfully contribute to and strengthen our island's overall health and welfare.

I fully support the appointment and confirmation of Michael W. Cruz as Adjutant General and Director of the Guam National Guard, Department of Military Affairs.

Sincerely,

  
Alicia A.G. Limtiaco

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Stephen P. Hattori



DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
John P. Morrison  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR  
Cathyrann C. Gogue

**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE CORPORATION**  
*(Kotperasion Setbision Defensot Pupbleku)*

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
779 Route 4  
Sinajaña, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 475-3100 ♦ Fax: (671) 477-5844  
www.guampdsc.org

STAFF ATTORNEYS  
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Peter J. Sablan  
William C. Bischoff  
William B. Jones  
Zachary C. Taimanglo  
David J. Highsmith  
Michael C. Brown  
Alisha Molyneux  
Brian Eggleston  
Earl Anthony V. Espiritu  
Kalliteen A. Aguon  
Christian F. Spofanski

September 28, 2023

Senator Dwayne San Nicolas  
Chairman  
Committee on Emergency Response, Military  
and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors Council  
*I Mina'trentai Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: Support of Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz as The Adjutant  
General for the Guam National Guard**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!* Chairman San Nicolas and Members of the Committee on Emergency Response, Military and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and the Mayors Council.

As the Administrative Director of the Guam Public Defender Service Corporation, the current public board member of Guam's Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors, and the incoming State Chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), it gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. Since our committee's existence in 1997, ESGR's relationship with the Guam National Guard has grown exponentially for the Reserve Component Service members we serve on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Knowing General Cruz personally, and having worked with him in various organizations, Guam's soldiers and airmen can expect nothing but excellence under his leadership. His commitment to our community, by returning home once he completed his residency, is a true testament of his magnanimity to the people of our territory. His unassuming demeanor as a Lieutenant Governor, Senator, Physician, and a life-long learner (also earning an MBA and Executive MBA) is an exemplary assurance to the strength of the Reserve Component.

Humbled to provide this letter of support for Brigadier General Cruz, I look forward to working with him in the very near future.

*Senseramente,*

CATHY C. GOGUE  
Administrative Director, PDSC  
State Chair, Guam-CNMI ESGR

September 28, 2023

Honorable Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Chairperson, Committee of Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military & Veterans Affairs, Mayors'  
Council of Guam

Re: Confirmation Support of Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General, Director, Guam  
National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

Dear Chairperson Senator San Nicolas and Committee Members:

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide support on the confirmation of Dr. Michael W. Cruz. I had the fine opportunity to meet and get to know him when we were in high school together. I am a resident who was born here and lived most of my life in Guam.

My support of Dr. Cruz stems from his demonstrated steadfastness in his endeavors and accomplishments both in private and public life. This is evidenced by his academic achievements and the many certificates of recognition and appreciation Dr. Cruz has received. He served our island admirably as a Senator and Lieutenant Governor.

Again, I am in full support of his confirmation.

Sincerely yours,

*Joey P. Claveria*

Joseph P. Claveria, C.P.A.

**To:** Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veteran Affairs,  
and Mayors' Council of Guam

**From:** Fernando Barcinas Esteves

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Michael W. Cruz

## Testimony

Honorable Members of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*,

My name is Fernando Barcinas Esteves and I am testifying before you as a former member of this esteemed body and as a private citizen, in support of the confirmation of Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. I have no doubt that there are many people who can testify to the numerous accolades held by Brigadier General Cruz. There are those who will testify to his accomplishments as a medical doctor, his sacrifices as *i Segundo Maga'lahan Guåhan*, or his dedicated service in the Army, however, I am not one of those individuals. My support is for the leader and patriot behind the many accomplishments and titles. My respect and admiration for General Cruz is solidified in his leadership qualities that I aspire to, wise, measured, and empathetic.

Wisdom, his ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, insight, and common sense. Measured, his ability to think and act carefully, controlled, and deliberate. Empathetic, his general concern for people in his thoughts and actions. These textbook leadership traits are only truly gained and made effective with time. General Cruz is a leader who values those around him. He respects competency over status, ability over stature, and commits to fairness as much as he would demand it. Solution driven, with a common-sense mindset.

Our bond began through our kinship as deployed medical personnel in the middle-east conflicts. Although we didn't serve in the same unit, there are bonds sustained through shared and lived experiences. As a combat medic, I've served three combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. Our experiences, hands bloodied, working to save the life of a comrade, enemy, or just an innocent civilian under our care, WE see conflict and war with a special lens. Our experiences, as Chamorro boys from the south, keen to our colonial history and war-torn past, patriot holds a different meaning to us. There's more that I could say, but I'm certain General Cruz is mentally asking me to "wrap it up".

I will close with this, I respectfully ask this esteemed body to confirm the appointment of this southern Chamorro boy, grown wise, measured, and empathetic, with a deep understanding of conflict and war, to be the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard so he may continue to share our history, held deep in his heart, and to continue to advocate for our island and its people at every opportunity.



**JOSEPH ARTERO CAMERON**



Hafa Adai Mr Chairman and All Senators present here today for Dr. Michael Cruz's confirmation hearing for his appointment to the position of Adjutant General.

Years ago, Dr. Michael Cruz was the Medical Director for Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. My mom, Maria Artero Cameron was his Administrative Assistant. Mom had often referred to him as her "son". So it goes to say, if mom says he is her son, I am clearly his brother.

I moved here to Guam in 1986 of November and shortly thereafter was Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. There were three (3) doctor Cruz's whom I regularly looked up for sage advices. Dr Michael Cruz, +Dr Eduardo Cruz and +Dr Olivia Cruz. These doctors were inseparable both in friendships and as medical colleagues.

I have know Mike as a medical doctor/surgeon, medical director, senator and Lt. Governor of Guam. Throughout his diverse and decorated career... I had and continue to admire this gentleman. There is Chamorro word "menhalom" refers to wisdom/wise. Mike has embodied the very meaning of this word and much more.

Our nation is in the midst of much uncertainties given the unsettling concerns we face with China, Russia and North Korea. Leadership exacts a heavy toll on a person. Mike has accepted responsible leadership throughout his career.

Mike is a family man. This has to be his crowning achievement in his lifetime. Please my honorable senators... give him your full support for his confirmation.

"Chelu" Mike, I and mom are very proud of you and place the greatest esteem in your willingness to serving Guam and our great nation.

Truly,

*Joseph Artero Cameron*

*Sept 29 2023 2pm.*

To: Senators of the 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

29 September 2023

From: Dr. Thomas Pool

Subject: Letter of Endorsement for the Nomination of Dr. Michael Cruz as the Guam TAG

Dear Honorable Senators,

This letter is my effort to underscore the qualifications and the perfect suitability of Dr. Michael Cruz to serve as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. I have known and worked closely with Dr. Cruz for almost 20 years. My respect for his abilities, his dedication, and his unique qualifications for this position is not easily exaggerated.

I spent 31 years in Army uniforms, and I graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. I spent 26 of those years in the Army Medical Department, and for the last six years my only bosses were two-star and three-star general officers. I also spent three years teaching leadership courses to Army medical officers at the US Army Academy of Health Sciences. I think I understand better than most what the Army looks for in terms of leadership traits and abilities from its senior leaders. Dr. Cruz could serve as the near perfect role model for those qualifications.

The Army teaches that the most important leadership trait is Character – doing the right thing for the right reason with no regard to personal consequences. More than anything else, it is character that defines a great leader. I have had many opportunities when Dr. Cruz could have cut corners or requested something inappropriate that would have made life easier for him. He never even flirted with those options. I was the Guam Territorial Veterinarian for four years while Dr. Cruz was the Lieutenant Governor. There were many opportunities when he could have asked me to look the other way or make an exception, and many others from Adelup did precisely that over my 17 years, but never, ever Dr. Cruz. He would ask me to explain each situation, the letter of the law and the justification for the law, and then he would thank me for my time. Every time. No exceptions. That is character in action, and it is a vanishingly rare trait in government. Character like that spawns loyalty and builds morale, and you need only talk to the subordinates of Dr. Cruz to realize how much they respect him.

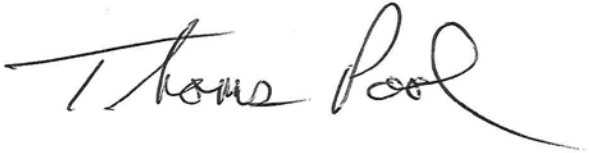
Another of the Army's most important leadership traits is Selflessness – putting others first, never taking advantage of rank or position. For the last four years I have been teaching infectious disease and public health courses at the University of Guam. The students are often required to interview medical professionals for special projects. Those care providers often feel like they are too busy for the students, especially when there are new ones each semester. If there is a busier physician on Guam than Dr. Cruz, I do not know who it might be. But he never, ever stalls our students. He clears his schedule, answers all of their questions, and even appeals



to other physicians on their behalf to get sit-down appointments. And he is by far the favorite guest speaker in our classes, and again, he never says no. "Just tell me when you want me and I will be there." If you know any other medical professional on this island who answers those questions that way, I wish you would let me know. I always thank him, and he always insists that it's nothing, the least he can do. He says, "Tom, these young leaders are the future of Guam. What could possibly be more important?"

I could go on and on detailing the almost perfect qualifications of Dr. Cruz for this job, but there is mercy in brevity. And I know that you are all very talented people and surely able to see the same abilities in Dr. Cruz that I see. I would be most happy to respond to any questions for additional information about Dr. Cruz. Thank you very much for your attention.

Very Respectfully,



Thomas Pool, MPH, DVM  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
Colonel, US Army (ret.)  
Senior Veterinarian, Animal Wellness Action

**GUAM LEGISLATURE  
PROTOCOL OFFICE**

**OCT 02 2023**

ME: 12:53 [ ] AM [  ] PM

RECEIVED BY: 

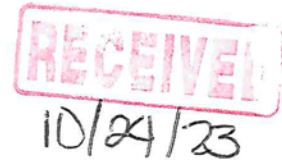
**GUAM LEGISLATURE  
PROTOCOL OFFICE  
OCT 19 2023**

**ME: 3:42 [ ] AM [✓] PM  
RECEIVED BY:           Ⓟ**

**David C. Flores**  
P.O. Box 5613  
Hagatna, GU 96932  
Cell: (671) 727-8322  
Email: DavidCFlores@yahoo.com

October 19, 2023

Honorable Dwayne D.T. San Nicolas  
Senator, 37th Guam Legislature  
238 Archbishop Flores Street, Suite 407/408  
Hagatna, Guam 96910



Subject: Letter of Support  
Nominee: BG Michael W. Cruz

Dear Senator San Nicolas:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai. Good day. The purpose of my communication is I want to submit my Letter of Support. I was off island on Temporary Duty (TDY) for my employer and was in Australia. I recently returned to Guam; therefore, I give this to explain why I am submitting now.

As the Chairperson having oversight to the Guam Department of Military Affairs (DMA), I write this letter supporting the selection of the next The Adjutant General (TAG) for the Guam National Guard (GUNG). Please accept this letter and favorable consideration to approve the appointment of Brigadier General (BG) Michael W. Cruz, TAG, GUNG. Here is a brief reason.

BG Cruz and I have had and continue to hold a friendship since circa 1970. We have known each other since high school, while we both attended George Washington Senior High School. Later, I recall, BG Cruz completed his Secondary Education at the Guam Seventh Day Adventist School. After graduating from high school, BG Cruz moved off island to attend college and medical school. Years passed and we later reunited when he returned to Guam. BG Cruz, if I recollect, then joined the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG). I believe he was a Captain then. Additionally, upon returning to Guam, BG Cruz also setup his medical practice.

BG Cruz went on for assignment with the GUARNG Medical Detachment. Our common bond is I too started in the GUARNG in a medical Military Occupational Skill (MOS). I had to change MOSs two more times as the GUNG went through rapid transformation. BG Cruz remained in the GUARNG, I had to retire after serving over 32 years. I left the GUARNG holding the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM)/E-9. If given the opportunity, and should he choose, I would serve alongside BG Cruz as his CSM. But the rest of my military career had to come to an end.

Page 2

Letter of Support RE: BG Michael W. Cruz

October 19, 2023

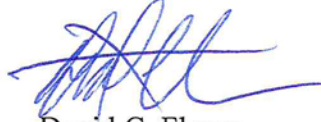
The question may come up, how does one qualify to write a letter of support regarding another? Simply, I believe I covered it here giving you a little bit about my relationship with BG Cruz. Since his upbringing at Cross Island Road in Talisay to today, BG Cruz and I have kept in touch. During COVID-19, as the State Surgeon, BG Cruz in his professional capacity contacted me in my professional capacity regarding this World Medical Crisis. BG Cruz is not only astute and educated, but he is also wise and uses his skills to serve Guam. BG Cruz had an issue regarding the movement of Scheduled Substance - the Vaccines - and he was able to network to get answers. I believe BG Cruz will bring this knack and talent to move the DMA forward.

I do not want to dwell talking about his time as a Guam Senator. I believe you know this from your chair. I also do not want to include a discussion when he was a Lieutenant Governor of Guam as his record speaks for him. The People of Guam all know Lieutenant Governor Cruz. Frankly, I have all day to discuss BG Cruz, his love of surfing and being a waterman, his love of classic cars, and many other personal and private interests. And if I didn't mention, we both reside in the village of Piti. I guess BG Cruz has a fondness of Guam's south and generally for Guam.

Please accept this letter of support. I believe Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz will do good for the Guam National Guard as The Adjutant General. BG Cruz, Mike as I would call him since ever since, has the attributes and expertise to be the organization's next ranking officer.

Thank you for your time and attention. I greatly appreciate your consideration. Have a great day.

Sincerely,



David C. Flores



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**


Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

**COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET**

**Nomination of Michael W. Cruz to serve as the Adjutant General, Director,  
Guam National Guard of the Department of Military Affairs**

	SIGNATURE/ DATE OF SIGNATURE	TO DO CONFIRM	TO NOT CONFIRM	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas Chairperson	 11/28/23	✓				
Senator Chris M. Dueñas Vice Chairperson	e-vote 11/27/23	✓				
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Member	e-vote 11/27/23	✓				
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member	e-vote 11/28/23	✓				
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata Member	e-vote 11/27/23	✓				
Senator William A. Parkinson Member	e-vote 11/28/23	✓				
Senator Thomas Fisher Member	e-vote 11/28/23	✓				
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje Member	e-vote 11/27/23	✓				



ray bonita &lt;ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com&gt;

## REQUEST FOR E-VOTE: Committee Report on the Appointment of Michael W. Cruz

8 messages

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas** <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 2:36 PM  
 To: Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>  
 Cc: ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

Hafa Adai Committee Members,

Please see attached Committee Report on the appointment of **Dr. Michael W. Cruz** to serve as the Adjutant General, Guam National Guard, of the Department of Military Affairs, which your action is respectfully requested.

Please indicate your preferred action based on the following options:

- To Do Confirm
- To Not Confirm
- To Report Out Only
- To Abstain; or
- To Place in an Inactive File

Please submit your response as soon as possible. Your responses will be logged into the Committee vote sheet for the appointment of Dr. Michael W. Cruz.

Respectfully,  
 Ray T. Bonita  
 Senior Policy Analyst



**Office of Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas**  
*Committee on Emergency Response, Military and  
 Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors  
 Council*

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 37th  
 Guam Legislature

**Telephone:** 671-989-4400

**Email:** [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)

**Website:** [senatorsannicolas.com](http://senatorsannicolas.com)

**Address:** DNA Building STE 407/408

238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna, Guam 96910

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**(DRAFT) Dr. M. Cruz Appointment Hearing Committee Report DSN.pdf**  
 11777K

**La'Kiesha Pereda** <lakiesha@guamlegislature.org> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 2:47 PM  
 To: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>  
 Cc: Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

To do confirm.



**La'Kiesha D. Pereda**  
Office of Senator Dueñas  
37th Guam Legislature

☎ 671 989 9554

📍 259 Martyr Street Hagåtña, GU 96910

🔗 [Click here to schedule a meeting](#)

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[Quoted text hidden]

**Senator Roy Quinata** <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 3:01 PM  
To: La'Kiesha Pereda <lakiesha@guamlegislature.org>  
Cc: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsn@gmail.com>

To do confirm.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje** <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 3:18 PM  
To: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>  
Cc: Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsn@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm.



**Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture  
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan 37th Guam Legislature  
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
☎ (671) 472-3586  
✉ [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)  
🌐 [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

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On Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 2:36 PM Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

**Joe S. San Agustin** <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 4:13 PM  
To: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>  
Cc: Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, Senator

Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm

## The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

Committee on General Government Operations & Appropriations

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

37th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 989-5445 F: (671) 969-6737 E: [senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com)

Website: [www.senatorjoessanagustin.com](http://www.senatorjoessanagustin.com)

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**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes** <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 11:34

AM

To: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Cc: Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

To do Conform.

Sinseru yan Minagáhet,

Office of the Vice Speaker - Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Committee on Human Resources, Guam Buildup, Hagåtña Revitalization, Regional/Foreign Affairs, and the Public Library

37th Guam Legislature

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagåtña, GU 96910

[senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org)

[Quoted text hidden]

**Senator Thomas Fisher** <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 11:50 AM

To: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm.

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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse',*



**Office of Senator Thomas J. Fisher**

37th Guam Legislature

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

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---

**Senator Will Parkinson** <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 11:52 AM

To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Cc: Senator Dwayne San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Roy Quinata <officeofsenatorquinata@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Thomas Fisher <senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org>, ray bonita <ray.senatorsdn@gmail.com>, Ursula Cruz <cosursula.senatorsdn@gmail.com>

To Do Confirm

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Respectfully,



**Office of Senator William A. Parkinson | 37th Guam Legislature**

*Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities,  
Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance*

—  
Suite 905, DNA Building, [238 Archbishop FC Flores St, Hagåtña, 96910, Guam](#)

671-989-1101

[senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org)





## OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

# **COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

## **I. OVERVIEW**

The Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam convened a public hearing on the appointment of Michael W. Cruz to serve as the Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard of the Department of Military Affairs on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room. The appointment history is as follows:

- Appointment by *i Maga'hågan* on July 28, 2023.
- Appointment packet forwarded to *I Liheslatura* on July 31, 2023.
- Appointment referred to the Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam on August, 02, 2023.
- The Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam convenes a public hearing on the appointment on September 29, 2023.

### **Public Notice Requirements**

In compliance with the Open Government Law, Public Hearing notices were published in the Guam Daily Post on Friday, September 22, 2023 (5-Day Notice) and Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (48-Hour Notice) and on the Government of Guam Public Notices Portal on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 and on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. Notices for this Public Hearing were also sent via email to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and again on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. The Public Hearing was also livestreamed on the Guam Legislature's YouTube Channel.

### **Senators Present**

Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas, Chairperson

Senator Telo T. Taitague

Suite 407, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop Flores St., *Hagåtña*, 96910, Guam.

Phone Number (671) 989-4400 or via email: [senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org)



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature*

Senator Frank Blas, Jr.

Senator Roy A. B. Quinata, Committee Member

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Committee Member

Senator Joanne M. Brown

Senator Sabina F. Perez

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Committee Member

**Appearing Before the Committee**

Michael W. Cruz, Appointee

Joseph A. Cameron

Col. Sheila Compton-Rivo, Chief of Joint Staff, Guam National Guard

Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Former Senator, Ayuda Foundation

Dr. Hoa Nguyen, AMC

Dr. Nathaniel Berg, GRC

Francis Santos, Former Senator, GRMC

Dr. Thomas Shieh

Angel Vibar, Public Defender Service Corporation

Fernando Esteves, Former Senator

**Written Testimony Provided by**

Benny M. Paulino, Major General, U.S Army (Ret.)

Alicia A. G. Lintiaco

Cathy C. Gogue, Administrative Director, PDSC

Joseph P. Claveria

Fernando B. Esteves, Former Senator

Joseph A. Cameron

Dr. Thomas Pool, Animal Wellness Action

David C. Flores

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION**

The Public Hearing was Called-to -Order at **2:03 p.m.** The Appointment of Michael W. Cruz to serve as the Adjutant General, Director, Guam National Guard of the Department of Military Affairs was the first item on the agenda.



## OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37th Guam Legislature

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Hello everybody good afternoon and welcome to the Guam Congress building in *Hagåtña*, thank you for being here. My name is Senator Dwayne San Nicolas. The Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs and Mayors' Council of Guam is now called to order. The time is, uh, 1403 for you military guys and, uh, 2:03 p.m. Uh, in compliance with the Open Government law, notices for this Public Hearing were published in the Guam Daily Post and the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 and Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Notices were also by email to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets and this hearing is being livestreamed on Guam's Legis, Guam's Legislative Legislature YouTube channel. I'd like to acknowledge my dear colleagues who have joined me here today. We have, uh, the ever lovely tough Telo T. Taitague here. Uh, over here we have Fighting Frank Blas, Senator fighting Frank, and, and the very young and energetic Senator Roy Quinata, thank you, thank you for joining us, and also in the crowd I'd like to acknowledge our former senators, uh, Senator, uh, Fernando Esteves and, uh, Senator, um, Carlotta Leon Guerrero. Today's comm, uh, committee is holding a public hearing for two discussions we will begin with the first one, which is a confirmation hearing of Dr. Michael W. Cruz for the position of Adjutant General Director Guam National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs. If anyone has signed in and at the, at the entrance, please join us at, at the panel if you plan on testifying, and I also like to acknowledge, uh, my colleague who just arrived, uh, Senator, uh, Joanne Brown. I would like to begin with stating the rules of the public hearing. During testimony, be respectful and courteous to others. Personal interference to testimonies of senators is not permitted failure to abide by the general rules of conduct will be removed, uh, from the public hearing room. In addition, a general reminder to please ensure the microphone is is on and prior to speaking, also speak into the microphone stating your name and title for the panel prior to beginning. Uh, we will, we will begin with, uh, bringing up our first panel members, uh, uh, Mr. Cameron, Joseph Cameron, Dr. Mike, come up here as well, yeah, and, uh, Carlotta Leon Guerrero, uh, Mr. Fernando, Senator Esteves, please come up. Sir for the,



**OFFICE OF SENATOR DWAYNE T. D. SAN NICOLAS**

Chairperson

Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

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uh, go ahead for the record, you want to do an introduction, and, uh, where you're from.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** What village do I? Agat, Agat rules.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** And, uh, uh, state your name.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Agat, Agat rules.

**Senator San Nicolas, Chairman:** Okay, that's it everybody, uh, we're done. Testimonies done, uh, he's confirmed, let's wrap it up.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Uh, well, you know, this is, this is an Agat thing, so we, we saw.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Well, go ahead sir, you want to go ahead and give us an introduction, uh, go ahead you, you, you first.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Yeah, well, uh, good afternoon, Chairman San Nicolas and certainly the members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature and I certainly thank you for this opportunity. I consider this an honor and a privilege to be able to, I think, to state what I think is why I'm uniquely qualified to sit in the position as the Adjutant General for, for Guam, given this current, uh, geopolitical environment that we live here in our, in our region and so, uh, I think all of you guys certainly know me and some of my history, but maybe what you don't know was a little bit about my, um, military history, and so I can go ahead and explain that. I think you all know that I'm, I'm a former physician, continued to be a surgeon, former, uh, Senator, so there actually is six Republican senators in here, right, so that's, that's right, and former Lieutenant Governor of Guam. Um, but in addition, I, I'm also obviously a physician, I have an MBA in Healthcare Administration. I joined the U.S Army or as, as a Captain in 1987 and I've had multiple positions, uh, within the U.S military or certainly in the Army itself. I'm a combat veteran, both in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also recently with, with my history with, just recently

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was the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Guam Regional Medical City of the Joint Commission Credit Hospital here in Guam, besides, uh, Navy, and also Chief Medical Officer at GMH, and so I, I thank you again for this opportunity and I'm here to answer any questions if you have.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** All right, thank you sir, um, we'll go ahead and hear from the rest of the panel, uh, you can start, we'll go ahead with you ma'am, uh, Senator Carlotta, please, thank you.

**Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Former Senator:** Thank you very much Senator.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Oh, can I just do this real quick, because it's the most important two people here in the room be, is right here, is my wife Jennifer, and my daughter, uh, Taylor, and so she, uh, when, when she was first born, the first place she went was to Adelup, to Lieutenant Governor's office, so this is now her, the only other time she's been in a government environment, so thank you for coming.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** All right, thank you, thank you sir, and welcome. Go ahead Madam.

**Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Former Senator:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and it's an honor to be here, uh, especially to be speaking on behalf of, um, Senator, Doctor, Lieutenant Governor, General, uh, Mike Cruz. Um, I was his Chief of Staff for six years when he was a Senator and when he was a Lieutenant Governor, and in 1995, he and I formed the Ayuda Foundation and we're now in our 28<sup>th</sup> year of responding locally, as well as regionally, to disasters. I think that, um, he is uniquely qualified to be in the position that he, uh, is before you here for confirmation. Um, one of the things I would touch on a little bit and, um, maybe, uh, Senator Telo and Senator Frank might remember this, but, um, um, when he was the Lieutenant Governor, he was instrumental in forming the Civilian Military Task Force, and that had a lot to do with preparing the island of Guam, uh,

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for the coming military buildup, and also during that time as Lieutenant Governor, we participated in something that I think Senator Frank Blas organized, which was a top off for, uh, training exercise and it was a National Guard and Homeland Security event that was, uh, um, very, very important to us and helped us, uh, get ready and train and know where the weaknesses were in, in our ability to respond to weapons of mass destruction, and I think that with everything that he's got, being able to prepare soldiers for, uh, um, what soldiers are needed for, as well as responding to regional disasters and helping out in the community, is uniquely qualified for, and I, I stand in full support and encourage, uh, you to vote favorably for, uh, General Cruz. Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you madam. Um, Mr., uh, Cameron, go ahead sir.

**Mr. Cameron:** *Håfa, Håfa Adai, Senadot si haman gai gui ni, comfot me, i yu na, na gos maolek, esta na cabayeru, gi mina ta, ya hu susuni na nu todus i mina ekong'u, yan i minagai gi T.V Land, gi'ya Guam, na pare'hu a sinentin ni'ha.* I am Joseph Artero Cameron. *Håfa Adai* Mr. Chairman and all Senators present here today for Dr. Michael Cruz's confirmation hearing and appointment to the position of Adjutant General. Years ago, uh, Dr. Michael Cruz was the Medical Director for Guam Memorial Hospital. Uh, my mom, Maria Artero Cameron, was his Administrative Assistant, and my mom had often referred to him as her son, so it goes to say if my mom says he is her son, I am clearly his brother. I moved here to Guam in 1986 of November and shortly there in after I was appointed by then Governor Joseph Ada to be the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Actually, back in those days, there were three Dr. Cruz's whom I regularly looked up to for sage advises. In no necessary order, Dr. Michael Cruz, Dr. Eduardo Cruz, and Dr. Olivia Cruz that were called the three Cruz's. These Doctors were inseparable both in friendships and as medical colleagues to say the least. I have known Mike as a medical doctor, a surgeon, medical director, Senator, and Lieutenant Governor Guam throughout his diverse and decorated career. I have and continue to admire this gentleman. There's a Chamoru word that says "*manhalom*", to refer as

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wisdom or wise. Mike has embodied the very meaning of this word and much more our nation is in the midst of much uncertainties given the unsettling concerns we face in this region with China, also Russia, and North Korea. Leadership exacts a heavy toll on a person. Mike has accepted responsible leadership throughout his entire career. Mike is a family man; this has come to be his crowning achievement in his lifetime. Please, my Honorable Senators, give him your full support for his confirmation. *Chelu'* Mike. I and Mom are very proud of you and place the greatest esteem in your willingness to serve Guam and our great nation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse.*

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Cameron for that wonderful, uh, uh, testimony, uh, Senator, go ahead, Fernando Esteves.

**Fernando Esteves, Former Senator:** *Buenas yan Håfa Adai.* I just would like to state, as a matter of record, I'm here as a private citizen. I do have my leave form and that's available, FOIA-ble, or just ask me for it and I'll provide a copy to anybody to the public. *Buenas Yan Håfa Adai* Honorable members of *I Mina'Trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan.* My name is Fernando Barcinas Esteves and I am testifying before you as a former member of this esteemed body and as a private citizen in support of the confirmation of Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. I have no doubt that there are many people who can testify to the numerous accolades held by General Cruz. There are those who will testify to his accomplishments as a medical doctor, his sacrifices as *I Segundo Maga' Låhi Guåhan,* and his dedicated service in the Army. However, I am not one of those individuals. My support is for the leader and patriot behind the many accomplishments and titles. My respect and admiration for General Cruz is solidified in his leadership qualities that I aspire to. Wise, measured and empathetic, wisdom, his ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, insight, and common sense, measured, his ability to think and act carefully, controlled and deliberate, empathetic, his general concern for people in his thoughts and actions. These textbook leadership traits are only truly gained and made effective with time. General Cruz is

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a leader who, who values those around him, he respects competency over status, ability over stature, and commits to fairness as much as he would demand it. Solution driven with a common-sense mindset. Our be, bond began through our kinship as deployed medical personnel in in Middle Eastern conflicts. Although we didn't serve in the same unit, there are bonds su, sustained through shared and lived experiences. As a combat medic, I've served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our experiences, hands blooded working to save the lives of comrades, enemies, and innocent civilians. Under our care we see the con, conflict and war with the special lens. Our experiences as Chamorro boys from the South, keen to our colonial history and war torn past, "patriot" holds a different meaning to us. There's more that I could say, but I'm sure that General Cruz mentally is asking me to wrap it up so I will close with this: I respectfully ask this esteemed body to confirm the appointment of this Southern Chamorro boy grown wise, measured, and empathetic, with the deep understanding of conflict and war to be the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard so he may continue to share our history held deep in his heart and to continue to advocate for our island and its people at every opportunity. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*. And if I may, uh, Senator, uh, while I'm here and in the effort of, uh, efficiency, I also am in support of Bill 170-37. Um, most don't know, but my name sake is Fernando Barcinas Esteves who was, um, one of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam, and so I just want to add that to the record. Thank you, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you Senator for your, uh, testimony. I'd like to, uh, acknowledge the presence of, uh, former Senator Francis Santos. Um, uh, with that, uh, we can go ahead and take, uh, some questions from our, from our, my dear Senators here, my, my colleagues, we'll start with... uh, oh, okay, you're confirmed. Anybody there have any questions for the panel? Not for the panel okay, uh, the panel is excused. Sir, you could just stay there, all right. I'm going to go, go ahead, uh, Senator Francis Santos, would you like to come up here, sir, and testify? Okay, and, uh, we'll go ahead and take, uh, She-Sheila Cons-Concepcion? Yes, yes ma'am and, uh, Dr. Nguyen, sir, please come up. Uh, Dr. Thomas Shay, sir, um, Angel, Miss Angel Gogue, and, uh, still have

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room there, and, uh, Joe San Agustin or? This is for, for this is next one. All right, uh, then we'll go ahead and start. I'd like to acknowledge my, uh, my colleagues, my dear colleagues Senator Sabina Perez and, uh, Vice Speaker, Speaker Tina Muña Barnes for joining us, so we'll go ahead and we'll start with you madam. Thank you, go, go ahead and please, state your name and you may continue.

**Col. Sheila Compton-Rivo, Chief of Joint Staff, Guam National Guard:** *Håfa Adai* and good afternoon, uh, Senator, uh, San Nicolas and members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature. I am Colonel Sheila Compton-Rivo, the Chief of Joint Staff of the Guam National Guard. I appear before you to present my testimony in support of Brigadier General Michael doc Cruz for the consideration of his appointment to the Adjutant General of the Na, Guam National Guard. I have been a member of the Guam National Guard since March 2002 as a new direct commission Second Lieutenant, with no prior military service or experience. I was assigned to work under the leadership of then Lieutenant Colonel Michael Cruz at the State Medical Command. He has been a constant guide and remains steadfast in providing me sound advice and support in my military career of 21 years. He is a seasoned leader who has served at every level of leadership and excellent mentor, a trusted adviser, and more importantly, a sincere friend over the past 21 years. I have had the opportunity to serve under several Adjutant Generals, all were unique in their own way with very distinct leadership styles. General Cruz's uniqueness comes from, from his extensive background and experience locally, Federally, and globally. His understanding of the geopolitical ramifications coupled with his deeply rooted passion for his island, our homeland. General Cruz brings a wealth of knowledge and broad perspectives from very, from various facets of his life as a former Lieutenant Governor who served the people of Guam from January 2007 to January 2011, a former Senator in the 28th Guam Legislature, having served as the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, a hospital president, and Chief Executive Officer, a medical director, the founder of a nonprofit organization, a surgeon, a military officer, a father, a husband, and a compassionate gentleman. His view of the world is seen through a multitude of lenses. This extra,

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extraordinarily complex view provides him the necessary fortitude to strategically lead the Guam National Guard in the defense of Guam and the Marianas, utilizing a holistic community approach as a decorated Army combat veteran with multiple deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom coupled with the firsthand knowledge of his family's history of suffering during the atrocities of World War II. General Cruz truly understands and continues to educate all of us on the importance of protecting our homeland and defending our freedom as a testament to his compassion for humanity. General Cruz was among 11 doctors, 8 nurses, and several support staff, me included, who volunteered from, from Guam to join the medical mission in the Philippines to help victims of super typhoon Yolanda, which ravaged Tacloban City in November 2013. In 3 days, the team served almost 3,000 patients in areas where access to health care was extremely limited. General Cruz's belief and desire to proactively build strong relationships among all our military partners in the Indopacific region enhances our ability to, to respond effectively to the existential threat to our people and our island, which is looming in our neighborhood within the first and second island chains since March 1<sup>st</sup> 2003, when General Cruz assumed the position of the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. I have experienced firsthand a positive synergy among the troops, both Army and Air, and the outstanding collaboration between the leaders of the Guam National Guard and the lead leaders of all sister services on Guam. The organization needs a leader with the caliber and intellectual capacity of General Cruz. He is extremely astute, a dynamic thinker, and a charismatic speaker with a strategic vision. He will lead the Guam National Guard into the future with the possibility of facing our adversaries head-on. He empowers leaders to lead and encourages creative thinking. He is an inspiration to many of us, Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee. I am proud to support the appointment of Brigadier General Michael Cruz to the position of the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. I am confident that if confirmed, General Cruz's service as the Adjutant General is crucial to the region, the Marianas, and the island of Guam. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

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**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, madam. Uh, ma'am, you may proceed, go ahead and state your name and proceed, thank you.

**Angel Vibar, PDSC:** *Håfa Adai*, uh, *Buenas Yan Håfa Adai*. My name is Angel Vibar and I am going to, uh, read this letter of support on behalf of Miss Cathy C. Gogue. As the Administrative Director of the Guam Public Defender Service Corporation, the current public board member of the Guam's Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors, and the incoming State Chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ESGR. It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for Brigadier General Michael W. Cruz as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. Since ESGR committee's existence in 1997, our relationship with the Guam National Guard has grown exponentially for the Reserve Component Service members we serve on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Knowing General Cruz personally, and having worked with him in various organizations, Guam soldiers and airmen can expect nothing but excellence under his leadership. His commitment to our community, by returning home once he completed his residency, is a true stet, testament of his magnaminy to the People of our test, of our territory. His unassuming demeanor as a Lieutenant Governor, Senator, Physician, and a lifelong learner, also earning an MBA and Executive MBA, is an exemplary assurance to the strength of the Reserve Component. Humbled to provide this letter of support for Brigadier General Cruz, I look forward to working with him in the very near future. Signed Cathy C. Gogue, Administrative Director, Guam Public Defender Service Corporation and State Chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Right, thank you ma'am for your testimony. Dr., Dr. Ngyuen, go ahead sir.



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**Dr. Hoa Ngyuen:** Thank you so much and, um, thank you for giving me time to testify, to give the testimony in regard for Dr. Mike Cruz. Um, I'm speaking today as a veteran, uh, I have 23 years in the Air Force and, uh, retired several years ago, but I had a chance to serve with, uh, Dr. Cruz and, um, for, uh, many years. I think through several attack in the past, but, um, you know, we, um, get deployed to multiple medical mission, as mentioned before, to Philippines, uh, and through his leadership, you know, we have we see thousand of patient over there, and, and very successful mission. Um, I served in the past as a state surgeon for the Air National Guard and the Army Guard, um, before I retire, and no, when you go to the bureau to see the state surgeon and the TAG for meeting, it's so important that we have a highly qualified person to represent the Guard in Guam, both Air and arm, and Army Guard, and I cannot even imagine anyone more qualified than Dr. Mike Cruz, so I'm just, um, really, uh, highly recommend Dr. Mike Cruz for the position of TAG and, um, there's no hesitation at all, so thank you so much for, for your times.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Dr. Ngyuen. Uh, Senator.

**Francis Santos, Former Senator:** Thank you very much, uh, to my colleagues up there on that esteemed panel. I, uh, after yesterday's public hearing, Mike and I spoke, I said not sure you want to go down there right now, but, uh, that being said, um, you know, when I got the phone call to say, "hey, can you please come down and support Dr. Mike", I said, "Dr. Mike needs support, I don't think so, I mean, I'm sitting next to a man, um, that has worn, and, you know, still continues to wear so many different hats, it's unbelievable what Don Mike has done in, in the little world that I've been with him, um, I can speak, I think, my best example of Mike's leadership was at the onset of Covid. Okay, I was called by good friend saying can you please come and help us cause we're trying to put together this plan, so I attended a meeting, and I said okay that's fine. The next day I look at Mike, I said, "you need to come with me and sit down with all these government officials", mind you, I'm not a government official, I'm just sitting there, and I said they need someone to guide them because it, it

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it's just looks too scattered for me, and lo and behold, here we are, sitting down, Mike walks in and, and the table immediately, they all stand up, I said, “okay that's a good sign for me that we're going to finally respect what we did”, but moving forward, as the Covid battle continued, on the very first day that we launched the vaccines, okay, it was down at Okkodo High School, and from our vantage point at GRMC, that line of cars stretched all the way to GRMC. I called Dr. Mike, and I said, “Mike, we have a huge problem”, and he says, “what's going on?” I said, “I'm looking at the cars that are lined up for the *manamko* to go get vaccines”, I said something's not right here and he says, okay, so he comes back, like, within 10 minutes, he calls back and he says, “Francis, you and Alan Fontania...”, then our CEO, he's the CEO, he's assigned to Adelup, and he goes, “open a vaccination clinic and I want it done, done in 2 hours, and I said, “Mike, you're out of your mind”, I said we can't mobilize that quick, it, it, it's almost next to impossible, he goes, “no Francis, get it done” and I said, okay, we we'll figure this out, and sure enough, Mike had already, in his mind, laid out a plan and, and within minutes, he's calling back and said, “I made the phone calls already, they're waiting for you to go get the vaccines up at Okkodo High School”, and then I said, and he says, “I also spoke to Allan on the logistics of how to put a vaccination clinic in the lobby of GRMC”. So that's Mike's vision, Mike's leadership, Mike's tenacity to say when something needs to get done to help our people find a way to get it done. Okay, I sit here and really, in my eyes, Mike is my political foe, okay, this man and I ran against each other, and God mean-a God's truth, we were at one debate sitting there looking at each other and we said, “what in God's name, Francis, are we doing here?”. Okay, many moons ago, Mike and we're still here together, um, I want to thank him for recommending me to join his team at GRMC, we are the proud Chamorros that can say we have helped plan, helped build, helped open, helped operate, and helped get accredited, a private hospital in Guam. That's Mike Cruz, okay, no one else can say that we all stand here and again, when he shaped the Covid team that we known as the Physician Advisory Group, that was Mike, we sat down, we went to the list of all the physicians that we need, that we know are going to help us and believe me, like herding cats with these doctors, it was a difficult task, I said, “Mike, so and so is

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going to be offended, Mike, so and so”, and he goes, “we just need to get this done, Francis”. Again, that's Mike's leadership skills and saying we have a job before us, and I don't know if it's his military training, guys, he just has this saying we're going to get it done, and I've learned to work with Mike in that kind of leadership style and visionary, uh, thinking that we all need today. We continue to work together despite not being around each other, we've met fantastic people along the way in this, this journey for healthcare, and what we're trying to do, and hopefully the other vision that Mike and I are sharing, can come, because it's something that's going to be bigger than both of us throughout our lives and we want to do that, but I'm asking you here, this guy has it all, okay, he, he can do what's going to be done. I'm, I'm proud that he took the appointment from the Governor, even though she's a Democrat appointing a Republican, and I said no, you know, this is, this is the one that we got to do, and I'm asking for your support. There's enough of us up there Republicans and Democrats alike that can say Mike is our man. Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Uh, thank you, uh, Senator, for your, your, uh, your testimony. It goes to show what happens when we put good people in office. Uh, Dr. Shieh, go ahead sir, thank you.

**Dr. Thomas Shieh:** Chairman San Nicholas, thank you. Dr. Berg messaged me, he's right in back, and he said if you could, um, get permission to come up here as well, because he has a patient that he has to inser...

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Yes, uh, yeah, go ahead, I'll acknowledge Dr. Berg. Please come up, thank you.

**Dr. Thomas Shieh:** Thank you, um, member of the Legislature, *Buenas yan Håfa Adai*. I've been a friend of Mike since I set foot on Guam as a naval medical officer. I didn't know what I was doing back then, and 27 years later, I'm still, still here, and I'm still fielding phone calls from this gentleman right here even though he's in the Army and I'm in the Navy so that goes to tell you that, uh, we've been friends for a long, long time and

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it's hard to be my friend, you know, I rub people, I can rub people the wrong way, and, uh, so I consider Mike as a, as a good friend, and if anybody who can ask, uh, me to compromise on an issue, it would be Mike Cruz. He would call me sometimes in the middle of the night say, "Tom, what's going on? And, uh, can we compromise, you know, so I think those things that, uh, is a unique to a leader who can reach out across the aisle and, um, discuss certain issues. Mike, as we know, is a surgeon, he's a war, war veteran, and many of us, um, serve medical missions with Mike. He led the way to not just the Philippines, but also in Guam, but no one can tell you that we share the same bed in the medical mission and that tells you something, you know, we, we share not just the same bed, but the same thought process on how we going to take care of so many patients the next day, so it's important to realize that Mike is not just a, you know, a family member, a responsible family member, but he's also a very, uh, articulate and, and very structured in the way he plans things out. I think today's long overdue to appoint someone like Dr. Cruz. I think the Legislature trusted in him, he was a Lieutenant Governor as well, the people trust him, he served in the best interest of the people and he represents the country well now when Mike was, uh, Lieutenant Governor, and he actually ensured accreditation of the Guam Memorial Hospital, you know, if I was the governor now, I probably say, "hey Mike, I'm going to tap you over there as the acting CEO and erect that ship and let's get back, let's get back on track", but, be as it may, I don't think that, um, today is, is the time for that, but it doesn't mean he can't serve other multiple roles and that's just Mike. He's a multi-tasker and he deserved to be recognized as the future TAG of Guam, so I would wholeheartedly support him with our reservations. Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Dr. Shieh. Uh, Dr. Berg, go ahead please.

**Dr. Nathaniel Berg, GRC:** Chairman San Nicolas, thank you for allowing me to skip line if you will, um, and our esteemed colleagues. Um, so when I saw that Mike was being, uh, coming here today to have testimony regarding his, uh, appointment, and I thought what can I say that's not



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Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and  
Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam

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going to be said, and so much has been said about Mike that I want to say tell just a few little different things that help me think that, um, there's no reason that he is not the best choice and there is every reason to think he is the best choice and I, I think some of the, the anecdotes, and, um, uh, things that I've learned with Mike over the years. I met Mike Cruz, I've been here about 30 years now, just shy of 30 years, and I met, uh, Mike Cruz four days after I got here and we're still friends, and I and one might ask why, and part of it, I think, um, has to do with our approach to health care and, uh, part of, uh, what Mike does for the island and for veterans who, and active members who serve under him, it's hard for people to see that if they're not in clinic or serving with him, otherwise, so you see a very accomplished man, but when we, we've worked thousands of cases together, sur-surgeons and those of us who work in breast imaging, were work extremely closely together, and I always knew that it didn't matter what that person's ability to pay for their services, he would show show up anyway, um, and a, uh, his commitment in, even though he wears so many different hats, his commitment to each of them is extraordinary, and, one time, when, and I didn't support him running for Lieutenant Governor, because I wanted him to stay as surgeon, now I'm glad he did, but, um, I called down because I had a patient who needed something urgently done, it's about 4:30, 5:00 in the afternoon, and I called down, I spoke to his assistant and I said, "hi, it's Dr. Berg, I need to, uh, speak with, uh, Dr. Cruz", and she said, "actually, that's Acting Governor Cruz", I said, "right, I need to speak with Dr. Cruz, and she said, "you can't, he's in a cabinet meeting", and I said, "actually, he's not", and she I'm sorry, I said he's not, "what do you mean?", I said he's on his way to come to talk to me about a patient, oh, I said just go and whisper in his ear, Dr. Berg said it's very important I need to talk about a patient. He came out of the meeting and said, "what's up?", and I said, "I've got a patient, you need to come down as soon as you're done there, I'll keep her here", "I'll be there". He hangs up the phone and I didn't, I knew all I needed to do was get that message to him and his commitment to patients were just as important as his commitment as Lieutenant Governor, he didn't somehow switch and then not be able to continue to serve every single patient who came to his office and needed his care, that's what he's done, so that's an important thing to,

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to think about when he takes on this role, he's not going to give up his service in every other role, whether it's in the Ayuda Foundation, or even in the care that he provides to his patients and, and his service in combat is so important for people to understand when they sign up to serve under him, uh, one time, when I was getting an assignment that was a rather dreadful assignment, uh, I, I must say, I was, uh, in the United States Army, also as and left as a Major after serving here for four years, my first four years here I was an active duty member of the United States Army, and, and the person said, I'll never forget, he said, "I'm giving you an assignment, um, that will entail your seeing things that you wish you had lived and died and never saw", he's done that, and volunteered to go back in multiple times, so that, if my son or daughter serves under him, I trust that he will not see, uh, putting someone in harm's way lightly, I trust that he will want that person to be as trained as competent as they can possibly be before they're sent out to defend the people of Guam and the people of the United States of America. That's an incredibly important thing that people trust our, our own sons and daughters to him and I would and, um, uh, I was going to add to that, that, um, uh, in that capacity, I've seen something and this is not disrespectful, in fact, to General Paulino and others who served before Mike, um, I've seen, uh, his commitment to making sure that people know he is the Adjutant General of Guam, that he makes sure when they talk about threats to the island of Guam, that he reminds them, it's threats to the people of Guam, yes, the island matters, but it's the people of Guam, and he reminds them over and over that the people of Guam are who are at risk, and so I see him as not simply now being a one of the fifty-four Adjutant Generals and representatives to the to the military from the, uh, civilian side, but I see him as someone who is looking after the well-being of Chamorros and those of us who call Guam home as much as anybody could and, in, in a way, it's a bit, um, I'm I admire his tenacity in constantly reminding those who may have several more of those stars on their shoulders, that he serves the people of Guam as much as he serves our country, so that's what I wanted to add to all the other things that you're going to hear about his qualifications which are unquestionable so just as a human being who he is, thank you.

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**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Dr. Berg.

**Dr. Thomas Shieh:** Yeah, um, Senator, I forgot to bring up one point, um, that one person is not here is Dr. Christopher Perez, and Dr. Perez and Mike goes way back, and if he was here today he would be here to support his, uh, confirmation.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, thank you, Dr. Shieh. Um, anybody have any questions here? None? None? All right, panel, you're dismissed. Thank you, thank you very much docs for everything that you guys do for the island. Yes ma'am, uh, we have one more, uh, um, member from the public, um, miss Faye Santos. Anybody? And, I'd like to acknowledge the, uh, presence of, uh, Senator, former Senator, uh, Espaldon. Sir, do you have, would you like to give testimony? Okay, just stay there then. Well, if that's it, I, um, we'll just go ahead and, um, I'll allow, uh, Senator Telo ma'am.

**Senator Telo T. Taitague:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Um, you know, I, I've, I've known Mike actually since I was, what, sixteen or fifteen years old, when, um, he and a friend of his actually taught me how to surf, a lot of people didn't know that, but he was so willing to, um, you know, help someone who was eager to learn, and I knew back then that, um, this was a really nice guy, and of course I, I didn't see him for many years later, you used to have hair down to here, right, you used to have your hair way down here, right, and now you're sitting here and all the, that you've done for the island, um, and not just that, but, you know, you've, you're really setting a path for the future too as well, um, by helping other people, you know, learn how to help other people, you know, um, you know, and I've served also under you when you were the Lieutenant Governor, and I found that, uh, your door was always open for me, uh, when I had any concerns or anything, so that that makes me to believe that the good service men and women of the National Guard will not have an issue having to knock on your door, and, uh, seeking any kind of guidance or, or even have any complaints and concerns, so I'm, I feel really confident in that, but of course, you know, I, I could sit here and glorify you like everyone else has

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done, but, you know me, I'm, I'm going to have to ask you a tough question. So, what do you see will be among the challenges you will, uh, you'll have to tackle coming into this position, especially with respect to the missile defense strategies, um, Guam's growing role in the nation's defense, and how can you best navigate our community with these challenging times.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Senator, thank you for that question. It's very clear in my mind that Guam's existence hang, hangs in the balance. Have you heard me say before, on one of our uniforms, our, um, OCP, our, our camouflage uniform, we wear two flags. On the right hand side, we have the American flag, and, unique to Guam, is we actually wear the Guam Seal on our left. I'm absolutely firmly committed and believe that those two flags, interests and needs and futures, have to be the same, the needs of the interest of our people, our environment, our oceans, our customs, our traditions, have to be quick balanced with those, the needs of the nation itself. Guam can't just be part of the national defense strategy, it needs to be part of the national strategic strategy. Defense is only a part of the strategic strategy. Our people, seventy-nine years ago, suffered through the tragedies, the atrocities, the rapes, the murders of the last Great Pacific War. My grandmother had to watch as her oldest son and oldest daughter were, I mean oldest brother, were beheaded in front of her on the beaches of Agat. That is not lost on me that this next possible Great Pacific War has our existence in the balance and so it's important that our nation knows that, uh, a projection of power from Guam is necessarily going to make us a target, and so, as such, we need to make sure that our existence as a people will continue beyond that and I think that that's the job that I have to bring to this, this, the job, this is what I say on a daily basis at the highest levels of the Department of Defense. When I get an opportunity to, there has to be a, a picture of who we are. As part of that, to me, that's the, that's the biggest challenge, okay, and that, uh, we're not going to be this, we're not going to be a place to have just project power from, but the other thing is that we need to figure out our current relationship with the Federal government. I'll give you sort of a, an to what I think is an irony. For example, when you read about Guam's position, right, there we've lived under this, what is described as this tyranny of distance from CONUS,

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right, the United States continental, um, continent. Well now, there seems to be at least, a luxury of proximity, a luxury to the fact that we have close to the to Asia itself. Well, that luxury cannot just be one of a military value, it should be one of an economic value, social value, cultural value, health, and the like, and so, I think I lost my thought, but these are important for us and, and so, as we project power from Guam, they're saying that, that we need to ensure the freedom of navigation and to ensure that international trade within the South China Sea and the Western Pacific will continue for all the economies that live here. Well, we're going to project that part to allow the freedom of navigation, but yet our people are burdened by a Jones Act, those are the type of things that we have to work with and do we need to find our relationship within our nation if this is what we so choose, to have it be, but not we have to have the same voice, we have to have a say in our future and so, to me, that's the big challenge, but, as you know, we, I, have three priorities as a guard, number one is defense of the Guam and the Marianas, number two is to fix ourselves, and number three is recruiting and retention and those are the, those are the priorities and those are also the challenges.

**Senator Telo T. Taitague:** Well, is that enough for everyone here? He's got everyone's support. I was very clear, precise, you know, the past, the present, and the future, and I think that you hold all those traits for this island to, to be great, so I thank you so much for taking on this position, and I wish you very much the greatest of luck to you, and I, always know that my door is always open, if I could be of any assistance to you. Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, ma, uh, thank you, uh, Madam. Uh, we go ahead with, uh, Speaker, uh, Vice Speaker, uh, Tina Muña Barnes, ma'am, go ahead.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Committee Member:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, uh, Mr. Chair, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, and probably ask just a couple of questions, uh, to the appointee, uh, first of all, uh, I want to thank, I see some of my family members out there on



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some of my husband's, uh, Guard, Air Force, uh, Airmen out there, thank you so much for joining us, uh, this afternoon for Adjutant General Mike Cruz's confirmation. I just want to say Adjutant General Mike Cruz, my mom's favorite, I just, uh, I, I really want to say that your work as a soldier, as a war veteran, doctor, senator, and Lieutenant Governor, make you more than qualified to lead the Guam National Guard, especially given today's testimony. I want to say up front that you have my full support for your appointment and, um, I want to tell you, Mr. Chair, that I will be voting to confirm Adjutant General Mike Cruz for this position. I also must, uh, say for the record that, uh, his wife is family, and just to note it for the record, that we may not see, uh, each other, uh, a lot of times. Every time we meet and, um, at gatherings or at functions, uh, we always seem to catch up, so I just want to say thank you to the family, to thank you for the support that you give, uh, to your dad, it's really, really important. I also want to say, um, that in light of, uh, yesterday's, uh, oversight hearing into, uh, the hospital, uh, I personally want to ask you, um, a question, question, and I would like to ask whether you believe, whether you believe, if activated by the Governor, that the Guam Guard is able to assist GMH when it, with its ongoing situation, which I think we all should be calling a crisis, and let me pre, preface that, um, Adjutant General, I want to say that we all remember the huge help the Guard provided during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. You remember that we would not have tested, treated, and vaccinated as many of our residents if it weren't for the dedicated soldiers and Airmen who manned health facilities including the Guam Memorial Hospital, and, more recently, I want to say that the Guard has helped our families pick up their lives and recover from the damage caused by just the recent typhoon Mawar. So, Adjutant General, what kind of aid do you believe the Guard can provide GMH to help them out of this crisis and would you recommend your troops be activated in order to begin this critical mission if, test. I know it's a loaded question, but I know it's really loaded, but I, I'm just sincerely from the heart, if afforded that opportunity to help.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Wow, well, I don't, I think it's obvious that there's no more complex a sector or space than hospitals, because it



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deals in life and death, and to the extent that the Guam Guard can be helpful, obviously, we can, uh, but there's no one person that's going to be able to fix a hospital that is broken, and I think it's going to take leadership to bring that together and to the extent that we can, I think that what Guam, the Guam Guard, brings, other than the fact that we do have medics and stuff, is we have very capable leaders in, to include myself, and if the Governor, who is the Commander in-Chief of the Guam National Guard, deems it that, uh, we, I, or whoever needs to go and, and, and assist, uh, the hospital in some way, I would certainly, uh, be the, the first in line.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Committee Member:** Thank you so very much for, for your answer, and your sincerity in this efforts and knowing that you literally been there in the past and at a second's notice and what Senator Santos was saying, what Dr. Berg was saying, what Dr. Nguyen was saying, Dr. Shieh was saying, was the need of leadership and literally doing the work when tested and asked even at a, on a second's notice, so I really appreciate your comments, um, I do have one more question, uh, Mr. Chair.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** But, if I could just add this, though, I, I think that leadership can certainly do all it can, but we need to have the political will to make the changes that need to take place.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Committee Member:** Thank you, thank you for that. One more question, Mr. Chair. Um, with Homeland Security officials, uh, noting persistent, uh, advanced cyber, uh, attacks directed at our island, can you provide the public with some of the efforts the Guam Guard is leading and involved with that are helping to improve how the government and critical infrastructure partners respond and prevent hacks, data smuggling, and other cyber threats.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** As you know, and I think that's, uh, Senator Telo Taitague knows as well, we held the first, uh, government, sort of island wide cybersecurity conference, and we're going to continue to move forward on that. Uh, with additional ones that are coming up, I



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just completed a, a, uh, general officer and flag officer course and Homeland Security at the Harvard Kennedy School. Uh, I think that there's a lot of things about our existence, our culture, our resilience over war, multiple typhoons that prepares us for some of those complexities. We're just going to need to ensure to get the additional resources, uh, and expertise that can be given to us by, by our nation to ensure that, that our, uh, our cybersecurity, uh, is, is, is in, in a good place to be able to, uh, ensure that our livelihoods and our future will, will, will be stable.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Committee Member:** Thank you very much Adjutant, I just want to say again for the record, Mr. Chair, that, um, this fine young man literally has my support and I hope, uh, Mr. Chair, that you can expedite his package immediately and that he would be on board with us at the next session, uh, schedule, so thank you very much for giving me the opportunity, Mr. Chair, to speak, but I want to thank you for stepping up to the plate again, and again, and again to help our people of Guam, more importantly, to protect, uh, our freedoms that we live today so *un dangkulu si yu'os ma'åse, si yu son benedisi, hagu mas do i familian mu, un dangkulu na si yu'os ma'åse* for all the work, and the family here to support you. It's truly a blessing to have you on board with us. *Saina ma'åse.*

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Vice Speaker, and done, uh, uh, Senator, uh, Senator Roy, please sir.

**Senator Roy A. B. Quinata, Committee Member:** *Si Yu'ous Ma'åse*, Mr. Chair. First, I want to thank you all for coming out today and for your service most especially to you, um, you have been tried, you have been a tried and tested leader, you have a distinguished statesman record; as a son of Guam, you've always put your best foot forward and engaged challenges head on. With all the supporting testimony, I'm not too sure if there's anything else to further, uh, discuss. Um, I, I can honestly attest to your leadership, because I did campaign for you when I was, I think, ten, in 2006, so if anyone wants to know where my political strategy came from, it came from a Republicans, but, um, you know, with that being said, you

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know you've always served with integrity and character, and because you show us, shown, you've shown pretty much everyone that not everything needs to be looked through political glasses. You are tried and tested and true to all you do and, um, you've been a private, uh, practitioner, and also in the public service forever since you've been, um, in office, and ever since you've graduated, you've always stood by the people and I, I have no hesitation in supporting you. Further, I believe in you when I was ten and I believe in you today and forever, so if there's anything my office, or, in any capacity, I, can do, please, please, let me know. It's good to see Tay-Tay now, she's a Academy cougar, but, um, for the record, I am related, Mr. Chair, to the nominee, and also his wife, so just putting that out there, but I wish you all the best and my office is standing ready to support you in anyway.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, uh, Senator Quinata. Senator Frank Blas, sir.

**Senator Frank Blas, Jr.:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. General, I'm going to share a little secret, okay. Yesterday, the General called and he goes, “um, my confirmation hearing, you coming?”, I said, “for what?”, he goes, “come on, you got to be there, what do you need to do?”, and I said, “really? you're going to ask me what you need to do?”. As far as I'm concerned, I think, after the first ten minutes, you know, your confirmation hearing was done, okay. So, I want to give this opportunity, though, to be able to, you know, one of the things I told him, he goes, “what do you think I should do?”, and I said, “name, rank, serial number, and the background green”. Well, thank you guys for being here, it's not the green we want, but the hair, hair kind of shows where you where you're coming from, okay. Um, you know, I, I, full disclosure, I've, you know, I've known the General for a great number of years, you know, like Jim said, between the three of us, we can form a triangle of stories that, after we tell the stories, I don't know whether you want to confirm him or even want to be known as his friend, but it all in good jest, because, you know, everything that, uh, was said about you, General, is not only true, but it's magnified by ten. I don't think there is enough time, uh, in the day today to, to be able to speak of

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your accomplishments and the things that you've done for, for our people and why you're so deserving of this, you know. I know you're here to ask us for your, for, for our vote for your confirmation as the agent General, and, by the way, do you know what Director of the Department of Military Affairs does for its job, or we just, we're just going to go ahead and take care of that as it come along, because you have that ability to do.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** That, that's why we have good staff to be able to help me do that. I have a great quartermaster, and so she'll direct my, uh.

**Senator Frank Blas, Jr.:** And that's, that's always been you, and that's what I appreciate, you know, it's, it's, you're not afraid to surround yourself by learned people, by subject matter experts, and want to learn more. The first time I remember, me met Dr. Mike Cruz, at that time, actually was, um, there was a, as a Homeland Security adviser. I was giving a SARS briefing at the Westin Hotel, you know, at that time, SARS was something that we really needed to take care of, and sitting in the front row of the many other first responders and individuals who were there was this individual that was introduced to me as Dr. Michael Cruz. I've seen him before, because his family lives across the street from, from my family in Apra Heights, but the thing was, I was like, what does a doctor, who knows what I'm going to be talking about, wanna sit here listen and it's because, true to his form, he wanted to learn more, he wanted to be engaged more, okay. He wanted to cross his T's and dot his I's and he wanted to contribute to the safety of our island. Never told you about that, but I respected you very much, about that, then there's another thing that, you know, that hasn't been taught about, talked about. We talk about his accolades and his professionalism, everything, but Tay-Tay, you're going to, going to appreciate this, sweetheart. I met your father one day at Happy Mart in camouflage, all right. He had just finished a full day of playing soldier and being a medic, but you know what was on his mind at that time when he was in Happy Mart? He had to get the ingredients cause he needed to make the curry dinner that he promised you, so I know your favorite dinner is curry, but he took the time to be able to do this and, you know. It's not like

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he wanted, I knew he was, had to go home, and after being a Colonel, after being a CEO, after being a medic, after, after being a supervisor, after being everything that he was asked to, been in the, in, in the, in the previous eight hours, he needed to go home to be a father, and that's what makes this man complete. We can sit here, and this could be a confirmation hearing for many other agencies and many other positions that exist within this government and, General, you'll fit the T to all of them, not because you have the knowledge of being able to run it, but because you have the ability and the will and the capacity to surround yourself and to learn that, that's why I'm confident in this, and so I stand proud, I see proud saying you got my vote, not because I love you, but you got my vote anyways, okay. So, thank you very much, Mr. Chair, General, okay. Formally, thank you very much for standing up.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Yeah, but for the record, I, I do cook at home, uh, I think my, my job's, my wife's job is way more important to me, because she has to, uh, uh, lead nurses, and so that I make sure that, uh, when they, when my wife and my children come home in the evening there's dinner waiting for them, yeah, right, Tay?

**Senator Frank Blas, Jr.:** Just, you know, Tay-Tay, your mom sent your dad the, the, the ingredients as to what to buy, cause I had to show them where the curry was at, at Happy Mart, okay.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Minority Leader. Thank you, sir. Um, Senator Sabina Perez, ma'am.

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon, um, General. Um, I just think that you're definitely well qualified, you're well-rounded, uh, you've been, you served Guam in so many different facets, and, um, I saw you, uh, in, in action during the pandemic, and it was very clear to me that you have the, the caliber and the, uh, the leadership that Guam needs, and I think your nomination to this position is timely considering what's happening geopolitically, um, and so, I really like your vision to ensure that Guam is not just part of the defense, but also part of

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the, the, at, at the table, I think, you know, that's where we, we can both agree that we both need to be at the table before any of these heavy decisions are made that impact our lives here on, here on Guam, and so you definitely have my support, um, I just want to ask, uh, um, you know, in, in the GCA, it talks about the, your role, and it's an advisory role, and I'm just curious to see what, what, what would be your advice, uh, to the Governor in regards in your position.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** It's, it's what I've just stated earlier as well as, you may know, uh, I held, or our Guard held, the first ever Gu, uh, Guam National Guard briefing to all the other services here in Guam, that being the Navy Admiral, the Air Force General, the Marine Colonel, and the, uh, Coast Guard, uh, Captain. It was important, in fact, the Admiral told me, goes, “you know, Michael, I think we're, I think I need to be doing this and I think all of us”, and I told everybody in the room and a lot of my staff are here as they made the presentation, because they're way, way, way smarter than I am, that for the next two or three years, everybody in that room, including the Air Force General and the Navy Admiral, we are all going to be defenders of Guam, some for two or three years, some of us, the rest of our lives, but we needed to know each other and I think that the Guam Guard being the continuity for defense, the continuity of the future of our people needs to be front and center in ensuring that our future, uh, is going to be there, and so, to me, that's the, the continuous advice that I give the Governor and that I think that, if, if we're, if we're going to be important militarily, then we need to be important in every single way and we need to leverage that to ensure the betterment of our, our lives, and the betterment of our people going forward.

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Um, and I know we were at a briefing, um, uh, held by the, the, the Chair, and in that briefing, there was talk about funding. How essential funding is, um, and recruitment retention and recruitment, I mean, I think we're experience that, experiencing that government-wide, uh, issues of recruitment retention, um, and funding, so, um, I just, maybe if you can clarify what your role would be to, uh, advocate for Guam in regards to the National Defense Authorization Act,

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do you have much of a, a role in that. Um, I know you do put out budgets, right? You're, you're, um, the Guam National Guard's supposed to present a budget to the greater, uh, national, um, entity and so, uh, what has been your interaction at that level and to ensure that you're getting the proper funding?

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** I think before we actually can do that, we have to be the best story tellers of our own story, and that's part of the priorities that I've, I've mentioned as well. Uh, there are much smarter staff members on my staff that can help us with that, but my job, because I have the white hair and I have a biography and curriculum vitae that allows me to open doors and allows us to be invited into the doors, I get the door open and much smarter people like those that surrounded me will fill it with, uh, with what's needed, but clearly, uh, there is going to be a significant amount of appropriations as monies that are going to be spent out in the Pacific Defense Initiative. We need to, to make sure that that's not just about missiles and bullets and tanks and ships, but that's about how we best provide for an environment and a future for our people as well.

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Yeah, speaking of that environment, uh, what sort of environmental initiatives, um, you would support?

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** As you may know or may don't, my actual Bachelor of Science degree is in Biology. Uh, I live, I actually have beach property, what's important to me is that the reefs, the oceans around us are things that we're only just now, we're only borrowing from her, so we need to ensure that what we enjoy today was just borrowing just for a short period of time, so that my children and my grandchildren are going to be able to see this for the future. We've lived in these islands for 4,000 years, we should expect that we're going to going to live here for the next 4,000 and beyond, and this environment has sustained us through all those centuries, and this environment needs to continue to do that going forward and so that needs to be protected.



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**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Yes, I agree with you, I mean, you know, we take for granted a lot of the resources that have provided for us for many generations, um, and so, having said that, I mean, for instance, like, the open detonation, right? Uh, there is, um, changes happening nation in regards to alternative technologies that are in existence, that are in use and, um, that could be used here, um, yeah. What is your position on, uh, making sure that Guam doesn't get left out of these cleaner technologies that exist?

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Um, sorry, I missed that. What technology?

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Cleaner, cleaner alternative technology.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Yeah, thing is, is that, any transition to, uh, renewable energy is pretty cost-prohibitive, and I think that there's, there's certainly a role at some point for us to transition to that, but not to, not at the cost of the economy. Fossil fuels are still what we are dependent on today and we, we will be dependent upon that for, for a period, future, but there should be a transition at some point and given the abundance of renewable energy forms that we have here, uh, around our island, that being sun, certainly wind, wave, even possible, a geothermal, I think we need to be taking advantage of that, but again, it's very cost prohibitive at the front end, but I think at some point we need to take advantage of that especially now that there's an interest in our islands and there's an interest in our, uh, our, our proximity. I think we need to leverage those, uh, luxuries, as I stated before, to ensure that these types of new technologies that are going to be helpful for a future sustainment of environment are going to be taken advantage of.

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Thank you in regards to, uh, like, so open detonation, I probably wasn't clear about that, so there are, uh, so it's been 40 years right, since they banned open detonation for explosives until they found, uh, alternative technology that can handle explosive weapons and so, there is, there is information and use of these alternate technologies

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including, um, safe storage, um, safe transport, right, and, and so, um, you know, I guess, what is your position on ensuring that Guam doesn't get left out of access to these technologies? So instead of being exposed to, um, toxic chemicals due to open detonation, which doesn't have any type of pollution controls, there are technologies that can help, uh, prevent such release, so for one of the, um, problems is like, for instance, uh, PFAS. PFAS is a forever chemical, forever compound because it's very resistance to break down, breaking down, um, and if, uh, open detonation, what that does it releases, it, it releases these compounds, uh, and disperses it more readily and so what, what I'm asking is, you know, what is your position ensuring that, uh, these cleaner technologies, if it can be used, um, you know, to ensure that we're not being left out, because, as you know, Guam has, you know, high cancer rates, we probably have each one of us have somebody in our family that has died from cancer or is experienced or has cancer themselves, right? So I think it's really critical, um, to really advocate when we're talking about being at, at the table, right, you know, why are we second class citizens when it comes to these kind of protections, which are available right, and, um, you know, in this position, your position, as you're opening doors, uh, for these discussions, um, you know, what is your take, what is your position, position on this particular aspect?

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** I think it's very clear that our position has to be to ensure that those particular technologies that you're talking about, we're going to have access to. Now, I may not be that familiar with a lot of that, as you may be, but I'll tell you what, I could be as smart of that, maybe smarter, uh, if just given the opportunity to do that, but clearly, the position is yes, we would, we would want to take advantage of things that are less damaging to us as a people. After all, I happen to be a physician.

**Senator Sabina F. Perez:** Yes, and thank you, thank you for all your service, I mean it's pretty apparent that you're dedicated, uh, son of Guam, uh, servant, government servant, as well, and, um, I definitely appreciate the fact that you don't, you're not complacent and you're a take charge, you

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know, you know that things have to be done and, um, you have a vision, so, uh, I do look forward to having more discussions with you and, um, uh, thank you for accepting the nomination. *Si yu'os ma'åse.*

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** Thank you.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Uh, thank you, Senator Perez. Uh, Senator Brown, ma'am.

**Senator Joanne M. Brown:** *Håfa Adai* and good afternoon. What a, what a sense of accomplishment you must have today, and I know you're very humble about this sort of thing, but I think we all have to concede, uh, the credentials you bring to the table, Dr. Mike, are impressive. I think if any one of us simply picked one road, uh, we would have been very accomplished, if it was simply, um, being a surgeon as you are, that would have been a great accomplishment, if it was simply being an elected official, that, in and of itself, would have been a great accomplishment, if it was simply following the road you have as a soldier that has led you to where you are today, that in and of itself, for any one of us, would be quite an accomplishment, and I think it's not often in one's life you have the opportunity to actually hear, uh, what other people think about you, what they feel in terms of what you've done, and what you've worked so hard for, and I think that's something to be recognized today, because, um, you're a rarity, you're a rarity, I mean, to, to see what you've accomplished and, and to realize that, for young people out there today, that there are still people they can look at and say, "wow, I wish I could do what you do", um, so, in that department, you know, you have our support, I mean, it's, uh, I've seen you work very hard, I've had the opportunity to work with you, I've had the opportunity to be a patient of yours, um, and know you from, from different facets, and also know you as a friend and so, in that sense, you, you have my support. I think you will have the support of every, every member here, but I think the challenge is, you know, the hard work that's involved, and, and you've done that, I mean, you've done that to get to where you are, not everybody does, you know, we have people in our community don't hesitate to masquerade particularly politically, you know.

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It's unfortunate politicians, we get such a bad reputation sometimes because somehow, if you go the political route, you're shortcutting, you're somehow not quite capable of accomplishing that you have to go that route to get in positions of power and authority and we do have our people as I say masquerade quite, you know, they have no shame about it, they are like, "look at me, I've arrived, look at my title", but whether they're respected, whether they have the capability, whether they have the leadership, that that's a big question most people know when you have it and most people also know when you don't have it. Tearing down and destroying is easy, it's very easy to do that to somebody's character, it's very easy to take something others, you know, spent many years building and destroy it, we've seen that happen, that happens regularly around here, as a matter of fact, that's kind of normal, much surprising to me having been raised also in my Chamorro family and my own influences. I sometimes wonder why, but I'm going to ask the question because, uh, I think it needs to be asked, I don't think we could ignore the issues and certainly we heard it, I'm ,I'm not in the Guard, but I've heard the rumblings, I think we all have, um, that there's, there's been a sense of disappointment because you have many that have worked very hard to get to where they are and certainly in the field that you are, are in now, that you've worked for many years, um, you know, it takes a lot of time and effort to accomplish what you do and also for the people that are under you that you are going to be directing, and when we heard the rumblings, a lot of disappointment, that somehow the politics seeped into the Guard, that instead of ensuring that we had leadership that was going, going to set the example and have the standard, that standard got lowered, we had many that were senior that had worked many years, uh, with the expectation that, maybe they would have the opportunity to sit where you're sitting today and they left just in disgust, they maybe it's time to, to step aside because this is not the train that I want to be on, so I want to ask you, because this is not, I'm sure, the first time in your life you have been given this opportunity to actually pursue the position that you're here before us today. This has come to you before, um, so I'm going to ask you, why now that you're willing to accept this, and I'm also going to ask you, knowing, and I'm sure you know, I'm sure you feel it, I'm sure you've seen it, what are





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you going to do to rebuild the Guam National Guard, because it has to be a well-organized, disciplined, respected organization in our community, uh, and that has to come internally from, from the people that work with you that are a part of your team and that also has to come from, from the rest of this community to have that sense of confidence in who you are and what you do and what your team does. So, I want to ask you, because I think that's a critical issue, I think everything else, hands down, you have what it takes, I don't have any question whatsoever about that, but I want to know what you're going to be able to do in this capacity, rebuild that sense of confidence of your people and also of this community, um, you know, so we have that sense of confidence, we have that sense of pride, we have that sense of peace that we know you're doing what you need to do and that your people are also doing what they need to do. So, how are you going to address that disgruntlement that has been there for the last, last few years, that, that sense that, why I've worked very hard and someone else gets to get in front of me, and, and, uh, you know, it kind of takes away the, the shine a bit, so I'm going to ask you that question, what are you going to do to address that, because I know it's going to take a lot of time and effort, uh, but there's a need for it.

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** The first thing, though, Senator, is the fact that, though these things that you talk about happen and so, life is not perfect, there's no human endeavor, there's no human institution, or human entity that is perfect in any way, anything that we have broken needs to be fixed, anything that we're doing well, we need to do even better. I feel that the Guard, the military should be based on merit, on merit, and nothing else, you get to go in front of the line because you deserve to be there, all things being equal, maybe we can have some subjective decisions made at that point. I wear many, many, many different, I've worn many, many different hats, but to me, it's, it's, it's the hat that's most important is what she thinks about me, and so for my soldiers that's the same as well, my staff, that's the same as well, they can come to me and know that they're going to get a fair shot at something, but it's not because you're a woman, you get to go in the front of the line, it's not because, uh, you, you're, you're a different race you get to front of line, you get there because you belong

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there, and so I think that's where it's going to start, and that, that, that, that we have that sense back, but I cannot correct any of the, the wrongs that were done in the past, but what we can do is set the future up, uh, so that we are going into the right direction. That's the fix it in my priorities and we're starting to do that by having ensuring that our, our staff, we're looking at the career progression of our staff and the, and that, we're going to be sending some of those that are our best soldiers out for broadening tours, so they can compete nationally. As an example, the, the Deputy Commanding General for United States Army Pacific, uh, is a position that, I think that the Guam Guard needs to put a two-star General in, because this is our AO, it's in looking at all these opportunities to ensure that our staff that are going to excel and want to excel, are going to be able to flourish by just letting him do it, and so that's how I, I want to be able to start it, but I certainly, again, like I've said before, I'm surrounded by the smartest men and women, uh, in the military; our Guamanian soldiers and Airmen shine, when given a chance, we're going to give them that chance.

**Senator Joanne M. Brown:** Well, and I, I definitely appreciate your response to that, because, again, I sometimes, you wonder and I do, I mean, we've been at this a long time, um, you know, I feel very much if you empower your people, they're, they're going to excel and they're going to, it's always the hope that you're going to have the young up and coming, because we're not going to be here forever, we're not going to be in our respective capacities, that we will have some comfort level that those that are going to come after us are going to have that capability. Uh, you know, sometimes wisdom obviously takes time, it takes experience, um, it takes humility, um, so I, I know you will do well and I'm happy that you're mindful with that, because we, we as a community want to have that sense, I mean, we have an expectation of what we want to see in our Guard as well, and I think it's very important that, that your people know that they're going to have that opportunity, that if they're, and I, I've, politics in particular, is not a game of merit, the most popular people are not necessarily the most honest, caring, hardworking members in public life. You can project all kinds of images, it doesn't mean it's real, we know that, we've been on the other side of the curtain, but certainly, what we expect

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in the work that you do and the work that your people do, um, you know, we want to, we want to know that, that working hard and that, earning what you have, have matters, because if it doesn't, what's the point, I mean, you can get all the, the, you know, the pins and you can get all the certificates, but, you know, if other people don't look at you and they don't respect you, uh, what do you have, you don't really have much of anything. So, I appreciate your answer, I look forward to the work you're going to do, I look forward to what you will continue to do, Mike Cruz. You are indeed exceptional, um, you set a good example for our community and, while we're all sitting here saying great things about you, I have to say, it's well deserved, you've come a long way and you're doing so much for your community and I think you're going to inspire and continue to inspire a lot of young people, because they need to have good role models to look forward to, and know that, hey, you know, I can be that guy from Agat or that girl from Inarajan or Chalan Pãgo, or whatever village you're from, and know that if you, you take the time, you make the effort, you work hard, you, you do your education, you become a person of your word, which, I think, is very important, I think that's critical if you have nothing else than that. I think that's the most valuable thing you have and you certainly are a man of your word, so I look forward to all that you're going to do and, um, very proud to have you as part of our community and certainly proud that we've known you and had the opportunity to work with you and wish you and the Guard continued success. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, thank you madam Senator Brown. Senator San Agustin, sir.

**Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Committee Member:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, General Cruz, we've known each other for at least forty years, at least that. For most of the folks here, uh, we were together in the Guard, you got my full support. You, you didn't even have to think about it. I've always supported you when you were in the medical detachment, and as you moved up the ranks and everything, you've done, holy toledo, everybody speaking, I'm happy when they, when they

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mentioned they were from the Air Force and the Navy, because at least they understood that the Army is in charge, and it's always been in charge. It's very simple, even though, uh, not Major Cruz back there, he understands that the Army is the oldest branch of service in the Armed Forces, but you know what, General, I hope only for the best and, and you're right, there there's going to be troops that are going to, they're sour grapes, they're jealous, they wish they were there, well then, do your part, go to the training, get educated, be ready to move up, don't wait to be given a handout and that's the rule I've always done when I was in the Guard, when I was running the schoolhouse, you want to move up, earn it, it's not free, it's not because, like you said, you're a female or because you're whatever race you want, forget about that, that's thing it says there, Uncle Sam ain't released me yet, soldier get in, get in line, and most of them have not been in the chow line longer than you, and I they got to remember that, even the Command Sergeant Major back here, Leon knows that he hasn't been in the chow line as long as you, and you and I have been, as a matter of fact, he's my neighbor, but you know, General Cruz, you have my full support, and I hope to hear more of all the issues that everyone brings up. Take care of the Guard. You know, I'm in the Government Operation Appropriation, if you need funds for Department of Military Affairs, we'll help you out, we do what we need to do because I know that you're going to lead the Guard in the direction it needs to go and you're going to protect the people of Guam and I'm happy you set that first, it's the people, not the island, it's the people, first of all, the people. You ain't got an island or you just got a piece of rock, that's an easy one. Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Thank you, Senator Agustin. Um, I always ask when is it my turn to speak, they told me I'm the Chairman so I can speak whenever I want, but, uh, we let them all go first. Um, what the first time I met you, I was with my dad, and, uh, I said, "dad, who's that guy?", he said, "um, that's Dr. Mike Cruz, he's from Agat", and, uh, through the years, through the years, I've learned so much about you. You've opened, you, you've opened up my mind, you opened up my heart to service, um, kind of like modeled my, my career, kind of like, after

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yours, uh, I, uh, so, but, you paved a way for, for, for guys like me for, for many of us in the South. Look, look to great character and wisdom and, and, uh, um, honor and so, I've always looked up to you and, uh, this is my first ever, um, uh, confirmation hearing, so it's such a great honor to, to, to have the, um, uh, this confirmation hearing for you, it's such a great honor for me, um, and, by the way, I like Army chow and I'm sure you're going to do that, and keep that all for the, for, for soldiers, and I, I, I know in my heart that, uh, you will, you will lead with, uh, wisdom, honor, integrity, and compassion, I just have this feeling about that, I don't know why, but I, I do and you have my undying total support and, uh, we'll do everything we can to get the rest of the this House to get behind you, and, uh, with that sir, I'd like to congratulate you for taking this on and thank you so much for being here and, uh, I guess with that, um, we'll wrap it up. So let me, uh, I was going to use my Army voice to read the last part of this, do you have anything else or would you like to say anything else?

**Dr. Michael W. Cruz, Appointee:** We are Guam, we are Guam's Guard, and we Guard Guam.

**Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, Chairman:** Hooah. If there's nobody else to give a testimony, today's Committee is holding, uh, uh, today, today the Committee is holding a public hearing for, oh sorry, wrong one. With that being said, I'd like to thank everyone for attending this hearing. If there's no testimony here today, we will adjourn, and this portion of the public hearing for Dr. Michael Cruz General at, uh, 3:32, 15:32, 3:32. Please note, we will also continue to receive testimony via the mail room at the Guam Legislature or through the email, my email senatorsannicolas@guamlegislature.org. Uh, with that, we'll this, uh, this is adjourned. We'll take a five-minute recess to prepare for the next bill. Thank you, sir, thank you everybody for coming. Love your kids, love your *manamkos*, and love your parks. Thank you.

The Confirmation Hearing was adjourned at **3:32 p.m.** The Committee then takes a five-minute recess to prepare for the next hearing on the agenda.



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**III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

All discussion and testimony presented to and received by the Committee affirm the support for the appointment of Dr. Michael W. Cruz for the position of the Adjutant General, Guam National Guard, of the Department of Military Affairs.

The Committee on Emergency Response, Border Safety, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mayors' Council of Guam hereby reports on the appointment of Dr. Michael W. Cruz to serve as the Adjutant General, Guam National Guard, of the Department of Military Affairs with the recommendation of **TO DO CONFIRM.**