DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
JOINT REGION MARIANAS
PSC 455 BOX 211
FPO AP 96540-1000

RECEIVED
5/23/19

5800
Ser J00/0244
May 21, 2019

Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Office of the Speaker
35th Legislature Guam
35th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

35GL-19-0552
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

MAY 23 2019
Time 2:10 ( )AM (V)PM
Received By:

Hafa Adai Speaker Muña Barnes:

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF MARINES TO GUAHAN

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2019. It was my pleasure to show you, the governor and lieutenant governor the military facilities and to provide the opportunity to meet some of the service members, civilians and contractors that proudly serve on Guam as part of this community. It was an honor to show you the hard work, planning and training that allows us to maintain robust capabilities that contribute to the defense of Guam and the nation and remains a critical part of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the remarks made by Marine Corps Commandant, General Robert B. Neller, about the relocation of Marines to Guam during a recent Senate Appropriations Committee hearing.

Joint Region Marianas, together with the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and Marine Corps Activity Guam can assure you there has been no change in scope or plan for the relocation of Marines to Guam. We remain dedicated to the protection and preservation of the island's natural environment and cultural resources, and we will maintain our responsibility to environmental and cultural stewardship. The Department of the Navy remains committed to all environmental requirements in the 2015 Record of Decision for the relocation of Marines to Guam, which includes the 2015 Biological Opinion, as amended, and the 2011 Programmatic Agreement.

Marine Corps leadership continually reviews all its plans as situations develop and new information becomes available. Any changes to plans to relocate Marines from Okinawa to Guam would not occur without the input of the Department of Defense, Indo-

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5800
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Pacific Command, U.S. Forces Japan, and the Governments of Guam and Japan.

The United States remains committed to its international agreement with the Government of Japan. The Marine Corps will commence the relocation of the force by the end of the first half of the 2020s. The Marine Corps has a long history of working together with the people of Guam and we want to sustain this enduring mutually supportive relationship as we establish a more robust Marine Corps presence for the security of Guam, the nation and to ensure a stable, free and open Indo-Pacific.

I want to personally thank you for your family's valued military service in providing for our nation's defense. Given this year is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Guam, it is all the more timely to cherish our American liberties, including free thought, expression and affirmation of cultural identity as exemplified by the Inifresi. It is our common duty to be ever more vigilant that such freedoms are secure for our fellow citizens today and guaranteed for our future generations. Thank you for sending me your concerns. It is an essential part of our mission to maintain open dialogue and ensure transparency with your office and the Government of Guam.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my staff. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship and thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

S. S. CHATFIELD
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander

0552

Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan

05/08/2019

RECEIVED BY: 5/9/19
Y'N' (SGT) SHANE VOSS

Shoshana Chatfield
Rear Admiral, Joint Region Marianas
Building 200 Halsey Drive
Piti, Guam 96915

Re: Relocation of Marines to Guåhan

Dear Rear Admiral Chatfield,

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! First off, I would like to thank you for your hospitality during our site visits to the various military installations on our Island. As a proud daughter of Guam, I am at peace knowing that the United States, under your leadership at Joint Region Marianas, is doing its job in protecting our homeland. As we had mutually agreed upon during our initial meeting at the start of this term, both of us understand that the only way forward, is to engage in open dialogue.

In the spirit of open dialogue, it has been brought to my attention that Gen. Robert B. Neller, the Marine Corps' Commandant has stated that the move to Guam needs further review, and hints that the move to Guam may impact the Marines' mission mandate. He further stated that the discussions about the impact of the Marine Buildup, specifically discussions on the environmental impacts, "have yet to be played out."

As the Chairwoman of the Legislative Committee on the Guam Military Build-Up, I am asking for clarification on whether this statement, wherein it is implied that the current plans are non-conducive to the Marines' ability to "fight tonight" would result in a greater Marine Build-up. If so, would there be a need for a greater amphibious force, aircraft carriers, and other types of high speed vessels to be stationed on Guam? Should that be the case, I believe we should briefly re-examine what potential ramifications, specifically to our oceans, coral and sea-life may be associated with this.

As the mother of a currently deployed son and wife of a retired Master Sargent, one who served proudly in the Air Force and Air National Guard, as well as a daughter of Guam, I know our two communities can coexist harmoniously. The military has been a part of our island's history for decades, if not, a century. With the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam approaching, our community comes together sharing our common history and remembering all those who sacrificed their lives for our island and reflect on the atrocities of war.

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Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan

On that note, I would be lying by calling myself a daughter of Guam, yet not abide by the *Inifresi* which states:

Ginen i mas takhelo' gi Hinasso-ku,
i mas takhalom gi Kurason-hu,
yan i mas figo' na Nina'siñå-hu,
Hu ufresen maisa yu' para bai hu Prutehi
yan hu Difende i Hinengge,
i Kottura,
i Lengguahi,
i Aire,
i Hanom yan i tano' Chamoru,
ni'Irensiå-ku Direchu ginen as Yu'os Tåta.
Este hu Afitma gi hilo' i bipblia yan i banderå-hu,
i banderan Guåhan.

From the highest of my thoughts,
from the deepest of my heart,
and with the utmost of my strength,
I offer myself to protect
and to defend the beliefs,
the culture,
the language,
the air,
the water and the land of the Chamorro,
which are our inherent God-given rights.
This I will affirm by the holy words and
our banner,
the flag of Guåhan!

I hope you understand the perspective I am coming from and I look forward to your response.

Sincenru yan Magahit,

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature

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