



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
JOINT REGION MARIANAS
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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

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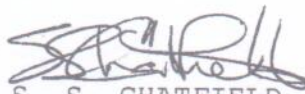
Pacific Command, U.S. Forces Japan, and the Governments of Guam and Japan.

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