



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

MEDIA STATEMENT

March 13, 2026

Senator Shawn Gumataotao issued the following statement after conducting today's Oversight Hearing on the Guam National Guard (GUNG) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). Guam Law provides that the administrative and executive head of DMA shall be the Adjutant General.

“The Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard (Committee) extends its gratitude to the soldiers and airmen of the Guam National Guard for their selfless service to our island and nation. Their collective work and 24/7 readiness directly impact the safety and security of all Americans including the 170k Citizens of this westernmost U.S. Territory in the Pacific, particularly as the current Middle East conflict continues to escalate.

The Committee is concerned and will work with GUNG and DMA to address non-Master Cooperative Agreement expenses which have been reported in the past to potentially impact overall readiness and response capabilities. Accordingly, these organizations must have the financial resources and flexibility to support our soldiers and airmen during times of both peace and military conflict.

The Guam National Guard must be combat-ready, cost-effective, experienced and serve an important dual role – to Guam and the United States of America – like no other organization in the Government of Guam. We must support these important entities that deliver unparalleled operational capacity with strategic depth to defend all Americans. While our collective focus these past several days has been on the Middle East, our attention to rising geopolitical and security tensions in the Indo-Pacific must remain steadfast.

The Committee will continue to work closely with Brigadier General Karin L. Watson, The Adjutant General, and her Command Staff to strengthen GUNG and DMA moving forward. We are confident that these important organizations will prioritize local and federal resources to address the needs, challenges, and expectations of our soldiers and airmen and their families.”

For more information, please contact Senator Gumataotao's office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at [office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov).