

## **HomeSec SubCom: Moylan**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing and for all the work you do, but Mr. Chairman the state of Guam's Homeland Security is unsettling.

This isn't because of a lack of determination in personnel or lack of leadership, but rather a lack of will from the administration to properly fund Guam's security assets. As rogue actors continue to threaten the peace in the Indo-Pacific, Guam's defense capabilities have been catapulted into the national limelight. Despite the attention, money has exclusively flowed toward the Department of Defense and has disregarded security agencies in Guam. Local agencies like Guam's Homeland Security Agency, while filled with dedicated and hardworking individuals, have been seriously limited in their capacity due to underfunding. Guam's funding problems are multifaceted- extending across maritime, homeland, and cyber fields- it is past time they receive the funding they need and deserve.

Captain Simmons, the commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam, referred to U.S. Pacific patrolling capabilities by stating the Guam Maritime Search and Rescue region is "...two thirds the size of the continental United States that we patrol with three ships and 300 people". To be clear, three fast response cutters are not enough. The size and location of Guam's Area of Responsibility (AOR) demands more of than any three vessels can provide. FRC missions range from search and rescue to coastal defense, and the growing threat of illegal fishing. While 3 FRCs would be enough for Guam's coast, the addition of Freely Associated States greatly expands that AOR and pushes the limits of what these FRCs can accomplish. As we discuss homeland security and the growing threat of transnational criminals and state actors in the region, I respectfully request expanded funding for more Coast Guard vessels in Sector Guam.

On transnational threats, a common misconception is that illegal immigration does not exist in Guam because it has only water borders. This is simply not true. Guam's borders are consistently abused and underfunded, and it is felt throughout the entire region. This abuse can take many forms, whether marriage fraud, outright sneaking onto the island, or the rare visa overstay. The only way to solve this blatant security risk is to drastically increase appropriations for Guam's Customs and Border Protection capabilities. Guam's Customs and Quarantine Agency- the CBP equivalent in Guam- desperately needs funding. For the sake of Guam's and CONUS's security, an increase in funding directed toward our Customs and Quarantine Agency is critical.

As Guam continues to rebuild from Typhoon Mawar, FEMA assistance is still needed. As the issuer of all Department of Homeland Security grants, FEMA has a critical role in rebuilding Guam and securing a more resilient future. On island agencies rely heavily on these grants for capability upgrades but are hindered due to their competitive nature. If we look at the current structure of the Homeland Security Grant Program, the emphasis on traditional counterterrorism risks has been detrimental. Simultaneously, this grant program disregards the growing need for threats coming from transnational organized crime and cyberattacks. While HSGP and other FEMA grants are outdated, increasing funding for these programs would fill capabilities on Guam that they otherwise cannot afford. For all the discussions about Guam's

defensive readiness and what the U.S. needs to prepare for in the Pacific, it is disheartening that Guam gets the bare minimum of FEMA grant money pool.

It is known that the People's Republic of China is always looking for ways to infiltrate and disrupt U.S. cyber components. While interagency cyber efforts have been created, Guam's cyber capabilities are still ignored. The most disturbing part of Guam's cyber gap is its underfunded staff. For all the cyberattacks Guam faces, it is insanity that the Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency has designated only two employees for the entire island. If CISA cannot afford to distribute cybersecurity personnel to high value areas like Guam, they need greater funding from this subcommittee. I understand that many States need cyber improvements, but if the PRC is confident enough to attack Guam's Infrastructure during an extreme weather event, they will only continue to batter us.

Guam has been called the "tip of the spear" for defense purposes, and for good reason. While the DoD and the National Defense Authorization Act have excelled in fortifying Guam's outer security ring, the Homeland Security inner ring still has a long way to go. Despite being essential to U.S. National Strategy, Guam's homeland security needs have largely been ignored. Mr. Chairman I beg you to consider an increase in funding for DHS and its constituent agencies in Guam, and with that Mr. Chairman I thank you, and I'll yield back.