

# CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs

## A Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal Year 2020



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**WHO WE ARE**

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor maintained operation and support to all Veterans from the CNMI. The office assists those returning home after serving and family members in seeking employment, medical, and health issues in collaboration with the federal VA office. Currently, our office has five personnel. We have collaborated with Rota Mayor's office and has designated one liaison staff to help with Veterans on Rota. We are also in collaboration with Tinian Mayor's office to assign one designated liaison staff to help with Veterans on Tinian. Currently, there are two (2) staff certified to assist Veterans with compensation, claims, pension and funeral arrangements.

In 2020, our office laid six (6) fallen Veterans and one (1) spouse at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, Saipan. To date, there's one hundred sixteen (116) burials since the opening of the cemetery.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING

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### Memorial Day



Memorial Day event arranged by OVA. Wreath, bouquets, candles and flags are provided for Veterans and family. Tinian and Rota event handled respectively by liaison staff.

### Veterans Day



Veterans Day event arranged by OVA. Tinian and Rota event handled respectively by liaison staff.

### Veterans Cemetery – Funeral for Veterans and Family



All arrangements for military funeral honors for Veterans arranged by OVA.

### Town Hall Meeting

Due to the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, most of our planned quarterly meetings with Veterans from all three municipalities were canceled.

**Meeting** Meeting with DPL, BMV, NMHC, NMC, VHA, VBA, VET CENTER  
Issues of homestead, Identification Card, VA Health Card, Veterans discount, Health benefits, Employment, College Tuition Waiver and housing were discussed and later disseminated to our Veterans.

On February 25, 2020, a ground breaking ceremony of the Veterans Cemetery Expansion and Improvement was held after receiving a grand award of \$3.2 million from the Department of VA Cemetery Administration (see attached page for more).

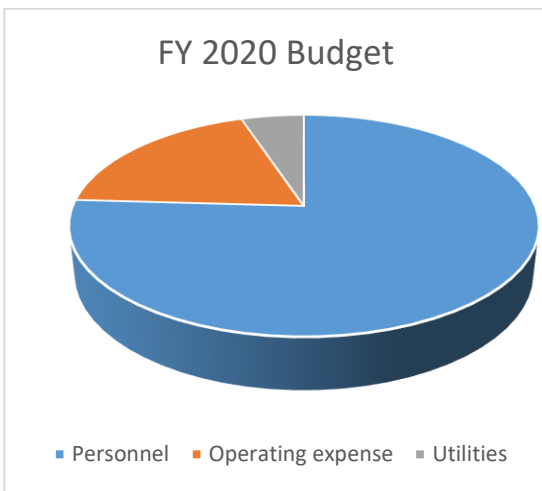
## Financial Report

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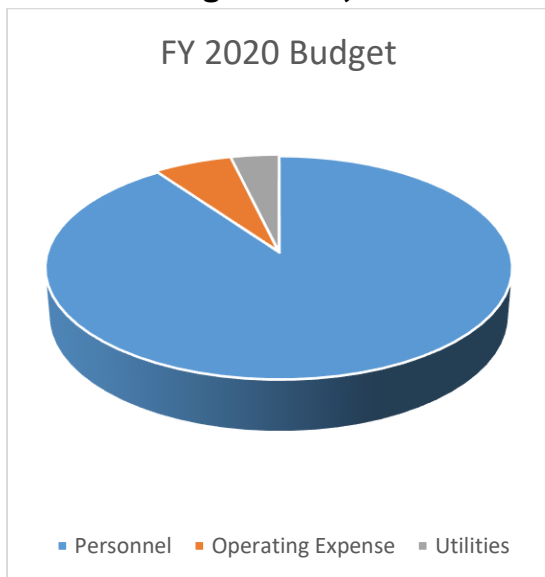
For Fiscal Year 2020, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor received a total of \$213,487 for its operation. The General Fund is the major source of funding for its personnel and other expenses. \$192,365.00 was appropriated for personnel, \$13,122.00 for other operating expense and \$8,000.00 for utilities.

To assist in with cost-cutting and austerity measures brought on by the outbreak of COVID19, Purchase Requests submitted for equipments and other operating expenses were canceled. Our only tourism-based economy came to a screeching halt because of the pandemic.

### 2020 Budget \$213,487



### FY 2020 Budget \$213,487



# Looking Ahead

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## Goals

Plans to construct a Resource Center designed to be a one-stop-shop for our Military personnel/veterans equip with File E-Benefits, Resume Writing, Employment Search, Notary Public.

Purchases equipment for Veterans Cemetery to ensure cleanliness and and ground maintenance are followed through according to the VA Cemetery Administration.

Requests VA Benefit Counselor to visit Tinian and Rota for claims, compensation and pension.

Partner with Non-profit organization to sponsor events of interest for Veterans and family.

Arrange with Small Business Administration for training relating to owning own business Veterans and family.

Provide timely and integrated care and support to Veterans and family.

