

# CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs

## *A Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal*

### *Year 2021*



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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, prior to the month of August 2021, there is only one staff certified to assist Veterans with compensation, claims, pension and funeral arrangements.

In 2021, our office laid ten (10) fallen Veterans and one (1) spouse and three (3) cremated at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, Saipan. To date, there's one hundred thirty (130) burials since the opening of the cemetery.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING

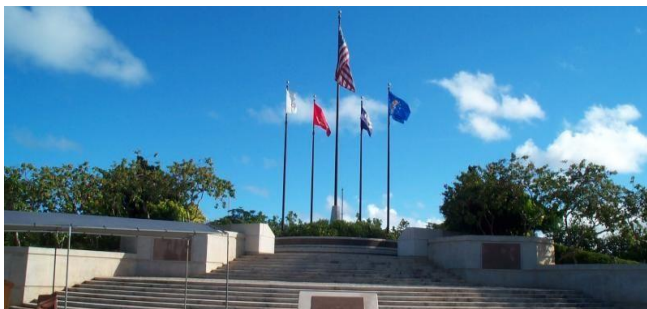
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### Memorial Day



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 ongoing 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, CBDC, VET CENTER, NMC, CNMI & Guam Customs and Non-Profit Organizations.

Issues of homestead, Identification Card, VA Mission Act, VA Health Card, Veterans discount, health benefits, rifles and firearms for our Honor Guards, Employment, College Tuition Waiver and housing were discussed and later disseminated to our Veterans.

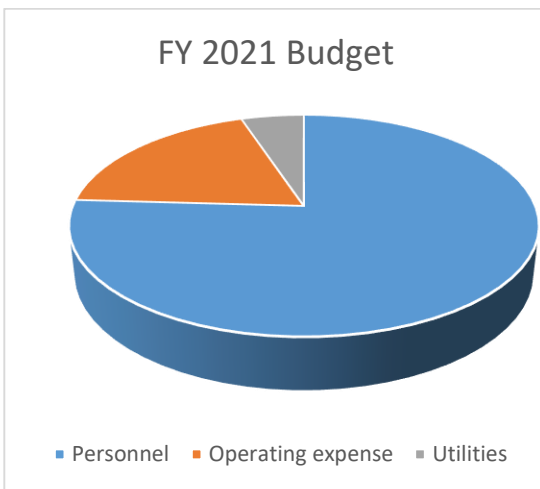
The \$3.2 million grant from the Department of VA Cemetery Administration for the CNMI Veterans Cemetery Expansion and Improvement Project, for all intents and purposes, was completed resulting in two hundred and seventy (270) more new crypts have been added to the existing plots at one hundred sixty-eight (168) (see attached page for more).

## Financial Report

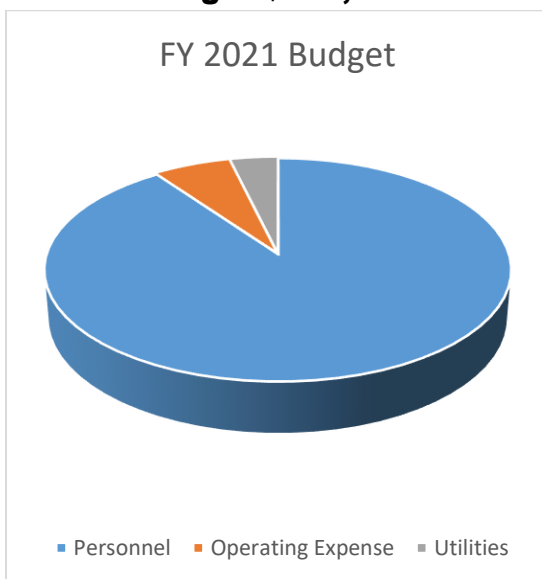
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For Fiscal Year 2021, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor received a total of \$126,365 for its operation. The General Fund is the major source of funding for its personnel and other expenses. \$121,114.00 was appropriated for personnel, \$1,251 for other operating expense and \$4,000 for utilities. Moreover, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs received an additional budget allocation of \$61,569 under the ARPA Funding.

### FY 2021 Budget \$126,365



### FY 2021 Budget \$126,365



# 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.

