

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs

A Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal Year 2022



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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 Rota. Early this year, funding was being provided to hire a full-time employee serving as the Veterans Affairs Coordinator for the island of Tinian. Additionally, we are blessed to have one federal full-time, highly-experienced and competent VSO stationed with us here on Saipan whose main job is to assist Veterans, retirees and their families with compensation, claims, pensions, and other VA benefits.

In 2022, our office laid seven (7) fallen Veterans and five (5) spouses and one (1)) cremated at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, Saipan. To date, there's one hundred forty-seven (147) burials since the opening of the cemetery.

WHAT ARE WE DOING

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

Our office was able to conduct at least one Town Hall Meeting with Veterans from all three municipalities during 2022.

Meeting Ongoing meeting with DPL, BMV, NMHC, NMC, VHA, VBA, CBDC, VET CENTER, NMC, CNMI & Guam Customs and Non-Profit Organizations.

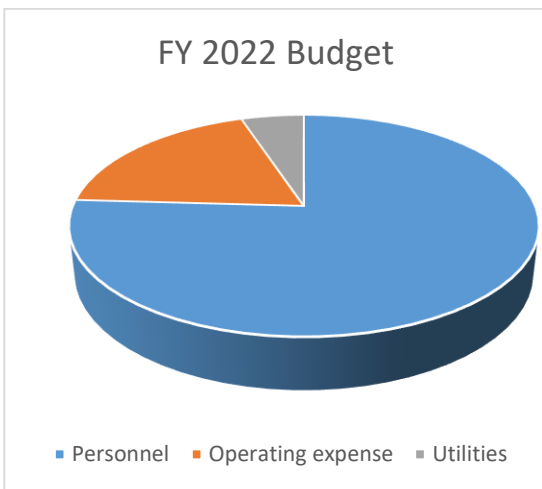
Issues of homestead, Identification Card, VA Mission Act, VA Health Card, Veterans discount, health benefits, rifles and firearms for our Honor Guards, Employment, College Tuition Waiver and housing were discussed and later disseminated to our Veterans.

Due to continued effort and communication with the VHA, Veterans traveling from either Rota or Tinian for medical appointments do not have to shoulder the cost of airfare since now VA has consummated a contract with local airlines. A stride has been made in terms of allowing CHCC sole hospital in providing space for VA visiting doctors from Hawaii.

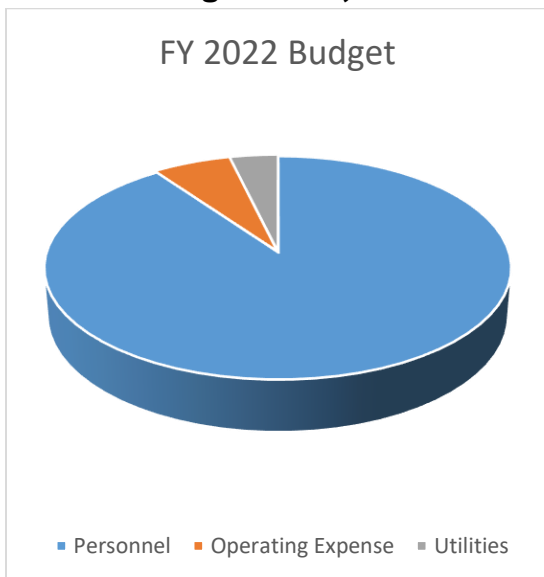
Financial Report

For Fiscal Year 2022, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor received a total of \$217,525 for its operation. The General Fund is the major source of funding for its personnel and other expenses. \$202,371.00 was appropriated for personnel, \$15,154 for other operating expense and \$0 for utilities. Moreover, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs received an additional budget allocation of \$123,137 for personnel, \$1,231 for operation under the ARPA Funding.

FY 2022 Budget \$341,893



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Looking Ahead

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 federal VSO, Mr. Willie Peterson 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.

