

# Pacific Daily News

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HAFA ADAI, IT'S MONDAY

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75¢ on Guam



■ Don't forget to vote in today's Pacific Daily News poll. Today's question:

**Grade the performance of GMH Administrator Peter John Camacho in 2009.**

■ Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on  
**PAGE 2**

## 'I'm not against the buildup'

### Supporters prepare in anticipation of economic growth

**By Amritha Alladi**

*Pacific Daily News*  
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A slew of activists have fervently voiced their opposition to the military buildup during a series of recent public hearings, but there are some others who look forward to the economic growth expected from the buildup — though they may not be as vocal in their assertions.

They have until Feb. 17 to submit their opinions quietly on paper.



For example, Jose Villas, general manager of Eureka's Construction, said he hasn't commented on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. However, he supports the expansion opportunities presented by the relocation of 8,000 Marines and their dependents to Guam.

#### TO THE POINT

▲ Some people support the military buildup because of opportunities it will bring, such as increased revenue and improvements to infrastructure.

"I'm not against the buildup," he said. "Our employees right now are all local workers, they're all skilled. That's all we need, to train those kind of people."

That's not to say Villas is placing

all his hopes on the buildup, because Villas, like many other in his field, knows not to put all his eggs in one basket.

James Martinez, president of the Guam Contractors Association, said he, too, has not been to any of the draft EIS hearings, but he supports the military buildup. He said the association has been training workers in light carpentry. However, the

▲ See **Buildup**, Page 4

# Buildup: Financial gains touted

▲ Continued from Page 1

training in heating, air conditioning, light carpentry and photovoltaic systems is long-term and sustainable so workers will not only be employable for maintenance jobs after the buildup is over, but will also be employable whether the buildup happens.

"Even if it doesn't happen, there's building of infrastructure we need to take care of," Martinez said. "If you're going to train specifically for this military buildup, you're probably training for the wrong reason."

In fact, it's because the fate of the buildup still see-saws precariously that local businessman James Adkins said Guam's residents shouldn't challenge the Defense Department's land acquisition requests.

"The military is starting to look at some of the things that are being said by our senators that they do not want the military here. You couple that with the other things that are going on in Japan (and) we are not sure that we will even get this buildup," Adkins said.

And according to him, no one has produced an alternative to solving Guam's economic problems. So far, the buildup has been the only viable option, he said.

"I agree," said Guam Visitors Bureau General Manager Gerry Perez. "I have not heard any major economic development initiative proffered by those most vocal in opposing the military buildup."

According to the draft EIS, the military buildup will create 3,000 jobs for civilian workers by the 2014 peak, and an additional 6,150 jobs will be provided on a "more permanent basis" thereafter. The government of Guam is expected to generate \$325 million in 2014 revenue alone, the document states.

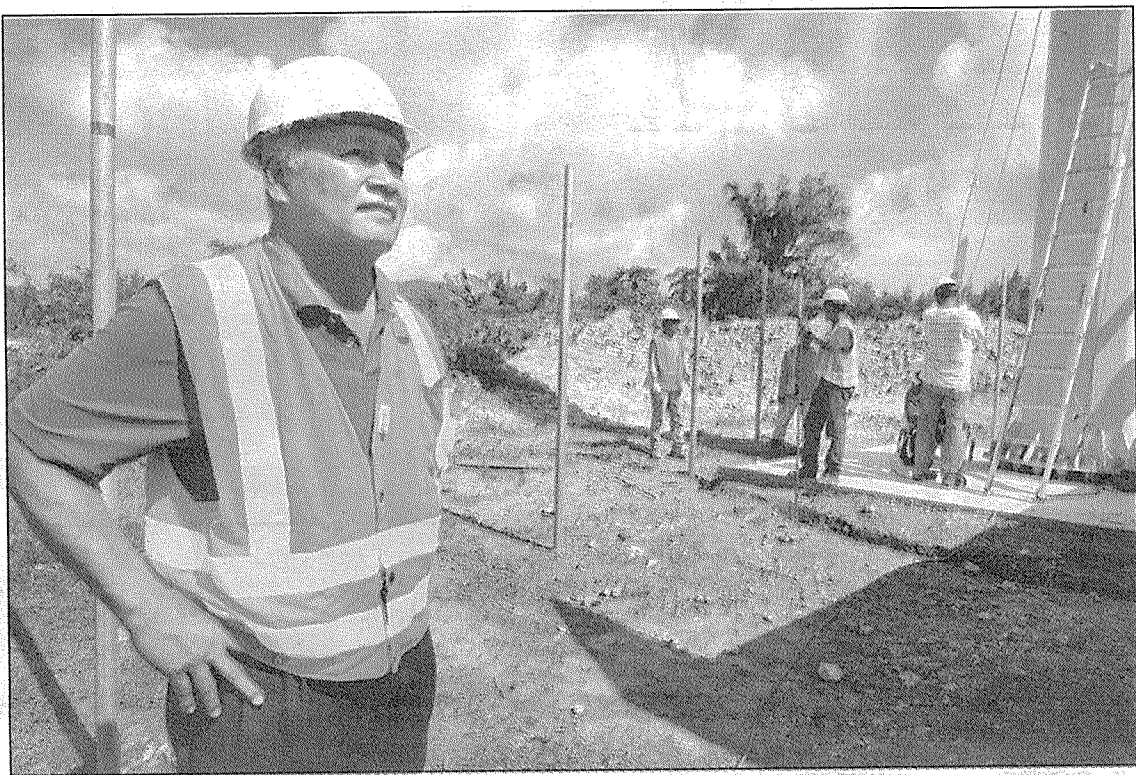
However, Guam Department of Labor chief economist Gary Hiles said it's not so black-and-white.

"The buildup will bring more jobs to the island and more revenue to the government of Guam. However, it will cause the government of Guam to incur substantial additional capital investment for infrastructure and increased operating costs in public safety, health care and education," he said.

While some of these costs can be mitigated through increased federal support, like the federal legislative action to exclude Guam from the national caps on the number of H-2B workers, more federal mitigation is required, he said.

For instance, the removal of provisions in federal law that protected Guam and U.S. workers will require additional mitigation so that the standard of living of workers doesn't continue to deteriorate due to the costs of living increasing faster than wages, he said. He added the proposed actions outlined in the draft EIS indicate an increase in the cost of living for Guam's residents.

Albert Perez, an economist with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, agreed the buildup opportunities will be more fruitful for some than others, but the real reason for Guam's economic decline isn't that the military lightened its operations on



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

**Looking forward:** Jose Villas, general manager of Eureka's Construction, said he looks forward to the military buildup expansion projects, and he has enough local workers to sustain the current demand of construction needs his company faces.

## IF YOU GO

Gov. Felix Camacho will be hosting two public presentations describing draft Environmental Impact Statement's key actions, impacts, and mitigation measures this week. Public comment sheets will be available at the workshop for those wishing to provide written comments that will be collected and submitted to Joint Guam Program Office as official DEIS public comments.

▲ Tomorrow, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Yigo Senior Citizens Center, on West Gayinero Drive

▲ Wednesday, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mangilao Senior Citizens Center, 120 S. Vietnam Veteran's Highway

▲ For more information, please contact Charlene Calip at 475-9380 or 788-0589 or visit the governor's Web site at [www.governor.guam.gov](http://www.governor.guam.gov)

## HOW TO COMMENT

View the draft EIS and submit comments:

▲ Comments can be submitted online, in writing, or through public hearings to be held on Guam, Saipan and Tinian through the Feb. 17 deadline.

View the draft online and provide feedback online.

## WHERE TO FIND IT

▲ Visit the Agana Shopping Center reading room (second floor) to view a copy of the draft EIS. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday,

Guam, as Adkins noted during a recent public hearing.

"I think the principal factor affecting what hasn't fueled our local economy of late is the state of the world financial markets," Albert Perez said. "Notwithstanding the military buildup, what will gradually fuel Guam's economy is a recovered world financial market which investors, tourists and consumers alike perceive as stable and long-lasting."

But tourism's dependence on foreign markets will only get Guam so far, according to GVB's Gerry Perez.



and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends

▲ Visit the public library or the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Mangilao. The EIS is also available at the mayors' offices in Yigo, Dededo, Barrigada, Agat and Mangilao, which are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## ON THE NET

▲ The EIS Web site: [www.guam-buildupeis.us](http://www.guam-buildupeis.us)  
▲ The One Guam Web site: [www.one.guam.gov](http://www.one.guam.gov)  
▲ The Joint Guam Program Office Web site: [www.jgpo.navy.mil](http://www.jgpo.navy.mil)

## WHAT'S IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

▲ Volume 1- Overview of proposed actions and alternatives.

▲ Volume 2- Effects of the Marine relocation to Guam including training facilities.

▲ Volume 3- Effects of the Marine relocation to CNMI (Tinian) including training facilities.

▲ Volume 4- Effects of the deep draft port with shoreside improvements creating a new capability in Apra Harbor to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier

Guam, as a "leisure market" dependent on the now-declining markets of Japan and Korea, has been starved for cash in recent years, he said.

"This situation has made it difficult ... to pay for necessary upgrades in our tourism plant and island infrastructure, while attending to critical health, education, and public safety issues," he said. "The military buildup will stimulate new markets, attract higher spending business travelers, and generate more income to pay for improvements in public service."

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▲ Volume 5- Analyzes proposed site of the Army Missile Defense Task Force.

▲ Volume 6- Evaluates related actions such as utilities and roadway projects on Guam.

▲ Volume 7- Summarizes the best management practices, potential mitigation measures, and preferred alternatives' impacts from Volumes 2 through 6. It includes aggregate and cumulative impacts.

▲ Volume 8- Presents the regulatory and environmental considerations that were evaluated and addressed.

▲ Volume 9- Appendices

▲ Volume 10- Comments and feedback, to be filled.

## WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

▲ The draft Environmental Impact Statement will provide a detailed account of how Guam's community will be affected through changes caused by the buildup. Factors of interest to Guam's community include access to recreation locations, safety, quality of life, labor-related issues, population increase and associated effects, Chamorro interests such as sacred burial ground and cultural sites, increases in traffic, utility requirements, small business opportunities, availability and cost of civilian housing, noise, land use, educational facilities, public health and social services, the local fishing industry and tourism.

*Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Joint Guam Program Office, Pacific Daily News files*

He said the buildup will also force the upgrades in long-neglected roads, bridges, utilities, and other infrastructure that serve both local residents and tourists.

"The planned expenditures from the military buildup far exceeds the combined total of all tourism investments made in Guam since the industry's inception some 40 years ago," Gerry Perez added. "This is the magnitude of what's at stake, and is the reason for House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton saying that we need to get this 'done right.'"

## Two men charged with terrorizing

By Amritha Alladi

Pacific Daily News

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Two men involved in an argument that started at Ralph's lounge in Hagåtña and eventually made its way to the parking lot of the Harley Davidson store in Asan are both facing charges of terrorizing as a third-degree felony, said Eric Palacios, spokesman for the Office of the Attorney General.

After being magistered in the Superior Court of Guam yesterday, Daniel Gumataotao and Anthony Aquiningoc were charged with terrorizing as a third-degree felony, Palacios said.

The two face the following charges:

▲ Reckless conduct as a misdemeanor;

▲ Possession of an unregistered firearm as a misdemeanor; and

▲ A special allegation of possession and use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

Palacios said the case is still under investigation and additional charges may be filed against the defendants and possibly other people

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## Accident: Investigation ongoing

▲ Continued from Page 1

woman was brought in just as a precaution, but she was released from the hospital with no serious injuries.

Terlaje said the driver and passenger of the Nissan fled the scene of the accident into the neighboring jungle.

Sixty-two-year-old Ben Guerrero was in his office at Veterans Helping Veterans in Ordot when he heard a "boom" and knew that somebody was hurt, he said.

"The road is very slippery. It had just stopped raining," he said. "I heard the boom and then I said 'O God.'"

"The sad part was that (the one in the white pickup) ran away," Guerrero said. "It must have been the fear that they had, you know, when you get into an accident your adrenaline is pumping."

Terlaje said the investigation is ongoing.

As of 5:15 p.m. yesterday GPD did not confirm whether they had found the driver and passenger of the white Nissan.

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