

From: RODERICK R. LEON GUERRERO
Brigadier General
United States Army (Retired)
152 Gaga Street
Mangilao, Guam 96913
Email: rodericklionwarrior@icloud.com
Contact # (671) 686-7762

To: HON BRUCE WESTERMAN
Congressman of Arkansas
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

CC: HON JAMES MOYLAN
Congressman of Guam
Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1628 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

22 August 2023

Hafa Adai Congressman Bruce Westerman,

Thank you for the invitation to speak in this Oversight Field Hearing entitled "Peace through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S. -Led Global Security. I am in favor of actions that lead to the safety and protection of Guam, an island that I call home.

Guam is the "Tip of the Spear" when it comes to the Defense of the United States. As with any spear, it must be hard, sharp at the edge, and in capable hands against foreign adversaries. In the worst case, a missile launched from Asia can reach Guam in as little as 15 minutes. Distances and regular airline flight time from Guam to the following location are as follows:

- Philippines: 2,492.21 km (2.73 hours)
- Japan: 2,613.57 km (2.86 hours)
- Taiwan: 2,752.82 km (3.02 hours)
- South Korea: 3,021.88 km (3.31 hours)
- Continental USA: 11,562.54 km (12.67 hours)

These distances and time emphasize the strategic importance of Guam. In the event of a crisis in this region, getting the right resources in a timely manner is critical. Guam is the closest part of the United States to Asia.

Guam has two major military installations, a third currently being built and one minor installation that continues to grow. Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, the 36th Wing mission is to project airpower, expand combat capability, and strengthen partnerships from the forward edge of the Indo-Pacific. Naval Base Guam is a consolidated Navy installation with several components across the island. The base provides critical logistics support to the U.S. Pacific Fleet and is the only installation in the region that can be used for berthing, ship operations and maintenance, refueling, and ordnance handling. Camp Blas, a U.S. Marine Base is currently under construction and is projected to have approximately 5,000 Marines and their families being relocated from Japan to Guam by 2025. These installations place Guam as a viable military missile target by nations that may become hostile to the United States. The minor installation is the Barrigada Readiness Center that house the Guam National Guard. The multimillion-dollar complex is fairly new, in comparison to Navy and Air Force Base, as the nation relies on the Guard and Reserve as an operational reserve unit vice a strategic reserve.

As of September 30, 2021, Department of Defense controlled 62,695 acres (97.96 square miles) of land or approximately 46% (This percentage is different from what is published to the general public of one quarter (1/4) to one third (1/3) of the island depending on the source of information). While a large percentage is controlled by the military, many servicemembers and their families that are stationed here live outside these installations. The estimated 21,700 military personnel and their families is part of Guam's population of approximately 154,000, most of which are residents and citizens of the United States.

The United States has a duty and a responsibility to ensure the safety of its people against all enemies, foreign and domestic. In 2013, North Korean President, Kim Jung Un, threatened Guam with nuclear missiles. The THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Air Defense) missile system was not on Guam until after the threat subsided. The only protection against any Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) during this threat were Aegis equipped ships in the area. We were fortunate to have the THAAD permanently assigned to Guam prior to the next North Korean Missile Threat in 2017.

But North Korea is not the only threat to the stability of this region. Nations have opposing claims over water rights and islands. Threats to freedom of sea navigation and the threats against Taiwan bring the possibility of conflict in this region. Conflicts may not be limited to direct intervention but also economic bans, political tensions, and cyber-attack. The United States has an interest in maintaining stability in this region, whether it is due to economic inter-dependency such as and not limited to specialized microchips from Taiwan or agreements with partner nations to come to each other's aide in any type of attack.

A question brought forth to this committee is, will the US be reactive, such as when we brought the THAAD to Guam after the 2013 North Korean Missile Threat concluded with North Korea deciding when to end the threat. Or will the United States take proactive measures to protect its citizens here in Guam against possible future armed conflict. The proposed action to deploy and operate a comprehensive, persistent, 360-degree Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense (EIAMD) system to defend the entire island of Guam against the rapidly evolving threats of advanced cruise, ballistic, and hypersonic missile attacks from regional adversaries, seems on face value, a good plan.

But, just like any plans, it must be thoroughly researched, subject matter experts on both sides given the opportunity to speak, and concerns mitigated. The U.S. military does a great job in planning for buildup projects inside the gates. As their infrastructure grows, the U. S. Military needs to realize the bigger

impact they will have on the island. The COVID pandemic flu is a good example of the local government working with the U.S. Military to develop a joint operational plan to address the pandemic. The same thing needs to happen as the U.S. Military builds the MDA on Guam. For example, will road networks be built up at the cost of the project rather than the local community paying for roads damaged by increased traffic to include more heavy equipment. If roads are upgraded, secondary effects should be mitigated such as flooding on lands next to the roads. With the proposed system, all concerns to the infrastructure should be mitigated, not at the expense of the local government but part of the program's cost.

There are concerns highlighted from the Congressional Research Service on the topic Navy Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program: Background and Issues for Congress, updated on April 20, 2023.

Mentioned in this paper include:

1. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) continues to omit the military services' operations and sustainment costs from the program life-cycle cost estimates.... By omitting these costs, MDA limits decision-makers' insight into the full financial commitments needed for affordability and funding determinations.
2. MDA continues to adjust program baselines without clear traceability over time. MDA also forgoes recurrent comparisons to the original baseline. Such adjustments and omissions impede decision-makers' awareness of each program's cost performance and total system cost.
3. Vice Adm. Jon Hill said that Aegis has been integrated to operate with the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, and THAAD has been integrated with the Patriot missile defense system, but MDA hasn't integrated all the regional defense systems with homeland defense systems.

Potential Cost Cutting Measures:

1. Congress should consider mandating the integration of the Guam National Guard into the Missile Defense plan of Guam. An example of how the integration could help cut cost is when the Guam Guard was activated to provide a security unit for the THAAD mission. For a couple of years, the U.S. Army rotated a company size unit into and out of Guam. The unit provide security for the THAAD. Guam Guard asked for the security mission and completed a cost analysis. To get the mission, Guam Guard demonstrated to the U.S. Army they could save over \$1 million dollars every year in transportation cost if Soldiers who lived on Guam, could complete the security mission. Today, Soldiers from the Guam Guard have been doing the security mission for the THAAD unit for several years.
2. In addition to providing security, the Guam Guard provided personnel and finance support and extended family programs support such as Marriage Encounters for Soldiers and their spouses in the THAAD unit.
3. At one point in time, the Guam Guard had an active Signal Detachment. The signal unit was assisting the active-duty signal unit in Guam. When the U.S. Army was downsizing, the Guam National Guard lost the signal unit. If given a signal unit, Guam Guard can provide much needed signal capabilities to MDA.

Finally, the island of Guam has a need for a Missile Defense System and must be used as a last resort! The people on the island of Guam have suffered much during World War 2 and Guam does not need to suffer another attack. To spare the island of Guam and other Pacific Islands in the region, the United States Government must ratchet down the tension with other countries in the region and place more emphasis in improving diplomatic relations. A quote from Ulysses S. Grant can best express my sentiments. "Although a Soldier, by profession, I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and I never advocated it, except as a means for peace."

In conclusion, while I support actions that will make Guam and this region a safer place to live in, I recommend improving diplomatic relations, mitigate and address missile defense concerns and answers to questions given by individual citizens and to Congress. I encourage MDA to work closely with National Guard Bureau and the Guam National Guard to determine where they can help reduce cost to the U.S. taxpayers by working as an integrated team on Guam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roderick Leon Guerrero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roderick" being the most prominent.

Roderick Leon Guerrero
Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Retired)