

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs  
*Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal Year*  
 2024



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**WHO WE ARE**

Under the Office of the Governor, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs maintained operations and provided support to all Veterans from the CNMI. The office assists those returning home after serving and family members in seeking employment, and medical, and health issues in collaboration with the federal VA office. Currently, our office has six personnel. We have collaborated with the Rota Mayor’s office and have designated one liaison staff to help with Veterans Rota. Early this year, funding was provided to hire a full-time employee serving as the Veterans Affairs Coordinator for the island of Tinian. VA/SAMHSA Governor’s challenge to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families.

In 2024, there were nine laid to rest at the Veterans Cemetery. Of the nine, two were spouses. A total of four were cremated. Of those four, three were veterans. To date, there have been one hundred sixty-nine burials since the opening of the cemetery.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING

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### Memorial Day



Memorial Day event arranged by OVA. Wreaths, bouquets, candles, and flags are provided for Veterans and families. Tinian and Rota's events were handled respectively by liaison staff.

### Veterans Day



Veterans Day event arranged by OVA. Tinian and Rota's events were handled respectively by liaison staff.

### Veterans Cemetery – Funeral for Veterans and Family



All arrangements for military funeral honors for Veterans are 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 2024.

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

Issues of the 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.

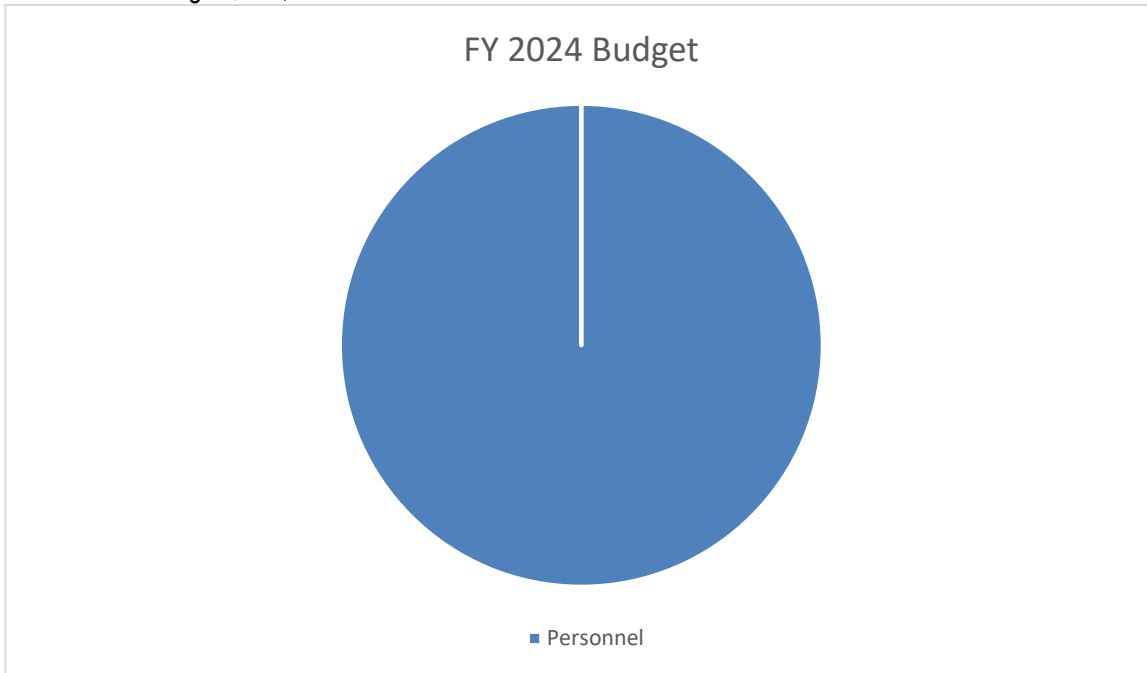
Due to continued effort and communication with the VHA, Veterans traveling from either Rota or Tinian for medical appointments do not have to shoulder the cost of airfare since now VA has consummated a contract with local airlines. A stride has been made in terms of allowing CHCC's sole hospital to provide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

## Financial Report

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For Fiscal Year 2024, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor received a total of \$0 for its operation. The General Fund is the major source of funding for its personnel and other expenses. A monthly budget was appropriated for personnel, \$131,257.00, and for other expenses \$0. Moreover, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs received additional funding of \$38,000.00 to cover Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations.

FY 2024 Budget \$131,257



# 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 equipped with File E-Benefits, Resume Writing, Employment Search, and Notary Public.

Need two FTE's for a VSO for our VA office to work on all compensation and for our office to be accredited. An FTE to hire maintenance employees for the VA cemetery. This was accomplished early part of 2024.

Purchases of equipment for Veterans Cemetery to ensure cleanliness and ground maintenance are followed through according to the VA Cemetery Administration. Received grants for some equipment such as a lowering device which is still pending.

Requests federal VSO, Mr. Willie Peterson to visit Tinian and Rota for claims, compensation and pension

Partner with Non-profit organizations to sponsor events of interest for Veterans and families.

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 families.

