



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
December 3, 2025

Senator Shawn Gumataotao issued the following statement regarding today's Public Hearing for Ms. Karin L. Watson, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) appointed by the Governor of Guam to serve as the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard (GUNG) and Director of the Department of Military Affairs:

“The Adjutant General is an extremely important position overseeing more than 1,200 Guam National Guard members and the Department of Military Affairs. Since 1975, GUNG's role has changed immensely in that time. With the U.S. Department of War relying heavily on the women and men of our Guam National Guard in so many efforts over the last 50 years to include humanitarian missions in the region, missions at home to include every major disaster in that time, the global war on terror after 9-11 and the efforts to defend the Homeland since.

Guam consistently ranks as number one among all U.S. States and Territories for having the highest number of National Guard Members per capita. Guam is a patriotic American Community. I do not see that changing anytime soon.

I want to publicly commend the work of outgoing Adjutant General, former Lt. Governor of Guam, and my former boss, Dr. Michael W. Cruz, for his service to our island and Nation. I look forward to working closely with TAG-Select Watson to strengthen legislative support for our GUNG members and their families, through policies that help fill gaps in military-provided education and medical benefits. Consistent with the organization's immediate and long-term policies, my office is prepared to assist TAG-Select Watson in expanding GUNG's capacity to facilitate internal and joint training requirements, particularly at a time of rising military tensions in our part of the world.”

For more information, please contact Senator Gumataotao's office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

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