

# Guam: Where the FilAm's...

PAGE A2 ◀

**Tip of the spear**  
The largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands, Guam has had a long history with outside military might, starting in the 17th century, the island has been captured by the Spanish, the Americans and the Japanese. It was retaken by the Americans at the end of World War II, and has remained a US territory. At present, a third of the island is house to US military bases, which cover approximately 39,000 acres.

But in a few years time, that would all change. By the year 2014, approximately 8,000 US Marines and 9,000 family members in Okinawa, Japan will relocate to this island in the Western Pacific Ocean. It is said to be the biggest military build-up in the history of the United States, amounting to about \$15 billion. The expansion could include a new Marine base, an Army ballistic missile defense facility and expanded Air Force and Navy bases by 2014, according to an initial Defense Department time line as reported by the Pacific Daily News.

Guam's recent role on the US' over-all defense strategy in the Asia-Pacific region is a significant one, with military analysts referring the island as the 'tip of the spear.'

**A big move to a small island**  
However, news of the military build-up has raised fears among the native Chamorros that their culture and population will be further diluted. In an interview on Live Leak, Chamorro leader Debbie Quinata said that she's not sure that the tiny island can cope with the military influx. With about a 25 percent increase—or 40,000 people -- expected to move in the island in less than a decade, that is certainly a big challenge to all issues that affect the lives of the people of Guam. Another issue is that the \$15 billion the US is spending for the relocation only goes inside the military bases. This was why during the RNC last week Governor Camacho reached out to US presidential candidate John McCain, to discuss issues that matter to Guam. "I've met with John McCain, and I discussed the importance of Guam to the nation, and I said, 'Sen. McCain, you understand as a former military man the role we play,'" he said in an interview with the Pacific Daily News.

The Governor's office is lobbying for financial assistance from the federal government over the next few years, money that is to be spent outside the bases' fence lines. This would mean road, seaport, utility improvements and other projects. In a visit to Guam last year, US Vice President Dick Cheney stressed Guam's role in the US bases' relocation, "The US can move quickly and effectively to protect our friends, to defend our interests, to bring relief in times of emergency, and to keep the sea lanes open for commerce, and close (it) to terrorists. This island may be small, but it has tremendous importance to the peace and security of the world."

Yet, even with Guam's significant role to the US military, Gov. Camacho pointed out to McCain that Washington, DC could give Guam better treatment. "We are also Americans," quoted the Pacific Daily News, "and we need to change the way Guam is treated."

**Protecting the patriotism**  
With its long history of serving in many of the US' wars, patriotism carries a big factor with the people's relationship with America. This history of patriotism has made some believe that the US will take care of its people, and will never let the military bases destroy the island.

As for Gov. Camacho, he believes that under a McCain-Palin White House, "Guam will get a lot of attention. It most certainly will." ■

# Police apprehend Filipino sexual assault suspect

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL  
AJPress



SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Police Department arrested a Filipino sexual assault suspect after he turned himself in last Sept. 5, Friday.

For about two weeks, police officers had been searching for FilAm Horacio Candia Jr., who was wanted for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman near 16th Street and Carolina in the Potrero District in San Francisco on Aug.

22. The victim managed to escape from his vehicle and called the police.

According to reports, Candia was arrested in his attorney's office last Friday.

Candia is a former San Francisco Fire Department firefighter. After nine years, he was terminated in 2000 for refusing a drug test, according to reports.

Police alleged that Candia shows his badge to facilitate his encounters with women. He then sexually assaults them, using

physical violence, according to SF Police officials.

"He lured a woman into a false sense of security," police Inspector Elaine Economus said to the San Francisco Chronicle. "He said, 'I'm a firefighter, everybody loves us, you can trust me.'"

The 38-year-old Candia is charged with three counts of forced oral copulation, one count of sexual battery, one count of making terrorist threats, and one count of false imprisonment. ■

# Owners of elder care employment agency indicted for knowingly hiring and harboring illegal aliens

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL  
AJPress

SANTA ANA—A federal grand jury indicted a Filipino man and his former wife on allegations they knowingly hired illegal aliens, primarily from the Philippines, to fill the jobs. An office manager for the couple was also indicted.

Filipino natives Wilfredo Ngo, 51, and his ex-wife, Teresa Ngo, 49, owners of A-Plus Senior Planning Services, Inc., were named in a four-count indictment handed down in August charging them with inducing aliens to reside in the United States; knowingly employing illegal aliens; knowingly harboring illegal aliens; and counseling persons to engage in marriage fraud. Gicela Sarabia, 43, the office manager for A-Plus Senior Planning Services was also charged with inducing aliens to reside in the US and knowingly hiring illegal aliens.

A-Plus Senior Planning Services is an employment agency firm that provides caregivers to at least 10 major elder care facilities in Orange County as well as workers for individual in-home care, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. US Magistrate Judge Marc L. Goldman arraigned the Ngos and Sarabia on August 25.

If convicted of all the charges, the Ngos each face a maximum sentence of more than 15 years in prison.

"The allegations in this case are disturbing when you consider that the illegal alien workers hired by these defendants were entrusted with caring for the infirm and elderly," said Robert Schoch, special agent in charge for the ICE office of investigations in Los Angeles. "People who enter the United

States on visitor visas do not undergo the same degree of scrutiny as individuals who are coming into the country as legal foreign workers or immigrants."

ICE began to investigate A-Plus Planning Services last December 2007 after it received tips that at least 40 of the agency's workers were in the US illegally.

Most of them arrived as visitors and overstayed their visas, according to ICE officials.

According to court documents, the Ngo's counseled their illegal workers to enter into fraudulent marriages with US citizens so they could remain in the country legally. The defendants allegedly told their employees to seek out potential spouses at Leisure World and on eHarmony.com, according to ICE officials.

The three defendants are currently free on bond. ■

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