



5 September 2003

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Navigation Improvements, Tinian and Rota

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Navigation Improvements project is in the reconnaissance phase. The 905(b) report was approved by Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on 9 May 2002. Two spin-off feasibility studies are planned, one for Tinian Harbor and a second for Rota Harbor. An independent Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSA) for each harbor will be executed. The Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, is working closely with the Rota and Tinian delegations to secure the necessary matching funds (Tinian: \$400,000; Rota: \$500,000) prior to the execution of the FCSAs.

b. The existing harbors on the islands of Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) are annually subject to the passage of typhoons. Successive typhoons over the past few years have led to the deterioration of harbor facilities. Due to these islands being isolated communities, harbors are the lifeline to each island. It is extremely important to provide harbors for waterborne commerce.

c. Implementation of improvements is expected to be costly and may necessitate Congressional intervention or exception to economic policies. In FY03 funds in the amount of \$50,000 (Tinian) and \$25,000 (Rota) were budgeted to initiate the feasibility studies.

d. Tinian Harbor improvements will involve alternative plans to reconstruct the deteriorated breakwater. The estimated project cost is \$25.5 million. The Rota Harbor improvements will involve relocation of harbor facilities to the north of the existing harbor. The estimated project cost is \$16.2 million.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Tenorio has expressed a strong interest in the progress of this project. The Executive Director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has solicited Senator Inouye's assistance for federal funds to repair the breakwater at Tinian Harbor.