



5 September 2003

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Super Typhoon Pongsona on Rota, CNMI - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Response

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. On 8 December 2002, President Bush declared Guam a federal disaster area under Disaster Declaration Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), based on the devastation caused by Pongsona. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and the Federal Response Plan (FRP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides engineering and public works assistance, as directed by FEMA, to state and local Governments following such declarations.

b. All response activity is physically complete with the exception of the restoration of all emergency generators to fully mission capable. Response work involved \$38,515,000 in authorized funds for both Guam and CNMI. However, the CNMI assistance was limited to approximately \$80,000 for three missions, Preliminary Damage Assessments, High Water Mark Delineation, and ESF-3 Activation. Although considerable damage was experienced on Rota, FEMA did not authorize significant effort by the Corps.

c. USACE Planning & Response Teams (PRTs), response cadre, volunteers, and subject-matter-experts (SMEs) from most of the USACE's 41 Districts throughout the world were involved in the Pongsona response efforts. In early January 2003, the USACE response organization consisted of over 150 persons.

d. Under the leadership of the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), an Interagency Group to Rebuild Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island convened on 24 April 2003 in Washington, DC. The USACE participated in the dialogue and will continue in future meetings. The USACE, at this time, is limited to providing technical, design, construction, and related contracting assistance as funded by other Federal grant agencies. There has been no further taskings or communication from DOI to USACE specifically for the rebuilding effort, to date.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Tenorio is highly interested in Federal assistance in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Pongsona, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers role.