

U.S. CONGRESSMAN ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

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JULY 2000

AMERICAN SAMOA WILL BENEFIT FROM ARMY RESERVE PLANS TO BUILD \$20 MILLION FACILITY IN TAFUNA

I am pleased that we have successfully completed negotiations with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) for a 6.5 acre site at the Tafuna Airport so the Army Reserve can construct a new training facility. The new facility, estimated to cost about \$20 million, will be necessary to meet the training demands resulting from the growth of the Army Reserve in American Samoa. It also would accommodate the USAR's future plans to expand operations in American Samoa by bringing additional units which will mean more job opportunities for our people.

The deal involved getting the FAA, which currently holds a lease on the said property from ASG, to release the land from Federal obligation and designate it for non-aeronautic purposes. After spending a considerable amount of time in back and forth negotiations, the FAA finally agreed. The FAA further agreed to extend a 55-year lease to the USAR. For its part, I was able to get the USAR to pay fair-market value for the property. All that is left is for ASG to submit a formal request to the FAA to release the property and then begin detailed negotiations with the USAR.

This is a win-win for everybody. Prior to this agreement, our government stood to lose Federal funding for the airport if ASG leased the land to USAR at a nominal lease rate. Now that the military has agreed to pay fair-market value, our airport will retain the right to the much needed Federal funding and will still receive fair-market value rates from the USAR. On the other side, the USAR will be able to construct its training facility to meet the needs of our troops.

I want to acknowledge the great help of Colonel Robert Lee, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army's 9th Regional Support Com-



Congressman Faleomavaega, Colonel Robert Lee and U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki (far right) met to discuss several issues concerning Samoan soldiers and the proposed new Army facility in American Samoa.

mand which includes American Samoa in the pursuit of this deal and also Senator Daniel Inouye (FofogaoSamoa). We worked on this project for the past five years.

It is estimated that the Army Reserve expends about \$3.5 million annually in American Samoa. With the addition of the new facility, the dollars expended by the Army in American Samoa will only increase and that is excellent news for our economy.

SAMOAN WOMAN APPOINTED TO WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS

I am very pleased that Ms. Jacinta Titiali'i Abbott, an American Samoan lawyer, has been appointed to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian and Pacific Islanders. She is one of three Pacific Islanders (Hawaiian, Guamanian and Samoan) on a commission of 15 members representing the diverse interests and ethnic groups among the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

The Commission will function under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as authorized in an Executive Order issued by President Clinton last year establishing a White House initiative and an Advisory Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. The Commission will advise the President on the development, monitoring, and coordination of Federal efforts to

improve the quality of life of Asian and Pacific Islanders through increased participation in Federal programs and to collect data related to Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Efforts will include ways to increase public sector and community involvement in improving the health and well-being of Asian and Pacific Islanders and foster research and data on Asian and Pacific Islanders including research and data on public health.

Ms. Titiali'i's outstanding background as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel in one of the nations largest health care corporations and her understanding of the issues confronting our Samoan community and Pacific Islanders in general will serve her well in this very important commission.



Congressman Faleomavaega and Secretary Donna E. Shalala of the HHS met and discussed the formation of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Social Security Benefits Online

If you have access to the Internet, the Social Security Administration has a new online service called *Social Security Retirement Planner* which allows individuals to compute estimates of their future Social Security retirement benefits. Users of this service are given three options for obtaining an estimate of their retirement benefits. The Internet address is:

<http://www.ssa.gov/retire>

Quick Calculator produces a rough estimate.

Online Calculator produces a benefit estimate based on past, present and projected future earnings.

Detailed estimate allows the most flexibility to customize estimates on differing scenarios.

AMERICAN SAMOA LOOKS FAVORABLE TO RECEIVE \$33.2 MILLION FROM THE FED FOR 2001

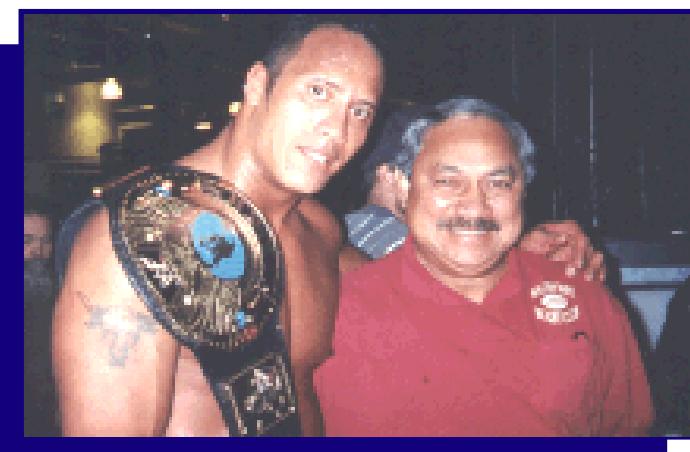
The House and Senate both have approved appropriations bills that will provide \$33.2 million for American Samoa for fiscal year 2001. The same amount was requested by the President in his budget proposal. The breakdown for this amount includes \$23.1 million for the operations of the American Samoa Government, and \$10.1 million for capital improvement projects or CIP. This is level funding with the past several years.

While I am very pleased with the progress our federal budget appropriation has made thus far, I am concerned by the threat posed by the strong language included in both the House and Senate bills over American Samoa's failure to resolve its outstanding debts. The House Appropriations Committee specifically noted that if the American Samoa Government does not take decisive action to control its costs and payroll, and enhance its revenues in accordance with previous recommendations, it will seriously consider reducing the next ASG operations budget. The Senate also has expressed concern.

American Samoa remains the only U.S. Territory to receive direct financial aide from the federal government to operate its government -- not as a reimbursement of taxes, or a supplement to cover foreign migration -- and I am glad that we will be able to continue both our operational funding as well as funding for our construction projects at the same rate as in previous years. The funds for construction projects should help address the large backlog of projects in this area.

As you may already know, I appeared before the Fono in

January and spoke in support of ASG using its benefits from the tobacco lawsuit to obtain an \$18.6 million cash advance. Of this amount, \$14 million could be used to pay off ASG debt, which could further help the local government work itself out of its current financial problems. That money is available as soon as ASG and the Department of Interior sign an MOU.



Congressman Faileomavaega congratulates the most electrifying man in sports entertainment today, The Rock, for his part in promoting Samoan heritage and increased participation in federal programs.

TULAGA LELEI LE MAUA E AMERIKA SAMOA MAI I LE FETERALE LE \$33.2 MILIONA MO LE TAUSAGA E 2001

Ua pasia e le Maota o Sui fa'apea le Senate le tu'uina atu o se aofa'iiga e \$33.2 miliona mo Amerika Samoa mo le tausaga faa-le-tupe e 2001. O lo'o tala feagai tutusa lea aofa'i ma le aofa'i sa mua'i talosagaina e le Peresitene mo Amerika Samoa. O le vaevaeina o lena tupe e fa'apea, e \$23.1 miliona o lo'o fa'atulaga mo galuega lautele po'o le fa'agaoioina o le tatou Malo, ae o le tasi vaega, \$10.1 miliona, e fa'aagaaga lea mo galuega autu.

E ui lava ina ou fiafia tele i le la'asaga ua o'o iai le tatou tupe fa'asoaso a lo'o maua mai i le Malo Tele mo le tausaga fa'aletuple e 2001, ae o lo'o iai lo'u popolega ona o tulaga fa'amata'u ua aliali mai i nei pili uma e lua e pei ona pasia e le Maota o Sui faapea le Senate. E mafua lea ona o le fa'aletonu pea o fuafuaga a le tatou Malo i le togafititia o aitalafu o lo'o iai nei. Ua fa'alauiloa manino e le Komiti o Tupe Fa'asoaso a le Maota o Sui, afai e le aliali mai ni suiga lelei e fa'amaonia ai le togafititia o ia tulaga fa'aletonu, o le a faia loa e lea Komiti se fuafuaga fa'amalosi i luga o le tulafono e fa'aitititia ai le tupe fa'ataatau mo galuega lautele a Amerika Samoa i le tausaga o lo'o muamua. E foliga tutusa fo'i fa'apena se lagona na fa'ailoa e le Komiti

o Tupe Fa'asoaso a le Senate.

Ena'o Amerika Samoa lava le teritorio lo'o iai pea lea tulaga -- e maua se fesoasoani tau tupe e tu'u sa'o mai e le Feterale mo le fa'agaoioina o galuega lautele a le malo, ae le o ni tupe toe fa'af'o'i mai ona o ni lafoga sa totogiina, po'o se auala fesoasoani fo'i i le feagai ai ma ni tulaga tau i tagata femalaga'i mai i malo i fafo e pei ona tulaga ai i isi teritori. Ma, ua ou fiafia tele ona ua fa'aauau pea tulaga ia tau i le tatou tupe fa'asoaso a mai i le Feterale e pei ona sau ai i tausaga ua mavae.

Atonu pe ua outou lausilafia, sa ou o'o atu i luma o le mamalu o le tatou Fono Faitulafono ia Januari o le tausaga nei ma u'una'ina se manatu ina ia nonoina pe aitalafu e le tatou Malo se \$18.6 miliona mai i ana tupe fa'atulafonoina o le a maua mai i le maliliega fa'alautele ma kamupani gaosi tapa'a. O le \$14 miliona o lena aofa'iiga o lo'o fa'amoemoe e totogiina ai le anoano o aitalafu o lo'o iai nei, e avea lena ma fa'amama avega i le mafatiaga o lo'o feagai nei ma le tatou Malo. O lena vaegatupe o lo'o avanoa pe a mae'a ona fa'amautu se ioega tusitusia po'o le MOU i le va o le tatou Malo ma le Ofisa o le Initeria.

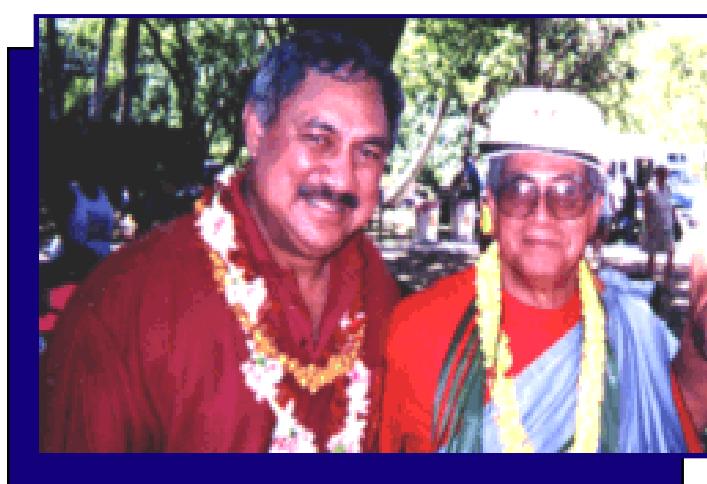
MANUIA AMERIKA SAMOA I FUAFUAGA A LE ARMY RESERVE MO SE FALE FOU PE TUSA MA LE \$20 MILIONA LONA TAU

Ua fa'atumulia a'u i le fiafia ona ua i'u manuia feutaga'ina sa ou taumafai iai ma ua tatala mai ai e le FAA se fasi 'ele'ele i le malae va'alele i Tafuna pe tusa ma le 6.5 eka le tele ina ia fausia ai se fale fou

ma isi fuafuaga tatau mo le koleniina o tatou Fitafitatau Fa'aleoleo (Army Reserve) i Amerika Samoa. Ole a fale fou, pe tusa e \$20 miliona lona tau, ua manao'mia tele e le Army Reserve ona ua le talafeagai tulaga o lo'o iai nei ma le fa'amoemoe etatau ona iai mo le a'oa'oina ma le koleniina o tatou Fitafita po'o Vaega'au. E le gata i lea, o lo'o fa'amoemoe le Army e fia fa'alautele ana galuega ma polokalame i Amerika Samoa i le lumana'i. O lona uiga o le a maua ai avanoa mo galuega fou i le tatou atunu'u.

Ole 'ele'ele e pei ona tau'a i luga, o lo'o i lalo o le lisi a le FAA mai i le tatou Malo i le taimi nei. O lea 'ele'ele o lo'o puipuia i aiaiga po'o tulafono fa'a-malae va'alele ma ua fa'asaina ai ona fa'aaoga mo ni isi tulaga se'i vagana ai lava galuega tau i malae va'alele. O se tasi vaega o ia aiaiga o lo'o mana'omia ai le tatou malae va'alele ina ia faia ni auala e si'itia ai ma fa'aolaola ana tupe maua. A solia ia aiaiga, ona avea lea ma auala e ono afaina ai le anoano o tupe o loo maua e le tatou Malo (malae va'alele) mai i le Feterale. Sa avea ia tulaga ma fa'afitauli tele i le talanoaina o lenei mata'upu.

Sa ou taumafai malosi ina ia 'aua ne'i afaina tulaga tau i tupe o lo'o maua e le tatou malae va'alele mai i le Feterale, ma lona lua, ia tatala mai le fasi 'ele'ele lea ua mana'omia mo le fausia o le fale fou a le Army Reserve. Sa 'ou talanoa atili ai i le Army Reserve fa'apea le



Congressman Faileomavaega and Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii during a community event in Hawaii. The two met at the event and discussed the Supreme Court decision on the Rice vs Cayetano case and its potential implications on both Hawaii and American Samoa.

AMERICAN SAMOA ECONOMIC STUDY COMMISSION SEEKS OPINION OF THE PEOPLE

The American Samoa Economic Study Commission held a series of hearings in American Samoa to solicit input from the public on ways to improve American Samoa's economic situation. This is the first time a Commission was established to focus mainly on the economy of American Samoa. The Commission will recommend to the Federal government sound economic policy that will cause sustainable economic self-sufficiency for American Samoa. The Commission also met with Prime Minister Tuilaepa Malielegaoi of Samoa (Western) to discuss areas of mutual interest between both governments that hold potential for economic development

A local Task Force organized under the American Samoa Community College provided an invaluable service and assistance to the efforts of the Commission. The Task Force conducted meetings that were designed to bring together the concerns and ideas of the community to formulate strategies that will improve economic development. I commend the members of the Task Force which include Dr. Carol Whittaker, Fa Achica, Vena Sele, Dr. Trudie Sala, Danny Aga, Adele Moaaliitele and Al Ripine for the fine work they did in soliciting the opinions from the public on this important matter. The private sector and the Fono also had the opportunity to address their concerns regarding businesses in American Samoa.

The participation of the people of American Samoa is essential because they have the most at stake and are the ones who must assume the leadership role in implementing any economic plan. The hearings were very successful in that the Commission heard a



Members of the American Samoa Economic Study Commission and staff arrive in American Samoa to hear from the people. (L-R) Staff member Gail Mukaihata-Hanneman; Lt. Governor Togiola Tulafono; Former Congressman and Commission Vice-Chair Robert Lagomarsino; Commissioner Arthur Campbell; OIA Deputy Director Sandra King; and Faleomavaega.

lot of excellent ideas. One of those ideas suggests that it might be time to talk about economic development in the larger geographical context, such as all of Polynesia. It appears that there is potential for interest and cooperation from Samoa (Western) and Tonga.

FA'AFOFOGA LE KOMISI MO SA'ILIGA TAU ATINA'E MANUIA I AMERIKA SAMOA I FINAGALO O LE ATUNU'U

Sa fa'ausua e le Komisi mo Sa'iliga tau Atina'e Manuia mo Amerika Samoa ni fonotaga ina ia mafai ai ona saunoa ma fa'aali finagalo o le lautele o le tatou atunu'u e tusa ai ma lenei mata'upu taua tele. O se ulua'i taimi lenei ua fa'atuna ai se Komisi fa'apenei e silasila toto'a i tulaga tau atina'e manuia lautele i Amerika Samoa.

O le fa'amoemoe ina ia tu'uina atu e lenei Komisi i le Malo Feterale ni fautuaga maumaututu e tatau ona fa'agaoioi ina ia tuputupu ai ma olaola tulaga tau atina'e manuia i totonu o Amerika Samoa. Sa asiasi fo'i le Komisi i Samoa (Sisifo) ma talanoaina ma le Palemia, Afioga Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, ni isi o auala tau atina'e manuia e ono tutusa ma talafeagai i le va o tatou malo e lua.

Sa matua lagolagoina taumafaiga a lenei Komisi i se fesoasoani malosi a se Komiti Galue Fa'apitoa sa fa'agaoioi i lalo o le pule'aga a le Kolisi a Amerika Samoa. Sa fa'ausua e lenei Komiti Galue Fa'apitoa ni fonotaga na fuafua tatau e folasia ai ma tu'ufa'atasia manatu 'ese'ese o le a fa'aalia mo le foafolina o se ata tu'utonu au

le fia si'itia o fuafuaga tau atina'e manuia i le tatou Malo. Ou te fa'afetai ai ia Dr. Carol Whittaker, Fa'au'uga Lutu-Achica, Vena Sele, Dr. Trudie Sala, Danny Aga, Dr. Adele Moaali'itele ma Aleni Ripine mo le galuega matagofie sa latou faia. Sa maua fo'i avanoa o le vaega o pisinisi fa'apea le Fono faitulafono na saunoa ai ma fa'ailoa o latou finagalo i lea lava mataupu.

Ou te manatu, e taua tele le auai fa'atasi o le tatou atunu'u ma fa'ailoa finagalo e uiga i lenei fuafuaga, aua i le i'uga, o i tatou lava o le a feagai ma tulaga e aliali mai. E fa'apena fo'i i le fa'atinoina ma le fa'atautaiina o ia fuafuaga uma -- o le mamalu lava o le tatou atunu'u ma ta'ita'i o le a feagai ma ia fuafuaga uma.

Sa manuia lava taualumaga uma o fonotaga ma sa fa'afogaina e le Komisi le tele o manatu lelei sa folasia. O se tasi o na manatu e iai le fa'alauteleina lea o fuafuaga tau atina'e manuia ina ia aofia ai ni isi o atunu'u po'o malo o lo'o tatou tua'oi. E ataata mai i nei lagona, o ni isi o fuafuaga tau atina'e o lo'o tau fuafua, o le a sapasapaia ma lagolagoina e Malo o Samoa (Sisifo) fa'apea ma Toga.

TOFIA SE TAMA'ITA'I SAMOA I LE KOMISI FAUTUA A LE FALE PA'EPA'E MO TULAGA TAU I TAGATA ASIA MA LE PASEFIKA

Ua fa'atumulua lava a'u i le fiafia ona ua tofia se tasi alo o Amerika Samoa, le tama'ita'i o Jacinta Titiali Abbott, o se loia Samoa, i le Komisi Faufautua i le Peresitene mo tulaga tau i le soifua manuia o tagata Asia ma le Pasefika. E to'a 15 le aofa'iga o lenei Komisi Faufautua e aofia ai le anoano o vaega ma tagatanu'u ese'ese o Asia atoa ma le Pasefika. Ua na'o ia le Samoa ae to'atolu ai le aofa'i o tagata Pasefika (1 le Hawaii, 1 le Kuamani, 1 le Samoa) o lo'o avea ma sui po'o

fogoga o le Pasefika i totonu o le Komisi.

Olenei Komisi Faufautua o lo'o fa'agaoioi lea i lalo o le Ofisa Tau Soifua Maloloina ma Fesoasoani i Tagata Lautele poo le Health and Human Services (HHS), e pei ona fa'atonuina e Peresitene Clinton i le tausaga fa'ato'a mavae atu. O le fa'amoemoe mo lenei Komisi ina ia latou fautuaina le Ali'i Peresitene i auala ese'ese e ao ina faia e le Malo Tele e fa'alelei ai ma si'isi'i i luga tulaga tau i le soifua lautele o tagata Asia ma le Pasefika e auala lea i le auai i le anoano o polokalame fesoasoani a le Feterale. O se tasi o fa'amoemoe maualuga o lenei Komisi, ina ia fa'afaigofieina ona 'auai tagata Asia ma Pasefika i ia polokalame a le Feterale.

Ou te talitonu ua tala feagai lelei le tele o agava'a ese'ese o Jacinta Titiali Abbott ma le fa'amoemoe o lenei Komisi Fautua, e pei ona avea nei o ia ma Sui Peresitene atoa ma se Loia Fautua i se tasi o kamupani aupito tele i Amerika i tulaga tau i le soifua maloloina. E le gata i lea a'o lona malamalama lautele i fa'afitali ese'ese o lo'o feagai ma le soifua o tagata Samoa aemaise le Pasefika lautele.

Congressman Faleomavaega with CW4 Liu'ato Tuitele and CW4 Albert Samoa (1st and 2nd from left respectively) met and discussed several issues facing Samoan soldiers in Ft. Lewis, Washington. Others pictured include Manu Samoa General Manager Peter Fatialofa (3rd from left); Danny Pritchard (2nd from right) and other members of the Samoan community in the Tacoma-Seattle, WA area.



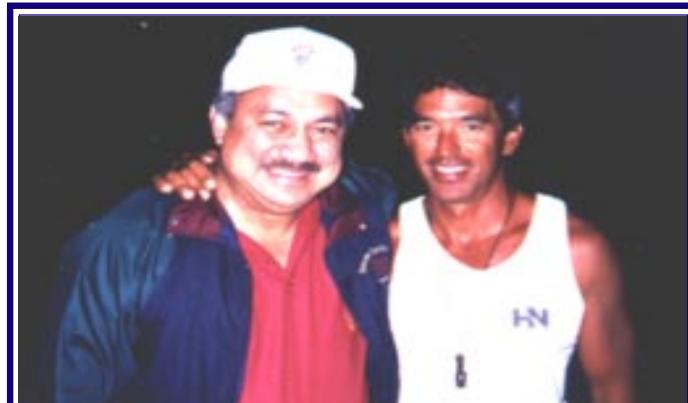
ASG WILL SOON BEGIN TO PAY DOWN DEBT

I am pleased that the Fono supported the federal legislation which I pushed in Congress and eventually was passed by the U.S. Congress authorizing American Samoa to loan \$18.6 million from the federal government while using its share from the tobacco settlement as security. The legislation was initiated after I received a letter from Governor Tauese Sunia requesting that I look into the possibility of obtaining such a deal.

As it was approved, the federal legislation provided American Samoa the option to borrow this money. The Fono later enacted local legislation to that effect and the Governor signed it into law.

I want to specifically thank the leadership of the Fono, both in the Senate and the House, and all of the Fono members for passing the needed legislation. I also thank Governor Sunia for his efforts in support of this matter, and especially for signing the bill into law.

I truly believe that under the gloomy financial situation our government has been facing for sometime, this loan can relieve much of the burden and allow the Governor to reorganize and streamline government operations in a more manageable way.



Congressman Faleomavaega met with Mr. Nainoa Thompson, Navigator of the *Hokule'a*, to discuss legislations addressing a national policy for our oceans.

MAFAI ONA TOTOGI NI ISI AITALAFU A LE TATOU MALO

Taoto ia fa'agalu le fati o outou paia fa'a-le-Malo, paia fo'i fa'a-le-Atunu'u, aemaise o outou paia fa'a-le-Atua. O paia mai i le amataga e o'o atu lava i le gata'aga, e le sua fo'i i sa'u fa'amatalaga. Tulou, tulou, tulou lava.

Ae ua laga so'u leo ona o le fia fa'afetai i le mammal o Amerika Samoa, aemaise lava le paia i le Fono Faitulafono, fa'apea le Susuga a le Kovana ma le Kapaneta. Fa'afetai ua outou amana'ia se

manatu ia te a'u le atali'i fa'apea fo'i ni isi o ta'ita'i o le tatou Malo ina ia aitalafu se \$18.6 mai i tupe o lo'o fuafua e maua mai i le maliliega fa'a-le-tulafono i le va ma kamupani gaosi tapa'a. O lenei ua tasi le tofa ma se fa'autaga ia te outou ta'ita'i o le atunu'u ua fa'atino ai lena fa'amoemoe. Fa'amalo fai o le faiva, malo fo'i finau. Ou te talitonu o le a avea lenei tupe ma vai fofe e fesoasoani i mafatiaga o lo'o feagai nei ma le tatou Malo.

E toe fa'afetai atu ai ona o le avanoa na maua, na mafai ai ona tatou talatalanoa ma fa'apupula ni isi vaega o lenei mataupu sa fa'anenefu i o outou

fingalo. Ou te fa'amoemoe tele, o le a fa'apea ona tatou galulue fa'atasi ma felagolagoma'i i aso oi luma aua se lumana'i manuia o le tatou atunu'u.

MANUIA AMERIKA SAMOA Fa'aauau Mai i le Itulau 2

FAA ma maua ai loa le maliliega e fa'apenei. Ua ioe le Army Reserve e latou te lisina le 'ele'ele i se tau e talafeagai lelei ma le tau o lo'o iai 'ele'ele fa'apenei i tulaga fa'apisinisi -- tulaga ia o lo'o ta'uia i le gagana Peretania o le "fair-market value." Olona uiga, ua le mafai nei e le tatou Malo ona lisiina atu lenei fanua i se \$1 i le tausaga e pei ona masani ai isi ituaiga lisi fa'apenei ma le Malo Tele.

I le tasi itu, ua ioe le FAA e fa'aagafua lea 'ele'ele mai i aiaiga puipua mo galuega tau i malae va'alele, ma tatalaina mai loa ina ia mafai ona lisi e le Army Reserve. Ana le faia lea tulaga, ona foliga lea o le a solia ai aiaiga e pei ona ta'uia i luga ma avea loa ma 'aula e vaea ai ni isi alagatupe o lo'o maua e le tatou Malo (Malaeva'a'alele) mai i le Feterale. E le gata fo'i i lea, ae ua ioe fo'i le FAA o le a tu'uina mai lea fanua mo se 55 tausaga aua lenei fa'amoemoe. Ua ta'oto nei la i le tatou Malo e galulue ma le FAA ma le Army Reserve aua le fa'atinoina o 'oto'otoga o lo'o totoe.

E matua taua tele ma matagofie lenei tulaga ua o'o iai ona ua mafai ona malilie uma itu o lenei feutagaina. O lea ua tali le mana'o o le Army Reserve ina ua tatala mai le 'ele'ele mo le fausia o se fale fou aua alo ma fanau o lo'o galulue i Vaega'autau, aemaise ai fo'i le fa'amoemoe mo galuega fou o lo'o fuafua e maua i le lumana'i. Ae i lo'u talitonuga, ua matua sili ai ona manuia le tatou Malo ona e le gata i tupe fou o le a maua mai i le lisiina o le fanua e le Army Reserve, ae o le a tumau pea ona maua e le tatou Malo fesoasoani tau tupe mai

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