



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

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Media Advisory

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Upcoming U.S. Coral Task Force Meeting in Saipan and Guam Will Highlight Micronesia Challenge and the Guam Military Build-up

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force will meet on Sept. 10 through 19 in Guam, Saipan and Pohnpei to highlight conservation strategies, successes, and challenges in the Micronesia region, including watershed restoration projects and climate change adaptation strategies. The task force is co-chaired by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce and includes leaders from 12 federal agencies, seven U.S. states and territories, and three freely associated states. Participants include U.S. officials as well as heads of state.

Before their business meeting beginning Monday in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, task force members will travel to Guam, which is hosting an informational briefing on the military build-up on Guam as well as a workshop on mitigation efforts related to coral reefs. After the meeting, members will travel to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, for meetings with President Emanuel Mori and water quality tours. More information is available at www.coralreef.gov.

Who:

Felix Camacho, Governor of Guam
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Army
Robert Dreher, Principal Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney General
Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Manny Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia
Peter Silva, Assistant Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Donald Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Navy
Johnson Toribiong, President of Palau
Togiola Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa
Andy Winer, Director of External Affairs, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Jurelang Zedkaia, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

What:

The 24th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF). The USCRTF members will be discussing several important activities in the area, including the status of the Micronesia Challenge, a commitment made by regional leaders to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Where:

Hilton Tumon, Guam; Saipan World Resort, Saipan, CNMI



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When:

- Friday, September 10 on Guam
10:00am-12:00pm at the Hilton Tumon - Informational briefing on the military build-up and Guam's coral resources
- Tuesday, September 14 on Saipan
1:00pm-5:00pm at the World Resort - Climate Change Adaptation Workshop
- Wednesday, September 15 through Thursday, September 16 on Saipan
7:30am-5:00pm on September 15 and 8:30am-12:30pm on September 16 at the World Resort – Business Meeting