



Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
Station 1 Tekken Drive  
Civic Center Susupe



Victor B. Hocog  
Lt. Governor

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Hafa Adai Amanda Cruz,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the very important control and destruction of WWII unexploded Ordinance

I'm responding to the advertisement on the newspaper about the bomb pit renewal permit application. A little brief history about Saipan before the war. The Island was discovered by The Portuguese explorer landed on the island on March 6, 1521. The Marianas were officially claimed by the Spain in 1565. The Spanish Era had a tremendous political, social, religious and economic impact.

This when the economy of the Mariana Islands started trading food and water supplies with the indigenous people for livestock so that Magellan can continue exploring the world as far down to the Philippines Island. The trading went on for a period of time when religion was introduce to the island as well. The native people we force to learn the catholic religion and some of the native weren't so happy about baptizing their new born children by the catholic way. A local Chief was so angry that one of his children was baptize, so the Chief decided to kill the priest. A war broke out with the native island people with the Spanish. At that time the Spanish had Guns, Cannon, and other explosive device and the local were only fighting back with spears, axe and sling stone. Unfortunately the local native lost the battle because they were out blasted with the high explosives. Nearly 300 years later the Mariana Islands were sold to the German for Copra but that didn't last and the Mariana Islands were sold again to Japan. Japan then use the island to grow mainly sugar cane and other vegetables and fruits such as onion, tangerines, peanuts, potato's etc.

In 1944 the United States and Japan had a conflict between each other. Japan attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and the United States attack back in Saipan where it is heavily defended. The Japanese were out gun and bomb during the attack. For straight two weeks Saipan was carpet bomb and shot cannon from the ship into the land. Every cave that they found were bomb and flame thrower.

The propose permit requires sampling of groundwater after 5 years. The CNMI believes that the groundwater data after 10 years shows no contamination and does not need to be done once after 5 years for a 10 year permit. The CNMI believes that the sampling should occur once (1), shortly before or at the end of the permit. Groundwater sampling places a serious economic burden on the CNMI that is not justified by the data that shows no contamination after 10 years. In conclusion of any report would be inconclusive to whether these detections are from the previous or current activities.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Sasamoto  
Fire Captain  
Hazmat/XRT Team Leader