

VETERAN BENEFITS AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ●

Presented by Tanya Eubanks
Guam Office of Veterans Affairs



“TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE, AND
FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN”

— PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

TOPICS

VA BENEFITS

- VA Administration
- Accredited Representatives
- Intent to File
- Disability Compensation and the Principals of Service Connection
- PACT Act
- Character of Discharge

VETERAN STATE BENEFITS

- Drivers License
- License Plate
- Vehicle Registration Fee Waiver
- Property Tax Exemption

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- Volunteer
- Guam Veterans Commission

Q&A

1

VA ADMINISTRATIONS

Veterans Benefits Administration

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a variety of benefits and services to Service members, Veterans, and their families. Below are some of our major program offices within VBA.

- **Compensation Service:** Oversees the delivery of disability compensation, a tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.
- **Pension and Fiduciary Service:** Provides program oversight that helps wartime Veterans, their families, and survivors with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through Veterans Pension, Death Pension, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Protects the benefits paid to our most vulnerable beneficiaries who, because of disease, injury, or infirmities of advanced age, are unable to manage their VA benefits.
- **Insurance Service:** Maintains life insurance programs that give financial security and peace of mind for Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.
- **Education Service:** Administers VA's education programs that provide education and training benefits to eligible Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members, Veterans, and dependents.
- **Loan Guaranty Service:** Provides oversight of the VA Guaranteed Home Loan Program that guarantees home loans in varying amounts. Ensures Veteran's rights are protected when purchasing a home under this program. Oversees administration of specially adapted housing grants for certain severely disabled Service members and Veterans so they can adapt or acquire suitable housing.
- **Outreach, Transition and Economic Development:** Partners within and outside of VA and with numerous federal agencies to advance the economic empowerment and independence of service members, Veterans and their families through increasing access to VA benefits, programs and services that support a seamless transition from military service to civilian life.
- **Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E) Service:** Assists Service members and Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment; start their own business; or receive independent-living services. Oversees their education and provides career counseling to help guide career paths and ensure the most effective use of VA benefits.
- **Office of Field Operations:** Provides operational oversight to the district offices and [56 regional offices](#) within the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. OFO also facilitates outreach and public contact services across the administration, and ensures quality and training for VBA employees who engage with Service members, Veterans, and their families through client services such as the National Call Center.
- **Office of Administrative Review:** Responsible for implementing the Veteran Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. The Appeals Modernization Act modernizes the current claims and appeals process, includes three review options for disagreements with decisions, requires improved notification of VA decisions, provide earlier claim resolution, and ensure you receive the earliest effective date possible.

2

VA ADMINISTRATIONS

Veterans Health Administration

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing care at 1,321 health care facilities, including 172 VA Medical Centers and 1,138 outpatient sites of care of varying complexity (VHA outpatient clinics) to over 9 million Veterans enrolled in the VA health care program.

Common Medical Center Services

VHA Medical Centers provide a wide range of services including traditional hospital-based services such as surgery, critical care, mental health, orthopedics, pharmacy, radiology and physical therapy.

In addition, most of our medical centers offer additional medical and surgical specialty services including audiology & speech pathology, dermatology, dental, geriatrics, neurology, oncology, podiatry, prosthetics, urology, and vision care. Some medical centers also offer advanced services such as organ transplants and plastic surgery.

Patient Advocates

Available at every medical center, Patient Advocates are highly trained professionals who can help resolve your concerns about any aspect of your health care experience, particularly those concerns that cannot be resolved at the point of care. Patient Advocates listen to any questions, problems, or special needs you have and refer your concerns to the appropriate Medical Center staff for resolution.

3

VA ADMINISTRATIONS

National Cemetery Administration

National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors eligible Veterans, active-duty Service Members and eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

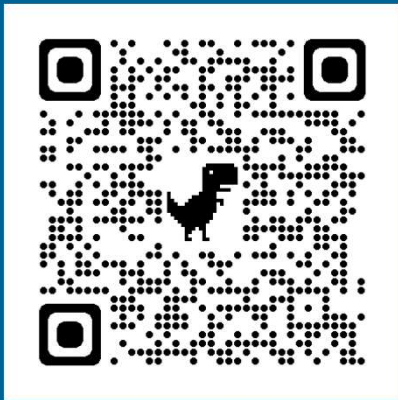
Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty under certain circumstances are also eligible for burial, as are service members and former service members who were eligible for retired pay at the time of their death.

A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran.

VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family.

VA operates 155 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 42 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 122 Veterans cemeteries in 49 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2017, VA honored more than 361,892 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

VA ACCREDITATION



Assistance in preparing a VA claim from a VA-accredited representative or an employee at your VA Regional Office is at no charge. Accredited representatives are individuals or organizations who are familiar with the process of filing a claim and ensures that Veterans have qualified and competent representation. Appointing an accredited representative will allow them the legal authority to prepare, present, and prosecute claims for any and all benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Note: unaccredited individuals who prepare, present, or prosecute VA benefit claims, or hold themselves out as being authorized to do so, are in violation of Federal law 38 CFR § 14.629 . It is unlawful for any person or organization to charge a fee for assistance in preparing an application for VA benefits. VA-accredited agents and attorneys may charge fees for assisting with a claim for VA benefits only after VA has made its first decision on the claim.

To find an accredited representative, visit the Office Of General Counsel Accreditation Search.

INTENT TO FILE



An intent to file sets a potential start date (or effective date) for your claim. If you notify the VA of your intent to file, you may be able to get retroactive payments (payments for the time between when you submitted your intent to file and when the VA makes a decision on your claim). After notifying the VA of your intent to file, you have one year to complete and file your claim.

VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE CONNECTION

You may be eligible if both of these requirements are met

BOTH OF THESE MUST BE TRUE:

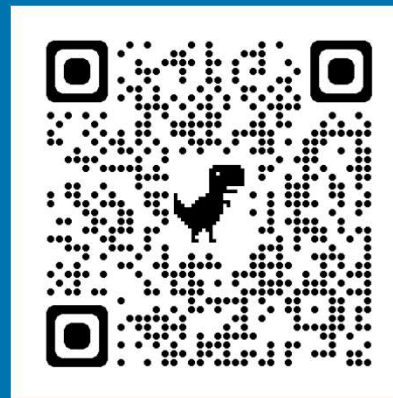
- You have a current illness or injury (known as a condition) that affects your mind or body, **and**
- You served on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THESE MUST BE TRUE:

- You got sick or injured while serving in the military—and can link this condition to your illness or injury (called an in-service disability claim), **or**
- You had an illness or injury before you joined the military—and serving made it worse (called a pre-service disability claim), **or**
- You have a disability related to your active-duty service that didn't appear until after you ended your service (called a post-service disability claim) There's no time limit on filing a post-service claim. But you should know that the process may become more complex the longer you wait.

VA ELIGIBILITY

VA FACT SHEETS



PACT ACT



The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. This is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. Furthermore, on 05/05/2024, the VA launched the largest expansion of VA healthcare eligibility under VA's PACT Act Section 103 that now allows Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) – at home or abroad – eligible for VA health care.

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, The VA will automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition.

GULF WAR ERA AND POST 9/11 VETERAN ELIGIBILITY

THESE CANCERS ARE NOW PRESUMPTIVE:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer of any type
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

THESE ILLNESSES ARE NOW PRESUMPTIVE:

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

THESE CANCERS ARE NOW PRESUMPTIVE:

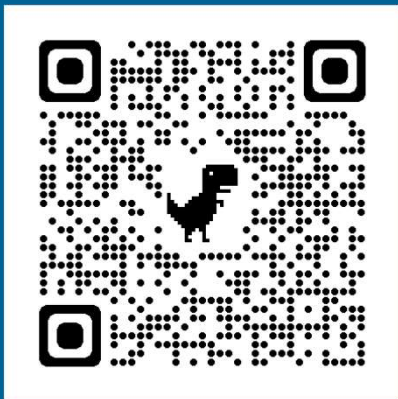
- Bladder cancer
- Chronic B-cell leukemia
- Hodgkin's disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer)
- Some soft tissue sarcomas

THESE ILLNESSES ARE PRESUMPTIVE:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne (or other types of acneiform disease like it)
Note: *Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.*
- Diabetes mellitus type 2
- High blood pressure (hypertension) **(new)**
- Hypothyroidism
- Ischemic heart disease
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) **(new)**
- Parkinsonism
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early onset
Note: *Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.*
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
Note: *Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.*

VIETNAM ERA VETERAN ELIGIBILITY

CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE



Claims for VA Benefits and Character of Discharge Basic eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits depends upon the type of military service performed, the duration of the service, and the character of discharge or separation. VA looks at the “character of discharge” to determine whether a person meets the basic eligibility requirements for receipt of VA benefits under title 38 of the United States Code. Any discharge under honorable conditions satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility for VA benefits. Certain types of discharges, along with the circumstances surrounding those discharges, bar an individual from basic eligibility for VA benefits. Other types of discharges require VA to make a character of discharge determination in order to assess basic eligibility for VA benefits. Before doing so, VA will review facts and circumstances surrounding the incident(s) that led to the discharge, as reported by the military, as well as any supporting evidence furnished by the claimant or obtained from third parties. On a case-by-case basis, VA determines whether the incidents that led to the discharge may be found to have been “under conditions other than dishonorable,” and thus whether basic eligibility for VA benefits can be established, or “dishonorable for VA proposes”.

16 GCA Chapter 3 § 3102.1

(a) The fee for the issuance of a motor vehicle driver's license, to include all classes and endorsements, is waived for:

(1) Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, as defined in § 7120.2(b) of Chapter 7 of this Title, to include persons who are serving or have served on active duty, reserve component members, and retirees of the United States Armed Forces; and

(2) the spouse, legal guardian, or surviving spouse, as defined in § 67101 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, and as authorized by § 4B101 of Article 1B of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, and to Gold Star parents who are eligible pursuant to § 7120.3(b) of Chapter 7 of this Title.

(b) Any person listed above and whose character of military service was honorable as verified by the applicant's Report of Transfer or Discharge (DD Form 214), Military Identification Card DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 2765, or Common Access Card (CAC), or other accepted forms used to verify eligibility status and certified by the government of Guam Office of Veterans Affairs

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VETERAN DRIVERS LICENSE

STATE BENEFITS





10 GCA CHAPTER 67, § 67101

DEFINITION

(c) Veteran includes veterans of the Guam Combat Patrol, the United States Navy Insular Force, Philippine Scouts and the United States Armed Forces.

(d) Spouse means a person who is legally married to the Veteran at the time that Veteran was on active duty, or active duty for training, or inactive duty for training and prior to the date when the service connected injuries occurred, and subsequently rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled due to service connected reasons or is rated as being Individually Unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

(e) Surviving Spouse means a person who:

(1) was married to the service member who died from service-connected injuries while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, and is not currently remarried; or

(2) was married to the Veteran, for at least one (1) year immediately prior to death of a Veteran who is rated by the U.S. Veterans Administration as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled or Individually Unemployable, and is not currently remarried.

(f) (1) Legal Guardian for Minor Children of a Single Parent is a person lawfully vested with the power, and charged with the obligation of taking care of and managing the property and rights of a person who because of age, understanding, or self-control, is considered incapable of administering his or her own affairs, while the service member, who is a single parent, is deployed to an area where dependents are not allowed to accompany the service member.

(2) Said designation as Legal Guardian shall have been effected prior to the deployment of the service member.

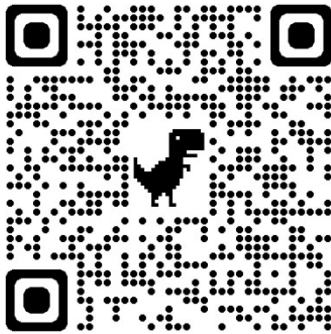
(g) Legal Guardian for Disabled Service Member is a person lawfully vested with the power, and charged with the obligation, of taking care of and managing the property and rights of a person who because of service-connected disabling injuries is in need of care, and provided that the service member is divorced, never married, widowed, or has no children.

(h) Individually Unemployable. As defined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a Veteran must be unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of his/her service-connected disabilities.

2

VETERAN LICENSE PLATE

STATE BENEFITS



16 GCA Chapter 7, § 7120.2

(1) Veteran, as it applies to this Law, means a person who served in the active duty military service in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or U.S. Coast Guard; also the Army or Air National Guard or active reserve component of the Army, Air Force or Navy, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Additionally, it means a person who served during World War II in the Guam Combat Patrol, Wake Island Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts.

(c) Application.

(1) Any person who is a veteran, verified by the Department of Defense 214 form (DD214), or who otherwise is qualified under Subsection (b) (1) of this Section and certified by the government of Guam Veterans Affairs Office, and is the registered owner or lessee of a passenger vehicle registered with the Department of Revenue and Taxation, or who makes application for an original registration or renewal registration of any such vehicle, may apply to the Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Revenue and Taxation for a veteran license plate(s), which shall be affixed to the passenger vehicle for which registration is sought in lieu of regular license plates.

§ 7120.3. Special Gold Star License Plates.

(b) Eligibility for Issuance. Gold Star License Plates shall only be issued to parents, inclusive of mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis, and widows and widowers of members of the armed services:

(1) who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958;

(2) who lost their lives after June 30, 1958: -

(A) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(B) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(C) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or

(3) who lost their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of:

(A) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force.

(C) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or

(3) who lost their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of:

(A) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force.

§ 7120.5. Special Recognition Veterans License Plate

(a) The purpose of this Section is to provide a special recognition veterans license plate for active duty members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces who are recipients of a military award for:

(1) acts of valor and have been awarded a Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star or the Bronze Star w/ "V" device; or

(2) wounds received in combat action, and have been awarded the Purple Heart medal.

Persons eligible for the special recognition veterans license plate must reside on Guam and own a motor vehicle registered to be operated on Guam's streets and highways.

§ 7159. License and Registration Fee.

(e) (1) The annual license and registration fee in § 7160(a) shall be waived upon the initial issuance and the subsequent renewal of the vehicle license and registration for:

(A) any Veteran determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to be 100% Disabled or Individually Unemployable due to military service connected injuries; and

(B) the spouse, legal guardian, or surviving spouse, as defined in § 67101 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, and as authorized by § 4B101 of Article 1B of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, and to Gold Star parents who are eligible pursuant to § 7120.3(b) of this Chapter.

(i) Eligible persons in Subsections (A) or (B) shall verify their status with a military identification card, to include the DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 2765, or other accepted forms used to verify eligibility status and certified by the government of Guam Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA)

3

Vehicle Registration

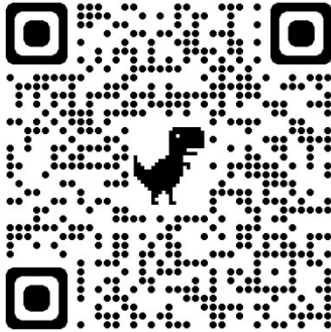
STATE BENEFITS



4

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

STATE BENEFITS



§ 24401.1. One Hundred Percent (100%) Disabled Veterans, Surviving Spouses, and Legal Guardians Exemption.

(a) Real property owned and occupied as a residence by a person who is rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) as one hundred percent (100%) disabled or individually unemployable due to injuries received while on duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, surviving spouse, as defined in § 67101(e) of Chapter 67, Title 10 GCA, and legal guardian, as defined in § 67101(g) of Chapter 67, Title 10 GCA, is hereby exempted from all property taxes; provided:

- (1) that the Veteran is determined by the USDVA to be one hundred percent (100%) disabled or individually unemployable due to military service-connected injuries;
- (2) that the residential exemption shall be granted only as long as the Veteran claiming exemption remains one hundred percent (100%) disabled or individually unemployable, the surviving spouse is not remarried, and the legal guardian is lawfully vested with the power;
- (3) that the exemption shall not be allowed on more than one (1) residence for any one (1) person;
- (4) that a person living on the premises, a portion of which is used for commercial purposes, shall not be entitled to an exemption with respect to such portion, but shall be entitled to an exemption with respect to the portion used exclusively as a residence. This exemption shall not apply to any structure, including the land thereunder, which is used for commercial purposes.

§ 24401.2. Gold Star Spouses and Parents Exemption.

(a) Real property owned and occupied by a Gold Star spouse or parent(s), who are eligible pursuant to § 7120.3(b) of Chapter 7, Title 16 GCA, who continues to own and occupy the premises as a residence, is hereby exempted from all real property taxes; provided:

(1) that the exemption shall not be allowed on more than one (1) residence for the Gold Star spouse or parent;

(2) that a person living on the premises, a portion of which is used for commercial purposes, shall not be entitled to an exemption with respect to such portion, but shall be entitled to an exemption with respect to the portion used exclusively as a home; and further provided, that this exemption shall not apply to any structure, including the land thereunder, which is used for commercial purposes.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AT THE GUAM VETERANS CEMETERY

- General cleanup
- Memorial Day
- Veterans Day
- Wreaths Across America

GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION

- Newly elected officers of the commission
- Membership
- Guests are welcome!



Questions?



GUAM OFFICE OF VETERAN AFFAIRS


THANK YOU



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GUAM

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ABOUT US

FOUNDED 1971
400+ ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS, AND STAFF
EMPLOYEE-OWNED



AU

Brisbane
Adelaide
Sunshine Coast

NZ

Christchurch
Wellington
Tauranga
Auckland
Queenstown

US

San Francisco
Oakland
Santa Clara
Sacramento
Seattle
San Ramon
Lathrop
Los Angeles
San Diego
Irvine
Valencia
Santa Maria
Reno
Guam

CORE SERVICES



GEOTECHNICAL
ENGINEERING



ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING



GEOLOGY



EARTHQUAKE
ENGINEERING



WATER RESOURCES



IN-HOUSE
LABORATORY



CONSTRUCTION
TESTING AND
INSPECTION



CONSTRUCTION
INSTRUMENTATION &
MONITORING

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ENGEO Guam Team

ENGEO on Guam since 2020
7 staff currently assigned to Guam office
Rotating staff to help cover project needs



Global Support team



Ground improvement subject experts



Geology & hydrogeology



Environme ntal



Geotechnical modeling



Construction engineering and support

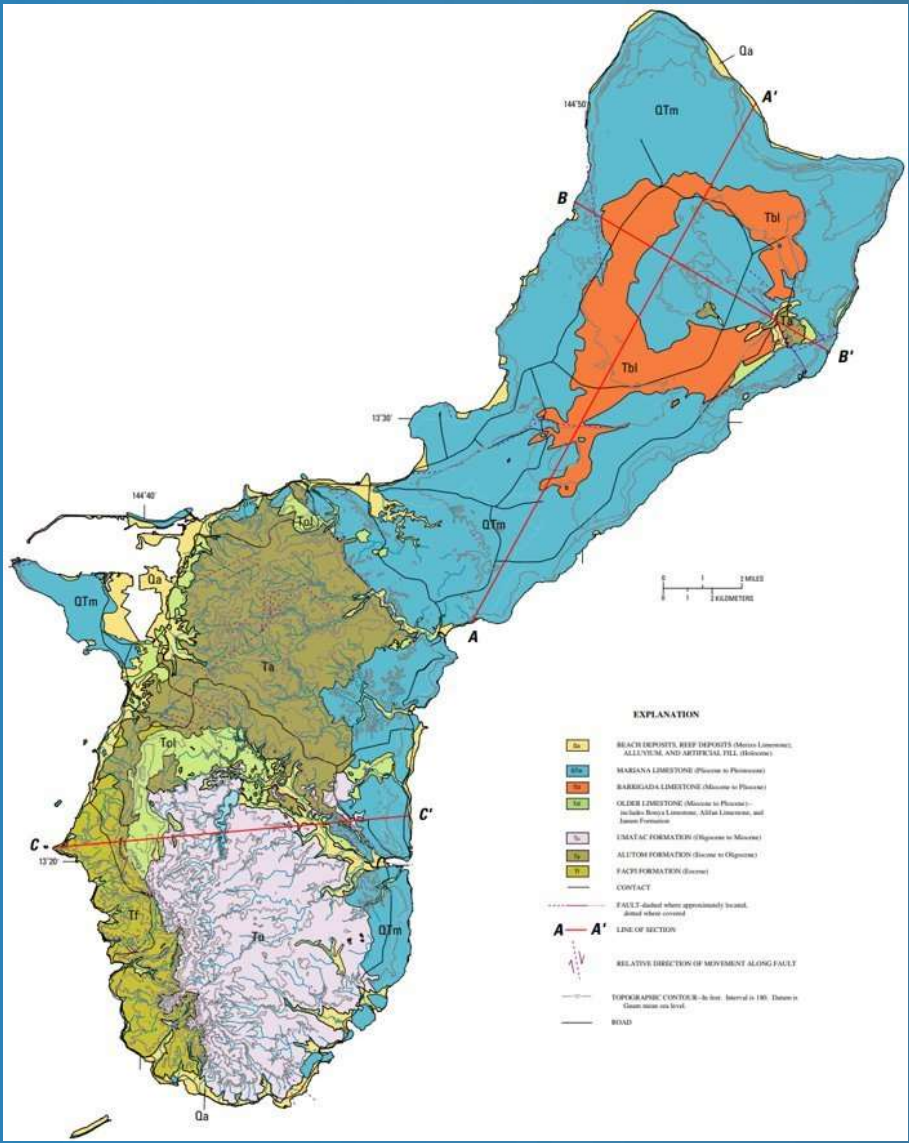


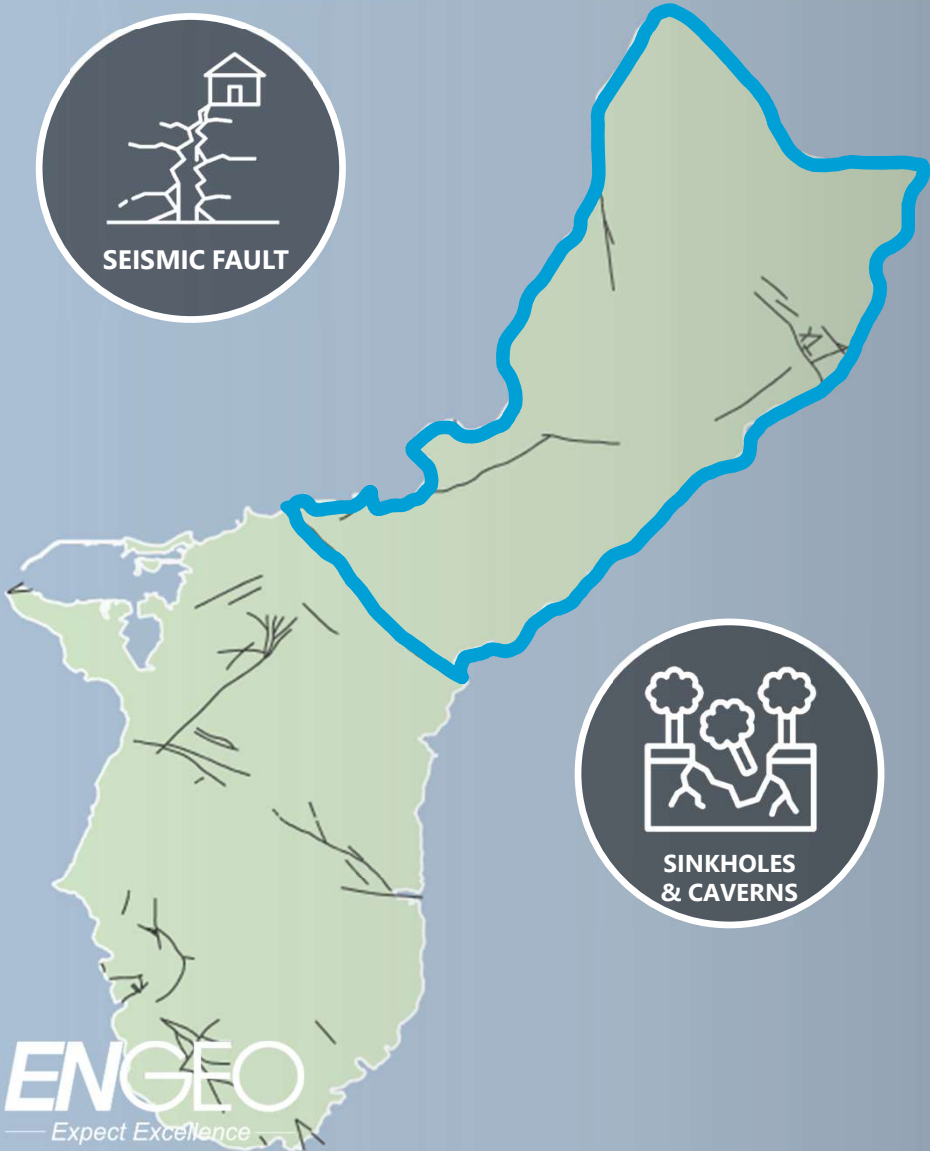
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OFF-ISLAND Project lead & managers



GUAM GEOLOGY AND SEIMICITY

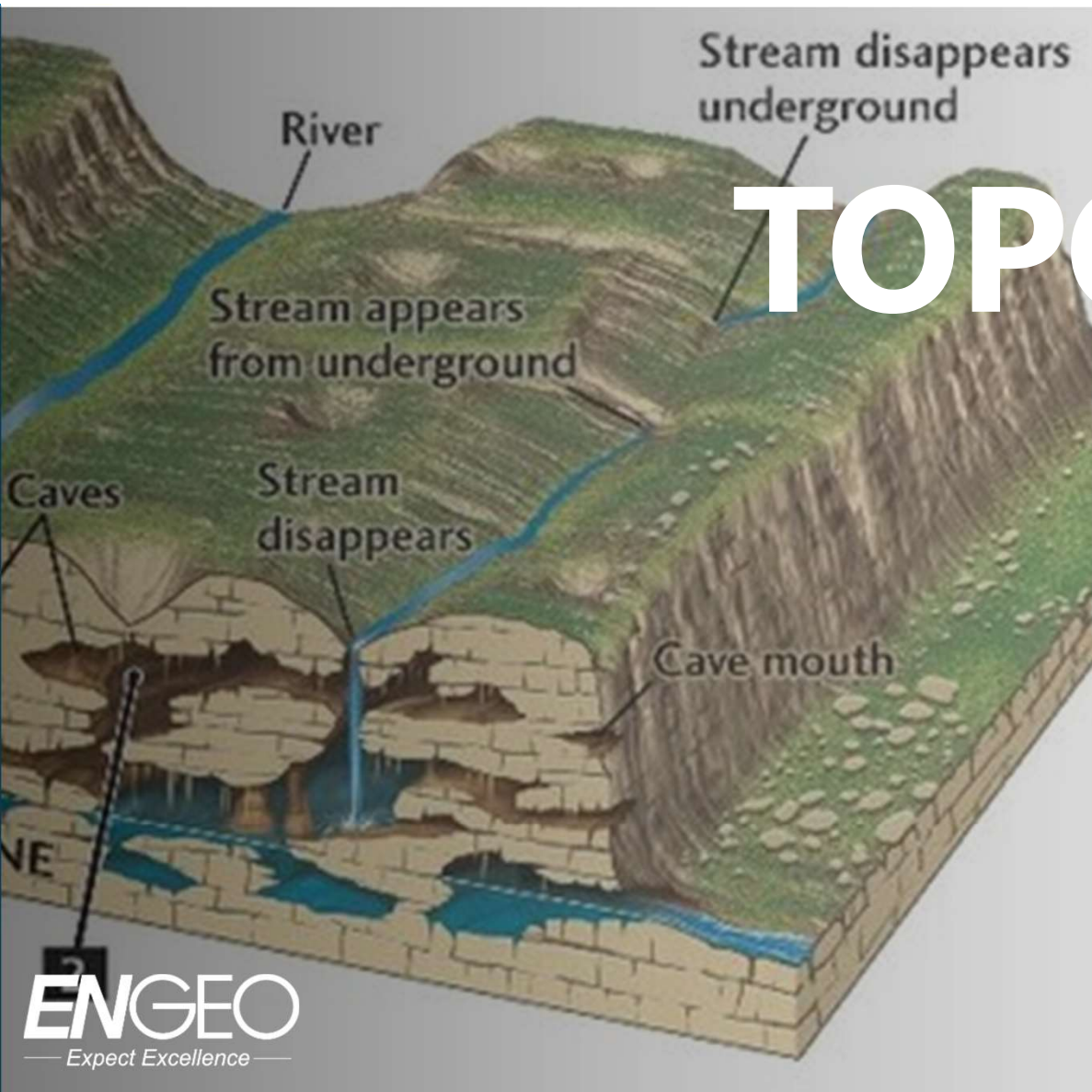




PRIMARY HAZARDS

NORTHERN GUAM

- **KARST TOPOGRAPHY/SINKHOLES**
- **STRONG GROUND SHAKING**
- **SURFACE FAULT RUPTURE**



KARST TOPOGRAPHY

HAZARDS

- Sinkholes
- Deep caverns / voids

MITIGATION

- Probe and Grout
- Deep foundations
- Ground



PRIMARY HAZARDS

SOUTHERN GUAM

- SLOPE STABILITY
- SEISMIC SETTLEMENT
 - LIQUEFACTION
 - COMPRESSIBLE SOIL
- Strong ground shaking
- FAULT RUPTURE



HAZARDS

- Ground movement
- Rockfall

MITIGATION

- Slope offset
- Engineered walls
- Earth retaining structures
- Earthwork slope rebuilds

SLOPE STABILITY

HAZARDS

- TOTAL SETTLEMENT
- DIFFERENTIAL SETTLEMENT
- LATERAL SPREAD

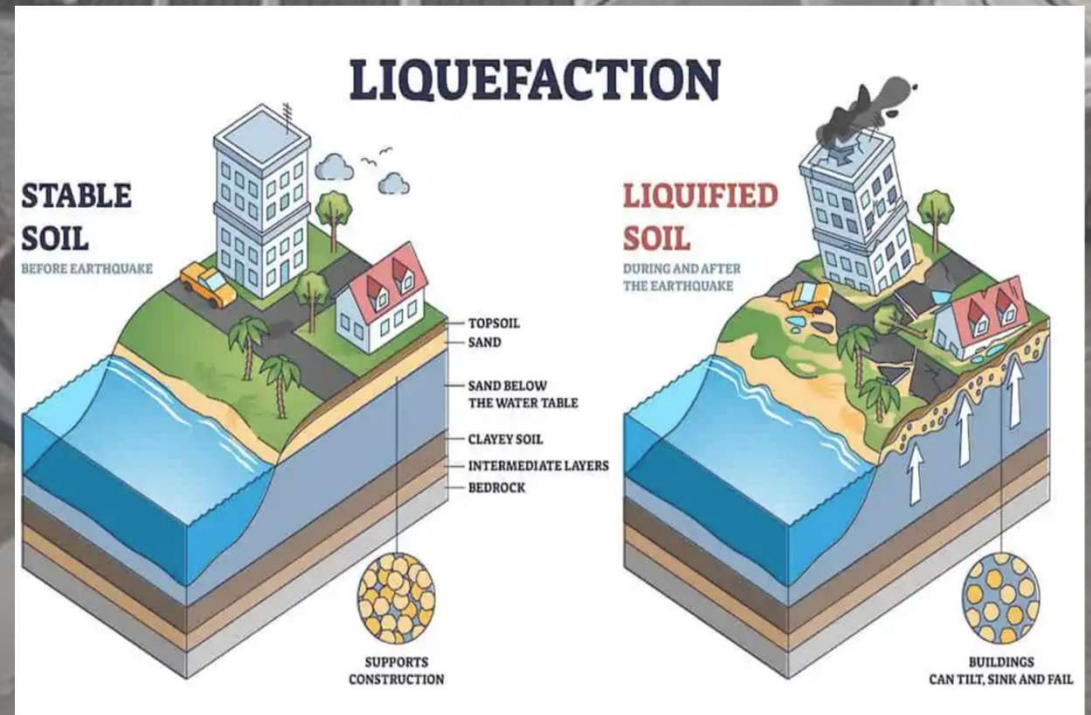
MITIGATION

- SOIL IMPROVEMENT
 - SURCHARGE
 - DEEP SOIL MIX
 - STONE COLUMNS
 - DEEP FOUNDATIONS



SEISMIC

SETTLEMENT



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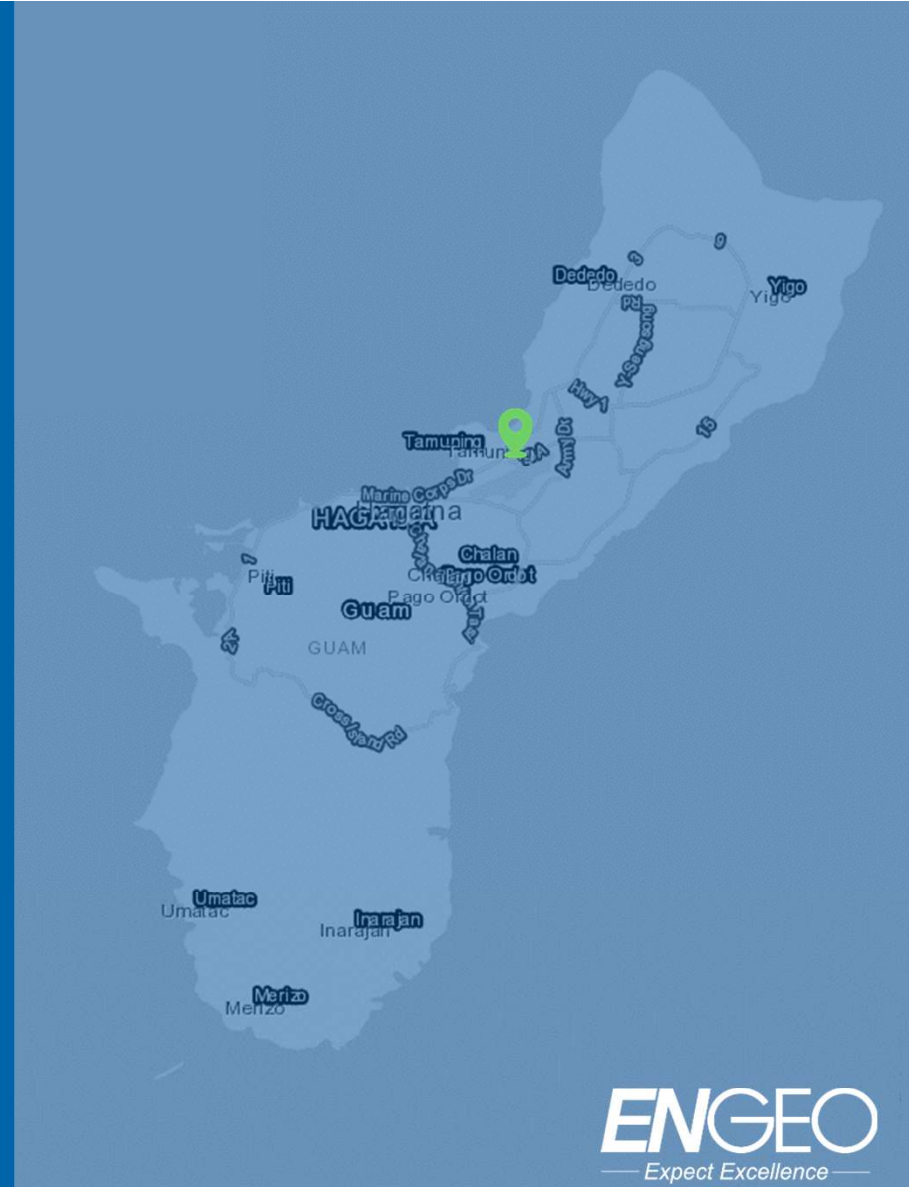


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THANK YOU!



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