



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 40-GA-15

“Expressing appreciation to the United States Coast Guard for its continued commitment to maritime safety and security of the Pacific and to commend its dedication towards humanitarian relief efforts in the region.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector
2 Guam maintains a critical role in “Strengthening Pacific Security and Livelihood”;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, their responsibility spans the Pacific encompassing many
5 territories and sovereign island nations aligned with the United States through their
6 Compact of Free Association relationships; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia plays a
8 unique role in the Pacific, not only ensuring maritime safety and security, but also
9 as defense for the territories and sovereign COFA island nations; moreover, the
10 United States Coast Guard provides humanitarian relief, rescue operations, and
11 environmental protection efforts, becoming valued members and friends to our
12 island communities; and

13 **WHEREAS**, knowing that collaboration between all island nations is
14 key to a safe and prosperous Pacific, the United States Coast Guard engages in
15 professional exchanges, training and capacity-building initiatives that empower
16 local communities, joint exercises, bilateral agreements, and community outreach
17 that reinforce the U.S. Coast Guard's position as a trusted ally in safeguarding
18 shared maritime interests; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia has
20 collaborated with international partners and regional stakeholders to foster
21 cooperation, strengthen partnerships, and enhance the collective maritime security
22 posture in the Pacific, contributing to a safer and more secure maritime
23 environment; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia recently
2 held a joint meeting in Guam with Australian Maritime Security Advisors to the
3 COFA nations to collaborate with the Royal Australian Navy in supporting the
4 Pacific Island Nations and held a Joint Committee meeting with the Federated
5 States of Micronesia to ensure a secure and prosperous Pacific discussing
6 everything from combating illegal fishing to environmental protection; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia held
8 Maritime Domain Awareness Exercise with the Federated States of Micronesia
9 ensuring key stakeholders are well-equipped to maintain security in their territories
10 especially in their EEZ; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard regularly hosts shiprider
12 operations including partners from island nations in operations to promote maritime
13 governance; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia have
15 contributed extensively to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
16 (IUU-F); wherein from November 2022 to May 2023, through the Western and
17 Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, as the bilateral agreement authority,
18 including the Enhanced Bilateral Agreement with FSM, the United States Coast
19 Guard Forces Micronesia employed the 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response
20 Cutter crews, in cooperation with shipriders from the Republic of the Marshall
21 Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of Nauru, and the
22 Republic of Palau; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia also
24 conducted 34 fisheries boardings and five observation reports resulting in 12
25 potential violations and six warnings on fishing vessels flagged out of 8 different
26 Micronesian and Asia Pacific countries, and the issues encountered during these
27 boardings ranged from expired passports to improper use of Vessel Monitoring
28 Systems aboard long-liners, purse seiners, and fish carriers; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia continue
30 to be incredible resources towards search and rescue operations, particularly in
31 training and conducting partners during exercises in maritime emergencies; and

32 **WHEREAS**, with aerial support from the United States Coast Guard in
33 Hawaii, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia were instrumental in
34 locating missing boaters within the rock islands of Palau, while in 2019, eight

1 fishermen lost at sea were rescued near the seas off Palau and in 2022, Search and
2 Rescue operations were employed for overdue fishermen in the FSM; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Forces Micronesia are
4 invaluable partners to the territories and island nations of the Pacific, in recognition
5 that their support over their years is a testament of their commitment of ensuring a
6 safe, secure, and prosperous Pacific; now, therefore,

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures,
8 40th General Assembly, FSM State of Chuuk, October 18-20, 2023, that this
9 Assembly hereby fully expresses appreciation to the United States Coast Guard for
10 their continued commitment to maritime safety and security of the Pacific and their
11 dedication towards humanitarian relief efforts in the region; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify
13 and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the
14 same shall be thereafter transmitted to Captain Nicholas Simmons, Commander
15 Coast Guard Sector Guam and to the Chief Executive and Legislative Presiding
16 Officers of each member jurisdiction of the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.



NELSON STEPHEN
PRESIDENT



TESSIE ERIA LAMBOURNE
SECRETARY

