

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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News Release

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PORT SETS CARGO TONNAGE RECORD

Despite many obstacles that have affected cargo movements through the Port, a record 2,164,116 revenue tons of cargo has passed over the Authority's docks in Fiscal Year 2003. This news comes as the Port celebrates its 28th year as an autonomous agency of the Government of Guam.

The previous high tonnage mark was achieved in 1998, when the Port moved 2,052,566 revenue tons of cargo. This year is only the third time the Port has broken the 2-million ton mark, the first was in Fiscal Year 1991. This year's increase marks a substantial increase over last year's 1,850,380 tons.

A total of 82,310 containers passed over the Port's docks, an increase of 3,982 over last fiscal year. That number is still shy of the record of 94,245 achieved in 1998. At the same time the Port posted an overall decrease in vessel calls, due primarily to a 172 vessel decrease in fishing vessel calls. Breakbulk, Bulk and Roll On/Roll Off cargo vessel calls increased by 21. The Port also posted an increase in passenger vessel calls.

Port General Manager Joseph F. Mesa said the new cargo record exemplifies the hard work and dedication of the Port employees. Over the past fiscal year the Port was faced with a shutdown of the West Coast Ports, two major typhoons, a shutdown of port operations for a week due to the Mobil oil tank fire, aging equipment and extreme congestion due to storm recovery and lack of container chassis on island.

"Despite all of the challenges the Port faced over the last year, we have proven that the Port can handle this elevated volume," Mesa said. "We will continue to work to expand and improve our cargo operations to benefit the people of Guam and to grow as a regional shipping hub."

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