



District Court of Guam
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CHAMBER OF
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Chief Judge

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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**DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Court Celebrates
Military Appreciation Month**

On Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., the District Court of Guam will proudly host two special Military Appreciation Month Naturalization Ceremonies. May has been marked as Military Appreciation month since 1999 when it was first designated by Congress to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present. Every year, the President of the United States makes a proclamation, reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. We will have a keynote speaker for each ceremony: Commander of Joint Region Marianas, **Rear Admiral John Menoni** at 9:30 a.m. and **Major General Esther J.C. Aguigui**, Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard at 11:30 a.m.

The Naturalization Ceremonies will take place inside the courthouse, with social distancing guidelines implemented, where the soon-to-be citizens, who hail from Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, India, and Nicaragua will soon take their oath to bear faith and allegiance to our great nation. This is a momentous event as the court welcomes 52 new citizens. Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood states: "It is an honor to have two prestigious keynote speakers, as representatives of all military personnel, join me in welcoming our newest citizens as we celebrate all military members who have served or continue to serve our nation."

Keynote Speaker Biographies

Rear Admiral John Menoni



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas

U.S. Pacific Command, Senior Military Official Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau

Commander, Task Force West

A native of Oak Park, Illinois, Rear Adm. Menoni graduated from the University of Illinois where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and received his commission on 3 July 1991. He has also earned a master's degree in Business Administration, a certificate in Systems Analysis from NPS, JPME-1 credit from the Naval War College, and JPME-2 credit from the Joint Staff College.

Menoni attended naval flight training in Pensacola, Florida, receiving his wings in October 1993. He is qualified as a pilot in both the H-46 Sea Knight and MH-60S Knighthawk. He has served multiple operational flying tours including Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FIVE, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron ELEVEN, Command of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWENTY-FIVE, and Commander of the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment supporting ARCENT and Multi-National Corps – Iraq. His most recent operational tour was as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of USS SAN DIEGO (LPD-22).

His staff tours include serving as an Instructor Pilot at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE, Flag Lieutenant at Carrier Group FOUR, the Helicopter Sea and

Assistant Captain Detailer for PERS-43, a JECC Planner for USFK, CENTCOM, JTF-435/ISAF, and AFRICOM/JTF ODYSSEY DAWN, and as the Executive Assistant for Commander Naval Forces Europe, Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

He most recently served as the Executive Assistant for the Director, Integration of Capabilities and Resources (OPNAV N8).

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit (3), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air Medal Strike-Flight (2), as well as various campaign and unit awards.

Major General (GU) Esther J.C. Aguiqui



Major General (GU) Esther J. C. Aguiqui is the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard and the Director of Military Affairs. As the adjutant general she is the senior military advisor to the governor of Guam and commander of the Guam National Guard responsible for the training, readiness, management and combat effectiveness of approximately 1,600 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians. Aguiqui's collateral duties also include her newly appointed role as the Guam Homeland Security Advisor (HSA), serving as the primary representative to the Department of Homeland Security receiving communications from federal agencies. In this capacity, serving as the HSA enables her authority to make critical decisions regarding policies, procedures and communications that are aligned with the state's homeland security missions and the governor's vision.

Aguigui has over 30 years of distinguished military service. She entered the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1985 as an Information Management Specialist with the 44th Aerial Port Squadron, Andersen AFB, Guam. In 1996, Aguigui transferred to the Guam Air National Guard and served as the First Sergeant of the 254th Civil Engineer Squadron. In 1999, Aguigui joined the Guam Army National Guard and served in various assignments to include Aide de Camp, commander of the 294th Military Intelligence Detachment, the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) Element, and the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. As the GUARNG commander, she was dual hatted as the Chief of the J1 Casualty Branch. In 2006, Aguigui served as Deputy, Senior Counterintelligence Officer for Joint Special Operations Task Force and the Liaison Officer to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Afghanistan.