



YOUR HSEM



BACKGROUND

In 2005, Public Law No. 14-63 created and established the Office of Homeland Security under the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Office of the Governor. Public Law No. 18-4 then reorganized the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management unifying them as the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM). Led by a Governor-appointed Special Assistant who also serves as the Homeland Security Advisor and the State Coordinating Officer for disasters, HSEM houses the State-Wide Interoperability Communication program and the 24-hour State Warning Point.

OUR MISSION

Through preparedness and prevention efforts, effectively manage incidents by coordinating and facilitating efforts among CNMI government agencies, federal partners, non-governmental organizations and private sectors to respond to threats, crimes, hazards, and emergencies; and mitigate catastrophic events to protect lives, property, and the environment.

OUR VISION

A Resilient Team capable to meet the demands of emergencies and crises while executing all functions of the incident command system and optimizing collaboration, cooperation and partnerships.

LEADERSHIP & PROGRAMS

Special Assistant

Clement R. Bermudes

Finance and Administration

Personnel Management
Financial Management

Public Information/Joint Information Center

Marianas Regional Fusion Center Node

Planning Section

Grants Program
Training and Exercise Program



Operations Section

Resource Management
Response Management
Facilities Management
Fleet Management Logistics

Emergency Management

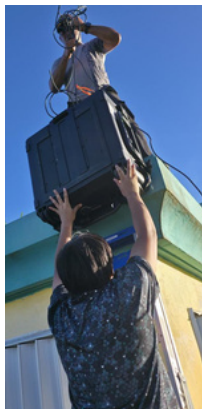
Information Technology &
Communications Systems
State Warning Point
Rota & Tinian Field Representatives



HOW ARE WE DOING?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tsunami outreach materials produced and community education initiated.
- State Warning Point (SWP) supported timely dissemination and coordination of emergency alerts and critical information during Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi.
- Deployed Starlink and other emergency communications assets to provide connectivity and redundancy when commercial systems were degraded or unavailable.
- Maintained the CNMI EOC as a mission-critical facility during Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi.
- Procured and deployed the Mobile Surveillance Trailer.
- WebEOC: Crisis Management Solution
- Maintained 24/7 SWP operations to support emergency notifications, incident reporting, and coordination with local and federal partners.
- Maintained continuous situational awareness and served as a key communications link between HSEM, first responders, government agencies, and federal partners during emergency operations
- Supported emergency communications during Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi, including deployment and coordination of satellite, cellular, radio, broadband, and interoperable communications capabilities.
- Coordinated with government, telecommunications providers, FEMA, CISA, FirstNet Authority, ITDRC, and other partners to restore and maintain critical communications.
- Strengthened communications redundancy through commercial internet, satellite, radio, and deployable systems.
- 200-foot Communications Tower



CHALLENGES

- Two Federal shutdowns: January 31 - February 3, 2026 and February 14 - April 30, 2026.
- Geographic isolation and limited transportation options created challenges for moving personnel, replacement equipment, and communications resources between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
- Staffing shortages and austerity measures.
- Protecting critical infrastructure from severe weather, power fluctuations, and equipment failures.
- Maintaining redundant communications and warning capabilities during commercial power, telecommunications, and internet disruptions remains an ongoing operational challenge.
- Super Typhoon Sinlaku (April 2026) and Super Typhoon Bavi (July 2026) affecting HSEM normal operations.
- Replacing aging IT, communications, electrical, and facility systems before they become operational vulnerabilities.
- Current staffing limitations place additional demands on available personnel, particularly during extended emergency activations and prolonged response and recovery operations.

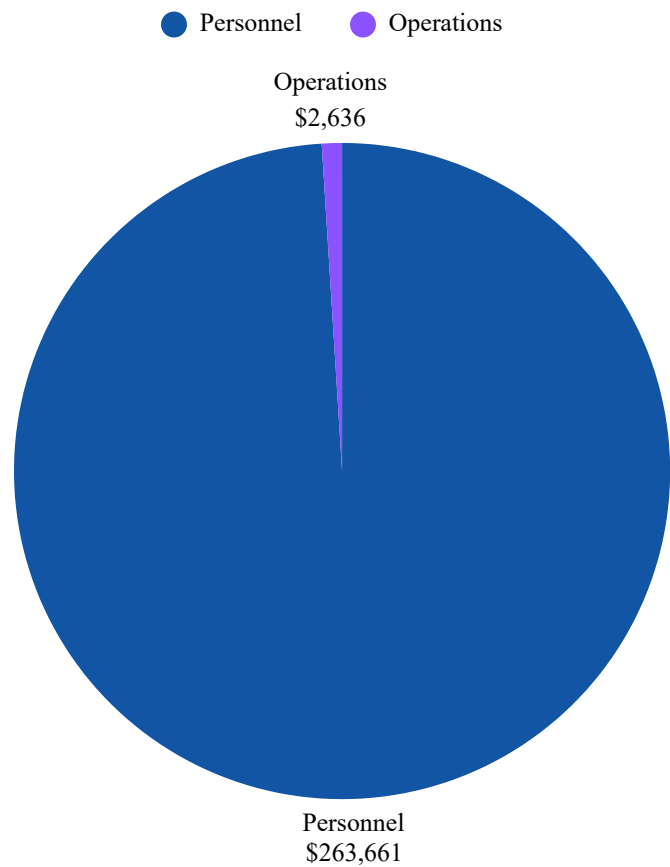




FINANCES

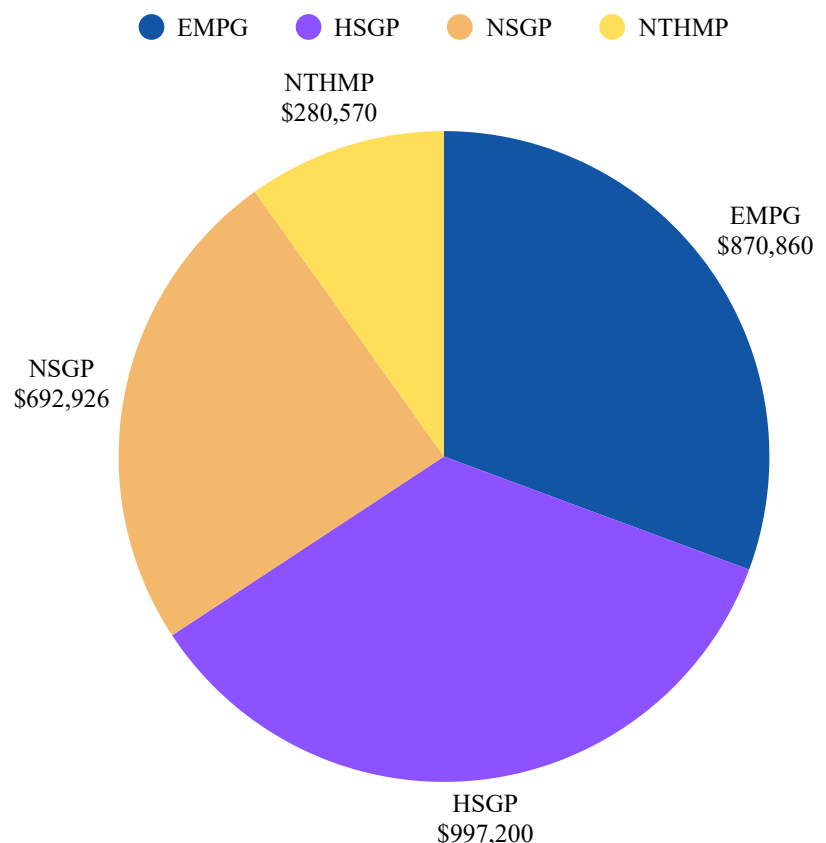
LOCAL FUNDS

Through House Bill 24-108, HS1, SD1, CCS1 entitled to “provide a budget plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands for the Fiscal Year 2027 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations; and for other purposes, ” which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature became Public Law 24-40, CNMI HSEM has budgeted a total of \$266,297 in local funding split for personnel and operations.



FEDERAL FUNDS

In 2026, CNMI HSEM was awarded \$2,841,556 from the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), and the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP).





WHAT'S NEXT?

- Expand training, exercises, and coordination with local and federal partners.
- Continue improving resilient and redundant emergency communications capabilities across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
- Emergency Alert System (EAS).
- Establish lifecycle replacement plans for aging mission-critical infrastructure and equipment.
- Mount Carmel School Security Hardening Project.
- Disaster Public Information Plan.
- Updated Emergency Operations Plan.
- CNMI HSEM Mobile Preparedness Application.
- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Program
- CERT Program



CONTACT US

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