

SBMA ChAd to wayward truck traders: Comply or close

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) will not hesitate to shut down the operation of truck trading companies here that violate SBMA rules and policies and the terms and conditions of their lease contract with the Subic agency.

SBMA Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma said errant truck traders will only have until June 1 to comply with SBMA requirements before their registration as business locators in the Subic Bay Freeport are revoked or cancelled.

"I am sick and tired of businesses not following SBMA rules and regulations. I am sick and tired of businesses who think they could get away with (violating rules)," Eisma said during a meeting with truck traders here at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on Monday.

Eisma issued the warning after the SBMA found at least 11 violations and issues committed by several truck trading firms in the Freeport. These included problems on working visa and royalty, as well as violation of policies on working permit, importation, use of marshalling yard, sub-leasing, occupancy and use of leased property, parking, and environment.

According to the SBMA General Business and Logistics Departments, there are now 88 vehicle trading companies operating in Subic, the only free port where in the importation of used vehicles and heavy equipment from abroad is allowed by law.

During the meeting, Eisma specifically railed against the practice by some truck traders to secure only one work permit for multiple employees, the sponsorship of foreign workers to secure work visa for a fee, and the use of one company's importation privileges by another firm also for a fee.

"It has been brought to my attention by the Bureau of Immigration that some of your employees are out here working without working visas. If your work visa is only for one company, you cannot work for another company here in Subic," Eisma told the traders and their staff.

Eisma said that the SBMA has submitted the names of erring companies to the Bureau of Immigration. "If I were you, I will fix this problem before the investigators come," she said.

The SBMA official also stressed that the locators' importation privileges are provided for under their individual Certificate of Registration and Tax Exemption (CRTE), and hence was not transferable.

"If you allow your importation privileges to be used by somebody else, and make it appear as yours, it is a violation of the SBMA rules and regulations. For this, I will not hesitate to pre-terminate your contract," Eisma said.

Eisma also noted that the huge time lapse in the admission permit issuance against the actual pullout of equipment and trucks is another violation. "There are so many trucks out there that have been categorized as for pullout, but they have been there for as long as three months," she pointed out.

She also noted that some companies were found to be importing more than the volume allowed for their leased areas, thus leading to the illegal parking of these imports on the side of the roads.

"These heavy machinery and trucks that are parked on the side of the road are a bane to road users and should be pulled out within the allowed given time," she added.

Eisma warned the business locators that the SBMA has the power to pre-terminate contracts, including those that govern industrial parks inside the Subic Bay Freeport, without need for court action upon any violation by the lessee of the terms and conditions of its lease agreement with the SBMA.

The SBMA may also revoke, suspend or cancel the registration of any company given the permit to operate in Subic if the firm violates any of the terms and conditions of its lease with the SBMA, Eisma added.



SBMA Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma urges truck traders in the Subic Bay Freeport to comply with SBMA policies and rules, or else face revocation of their permit.

U.S., Philippines Partnership that Expanded Opportunities for some 25,000 Out-of-School Youth



USAID Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II and Jacquelyn Yurag, a former out-of-school youth from Parang, Maguindanao hang a lit lamp on the Life Skills Tree symbolizing the guidance and support the youth received from USAID during the end of the project event for USAID's Mindanao Youth for Development Program.



USAID Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II hands over the life skills modules to (L-R) DepEd Assistant Secretary G.H. Ambat and TESDA Deputy Director Rosanna Urdaneta during the completion ceremonies of USAID's Mindanao Youth for Development program in Makati City.

The U.S. and Philippine governments celebrated the successful conclusion of the six-year, Php832-million Mindanao Youth for Development (MYDev) project. The partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), and 11 local government units across Mindanao expanded access to education, provided life skills training, and provided employment opportunities for more than 25,000 out-of-school youth in Mindanao.

The completion ceremony, led by USAID Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II, DepEd Assistant Secretary G.H. Ambat, and TESDA Deputy Director General Rosanna Urdaneta, drew over 150 key stakeholders, including government officials, private sector partners, and youth beneficiaries.

Since 2013, USAID's MYDev programs have prepared Mindanaoan youth for work or continuing education and promoted self-reliance, positive community engagement, and resiliency. Almost 15,000 youth obtained national certifications from TESDA for technical-vocational courses, and more than 4,000 completed DepEd's Alternative Learning Systems (ALS) program. As a result of the project, more than 6,000 vulnerable youth have new or improved employment.

MYDev also generated more than Php50 million in funding from local partners, including local businesses, to support and sustain productive opportunities for out-of-school youth.

In his address, Director Hardy commended the youth as "leaders who help shape a more stable and resilient future for their communities."

During the ceremony, the U.S. government also turned over life skills modules developed by Boston-based Education Development Center to strengthen work readiness skills, leadership ability, and resilience of youth. DepEd and TESDA will incorporate the life skills modules into ALS and technical-vocational training this school year and implement the training nationwide.

Businessman, 2 others dead as chopper crashes in Bulacan



CHOPPER CRASH. Police personnel retrieve the bodies of three passengers of a helicopter that crashed into a fishpond in Barangay Anilao, City of Malolos in Bulacan on Thursday (April 25, 2019). The chopper was on its way to San Fernando, Pampanga when it met its tragic fate. (Photo by Manny Balbin)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan -- Three persons, including the former president of Clark Development Corporation (CDC), perished when a helicopter carrying them crashed into a fishpond here on Thursday.

Colonel Chito Bersaluna, Bulacan police director, said the helicopter with body number RP C8098 fell into a fishpond in Barangay Anilao, this city around 12:30 p.m. and was severely damaged.

He said police personnel were immediately dispatched to the crash site after receiving the report around 12:50 pm.

Lt. Col. Emerey Abating, police chief of Malolos, reported to Bersaluna that the crash victims were former CDC president and Laus Group of Companies chair, Liberato "Levy" Laus, along with his aide and pilot.

The 68-year-old Laus was rushed to the Bulacan Medical Center here but was declared dead on arrival.

Laus served as CDC president from Oct. 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008, under the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Laus was the moving force behind the highly-successful Laus Group of Companies, selling Mitsubishi cars, BMW, KIA, Subaru, Ford and other brands.

He later ventured into the media industry, launching DWRW 95.1 FM during the reconstruction efforts after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the daily newspaper, Sun Star Pampanga, the former Sun Star Clark. He was also the owner of CLTV 36, a television station in Central Luzon.

Laus was also chairman emeritus of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The other crash victims were identified as Capt. Everette Coronel, the pilot and Laus' personal bodyguard Wilfran Esteban. The two were declared dead at the crash site.

"Authorities are still investigating the cause of the crash," Bersaluna said.

The helicopter left the Ninoy Aquino International Airport General Aviation hangar at 12:28 p.m., and was bound for San Fernando, Pampanga when the mishap took place.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is now investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, the Laus family and the Laus Group of Companies released a statement on the fateful accident.

"His untimely passing unfortunately came at a time when he was looking forward to greater things, not only for the LGC, but also for the whole province of Pampanga, especially his beloved city of San Fernando. He unfailingly demonstrated the exceptional values in business, integrity and compassion in all his work. He will be greatly missed," the statement read. (With report from Cristina Arayata/PNA)

SM Operation Tulong Express for earthquake affected communities in Zambales and Bataan



Aeta communities of 4 Sitios and 4 Barangays of San Marcelino, Zambales receive relief goods from SM Foundation through SM City Olongapo Downtown.



SM City Olongapo Central asst. mall manager Ana Lorraine Azucena gives relief goods to residents of Mangana-vaca Subic Zambales. A total of 104 families benefited in the relief operation.



"Nagpapasalamat po kami sa SM, sa kanilang mga relief goods, sapagkat naging bahagi po kayo sa buhay ng mga katutubong Aeta," said Jerry dela Cruz, IPMR(Indigenous People's Mandatory Representative) of San Marcelino, Zambales.

A total of 288 families in 4 Sitios and 4 Barangays in San Marcelino, Zambales received relief goods from SM Foundation through the help of MSWDO, IPMR Office and the volunteers from SM City Olongapo Downtown.

"After we got reports that Aeta community in Buhawen, San Marcelino, Zambales were evacuated due to proliferation of dusts from the mountain due to the effect of the recent 6.1 magnitude earthquake, Operation Tulong Express of SM Foundation was immediately activated to conduct relief operations to the affected communities," Ana Lorraine Azucena, asst. manager of SM Olongapo Central said.

"While relief operation was ongoing, I've observed that while some of the Aetas looked sad, others were ecstatic upon receiving the relief goods. They were so thankful even though they don't know how life will start over for their families when they go back to their homesteads," Nette Mortel, public relations manager of SM Olongapo Downtown expressed.

"SM Foundation slogan, 'People Helping People' once again demonstrates how Operation Tulong Express was implemented to earthquake victims in Porac Pampanga, San Marcelino and Subic Zambales, and Bataan. So far, SM Foundation has reached out to 2,950 families or 14,750 individuals," Cristie Angeles, SM Foundation AVP for Outreach and Livelihood said. As of this writing, the Aeta evacuees have already returned to their respective communities.

GORDON: PREPARE FOR MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS

Following the series of earthquakes that rocked various parts of the country, including Luzon and Metro Manila in the past week as well as the bombings and attacks in different parts of the globe, Senator Richard J. Gordon called on the whole country and the government to prepare for mass casualty incidents.

Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, underscored the need for swift response in case any untoward incident occurs, which would be ensured if the government and the whole country is prepared.

"I am calling on the country to prepare for any mass casualty incident. I'm calling on the whole country and the government to prepare for any untoward incidents such as that (Sri Lanka bombings), including mass casualty incidents caused not only by bombings but by epidemics or earthquakes," he said.

At the same time, Gordon assured that the Philippine Red Cross has been continuously preparing for the occurrence of mass casualty incidents, adding that the humanitarian organization is ready to provide the necessary assistance should an MCI occur.

"Simultaneous bombings occurred in Sri Lanka. Did you see the Red Cross there? Yes they were there and we will be in the frontline if something like that happens. We are prepared for that, we are continuously preparing," he said.

The senator said PRC staff and volunteers have been training with the Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service, in the hope of gaining more knowledge from their expertise in responding to disasters and terrorist activities.

On Easter Sunday, simultaneous bombings at churches and luxury hotels across Sri Lanka killed more than 250 people. Just recently, a blast during a raid on the house of one of the suspected Easter bombers killed 15 people, including children.

In the Philippines, the magnitude 6.1 earthquake that hit Luzon, including Metro Manila, Monday afternoon left 18 people dead and 243 others injured - of which 174 have been validated by the Department of Health. A magnitude-6.5 quake in Eastern Samar; while a magnitude-4 earthquake struck Leyte and was felt at Intensity III in the province's Ormoc City. The latest in the string of tremors is the magnitude-5.5 earthquake that jolted Surigao del Norte last Friday afternoon.

The Philippines sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where tectonic plates collide and many of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded regularly.

Post-quake assessment shows Nueva Ecija dams safe



Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija (Contributed photo) CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija -- The National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-UPRIIS) on Tuesday declared as safe all dams in this province, including the mammoth Pantabangan Dam.

Rose Bote, division manager of NIA-UPRIIS, said the agency's technical experts were immediately deployed after the 6.1-magnitude quake with its epicenter traced in Castillejos, Zambales, also jolted Nueva Ecija Monday.

Aside from Pantabangan Dam, which also generates electricity for the Luzon grid on top of irrigation for this province, Bote said they also inspected Canili Dam, also in Pantabangan; Rizal Dam in Rizal town; Peñaranda River Irrigation System in Peñaranda; and the Atate and Aulo Dams, both in Palayan City.

"Based on our initial inspection, there were no cracks or damage," Bote said.

The earthquake that struck past 5 p.m. on Monday has killed 15 people in Pampanga and one in Zambales. Scores are still missing believed still trapped in a collapsed supermarket in Porac, Pampanga. (PNA)



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AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

DOTr, BCDA tribute for New Clark City workers



TRIBUTE TO WORKERS. Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade mingles with construction workers at the New Clark City in Pampanga on Thursday (May 2, 2019). Tugade, together with Bases Conversion and Development Authority president and CEO Vince Dizon, lead the Labor Day tribute to the New Clark City workers in recognition of their important role in the government's "Build, Build, Build" program. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Transportation)

CAPAS, Tarlac -- Workers at the New Clark City in this province got a special treat on Thursday in recognition of their vital contributions to the government's "Build, Build, Build" program.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) president and chief executive officer Vivencio "Vince" Dizon led other officials in paying tribute to the New Clark City workers in line with the Labor Day celebration.

Tugade, in his message during a simple program held at the construction site of the New Clark City-National Government Administrative Center here, cited the workers' important role in the construction and completion of the government's massive infrastructure projects.

He said the works and efforts of construction workers contributed to the realization of President Rodrigo Duterte's projects benefiting the people.

"Nandito kami ngayon upang magbigay pugay sa inyong kadakilaang gawain sa ating pamahalaan. Walang bahay, walang gusali, walang kalsada, walang tulay kung walang construction worker. Napakahalaga ninyo. Itong mga pasilidad na ito ay regalo ng ating Pangulong Duterte sa sambayanan (We are

now here to pay tribute to your great works for the government. There is no house, no building, no road, no bridge without the construction workers. You are very important. These facilities are gifts of President Duterte to the Filipino people), Tugade said.

Dizon, for his part, said that the massive infrastructure projects under the "Build, Build, Build" program show the desire of President Duterte to uplift the lives of the Filipinos.

"Itong lahat ng mga ginagawa ni President Duterte ay para sa inyo at para sa ating lahat. We all know na gusto ni Pangulong Duterte na mapaganda ang buhay ng mga Pilipino (All these things being done by President Duterte is for all of you and for all of us. We all know that President Duterte wants to improve the lives of the Filipinos)," he said.

As a gesture of appreciation to the workers, various items such as sacks of rice, appliances and cash were raffled off during the event.

Among the ongoing infrastructure projects here are the world-class facilities to be used for the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games which include the Integrated Operations Center and Disaster Risk Recovery Center, government housing, and a river park. (PNA)

IRR for Expanded Maternity Leave Law



IRR FOR EXPANDED MATERNITY LEAVE LAW. Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III (seated, second from right), together with Civil Service Commission Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala (second from left), and Social Security System president and CEO Aurora Ignacio (right), lead the signing of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the Expanded Maternity Leave Law during the Labor Day job and business fairs in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga on Wednesday (May 1, 2019). The signing of the IRR will pave the way for the full implementation of the Expanded Maternity Leave Law which was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte last February. (Photo courtesy of DOLE Region III)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act 11210 otherwise known as the Expanded Maternity Leave Law, was signed here on Wednesday.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello, together with Civil Service Commission chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala, and Social Security System president Aurora Ignacio, led the ceremonial signing of the IRR during the Labor Day job and business fairs held at the Kingsborough Convention Center here.

The IRR signing will pave the way for the full implementation of the Expanded Maternity Leave Law.

Under the said law, working mothers are given 105 days instead of the previous 60, of paid maternity leave.

Based on the IRR, mothers will also have the option to file for an additional 15 days of unpaid leave.

The maternity benefits will apply to every instance of pregnancy, miscarriage, or emergency termination of pregnancy regardless of frequency.

"The Expanded Maternity Law ensures the health of the lady workers," Bello said, adding that even husbands can benefit from the law.

"The wife who gave birth, if she wants to be with her husband, can pass up to 15 days of her leave so that he

could attend to her," he added.

The Expanded Maternity Leave law includes a provision allowing the allocation of seven maternity leave days to fathers, raising the paternity leave to 15 days from the current seven days.

Unwed mothers can also share up to 15 days of leave to a working relative.

Meanwhile, Taguig Rep. Pia Cayetano, one of the principal authors of the expanded maternity bill, who was also present in the event, hailed the signing of IRR for the Expanded Maternity Leave law, saying this would give working mothers more time to recover after giving birth and to take care of their newborn.

"Being a mother is also something that we need to be compensated that is why there is the Expanded Maternity Leave Law," Cayetano said.

Also signed during the event were the joint guidelines by the DOLE, Department of Justice and Bureau of Immigration on the issuance of the work and employment permits to foreign nationals and the memorandum of agreement with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority on the skills assessment and certification for returning overseas Filipino workers. (PNA)

Central Luzon economy up 7.1%

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Central Luzon's economy grew by 7.1 percent in 2018, maintaining its rank as the third largest contributor to the Philippine economy.

In a news conference, Philippine Statistics Authority Regional Director Edgardo G. Pare said the industry sector topped the economic expansion that grew by 7.5 percent.

"Industry remained to have the largest share to the 48.6 percent regional output. Services had shares of 37.6 percent while Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing (AHFF) had 13.8 percent," Pare said.

For his part, National Economic and Development Authority Regional Director Leon M. Dacanay Jr. said the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Central Luzon is increasingly showing signs of unwavering vitality and dynamism. This figure stands comparable to 2011 level.

Services grew faster by 7.8 percent from 5.6 percent in 2017. All of its subsectors sped up except for Real Es-

tate, Renting and Business Activities.

Generally, AHFF decelerated to 3.7 percent in 2018 from its previous 3.9 percent. Agriculture and Forestry slowed down to 3.1 percent from 4.1 percent, while Fishing grew at a rate of 6.7 percent from 2.9 percent in 2017.

Industry contributed greatly to the region's overall growth rate with 3.7 percent followed by Services with 2.9 percent and AHFF with 0.5 percent.

"These strong macroeconomic fundamentals and mature economic forts have managed to suppress inflation in 2018. It also sustained the expansion of the regional economy and achieved a desirable level of economic growth close to the target set in the Central Luzon Regional Development Plan 2017-2022," Dacanay added.

GRDP measures the economic performance of a specific region, covering value of goods and services produced therein. (CLJD/CJFV-PIA 3)

Over 7,000 job seekers in Pampanga Labor Day Job Fair

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- A total of 490 applicants were Hired-On-The-Spot and about 7,335 were considered "near-hires" during the 117th Labor Day Job and Business Fairs held in Pampanga.

"Near-hires are those considered hired but still need to submit additional or lacking requirements, or may need to undergo further interviews or tests/exams to fully qualify for the job," Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Director Zenaida Angara-Campita said.

"Preliminary reports show that a total of 3,751 individuals registered for the job fair. With the registered applicants submitting their application to multiple employers, the total number of qualified applicants numbered to 7,825," Campita added.

One hundred forty one local companies and 24 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)-accredited recruitment agencies participated in the activity which carried the theme

"Pagpupugay sa Manggagawang Pilipino."

Aside from the job fair, about 1,050 participants attended six learning sessions focused on Pre-Employment Orientation, How to Start a Small Business, Pag-IBIG Fund Updates on Membership Savings and Modified Pag-IBIG II Program, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Programs and Services for Overseas Filipino Workers and their dependents, Philippine Qualifications Framework, and 21st Century Hiring Considerations.

Micro, small and medium enterprises who are beneficiaries of DOLE's Integrated Livelihood Program likewise showcased their products while POEA provided legal assistance to both overseas recruitment agencies and employees.

Lastly, the provincial government of Pampanga awarded P3.4 million worth of Special Program for the Employment of Students checks to over 957 student beneficiaries. (PIA 3)

Stringent Govt. guidelines on alien workers



Top officials of the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration and Bureau of Internal Revenue sign the joint guidelines on the issuance of work permits to foreign nationals. This aims to prioritize and prevent displacement of Filipino workers. (Marie Joy L. Simpao/PIA 3)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- National government agencies are set to implement stringent guidelines on alien workers in the country.

Under the joint guidelines signed by Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), foreign nationals are required to submit their tax identification number before they can be issued with an Alien Employment Permit (AEP).

This is to ensure that foreign nationals working in the country are paying their taxes.

"Tax identification number is really a must in applying for AEP, Special Working Permit (SWP) and Provisional Work Permit because there will already be check and balance between and among DOLE, DOJ, BI and BIR to keep track of how many foreigners are working here and how many among them pay their taxes," Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

The guidelines also aim to prioritize and avoid displacement of Filipino workers.

"DOLE will be very strict in ensuring that foreign workers will not be given

AEP for jobs that can be done by Filipinos. For example, we will not issue permit to a Vietnamese or Korean national who wants to apply as an electrician or plumber because a Filipino will be displaced in that instance," the secretary said.

He added that the BI, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and those in the special economic zones have already submitted their list of workers with permits to DOLE.

Bello also assured that temporary work visa given to foreigners will not be abused because the SWP is only valid for a minimum of three months and maximum of six months, without extension.

Among those who are covered under the SWP are professional athletes, international performers, service suppliers, treasure hunters, movie and television crew, foreign journalists, trainees assigned in government institutions, people pursuing academic work, missionaries and preachers, commercial models, culinary chefs, professionals, and consultants. (PIA 3)

IN THE NAVY

USS Louisville Back in Pearl Harbor



PEARL HARBOR -- Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) and its crew arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, after completing their latest deployment, May 2. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton)

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shaun Griffin, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from a deployment, May 2.

"Louisville Sailors are some of the finest in the world," said Cmdr. Robert W. Rose, from Garland, Utah, and Louisville's commanding officer. "Their hard work, ingenuity, and constant effort kept Louisville ready for every phase of deployment. As commanding officer, it is my absolute privilege to lead this crew in carrying out our nation's most important tasking."

During the deployment, 27 Sailors were promoted and 26 Sailors and six officers earned their submarine warfare qualification.

"Our strength on Louisville has always been our teamwork and mentorship; it's what enables us to succeed," said Senior Chief Fire Control Technician Teruedum A. Cox, a native of Goldsboro, North Carolina and Louisville's Chief of the Boat. "The senior members of our crew did an incredible job training our

junior Sailors on the deck plate level. My hat's off to our entire crew."

While deployed, Louisville conducted port visits in U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets and hosted several Royal Thai Navy dignitaries during the bilateral exercise Guardian Sea.

"Seeing the crew serve as great hosts to our Thai allies on board speaks to the Louisville way," said Senior Chief Yeoman (Submarine) Gary White, a native of Dallas, Texas. "For many on board, this was the first time they interacted with foreign Sailors, and it was an awesome opportunity for them to learn about a different culture."

"Experiencing different cultures in the 5th and 7th Fleets was certainly a highlight of this deployment," said Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 2nd Class Alex York, from Tucson, Arizona. "This will stick with me for many years."

Louisville is the fourth United States ship to bear the name in honor of the city of Louisville, Kentucky. She is the 35th nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine of the Los Angeles-class design. The completion of her deployment in the 5th and 7th Fleet area of operations marks her last deployment as she prepares for decommission.



A Sailor assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) looks for his loved ones as he and the crew arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, after completing their latest deployment, May 2. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton)



PEARL HARBOR -- Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) and its crew arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, after completing their latest deployment, May 2. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton)

Subic Bay News

FORMER PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. NAVAL BASE, SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES

SINCE 1994

Vol. 12 No. 14 April 28 - May 04, 2019 www.subichaynews.com Php 15.00

Commercial Boeing 737 Slides Off Runway at NAS Jacksonville



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Containment and absorbent booms surround a Boeing 737 aircraft in the St. Johns River after the aircraft slid off the runway at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, May 3, 2019. All 143 passengers aboard the flight from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba were rescued. National Transportation Safety Board officials are on scene leading the investigation. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Thomas A. Higgins)

From NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) -- May 4 at 1500 EST: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is on the scene and has taken lead on the aircraft mishap involving a Miami Air International Boeing 737-800 which overran the runway at NAS Jacksonville, and came to rest in the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Fla., Friday, May 3.

NTSB officials have also recovered the flight data recorder. Passengers are reuniting with family members, including those who are traveling to ultimate destinations.

At approximately 9:40 p.m. May 3rd, a Boeing 737 arriving from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba into Na-

val Air Station Jacksonville slid off the runway into the St. Johns River.

There were 136 passengers and seven aircrew on board and all have been accounted for. Minor injuries have been reported, treated at the scene, and those requiring additional treatment were transported to a local hospital. There were no fatalities.

Navy security and emergency response personnel are on the scene and monitoring the situation.

Families members who were expecting the arrival of passengers should stand by until they are released.

An investigation into the mishap is underway.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. A Boeing 737 aircraft carrying 143 passengers from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, sits in the St. Johns River after sliding off the runway at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, May 3, 2019. All of the passengers were rescued by fire and emergency personnel. National Transportation Safety Board officials are on scene leading the investigation. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Thomas A. Higgins)

