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Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale Welcomes United States Coast Guard Rear Admiral Michael H. Day and Team to American Samoa



On Tuesday, February 14, 2023, the United States Coast Guard Rear Admiral Michael H. Day, and several Coast Guardsmen, completed their first official visit to American Samoa since Admiral Day assumed the duties as Commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District in June 2022. They met the Honorable Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale to discuss ways to work collaboratively to advance maritime governance as part of the rules-based international order essential to a free and open Indo-Pacific. Admiral Day oversees and directs Coast Guard operations throughout Oceania, including Hawai'i, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and activities in Singapore and Japan. Accompanying Admiral Day was Captain Aja Kirksey, who, on her second trip to American Samoa since

November 2022, assumed Command of Sector Honolulu in June 2022, and directs all Coast Guard missions in Sector Honolulu's area of responsibility, a broad expanse of the Pacific that includes 1.4 million square nautical miles of ocean.

Other USCG officials in attendance are as follows:

- Master Chief, Andrea L. Martynowski, Command Master Chief, Fourteenth Coast Guard District
- Lieutenant Shane P. Corbett, Military Aide to the Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District
- Lieutenant Richard Quintana, Supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa
- Vernatius Frank Thomsen, Assistant Supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa

Acting Governor shares the importance of the tuna industry in American Samoa, and commends the USCG's continued support as American Samoa plans to increase traffic of boats that will import oil and supplies to benefit our people. "We recognize that having the Coast Guard's presence here allows for security, the enforcement of law, and the protection of life out at sea," remarked Acting Governor Ale. He continued, "We look forward to new ways to forge partnerships in the Pacific Region and continue the good work."

Several cabinet members were also present this morning, to discuss key issues and seeking training opportunities in areas of border security and marine patrol. Cabinet members included Acting Attorney General Roy Hall, Director Samana Ve'ave'a, Deputy Treasury Levi Reese, Acting Director Sinauli Galoia, Executive Director Blanche Barber, Director Falenaoti Loi-On, Chief of Customs Elisara Elisara.

The meeting concluded with an exchange of gifts as Admiral Michael Day presented a wooden paddle, and Samoan artifacts and souvenirs gifted by Acting Governor Ale.

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