



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
American Memorial Park  
P.O. Box 5198 CHRB  
Beach Road, Garapan  
Saipan, MP 96950

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1.A.2 (AMME)

July 09, 2022

## Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

From: Superintendent, American Memorial Park & War in the Pacific NHP

Subject: Star Marianas Air Inc, Seat Fare Exemption Request

The National Park Service (NPS) has an operational need to quickly transport personnel between Guam International Airport (GUM) and the airfields in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Saipan International Airport (SPN), Rota International Airport (ROP) and Tinian International Airport (TIQ). These airfields serve the staff of War in the Pacific NHP located on Guam and American Memorial Park on Saipan. These two parks are jointly managed by the NPS in the Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific. The territory of Guam is 136 miles from Saipan and all of these islands are only accessible by sea or air. The trip from Guam to Saipan can take up to 10 hours by boat and there are no commercial ferry services to any of the islands. The closest NPS fleet airplane is based in Alaska and is not an option. There are no contracted aircraft available. Seat Fare purchases would primarily be point-to-point between Saipan, Rota and Tinian International Airports and Guam International Airport. The National Park Service would be responsible for payment for seat fares.

Star Marianas Air, Inc. (SMA) is the primary FAA 135 certified air carrier providing service for visitors and Department of Defense (DOD) passengers traveling within the CNMI. On April 1, 2022, the DOD signed a 5-year Blanket Purchase Agreement with SMA after the DOD's Commercial Airlift Review Board approved SMA's entry into the DOD Air Transportation Program. This company meets the on-demand criteria and they do not have a published service schedule. They currently maintain 2 aircraft and fly up to 4-6 flights per day carrying a maximum of 5-8 passengers.

There is an operational requirement for the NPS to transport personnel between the territories of Guam and the CNMI and within the populated Northern Mariana Islands. Since there are no available fleet or DOI contracted aircraft to meet this need we request an exemption to purchase seat fares as per Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPM) -15.

If you or your staff need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (barbara\_alberti@nps.gov) or call 671-477-7278 extension 1003 or 670-234-7207, extension 2020.

Sincerely,

Barbara Alberti  
Superintendent

Regional Aviation Manager Concurrence

National Aviation Manager Approval

Associate Director Visitor Protection Approval

Office of Aviation Services Approval