Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Highway Safety Annual Report
Year 2009
During January through December of 2009, 7 people died on our highways and roadways due to traffic-related incidents. Unfortunately, those fatalities and the hundreds more injured in collisions and other traffic-related incidents could have been prevented had driver's and road users obeyed traffic laws, and wear appropriate restraining devices and exercise “due care”.

Traffic safety continues to be the primary focus of our highway safety advocates in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Our goal, as with any highway safety stakeholders across the nation; is to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries on our highways and roadways. Inclusive of these goals, are identifying highway safety problems from roadway design versus motorists behavior as well as implementing highway safety projects that support national highway safety priorities and targets.

Throughout the year, CNMI authorities has supported and participated in mirroring national campaigns to increase the use of seat belts, education to deter impaired drivers under the influence of alcohol, enforcement, injury prevention, speed management and community outreach. This campaign were distributed to every print and air mediums to include development of safety infomercials for presentations. This campaign is considered the backbone of the CNMI's highway safety program.

Like other states and territories, the CNMI faces a continued challenge of reducing the number of alcohol-related fatalities. In 2009, 5 out of 7 traffic-related fatalities were found to be alcohol-related deaths which mirrors the number of fatality in 2008. Pedestrian fatalities is also considered a contributing factor on the numbers of traffic-related fatalities in the CNMI. In 2009, authorities recorded 2 pedestrian fatality as compared to 3 in 2008.

To combat the increase of alcohol-related deaths in the CNMI, the Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office, along with local police departments from the island municipalities, have continued strengthening enforcement programs which increase visibility and frequency of sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, highway interdiction, pedestrian safety and other selective traffic enforcement activities.
HIGHWAY SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE

Along with enforcement efforts, HSO continues our education/safety awareness campaign such as the You Drink & Drink, You Lose!, Drunk Driving: Over The Limit. Under Arrest., Designate a Sober Driver, to heighten safety campaign as well as deter or discourage drunk driving on our roadways.

Prior year seatbelt observation reflected a 90% usage rate for drivers and 76% for child restraint in 2008. Furthermore, in 2009, the CNMI recorded an 89.9% safety belt use rate and 83% for child restraint. This figure has led the CNMI to exceed the national average on belt use rate across the nation.

Given the various prevention and enforcement campaigns conducted, I strongly believe that partnership between authorities and the community to achieve these goals are warranted. Educating the community will establish a positive feedback, promote safer roadways, and strengthen our cause towards reduced fatality and injury.

With all this component in establishing an effective highway safety program, one critical element in the highway safety process is the enactment of laws that will regulate the implementation process. Partnering with our local legislative bodies will provide greater leverage in enacting vital highway safety measures and laws.

Again, we have been fortunate and do look forward in working with our federal counterpart from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Region IX, and the U.S. Department of Transportation family so that we may continue addressing and implementing vital highway safety programs in our Commonwealth.

I hope that after reviewing our 2009 Annual Performance Report, you find it informative and a good reference material.

I want to wish you a safe and joyous new year and let us remind ourselves of the importance of highway safety throughout our lives.

SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Governor's Highway Safety Representative
Occupant Protection

The CNMI's seat belt usage rate of 89.8 percent for drivers and 83 percent for child restraint, continues to exceed the national average as a result of the vigilance of the CNMI's police departments.

The annual campaign of the Click-It-Or-Ticket, Buckle-up CNMI and four-step program, has proved to be an effective tool in strengthening the CNMI's occupant protection program. While seat belt usage is a primary law in the CNMI, effectuating traffic stops to motorists found to be in violation are subjected to penalties and fines. Authorities noted a 17% unrestrained rate on our highways and roadways.

Through our community outreach, the Highway Safety Office (HSO) through its Car Seat Assistance Program (CAP) was able to provide assistance towards the purchase of about 279 car seats to different household in the CNMI for the year 2009 alone.

As a result of this program, young children in the CNMI are much safer when traveling on our highways and roadways. In addition, HSO has identified 2 Fitting Stations on the island of Saipan and 1 each for the islands of Tinian and Rota.

Presentation were conducted to the community on retrofitting and properly securing car seat occupants most especially first time users of a child restraining device. Training were also conducted with various participating vendors to ensure that applicants applying for car seats are given the proper car seat for their children.

To reinforce and spread vital occupant protection information, HSO has developed an information sharing network with local media outlets for both air and print. Visual messaging system are also set up with private entities to take up the challenge in delivering our prevention campaign messages.

Majority of the occupant protection program were focused on community outreach. This outreach consist of publication of numerous community banners, handouts, and promotional items.

HSO worked with various educational institutions to partake in the promotion of occupant protection through school activities and other functions such as school walk-a-thons.

Through our efforts, authorities were able to achieve and accomplish the following for its occupant protection and child restraint program for the year 2009:
1. PTS issued 509 safety belt violations and 35 for child restraint violations.
2. PTS conducted 5 child restraint checkpoints.
3. PTS conducted 6 OP/CR Survey.
4. PTS Conducted 22 OP/CR presentations.

Local authorities from the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, continue to implement this type of safety measures and enforcement to ensure that occupants of a moving vehicle are properly restrained and safe.
Police Traffic Services

The goal of the CNMI police traffic services program is to improve efficiency in the investigations of fatal or near-fatal crashes as well as enforce traffic laws on our highways and roadways by way of professional training and equipment acquisition designed to enhance and accomplish specified PTS tasks.

Funding from the U.S. DOT, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been the main financial source for local authorities in implementing these vital programs.

With the continued effort by both local and federal levels in achieving national targets, local authorities has developed initiatives to reinforce program delivery. Checkpoints, saturation patrols, drunk driving prevention, speed management, traffic crash reduction, and other mobilization efforts were planned and delivered throughout the community.

PTS continues to focus its efforts in speed control with random laser enforcement at strategic and high volume locations. Drag or Street racing on highways continues to be monitored by PTS personnel. Through this coordinated program, authorities has staged enforcement personnel at unannounced locations to tag street racers.

In 2009, PTS authorities issued 387 speeding citations which are usually charge with an additional violation and also conducted 29 Laser Speed Enforcement mobilization.

While speed is considered to be one of the causation factor of most traffic crash, authorities noted that a 4% reduction in traffic crash for 2009 as compared to 2008.

To further enhance PTS traffic crash field reporting, HSO through its Traffic Records Improvement Grant, acquired portable notebook computers with required fields and modules to provide easy access and reporting to the departments records management system databank.

Reduction of traffic fatality from crashes and pedestrians on our highways and roadways continues to be a challenge. The CNMI recorded 7 traffic-related fatality in 2009. Two of these were auto-pedestrian incidents and 5 were alcohol-involved.

YEARLY TRAFFIC CRASH DATA
Saturation patrols conducted has stepped up deterrence efforts with respect to DUI and other aggressive drivers. As noted, this activity is considered as one positive enforcement program by authorities.

This collaborative effort also involves working with other government agencies and safety advocates to solidify program exposure and achieving highway safety goals.

Through our efforts, authorities were able to achieve and accomplish the following for its police traffic program for the year 2009;

1. Acquisition of four police package motorcycles to assist in DUI enforcement and selective traffic enforcement for DPS Saipan.

2. Acquisition of four police package motorcycles, 2 each for DPS Rota and Tinian for its DUI enforcement and selective traffic enforcement.


4. Sent 2 police officers to attend the Traffic Crash Reconstruction training at IPTM in Jacksonville, Florida.


6. Sent traffic commanders, OIC’s from DPS Rota, Tinian to attend the HSP Meeting in Saipan on June 5, 2009.

7. Acquisition of 3 units of the Laser Speed Measurement Device

8. Acquisition of 2 units of Desktop PC’s for Police Traffic Services for the island of Rota and Tinian.
Alcohol Countermeasures

The CNMI continues to see an impaired driving problem on its highways and roadways. Police departments throughout the CNMI to include its municipalities continue to implement aggressive impaired driving campaigns to deter operators to go behind the wheel when they are impaired. However, it is noticeably a challenge to instill the mentality among these individuals of the consequences when driving impaired. This problematic area is considered a behavioral factor among violators.

To positively influence these behavior patterns, authorities has developed an extensive anti-impaired driving mobilization. These mobilizations are often implemented at high peak periods as well as holidays. Departments are tasked to develop their campaign for both day and night and weekdays and weekends. This mobilizations may include any of the following; highway interdiction, saturation patrol, sobriety checkpoint, and selective traffic law enforcement program.

PTS conducted 33 sobriety checkpoints and issued 69 citations of violations. Authorities noted that 86% of impaired drivers found were males and 14% were found to be females.

In addition to local efforts, authorities also participated in the national mobilization efforts by mirroring mobilization targets and events. One of the biggest event recognized by local authorities is the 3D (Drunk, Drugged Driving) Prevention Month in the CNMI.

### 2009 Impaired Driver Violation By Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Violations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19 Years Old</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-14 Years Old</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29 Years Old</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Years &amp; Over</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009, the number of impaired driver violations varied by age group, with the highest number occurring in the 30 Years & Over age category.
This year, the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has declared 3D Month which starts on December 1, 2009 through January 3, 2010.

This event brings together all safety advocates from various government, private, and non-profit agencies to heed the "Call" of drunk-free driving and promote a safe and sober driving on our roadways. Agencies who supports this annual mobilization are the Safe & Sober Foundation and Baby Pedro Foundation. "Baby Pedro" Foundation was established when a baby named Pedro was killed from a car crash that involved a drunk driver.

This Foundation has been assisting our organization develop and coordinate impaired-driver events and deterrence. Some examples of these mobilizations also includes school presentations and static displays at various outlets throughout the islands.

Along with the foundations, the 3D Designated Driver (DD) Program was also successful. This program consist of men and women who provided transport services throughout the campaign voluntarily and without fees. Inclusive of this acknowledgement is the Microl Corporation/Toyota, Joeten Motor Company, Success Auto Repair, Budget Rent-A-Car who lend cars for transport and Iconnect telephone company for DD communications.

Through our efforts, authorities were able to achieve and accomplish the following for its alcohol & other drug countermeasures program for the year 2009:

1. Acquisition of 1 DUI mobile trailer for DPS Rota DUI program.
3. Acquisition of 3 units of Intoximeter devices for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
4. Conducted an Intoximeter operator training to PTS officers in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
Traffic Records

Updating and automating the CNMI’s traffic records system has been the main focus of the department. Through the diligent work of the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, Highway Safety Office, DPS Communications & Technological Services, and the DPS traffic contractor of Ledgelight Technologies, the DPS Records Management System (RMS) came to fruition and went “live” on November 21, 2009.

The RMS replaced the departments records and case management systems. This installation also automated the Bureau of Motor Vehicle’s (BMV) registration files and the driver’s license files and migrating all records into the RMS. The ongoing connectivity of the Courts for adjudication information sharing and the Department of Public Works, Highway Division is currently in progress. In addition to this connectivity, is the ongoing plan of integrating EMS case files into the system.

With this development, traffic records funds were utilized to procure necessary software and hardware programs to complete data systems. These expenditures includes, notebooks for field crash reporting, desktop pc’s for registration and license files, internet service for migration of files, and professional services to guide the implementation process to include designing of project phases. This enhancement will allow the department in sharing information to other entities involved.

To ensure that our organization and systems are in compliance to federal reporting mandates and MMUCC requirements, funds were used to send the TRCC Chairperson attend the 35th Annual International Forum on Traffic Records at Phoenix, Arizona in 2009. This attendance will provide better knowledge and understanding in developing and implementing traffic records system to include necessary components needed to have a working system.

The department intends to enhance and upgrade the RMS system to ensure that all future information is accommodated and captured.

CNMI HSO continues to commit its program delivery through advertisements through our local media both print and air outlets. This information medium is considered to be an effective method in reaching out to the community most especially motorists and other users.

A greater fund obligations were made in the area of printing educational and promotional materials for mass distribution of vital safety information. Infomercials with our
local television stations were also developed and aired on a periodic basis. These segments consist of about 20-30 seconds per respective campaign. Information distributed throughout the ad period were several clips and announcements for impaired driving prevention, occupant protection, child restraint, speed, and ems.

With the enormous assistance from both public and private entities, several private industries has partake in several mobilizations. This participation has expanded highway safety program delivery throughout the community. Due to this partnership, private industries has also offered logistical assistance to ensure that everyone is safe on our roadways.

Another milestone in advertisements is the ability to work with private firms to commit its various electronic message boards erected at strategic sites by the roadways. These boards display highway safety information and other messages to serve as a reminder to all road users.
The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) being one of the vital component in the highway safety process with respect to pre-hospital emergency care to motor vehicle crash victims, it is imperative that this component be considered and enhanced periodically to ensure proper and quality health care is provided to victims of traffic crashes.

In an effort to prepare and provide traumatic patient care and injury prevention to victims in motor vehicle crashes, the CNMI Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire, Emergency Medical Services & Rescue Section has set several policies and procedures to ensure proper training, instructions, advancement, and acquisition of lifesaving equipment to accommodate this type of incidents.

In an effort to reduce response time in rendering victim care to crash victims, the EMS procured extrication equipment to ensure accessibility to trapped victims for prompt stabilization and transport to a medical facility at littlest time possible so advance health care may be provided.

EMS through its community outreach program, has integrated numerous injury-prevention campaign with other safety activities in the department. The EMS committee has worked with Drunk Driving, Buckle Up, CIOT committee’s to greater enhance safety mobilization to the committee.

EMS also sponsors a Firehouse Expo every year to bring together all safety advocates from various organizations and agencies to the firehouse and conduct presentations, static displays, and other safety information and demonstrations to the community.

As part of patient/response records enhancement, EMS continues to fulfill the planned upgrade of its records management system through Med-media. This enhancement was funded through the Section 408 Traffic Records Improvement Grant. This upgrade intends to automate all record system of EMS and migrate all files to an information bank for access to authorize users.

In 2009, the Emergency Medical Services responded to 234 traffic crash reported. Of this, 170 traffic-related victims were transported to a medical facility for further observation and treatment. This accounts for 3 fatal, 24 critical cases, 132 minor cases, and 11 slight injury.

Emergency Medical Services response to traffic-related incidents accounts roughly around 5% of the total EMS response for the division for the year 2009.

This indicates that about 73% of traffic crash victims were treated and transported to a medical health facility.

EMS continues to propose attendance at meetings and conferences with associations or organizations so that we may be involved in the decision-making process that affects national policies towards funding, education, and achieving national certification and improving victim care and outcomes from motor vehicle crashes or other traffic-related incidents.
On February 23-28, 2009, POI Raysa King from DPS Tinian traveled to Saipan to undergo OJT with Saipan DUI operations.

On March 2-7, 2009, POI Gilbert Macaranas from DPS Tinian traveled to Saipan to undergo OJT with Saipan DUI operations.

On March 24, to April 4, 2009, HSO personnel GR Santiago Tudela, Major Francis S. Taimanao, Leonardo Duenas, Margaret Camacho, attended the Traffic Leadership Meeting on March 25-27, 2009 in Newport Beach, California.


On March 16-27, 2009, POI. Kioni Cruz from Tinian Department of Public Safety was on Saipan to undergo “On the Job Training” with Saipan Traffic/DUI Officer’s.

On May 5, 2009, the following Resident Director’s and Police Officer’s Tinian and Rota attended the 2009 Click It or Ticket proclamation signing on Saipan, DPS Tinian Director Jose King Jr., POIII. Wally Villagomez, POI. Leon Sanchez, DPS Rota Director John Barcinas, POI. Tito Hocog.

On May 11-22, 2009, POIII. Jarrod Manglona, OIC for Rota Traffic/DUI Section and POI. Glenn Rabago Saipan Traffic Section travel to Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM), North Florida to attend the Traffic Re-Construction Investigation Course. Both Officer’s attended the At Scene/Advance Traffic Investigation Courses.

On May 18 and 19, 2009, Commissioner of Public Safety/Governor’s Representative, Santiago F. Tudela and Officer in Charge Highway Safety Office, Francis S. Taimanao travel to Hawaii to attend the “2010 Pre-Planning Meeting” with Dr. David Manning, Administrator for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region IX Office, San Francisco CA.

On June 5, 2009, the following Resident Director’s and Police Officer’s Tinian and Rota attended the 2009 Pre-Highway Safety Planning Meeting on Saipan to review the highway Safety programs and projects for 2010 Highway Safety Programs Application. DPS Tinian: Res Director John King Jr., POIII. Wally Villagomez, POI. Herbert Borja, DPS Rota: Res. Director John Barcinas, Sgt. Edward Ayuyu

On June 15-26, 2009, the following Police Officer’s from the Department of Public Safety Tinian and Rota attended the “At Scene Traffic Investigation Course on Saipan, this project was requested by DPS Tinian (2009 Highway Safety Plan).

DPS Tinian:
On July 7, 2009, Leo Duenas travel to Tinian to conduct inventory on all Traffic/DUI equipment procured by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) federal funding.

On July 15, Leo Duenas travel to Rota to conduct inventory on all Traffic/DUI equipment procured by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) federal funding.

On July 12-16, 2009, Judge Ramona Manglona, handling traffic cases and chair for Traffic Records Coordinating Committee for Section 408 Grant travel to Phoenix, Arizona to attend the 2009 Traffic Records Forum.

On September 7 and 8, 2009, the following Resident Director's and Police Officer's Tinian and Rota attended the 2009 Child Passenger Safety Week proclamation signing on Saipan.

DPS Tinian:
Res Director Jose King Jr.
POIII. Wally Villagomez
POI. Christopher Cruz

DPS Rota:
Sgt. Edward Ayuyu
POI. Tito Hocog

On September 22-26, 2009, the following Officer's from Saipan, Tinian and Rota travel to Guam to attend the Child Passenger Safety Technician certification training hosted by the Guam Office of Highway Safety. The following Officer's attended is as follow.

FFI/EMT B Gary Cruz, DPS Saipan
POI. Jason Ayuyu, DPS Tinian
POI. Tito Hocog, DPS Rota

On October 22 and 23, 2009, Leo Duenas and OIC, Highway Safety Office, Major Francis Taimanao travel to Rota to conduct programs review on Traffic/DUI and also review the 2009 Highway Safety Plan and “Project Agreement” requested accomplishment and what we will be accomplishing in 2010. Also, on this trip we brief the new Resident Director Mr. Felix Santos on Highway Safety Programs and review and follow up to equipment inventory. The meeting attended by the OIC for Rota Traffic/DUI Section, POIII. Jarrod Monglona and POI. Tito Hocog.

On November 5 and 6, 2009, Leo Duenas and OIC, Highway Safety Office, Major Francis Taimanao travel to Tinian to conduct programs review on Traffic/DUI and also review the 2009 Highway Safety Plan on “Project Agreement” requested accomplishment and what we will be accomplishment in 2010 review and follow up on equipment inventory. The meeting attended by the DPS Tinian Resident Director Jose King Jr. and Police Operation Supervisor, Sgt. Eloy Fitial.

The CNMI Highway Safety Office, planning and administration program continues to work with various local enforcement offices and safety advocates to ensure that CNMI highways and roadways are safe to all users.
Financial Summary

TOTAL 402 APPROVED FUNDING

- Planning & Admin: $83,701.00
- Police Traffic Services: $58,165.00
- Emergency Medical Services: $451,966.00
- Traffic Records: $181,107.00
- Occupant Protection: $54,639.00
- Alcohol: $297,183.00
- Paid Media: $297,183.00

TOTAL 402 EXPENDITURE

- Planning & Admin: $54,532.00
- Police Traffic Services: $38,927.00
- Emergency Medical Services: $177,013.00
- Traffic Records: $154,495.00
- Occupant Protection: $177,013.00
- Alcohol: $154,495.00
- Paid Media: $154,495.00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Restraint</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>&gt;9.2%</td>
<td>&gt;12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupant Protection</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90.60%</td>
<td>89.90%</td>
<td>&lt;.1%</td>
<td>&lt;.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Traffic Crash</td>
<td>3828</td>
<td>3325</td>
<td>3772</td>
<td>2615</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>3067</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>&gt;4.06%</td>
<td>&lt;60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Traffic Fatality</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;22%</td>
<td>&lt;12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI Arrest</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>318.8</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>&gt;29.9%</td>
<td>&lt;26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI-Involved Fatality</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;40%</td>
<td>&lt;25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>