



## Office of the Governor

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### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-04

**RE: ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON UNITED STATES MILITARY AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL LETTER  
EXECUTED ON MARCH 25, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Yap executed an Operational Control Letter (OCL) on March 25, 2025, which was subsequently approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the OCL governs matters relating to certain operational presence, activities, and authority of the United States Department of Defense (DoD) personnel within the State of Yap; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence and activities of United States military and government personnel in Yap have implications that may extend beyond state jurisdiction and require coordinated engagement with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Government; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a centralized, structured, and coordinated mechanism to manage, represent, and safeguard the interests of the State of Yap in all dealings with the United States and the FSM Government in connection with the OCL and other U.S. government/Military activities in the State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Francis Itimai, Acting Governor of Yap State**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of Yap State, do hereby establish Task Force on United States Military and Government Operations and the Operational Control Letter (hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force") and order as follows:

#### SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby established a **Task Force on United States Military and Government Operations and the Operational Control Letter** (hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force") to serve as the central body for oversight, coordination, representation, and engagement on all matters arising from:

- The Operational Control Letter executed on March 25, 2025; and
- Any other ongoing or future operations, activities, or presence involving the United States Department of Defense and other U.S. federal government entities within the territory of the State of Yap.

The Task Force shall act as the **official focal point** for the Government of the State of Yap in all dealings with the United States Government, including but not limited to the Department of Defense, Joint Task Force- Micronesia, Joint Region Marianas, U.S. federal agencies, contractors, and other personnel engaged in work or activities in Yap.

The Task Force shall also serve as the official liaison body for all communications and negotiations with the **FSM National Government** on matters concerning the OCL and broader U.S. military and government involvement in Yap, ensuring that Yap State's interests are effectively represented and protected at the national level.

## **SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS**

The Task Force shall:

1. Serve as the principal body for coordination and oversight of all matters relating to the OCL and other U.S. military and federal government operations in Yap;
2. Act as the official conduit of communication, consultation, and negotiation with the United States Government and the FSM National Government on all matters involving U.S. presence, conduct, and future plans in Yap;
3. Monitor, assess, and interpret the implementation and compliance with the OCL, including any authorizations or engagements related to U.S. operations in Yap;
4. Represent Yap State in high-level discussions, negotiations, and operational coordination efforts with the United States and the FSM National Government;
5. Provide timely and strategic policy recommendations to the Governor on matters related to land use, national security, environmental protection, and community welfare;
6. Ensure internal coordination among state agencies, traditional leaders, and local communities regarding concerns or impacts arising from U.S. presence and activities;
7. Submit regular reports and briefings to the Governor and relevant state officials outlining key developments, decisions, and recommended courses of action for formal endorsement;
8. Obtain independent legal counsel from the State's outsourced retained legal advisors, known as the Yap Legal Team, when specialist legal input is required, subject to the discretion of the Chairman and/or the Attorney General;
9. Uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, transparency, and dedication to the public interest in all its work, ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of the People of Yap.

## **SECTION 3. COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE**

The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

1. Francis Itimai, Lieutenant Governor ( Acting Governor), Office of the Governor- **Chairman & Communication Focal Point**;



2. Alex Gilfiley, Director, Department of Youth & Civic Affairs – **Communication liaison & Protocol;**
3. Acting Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General- **Asst. Communication liaison & Legal Advisor;**
4. Joe C. Giltug, Director, Department of Public Works & Transportation;
5. Bernard Gorong, Director, Department of Resources & Development;
6. Thomas G. Tun, Director, Office of Administrative Services;
7. Julius L. Tun, Director, Office of Planning & Budget;
8. Theophilus Thinnifel, Director, Department of Health Services;
9. Dominic Fanasog, Director, Department of Education;
10. Representative from Yap State Legislature;
11. Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency;

The following members shall serve in an ancillary advisory capacity to the Task Force and shall act only under the direction of the Chairman, as and when needed by the Task Force. These members must at all times act in the best interest of the Task Force and its initiatives, and shall refrain from pursuing any personal agendas or other external interests:

1. Representatives from the Council of Pilung & Council of Tamol;
2. General Manager, Yap Fishing Authority;
3. General Manager, Waab Transportation Company;
4. CEO, iBoom.

#### **SECTION 4. NEGOTIATION TEAM**

In parallel to the Task Force, a Negotiation Team is hereby authorized and established to attend, participate in, and represent Yap State at in-person meetings, consultations; and negotiations related to the matters outlined in this Executive Order. The Negotiation Team is empowered to travel and engage on behalf of the State and Task Force, as necessary.

The Negotiation Team shall consist of:

1. Viliame Lagonilakeba, Acting Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
2. Alex Gilfiley, Director, Department of Youth & Civic Affairs;
3. Outsourced Yap Legal Team (Under the authority and discretion of the Acting Attorney General);
4. Representative, Department of Public Works;
5. Representative, Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **SECTION 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

All major decisions and strategic actions shall be submitted to the Governor for review and endorsement. At the Governor's discretion, or upon the suggestion of the Chairman, such actions and/or plans may be further communicated to the Yap State Legislature or other relevant leadership bodies for additional deliberation and/or endorsement, as deemed appropriate.

For the avoidance of doubt, in the event the Governor is unavailable, the Lieutenant Governor, currently serving as Acting Governor and Chairman of the Task Force, shall have full authority to review and endorse plans and decisions of the Task Force accordingly.

#### **SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

The Office of the Governor shall provide the necessary administrative, technical, and logistical support for the effective functioning of the Task Force, including coordination with FSM national offices and access to relevant state and national records and communications.

#### **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall remain in force until amended, revoked, or superseded by further directive.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Yap State to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.



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Francis Itimai  
Acting Governor of Yap State