

Marines concerned about H-2B Visa denials

By **Clynt Ridgell** - August 24, 2017



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Guam – The Marine Corps Activity Guam is concerned about the recent denials of H-2B visa applications for Guam.

Although the Naval Facilities Engineering Command awarded a \$164.89 million dollar contract to build infrastructure for the future Guam Marine base, Guam has yet to be given the green light on numerous H-2B visa applications. The H-2B visa allows construction companies to hire foreign skilled labor to fill gaps in Guam’s skilled labor workforce. Governor Eddie Calvo has previously said that he has rescinded his support for the Guam military buildup because of the lack of approvals of H-2B visas. Marine Corps Activity Guam Public Affairs Officer Major Tim Patrick says that this is a legitimate concern of Governor Calvo’s and a concern for the marines as well.

“This is something that we have worked up to the highest levels of the Department of Defense and as soon as we get a solid answer from them then that is something that we are ready to

march on," said Major Patrick adding, "They realize this is a real issue for the Governor and th realize it's a real issue for us too. I mean you have to have the skilled labor here and they understand the economics of it and you know they've got people looking into it."

The Guam Contractors Association has said that the approval of H-2B visas is needed to provic the skilled labor for construction for the Guam Military buildup.

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