

Chargé Daniel Tarapacki

Remarks

**Nevada National Guard – Samoa Prisons and Corrections Services
Basic Leadership, Law Enforcement, Corrections and Mental Health**

Subject Matter Exchange Exercise

September 9, 2024 – Police Academy, Tafaigata

Faafetai Mautofiga Tuuu for that thoughtful word to start off our morning.

Commissioner Auapaau Logoitino Filipino

Deputy Commissioner Leiataua Samuelu Afamasaga,

Nevada Provost Marshal Major Luis Muruato

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Members of the Media.

It is an absolute honor to stand before you today as we embark on a week of collaboration and shared learning between the Samoa Prisons Office and the Nevada National Guard. This week marks a significant milestone in our enthusiastic and growing partnership, fostered through the State Partnership Program.

As we gather here, we are reminded of the power of collaboration and the shared commitment to enhancing our countries. This partnership represents not just an exchange of knowledge, but a bridge connecting our two communities — one that will enhance our capabilities, strengthen our leadership, and ultimately ensure the safety and well-being of those we serve, as evident in our previous program with the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority in early August, which allowed the Nevada National Guard team to work with SFESA to upskill and provide training in emergency medical services.

During this week-long program, we will focus on key areas critical to our work, including basic leadership training, cell extraction techniques, restraining methods, and addressing the mental health needs of our personnel and the populations we supervise. These topics are not only foundational to effective operation within the correctional environment but are integral to fostering a culture of respect, safety, and professional integrity.

Our joint efforts signify our commitment to professional development and excellence. Together, we will explore best practices, share experiences, and draw upon the expertise that each of our institutions brings to the table. We recognize that managing complex environments, such as correctional facilities, requires us to continuously adapt and learn, ensuring we are equipped to respond effectively to various challenges.

The emphasis on mental health is particularly noteworthy. Recognizing the importance of mental well-being in high-stress environments is crucial for maintaining operational effectiveness and ensuring the overall welfare of service members. This initiative not only strengthens individual capacity but also enriches the collective strength and unity of our partnership.

Let us embrace the opportunity to strengthen our bonds, deepen our understanding of one another's roles, and build a framework of support that transcends geographical boundaries. This partnership is not just about training; it is about building lasting relationships and mutual trust. As you engage in these important discussions and practical exercises, remain open-minded, curious, and dedicated to the shared mission of improving your services for the communities you serve.

It is our hope that through the State Partnership Program, we are paving the way for a future defined by collaboration, innovation, and excellence. Thank you for your commitment, your enthusiasm, and your willingness to work together for the greater good. Here's to a successful week ahead!