The Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) was initially created under Public Law 12-200 as the Bureau of Planning. The Bureau was mandated to oversee the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for long range guidance for the social, economic, and physical development of Guam. Its mission and mandates were redefined during 1990 by Public Law 20-147. In 2002 it was once again redefined by Public Law 26-76 and its name was changed to the Bureau of Statistics and Plans.

Public Law 20-147, as amended by Public Law 26-76, stipulates in statute that it is the Bureau of Statistics and Plans’ responsibility to undertake any planning activity that is not being carried out or that is not the function of another department. Public Law 26-76 gave the Bureau Statistics and Plans the legislative flexibility to appraise, coordinate, prepare and assist in the development of a wide range of plans, policies and studies that further Guam’s economic, social, land use, environmental and infrastructure goals, priorities and planning activities. This flexibility is reflected in the Bureau’s mission statement. It is further mandated to disseminate and make available economic, social, and physical data and information for researches, policy makers and the public. The Bureau has full responsibility for overseeing the adoption processes of elements to Guam’s Comprehensive Development Plan and Master Plan.

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans’ mission is to ensure Guam’s resources are used effectively for the benefit of present and future generations by ensuring consistency among various plans, policies and programs.

To achieve its mission, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans is committed to:

- Serve as a catalyst for planned and balanced economic, social, environmental and physical growth;
- Advise the Governor during the formulation of policies and on the interrelationships among laws, plans, policies and programs;
- Provide oversight during the formulation and integration of plans, policies and programs which further social, economic, environmental and physical development goals and priorities;
- Encourage private/public partnerships in the formulation and implementation of plans, policies and programs;
- Ensure the availability of information generated by the Government of Guam for policy and plan development;
- Provide technical support to other Government of Guam entities in order that they can meet their missions; and
- Ensure the availability of timely and accurate statistical indices that are required to make sound decisions to improve Guam’s economic viability.
The Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) is comprised of the Administrative Office of the Director, the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP), the Socio-Economic Planning Program, the Business and Economic Statistics Program, the Planning Information Program and Land Use Planning. The Bureau has 35 highly skilled and professional staff who focus collectively on an array of initiatives that ensure the balanced economic, social, environmental and physical growth of Guam. Notable events and accomplishments in 2009:

- Applied and awarded $4.9 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) under the Justice Assistance Grant Program. Funds will inject millions into the economy, providing jobs and needed resources to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime on Guam.

- Applied and awarded approximately $3,049,513 in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Western Pacific Fisheries Network Program to continue criminal justice and environmental initiatives.

- The lead in discussions and negotiations with the U.S. Bureau of Census to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the 2010 Census. Stakeholder meetings were coordinated to address census activities, office operations, cost estimates and geographic census locations.

- Completed and released the FY 2009 Annual Report on the Impact of the Compacts of Free Association. Relative to the report, the Survey of Micronesians was completed and instrumental in securing Guam $16.3 million annually to address the impact of FAS citizens on Guam.

- Updated and published the 2008 Guam Statistical Yearbook with data on economic, social, land use and environmental indicators.

- Reviewed an average of 100 federal grant-in-aid applications for consistency with Guam’s policies, goals, objectives and adherence with applicable federal and local statutes and Guam State Clearinghouse requirements.

- The Business and Economic Statistics Program published a total of four Quarterly Import Trade Reports, four Quarterly Consumer Price Index Reports, three Quarterly Export Trade Reports, and two Quarterly Federal/Military Expenditure Reports as mandated by P.L. 29-113.

- The Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) completed the Draft North and Central Guam Land Use Plan. The Plan will be refined after public review for legislative approval. In addition, revisions to the Draft Guam Seashore Reserve Plan was completed for final review with the Guam Seashore Protection Commission.

- A total of 112 federal consistency development projects and 42 applications for local zone and subdivision variance and changes were reviewed; approximately 13 federal consistency projects were added to the Guam Land Use Commission (GLUC) and Federal Consistency (FEDCON) GIS data base; and updates to Guam’s Soil Erosion and Control Regulations continue with emphasis on incorporating storm-water management and on post-construction storm-water criteria.

- The Mitigation Policy for the Natural Resources Committee of the Civilian/Military Taskforce was completed and on its final stage of review.

- The Piti-Asan Watershed Restoration is on-going with the improvement of the Santos Memorial Park Project. The project will be an eco-friendly “green” park when completed.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 16th International Coastal Cleanup collected a total of 87,437 trash items. Leading the litter pack are food and drink beverage items at 56,552, cigarettes and related items at 11,602, plastic bags at 7,899, hazardous materials at 1,936 and medical or personal hygiene items at 667. What can you do to keep Guam’s marine environment litter-free?
INDEPENDENT AUDIT

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans is part of the government-wide audited financial statement. An independent audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche that issued an unqualified audit opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the government-wide audited financial report on June 30, 2009. For more information on the independent audit, you may visit OPA’s website at http://www.guamopa.org/docs/GovGuam_fs09.pdf.
The biggest challenge for the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) is to ensure that Guam’s resources are used effectively for the benefit of present and future generations by ensuring consistency among long range development plans.

The Island of Guam is at a crossroads in planning for its growth and development. Although the economic recession in the United States affected almost all facets of living, from housing to money markets and unemployment, Guam’s economy was not severely impacted due to planned investment opportunities with the military build-up. Despite this, however, shortfalls in revenues will remain an issue for the government and in meeting the needs for sustained growth and development for the Island.

With the expected increase of over 40,000 active military personnel and dependents by 2014, the Island’s economic, social, and environmental structure will undoubtedly change. How this change will impact the island, whether positive or negative, is as good as anyone’s guess. Transparency, coordination, involvement and review of planned military expansion initiatives is paramount in ensuring that Guam’s future is viable and that resources that are limited are protected.

Of great importance to the Bureau is that the Military Relocation Plan is not consistent with federally approved and enforceable Guam Coastal Management Program policies and Federal Consistency Regulations promulgated by law. The Bureau will continue to provide technical review on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Military Relocation Plan and will provide technical support to the Governor’s Office, Civilian-Military Task Forces and legislative initiatives in the effort to develop and prepare an Integrated Comprehensive Master Plan on military expansion.

In 2009, liaison with the U.S. Census Bureau was initiated to address office operations and census activities. In FY 2010, the Bureau will complete the operational plan and activities timeline for the 2010 Census, ensure the opening/closing of the Guam 2010 Census Office, and the full coverage of household participation.

For government and private entities to make sound policies and decisions, the Bureau will continue to ensure the availability of timely and accurate statistical indices through the annual update of its published Statistical Yearbook and quarterly publications of its Import and Export Trade Data, Consumer Price Index Reports, and Federal/Military Expenditure Reports. To further improve criminal justice and environmental initiatives on Island, the Bureau will apply for continued funding support and ensure compliance with federal grant requirements. Intergovernmental review of federal programs for territory-wide impacts and adherence to comprehensive plans, policies, and local statutes will also be conducted in FY 2010.

Guam’s natural environment provide habitats for some of the Island’s most precious resources. Sustainable and well planned development efforts is central to protecting Guam’s natural resources. In 2010, efforts will focus on the completion of the Northern and Central Land Use Plan, the Seashore Reserve Plan, the Guam Comprehensive Mitigation Plan, and the Community Based Watershed Plan for Piti-Asan. Federal consistency and zone variance applications will also be reviewed for compliance with regulated policies and procedures. Education and environmental awareness with the schools and community outreaches will continue to be promoted and is central in advocating best management practices in protecting our natural resources for future generations to enjoy.