



TERRITORY OF GUAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910  
U. S. A.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2000-23**

**RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A PROTOCOL GUIDE  
FOR THE GUAM FLAG.**

**WHEREAS**, the Guam flag was first adopted as the symbol of Guam and her people on April 30, 1930; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guam flag is a fitting symbol for our island, consisting of a deep blue field, bordered by red, and centered in the field is a red-bordered detailed likeness of the official seal of Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, the official seal of Guam is a visual representation of the mouth of the Agana river, with a lone coconut palm tree in the foreground; an ancient flying proa is approaching the beach, and the cliffline of the Puntan dos Amantes is viewed in the background; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guam flag has been used for the past 70 years, and is now accepted locally, nationally, and internationally as the symbol for Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, local statutes are scanty with respect to both the description of our flag and the protocol required for the handling of our flag, and this Executive Order provides for areas not already specified in law; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to fill in for the lack of protocol prescribed for the honor and respect to be shown to the Guam flag, the symbol of Guam, this Executive Order shall be followed immediately;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ**, I Maga'Lahen Guáhan, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do order:

1. The following directives regarding the adoption and protocol of the Guam flag shall be followed immediately by all who seek to display and handle the Guam flag.

"§407. The Guam Flag. (a) General Provisions.

- (i) Description. The authorized Guam flag consists of a deep blue field, bordered by red. Centered in the field is a red-bordered detailed likeness of the official seal of Guam, as adopted on April 30, 1930.
- (ii) Sizes. Sizes of Guam flags are hereby authorized to correspond to sizes of United States flags, to wit: Garrison flag (20-foot hoist by 38-foot fly) flown on national and Guam holidays and as prescribed by the Governor for special occasions; Post flag (8-foot



11-inch hoist by 17-foot fly) flown daily when the Garrison flag is not authorized; Interment flag (5-foot hoist by 9-foot, 6-inch fly) authorized to honor deceased veterans and dignitaries as prescribed by law; other sizes authorized by the Governor to conform to specific provisions of Guam, national, or international law.

- (iii) Order of precedence, or honor, of flags over Guam soil is:
  - (A) The United States flag;
  - (B) Foreign National flags, displayed in alphabetical order using the English alphabet;
  - (C) United States Presidential flag;
  - (D) State or territorial flags, displayed in order of:
    - (1) The English alphabet, or
    - (2) Admittance into the union;
  - (E) Military or organizational flags;
  - (F) Personal flags, in order of protocol rank.
- (iv) Decisions on protocol. In circumstances not covered by law, decisions relating to the Guam flag, its handling and display, shall rest with the Governor of Guam.
- (v) Handling and Display.
  - (A) As a symbol of Guam and its people, no disrespect shall be shown towards the Guam flag. In so keeping, the Guam flag shall not be worn as apparel or used as bedding or drapery. It shall not be displayed, stored, or handled in a way so as to permit easy deterioration, soiling, or damage.
  - (B) The Guam flag shall not be used as covering for a ceiling, nor shall it be used as a wrap or receptacle for holding, carrying, receiving, or delivering any item. No portion of the Guam flag shall touch the floor, ground, or any other surface, including water, while being handled or folded. When folded, it shall be done in the shape of a triangular cocked hat.
  - (C) Except for a solitary display of the United States flag, the Guam flag shall always be displayed when other flags are displayed. Other exceptions apply to United States military installations and other places where Title 36, United States Code, takes precedence. Displayed outdoors, the Guam flag shall fly between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. (8:00 a.m.) and sunset daily. An exception may be granted but only if the flag is appropriately illuminated.
  - (D) No unauthorized lettering, no unauthorized object or image, shall be placed on the Guam flag. Being carried unfurled, the



Guam flag shall be aloft and free at all times, never flat or horizontal. On display, the Guam flag shall be flat or hanging freely. It shall not be festooned over doorways or arches, nor tied in a knot, nor fashioned into a ruffle or rosette. The Guam flag shall not cover or drape a table, podium or platform front.


- (E) When displayed as a group, all flags shall be of the same size, and in order of precedence prescribed by law. When carried in a line abreast and at the same height, the flag of highest honor is to the right of the others (or, to the left of observers facing the display). Other flags are then displayed in order of precedence toward the left (or, toward the right of the observer facing the display).
- (F) When displayed or carried in line abreast, the flag of the highest honor shall be in the center; provided, it is at a noticeably higher level. In such cases, the display order is the same as with a radial display. A radial display may be used for an odd number of flags only. In such formations, the flag of the highest honor is at a raised level in the center. The flag of the second-highest honor is to the immediate right (or, to the left of an observer facing the display) of the flag of the highest honor. The flag of the third-highest honor is to the immediate left (or, to the right of an observer facing the display) of the flag of the highest honor but on the same level as the flag of the second-highest honor. The order of succession continues with the flag of fourth-highest honor to the right of number-two (left, as observed), and the flag of the fifth-highest honor to the left of the number-three flag (right, as observed), ad infinitum.
- (G) In a display of crossed flag staffs, the banner of the flag of the highest honor shall be to the right (the observer's left) of the other flag with the staff of the flag of higher honor crossing in front.
- (H) The Governor may direct the Guam flag to be flown at half staff. Generally, half staff is midway between the spearhead and the staff anchor, but any position below the top of the staff is considered half staff. The exact position may be altered slightly to avoid hindrances to the flag flying aloft and free at all times. On such occasions, the Guam flag shall be hoisted first to the top of the staff, then lowered slowly to the half staff position. Before the flag is again lowered to the ground, it shall first be hoisted again to the top of the staff. Any flag, when authorized to fly at half staff, may do so without regard to any other flag in the same display.
- (I) The Governor may authorize certain Guam flags to be carried in mourning. On these occasions, Two (2) streamers of black material measuring One (1) foot by Seven (7) feet may be attached to the top of the staff immediately below the spearhead.
- (J) The Guam interment flag is authorized to cover the casket of governors or former governors, legislators or former



legislators, mayors or former mayors, honorable members of the Guam National Guard or Reserve, Guam peace or safety officers killed in the line of duty, government of Guam retirees with at least Twenty (20) years of honorable service, any person qualified for a United States interment flag upon the expressed preference by the decedent's next of kin, and any other person so deemed appropriate by the Governor.

- (K) When displayed on a closed casket, the Guam flag shall be placed lengthwise with the hoist edge at the head. Displayed on a half-couch open casket, the Guam flag shall be folded back as if from the closed-casket position. When a full-couch casket is opened, the Guam flag shall be folded as prescribed by law and displayed inside the casket just above the decedent's left shoulder.
- (L) A Guam flag is never lowered to a point below the surface of the ground, but may be presented to the decedent's next of kin at the conclusion of the interment ceremonies. At ceremonies or services involving no casket, a Guam interment flag may be folded as prescribed by law and prominently displayed in accordance with law.
- (M) When a Guam flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for proper display, it shall be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by discreet burning."

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 1st day of August, 2000.**

  
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**CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ**  
I Maga'Lahen Guåhan  
Governor of Guam

