United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

American Memorial Park
P.O. Box 5198 CHRB
Beach Road, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950

In Reply Refer to:

10.C (AMME)

March 23, 2026

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Aviation Services

From: Superintendent, American Memorial Park & War in the Pacific NHP

Subject: Star Marianas Air Inc, Seat Fare Exemption Request

The National Park Service (NPS) has an operational need to quickly transport personnel between Guam International Airport (GUM) and the airfields in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Saipan International Airport (SPN), Rota International Airport (ROP) and Tinian International Airport (TIQ). These airfields serve the staff of War in the Pacific NHP located on Guam and American Memorial Park on Saipan. These two parks are jointly managed by the NPS in the Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific. The territory of Guam is 136 miles from Saipan and all of these islands are only accessible by sea or air. The trip from Guam to Saipan can take up to 10 hours by boat and there are no commercial ferry services to any of the islands. The closest NPS fleet airplane is based in Alaska and is not an option. There are no contracted aircraft available. Seat Fare purchases would primarily be point-to-point between Saipan, Rota and Tinian International Airports and Guam International Airport. The National Park Service would be responsible for payment for seat fares.

Star Marianas Air, Inc. (SMA) is the primary FAA 135 certified air carrier providing service for visitors and Department of Defense (DOD) passengers traveling within the CNMI. On April 1, 2022, the DOD signed a 5-year Blanket Purchase Agreement with SMA after the DOD's Commercial Airlift Review Board approved SMA's entry into the DOD Air Transportation Program. This company meets the on-demand criteria and they do not have a published service schedule. The current fleet of aircraft they maintain consists of Piper PA-32-300 Cherokee Six aircraft and Piper PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftains.

There is an operational requirement for the NPS to transport personnel between the territories of Guam and the CNMI and within the populated Northern Mariana Islands. Since there are no available fleet or DOI contracted aircraft to meet this need we request an exemption to purchase seat fares as per Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPM) -15.

This exception to policy will remain in effect for one year. The requesting bureau will monitor the following and notify OAS if any of the following occurs: 1) change of ownership of the vendor, 2) change of the vendor's Chief Pilot, 3) request of aircraft change by the vendor or 4) a reportable incident or accident by the vendor. If one of these criteria are met, this exception will be reevaluated.

This request will be submitted by 15 March of each year and OAS will verify with the vendor if there have been any reportable incidents, accidents or FAA violations(s) over the last 5 years.

If you or your staff need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (barbara_alberti@nps.gov) or call 671-477-7278, extension 1003, or 670-234-7207, extension 2020.

Park Superintendent, Requestor: AARON DOWE Digitally signed by AARON DOWE
Date: 2026.04.15 08:50:10 -07'00'

Regional Aviation Manager, Concurrence: KRISTINE PAXSON Digitally signed by KRISTINE PAXSON
Date: 2026.03.23 21:40:34 -05'00'

National Aviation Manager, Concurrence: KRISTIN SWOBODA Digitally signed by KRISTIN SWOBODA
Date: 2026.04.15 13:57:03 -06'00'

Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management, Approval: CHRISTOPHER WILCOX Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER WILCOX
Date: 2026.04.18 09:08:35 -06'00'

Office of Aviation Services, Approval: SUSAN BATES Digitally signed by SUSAN BATES
Date: 2026.04.27 15:42:21 -06'00'