

# PRESS RELEASE



Office of the High Commissioner

Soipan, Mariana Islands

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## YAP WEATHER STATION DEDICATED

William R. Crawford, Officer-in Charge, U. S. Weather Bureau, Yap, dedicated the district's new \$200,000 Airport Weather Station to the support of the worldwide weather network, improved weather services for commerce, and the protection of local lives and property. Over 100 persons attended the dedication ceremonies.

The new facilities replace the old station in Colonia, which had served the district since the early 1950's. Increasing congestion, including new buildings and power lines surrounding the former location, had made it increasingly difficult for the station to function, particularly since the bureau began launching two weather observation balloons daily. The move came approximately a year later than originally scheduled. Difficulties in establishing power and telephone service to the airport location accounted for much of the delay.

District Administrator James C. Flannery congratulated the Weather Bureau on its new facilities and expressed his appreciation for past assistance. He commended the Bureau for its outstanding service during Typhoon Emma, which ravaged Yap District last November.

Others joining in the ceremonies were Bernard Gramfal, senior meteorological technician; Andrew Robeman, president of the Yap Islands Council; Joachim Falmog, President, Yap Islands Legislature; Tamag Tamadad, Magistrate, Rull Municipality (the site of the new station); The Reverend Neil Poulin, S.J., and Pastor Edmund Kalau.

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Members of the Yap Constabulary and Yap High School students participated in the flag raising ceremony.

An "open house" reception, a color movie, "Eyes in Outer Space," and a tour of the facilities followed the dedication ceremonies.

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