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Governor Lemanu Tours MRE Operation Meal, Ready-to-Eat Labeled “Product of American Samoa”



(Pictured from left to right): StarKist Samoa Senior Manager Tufuga Faafoi Palepua, Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Obot, Honorable Governor Lemanu, Mr. Ha, and StarKist CFO Junho Seo.

On Thursday, January 11, 2024, after requesting a personal tour, the Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga visited the StarKist Samoa Plant to witness first-hand the operation of assembling the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) products widely used by the United States Armed Forces. A retired

US Army veteran, Governor Lemanu during the tour, reminisced about when he served in Iraq. These MREs served as a piece of home to all Samoan service members, and a moment of pride to witness the American Samoa flag labeled on the package.

Accompanying Governor Lemanu on this site visit were inspectors from the U.S. departments of Commerce and Agriculture, and the Defense Logistics Agency of the US Department of Defense.

Mr. Louis Obot is the lead inspector of the MRE operation with vast and renowned experience. He is also the senior marketing specialist and the operations ration team lead for the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Specialist Crops Program (SCP), Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI), National Programs Mission Support. Mr. Obot has visited American Samoa for more than 10 years conducting inspections of the StarKist MRE operations. In attendance also was Vice President of Supply & Logistics in Reston, Virginia, Mr. Earl Moynihan. StarKist Samoa Plant Director/General Manager Injoo Ha gave the Governor a tour and explained the MRE process.

The MREs are self-contained individual US military rations that provide food for US service members while in combat or field conditions. With over 40 options today, the MREs produced at StarKist Samoa in the past week include tuna lemon pepper and sweet and spicy flavors. The top-quality products are labeled “Product of American Samoa” made by StarKist employees, many of whom have family members – children, spouses, parents, aunts and uncles – serving in different branches of the US Armed Forces.

God Bless our troops!

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Governor Lemanu inspects Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) products during his visit on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 at the StarKist Samoa Plant. StarKist Plant Director Injoo Ha (far left) and Senior Manager Tufuga Faafai Palepua (right) show the Governor some of the MRE products, while giving him a tour of the Pouch area where the MREs are produced.