

Inspection
Saipan
Truk

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
COMMANDER MARIANAS

27 Feb. - 2 March

Gen'l

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Serial:

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A tremendous quantity of Army bombs still remain in dumps on TINIAN as no steps to move being taken by Army, causing much concern in view of rapid demobilization of Army personnel. If Army should completely withdraw from the island, disposal and/or care of these bomb dumps would be beyond the capacity of the Naval garrison. Gunnery section should take steps to Department and Sections 05, 12, 16, 17, 30, 36, 40, same condition was noted at 41, 42, 43, 50. Naval ammunition at PELELIU. Immediate steps should be taken by this staff to get this disposed of before personnel.

MEMORANDUM: Notes on inspection Tinian, Saipan, Truk and Manus.

1. Attached summary of notes made by ComMarianas and certain members of the staff are forwarded for information and necessary action.
2. Where one or more sections are involved the principles set forth on page 4 of Staff Instructions apply.
3. Each section or department will submit by 15 March a brief memorandum as to action taken on each item for which they are responsible.

D. F. WORTH, JR.,
Chief of Staff.

D. N. Inbusch

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Flag Secretary

L. X. Cantina

Com Naval Air Base believes (CAG) officer in connection with the interior housing program. Since the work involved is not of a very technical nature and the number of quarters small, and the shortage of qualified (CAG) officers critical, it will be necessary for the OinC CAG 597 to supervise this work in addition to his present duties.

hook over and
clean up anything
we haven't taken care

There are no plans of installation on Tinian.

J. C. ...

Com Naval Air Base feels that if CAG 597 were reorganized into a Public Works organization he might be able to run the men more efficiently. This is not recommended at present.

Military Government personnel appeared alert and interested. Headquarters in excellent condition. From separate conversations and short general conference believe Military Government officers and USOC working together well. A distinct impression of a good organization with very good discipline and morale. The only problem of note at present is final decision as to disposition of approximately 2000 Okinawans who

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add for ...
- 1 -

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
COMMANDER MARIANAS

NOTES ON INSPECTION OF OUTLYING BASES
BY COMMANDER MARIANAS
27 Feb. - 2 March

TINIAN - A tremendous quantity of Army bombs still remain in dumps on TINIAN and no steps to move being taken by Army, causing much concern in view of rapid demobilization of Army personnel. If Army should completely withdraw from the island, disposal and/or care of these bomb dumps would be beyond the capacity of the Naval garrison. Gunnery section should take steps to ascertain Army intentions in this matter. This same condition was noted with surplus Naval ammunition at PELELIU. Immediate steps should be taken by this staff to get this disposed of before personnel shrinks to a point where it cannot be handled.

A total of 16 Proselyte and Psychological Warfare Japs are among those still remaining. Steps to repatriate these separately to Japan along with others from GUAM with proper precautions to protect them in Japan now being taken by Planning Section.

Com Naval Air Base was directed to expedite dependent housing program with what material and labor available. Has been going too slowly

The Island Commander had the Japanese captain of a Jap ship talk to Japanese repatriates giving them a true picture of conditions in Japan. This procedure being suggested to IsCom GUAM as a possibility toward relieving unrest dissatisfaction among POWs and disarmed military now held GUAM.

There is need for plumbing fixtures in connection with construction of interim dependent housing.

It is believed that lumber and plywood needed in connection with dependent housing can be salvaged from existing construction.

Com Naval Air Base believes he could use another (CEC) officer in connection with the interim housing program. Since the work involved is not of a very technical nature, the number of quarters small, and the shortage of qualified (CEC) officers critical, it will be necessary for the OinC CBMU 597 to supervise this work in addition to his present duties.

There are no plans of installation on Tinian.

Com Naval Air Base feels that if CBMU 597 were reorganized into a Public Works organization he might be able to run the men more efficiently. This is not recommended at present.

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Military Government personnel appeared alert and interested. Headquarters in excellent condition. From separate conversations and short general conference believe Military Government officers and USCC working together well. A distinct impression of a good organization with very good discipline and morale. The only problem of note at present is final decision as to disposition of approximately 2000 Okinawans who

wish to remain on Tinian under the proposed "10 years residence" ruling. Personnel situation satisfactory in Military Government Unit.

\$250,000 worth of ships store supplies which includes such items as soaps, soap powders, candies, shoes, cooking utensils, and cigarettes. Necessary steps should be taken immediately to make this surplus available to other islands and for use as a potential source of household items for dependents. Should be moved from TINIAN as soon as possible. SUPPLY SECTION.

General observation - Tinian in a generally run-down condition. Insufficient progress being made toward consolidation and roll-up.

SAIPAN - General: Same marks as to general impressions of Military Government Unit. Problems:

(a) 213 Okinawans on Saipan who would qualify under "10 year ruling" and who wish to remain on Saipan or Tinian. Being held on Saipan until decision reached.

(b) 4 Jap fishing sampans in excess at Saipan. In good shape. About thirty tons gross each. Will take care of this.

(c) Military Government Unit Saipan urgently requires services one junior CEC officer for maintenance and construction in assigned areas. Includes maintenance Military Government hospital #202.

(d) Main problem noted was that of getting Chamorros out of village and back to subsistence farming.

(e) About 380 Japs and Okinawans, including 7 lepers, to be repatriated from Saipan. Ready date not yet known.

Maui Well #4 did not come up to expectations and has to be extended in order to meet requirements. This is roughly about 200' more digging required.

Army Air Forces on Saipan appear to be moving out very rapidly. In the event that they leave entirely, further consideration should be given to the Navy to taking over Isley Field in lieu of building a second strip on Kobler.

The 121st NCB needs 2-1000 gpd pumps for use in the cofferdam. The pumps which were sent up from Guam several weeks ago will not suffice.

There is great need for 2 high line men to install power circuits before the island power plant can be put into operation.

There are no (CEC) officers connected with the Military Government at Saipan but it is believed that a junior officer would be of great assistance if none are available from outside sources it is believed that technical assistance and advice could be supplied by the 121st NCB.

The NSC has one (CEC) stevedore.

It is understood that the Army objects to joint use of dumps and is now requiring the Navy to set up its own.

The Army does not want the AvGas far on the southern end of the island and intends to turn it over to the Navy for operation in near future. All negotiations to date have been verbal. It is believed that this proposal will appear in writing in the near future.

Beer ration has been lifted due to large quantities on hand.

The island PWO states that he will need replacements for 9 (CEC) officers within a few weeks.

The island PWO would also like a statement of policy with reference to the Red Cross furniture now at Saipan. Apparently the Red Cross will not release it until the Army gets a proportionate share. In the meantime the furniture is frozen.

The OinC 121st NCB is due to leave 15 March. The original plan was to relieve him with Comdr. McManus who would have additional duty as island PWO. The island commander indicated on Saturday, 2 March that he would prefer another relief for Comdr. Lawlor and retain McManus on his staff as PWO with no other duties.

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TRUK - Approximately \$9,000 in U.S. currency seized from Jap government funds in hands of Jap commander. Also large amount of Jap "Occupation Currency" in addition to standard Japanese currency. Supply officer inexperienced and in doubt on proper steps to dispose of U. S. and Jap "Occupation", and requests information. Supply section take action.

Discussion relative to sending Carrier Task Force now in GUAM-SAIPAN- to TRUK for training and recreation. Commander Occupation Force believes they could be handled. However, in view of work in progress, limited boats available and unfinished recreation facilities this is not recommended by the staff at this time. ComMarianas stated that a suggestion would be made that Admiral Hardison and a party go down for a survey of the existing situation with a view to such a visit by 7th Fleet units later if progress on TRUK warrants.

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Commander Occupation Force requested that action be taken to authorize supplementing rations of Japs now retained and being worked with certain U.S. items, and the issue of the same toilet articles and cigarettes as now authorized for POW's. As these Japs are "disarmed military" as distinguished from POW's, he is in doubt as to legality of supplying them. Supply Section take action to inform IsCom TRUK as to procedure.

ComOccFor TRUK requested that the possibility of bringing USO show to TRUK in the near future be considered. Considered to be very desirable from morale standpoint due to isolation, lack of recreation facilities, etc. Principle difficulties of air transportation (sea plane only) and housing facilities for women, believed possible to overcome. Welfare and Recreation section investigate and take necessary action.

Recommend that TRUK be given all assistance possible. The lack of certain items of heavy equipment seems to be completely out of proportion to the vast surpluses available on nearly all islands.

It is considered that Truk under present conditions is not at all suitable for entry of dependents. Until such time as TRUK has been more fully developed dependents should not be permitted there.

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512/ Truk: (a) and (b) attention Medical Officer of Staff)

(a) The Admiral wishes to consider the question of sending some Guamanian nurses to Truk to assist in training local girls as well as actual nursing in the native section of the hospital.

Lt.Cdr. C. P. Stellar (M.C.) will forward immediately his on listed personnel requirements.

(b) Plans for preventive medicine and a campaign against yaws and intestinal worms seem satisfactory as to methods and scope, as described by Lt.Cdr. Stollars (M.C.).

50/ (c) Plans for restocking with swine and chickens (all islands under ComGenOccForTRUK) should be pushed as rapidly as possible. Japs ate up practically everything. Being taken up with USCC.

(d) Payroll in Truk Atoll approximately \$900 per month. About \$50,000 U. S. is held in atoll. Trade store open one day per week. Looked pretty busy and as if the money would not hold out very long. Am taking up with USCC at once.

(e) Lt.Cdr. M. E. Jennings, senior officer Military Government Unit is eligible release 1 April. Next senior officer is Lt(jg) Michon. Military Government Section will attempt to get a more senior officer to relieve Jennings in this assignment.

No AvGas available for transient aircraft. Immediate steps should be taken to provide at least emergency facilities for seaplanes now operating on SAIPAN-TRUK run.

Mail service very poor. This condition seems to prevail at all outlying bases and immediate steps should be taken to rectify this situation.

The runway is progressing satisfactorily. Coral fill is now supplanting crushed rock to large extent and this change of procedure seems to be expediting construction progress since coral is easier to handle than the rock and can be obtained in quantity.

The rock crusher has been repaired and Comdr. Briggs feels that he can get along with it and will not need another.

The road system is still in poor condition. All available equipment and man power is being used on the airstrip. It was directed that some of this be diverted to the roads.

Inquiry was made as to the available skilled Japanese for use on Guam. None can be spared at present from the construction program which includes:

Dispensary, BOQ area, barracks, 4 - 40 x 100 supply buildings, airstrip, quonsets, chapel, shops.

The power plant is operating satisfactorily.

The 29th NCB is down to 550 men who are conducting shift operation on the airfield. The officer in charge reports that he has excellent officers but that his men are young and untrained. He submitted a list of skills required to complete job. This list and list of parts and supplies needed and are in hands of Base Development Section this Staff.

In order to complete the airfield on schedule using coral fill and surface it will be necessary to send the 29th NCB an 80D and a No. 6 shovel completely rigged for dragline operation.

The runway 150' wide x 4000' long. Approximately 25% of the material is in place. Completion date 30 April if equipment and parts ordered arrive in near future.

The unit water purifiers needed at Truk are believed to be enroute. If not Truk will send dispatch. No other material needed to complete water system.

There are sufficient huts on hand for presently approved needs.

The Officer in Charge 29th NCB requested permission to erect more huts. permit 16 men to a hut instead of the 20 men now housed. Materials are on hand for this construction if it is approved. Base Development Section take action.

Important letters to Truk should be sent by officer messenger service. The regular mail channels do not function well.

MANUS - It will be necessary to arrange an inter-island shipping service to furnish periodic surface support for MANUS. Possibility of establishing a TRUK-MANUS run from GUAM-Saipan should be explored and set up as expeditiously as possible. Surface Operations Section Take action.

ComNav Base requested early action on replacement of key officer personnel and enlisted personnel requested in recent letters to Com M rianas. For enlisted personnel, even replacements of apprentice seamen only, should be furnished in time to be trained before all experienced personnel are lost. Action on replacement key officer personnel is being expedited on this staff, but due to the uncertainty of the future status of MANUS in higher echelons action on certain officers may be further delayed. Plans and Personnel Section take action.

ComNavBase protested action taken by Receiving Station GUAM on his letter requesting replacements. Receiving Station's reply stated in effect "No replacements available. Your letter will be held for 2 weeks and then be burned or thrown in wastebasket." Personnel Section investigate as to reason not filed for future consideration and for unfortunate manner of expression used and take necessary action if indicated.

ComNavBase protested being "jigged" by this staff for "failure to submit reports" when subject reports had already been submitted. Submitted list of dispatches. Investigation discloses that several mixups in routing and failure to pass ACTION by sections were cause. All sections again cautioned relative to passing action to misrouted dispatches and letters and to "jigging" before carefully checking. Chief of Staff taking ACTION with sections involved.

ComNavBase also complained that in several instances a date would be set for resubmission of a report by a directive not received until date set. Believe mail delays may be responsible. Sections requiring such reports where time interval short should use dispatch directives or see that letter is sent by officer messenger or other special handling in mails.

Malaria control personnel very short. Will soon be inadequate to control. ComNavBase does not believe the problem at MANUS fully realized in this staff. DDT spray by air plane not tried. Directed to use same and observe effectiveness. Medical section take action.

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MANUS has been ordered to send a medical officer with critical cases being evacuated by plane. Has only 3- requests Medical Officer be sent down from GUAM with plane in such cases. Also NATS had proposed to send one (1) flight nurse down on evacuation planes to assist cases requiring an overnight stay that 2 nurses be sent or else that a male corpsman be substituted since no other women remain on the island. Medical section take action.

Policy of shipping bodies for re-burial, by surface vessel only reiterated by Com Marianas. No more to be shipped by air. If necessary bury until a ship is available. Medical section note.

100 Jap POW's or disarmed Military for labor gang requested by ComNavBase. Procurement for RABAU where 100,000 are held by Australians was suggested. Due to known policy of CinCPac to clear this area of Japs as soon as possible reaction to proposal to bring in more considered probably unfavorable. Only Jap military remaining in area are retained for necessary work at GUAM, SAIP TRUK and transfer not recommended. Investigate use of native labor instead if necessary. Plans take action.

ComNavBase MANUS stated that by letter, he had recommended setting up a training camp for native labor. Suggested arrangements be made with Austral. government to keep same group of natives under ComNavBase jurisdiction to prevent labor turnover. ComMarianas desires to wait until policy regarding future status of MANUS now under discussion internationally, becomes more firm. Military Government Section is already drafting reply.

Comdr. Albers, who is in charge of work on the dry docks, is in Washington with regard to letting contracts for the work to be done on them preparatory to towing.

ARD 12 and ARD 27 are ready for tow. It is believed that the tug for ARD 27 is underway.

There are no surplus toilet fixtures but there are plumbing fixtures in abandoned units which could be salvaged. These fixtures will be needed in Manus if dependent housing is authorized. Otherwise they should be sent to other islands.

All construction equipment has been declared to F.L.C. There is none available for shipment to U.S. unless withdrawn from F.L.C. and from consignment already scheduled for New Zealand. Action must be taken to remove such equipment from the surplus list. Instruction desired. C.F.L.C. take action.

The PWC is in great need of Methyl Chloride and a telephone switch board which were ordered about 20 February to be shipped by air. Two flights have arrived but not received. Base Development Section take action.

MANUS appears to be well advanced in its roll-up schedule and ready for caretaker status. By 1 April personnel will be down to post war allowance except for NSD and Public Works which will overstrength approximately 250 in base personnel and one LCSCC of 250 in addition, total 500. These cannot be reduced until surplus property and equipment disposed of.

MANUS has had considerable difficulty with mail, receiving mail for nearly every command but MANUS. Action has been initiated by ComMarianas postal officer and Mr. C. T. Radey, civilian postal inspector, to investigate and rectify the conditions existing. Special effort will be directed at the air Mail Center which apparently is responsible for the misrouting reported. Administrative Section take necessary action.

There were complaints that Manus was not receiving a sufficient number of USO shows. ComMarianas has scheduled two shows a month for Manus, but due to transportation limitations and priorities it has been possible to send an average of only one show per month. Welfare and Recreation Section take necessary action.

The ASR Squadron has only two PBV-6A planes for ASR works. The squadron Commanding officer claims that he should have three to operate efficiently. He also recommends one other type plane for general utility work and to maintain pilot proficiency. In this connection, it is recommended that the possibility of having a TBM assigned to the ASR unit Manus be investigated. This plane could be equipped for DDT spraying and be used in malarial control work. Spraying of DDT by plane is not being done at Manus and all disease control is accomplished by mobile units requiring a considerable number of personnel. The ASR unit is under complement in naval aviators, lacking one lieutenant and one lieutenant junior grade. Air Operations section take necessary action.

Manus has large quantities of surplus paints. Guam is short of white paint. Recommend investigate to obtain white paint from Manus if available in quantity. Supply section take action.

The question of dependents in MANUS was discussed at length. Principal objections to immediate action were (1) Malaria, dengue, scrub typhus control-difficult with ever decreasing personnel; (2) Uncertainty on future international status of the island, and also its future naval status in view of recent recommendations by CinCPac for abandonment.

Staff recommends that authority for dependents on MANUS be held in abeyance until status of island and NAVBASE is more firm and until results of proposed DDT spray by airplane are observed. Believe housing could be made available more easily than at other bases. Administrative section take action.