

*Conference date 3/22/52*

1. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands comprise the Marshall, Caroline and Mariana Islands (less Guam) and stretch from 0° to 22° north latitude and from 180° to 130° east longitude.
2. 

Water area	3,000,000 sq. mile
Land area	687 sq. mile
Population	53,458
Number of islands	1,460
3. Islands were administered by Spain until Spanish American War, by Germany until World War I, by Japan (under League of Nations Mandate) to World War II.
4. Islands were conquered by U. S. military forces and administered by the Navy under military government during World War II and immediately thereafter.
5. On 18 July 1947 the U.S. Congress ratified the Trust Agreement with the United Nations which established the United States as administering authority, and the President by executive order directed the Secretary of the Navy to establish civil administration on an interim basis pending appointment of a civilian agency to provide a permanent government.
6. In May 1949 the President indicated his intention to transfer Guam, American Samoa and the Trust Territory to the Department of the Interior. Dates for transfer were later set for 1 July 1950 for Guam and 1 July 1951 for American Samoa and the Trust Territory.
7. After a one month delay Guam was transferred on 1 August 1950.
8. A civilian High Commissioner (ex-Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah) was appointed by the President in December 1950 and took up his duties in mid-January. There had been a six months delay in his appointment which has had a serious impact on the plans for the turnover.
9. The new High Commissioner has now requested that the administrative headquarters of the Territory be moved from Pearl Harbor to Saipan. CINCOPACFLT opposes the move because of military and security considerations.
10. The headquarters of the Trust Territory was originally located on Guam, as a matter of expediency. In April 1949 CNO directed the High Commissioner to propose two alternative sites within the Trust Territory itself.
11. The High Commissioner proposed Saipan and Truk. The former was

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considered superior for an interim capital but only because of existing facilities. Truk was considered a superior location as a permanent capital when funds were available for permanent construction. Preference of Truk was based on its "central geographical and ethnological location".

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12. In July GINSPACFLT advised against a move to Saipan on the basis that it would be expensive and that it would provide a continuing difficult logistic responsibility. As an alternative it was suggested that a field headquarters be established on Truk and that site designated as the future capital. Facilities were there to take care of field administrative personnel with only minor additions. The balance of the staff of the High Commissioner including DEPHICOM, were to be removed from Guam to Pearl Harbor where facilities were also available. Under this plan Truk was to be the nominal and future capital while Pearl was to serve as the actual center of administration.

13. In August 1949 SECNAV directed the accomplishment of the move as suggested by GINSPACFLT and made \$50,000 available for necessary construction on Truk to accommodate the staff of the "Field Administrator".

14. As a result DEPHICOM along with eleven (11) officers and six (6) civilians removed from Guam to Pearl Harbor. The Chief of Staff, three (3) officers and nine (9) civilians removed to Truk and there established the Field Headquarters while two (2) officers and one (1) civilian remained on Guam for liaison and duties in connection with the Island Trading Company of Micronesia.