

Ref
(a)Al/wch
Ser 1138
31 Dec 1953

From: Naval Administrator, U.S. Naval Administration Unit, Saipan
District, Saipan, Marianas Islands
To: Commander Naval Forces Marianas

Ref
(b)

Subj: Naval Hospital, Naval Administration Unit, Saipan

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT rest second end ser 7606 of 12 Nov 1953 to
COMNAVMARIANAS rest ltr ser 7445 of 25 Sep 1953
(b) CNO dispatch 071442Z of Dec 1953
(c) COMNAVMARIANAS first end ser 9669 of 15 Dec 1953 on NAVAD
Saipan ltr ser 1053 of 25 Nov 1953

Re
(c)

1. Reference (a) recommended and reference (b) approved the move of existing facilities at the Naval Administration Unit Saipan from their present location to the Navy Hill area. Included in the move is the Naval Hospital.

2. A revaluation of the pros and cons of the move of the Naval Hospital has been undertaken by this command. Listed below are the factors considered:

a. In favor of moving the hospital facilities from the present location to the Navy Hill area

(1) Consolidation and grouping of naval facilities.

(2) Movement to an area free of possible damage from high seas and tidal waves.

(3) Routine maintenance would be an easier problem for station forces at the new location. This argument is based on the fact of being located nearer to public works facilities and the assumption that the rehabilitated buildings would be turned over in a good condition.

(4) The Navy Hill site is potentially a more healthful site from the standpoint of insect control, sanitation, etc.

b. In favor of retaining the hospital facilities at their present location

(1) Economy. A tremendous expenditure of manpower and material has been utilized in elevating the present hospital facilities to their current status.

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(2) Availability to the major percentage of the population. A major responsibility of the United States, in its role as Administering Authority in the Trust Territory, is to improve the health and sanitary conditions of the indigenous population. The present location of medical facilities is within walking distance of CHALAN KANOA, the home of approximately ninety percent of the indigenous population. The transportation problem which would accompany the move to the hill area would present an almost insurmountable problem.

(3) Breakdown of existing procedures. An inevitable factor that accompanies any shift of location is the breakdown of normal operating procedure during the period prior to the move, during the move and for a short period of time after the move is accomplished. If this interruption is connected with medical procedures the results may be very detrimental. As the result of long and careful indoctrination we have succeeded in establishing regularly attended medical services such as a prenatal clinic, etc. To move the medical facilities to the Navy Hill area would, in all probability, tend to disrupt and even cancel completely these now established practices.

(4) Transportation. If present facilities are moved a very sizable transportation problem will be created. In addition to the actual patient load it will be incumbent upon the administering authority to provide transportation to and from the hospital area for families and relatives of patients. It is realized that this is not standard procedure at all Naval Hospitals. However, the culture and habits of the Saipanese are very marked on this point and it is considered that the Administering Authority would be derelict in its performance of this service was not provided. At the present location the hospital is within easy walking distance of the large majority of the indigenous population. The present vehicle allowance of this activity precludes establishment of this bus service. The vehicle allowance would have to be raised accordingly.

3. This matter has been fully discussed with the Staff Medical Officer, Commander Naval Forces Marianas, Captain T. F. WEINERT, USN. Captain WEINERT has orally indicated full agreement with the desires of this command in retaining the Naval Hospital in its present location.

4. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that the medical facilities of the Naval Administration Unit Saipan be retained intact in its present location and that authorization be granted for the following related matters:

a. Continue rehabilitation and repair of existing facilities. Reference (c) is pertinent to this request.

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b. Cancellation of reference (b) insofar as it pertains to the hospital area.

c. Relocation of five quarters to an area adjacent to the hospital area. Adequate space is available in the hospital baseball field area immediately North of the present hospital site.

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d. Expedite completion of plans for and construction of the new sewer facilities for the hospital area. It is considered that, with minor revision, the plans recently discussed with Base Development personnel will adequately care for the additional load created by addition of the five quarters mentioned in the preceding paragraph and the quarters discussed in reference (c).

5. An early reply is requested in order to firm up local plans.

/s/ R. D. LAW, JR